

alienable and inheritable and the right to grant or lease any of his land to any person to hold the same of him—and not of the king—in fee simple was also given. As to the regulation of military, executive and judicial authority, of all office and title, of the Church and to a large extent, of legislative activity, Lord Baltimore was given almost unrestricted authority, with the crown reserving to itself the right of control in war, trade and commerce. Last but not least, the following provisions were made guaranteeing the rights of the new inhabitants: (1) there should be no ordinance which could take away the right or interest of any person or persons, of, or in member, life, freehold, goods or chattels; (2) all laws and ordinances should be reasonable and, so far as convenient, like the laws and customs of England; (3) the people of Maryland should be entitled to “all the privileges, franchises, and liberties” which other English subjects enjoyed.²⁴

The Conditions of Plantation, or terms under which land was granted to new colonists, should be mentioned next. The first of these date from 1633 before the *Ark* and the *Dove* left England. No record of these is extant in Maryland records but secondary sources reveal their existence²⁵ and they are reproduced in the oldest Conditions of Plantation on record in Maryland, dated 1636 from Portsmouth. By virtue of these two thousand acres are to be granted for every five men (between sixteen and fifty) imported in 1633; one thousand acres for every five men imported in 1634 or since; for lesser numbers one hundred acres for each man or woman and fifty acres for each child; each tract of 1000, 2000 or 3000 acres to be erected into a manor under such name as the adventurer may choose; rents to average twenty pounds of wheat per hundred acres annually.²⁶ After this three subsequent Conditions of Plantation were published, all from London, in 1641, 1648 and 1649. All were finally supplanted by the new 1683 ruling governing conditions of plantation by which all granting of land was put on a money payment basis. In this same category various letters and proclamations by the Lord Proprietor may be mentioned. While Lord Baltimore was in England he often sent commissions and letters of instruction to the Governor concerning land affairs. The Governor in turn would

²⁴ Mereness, pp. 7-9.

²⁵ *Narratives of Early Maryland 1633-1684*, edited by Clayton Colman Hall, New York, 1910.

²⁶ *Patents*, Liber 4, p. 61, 62.