

pliance with them, they endeavoured to collect information with reference to the relative extent of the North and South Branches of the Potomac, and for this purpose they summoned before them colonel Thomas Cresap, one of the settlers in the western extremity of the state, who was supposed to be familiar with the course and extent of these branches. He accordingly attended at their next session in September seventeen hundred and fifty-three, and informed them, that in his opinion the South Branch of the Potomac was the longest stream, because it continued, as he thought the longest stream even from its mouth, and ran about sixty miles further in a north-western direction than did the North Branch. Thus informed, the governor addressed a letter to Lord Fairfax, in which after apprising him of the instructions received from the proprietary, he remarks, that the information which he had obtained induces him to believe that there has been some mistake in fixing the fountain head of the Potomac at the source of the North Branch, as the relative length of the two branches, and other circumstances, concur to shew that the South Branch, commonly called 'Wappecomo,' is the main and principal course of that river," and expressed a hope "that Fairfax would concur with him in causing such an examination of the two branches as will put the question to rest." M' Mahon's History of Maryland, page 52, 53. Council Proceedings of Maryland, Liber T. R. and W. S. 12, 13. The historian also refers to Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, page 193, 194. "From this period until the revolution, the existing records of the council and assembly transactions are entirely silent as to this contest, of which an accurate history can be collected only from the records of the English council. Fairfax continued to adhere to the line run from the stone planted by himself and Virginia; and the Proprietary of Maryland continued to assert his claim to the first fountain, be that where it might."—M' Mahon's History of Maryland.

It is quite clear to your committee, if the American revolution had not intervened, a collision must have ensued between the grants of Fairfax and Baltimore, which would have brought about an amicable adjustment of boundaries, or forced a determination before the King in Council.—That glorious event in American history, took away this dispute from Fairfax and Baltimore, and vested it in the independent states of Virginia and Maryland; and the former in the very act of forming her constitution, made an express recognition of all the rights of the latter within the limits of her original charter, and left nothing to be done but an