

vides itself: Accordingly I shall begin by noticing regulations of a general nature, meaning those which do not apply in particular to any one description of lands, or of proceedings, and including such provisions, not already noticed, as were intended to connect the proceedings of the old with those of the new government. The subsequent arrangement will arise out of the different descriptions of land which the state had at its disposal, and the various ways and forms in which it has been made attainable by individuals under the present government.

---

## CHAPTER II.

---

### GENERAL REGULATIONS.

HAVING already noticed the direction of the constitution and form of government, that there should be two registers of the land office, one on each shore, and that short extracts of the grants and certificates of land "on the Western and Eastern Shores respectively" should be made in separate books, at the public expence, and deposited in the offices of those registers, in such manner as should thereafter be provided by the general assembly, it is proper, before we proceed to other subjects, to speak of their mode of appointment, qualifications, and tenure of office, which are also regulated by the constitution.

The 48th article of this instrument directs that the registers of the land office, among others therein enumerated, shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the council, the 40th having previously declared that those officers, with others therein mentioned; should hold their commissions during good behaviour, removable only for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law.

By the 52d article every register of the land office, is to take an oath that he will not, directly or indirectly receive any fee or reward for *doing* his office, but what is or shall be allowed by law, nor will directly or indirectly receive the profits, or any part of the profits of any office held by any other person, and that he does not hold the same in trust, or for the benefit of, any other person; and the 53d article prescribes the penalties to be incurred for offences in these particulars.

The first provisions by act of assembly connecting the old with the new proceedings of the land office, namely, those of