

fact an "eye-witness," as he had explored the country upon the occasion of his visit to Virginia in 1629-1630 after recognizing the unpromising condition of his projected colony at Avalon in Newfoundland; and the account of Captain John Smith referred to is doubtless that contained in the *Description of Virginia*, etc., published in 1612.<sup>1</sup> The writer of this document was evidently familiar with the Conditions of Plantation offered by Cecilius Lord Baltimore as inducements to persons to embark in the adventure, from which he freely quotes.

The zealous missionary dwells much upon the prospect of extending the light of the Gospel in a new field, but at the same time he does not overlook the material advantages offered by the Proprietary to such as would join in the enterprise either in person or by contribution of money.

A translation of this document was made, from a manuscript copy formerly in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society, by the late N. C. Brooks, LL.D., and published in 1847 in Force's *Tracts*, IV., no. 12. In 1872 the Latin text was printed in the *Woodstock Letters* for private circulation among members of the Society of Jesus, with a revision of this translation.

C. C. H.

<sup>1</sup> *Narratives of Early Virginia*, in this series, p. 73.

## AN ACCOUNT OF THE COLONY OF THE LORD BARON OF BALTIMORE, 1633

*An Account of the Colony of the Lord Baron of Baltimore, in Maryland, near Virginia: in which the character, quality and state of the Country, and its numerous advantages and sources of wealth are set forth.*

THIS province is near the English Colony in Virginia. The Most Serene King of England desired that it should be called the land of Maria or Maryland, in honor of Maria, his wife.<sup>1</sup> The same Most Serene King, out of his own noble disposition, recently, in the month of June, 1632, gave this Province to the Lord Baron of Baltimore and his heirs forever; and this gift he has confirmed and ratified by the public seal of his whole kingdom. Therefore the Most Illustrious Baron has already determined to lead a colony into those parts, first and especially, in order that he may carry thither and to the neighboring places, whither it has been ascertained that no knowledge of the true God has as yet penetrated, the light of the Gospel and the truth; then, also with this intent, that all the associates of his travels and toils may be invited to a share in the gain and honor, and the empire of the King be more widely extended.

For this purpose he is seeking, with all speed and diligence, for men to accompany him on this voyage, both such as intend to try their fortunes with him, and others also. Indeed, after attentively considering the whole matter, and taking the advice of men, distinguished for their experience and wisdom, he has now weighed with great care all the advantages as well as disadvantages which have hitherto advanced or hindered other colonies; and found nothing which does not

<sup>1</sup> The grant of the province of Maryland was made to Lord Baltimore by Charles I., king of England. It was named in honor of the queen, Henrietta Maria.

tend strongly to confirm him in his design, and promise him the most prosperous success. For both the writings which his most noble father has left behind him—an eye-witness, reliable and worthy of all credit—and the constant reports of those men who come to us every day from that country, or places not far from it; and besides, the very faithful account written and published by Captain Smith, who first discovered the country—what he says of the fertility and excellence of its soil is truly wonderful and almost incredible—add to these also the unanimous agreement and testimony of numberless men, living here in London, who formerly came from those countries, and intend to return there; and who, with one voice, verify and confirm what Smith has written.

Wherefore the Most Noble Baron intends, by the aid of God, to sail for those parts, about the middle of next September; and to those whom he shall find to accompany and assist him in so glorious an undertaking, he offers many inducements, in the most generous and liberal spirit.

Of which this is the first and most important, (to say nothing of those rewards of station and preferment, which will be liberally given in honor of worth, valor, fortitude and noble deeds), that whoever shall pay a hundred pounds,<sup>1</sup> to carry over five men, (which will be enough for arms, implements, clothing and other necessaries); whether they shall think best to join us themselves, or intrust the men and money to those, who shall have charge of this matter, or to any one else, to take care of them and receive their share of the lands: to all the men so sent, and to their heirs forever, shall be allotted the right to two thousand acres of good land. Besides this, if in the first expedition they prove themselves faithful followers, and do good service, they shall receive no small share in the profits of trade—of which hereafter—and in other privileges: concerning which they will be more fully informed, when they come to the aforesaid Baron. Moreover, as to what was said before concerning a hundred pounds, this shall also be understood, in proportion, of a smaller or larger sum of money, whether given by one man, or contributed and furnished by several together.

