

Crown and ceded to it by the treaty of Paris," was recognised by a modification of this article. She contended that "if wrested from the common enemy by the blood and treasure of the thirteen States, it should be considered as a common property." She charged those States as "ambitiously grasping at territory, to which, in her judgment, they had not the least shadow of exclusive right."

Other States who had contended with Maryland for this modification, yielded to the exigence of the period, and signed the articles. Maryland alone, undaunted by her isolated position, unalarmed by the desertion of allies who had made common cause with her "against the ambitious grasping at territory" of the larger States, strong in the patriotic and prophetic wisdom of those who then wielded her councils, remained firm to her principles. Congress, on the 6th September 1780, passed resolutions recommending the States to surrender "a liberal portion of their territorial claims" "for the general benefit;" and not until after the passage of this resolution, and the precedent cession from New York, did she accede to the confederation. 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 authorize 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