

ed for the deputy surveyors. It cannot be pronounced however that these officers were in theory without use ; for it was certainly of importance to maintain correctness and uniformity in the proceedings of the deputy surveyors, which, of course was the main end of these appointments. But the means were in practice not adequate to that purpose ; for, after the appointment of an examiner general, it does not appear that the surveyor general saw the certificates returned by his deputies before they were received to be patented. I believe these offices did not continue to be filled after the arrival of governor Eden, as the deputy surveyors appear from that period, and at intervals before it, to hold their commissions from the governor himself. The great vice in this part of the proprietary system was that the surveyor general's emolument depended altogether on the quantity of work to be performed by persons of his own appointment, and that in his attention to the qualities adapted to that purpose, he might overlook other circumstances important to the fair and impartial execution of their trust. An officer to superintend and controul the conduct of the deputy surveyor to concentrate and expound the various and disjointed regulations and customary rules governing the forms of surveys and the privileges of the several kinds of warrants, and to see that the certificates were in all respects regular and perfect before they were admitted to patent, could not have been without utility if the deputies had been appointed, or he had been compensated, by the public.

Concerning the duties of the examiner general, who, it may be alledged, might, at least, ensure the correctness of certificates, the commissions that were from time to time issued give but little insight. The surveyor general, in proposing, in the year 1685, that an examiner should be appointed *for his greater ease and security*, describes the purpose to be " to examine and approve all certificates of survey or " resurvey before such time as they be received into the office to be recorded," and the commissions say nearly the same thing ; but in what particulars, and by what tests, the certificates were to be thus examined is no where explained. The examiner was, no doubt, to see that a certificate was correct in itself ; that is, he was to measure the lines and compute the area of the plot ; to compare these lines with the courses and distances expressed in the body of the certificate, and to see that they all agreed, and gave the quantity of land for which the certificate was returned. It is presumed that he also noticed any evident want of conformity with the warrant referred to in the certificate, or irregularity in the time of execution or return ; and I am possessed of some accidental testimony that he attended to principles in regard