

Please communicate these views to your colleagues, as I will to mine, and let me hear from you again.

Most respectfully and truly, yours,

HENRY A. WISE.

The substance of which I at once communicated, by letter, to each of my colleagues, Hon. Isaac D. Jones, Attorney-General of Maryland, and Leven L. Waters, Esq., Clerk to the Circuit Court of Somerset county; each of whom expressed willingness and readiness for action in the premises, at such time as might suit the convenience of the Virginia Commissioners.

At this period I entered definitely upon a preparation for the labors before me, and found as Gov. Wise suggested, much time could be well and profitably spent in preparation and study, to enable the Commissioners to arrive at correct conclusions, and thereby greatly facilitate their joint labors.

At the opening of Spring, I again wrote to Gov. Wise, on the subject, expressing a desire on the part of Maryland Commissioners to enter the field, as soon as the judgment and convenience of himself and his colleagues might concur; in which letter I expressed the hope of the Maryland Commissioners, that a "speedy, equitable, and final settlement of our boundary might be accomplished." To which I received promptly the following reply:

RICHMOND, VA., March 8th, 1871.

To WM. J. AYDELOTT, Esq.,

MY DEAR SIR: Yours of the 6th inst. was received by me this evening, and I take pleasure in replying to its kind intentions, by saying that to-day is the first moment when I could further communicate with you satisfactorily.

My colleagues have just concurred in the necessity of sending to England, to repair the damage done to the Archives of Virginia, by the mutilation of the records relating to the boundary of the two States.

Our messenger will start very soon, and will require some two months for his work. I hope not more than that time will be consumed, and that by the first or middle of May we will be able to meet your Commissioners at Baltimore or Annapolis, to confer as to our action in the field.

I do fondly hope for a "speedy, equitable, and final settlement of the boundary." The legal and historical work to prepare for an intelligent conference of the joint commission is great. I think no time will be lost in that preparation, which will teach us to agree or disagree promptly. My desire