

missioners of Maryland there on the 17th inst., I do this with the good intent, at least, to meet the convenience of yourself and colleagues.

I hope a detail, from the Coast Survey office here, will meet us there on the 17th inst.

With high respect,

Yours truly,

HENRY A. WISE.

To WM. J. AYDELOTT, Esq.,

Newtown, Md.

Pursuant to the above request, I met Gov. Wise, at Crisfield, Monday, October 16th, and held with him a pleasant conference preparatory to entering the field next morning; but to my surprise and great regret, I have learned that public duties and official engagements would not permit either of my colleagues to be present, General Jones being engaged with important State business as Attorney General of Maryland, and Mr. Waters being confined in the office of Circuit Court of Somerset, which County Court was then in session.

Neither was Mr. De Jarnette or Col. Watts of the Virginia Commission present.

Governor Wise and myself very soon concurred in making it our first duty to learn as much of Smith's Island and its waters, by a personal inspection and observation, followed by all information possible to be obtained as to their traditional connection with the two States respectively. I was happy to find the Governor in all his official relations courteous and magnanimous, characteristic of the old-time Virginia gentleman.

The little steamer Tredegar, Captain Brown, of the Virginia Oyster Police, was in readiness for the accommodation of the Joint Commission, and by the very great courtesy and obliging conduct of Captain Brown, was made very serviceable in the waters of the Sound adjacent to Smith's Island, Horse Hammack, &c., and, where the waters were not of sufficient depth to admit the passage of the steamer, a canoe was availed of, propelled by men engaged from the Island for that purpose. Leaving the steamer at anchor, we were accompanied, meantime, by our polite host, Captain Brown.

By the direction of Johnson Evans and John Marshall, two citizens of said Island, a stone was found resting in the water, fifteen or twenty feet from the shore of the Island, which seemed to be nearly in bearing with the main direction of the traditional line, but we had with us no instrument to attest the same except a mariner's compass procured from the steamer, and that to be placed on the marsh for observation.