

THE

LAND-HOLDER'S ASSISTANT, &c.

BOOK THE SECOND.

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ACTUAL RULES AND PRACTICE OF THE LAND-OFFICE.

CHAPTER I.

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NEW ORGANIZATION OF THE LAND-OFFICE.

IN the preceding book we have disclosed the history and practice of the land office under the proprietary government, intermixing therewith such occasional sketches of the general history of the province as seemed necessary to convey a full and clear knowledge of the rise, progress, and nature of this establishment, the operations of which blended themselves with public affairs of every kind; for, it is hardly necessary to observe that the province was originally nothing but a great land market, in which the institutions of civil government, and the advancement of social and political objects, were of necessity to be preceded by the increase of a population beginning with a handful of adventurers; that this increase depended principally on the encouragement held out to emigrants, and the modes and degrees of that encouragement on the sole will of an individual. The conditions of plantation, therefore, which opened this market, and proposed the inducements to emigration, are the foundations not merely of a particular system or branch of public affairs, but of the province itself and all its establishments; and, in this view of the matter, I found it both proper and necessary to take a glance at their more general results while I displayed their effects in relation to the particular subject which I had undertaken to explain. It remains now to treat of land affairs under a different aspect and different circumstances: the land office is now a regular governmental establishment, holding a place among others; connected with some of them, and branching in common with all, from the constitution and