

grants shall and doe extend to ten in the hundred, over or under, and noe more.

R. R. B. folio 1.

N. B. No particular proclamation is found to have been issued in consequence of this advice, but the 5th article of the instructions to the land council is apparently grounded upon it.

“ Ordered by the right honourable the lord Proprietary that the following proclamation issue :

“ MARYLAND, *ss.*

“ BALTIMORE.

“ *By the right honourable the lord proprietary,*

“ A PROCLAMATION.

“ Whereas several of our tenants by colour of grants, surveys or otherwise, hold larger quantities of land than are mentioned in such grants or surveys or were intended to be granted to or surveyed for them, or those under whom they claime, for which surplus lands they or those whose estates they have, never paid any manner of consideration, to the great deceit and prejudice of us and the hindrance and discouragement of others who would have taken up and improved such surplus lands, and whereas all the measures which have hitherto been taken to prevail on the possessors or holders of such surplus lands to pay for and take out patents or grants to invest themselves with estates of inheritance in them (as in common justice and prudence they ought to have done) have proved ineffectual, and the said possessors or holders have unjustly withheld and still withhold the said surplus lands under a vain and groundless pretence that the *words more or less* in their grants or surveys entitle them to great quantities of land which they or those under whom they claim never bought or paid for, which practice is in itself so manifestly unjust and so injurious to us and the province by hindering the peopleing and improvement thereof, that we are determined not much longer to indure it but to assert our own just right with all convenient speed, either by vacating the grants containing such surplus as fraudulently obtained, or otherwise, as the case may require, which we had long since done had we not been restrained by the greatest tenderness and regard for the quiet and welfare of our tenants, and the hopes we entertained that they would of their own accord have taken the proper steps to have done us justice and secure to themselves and their posterity indefeazable estates upon very easy terms in the surplus lands by them possessed ; to the end therefore that no person who is possessed off or holds any surplus land by colour of any grant, survey or otherwise and for which the conside-