

neighbours should be equitably ascertained, and govern herself accordingly without reckoning her means of resistance.

The Laws of Virginia before referred to, of March 5th 1833, has been understood by us as not only not in accordance with, but directly repulsive of the equitable and moderate wishes of Maryland, as an undertaking in truth, by one of the parties absolutely to settle and pronounce against the claim of the other.

So regarding it, the State of Maryland determined to lay her controversey before that high and independent tribunal empowered by all the States to hear and decide "all controversies between two or more States;" and she has unshaken confidence that when the founders of the Union agreed that all controversies between these States, should be settled by appeals to *Justice* and not to *arms*, they did not fail to achieve that peculiar and brightest glory of our country.

It is however gratifying to learn from a source entitled to so much respect, that we may have misconceived the proceedings and intentions of Virginia, and to be allowed to hope that she may yet do what may not be less advantageous and becoming to her, than to Maryland. It would be lamentable that false honor or strained punctilio should be permitted to estrange these States, or prevent the free course of explanation and liberal and just action among them.

That State will probably be regarded by posterity, as well as our cotemporaries as most loyal to the common welfare and to its own honor, which shall be most distinguished by forbearance and moderation; under the influence of these sentiments your committee recommend that the "door of explanation" which Virginia seems to consider closed upon her by the resolutions of the last session of the Legislature; be opened wide, by their unconditional repeal and the discontinuance of all proceedings under them—and in order to avoid all further delay in the settlement of this long agitated question, your committee further recommend that a special agent be forthwith despatched to communicate to the government of Virginia this intelligence, and with power to negotiate and arrange an equitable and amicable mode of settlement on the basis of the Resolutions of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at December session 1831, and for these purposes your committee have prepared and herewith report to the House sundry resolutions.

All which is respectfully submitted,

Wm. D. MERRICK, Chairman: