

revolution, it became the duty of this state, with as little delay as possible, to dispose of the reserved lands westward of Fort Cumberland, to fulfil engagements made to the officers and soldiers of the Maryland line, which had been in the service of the United States during the war; and an act of the legislature of Maryland therefore passed at November session seventeen hundred and eighty-eight, to sanction the proceedings of commissioners previously appointed to locate certain lots of land westward of Fort Cumberland for the benefit of these officers and soldiers. So urgent were the claims of these military servants who had lately gone through the heat and burthen of the day of the revolution, that this state could not, without evident injustice, postpone the location of their lands until the settlement of our southern and western limits. The commissioners therefore, to avoid all collision with Virginia, run a temporary meridian far within our just limits. By the act of seventeen hundred eighty eight, chapter forty-four, section 15, it is provided, as a protest your committee presume, "that the line to which the said Francis Deakins has laid out the said lots, is, in the opinion of the general assembly, far within that which this state may rightfully claim as its western boundary; and that at a time of more leisure, the consideration of the legislature ought to be drawn to the western boundaries of this state, as objects of very great importance."

By this reservation, this state cautiously precluded all idea of abandonment of our claim, or of yielding at any time to unjust pretensions on the part Virginia; and embracing the first moment of leisure, in the year seventeen hundred ninety-five, opened again a door for negotiation. In that year by a resolution of the general assembly, three distinguished gentlemen, Messrs. Pinkney, Cooke and Key, were appointed commissioners on the part of this state, to meet such persons as the state of Virginia should appoint to adjust and settle by compact the southern and western limits of this state, and to fix the dividing lines and boundaries, and to settle upon just terms the claim of either state within the limits of the other. Mr. Pinkney being called away on a foreign mission, and Mr. Cooke having refused to act, in seventeen hundred and ninety-six, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and J. T. Chase, Esquires, were appointed in their stead. Mr. Key soon afterwards removed from the state, and Messrs. Carroll and Chase refused to