

Vabot or Christopher Columbus, or to do any thing more than to point out what appears to be erroneous and inconsistent in the report of the majority of the committee. Holding the same opinions as those expressed in the able and lucid message submitted by the Governor at the commencement of the present session, which have not been, as we confidently assert, successfully controverted, we do not intend to advance any new doctrine, or to enlarge the discussion beyond the limits to which he has properly confined it; contenting ourselves if, in our attempt to sustain, we do not weaken the strong grounds on which he rests his argument. We find the majority of the committee contending, in the first place, "that at this time (the conclusion of the war) all the unsettled vacant lands within the boundaries prescribed in the treaty cited, became the common property of the States that had won them by the sword, unsustained by grants and charters that could not outlive the authority in which they originated." According to this doctrine, the unsettled vacant lands in this State, which now form Washington and Allegany counties did not belong to the State of Maryland, because it had been won by the thirteen States, and had become their common property in disregard of the "grants and charters which could not outlive the authority in which they originated." The majority of the committee however subsequently ask, "what power did Congress derive from those cessions or the treaty with Great Britain? We answer, the power of a trustee bound to the especial observance of the conditions of a trust. At this period there was no such political confederation as the General Government. In the treaty of 1783, Great Britain treats not with the Congress in confederation, but with the States as such, distinctly naming them, and to the States, so nominated, ceded all the territory." The report, in the first part of this extract, agrees with the opinion of the Governor, that the title to the Western territory, was derived from the deeds of cession, and the treaty of peace, or the right of conquest. The coincidence however appears to be accidental; for, in following out the idea, the report is again at variance with the message, and with the highest judicial and historical authorities. "At this period (says the report) there was no such political confederation as the General Government." It so happens that, at that precise period, (the conclusion of the war,) there was such a confederation as the General Government, which afterwards gave place