The first and most important design of the Most Illustrious

<sup>1</sup> See Conditions of Plantation, p. 91, *infra*.

Baron, which also ought to be the aim of the rest, who go in the same ship, is, not to think so much of planting fruits and trees in a land so fruitful, as of sowing the seeds of religion and piety. Surely a design worthy of Christians, worthy of *angels*, worthy of *Englishmen*.<sup>1</sup> The English nation, renowned for so many ancient victories, never undertook anything more noble or glorious than this. Behold the lands are white for the harvest, prepared for receiving the seed of the Gospel into a fruitful bosom. The Indians themselves are everywhere sending messengers, to seek after fit men to instruct the inhabitants in saving doctrine, and to regenerate them with the sacred water. There are also men here in the city, at this very time, who declare that they have seen ambassadors, who were sent by their kings<sup>2</sup> for this same purpose to Jamestown in Virginia; and infants brought to New England to be washed in the saving waters. Who then can doubt, that by one such glorious work as this, many thousands of souls will be brought to Christ? I call the work of aiding and saving souls glorious: for it was the work of Christ, the King of Glory. For the rest, since all men have not such enthusiastic souls and noble minds, as to think of nothing but divine things, and to consider nothing but heavenly things; because most men are more drawn, secretly or openly, by pleasures, honor and riches, it was ordained by the wonderful wisdom of God, that this one enterprise should offer to men every kind of inducement and reward.

It is acknowledged that the situation of the country is excellent and very advantageous, as it extends to the 38th or 40th degree of north latitude, and is in location and climate not unlike Seville, Sicily, Jerusalem, and the best parts of Arabia Felix and China. The climate is serene and mild, not oppressively hot like that of Florida and old Virginia, nor bitterly cold like that of New England; but preserves, so to speak, a middle temperature between the two, and enjoys the

<sup>1</sup> The Latin text reads *dignum angelis, dignum anglis* (Md. Hist. Soc. *Fund. Pub.* no. 7, p. 47), in allusion to the words attributed to the Pope Gregory the Great, uttered more than one thousand years before at the sight of certain blond English youths, captives exposed for sale in Rome:—“*Non Angli sed Angeli.*” The play upon words is necessarily lost in translation.

<sup>2</sup> For explanation of this and corresponding titles of rank, see pp. 84, 125.

advantages, and escapes the evils, of each. On the east it is washed by the ocean; on the west it borders upon an almost boundless continent, which extends to the Chinese Sea. It has two very large arms of the sea, both of them bays abounding in fish. One of these, named the Chesapeake, is twelve miles wide, and spread out between two districts, runs from south to north a hundred and sixty miles. It is navigable for large ships, and is interspersed with various large islands suitable for grazing; and at these islands can be caught, in the greatest abundance, the fish called *shad*.

The other they call the Dilaware,<sup>1</sup> in which cod-fish are caught all the year round; but the most convenient time to catch them is in the colder months, for the warm weather interferes with salting them. Now this great abundance of fish arises from the following cause: the wind, which uniformly blows from the Canaries, from the north-east, drives the water of the ocean, and with it the fish, into the Gulf of Mexico; from which, since there is no escape for it either to the east or the south, it is driven with great force towards the north, and carries with it large numbers of fish along the shores of Florida, Virginia, Maryland and New England. These, flying from the larger fish, take refuge in shallow places, where they are more easily caught by the fishermen.

There are various notable rivers. The chief of these they call the Attawomech,<sup>2</sup> a navigable river running eastward 140 miles, where there is such a lucrative trade with the Indians, that a certain merchant in the last year exported beaver skins to the value of 40,000 gold crowns, and the profit of the traffic is estimated at thirty fold.

