

of register. Upon the appointment of the land council he caused to be prepared a set of instructions, intended to embrace all the operations of the land office, and from this time the complete and distinct organization of this establishment takes its date. The whole proceeding is here inserted, beginning with what appears first in course, to wit, the transfer from the secretary's office to Mr. Llewellyn (who was, it would seem, appointed register, but not yet commissioned) of all those record books and papers which related to the business he was to have in charge.

“ A list of the records of lands taken out of the secretary's office for which John Llewellyn, register appointed for the land office passed his receipt the 7th of April Anno 1680, according to his lordship's order of the 3d ditto in the words underneath the said list.”

LIBER C. B. fol. 1.

Here follows the list, which I do not insert because I have not sufficiently weighed, or been advised concerning the consequence of exposing in this publication any thing that may relate to the loss of records, respecting which, questions are frequently raised in the courts of justice.—It is a matter, likewise, which, notwithstanding several attempts, I have not yet fully investigated. But although the books transferred at this period to the newly erected land office are not all found or (a) accounted for, I have seen no chasms in the present records sufficient to *convince* me that losses of records essentially injurious to titles of property in Maryland have occurred.—After the list comes the following order.

“ You are desired and hereby required to deliver into the custody of John Llewellyn to be kept at the state house the several books and papers in your office relating to the business of lands according to the within written list, and what other books and papers you have any ways relating thereunto, for which this shall be your sufficient order from

“ C. BALTEMORE.

“ *To the Hon'ble Wm. Calvert, Esq.*

“ *principal sec'ry of this province*

“ *vince or his chief clerk. These*”

“ C: BALTIMORE.

“ MARYLAND ss.

“ Charles absolute lord and proprietary of the province of Maryland and Avalon lord baron of Baltimore &c. to all persons to whom these presents shall come greeting in

(a) By being transcribed.