

**THIRTEENTH SERIES III-IV.  
THE EARLY RELATIONS  
BETWEEN MARYLAND  
AND VIRGINIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649394982

Thirteenth series III-IV. The Early Relations Between Maryland and Virginia by John H. Latané

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**JOHN H. LATANÉ**

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BETWEEN MARYLAND  
AND VIRGINIA**



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY STUDIES  
IN  
HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

HERBERT B. ADAMS, Editor.

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History is Past Politics and Politics are Present History—Froeman.

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THIRTEENTH SERIES

III-IV

THE EARLY RELATIONS

BETWEEN

MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

By JOHN H. LATANÉ, A. B.

IS HISTORY PAST POLITICS?

By THE EDITOR

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BALTIMORE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS PRESS  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
MARCH AND APRIL, 1896

~~12372.55~~  
US 17570.25



*Gratis*

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JOHN MURPHY & CO., PRINTERS,  
BALTIMORE.

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## THE EARLY RELATIONS BETWEEN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.

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### INTRODUCTION.

The purpose of this paper is to give an account of the relations between Virginia and Maryland from the settlement of the latter colony to the agreement between Lord Baltimore and the agents of Virginia in November, 1657, when Lord Baltimore was permitted to assume control of the government of his province, which had been taken out of his hands five years before by the commissioners of Parliament and since that time held by the Puritans.

The unfriendly relations, which existed between Maryland and Virginia for a long period and which have been perpetuated in a local way in the boundary disputes of our own times, were the historic outcome of the loose and careless way in which the English territory in the New World was granted out by the King, and the want of geographical knowledge on the part of those who had jurisdiction over matters involved in the first controversies. The original grant to the Virginia Company included a large part of the present area of the United States. The territory subsequently granted to Lord Baltimore was, of course, carved out of this original grant to the Virginia Company. While the Virginians strenuously opposed the Maryland charter, it is not likely that any serious difficulty would have arisen, had it not been for Claiborne's settlement on Kent Island. His case was not decided in

England until 1638, six years after the charter of Maryland was granted to Cecilius Calvert. Meanwhile, in every act of resistance to the Proprietary of Maryland, Claiborne was backed by the strongest expressions of encouragement and approval from the King and from the Council of Virginia.

A few years later the relations between the two colonies were further complicated by the expulsion of a large number of Puritans from Virginia and their settlement in Maryland. During the Protectorate, when the hand of Lord Baltimore was powerless, these Puritans quarreled with the Catholics and a state of civil war for some time prevailed. Claiborne was in no way responsible for this state of affairs, and although he was one of the commissioners appointed by Parliament for the reduction of the colonies to the authority of the Commonwealth of England, he seems to have had very little to do with Maryland at this period.

As the Puritan element in the early history of Virginia has been almost entirely overlooked, more space has been given to the history of the Puritans in that colony than would otherwise have been necessary.

#### I.

#### OPPOSITION TO LORD BALTIMORE'S CHARTER AND THE DISPUTE OVER KENT ISLAND.

In October, 1629, George Calvert, Baron Baltimore, arrived in Virginia on his way to England from his plantation in Newfoundland. He had already addressed a letter to his majesty signifying his intention of asking for a grant of land in Virginia,<sup>1</sup> in order that he might transfer his colony from Newfoundland to a more congenial climate. He was rather coldly received by the Virginians, who had received some intimation of his intention to settle in their midst. Being

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Archives, Council Proceedings, I, 15.

very zealous in their efforts to exclude Romanists from their colony, they tendered to him the oaths of supremacy and allegiance. These as a professed Catholic he could not take, and accordingly departed for England.<sup>1</sup> The following brief entry on the Virginia Court Records is the only reminiscence of this visit, but it serves to illustrate the state of feeling existing at the time in reference to this distinguished visitor. "Thomas Tindall to be pilloried two hours for giving my Lord Baltimore the lie and threatening to knock him down."<sup>2</sup>

This visit of Lord Baltimore to Virginia made the inhabitants of that colony uneasy, knowing as they did the high favor in which he stood at court. A petition, therefore, was addressed to the King, on the 30th of November, 1629, by Dr. John Pott, the Governor, Samuel Mathews, Roger Smith, and William Claiborne, members of the Council, telling of Lord Baltimore's visit, and asking for a confirmation of their rights and protection for their religion.<sup>3</sup>

In May of the following year Claiborne, the Secretary of the colony of Virginia, was sent to England for the purpose of preventing the confirmation of a grant of land about to be made to Lord Baltimore south of the James.<sup>4</sup> The protest was successful for the time being. Lord Baltimore, however, did not relinquish his plan, and two years later succeeded in obtaining a grant north of the Potomac of as extensive a territory, and with as ample powers of government, as he could have hoped for. He died in April, 1632, before the papers passed the seal, and the grant was confirmed to his son Cecilius Calvert on the 20th of June, 1632.

Lord Baltimore's charter described the territory conveyed as *hactenus inculta* and inhabited only by savages. This was not true of the whole territory as Kent Island in the Chesapeake

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Archives, Council Proceedings, I, 16.

<sup>2</sup> Heing, I, 552.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Archives, Council Proceedings, I, 16.

<sup>4</sup> Browne, *History of Maryland*, 16.