

P. R. O.  
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Reasons of State concerning Maryland in America  
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1. First. Itt is much better to keepe that Government still devided from Virginia, as itt hath beene for this twentye yeares last past, then to unite them, for, by that meanes, this Commonwealth will have the more power over both by making one an Instrument (as occasion shall require) to keep the other in their due obedience to this Commonwealth.
2. Secondlye In case any defection should happen in either Collony (as lately was in Virginia) the other may be a place of Refuge for such as shall continew faithfull to this Commonwealth, as Maryland lately was, upon that occasion, which it could not have been in case the Government of that place, had been, at that tyme, united unto, or had any dependance on Virginia.
3. Thirdlye Itt will cause an emulation in both, which of them shall give the better account of their proceedings to the Supream authority of this Commonwealth, on which they both depend, and also which of them shall give better satisfaction to the Planters and Adventurers of both.
4. Fourthly the Lord Baltemore haveing an estate, and his residence, in England, this Commonwealth will have a better assurance of the due obedience of that Plantation, and the Planters and Adventurers thither of haveing right done unto them, in case the Government thereof have still a dependance on him, and he upon this Commonwealth, as he had before on the late kinge, Then if the Government of that place, att so remote a distance, should be disposed of into other hands whoe had little or nothing here to be responsible for itt, and whose interest and residence were wholly there.
5. Fifthly by the continuance of his Interest in the Government therof, this Commonwealth and the people there are eased of the charge of a Deputy Governor, which he, att his owne charge maintaynes; the Inhabitants being yett so poore (and so likely to be for many yeares) as that they are not able to contribute any thinge towards ytt.
6. Sixthly Iff the Lord Baltemore should, by this Commonwealth, be prejudiced in his Pattent, and right to that Province, Itt would bee a great discouragement to others in Forreygne Plantations, upon any exigency to adhere to this Commonwealth, because itt is notoriously knowne that by his express directions his officers and the people there did adhere to the Interest of this Commonwealth, when all other English Plantations (except New England) declared against the Parliament and att that tyme received their freinds in tyme of distresse (for which he was like divers tymes to be deprived of his