

In the course of your communication you have been pleased to state "that you do not by any expressions used by you, intend to assume the fact of the North Branch or any of its streams being the proper source or fountain of the river Potomac," and we entirely concur with you when you add "that this is certainly a question not now to be agitated by us" It has been too well settled, and its settlement too long acquiesced in, and solemnly recognised by all parties ever again to be brought into doubt or controversy.

Very respectfully, we have the honor to be,

Gentlemen, your obt. servts.

H. L. Opie,

Thompson F. Mason,

Herman Boye.

Smith's Tavern, Aug. 7th, 1824.

True copy from the original,

Test,

John Brewer, Secretary

To the Commissioners on the part of the
State of Maryland.

[No. 16.]

Colonel Chambers to the Commissioners on the part of Virginia.

Smith's Tavern, August 8th, 1824.

Gentlemen,—Your answer to the communication of Col. Boyle and myself of yesterday morning, was received at too late a period last night, to permit a reply until this morning. Col. Boyle declines continuing the correspondence, for reasons with which he will acquaint you. Believing however, that an omission to reply to you, might possibly be considered as an acknowledgment of the correctness of your statements and conclusions, I must claim permission to say a word. The language used by you in relation to the South Branch, has surprised me exceedingly, and I am utterly at loss to conjecture on what authority you have introduced it into your communication. The true source, or first fountain of the Potomac, was certainly the proper boundary of the state of Maryland. Whether it was to be found at the South Branch, or at the North Branch, was a question of controversy between Maryland and Virginia; to adjust which, various essays were made, and at one time, commissioners were appointed to de-