

claimed, but the messenger unfortunately died on the way, and the delay thence resulting was used to alarm the ignorant and timid. Although the Protestants outnumbered the Catholics eleven or twelve to one, the credulous people were easily persuaded that a plot was on foot to bring down a force of hostile Indians, who, joining with the Catholics, were to make a general massacre of the Protestants. The terrified people hastily took up arms in various places, and the leaders of the sedition, headed by John Coode, a man of infamous character, placed themselves at their head and seized the government. This done, they wrote to King William, assuring him that they had acted from motives of purest patriotism, and to preserve the Protestants from destruction, and begging him to take the government into his own hand.

Accordingly, William, without waiting for a legal investigation, assumed the government, and in 1692 sent out Sir Lionel Copley as the first royal governor. The Proprietary's property and personal revenues were not confiscated, but the whole proprietary government was superseded.

One of the first acts of the new government was to make the Church of England the established church of the province. Hitherto all worship had been free, and all the churches had been supported by voluntary contributions, but now all taxables had to contribute, to the extent of forty pounds of tobacco per poll, to maintain the establishment. Protestant Dissenters and Quakers were allowed their separate meeting-houses, if they paid the tax.

During the administration of Francis Nicholson the seat of government was removed from St. Mary's to Annapolis (1694) and a beginning was made toward a system of free schools by the foundation of King William School, at the latter city.

Charles, the third Lord Baltimore, died in 1715, and his title and estates went to his eldest son, Benedict Leonard, who had become a Protestant. He, however, died the same year, and his son Charles, a minor, and also a Protestant, succeeded. As the charter had never been rescinded, but only held in abeyance because of the Proprietary's faith, that reason now no longer existed, and, on the petition of Charles' guardian, the province was restored to him in 1716.

In 1751 Charles, the Proprietary, died, and was succeeded by his only son, Frederick, sixth and last Baron of Baltimore, who sent out Horatio Sharpe as Governor.

The stamp tax, imposed in 1765, met with violent opposition in Maryland, the stamp distributor being compelled to fly the province, and the stamps were shipped back to England, as no one would use them.