

Lib. No. 86 In consequence of Instructions and Oath sent me, as Surveyor General, for the future guidance & direction of the Deputy Surveyors of the Eastern Shore, by the Board of Revenue, they were forwarded to each County, with my desire of their qualifying under them, and giving Bond for the due Execution of the Trust.

p. 92 In consequence of which some have complied, others have absolutely refused, nor can I upon enquiry find Persons to execute the Commissions under the present Oath and Instructions. The Reasons they assign are contained in the following Paragraph of a Letter sent me by M^r Greenberry Goldsborough to which I refer you, and intreat your Opinion, with that of our Friends, upon the Occasion and what you think it wou'd be proper for me to do; as I am informed upon a late application to sundry Persons in Dorchester County, that there is not a Person to be found that will undertake the Office of Surveyor of that County under the present Regulations. Goldsborough writes thus: Upon receipt of your Instructions for me, I seriously perused them with the Oath which to me appeared almost impossible for a man to take and comply with the Instructions; tho' being doubtful of my own Abilities in that Crisis, I sought Counsel and was advised that I could not safely swallow the Oath and act justly, seeing that we are to pay due regard to, and true and faithfully observe the very express words of the Instructions, the nature and tendency of which, is diametrically contrary to Reason in several Articles, and which no man in his Senses wou'd presume to take. Let the Board of Revenue compose what Instructions they please, I candidly think they have no right so to do, until by an Act of Assembly it is made virtually manifest, which I hope will never be while Law is founded on Reason. Therefore if there is really a necessity for taking the same Oath and complying with the Instructions, I beg you will excuse me from acting any longer as Deputy Surveyor of Talbot County, and consequently do refuse acting without there is an alteration made in the Oath and Instructions, and he observes further on, in his Letter, That it is the opinion of those Persons, Judges, who have seen the Oath and Instructions, that every man, be he gentle or simple, who takes the

p. 93 Oath and complies therewith (without an amendment) deserves to enjoy no mutual Intercourses with mankind, ought to have his Throat cut and not suffered to exist any longer. He likewise informs me that Haskins and White, have both absolutely refused to Act for Dorchester County.

As I am at present apprehensive of many warrants going out of Date which may be the occasion of future complaint,