

## ACTIVE MEASURES TO ASSERT THE CLAIM OF VIRGINIA OVER A PORTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

About the same time, and most probably after the treaty with the Indians, Lord Dunmore opened several offices for the sale of land in the West, some of which were in the limits claimed by Pennsylvania. Land warrants were granted on the payment of two shillings and six pence fees. The purchase money was trifling, being only ten shillings per hundred acres, and even that was not demanded. The proprietary of Pennsylvania had previously purchased the land as far west as the Ohio and Allegheny, and opened an office for the sale of these lands. But the price demanded was much higher than the Virginia warrants, and this was an effectual inducement to buyers to prefer the Virginia office, and of consequence to favor the Virginia claim to jurisdiction over the country.

Accordingly, Dunmore established three courts; two south of the Monongahela and one at the Redstone, all within the limits of Western Pennsylvania, and thus extended the Virginia laws over the region. His scheme for weakening both colonies by embroiling them in a contest about their boundaries, however, failed; the breaking out of the war of the Revolution in the next year suspended the discussion of the question and drove Dunmore from Virginia.