Resource Sheet #02

The Charter of Maryland, 1632

Charles, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, king, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these Presents come, Greeting.

II. Whereas our well beloved and right trusty Subject Caecilius 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, herein after 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.

Modern Translation:

II. Our beloved and trustworthy citizen Cecil Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, from Ireland and the son of the deceased George Calvert, the former Baron of Baltimore, is following in his father's footsteps and enthusiastically wants to spread the Christian religion and the British Empire. He has asked for permission to go to the New World. He plans on transporting, through his own efforts and expense, many British colonists to a part of America that has not yet been farmed, and is partially occupied by Indians that do not know about the Christian God. The King grants the whole area of this new colony, with a few exceptions stated by the British Government, to Cecil Calvert and his heirs.

MD State Archives at: www.msa.md.gov/msa/educ/exhibits/founding/pdf/charter.pdf