

grant were sufficiently guarded by natural boundaries and signs, it was evidently intended to be better defined at some other time by ascertaining their precise situation. Your committee believe that it will clearly appear from a subsequent part of this report, that the stream commonly known by the name of the south branch of the Potomac, flows from the first fountain having the greatest extent to the west, and is indeed Potomac proper, and the north branch is but a tributary of that noble river. Not knowing exactly what would be the effect of the calls of Baltimore's charter, the King abundantly explained them, as well as all other words for the benefit of his favorite in the 22d section, in which all his courts and judicatories are instructed to give the whole grant such interpretation as should be most beneficial and profitable to the grantee. And by starting the meridian so as to strike the first fountain of the South Branch, would have increased the proprietaries domain, according to an estimate of the late William Cook, four hundred and sixty two thousand four hundred and eighty acres of land. If therefore the south branch of the Potomac, by actual survey, should have been found not only flowing from the first fountain having the greatest relative extent to the west, but actually yielding to Baltimore an increased extent of domain of four hundred and sixty two thousand four hundred and eighty acres of land, more than he could have obtained by running a meridian to the first fountain of the North Branch, your committee believe it is scarcely possible for the human mind to doubt, that the whole country north of the South Branch, was originally included in Baltimore's charter. If this should be demonstrated by the facts submitted in this report, it will follow that the meridian for the western limit of the charter, ought to have struck the first fountain of the South Branch, it having the greatest relative extent to the west, thence verging towards the south unto the further bank of said river, and following the same for the southern limit on the westward south.

2. In regard to the information sought by the second resolution, your committee believe and respectfully report, that the southern and western limits of the country, as defined by the original charter from the King of Great Britain to Lord Baltimore, ought now to be the southern and western limits of this state, if viewed as a strict matter of right in an adversary proceeding against our sister state of Virginia. The right to grant the eminent domain by the King of Great Britain to Lord Baltimore, at the date of the charter, was incontestible, and although it was the source of some dissatisfaction amongst the colonists of Virginia,