

These offices all differ, one from another, scarcely more in the several incomes which they respectively yield, than they do in the degree of responsibility imposed, and the amount and complication of the labour which they severally require; indeed, the difference in the amounts of their several incomes, is chiefly the result of this very difference in their labour and responsibility; and whilst the amount of compensation provided in the bill, might in some of the offices embraced in it, be an adequate provision, and in point of fact, in about *fourteen* of these offices, would permit the present incumbents to *increase* their income beyond its present amount, as reported by them; in others, it is reduced so low, as to be entirely inadequate to secure a faithful discharge of the duties they involve. This is especially the case with the several offices in the city of Baltimore; where (to say nothing of the difference in the ordinary expenses of life, between the city and the country,) it is well known, that the extent of their responsibility, the laborious character, and, in some of them, the complication and intricacy of the services imposed, require the constant labour and supervision, of skilful and experienced officers; and whenever such is the case, we hold it always to be the true policy, a policy, in which the community is especially interested, to secure by a fair and adequate compensation, the prompt and faithful exercise of these public functions. Besides this, the bill which you have passed, allows to the several officers, the same amount only, for clerk hire and expenses, as was disbursed by them, during the last year, when it must be obvious, that to comply with the provisions of this bill, in rendering the minute account which it requires, of every item of receipt and expenditure, would, in each of the Baltimore offices, require the services of an additional clerk, especially in the case of the clerk of the City Court, upon whom new and very important and responsible duties have been devolved, by the bill, which recently passed the House of Delegates, imposing a tax upon promissory notes, &c. So that, it is perfectly apparent, that the small amount (\$500.) allowed for expenses in the last mentioned office, would not reach one-half the sum absolutely necessary, for a proper execution of its duties.

But again, we are opposed to any plan for the compensation of these officers, by which it is reduced to a fixed and certain annual salary; for one inevitable consequence of such a mode of compensation would be to cause the entire business of the office, to devolve upon its deputies or subordinates; whilst the officer himself would take little or no concern in its duties and would certainly be entirely indifferent, as to the collection or receipt of its fees. A better plan to make of these officers, perfect sinecures, could, hardly, as it seems to us, be devised; for it cannot reasonably be supposed, that one who knows that his own compensation is fixed and unchangeable, and all beyond it to be given to his deputies or to the State, will take any very active part in the duties of his office, when let him labour ever so industriously, that compensation cannot be increased a dollar. These therefore