

By virtue of several acts of Congress, and acts of the Assemblies of Virginia and Maryland, the President of the United States by his Proclamation, dated at Georgetown on the 30th March 1791, declared, and made known, the limits and boundaries of the territory of ten miles square, selected for the permanent seat of the government of the United States.

At the succeeding session of the General Assembly of Maryland, an act was passed, reciting in the preamble the said limits and boundaries, and enacting "that all that part of the said territory called Columbia, which lies within the limits of this State, shall be, and the same is hereby acknowledged to be forever ceded and relinquished to the Congress and Government of the United States, in full and absolute right and exclusive jurisdiction as well of soil as of persons residing, or to reside thereon; pursuant to the tenor and effect of the 8th section of the 1st Article, of the Constitution of Government of the United States; provided, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed to vest in the United States any right of property in the soil, as to affect the rights of individuals therein; otherwise than the same shall or may be transferred, by such individuals to the United States; and provided also that the jurisdiction of the laws of this State over the persons and property of individuals residing within the limits of the Cession aforesaid, shall not cease or determine, until Congress shall by law provide for the government thereof under their jurisdiction in manner provided by the article of the Constitution before recited."

It occurs to the committee to inquire, whether the General Assembly of Maryland, *had the power and authority to make the Cession* aforesaid; and whether the supposed Cession, is now of any and what, binding obligation upon the Citizens of that part of the said District, formerly under the jurisdiction of Maryland, and upon Maryland as a State? If the General Assembly had such powers and authority, whence were they derived? The Committee have not been able to discover their source in the bill of Rights, and Constitution and form of government of this State, or in the nature of the duties of the General Assembly—The General Assembly are the Trustees or agents of the people of the State of Maryland, for the purposes of exercising the powers of municipal government, in enacting laws for the protection of the lives, liberty and property, of the citizens residing within her territorial limits, according to the bill of Rights, and Constitution and form of Government, adopted by the people of Maryland, through their delegates in