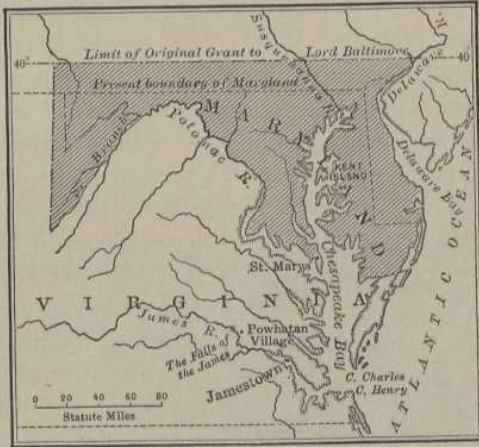


South Carolina, at the mouth of the Ashley River; and Georgia, at the mouth of the Savannah River.

**26. The First English Settlement in America.**—The first English settlement in America was made around what was called "the finest bay in the world." In 1607 about a hundred colonists from London settled on an island a few miles from the mouth of a river which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. This settlement was called Jamestown, in honor of James I, King of England, and the river was called James River. The Jamestown colonists were sent out by a company of London merchants who had obtained from the king a charter giving them the right to make settlements on the American coast anywhere between Cape Fear and the Potomac River, a region which was already known as Virginia.



Jamestown and vicinity.

As soon as the Virginia colonists landed they began to prepare for the new and strange kind of life that was before them. They at once built a rude fort in order that they might defend themselves against attack by the Indians who were lurking in the woods around them. They provided themselves with a church by nailing a board between two trees for a pulpit and stretching a piece of canvas overhead for a roof. For dwellings they either built log cabins or dug themselves caves. They raised chickens, and where they found a little patch of clear ground they planted corn.

Most of the colonists came over with the expectation of making a fortune quickly. In 1608 Captain Newport brought over a barge built so that it could be taken to pieces and put together