

CHARTER OF MARYLAND

TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN ORIGINAL

CHARLES, by the grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c. To ALL to whom these Presents shall come, GREETING.

II. WHEREAS, our well beloved and right trusty Subject CÆCILIVS CALVERT, Baron of BALTIMORE, in our Kingdom of *Ireland*, Son and Heir of GEORGE CALVERT, Knight, late Baron of BALTIMORE in our said Kingdom of *Ireland*, treading in the Steps of his Father, being animated with a laudable, and pious Zeal for extending the *Christian Religion*, and also the Territories of our Empire, hath humbly besought leave of US, that he may transport by his own Industry, and Expense, a numerous Colony of the *English Nation*, to a certain region, hereinafter described, in a Country hitherto uncultivated, in the parts of *America*, and partly occupied by Savages, having no Knowledge of the Divine Being, and that all that Region, with some certain Privileges, and Jurisdiction, appertaining unto the wholesome Government, and State of his Colony and Region aforesaid, may by our Royal Highness be given, granted, and confirmed unto him, and his heirs.

III. KNOW YE therefore, that WE, encouraging with our Royal Favour, the pious and noble Purpose of the aforesaid Baron of Baltimore, of our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, have GIVEN, GRANTED, and CONFIRMED, and by this our present CHAPTER, for US, our Heirs, and Successors, do GIVE, GRANT, and CONFIRM, unto the aforesaid CÆCILIVS, now Baron of BALTIMORE, his Heirs, and Assigns, all that Part of the *Peninsula, or Chersonese, lying in the Parts of America*, between the Ocean on the East, and the Bay of *Chesapeake* on the West, divided from the Residue thereof by a Right Line drawn from the Promontory, or Head-Land, called *Watkin's Point*, situate upon the Bay aforesaid, near the River of *Wighco*, on the West, unto the Main Ocean on the East; and between that Boundary on the South, unto that Part of the Bay of *Delaware* on the North, which lieth under the Fortieth Degree of North Latitude from the æquinoctial, where *New-England* is terminated: And all the Tract of that Land within the Metes underwritten (*that is to say*) passing from the said Bay, called *Delaware Bay*, in a right line, by the degree aforesaid, unto the true Meridian of the first Fountain of the River of *Pattowmack*, thence verging toward the South, unto the further Bank of the said River, and following the same on the West and South, unto a certain place called *Cinquack*, situate near the Mouth of the said River, where it disembogues into the aforesaid Bay of *Chesapeake*, and thence by the shortest line unto the aforesaid Promontory or Place called *Watkin's Point*; so that the whole Tract of Land, divided by the Line aforesaid, between the Main Ocean, and *Watkin's Point*, unto the Promontory called *Cape-Charles*, and every the Appendages thereof, may entirely remain excepted for ever to US, our Heirs and Successors.

IV. ALSO WE do GRANT, and likewise CONFIRM unto the said Baron of BALTIMORE, his Heirs, and Assigns, all Islands and Islets within the Limits aforesaid, all and singular the Islands, and Islets, from the Eastern Shore of the aforesaid Region, toward the East, which have been, or shall be formed in the Sea, situate within Ten marine Leagues from the said Shore; with all and singular the Ports, Harbors, Bays, Rivers, and Straits belonging to the Region or Islands aforesaid, and all the Soil, Plains, Woods, Mountains, Marshes, Lakes, Rivers, Bays, and Straits, situate, or being within the Metes, Bounds, and Limits aforesaid, with the Fishings of every kind of Fish, as well of Whales, Sturgeons, and other royal Fish, as of other Fish, in the Sea, Bays, Straits, or Rivers, within the Premisses, and the Fish there taken: And moreover all Veins, Mines, and Quarries, as well opened as hidden, already found, or that shall be found within the Region,

Islands, or Limits aforesaid, of Gold, Silver, Gems, and precious Stones, and any other whatsoever, whether they be of Stones, or Metals, or of any other Thing, or Matter whatsoever: And furthermore the PATRONAGES, and ADVOWNSONS of all churches which (with the increasing Worship and Religion of CHRIST) within the said Region, Islands, Islets, and Limits aforesaid, hereafter shall happen to be built, together with Licence and Faculty of erecting and founding Churches, Chapels, and Places of Worship, in convenient and suitable Places, within the Premisses, and of causing the same to be dedicated and consecrated according to the Ecclesiastical Laws of our Kingdom of *England*, with all, and singular such, and as ample Rights, Jurisdictions, Privileges, Prerogatives, Royalties, Liberties, Immunities, and royal Rights, and temporal Franchises whatsoever, as well by Sea as by Land, within the Region, Island, Islets, and Limits aforesaid, to be had, exercised, used, and enjoyed, as any Bishop of *Durham*, within the Bishoprick or County Palatine of *Durham*, in our Kingdom of *England*, ever heretofore hath had, held, used, or enjoyed, or of Right could, or ought to have, hold, use or enjoy.

V. AND WE do by these presents, for US, our Heirs and Successors, MAKE, CREATE and CONSTITUTE HIM, the now Baron of BALTIMORE, and his Heirs, the TRUE and ABSOLUTE LORDS and PROPRIETARIES of the Region aforesaid, and of all other the Premisses (except the before excepted) saving always the Faith and Allegiance and Sovereign Dominion due to US, our Heirs, and Successors; to HAVE, HOLD, POSSESS, and ENJOY the aforesaid Region, Islands, Islets, and other the Premisses, unto the aforesaid now Baron of BALTIMORE, and to his Heirs and Assigns, to the sole and proper Behoof and Use of him, the now Baron of BALTIMORE, his Heirs and Assigns, forever. TO HOLD of US, our Heirs and Successors, Kings of *England*, as of our Castle of *Windsor*, in our County of *Berks*, in free and common SOCCAGE, by Fealty only for all Services, and not in *Capite*, nor by Knight's Service, YIELDING therefore unto US, our Heirs and Successors, TWO INDIAN ARROWS of those Parts, to be delivered at the said Castle of *Windsor*, every Year, on Tuesday in Easter-week: and also the fifth Part of all Gold and Silver Ore, which shall happen from Time to Time, to be found within the aforesaid Limits.

VI. Now, That the aforesaid Region, thus by us granted and described, may be eminently distinguished above all other Regions of that Territory, and decorated with more ample Titles, KNOW YE, that WE, of our more especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, have thought fit that the said Region and Islands be erected into a PROVINCE, as out of the Plenitude of our royal Power and Prerogative, WE do, for US, our Heirs and Successors, ERECT and INCORPORATE the same into a PROVINCE, and nominate the same MARYLAND, by which name WE will that it shall from henceforth be called.

VII. AND forasmuch as WE have above made and ordained the aforesaid now Baron of BALTIMORE, the true LORD and PROPRIETARY of the whole PROVINCE aforesaid, KNOW YE therefore further, that WE, for US, our Heirs and Successors do grant unto the said now Baron, (in whose Fidelity, Prudence, Justice, and provident Circumspection of Mind, WE repose the greatest Confidence) and to his Heirs, for the good and happy Government of the said PROVINCE, free, full, and absolute Power, by the Tenor of these Presents, to Ordain, Make, and Enact LAWS, of what kind soever, according to their sound Discretions, whether relating to the Public State of the said PROVINCE,