

fine of forty shillings, and yearly rent of ten shillings per hundred acres, as also to receive the rents and fines aforesaid and the arrears thereof, who is to account with you yearly for the same, such lease to be for one and twenty, or three lives and no more: as for my manors on the eastern shore you are to lease them or any part thereof at the fine and rents. I do hereby further order and impower you to authorise and appoint the said Mr. Henry Darnall, to be my examiner general within my said province. Whereas I have received from captain Richard Smith, two letters in one whereof he claimes the benefit of a promise of mine and of a letter by me writt to his wife Barbara, dec'd, about one thousand one hundred acres of escheat land by me promised to be granted her; you are to inspect into my letter, and to comply with the contents thereof in reference to the said one thousand one hundred acres of escheat land; in his other letter he complains of a suit commenced against him by Mr. Bennett and Heath for rent for which I ordered he should be acquitted of during my life; inspect also into that matter, and give him what assistance you can towards receiving the benefit of any order you shall find by me made in his favor. I do hereby also confirm a grant passed by collonell Henry Darnall to yourself of two hundred acres of land near the city of St. Mary's which I formerly writt to you should be granted to you when my land office would be opened.

(L. S.)

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 CHAPTER VII.

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 OF RESURVEYS.

IT is now time to examine the important and copious subject of resurveys, which are not perceived to have been in use until the year 1658, and the origin of which, so far as respects any special authority for their introduction seems to have been doubtful, since in the year (a) 1692 a question

(a) This was in the reign of king William, when lord Baltimore was deprived of the government of the province, retaining only his right in the soil, and managing his interest in that by a chief agent and other private officers. The king's government was embarrassed by many questions respecting their right to grant warrants of survey, as it involved that of selling what was deemed lord Baltimore's absolute property. They were less scrupulous about warrants of resurvey as that concerned only such lands as were already granted: but willing to have some grounds or precedents for their proceeding they started the above mentioned enquiry.