

point depends altogether upon agreement; and a single person may thus come to have it in his power, without any advantage to himself, to frustrate means employed for a great public benefit, or at least to impose upon the State a loss of time or increased expenditure in its acquisition.

8th. Also, it sometimes happens that a narrow vista through woods intervening between two signals, (like those which are required in the preliminary surveys for roads,) is requisite to be opened to secure the reciprocal visibility of the signals. In this case, too, the availability of both signals, although in two years all trace of the damage will have disappeared, and the vista itself be obliterated, is dependant upon the disposition of the owner of such intervening ground. In both cases, it is obvious that there should be established uniform principles of settlement applicable to all persons who desire such resort.

9th. Your Excellency will doubtlessly appreciate, as they deserve, the suggestions which I have made in these regards. If necessary, I shall have the honor hereafter to refer to a law of New Jersey, covering the same topics, though passed only in the interest of the United States coast survey, without the farther special object which we have for attainment in Maryland.

10th. Your Excellency having been pleased to confide to me the reception of the United States Standard of Weight and Measure, attributable to our State, I last year notified the receipt up to that time of the Standard of Length and of the Standard Weights from one troy pound upwards. I have now to report the delivery by the Treasury Department of the smaller weights, the ounce, and its subdivisions down to the $\frac{1}{160000}$ of an ounce; together with appropriate instructions from the Superintendant, of their preparation in regard to their management and use. The capacity measures and the balances for determining their equivalents, as well as those of the weights themselves, are not come to hand: though I understand their adjustment to be in a forward state.

Under these circumstances, and as any public action for the diffusion so important of the equivalents of those standards among the citizens of the State should of course be systematic, and founded upon the possession at once of all the means for embracing the whole subject, I have nothing to add now in this regard but that if desired I shall have the honor to lay before your Excellency the particulars of the method proper for such systematic diffusion.

In conclusion, I beg to offer my assurances of the most profound respect.

J. H. ALEXANDER.