

provide a refuge for English Catholics, who were subject to fines and other penalties wherever the English laws against practicing the Catholic religion were enforced.⁶ Certainly this was to be a future motivation in founding Maryland.

Calvert visited Avalon in the summer of 1627 and moved his family there in 1628. One winter convinced him that he had been deceived in the possibilities that Newfoundland offered for a prosperous permanent settlement. As he wrote to Charles I,

I have found by to deare bought experience which other men for their private interests always concealed from me, that from the middst of October to the middst of May there is a sadd face of wynter upon all this land, both sea and land so frozen for the greatest part of the tyme as they are not penetrable, no plant or vegetable thing appearing out of the earth until it be about the beginning of May, nor fish in the sea besides the ayre so intolerable cold as it is hardly to be endured. By means whereof...my house hath beene an hospital all this wynter, of 100 persons, 50 sick at a time, myself being one and nyne or ten of them dyed. Hereupon I have had strong temptations to leave all proceedings in plantations, and being much decayed in my strength, to retire myselfe to my former quiett; but my inclination carrying me naturally to these kynd of workes, and not knowing how better to employ the poore remaynder of my dayes, that with other good subjects to further the best I may the enlarging yo'r ma'ty's empire in this part of the world, I am determined to committ this place to fishermen that are able to encounter stormes and hard weather, and to remove myselfe with some 40 persons to yo'r ma'ty's dominion in Virginia....⁷

He asked for a grant of land in Virginia with all the privileges of his Avalon patent, and leaving Newfoundland to the fishermen, sailed for the Chesapeake.