

possesses distinction among American colonial writings, the sort of distinction that, in the case of an individual, we should characterize as "quality."² It was followed in 1635 by *A Relation of Maryland* in which Father White's narrative, very much altered and still further abridged, forms the basis of the first chapter of an elaborate and finely constructed work on the new colony. This tract contains a map of the country; a description, sane and moderate, of its products and potentialities; the outline of a kindly policy toward the Indians; the newly revised conditions of the plantation; full instructions for the intending settler, and a complete copy of the Charter in English. The second Lord Baltimore had profited by the errors of his predecessors in colonizing activities, and the *Relation* of 1635 is a monument to his sagacity and to his intelligent, enterprising spirit.³

Between the granting of the Charter in 1632 and the publication in 1634 of a *Relation* of the actual first settlement on the Potomac there was plenty of time for the writing and issuing of one or more of those promotion tracts or prospectuses that commonly appear in the early stages of a colonization project. Certainly in the case of Maryland, with religious complications hindering the enterprise, there was need for a clear statement of purpose by the Proprietary of the proposed colony. Such a statement has now been recognized in the tract entitled *A Declaration of the Lord Baltemore's Plantation in Mary-land*. This printed piece, apparently only once referred to in historical writings⁴, known now in a single copy in the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster, seems to have been the only Maryland promotion tract issued before the establishment of the colony. Its narrative portion is dated at the