

to the Westward of a Meridian drawn from the head of the North
 Branch, to its intersection with the west line of the Province,
 have never yet been granted by the Proprietors of Maryland,
 however clear the Right may be, I still think a delay of
 exercising that Right, for a short time, cannot weaken it,
 or encourage the Virginians consider it as a detection;
 and that it would be more agreeable to the Proprietor
 to delay granting those Lands until the Dispute was
 fairly settled, than to bring on an abrupt Contest, by
 exercising his Right at this particular time. My Con-
 duct in this affair has flowed from the Duty I owe to
 the Proprietor & the attention I shall ever pay to his Con-
 cerns here, whilst I have the Honour of being employed
 by him, in which tho' I have not the Measure of your
 Concurrence in this Instance, yet I cannot in conform-
 ity to your wishes retract my Letter, no Reason
 having been as yet offered to convince me, that the
 Request contained therein is unreasonable, or that the
 Compliance with it, can possibly be attended with any
 ill consequence. Your own Judgment & Discretion
 assisted by the ^{advice of the} Board, you mention, I doubt not will
 govern your Conduct in granting or delaying to grant
 Patents; I have only interfered so far as I thought it
 my Duty to do.

As I am informed that Surveys are now actually
 making within the Lands reserved for the Proprietor, it
 would seem fit & prudent to make such restriction in