

Section 54, provides "that every Clerk after he records any deed shall, before he delivers the original, carefully and with accuracy enter the substance of such deed," &c.

Section 55, provides that the entry shall be made on good royal writing paper, and describes the size of the sheets, &c.; looking to the fact of the extracts being sent to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals in sheets or quires.

The rule of the Office has been, to provide Royal Extract Books, and then extract from the records instead of the original papers, and whenever several of the extract books are completed, to pack the same in a box and forward it to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.

While this rule is not literally in compliance with sections 54 and 55, article 18, of the Code, it is obviously better than to extract from the originals before they should be delivered, from the fact that some original papers are delivered immediately after they are recorded, while others remain in the Office for many years.

The order also enquires "up to what period have transcripts been transmitted." I believe that all the extracts have been forwarded to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, to December 1st, 1857.

There are at present two Extract Books in the Office in course of completion. One for Deeds, and the other for Mortgages, each Extract Book will contain about six Record Books. The Extract Book for Deeds is about one-half completed, and when finished will contain extracts of all the Deeds, from December 1st, 1857, to January 31st, 1860. Except the Deeds for about five months, which are recorded in the partially burnt records.

The Mortgage Extract Book will contain all the mortgage extracts, from December 1st, 1857, to February 1st, 1861. Both books can be completed in about three months. In connection with this subject, I beg leave to say, that the destruction of the Office, Records, Dockets, Papers, &c., by the fire has greatly embarrassed the performance of the regular duties of the Office since that period, and if this interruption had not occurred, the greater portion of the extracts, would have been transmitted before this time.

In conclusion permit me to add, that it will at all times afford me great pleasure, to give to the Honorable Body over which you preside, or any committee of that Body, any information that I possess, which will be in any way calculated to assist in the restoration of the burnt Records, Dockets and Papers of this Office.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. H. CARMAN,

Clerk Circuit Court for Baltimore County.