

The arrangement in the table brings out in broad lines the general order of settlement within the State. First there comes St. Mary's County, representing the lonely settlement on the Potomac, then that of Kent, indicating the division of the State into an eastern and a western shore. Following this the western shore is divided into units suitable to local government, Anne Arundel representing the Puritans on the Severn, Calvert that on the Patuxent, and Charles that on the Potomac above St. Mary's. Baltimore County with its wide extent at the time of its formation, included portions of the eastern and western shores and represented the settlements at the head of the Chesapeake. Following its establishment came the preliminary division of the eastern shore, the settlements here being grouped by the necks of land between the dominant rivers rather than by the contiguity of the opposite sides of a single river as was the case on the western shore. Subsequent to the erection of Prince George's County at the close of the seventeenth century, the erection of new counties has been in the nature of the subdivision of the territory assigned to some earlier-formed county, the subdivision being required by increase in population and knowledge regarding the given territory.

#### METHOD OF ERECTING COUNTIES.

The following lists arranged according to the methods employed in erecting the several counties serve as an interesting indication of the irregularities of method pursued. The Governor, usually with the assent of the Council and frequently at the instigation of the Proprietary, apparently ordered the erection of the following counties:

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| St. Mary's. <sup>1</sup> | Charles.         |
| Kent.                    | Somerset.        |
| Charles (old).           | Durham.          |
| Calvert.                 | Worcester (old). |

In the foregoing cases notice of the erection of the various counties

<sup>1</sup> The first evidence of these several counties is as follows:  
*St. Mary's*..... Commission issued to sheriff June 29, 1637. Md. Arch.,  
 3: 61.

Temporarily called Potomac 1654-1658.