

termine the question, who did not, however, act finally on the subject.

Your answer asserts "that 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.

When, by what act, or in what mode, this settlement or recognition was made by Maryland, I am yet to learn. That the act of assembly under which her commissioners are now convened, was passed in a spirit of liberal feeling, is admitted. The authorities of the state at that time, appear to have been willing that the most western source of the North Branch should, by compromise, be received in lieu of the first fountain of the river; but I must still be indulged in the belief, that no settlement of this question has ever been recognised by the state of Maryland in any solemn act or otherwise.

In relation to the other part of your letter, I do not deem it material to reply. I will however express my regret, that you have alluded to "various conversations" as the ground of certain opinions formed by you.

Our situation has given occasion to many informal and casual conversations which it was not expected, and certainly not intended by me, to have been brought into view in any official proceedings on this subject.

Under this impression, our communication of yesterday omitted the notice of any conversation, except that which took place at the formal conference on the 4th. That conference was the only one at which I considered myself acting officially, and therefore the conversation at that time alone, was considered proper for official notice.

The danger of relying on casual and unofficial conversations, is fully exemplified in this transaction; in the progress of which, references are made by you from that authority, not exactly in accordance with the views which it was my intention to convey

I remain gentlemen, with great respect,  
Your very humble servant,

E. F. CHAMBERS.

To H. L. Opie, T. F. Mason, and H. Boye, Esquires,  
Commissioners from Virginia.

True copy from the original. Test,

JOHN BREWER, Secretary  
to the Maryland Commissioners.