

any time promptly and with good faith to settle that single question, by all the means within her power, that duty and moral obligation is yet in force, and cannot be repealed without the consent of both states. Vattel, in his chapter upon the observance of justice between nations, has declared, "that justice is the basis of all society, the sure bond of all commerce; human society, far from being an intercourse of assistance and good offices, would be no longer any thing but a vast scene of robbery, if no respect were paid to this virtue, which secures to every one his own.— It is still more necessary between nations, than between individuals, because injustice produces more dreadful consequences in the quarrels of these powerful bodies. All nations are therefore under a strict obligation to cultivate justice towards each other, to observe it scrupulously, and carefully to abstain from every thing that may violate it.— Each ought to render to the other what belongs to them, to respect their rights, and to leave them in the peaceable enjoyment of them." *Vattel, book 2nd, chap. 5.*

There are some conquerors who aspire after nothing more than extending their dominions, but it was not expected that states who struggled together through the pangs of a revolution, would, at any time, endeavor to over-reach and out bargain each other in the settlement of their limits, when the whole matter to be first ascertained was nothing more than the first fountain of a river flowing from a mountain, which could be seen by any one sincerely disposed to understand the whole truth of the matter. To the doctrines so well settled and defined by Vattel, all civilised communities, as separate states, without any common bond of union, are bound to yield; and much more two states, being neighbours, who are cemented by that bond of union, which holds together our whole confederacy.

4th. In regard to the information sought by the fourth resolution, your committee further report, that they have examined the constitution of Virginia, and find the territorial limits of this State referred to, in the twenty-first section, in the following words: "The territories contained within the charters erecting the colonies of Maryland, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, are hereby ceded, released, and forever confirmed to the people of those colonies respectively, with all the rights of property, jurisdiction and government, and all other rights whatsoever, which might at any time heretofore have been claimed by Virginia, except the free navigation and use of the rivers Potomac and Pocomoke, with the property of Virginia shores or strands bordering on either of the said rivers; and all improvements