

The Commissioners on the part of Virginia to the Commissioners on the part of Maryland.

To J. Boyle and E. F. Chambers, Esquires, commissioners on the part of the state of Maryland.

Gentlemen,

We regret to perceive from your letter of this morning as well as from the various conversations we have held with you upon the subject, that there is no probability left of our being able to adjust the boundary line between our respective states, which it was the object of our mission to settle. It is true, that in our first interview with you in relation to this matter, that we declined to enter into the discussion of any hypothetical questions, or inquire into the extent of powers which the state of facts might render entirely unnecessary; and the more especially as we derived from that interview, the impression that you would feel yourselves authorised to commence at the Fairfax stone, or any other point you might be satisfied was in fact the true source of the North Branch of the River Potomac. From subsequent explanations however, as well as from the tenor of your written communication, it seems that in this impression we were mistaken, and that you do not now feel yourselves authorised to inquire further than to ascertain the most western source of the North Branch, and that in doing this you are further bound to select the most western tributary stream or spring, without regard to the relative quantity of water, or the point at which it may contribute its supply.

This alone, would in our opinion raise an insuperable obstacle to our further proceeding; but in the same spirit of candor which has marked your communication upon the subject, we feel bound to repeat what we have before declared to you, that by the act of assembly under which we have been appointed, we are required, in running the contemplated line, to commence at Fairfax stone, on the head waters of the North Branch of the Potomac river. And further, that upon viewing the whole ground of controversy, the various tributary streams and springs, we are under the most clear and entire conviction, that the fact assumed by our act of assembly of Fairfax stone and the head waters of the main North Branch of Potomac river, being identical, is entirely correct.