

Virginia and Maryland, has received, since the report heretofore submitted to the General Assembly, a communication from Richard D. Cutts, Esq., Assistant United States Coast Survey, upon the subject of surveys connected with that Boundary Line. A copy of the communication and of the reply thereto, is herewith, most respectfully, submitted to the General Assembly.

ISAAC D. JONES,
of the Maryland Boundary Commission.

BALTIMORE, March 9, 1872.

RICHARD D. CUTTS, Esq.,
Assistant U. S. Coast Survey, &c.,

DEAR SIR—Your favor of March 5th, did not come to hand until this morning, by reason of its having been directed to Princess Anne, my former residence. Your letter informs me of the application of the Governor of Virginia, on the 28th of November, 1870, addressed to the Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey, "for the assignment of a competent corps of surveyors to the duty of ascertaining and locating the true boundary lines between the State of Virginia and the States of Maryland, North Carolina and Tennessee;" and, "that on the 14th of January, 1871, a somewhat similar application was received from the Governor of Maryland, so far as regards the boundary line on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake." That the applications were favorably answered, under the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury; and that the class of surveys which may be required by the Joint Commission, for the settlement and permanent marking of the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia, on the Eastern Shore, has been assigned to the Division of which you are in charge. In reply to your request, to be informed whether the Joint Commission proposes to call for any surveys during the coming spring or summer, and if so, at what date it is expected that the work should commence, I have the honor to state, that at the first meeting of the Joint Commission, which took place on the first of February, 1872, it was ascertained that the powers of the Maryland Commissioners were not co-extensive with those of the Virginia Commissioners, and, therefore, that no joint action was practicable until this defect should be remedied. The Maryland Commissioners have reported this fact to the General Assembly, now in session, and a bill is pending before it to confer upon the Maryland Commissioners the requisite powers. Until it shall have become a law, and the Joint Commission shall have conferred, no satisfactory answer can be given upon the subject of your inquiry. I will immediately transfer to the General Assembly a copy of your