

vince of Maryland, some time in the year 1771, appointed three commissioners, with authority to proceed to the head of the South Branch, in search of its most western fountain, to get a meridian and to see the relative extent and bearings to the west of the first fountain of the North and South Branches. The commissioners took upon themselves the duties assigned them, and made an actual survey and plat which is now in the land office; and another plat has also been found with Governor Sharp's papers. Since the report made in the senate, and passed in the house of Delegates at December session, 1831, a very important report in the form of a letter from one of the commissioners directed to Governor Eden, has been discovered in the Land office, dated September the 20th, 1771, and is as follows.

SIR,

Agreeably to your Excellency's commission, I proceeded to the head of the South Branch, in company with the other two commissioners, and two surveyors, with a number of Pack horses, and Choppers and two Chain carriers. After a diligent search, we found the most Westerly fountain, to be a fountain of the North fork of the South branch of Potomac. The spring we proceeded from, with our North line, is small, but about one hundred roods from it, a little more easterly, breaks out twelve springs, which makes a large branch at once, and at a small distance from it, over a small ridge, is one of the fountains of James River. South of the other, and to the west, is a fountain of Green Briar, as we are informed. At the spring we proceeded from, we made a small wall of stone round it, and covered it with a large broad stone, on which we cut on it these letters, C. L. D. B. From which we continued our line for upwards of nine miles, to a smart creek, about two or three roods wide, running to the West, as well as all the waters we crossed; in the above distance, and for some miles further, the water continued running to the West, which seems to prove it to be the Green Briar water. The next water we came to was two branches of Cheat, and run to the east at the end of thirty-seven miles, where we left off running; we was about a mile from where we shall cross the main river of Cheat; which runs about North east, for fifteen or sixteen miles, and is about two hundred yards over in the aforesaid distance down the river, which was as far as I went, as fine land as any in Maryland, except none.—According to information, we shall have upwards of forty miles to run to intercept the west line of the Province, and according to the best judgment I can form, we are at least