

Having since that conference taken a view of these streams we have now to invite your attention to the subject, and to request an answer to our inquiry. In submitting this subject to your consideration at this moment, we feel it due to the candid spirit in which our proceedings have progressed, to inform you, that our observations have resulted in the most decisive conviction, that the fork of the river at which the Fairfax stone is placed, is not the proper source of the North Branch. We beg it to be understood throughout that we do not by any expressions used in this communication, intend to assume the fact of the North Branch at any of its streams, being the proper source or fountain of the Potomac river. This is a question certainly not now to be agitated by us. The spirit of conciliation which has influenced our government to propose a beginning at the western source of the North Branch, from which to run a dividing line, has deprived us of the privilege of urging the reasons on which the claim to the South Branch as the first fountain of the river could be sustained.

The same reasons which have induced the state of Virginia to claim the North Branch as the first fountain, and the state of Maryland to attempt an adjustment of the lines on the terms mentioned in her late statute, (which we had the honor to submit to you,) appear to us to apply with the strongest possible influence in determining the stream westward of the Fairfax stone as the source of the North Branch.

The propriety of asserting and enforcing in detail, the reasons by which we sustain our opinion, that the western fork can alone be regarded as the proper source of the North Branch must be determined by the construction which you shall give to the powers vested by your commission. We therefore forbear urging them until we have the pleasure to receive your answer.

With sentiments of the highest respect,

We have the honor to be,

Yr. h^umble servants,

James Boyle,

Ezekiel F. Chambers,

Commissioners on the part of the state of Maryland

To H. L. Opie, J. F. Mason, and H. Boye, Esqrs.

Commissioners on the part of Virginia.

True copy from the original,

Test,

John Brewer, Secretary
to the Maryland Commissioners.