

cooperation. The lords of the manors were to hold courts for their tenants, and manorial rules were to establish the rights and duties of the inhabitants. The manor was to be a central institution in the life of the colony, both as an instrument of social control and as a focal point for the establishment of community networks.¹³

What kind of man was the author of this document? By all accounts he was not a haughty or imperious man who trampled on others to reach the top. One contemporary described him as "an honorable, sensible, well-minded man, courteous to strangers, full of respect towards ambassadors, zealously intent upon the welfare of England; but by reason of all these good qualities, entirely without consideration or influence."¹⁴ Certainly he was hardworking and conscientious—a first-rate public servant. He had excellent legal abilities and used his knowledge of legal procedures to forward his colonial projects. But while he understood the politics of the courts of James I and Charles I, he was not ruthless enough to maintain his position among the greedy men who scrounged for power. Perhaps also his practical business abilities were too limited for the scope of his colonizing ambitions. One could argue, at least, that he was foolish to plan expansion of his Ferryland settlement without better knowledge of Newfoundland conditions.

On the whole what we know of George Calvert does not much resemble a visionary, yet a visionary he was, at least in part. He brought a brilliant legal mind to bear on a colonial charter that thwarted all later efforts to rescind it. But his plans for transplanting English social and political structure looked backward rather than forward. Whether his vision of a Catholic refuge also