

a chart of the waters between Cape Charles and Cape Henlopen. This they can do at some early day of the next season.

II The other object to which their attention was directed, being one whose detail would more particularly influence the deliberations of your honourable bodies, the Commissioners find pleasure in announcing as achieved,

It will be perceived by the Map, and remembered in the personal knowledge of many, that the Sounds, as they are termed in the resolution; or the river, as is the familiar appellation of those residing near them, may be described as a body of water having a common embouchure with the Chesapeake bay, and finding its head in Assawoman Bay, in Delaware, and the river Saint Martin, in Maryland, connecting at several points, for half of its distance from the mouth, by various inlets, or more properly outlets, with the ocean, and presenting in these places facilities more or less favorable for navigation and commerce: for the remaining half, from Chincotigue to the head of Assawoman Bay, where the included water is much more narrow and shallow, there are no such outlets—the action of the sea swelling with its tide, or agitated by gales, having thrown up bars of diluvial sand of sufficient resistance both to keep in the river and keep out the sea water. It would be a matter of considerable interest both for general purposes and with a view to this particular improvement, to determine in what manner this body of water, such as has been described, came to be formed—whether the existing reef of beach and islands to the east of it was at any time wider—a sort of eastern shore to the present peninsula, until it became, by the wearing action of the sea, narrowed and insulated as we see it now, or whether it is a bar thrown up in past centuries by the force of the ocean—a providential preservative against its own aggressions.

The continual, the almost yearly, visible submergence of the Eastern side of those islands, proves nothing but the existence, under ordinary circumstances, of the wearing action that has been mentioned, it does not prove the non-existence of a preservative action likewise; so that, though the operation of the sea in the course of many years may destroy, as is the apprehension of some, the present boundary of beach, a kinpærp