

to *stringing* in resurveys, a practice used for the purpose of making a contiguity where there was in reality none : nevertheless, I believe that the examination of certificates did not fulfil the general purpose of preventing irregular surveys, or so many disputes would not have arisen on certificates that had passed into the office. It is true, that, by means of communication between the examiner and the surveyor general, the irregularities of particular cases might be made the ground of general admonitions and instructions, and it seems strange that those two officers could not together effect what one might easily do. The reason was that the surveyor general, whose province it was to superintend and direct the deputies, did not see their work, and that the examiner, who had no such authority, of course never extended his attention or views beyond the particular certificate before him,

Concerning the deputy, or county, surveyors, the active and efficient officers in land affairs, little remains to be said, further than will be disclosed by the form of their commissions, presently to be exhibited. It is proper to remark, however, that these officers were sometimes, but not always, empowered to act by deputy ; that there are instances of two being commissioned together for a county, and many cases of special appointments for particular surveys. It was a general maxim that they were not to act out of their appointed districts, which sometimes embraced more than one county. The latitude taken by the proprietary's government in these matters was such as naturally flowed from his unrestrained power : it is needless, therefore, to take notice of all the deviations from general rules that occurred under the former system ; but, to sum up what concerns the constitution, external as well as internal, of the land office establishment there was, generally speaking, a (deputy) surveyor for each county, whose duty it was to execute the warrants that issued from the land office, according to their locations if they contained any, and, if not, to make and endorse locations according to the direction of the parties, and then, in their due turn and order, to execute such common or general warrants. There was a register or chief clerk authorised to issue warrants of all kinds under the seal of office, that is to say, warrants of resurvey, of escheat, and on the proclamation, upon special orders grounded on the petitions of the parties ; and, original warrants for determinate quantities of land, cultivated or otherwise, upon common orders or titlings from the proprietary's chief agent. The next component part of the establishment was the office of examiner general, the duties of which have been explained as far as there are means of doing it. It will be seen by the regulations heretofore inserted that in some instances warrants were returned to that office direct-