

your committee deem it useful and important, very briefly to go into a history of our unsettled limits, bordering on Virginia, down to the session of 1833 — When this is done, your committee believe, Maryland need not fear to lay her cause before the people of Virginia and the whole world, to see who is in the wrong.

3. It cannot be doubted, that amongst the most interesting and important concerns of a State, will be found that of fixing with clearness and precision her territorial limits. Before the revolution ours on the south and west were under the management of Fairfax, and the Baltimores, and Maryland is not to blame as a State, for any neglect before that period. — On or about the sixth of May, 1776 in the midst of the revolution, the General Convention of Virginia met and framed her Constitution, and in the fulness of truth, while warm in her first love, without alloy or dissimulation, declared as a part of her Constitution, that the Territory of Maryland, contained within her charter to Lord Baltimore, should be forever confirmed to her, without pretending beforehand to fix on the place of beginning. The members of the Convention doubtless intending at that time, with singleness of heart, to settle the limits afterwards by friendly negotiation. On the 30th day of October, 1776, in the Maryland Convention, which formed her Constitution, it was declared unanimously, that the eminent domain, passed to us by virtue of the charter, and this State at November session, 1788, chapter 44, by a declaratory law, in the nature of a protest, enacted that at a time of more leisure, the consideration of the Legislature ought to be directed to the boundaries of this State, as matters of great importance. At November session 1795, commissioners were appointed by this State, to meet commissioners on the part of Virginia, to settle and adjust our Western and Southern limits, which appointment of commissioners on the 25th of December 1795, was communicated by Governor Stone, to Governor Brook, of Virginia, and on the 9th of January 1796, Governor Brook, in a letter to Governor Stone, acknowledged the receipt of his communication. Virginia took no further notice of the Maryland communication, and in silence declined meeting our friendly overture. At November session, 1796, commissioners were also appointed on the part of this State, to settle and adjust our Southern and Western limits; and at