

weight were cannon about 9 feet long. Demiculverins were somewhat larger cannon, 10 to 13 feet long. In addition the *Ark* carried materials to build a barge for the use of the colony on arrival and quantities of trade goods for buying livestock in Virginia and furs from the Indians.⁴⁹

So equipped, the ships set sail from Gravesend in mid-October. But on October 18, Lord Baltimore's opponents made a last-ditch effort to halt the expedition. They persuaded the Attorney General to complain to the Court of Star Chamber that, in Lord Baltimore's words, "my ships were departed without cokets from the custom-house, and in contempt of all authority, my people [were] abusing the king's officers and refusing to take the oath of allegiance." The Lords ordered several of the king's ships to search for the *Ark* and the *Dove* and bring them back to Gravesend. There one Edward Watkins administered the oath, possibly for a second time, and Lord Baltimore meantime persuaded their Lordships that "there was not any just cause of complaint."⁵⁰

The ships then sailed for the Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Probably it was there that the Jesuit priests and possibly a few other Catholics joined the colonists. The ships then waited. Perhaps they were expecting Lord Baltimore, but he had decided he could not go. His presence in England was required to protect his charter and the infant colony from his enemies there. He sent instead last minute instructions to his brother and the two Commissioners, dated November 13, 1633. Once these had arrived, the ships awaited fair winds that would take them safely into ocean waters.⁵¹

Finally on November 22 all was ready. The vessels departed, becoming a cramped, wooden world for all on