

Letter Bk. IV

speak of: In my last Letter I told you that the Surveyors were again at a Stop by reason that the Line they had been last running at the Distance of Sixty Miles from the Middle Point passed 150 feet & six Inches westward of the Point thro which according to the Calculations made (on a Supposition that the Line run last Summer was truly straight) it ought to have passed. On Receiving such Information M^r Ridout D^r Steuart & M^r Barclay (the Rest of our Comm^{rs} being unable to attend) set off for the Place where the Surveyors were; expecting to meet there some of the Penns^a Commissioners (it having been agreed at our last meeting that a quorum of the Commissioners on each part should upon receiving such Notice from the Surveyors as is abovementioned immediately repair to the spot) but on receiving from the Pennsylvania Gentlemen the second Day after they had been there a Letter informing them that they would meet them some Days afterwards our Gentlemen returned home in which I think they did right for this is not the first time some of us have gone from home on such an Errand & been obliged in the same manner to return without it, & as we could not by any means agree to extending any farther a Line which deflects so much to the Westward as that if it were to be continued it would probably fall almost as much to the Westward of the Extremity of the Radius as the other last year did to the Eastward of it, I do not see what Advantage would have arisen from the Commissioners meeting at the Sixty Mile Post, but if they had I dare say the Pennsylvania Gentlemen would have been extremely urgent for continuing the Line up in hopes that the Proprietors would agree to its being established as a Boundary rather than be at the Expence of making farther Trials. According to our last Adjournment we are to meet at Newcastle the 15th of next Month before which time I hope to receive from you those Prescriptions of D^r Bevis's that you mention, but it would give me greater Pleasure to receive a Letter from you advising me that His Ldp & the Proprietors of Pennsylvania had agreed to send out a Mathematician of Capacity & Integrity to finish the Business. You observe that it would have been better if the Commissioners had not suffered the Surveyors to go down again last October to the Middle Point but really I do not know how our Gentlemen could have refused absolutely to do so, when the Pennsylvania Commissioners insisted on it since the Line which had been before run up was not the Tangent required, the Line so run having terminated almost half a Mile Eastward of the supposed Tangent point nor do I know if the Pennsylv^a Commissioners should at our next Meeting insist upon our sending the Surveyors down to run up another Line whether it would be in our