

6. And chiefly we answer, We claim Right by Possession; having planted the Isle of *Kent* almost three years before ever the name of *Maryland* was heard of, and Burgeses for that place sitting in the Assembly of *Virginia*; whereby it is evident, that the Lord *Baltimore's* suggestions to the King, mentioned in his Patent, that those parts were uncultivated and unplanted, unless by barbarous people not having the knowledge of God, was a mis-information; and by it, that Patent appears to be surreptitiously and illegally gotten: and if the Lord *Baltimore* takes away those Lands from them, who have also purchased the Interest of the Natives, (a Right not inconsiderable) & seize their Goods, and that in an hostile manner as he hath done; How can it be said, that those mens Interests and Rights are preserved, they being the first Discoverers of that Island, by vertue of the King's Commission, and planted there under the Government of *Virginia*, on the confidence they apprehended from the former assurances, and there began in great part the Trade of Furs.

How unjust an intrusion then will the Lord *Baltimore's* Patent appear, which overthrows the Interests of so many and such Persons: for the Company of *Virginia* were of a nature diversified from other Companies; which if it had not been founded on so good Grounds, yet their zeal and pious endeavours to propagate the true Christian Religion, enlarge the English Dominions, and to encrease the Trade and strength of shipping, and considerably the Customs, do deserve justice, with addition of reward for so honourable and good intentions.

In the next place, to prove the Lord *Baltimore's* usurpation of Royal Jurisdiction and Dominion in *Maryland*, as absolute Lord and Proprietary, there needs no more then his Commissions and Proceffes running in this stile, viz. *We, Us, and Given under our hand & greater Seal of Arms, in such a year of our Dominion, &c.* The Oath also, that he tenders to all his Subjects and the Inhabitants, such being the very words thereof, as by the Oath it self, copied from his own hand, and