

THE NINTH SEAL.

The seal of 1817 remained the seal of the State until 1854, when the apparatus called "the Great Seal" had become so worn that a new one had to be made. Governor Enoch Louis Lowe called attention to the inappropriateness of the State seal, and he suggested that the new seal bear the arms of the State. The Legislature of that year ordered a new seal. There was no longer a Governor's Council in existence to make and unmake seals. The Legislature intended to return to the old seal of the Province. In the preparation of the Seal it had evidently recourse to a rough wood-cut, printed on the title page of Bacon's Laws of Maryland, 1765, and some errors contained in it were reproduced. One of the officers of State, for political reasons, still further mutilated the seal by putting an American eagle on the device in place of the ancient crest.

THE TENTH AND PRESENT SEAL.

The attention of the Legislature of 1874 having been attracted to the errors in the Great Seal, a joint resolution was adopted looking to their correction. Reference having been made to Bacon's wood-cut as the model of the new seal, Governor James Black Groome determined not to take any action, and thereby prevent the perpetuation of the errors sought to be corrected. He brought the matter to the notice of the Legislature of 1876. A carefully prepared resolution was then adopted restoring the seal to the exact description given of it in Lord Baltimore's Commission to Governor Stone, on August 12, 1648, and this is the Great Seal of Maryland today.

The Great Seal is in the custody of the Secretary of State, but the Governor has the control and use of it whenever necessary for any purpose provided for by the Constitution and laws, or when needed to authenticate communications between this State and the United States, the State and territories thereof, and foreign States; in all which cases the Great Seal shall be used; and the Secretary of the Senate and Chief Clerk of the House of Delegates, respectively, shall have unrestricted access to and use of the Great Seal, for the purpose of affixing the same to bills which shall have passed the General Assembly preparatory to presenting the same to the Governor for his approval.