

**RELATION OF THE COLONY OF  
THE LORD BARON OF BALTIMORE,  
IN MARYLAND, NEAR VIRGINIA: A  
NARRATIVE OF THE FIRST  
VOYAGE TO MARYLAND**

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Relation of the Colony of the Lord Baron of Baltimore, in Maryland, Near Virginia: A Narrative of the first voyage to Maryland by Andrew White

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**ANDREW WHITE**

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OF THE **COLONY** OF THE  
LORD BARON OF BALTIMORE,  
IN MARYLAND, NEAR VIRGINIA;  
A NARRATIVE  
OF THE  
FIRST VOYAGE TO MARYLAND,  
BY THE  
REV. FATHER ANDREW WHITE,  
AND SUNDRY REPORTS FROM  
REV. FATHERS ANDREW WHITE, JOHN ALTHAM, JOHN BROCK, AND OTHER  
JESUIT FATHERS OF THE COLONY TO THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AT ROME.



COPIED FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE JESUITS' COLLEGE AT ROME, BY THE LATE REV. WILLIAM  
M'HEBBY, OF GEORGETOWN COLLEGE, AND PRESENTED BY THE COLLEGE  
TO THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

TRANSLATED BY N. C. BROOKS, A. M.  
MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

BALTIMORE.

1847.

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## RELATION.

*A Report of the Colony of the Lord Baron of Baltimore, in Maryland, near Virginia, in which the quality, nature, and condition of the-region and its manifold advantages and riches are described.*

The province is near the English colony in Virginia, which, in honor of his wife Maria, his most serene majesty of England wished to be called Maryland, or the Land of Maria. This province, his most serene majesty, in his munificence, lately, in the month of June, 1632, gave to the Lord Baron of Baltimore and his heirs forever; which donation he secured, and has confirmed by the public seal of the whole realm: Therefore the most illustrious Baron has resolved immediately to lead a colony into that region; first, and especially, that into the same and the neighboring places he may carry the light of the gospel and of truth where it has been found out that hitherto no knowledge of the true God has shone; then, furthermore, with this design, that all the companions of his voyage and labors may be admitted to a participation of the profits and honor, and that the empire of the realm may be more widely extended.

For this enterprise, with all haste and diligence, he seeks companions of his voyage—as well those of fortune who may be about to experience a different condition with him, as others also. For the whole affair being carefully considered, and the counsel of men eminent for experience and prudence being called in, he has now weighed carefully and studiously all the advantages and disadvantages which hitherto advanced or impeded other colonies, and found nothing which did not greatly approve his design and promise the most happy success.

For both the writings which his most noble father left behind him, an eye witness and most veracious—and worthy of credit, the things which those constantly report who daily come and go to us from thence or not far from thence, as well as the things which Captain Smith, who first discovered that country, most veritably wrote and published, contain statements truly wonderful and almost unheard of, in relation to the fertility and excellence

lence of its soil. There is added to this also, the common consent and testimony of innumerable men who are here from London, and who are about to return to the regions from which they had formerly come, who with one accord verify and confirm what Smith has committed to writing.

Wherefore the most noble Baron, about the middle of September next succeeding, is about to make sail, God helping, into these parts; and to those whom he shall obtain as companions and followers in an undertaking so illustrious he makes the most ample and liberal promises, of which this is first and especial, (to omit the titles of honor and rank which are granted to fidelity, virtue, bravery, and illustrious services,) that whoever shall pay down one hundred pounds English to convey five men, (which sum shall be sufficient for arms and implements, for clothes and other necessary articles,) whether it shall please them to join themselves to us, or their men and money, to those to whom this gift may be transferred, or to another whom he may commission to have the care of them, and receive a division of the land—to them and to their heirs forever, shall be assigned a possession of two thousand acres of good land; and besides, if in the first expedition they shall join themselves as companions, and exert their labors, they shall obtain their share, by no means small, in a profitable trade, (of which more hereafter,) with other privileges:—concerning all which things, when they come to the aforesaid Baron, they shall be made acquainted. But what has been before said of the one hundred pounds English, this also may be understood of a smaller or greater sum of money in proportion, whether from one person separately, or collected together and contributed by many.

The first and chief object of the most illustrious Baron (which also ought to be the object of others who may be in the same ship) is, that in a land so fruitful shall be sown not so much the seeds of grain and fruit trees as of religion and piety; a design truly worthy of christians, worthy of angels, worthy of the Angles,\* than which England, renowned for so many ancient victories, has undertaken nothing more noble or more glorious. Behold the regions are white unto the harvest, prepared to receive in its fruitful bosom the seed of the Gospel. From thence they are sending, on all sides, messengers to seek for suitable men who may instruct the inhabitants in the doctrine of salvation and regenerate them in the sacred font.

There are present at this very time in the city, those who  
state

\* "They ought not to be called Angles, but Angels."—*Pope Gregory*.



state that they have seen at Jamestown, in Virginia, messengers sent from their kings for this purpose, and infants carried to New England, that they might be washed in the waters of salvation. Who then can have a doubt, but that by this one work so glorious, many thousand souls may be led to Christ? I call the rescue and salvation of souls a glorious work, for it is a work to the glory of Christ our King. But since there are not to all the same ardor of mind and elevation of soul, so as to regard nothing but divine things, esteem nothing but heavenly things—inasmuch as most men regard rather pleasures, honors, and wealth, as if in love with them—it has happened by some unseen power, or rather by the manifest remarkable wisdom of the Deity, that this one undertaking should embrace all inducements that affect men—emoluments of every kind.