On the plains and in the open fields there is a great abundance of grass; but the country is, for the most part, thickly wooded. There are a great many hickory trees, and oaks so straight and tall that beams, sixty feet long and two and a half feet wide, can be made of them. The cypress trees also grow to a height of 80 feet, before they have any branches, and three men with arms extended can barely reach round their trunks. There are plenty of mulberry trees to feed silkworms. The Chinese grain which the Portuguese call *Sove del' Hierva* is also found there. There are alder, ash and chest-

<sup>1</sup> Delaware.

<sup>2</sup> Potomac.

nut trees, as large as those which grow in Spain, Italy, and France; and cedars equalling those which Libanus boasts of.

Why should I speak of the pine, laurel, fir, sassafras and the other trees, with various kinds besides, which yield balsam and fragrant gums? trees useful in every way, for building, ship-building, for making planks, pitch, tar, turpentine, sinigma, perfumes, and plasters. The woods moreover are passable, not filled with thorns or undergrowth, but arranged by nature for pasture for animals, and for affording pleasure to man. There are fruitful vines, from which wine can be made, and a grape as large as cherries, the juice of which is thick and oily. The inhabitants call these Mesamines. There are cherries as big as damsons, and gooseberries just like ours. There are three kinds of plums. Mulberries, chestnuts and walnuts, are so plentiful that they are used in various ways for food. Strawberries and raspberries are also to be found there.

Of the fishes the following kinds are already known: sturgeons, *turciones* (?), seals (?), *aristoci*, shrimps, skates, trouts, three kinds of *melanuræ*, (black-tailed perch), *erechini*, roaches, white salmon, mussels, periwinkles, and numberless others of that sort, the names and species of which are unknown.

For the rest, there are such numbers of swine and deer that they are rather an annoyance than an advantage. There are also vast herds of cows, and wild oxen, fit for beasts of burden and good to eat, besides five other kinds of large animals unknown to us, which the neighboring people use for food. Sheep, as well as asses and mules, have to be procured either from our country or from the Canaries.

The nearest woods are full of horses and wild bulls and cows. Five or six hundred thousand of the skins of these animals are carried every year to Seville, from that part of the country which lies westward towards New Mexico. Any number of wild goats can be procured from the neighboring people. Add to these muskrats, ciuri, beavers, foxes, martens and weevils [weasels], which do not destroy hens and eggs as ours do. Among the birds are found a very ravenous eagle, various kinds of birds of prey, which live, for the most part, on fishes, and partridges no larger than quails, but in almost endless numbers.

There are also great quantities of wild turkeys, which are twice as large as our tame and domestic ones. There are blackbirds too, and thrushes, and many and various kinds of small birds, some red, and some blue, etc., etc. In the winter, there are plenty of swans, geese, cranes, herons, ducks, *kirthei*, *glauca* (birds of a green color), parrots, and a great many others, unknown in our country. The best of citrons and quinces grow there. Peaches also are so abundant, that an honorable and reliable man positively declared, that he gave a hundred bushels to his pigs last year. Why should I speak of the excellent lupines, beans, roots, and other things of that kind? For even the peas in those parts grow ten inches long in ten days. It is such a good grain country, that, in the worst years, the seed yields two hundred fold; at other times, and generally, for one grain, five or six hundred, and in the best years, fifteen or sixteen hundred; and this too in one harvest, while the soil is so rich, as to afford three harvests a year.

It is probable that the soil will prove to be adapted to all the fruits of Italy, figs, pomegranates, oranges, olives, etc;—to pass over the rest briefly. There is no lack of those things that can be made useful to fullers and apothecaries, and no small supply of tin, iron, hemp and flax. There is also hope of finding gold, for the neighboring people wear bracelets of gold, which indeed is as yet unwrought, and long strings of pearls. It is also to be expected that the provident industry and long experience of men will discover many other advantages and sources of wealth.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COLONISTS BY  
LORD BALTIMORE, 1633