

with our north line is small, but about one hundred rods from it, a little more easterly breaks out twelve springs, which makes a large branch at once." Your committee believe that it may generally be safely relied upon, that the construction of an ancient charter, contemporary with its existence, or at a very early period thereafter, is well calculated to inform those who live at a remote subsequent period of the true object and intention of the maker. So far as your committee have been able to ascertain, a uniform opinion has prevailed, that the first fountain having the greatest relative extent to the west, should be sought for as the place of beginning. Thus Governor Eden's commissioners state, "We found the most westerly fountain to be a fountain of the north fork of the south branch of the Potomac." The very first step was to seek for the fountain, having the greatest relative extent to the west, and upon this survey a plat was made, on which the north and south branches are laid down with a meridian running through the head of each, and the meridian through the head of the south branch is upwards of twenty miles more west, than the meridian through the head of the north branch: In fact by taking the first fountain of the north fork of the south branch, as the first fountain of Potomac, to be within the meaning of the charter, you give to the grantee the greatest extent of eminent domain, and allow to his grant that construction most beneficial to him as directed in the 22nd section. But if you make the first fountain of the north branch, the first fountain of Potomac, you diminish the quantity and extent of the eminent domain, near half a million of acres, contrary to the manifest intention of that section, and injurious to the Baron of Baltimore. To avoid all mistakes or misconceptions in regard to the claim of Lord Baltimore, the commissioners in their report informed Governor Eden, "At the spring we proceeded from, we made a small wall of stone round it, and covered it with a large broad stone, on which we cut the letters "C. L. D. B." The initials of the name and title of his lordship, were cut on stone in perpetual memory of his claim, and the naming of his commissioners; a new county is also mentioned, and all this did not even receive a protest from