

of Virginia, should have their possessions and titles confirmed to them, and should be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberty; for which purpose troops should be stationed there at the charge of the United States, to protect them from the encroachments of the British forces at Detroit, or elsewhere, unless the events of the war should render it impracticable.

4. As Colonel George Rogers Clarke planned and executed the secret expedition by which the British posts were reduced, and was promised, if the enterprize succeeded, a liberal gratuity in lands in that country, for the officers and soldiers who first marched thither with him, that a quantity of land not exceeding one hundred and fifty actual acres, should be allowed and granted to the said officers and soldiers, and the other officers and soldiers that have been since incorporated into the said regiment, to be laid out in one tract, the length of which not to exceed double the breadth in such place, on the north-west side of the Ohio, as the majority of the officers should choose, and to be afterwards divided among the said officers and soldiers in due proportion, according to the laws of Virginia.

5. That in case the quantity of good lands on the south-west side of the Ohio, upon the waters of Cumberland river, and between the Green river and Tennessee river, which have been reserved by law for the Virginia troops from continental establishment, should, from the North Carolina line bearing in further upon the Cumberland lands than was expected, prove insufficient for their legal bounties, the deficiency should be made up to the said troops in good lands, to be laid off between the rivers Ohio and Little Miamis, on the north-west side of the river Ohio, in such proportions as have been engaged to them by the laws of Virginia.

6. That all the lands within the territory so ceded to the United States, and not reserved for, or appropriated to any of the beforementioned purposes, or disposed of in bounties to the officers and soldiers of the American army, should be considered as a common fund for the use and benefit of such of the United American States as have become or shall become members of the confederation or federal alliance of the said states, Virginia inclu-

account of the Secretary and relations of the said states, and red by the said state for the purposes mentioned in said condition.

With respect to the 3d condition, the committee are of opinion, that the territories therein described should be their possessions, and titles confirmed to them, and protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties.

Your committee are further of opinion, that the 4th and 6th conditions being reasonable, should be agreed to by Congress; with respect to the 7th condition, your committee are of opinion, that it would be improper for Congress by a resolve to declare the purchases and grants therein mentioned absolutely void and of no effect; and that the 6th condition, engaging how the lands beyond the Ohio shall be disposed of, is sufficient on that point.

As to the last condition, your committee are of opinion, that Congress cannot agree to guarantee to the commonwealth of Virginia, the land described in said condition without entering into a discussion of rights of the state of Virginia to the said land, and by the acts of Congress it appears to have been their intention, which the committee cannot but approve, to void all discussion of the territorial rights of individual states, and only to require and accept a cession of all claims, whatsoever they might be to vacant lands. Your committee conceive this condition of Congress to be either unnecessary or unprofitable, inasmuch as if the land above mentioned is really the property of the state of Virginia, it is sufficiently secured by the Constitution, and if it is not the property of that state, there is no reason to be offered why it should be so.

Your committee are therefore upon the whole of opinion, that it is the best mode of Virginia to call for a cession conformable to this resolve, &c. and to accept the same without discussion; and that a cession of the same to the said state of Virginia, and the same being proclaimed by the Legislature, and the same being received by the Secretary on the part of the said state, and the same being Congress intended.