

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BALTIMORE.

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IN presenting the present edition of our *Director* to our patrons, we have thought it would not be unadvisable to offer something like a *brief* view of our city, from its earliest authentic history. In 1659 patents were issued for lands in Baltimore County to a colonel Utie, and it was at this period that it was erected into a county.

In the year 1661, the first county court was held in Baltimore county. On the succeeding year contracts were made for tobacco, deliverable at North Point. Amongst the first settlers north of the Patapsco river was a Mr. Abraham Clarke, a *shipwright*: so that we find even at this early period of our history, this deservedly popular class of mechanics, among the first to give tone and character, by their industry and enterprise, to that small beginning which has subsequently grown with such giant strides, into a large, healthy, and populous mart of commerce. But to come nearer home, and to develop something which may be considered as looking more like an approximation towards the *nucleus* of our city, it may be worthy of remark, that Mr. CHARLES GORSUCH, of the *Society of Friends*, the same year took up and patented 50 acres of land on *Whetstone Point*. So slow and arduous was the spirit of settlement at this period, that although the purchase money was but 4s the *quit rent* 4s sterling, per annum, and the *alienation* 4s sterling per 100 acres, payable in specie, tobacco or other products, the competitors for the proprietary grants were few in number, and applicants for them were viewed in the light of *conferring*, rather than *receiving* favors.

The next land within the limits of our city, which was taken up was by Mr. Alexander Mountenay, who took out a patent in 1663 for 200 acres running on either side of what is now called Harford Run. In 1668 *Timber Neck*, lying between the heads of the middle and North branches of the Patapsco, was patented in the name of Mr. John Howard, and in the same year, Mr. Thomas Cole obtained a patent for 550 acres on the north of that granted to Mr. Howard; which he called *Cole's Harbour*. This tract extended for a considerable distance on each side of what is now called *Jones's Falls*, and it was here that the first houses of Baltimore town were built. Mr. Cole had an only daughter, who married Mr. Charles Gorsuch, and they jointly sold Cole's Harbour to a Mr. David Jones, from whom the stream thence took its name, as also Jones's street. This, by the sacrilegious interference of the ministers of law, has been changed into Front street. We say *sacrilegious*, because we hold it that the ancient landmarks of towns, cities, and countries, should be cherished with the reverential regards of family heir-looms.