

limited by law, for the return of certificates, it is presumed to do so upon the particular circumstances of the case, and that indulgence no way affects the rule as to other cases. Without derogating, then, in any manner, from the respect due to the acts of the legislature, under whatever title they may be promulgated, I presume that I may leave what concerns the resolutions on this general ground. If it was absolutely requisite that any of them should have been noticed, further than they actually have been, as forming a part of the standing regulations of the office, it has escaped my attention. If other matters should also be discovered to have been overlooked, even after some notice of them had been promised, the peculiar circumstances which have attended the preparation, and also the publication, of this work must be my excuse.

I have now gone through the system which it was proposed to examine, and which consists, in the abstract, in the institution of surveys and resurveys by warrant from the land office ; in the execution of those warrants, and in passing titles by public grant to the land surveyed. I have noticed every kind of operation and proceeding connected with these general designs, and have given a faithful account of every thing that, on a very laborious research, I have been able to discover relative to the principles and rules by which those proceedings are governed. To have performed this in a perfect manner, it would perhaps have been requisite that the system itself should be more perfect, and more uniformly conducted : but, at all events, it has been done as well as my capacity and means of information would permit. Here, therefore, I shall close my account of the history and practice of the land office.

