

by the law under which they they had received their authority. This stone our commissioners discovered, was not even at the most western source of the North Branch, and the whole negotiation was broken off. The friendly spirit of Maryland, although fretted by the extraordinary proceedings on the part of her Sister, did not for a moment indulge a wish for adversary proceedings, and again with an abiding patience which ought to govern the States of this republic, at December session, 1825, by her resolutions agreed to appoint commissioners with unlimited powers, to meet commissioners on the part of Virginia, to settle the whole matter in dispute, at the same time proposing, that the Governor of our Sister Delaware should appoint an umpire, in case the commissioners, representing the two States, should disagree in opinion. These Resolutions by letter from Governor Kent, under date of the 23d April, 1826, were sent to the Governor of Virginia; and the Governor of Virginia, in a letter of reply to Governor Kent, dated May 4th, 1826, acknowledged the receipt of them. Virginia, however, took no further notice of our friendly overture. At our December session, 1831, certain citizens in Allegany county, residing on the confines of the disputed line, sent a memorial to the Legislature, shewing from the uncertainty of our Territorial limits, they had been aggrieved and called upon by the constituted authorities of both States for taxes, and to perform other civil duties.

This memorial called forth another investigation, and a select committee in the Senate was charged with the subject. This committee made a careful examination, and an elaborate report connected with several Resolutions which were all adopted by the Legislature. In these proceedings this State complained of, and protested against the assumed authority of Virginia, to fix a place of beginning beforehand, which settled the whole matter as unjust and incompatible with the dignity and character of the State, but abstained from recommending any adversary step, and proposed further friendly negotiation, upon the basis of the resolutions of 1825. Our report and resolutions of 1831, were in due time transmitted to the Governor of Virginia, who by letter of the 29th November 1832, to Governor Howard, acknowledged the receipt of them, and who promised to lay them before the General Assembly of Virginia, at