

Assembly in 1868, and of your readiness to confer with the Virginia Commissioners.

Very truly and respectfully,

ODEN BOWIE.

On the date of the reception of the above, I wrote to ex-Governor Henry A. Wise at length on the subject, preliminary to prompt action and organization of the Commissioners, on the part of Virginia and Maryland respectively, and in due course of mail received the following in reply :

RICHMOND, VA., December 26, 1870.

To WM. J. AYDELOTT, Esq.,

MY DEAR SIR:—I was about commencing a letter to the gentlemen, Commissioners of Maryland, when I received yours of the 22d instant, this morning.

I fully concur with you, that we should not enter upon any field duties, until after the vigors of winter, and high winds of Spring have ceased; I would say not until the last of April or 1st of May, but that is my individual opinion only.

I agree with you also, that we should have a central conference *somewhere* for the organization of the Joint Commission, and to ascertain and discuss any differences as to boundary before we move upon the survey. A successful conference may relieve us from any field work whatever. I pray that may be the result. But, as yet, I am not authorized to agree upon any time or place of meeting. The Virginia Commissioners have not yet had a full meeting. Col. Watts, of Roanoke county, being absent, I have met Mr. De Jarnette two or three times, and he proposes Washington City, as the most central place. I have suggested Annapolis as the place most convenient to examine the Archives of Maryland. It is my purpose to proceed as promptly as we can, and it will be my care and choice to confer with the Commissioners of Maryland, as well as with my own colleagues, as to the mutual convenience of all. As soon as I can obtain the views of Messrs. Watts and De Jarnette, I will address you again.

A deliberate preparation, in my opinion, will hasten our work and tend either to make it successful or to make up the best excuse for a failure, if we must fail. The study of the monuments of titles of both States, is a large one, and the time of Winter will not be lost if devoted to that alone. I therefore suggest that we postpone a conference until such time as each Commission shall notify the other of readiness to confer.