

untenable positions in the communication of the Virginia commissioners of date 7th August 1824.

It was a matter of regret with me to differ with my worthy colleague in reference to another subject, which it appeared to me might involve the interest of the state, and the convenience of her citizens residing in, or adjacent to, the disputed territory. A very considerable expense had been necessarily incurred in procuring competent engineers and proper instruments, to enable us to run a meridian line with perfect accuracy. The United States corps of engineers had in the most polite manner, gratified our application in the loan of instruments, to supply the place of our broken transit instrument. In a line of more than thirty miles in length, as we were taught to expect this to be, it became exceedingly important to avoid the error which the ordinary variation of the compass would produce, and which it was possible would be more considerable in this very mountainous region of country. The importance of a correct meridian line appeared to me manifest, if the two states should hereafter resolve to conclude an agreement, having for its basis the line thus to be run, or any other line in the vicinity of it, inasmuch as it would suprisede the necessity of employing any other than a common practical surveyor.

Should no such agreement be entered into, it yet appeared to me desirable that such a line should be run, and its relation to the streams of the river be delineated for the information of the proper avthorities of the state.

The almost inaccessible character of that particular district of country, and the consequent absence of accurate information respecting it, has been the source, it is believed, of the confluicting opinions entertained by the states of Maryland and Virginia, as well as of the general expressions in the original grants which have been the subjects of their various constructions. These considerations influenced me to suggest the propriety of causing a meridian line to be run from the Fairfax stone, or from the western source, (as the Maryland commissioners consider it to be,) or from both points.

Col Boyle was not of opinion that the advatage which I have suggested would result from the running of such a line, or that the benefit to be obtained by it would compensate for the increased expense. He was also of opinion that it was not desirable to do any act which might in any manner commit this state, even indirectly, upon the principles