

act after a *Relation* had been published in which the accomplishment of that act was described in full detail.

The subject matter of the *Declaration* is by no means new to the student of Maryland history. About the year 1832, the Reverend William McSherry, S. J., copied from the Roman archives of his Order several Latin manuscripts relating to the early history of Maryland. One of these was the celebrated "Relatio" that appeared in part in an English version as the *Relation* of 1634, described above, and which, it is generally agreed, must have come from the hand of Father Andrew White. Another was the "Declaratio Coloniae", long spoken of as the work of an unknown writer, while still others comprised letters or reports from various Jesuit missionaries to the General of the Order in Rome. This group of copies, which for convenience may be referred to as the McSherry Codex, has been translated and published several times since Father McSherry brought it with him to Maryland<sup>5</sup>. A comparison of the *Declaration* of 1633 with any of the several nineteenth century translations of the "Declaratio" in the McSherry Codex shows immediately that the printed tract and the Latin manuscript are two forms of the same document.

This piece of writing served, it seems, two distinct purposes: in its printed English form it conveyed to the English public an account of the settlement Lord Baltimore proposed to make in Maryland; in its Latin manuscript form it conveyed the same information to the Jesuit General in Rome. When in 1631, Father Blount, the English Provincial, asked the General for authorization "to despatch some of ours" with a company of English gentlemen contemplating a new American settlement, Vitelleschi deferred judgment and demanded