

will urge them on to add oppression to injustice. If they
 should not be invited by a superiority of wealth and strength
 to oppress by open force their less wealthy and less
 powerful Neighbors (and these alone are too often
 sufficient inducements to States to commit oppression),
 yet the depopulation, and consequently the impoverishment
 of those States will necessarily follow, which by an
 unfair construction of the Confederation may be shut out of
 a common Interest in, and the common benefits derivable
 from the Western Country. Suppose for instance, Virginia
 indisputably possesses of the extensive and fertile
 Country, to which she has set up a claim, what
 would be the probable consequences to Maryland of
 such an undisturbed and undisputed possession? They
 cannot escape the least discerning. Virginia by selling
 on the most moderate terms a small proportion of the
 Lands in question would draw into her Treasury vast
 Sums of Money, and in proportion to the Sums arising
 from West India, would be enabled to lower her Taxes.
 Lands comparatively cheap, and Taxes comparatively low with
 the Lands and Taxes of an adjacent State, would quickly draw
 the State thus disadvantageously circumstanced, of its most
 useful Inhabitants, its wealth, and its consequences in the