

acres of land, proposed by the bill to be given up, much of which is said to be fertile and valuable.

The war of the Revolution continued until the month of November, 1782, when the treaty of peace was made, during all which period, both States were otherwise engaged, than in the ascertainment of their limits. But in 1788, this State, by an act of the November session of that year, passed relative to the laying out the soldiers lots, declared, "that the line to which the said Francis Deakins (the Surveyor,) had laid out the said lots, (soldiers lots,) is, in the opinion of the General Assembly, far within that, which this State may rightfully claim as its western boundary; and at a time of more leisure, the consideration of the legislature ought to be drawn to the western boundaries of this State, as objects of very great importance."

So urgent were the claims of those military servants, (to adopt the language of a former report) who had lately gone through the heat and burthen of the day of the Revolution, that this State could not, without evident injustice, postpone the location of their lands until the settlement of our southern and western limits, so that in the opinion of your committee, no presumption adverse to the claim of Maryland, ought to be drawn from the existence of the temporary line thereby established. Virginia cannot lawfully claim this territory, by the right of *usurpation*—because *usurpation* implies, an abandonment not only of possession, but of claim, of the adverse party. Whereas, Maryland has made continual claim, as is abundantly evident from her statute book, and the journal of her executive proceedings.

Your committee, are therefore of opinion, that Maryland ought not to relinquish her claim to the territory proposed to be abandoned by the bill—nor can she do so, consistent with her own dignity, and a just consideration of our predecessors in the government, both executive and legislative.

Your committee, therefore, respectfully recommend the rejection of the bill, titled as above—and that they be discharged from its further consideration.

All which is respectfully submitted,

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