

use of arms and put him in command whenever soldiers were needed, as in the expedition to seize Kent Island. Cornwallis did not always support the proprietor's policies. He led the Assembly in its battle of 1638 to reject Lord Baltimore's code of laws and he supported the Jesuits in their conflicts with the proprietor over the privileges of the Catholic Church in Maryland. Very strongly committed to the Catholic religion, he wrote his lord that "I will rather Sacrifice myself and all that I have in the defence of Gods Honor and his Churches right, then willingly Consent to anything that may not stand with the Good contiens of A Real Catholic." But despite these disagreements, Leonard Calvert trusted and relied upon Cornwallis. As the Governor wrote Lord Baltimore, "though it hath been his fortune and myne to have had some differences...yet in many things I have had his faithfull assistance for your service." Cornwallis did not try as others did to undermine the Governor's position.¹⁹

Cornwallis, in his own words, ran "A Poore younger brother's fortune" "almost out of breathe" in the investment he made in Maryland. Over the first ten years he brought in or acquired sixty-four servants. None of the first adventurers, including Lord Baltimore, brought in or sent over more. He put his servants to work on construction projects that represented long-term improvements, such as the colony's first mill (which unfortunately did not work well for lack of water in the stream). In 1638 he built the first framed house, "with Chimnies of brick to Encourage others to follow my Example, for hithertoe we live in cottages." He raised tobacco—that "Stinking weed of America," he called it—and was the leading Maryland tobacco