

method of taking up land by *rights of transportation* was really liable to the frauds, abuses, and difficulties which this proprietary discovered in it, or that he was impatient of a system that brought no immediate profit, and began to be unnecessary, he soon resolved upon an essential alteration in the terms on which lands were obtainable by adventurers, and stopping the receipt of any further proofs of rights accruing from the mere act of coming into the country, he demanded by new conditions of plantation a price in money or its representative, tobacco, for the immediate purchase of land, besides a perpetual quit rent as theretofore. Without commenting upon this and other changes introduced at the same epoch in the management of land affairs, I shall insert here, in the course of their dates, all the conditions of plantation and other documents of importance that fall within the period under consideration. The chasm which will be found in them after the year 1704 will presently be accounted for in an additional historical sketch anticipated in some degree by the last note attached to this Chapter.

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“ BY THE LORD, AND PROPRIETARY.

“ PROCLAMATION.

“ Whereas by the conditions of plantation formerly from time to time published within this province by our dear father of noble memory, all adventurers into this province claiming any lands within this province for or in respect of their transporting themselves their wives children or servants into this province did and do stand obliged to make their claim to and demand a patten for all such lands within one year next after such lands did or should from time to time become due: and whereas for the ease and benefit of all adventurers into this province his lordship's governors have heretofore commissioned divers persons, surveyors and others to take the claims prove the rights and thereupon grant warrants for surveying of land according to the said conditions; with express commands, notwithstanding, to return such their proceedings into the secretaries office there to remain upon record: and forasmuch as the said persons so commissioned as aforesaid have either neglected to make returns as they by their commissions were commanded or the clerks at the secretary's office have neglected to enter the said returns by which the titles of divers of the said adventurers to their land are dubious and questionable and may hereafter be questioned to the great prejudice of the inhabitants of this province in after times where things of this nature cannot be made appear. We by the advice of our counsell willing to settle the minds as well as the posses-