It is admitted that the situation of the region is the best and most advantageous; for it extends towards the north to the thirty-eighth or fortieth degree of latitude, in the same position of place with Saville, Sicily, and Jerusalem, and not unlike the best portions and climate of Arabia Felix. The air is serene and mild, neither exposed to the burning heat of Florida or ancient Virginia, nor withered by the cold of New England, but has a medium temperature between the two—enjoys the advantages of each, and is free from their inconveniences. On the east it is washed by the ocean; on the west it adjoins an almost boundless continent, which extends to the China sea.

There are two arms of the sea on each side—bays most abundant in fish. The one whose name is Chesapeake, is twelve miles broad, and flowing between two regions, rolls from south to north one hundred and sixty miles, is able to contain great navies, and is marked by various large islands fit for grazing, where they fish actively for shad.\* They call the other the Delaware, where, the entire year, there is the fishing for codfish,† but not so profitable, except only in the cold months, as those which are rather warm prevent their being cured with salt. And indeed this great plenty of fishing arises from this: the wind which sets continually from the Canaries, between the north and east, rolls the ocean and the fish with it to the Gulf of Mexico, where, since it can neither return again to the east nor the south, it is driven towards the north, and bears with it along the coasts of Florida, Virginia, Maryland, and Newfoundland a great multitude of fish, which, as they

avoid

\* Lagois.

† Asellus.



avoid the *cetacea*, fly to shoal places, where they are more easily taken by the fishermen.

There are various and noble rivers, the chief of which they call Patawomek,\* suitable for navigation, flowing one hundred and forty miles towards the east, where a trade with the Indians is so profitable, that a certain merchant, the last year, shipped beaver skins at a price of forty thousand pieces of gold, and the labor of traffic is compensated by thirty-fold profit.

In the level and campaign country, there is a great abundance of grass; but the region is for the most part shaded with trees; oaks and walnut trees are the most common, and the oaks are so straight and tall that beams can be made from them, sixty feet long, and two feet and a half thick. Cypress trees will shoot up eighty feet before they send forth branches, and three men with extended arms scarcely encompass them. The mulberry trees that feed silk worms, are very common. There is also found an Indian grain which the Portuguese call *Pove de Phierica*. Alders, ash-trees, and chesnuts, not inferior to those which Spain, Italy, and Gaul produce—cedars equal to those which Lebanon boasts. What shall I say of the pine, laurel, fir, sassafras, and others, with various trees also which yield balsam and odoriferous gum—trees for all the most useful purposes—for architecture, for nautical uses, for plank and pitch—naptha, terebinth, and mustard, for perfumes, and for making cataplasms? But the woods are passable, not rough, with an undergrowth of thorns and shrubs, but formed by nature to afford food to beasts, and pleasure to men. There are grapes in abundance, from which wine can be pressed; you can meet with some whose juice is thick and unctuous; the inhabitants employ it as a medicine. There are cherries, with prunes, and gages very like ours. Of prunes there are three kinds. Mulberries, chesnuts, and walnuts are so abundant that they are used in various ways for food. Strawberries and esculent blackberries you will, in like manner, find.

Of the fishes, those that follow have already come into notice: sturgeons, herrings, phocenaë, crevices, shrimp, torpedoes, trouts, mullets of three kinds, urchins, rochet-fish, white salmon, oysters, periwinkles, and others of that kind, of innumerable names and unknown species. But so great is the abundance of swine and deer that they are rather troublesome than advantageous. Cows also are innumerable, and oxen suitable for bearing burdens or for food; besides five other kinds  
of

\* Potomac.

of large beasts unknown to us, which our neighbors admit to their table. Sheep will have to be taken hence or from the Canaries; asses also, and mules and horses. The neighboring forests are full of wild bulls and heifers, of which five hundred or six hundred thousand are annually carried to Saville from that part which lies towards New Mexico. As many deer as you wish can be obtained from the neighboring people. Add to this muskrats, rabbits, beavers, badgers, and martens, not however destructive, as with us, to eggs and hens.

Of the birds, the eagle is the most voracious. Of hawks there are various kinds, which live in a great measure on fish. There are partridges, not larger than our quails, but almost infinite in number. Innumerable wild turkies, which excel our tame and domestic ones, by double the size. There are also blackbirds, thrushes, and a great many little birds, of which there are various kinds, some red, some blue, &c., &c. During the winter it abounds in water-fowl: swans, geese, cranes, and herons—ostriches, owls, parrots, and many others unknown to our part of the world. It bears apples, lemons, and the best quinces. The apricots also are so abundant, that an honorable man and worthy of credit positively affirmed that he had cast an hundred bushels to the hogs. What shall I say of the lupines, the most excellent beans, roots, and other things of this kind, when even in ten days peas grow to fourteen inches height? It is so fruitful in king's corn, that in the most barren places it returns the seed twice an hundred fold; otherwise, and for the most part, from one grain five hundred or six hundred grains; while in the more productive years from fifteen hundred to sixteen hundred grains, and this indeed in one harvest, whereas the fertility of the soil affords three harvests. That I may draw to a close presently, it is very likely that the soil is adapted to all the fruits of Italy, figs, pomegranates, golden olives, &c., &c.

Nor are there wanting things that may be of use to conjurers and apothecaries—nor is plenty of iron, hemp, and flax wanting to their hand. There is hope also of finding gold, for the neighboring people wear bracelets of unwrought gold, and long strings of pearls. Other advantages, both numerous and lucrative, may be expected, which sagacious industry and long acquaintance will discover.