

In Council, Annapolis July 31, 1805.

Ordered, that the registers of the land office be, and they are hereby directed and instructed, not to issue any special warrant that shall contain more than one location.

By order,

NINIAN PINCKNEY, *Clerk.*

CHAPTER XI.

TESTIMONIES CONCERNING THE LAW AND PRACTICE OF THE LAND OFFICE.

AS actions of ejectment, in the courts of law, always involve questions concerning original titles, and as these necessarily produce enquiries relative to the validity of the proceedings by which such titles were obtained, the rules and practice of the land office of course come into discussion; and, as they have not always been susceptible of proof by reference to written authorities, it has frequently happened that persons concerned in the management of that office have been called upon to give oral and public evidence on the subject. This has taken place perhaps in many instances of which I am not informed. I was in search of cases of the kind, when my attention was directed to an instance so remarkable and important as to arrest my enquiry, and fix it on that particular case. I found that the late chancellor, and the late register for the Western shore, had given testimony before the general court, by answering a number of interrogatories relative to their knowledge of the rules and practice of the office, and that this testimony remained in writing in the office of that court. Through the kindness of the present clerk of the court of appeals, I was permitted to take a copy of those papers. They have engaged my attention, and assisted my researches in the progress of this compilation. I have, as in some other cases, been in some doubt as to the use which ought finally to be made of them, being apprehensive that in laying before the public a succession of unpremeditated answers to difficult questions, I might be deemed not sufficiently to have consulted the reputations of the gentlemen who gave them. In conclusion, however, as this work is, taken at large, a collection of evidence relative to the practice of the land office; as these examinations furnish, so far