

proposed by the act of the Virginia legislature, or indeed by our own act of 1818, which act he thought it would be the interest of the state to repeal. This disagreement in our views, necessarily prevented the running of the proposed line.

The accompanying plat which it is believed presents an accurate delineation, will enable the legislature to understand fully the views in which this subject has been considered. The supposed necessity of this plot, which by accident was not received until a few day ago, must account for the lateness of the period at which this report is made.

The accounts of expenditures incurred in the progress of this transaction, were placed in part, under the care of Mr. Thomas Sudler, our engineer, and have not been furnished to me by him. As soon as they can be procured, they shall be submitted, to be disposed of as the legislature may direct. The necessary advances in cash have been made almost entirely from my private purse, and to a considerable extent.

In conclusion, I take leave to suggest the propriety of further legislative provision on this subject. The charter of our state unquestionable entitles her to claim as far south as to the first fountain of the Potomac. She has uniformly claimed that the first fountain of this river was to be found at the head of the South Branch; and it is confidently believed that no official proceeding has ever sanctioned a different location.

The placing of Lord Fairfax's stone was the gratuitous act of an individual or individuals, whose immediate interest was to be promoted by removing the western limit of this state as far north as possible, and who did not pretend or profess to act in virtue of authority derived from this state. A variety of circumstances have concurred to prevent a perfect exposition of facts connected with the controversy; and finally the state of Virginia has declared acceding to the proposal made in our act of 1818, by which a compromise was offered, which would give to Virginia nearly the whole of the disputed territory.

It is not my province to suggest a course for legislative adoption; but it may be proper to remark, that should the legislature be willing to accept the line proposed by the state of Virginia, it will be necessary to modify the provisions of the act of 1818.