

gentlemen who have addressed the Convention that this is a subject of vast importance to the people of the State. The chairman of the committee which had presented this report (Mr. Dobbin) had stated that the independence of the judiciary was of the last importance to the State. It is proposed that the judiciary shall not be subject to the apprehensions of change, and it is necessary, according to his belief and interpretation of the Bill of Rights, that independence must be secured. What is the meaning of independence? Of what and whom are they to be independent? Simply that by their action they are not responsible except by impeachment. It means independence of the appointing power. If they are obliged to submit their pretensions to the executive, if the appointing power be there, or to the people, if the appointing power be there, then their independence is affected by anything which will cause them to shape their pretensions or action towards the appointing power.

The gentleman from Harford, (Mr. Archer,) he thought had lost sight of this in his amendment. If the people had the right to remove, or the Governor to remove, then the independence of the judge is affected, if he be not of the stern mould of the gentleman from Baltimore or the gentleman from Anne Arundel. He (Mr. C.) was not particularly in favor of the life tenure, but he was in favor of the independence of the judiciary. The gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Kilbourn,) had arraigned the last Legislature because it did not remove a certain judge, (Judge Bond.) He (Mr. C.) knew nothing personally of the facts, and nothing except what he had seen in the newspapers, but he believed that this judge was faulty; but no petition had come down here for his removal, and it was the duty of those who were aware of his misdeeds to act as prosecutors.

Mr. Kilbourn said he had only alluded to this matter because the advocates of the life tenure had argued that a judge could be removed by the Legislature, and it was only to show the reluctance of citizens to act as prosecutors, as he believed there had been no petitions sent here. He thought that it would very rarely happen that a judge would be removed in this manner. It would have been a painful and possibly, under the circumstances, ineffectual duty last winter.