

1768, beforementioned, &c ; which will hereafter be noticed. It follows from this that the proceedings of the state in respect to indian lands did not originate in the acts which had been mentioned, but they were noticed, of necessity, as the first in which I had found express provisions on that subject.

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## CHAPTER VII.

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### OF PROCLAMATION WARRANTS.

FROM the general plan adopted in this investigation, namely, that of separating and classing the provisions of the acts of assembly so far as different subjects or heads of enquiry present themselves, it might be expected that those provisions or regulations which regard the manner of taking up vacant land, cultivated or otherwise, by original warrants, and those which relate to resurveys, would be made distinct subjects of examination ; but, the former have all been more or less noticed in the preceding chapters, and concerning resurveys, notwithstanding their importance, the state laws contain very few express regulations, and those which, in directing the proceedings in respect to boundaries, surplus land, &c. have a necessary connection with the subject of resurveys, have also been already exhibited. Not to multiply therefore, unnecessarily, the repetitions which this mode of enquiry renders unavoidable, I shall not enter into a particular analysis of the laws in reference to those two articles, but shall reserve what remains to be said concerning them for a part of my general and final observations on the practice of the office. In the mean time, there are two other subjects which have hitherto been, but partially brought into view, namely that of proclamation warrants, and that of escheats. These require to be distinctly noticed, and to the former I shall here devote a short chapter.

The origin of proclamation warrants has been fully stated in the preceding book, and I have there observed that warrants of the same denomination, but differing in some of their properties, had continued to be in use under the state government. The difference, which will presently be noticed, was at first not in the form, or the effect, of the warrants, but consisted in the circumstances under which they were to be issued. They were introduced, or rather recognized, by that part of the act of 1781, ch. 20, which authorised the registers