

now only withheld, and with regret, because the attitude of Maryland is regarded as hostile or menacing.

Your Committee have been unable to discover any thing

in the proceedings of Maryland which could suggest the idea

of *menace*, nor does it seem to be at all applicable to the

intimate relations existing between the members of this

confederacy; certainly nothing could be more foreign to the

intentions of Maryland than to assume such an attitude in

relation to Virginia, one of her earliest and most glorious

allies, not nearer geographically than in consanguinity and

affection. Her great strength we know with joy, not envy;

and in her glory we have always felt the keen interest of

participation.

Maryland had never a hostile feeling towards Virginia;

cannot wish to do her violence or wrong, but on the contra-

ry desires the removal of the only source of disagreement,

in order that if possible their union may be more intimate,

and established forever on the best and surest foundations.

The southern and western boundaries of Maryland have

never been adjusted and defined by compact with Virginia.

We hold by charter, a charter which has been fully and

solemnly recognized by the State of Virginia, but in the

interpretation of that instrument the two States have not

been agreed. It is right, even *indispensable*, that the in-

terpretation should be settled, and the limits of the States

ascertained, and our sister State cannot but sometime per-

ceive that in that settlement her voice (admitted to be equal)

is not entitled to preponderating influence.

The State of Maryland seeks or desires nothing which is

not hers of right; and it is necessary for her honor, that in

her controversy, though amicable, and with her sister, the

terms of adjustment shall not be dictated to her.

A brief review of the proceedings of Maryland would

demonstrate that she has from time to time mildly reminded

her sister State of her claims, and sought to refer them to the

examination of Commissioners, to be appointed by the par-

ties from among their own citizens respectively; desiring

only to provide for the appointment of an umpire by one of

our disinterested sister States, in the event of disagreement

among the Commissioners. In such propositions Maryland

has evinced her confidence in the justice of her cause, but

has suggested nothing incompatible with the dignity of

Virginia. She has desired, and still desires the peaceful

ascertainment of her rights, never doubting but Virginia

would deem it necessary to her true glory to do right at

whatever sacrifice, just that the relative rights of herself and