

Although a large number of manors were granted to others, or set aside for himself, by the Lord Proprietary in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the Land Office index showing seventy-four in the former century, it is the belief of the writer that very few functioned with court leet and court baron, and the other feudal trappings of a well organized English manor. Already the manorial system was showing signs of breaking up in England, and transplanted to American soil was even more of an anachronism here for political and economic reasons. In Maryland, however, it was retained in a modified way by the Lord Proprietary as a form of land tenure, long after the manor itself had ceased to have any social, political or judicial significance.

Kilty, in his *Landholder's Assistant* (Baltimore, 1808, pp. 91-107), recognized three types of manors as having existed in Maryland: (1) manors, such as St. Clements's, containing usually at least 1,000 acres, granted to those persons of importance who had ventured into the province under the Conditions of Plantation of 1636, with the privilege, generally stipulated, of holding court leet and court baron: (2) manors with special rights and privileges, although sometimes these rights are described in a general way as those belonging to manors in England, which were erected by the Proprietary for the benefit of his heirs or other near relations; (3) manors set aside by the Proprietary for his own use, usually large tracts containing 6,000 or more acres each, scattered throughout the various counties of the Province. With this last group, as well as with many of the second group, we need not concern ourselves as these so-called manors appear to have been simply legal devices for holding lands to be later divided and either sold or leased. Of the seventy-four manors known to have been granted in the Province in the seventeenth century many were of the last two groups, for which anything in the nature of a manorial organization, with court leet and court baron, would have been useless. It is the first group of manors with manorial privileges, which were granted to various individuals, including some relations of the Lord Proprietary, which alone concern us.

A careful search of the proceedings of the Council, of the Provincial Court, and of the county courts of Kent, Charles, Talbot and Somerset, which have been so far printed, reveals mention of the existence of only two manors which are stated to have had court leet and courts baron, although it is probable that there may have been a few others which functioned for a brief period with a feudal manorial organization. These two were the manors of St. Clement's and St. Gabriel's. The organization of a manor with a manorial court and other feudal trappings entailed considerable expense to the lord of the manor, and was only justified when the latter was willing to pay the price for the prestige which this gave him, or where the freeholders and leaseholders were sufficiently numerous and prosperous to make the fees and fines incident to the manorial organization of profit to the lord. Nor must it be thought that because an owner is styled "lord of the manor" this necessarily indicates that a manorial court was maintained. It is also doubtless true that courts were sometimes established, and then soon allowed to lapse as unprofitable or useless. Three or four decades after the settlement the growth of white servitude and