

Maryland. The Proprietary therefore, in 1683, commissioned George Talbott, a kinsman of his own, who had a large grant of land on the Susquehanna, as Surveyor General of the Province, charging him to see that no encroachments were made, and directing him to demand from Penn all the land west of the Delaware, and south of the 40th parallel, as belonging to Maryland. When Baltimore went to England, in 1684, leaving the Province in the hands of a commission of Deputy Governors, to administer in the name of his infant son, Benedict Leonard, Talbott was appointed their head. He built a fort near New Castle, and employed a band of rangers in guarding the marches, to the great annoyance of Penn and hindrance of his designs.

A great grievance in Maryland had been the conduct of the royal collectors. Though the colony by its charter was exempt from taxation by the crown, this exemption was not held to apply to custom-house duties; and the collectors, considering themselves King's officers, treated the Proprietary government with contempt, did all that they could to stir up disaffection against it, and bullied, robbed, and insulted the people at their pleasure. In this conduct they were warmly aided and abetted by the captains of vessels in the revenue service.

In 1684 the King's collector was one Christopher Rousby, who seems to have been more than usually outrageous in his behavior, in which he was backed up by Captain Thomas Allen, commanding the revenue vessel *Quaker*, lying in Patuxent River. Talbott had some occasion to go on board the vessel, where he found Rousby. Apparently some carousing went on, for on Talbott's attempting to leave he was detained by the company in the cabin. Presently a fierce quarrel broke out, and Talbott, drawing a dagger, stabbed Rousby to the heart. Allen immediately placed Talbott in irons, and on the Council's sending the sheriff to take the culprit into custody, refused to deliver him, declaring that he would carry him to Virginia for trial. This he did, despite the protests of the Council, nor would Effingham, the Governor of Virginia, surrender his prisoner, that he might be tried in the Province where the offence was committed. These facts were reported to Baltimore, then in England, who obtained an order from the Privy Council to have Talbott sent to England for trial.

Before this order could arrive, in February 1684/5, Talbott's wife, accompanied by two faithful Irishmen, sailed down the Bay in a shallop, and putting into the Rappahannock, lay-to at a point near the place of Talbott's imprisonment. Here Talbott, who had made his escape probably by bribing the jailor, came off in a canoe, and getting on board