

the directions of the proprietary government; and it seems probable that it was made, both for the purpose of informing the proprietary as to the true location of the branches, and of furnishing a basis for any application which might be made by him to the King in Council."—M'Mahon's History of Maryland, vol. 1st, page 57. Your committee invite the members of both branches of the legislature to examine this survey. Though the surveyor who made it, and the contending Lords whose interests were involved in it, have long since slept with their fathers, this survey yet speaketh in language sufficient to remove every involution of darkness which has at any time concealed the true and single question, Which is the first fountain of the river Potomac." Both branches are delineated on the plat with meridians through the heads of each; and the meridian through the head of the South Branch is near thirty miles west of the one through the head of the North Branch.

6th. In regard to the information sought by the sixth resolution, your committee further report—That they have examined the nature of the dispute touching the southern and western limits of the Maryland Charter between Frederick Lord Baltimore and Lord Fairfax, up to the close of the revolution, as well as the other matters referred to in that resolution. Your committee having already distinctly adverted to the origin of Lord Baltimore's charter, and the common call in that charter for the first fountain of the river Potomac, beg leave also to make a brief reference to the origin and calls of the letters patent issued for lands in the Northern Neck of Virginia to certain persons from whom it passed into the Fairfax family. In the first volume of the revised code of Virginia these letters patent are recited; by which it appears that the grantors of the grant under whom Fairfax claimed, were Lord Hopton, Lord Jermyn, Lord Culpepper, Sir John Berkeley, Sir William Morton, Sir Dudley Wyatt, and Sir Thomas Culpepper; and the territory granted was, "all that entire tract, territory or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in America, and bounded within the heads of the rivers Rappahannock and Quirough, or Potomac river; the courses of the said rivers as they are commonly called and known by the inhabitants, and descriptions of those parts, and Chesapeake Bay." The title having passed by the