

Eastern Shore, whereas the Maryland charter was to be granted for "parts of America not yet cultivated and planted, though in some parts thereof inhabited by certain barbarous people, having no knowledge of the Almighty God." (Neither Englishmen nor Virginians recognized the claims of the Indians.) On June 5 the privy council's committee on trade and plantations reported that it agreed with the Virginians. The council authorized yet another warrant that was to place the boundary at Watkins Point instead of Cape Charles. This change left present-day Accomack and Northampton counties in Virginia and set the stage for future conflicts, including the nineteenth- and twentieth-century "oyster wars" between Maryland and Virginia watermen. The charter with these boundaries finished passage of the seals on June 20, 1632.

No sooner was the great seal affixed and the terms of the charter became known than Virginia interests mounted a strong campaign against it. A legal opinion submitted to the privy council argued that powers to make war and make feudal grants with manorial privileges, plus the absence of any right to appeal to the crown, were excessive delegations of power. Cecil Calvert skillfully argued his case and the charter was not rescinded. But this was only the first of many battles and the struggle kept him in England for the rest of his life. He had to rule his colony from afar and never found it safe to leave England, even for a visit.

Cecil Calvert's political skills were required not only to protect his charter from attacks in England but to make it work in Maryland. There he had both to colonize a wilderness and create a refuge for Catholics. The terms of the charter supplied a protective autonomy for a Catholic settlement. English penal laws against Catho-