

him and the government of Virginia was made; and in which the elder Baltimore had no part. From this office, grants were issued which extended so far to the "west as to raise the question of location of the head of the Potomac," which caused Frederick Lord Baltimore, after his accession to the right of the Maryland domain, to turn his attention "to its western limits;" and "in his instructions to Governor Sharp, which were presented by the latter to his council in August seventeen hundred and fifty-three, he alludes to the Fairfax grant, and remarks, that he had been informed that the government of Virginia had undertaken to ascertain the limits of his charter; and that the commissioners who had been appointed for this purpose, instead of stopping at the South Branch, which runs from the first fountain of the Potomac, had gone even to the North Branch; that if any such adjustment was made, he had no knowledge of his predecessor being a party to it, and therefore concluded by it." He therefore directed the governor "to obtain early intelligence of the manner in which the boundaries were settled by these commissioners, and to apprise Lord Fairfax of his desire to adjust that boundary with him; and he at the same time commands him to keep a good look out, and prohibit settlements under Fairfax in the country north of the South Branch.—These instructions being laid before the council, in order to a compliance with them, they endeavoured to collect information with reference to the relative extent of the North and South Branches of the Potomac, and for this purpose they summoned before them Colonel Thomas Cresap, one of the settlers in the western extremity of the state who was supposed to be familiar with the course and extent of these branches. He accordingly attended at their next session in September seventeen hundred and fifty-three, and informed them, that in his opinion the South Branch of the Potomac was the longest stream, because it continued, as he thought the longest stream even from its mouth, and ran about sixty miles further in a north-western direction than did the North Branch. Thus informed, the governor addressed a letter to Lord Fairfax, in which after apprising him of the instructions received from the Proprietary, he remarks, that the information which he had obtained induces him to believe that there has been some mistake in fixing the fountain head of the Potomac at the source of the North