

Island, in the Chesapeake bay, where, as the agent of a London firm of merchants, he dealt with the Indians for beaver skins. Baltimore was desirous of making a friend of Claiborne, and instructed Leonard, while notifying him that his island was within the province of Maryland, to make amicable overtures to him. Claiborne, however, preferred to remain an enemy.

A vessel of Claiborne's having been seized by the Maryland authorities for trading in Maryland waters without a license, he dispatched a shallop with an armed party to St. Mary's to make reprisals. Calvert sent out a force in two pinnaces to meet them, and a battle was fought on the Pocomoke river, in which there was some bloodshed on both sides, and Claiborne's vessel surrendered. Claiborne soon after went to England, and his London principals sent out an agent, who took possession of their property on Kent Island and acknowledged the jurisdiction of Maryland. Some disaffection still remaining on the island, Governor Calvert sailed with a small force, when all the residents peacefully submitted and were confirmed in their holdings of land.

Of the first meeting of the Maryland Assembly, in 1635, we have no record, but that of the second, in 1637-8, has been preserved. It consisted of all the freemen of the colony, present either in person or by proxies. This plan proving inconvenient, was soon changed, and two burgesses were elected by every hundred, forming a lower house, while the Governor and Council, appointed by the Proprietary, constituted an upper house. The clause in the charter giving Baltimore the right to propose laws was waived by him, and the initiative in legislation left to the Assembly, he reserving the power of assent or dissent.

The missionaries sent out by the Jesuits with the first colonists, were diligent in spreading Christianity among the Indians, who gladly listened to their teachings and embraced the faith; even the Tayac, or "emperor," of Pascataway, who was a sovereign over several tribes, asking to be baptized and married according to the Christian rite; and he afterwards brought his young daughter to be educated at St. Mary's.

The peace of Maryland was disturbed by the civil war in England. Although Baltimore took no part in the war,