

knowledging, however, one subject of regret, namely that through those impediments which have in many other particulars rendered my performance less perfect than I could wish it, I have not executed my design of endeavoring to procure copies or abstracts of some of the decisions in the land office of the Eastern shore. The immediate cause of this omission is that I found a great difficulty in determining the manner in which this part of my compilation should be presented, that is, whether in the form which has been ultimately chosen or by reporting the substance only of the decisions. Until this was settled, an application for the necessary papers, and for the honorable judge's permission to use them in the way proposed, could not well be made; and when I came to a resolution, my matter was necessarily laid off and arranged, and there was neither time or space to make any material additions to it.

For publishing the adjudications at large, instead of abstracting them, it is I fear an impertinence to offer any apology, since whoever reads them will not want to be told that I could not have given them in a form better than their own. But to speak of the late chancellor in particular, I have satisfied myself by a careful examination of his decrees that, though they are all apparently, and I believe in reality, original drafts, they are composed in a style of correctness that will no way lessen his reputation;—and this being the case, it has appeared to me decidedly the best course to present them in his own language, since, if this volume should serve the purpose intended, of facilitating the trial of land causes, where the practice of the office may be brought into question, their authority must be infinitely more conclusive in this shape than in any form of abridgment that could have been adopted. I shall now insert the cases selected, chiefly in the order of their dates, reserving any further remarks that they may require for the concluding chapter of the book.

LAURENCE ONEALE	}	<i>Caveat in the land office;</i> <i>May 4, 1790.</i>
<i>a</i>		
THOMAS GASSAWAY.		

ON full deliberation of the circumstances in this cause, the exhibits, the arguments of counsel, the rules and practice of the land office and the acts of assembly relative thereto, the chancellor is of opinion,—

That it cannot be considered, that the late chancellor determined the main point in controversy by granting leave to correct an erroneous certificate; that, by granting such leave, he did not intend to enlarge the time limited by law for com-