

ing the validity of surveys made under warrants or orders issued by him; and also all disputes concerning the issuing of patents; and in all disputes that come before him, he shall have full power to decree thereon according to equity and good conscience, and the principles established in courts of equity.

Armstrong v. Bittinger, 47 Md. 111.

P. G. L., (1860,) art. 54, sec 15. 1846, ch. 92.

22. In any matter pending in the land office in which the commissioner for the time being may have been counsel, or may be interested or related to the parties, and on that account incompetent to act, he shall certify the same in writing to the judges of the second judicial district, who shall thereupon hear and decide such case or appoint some person to do so, which decision shall have the same effect and be liable to the same incidents as the decision of the commissioner of the land office.

Ibid. sec. 16. 1781, ch. 20, secs 4, 8. 1874, ch. 354.

23. Any vacant land, whether cultivated or uncultivated, and any land which has escheated by reason of the last owner in fee simple dying intestate thereof and without heirs, may be taken up by any person by complying with the provisions herein contained.

Ibid. sec. 17. 1860, ch. 35. 1861, ch. 3.

24. Any person desiring to take up vacant land or lands which have escheated, shall obtain a warrant from the commissioner of the land office, directed to the surveyor of the county where the land lies, requiring him to survey the same, and return a certificate of survey to the land office within 'one-year' from the date of the warrant, and such warrant may be in the form heretofore used in the land office, and may be either a common warrant, a special warrant, a warrant of re-survey, a proclamation warrant or an escheat warrant, whichever may be suited to the case of the party applying for the same.

Proprietary v. Jennings, 1 H. & McH 92 *Kelly's Lessee v. Greenfield*, 2 H. & McH. 121. *Garretson's Lessee v. Cole*, 2 H. & McH 459. *Ringgold's Lessee v. Malott*, 1 H. & J. 299. *Attorney General v. Snowden*, 1 H & J 332. *Hammond's Lessee v. Norris*, 2 H. & J. 130 *Cockey's Lessee v. Smith*, 3 H & J. 20.