

The motive to this cession is stated in her instructions of February, 1781, to be, that the "common enemy is encouraged, by her not acceding to the confederation, to hope that the union of the sister states may be dissolved," "and that our friends and illustrious ally are impressed with an idea that the common cause would be promoted, by her formally acceding to the confederation." After an eloquent recital of the reasons in addition, and the strenuous efforts of the State in maintaining the war, she proceeds to authorise her delegates to "subscribe the articles of the confederation," with the following distinct reservation of her unrelinquished claims: "And it is hereby understood, that by acceding to the said confederation, this State doth not relinquish, or intend to relinquish any right or interest she hath with the other united or confederated states, to the back countries; but claims the same as fully as was done by the legislature of this State, in the declaration which stands entered on the journals of Congress, this State relying on the justice of the several states, hereafter, as to the said claim made by this State." "And it is further hereby declared, that no article in the said confederation, can or ought to bind this, or any other State, to guarantee any exclusive claim of any particular State to the soil of the said back lands, or any such claim of jurisdiction over the said lands or the inhabitants thereof."

Such was the position of Maryland—a position not assumed by the action of mercenary motives, because at that period the most sanguine scarcely hoped that the subject of the controversy would be realised to the union—but because a high moral conviction of duty, would not permit the sages of the State, to abandon the assertion of her rights, though in the chances of a doubtful war, the State herself might fall and her claims be forever extinguished. Your committee may be permitted here, to indicate the contrast Maryland now presents to the truth, firmness and pride of her position then.

No enemy is on our coast—universal peace is shedding its benign influence over our efforts—leaving to industry and enterprise, an unimpeded path to successful results. Her gigantic and magnificent schemes of internal improvement, undertaken in part, with a view to the support she would receive from the general government, obstructed in their progress by fiscal embarrassments—her treasury almost exhausted—her general revenues inadequate to the maintenance of her public faith; at this, the time of her need, when she so strongly requires all the aid she can of right