MARYLAND STATE FLAG.

The flag of the State bears the escutcheon of the great seal—the Calvert and Crossland arms quartered. This device seems to have been adopted by common consent, as there is no record of the formal adoption of any design as the official flag of the State. That the colony had a distinct flag or standard, we know. The first recorded instance of the use of a Maryland flag occurs in Leonard Calvert's report of the reduction of Kent Island, (February, 1638), in which he says that he and his force marched with Baltimore's banner displayed. At the battle of the Severn, in 1655, where the supporters of the proprietary government, under William Stone, the Governor, were defeated by the Parlimentary party, under Captain William Fuller, Stone's forces marched under the flag of Maryland, borne by William Nugent, "standard bearer of the Province," while Fuller's party displayed the flag of the Commonwealth, charged with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew. It is also said that a Maryland flag was carried by the Marylanders who accompanied Braddock's expedition against Fort Du Quesne in 1756.

THE GREAT SEAL OF MARYLAND.

The Great Seal of Maryland presents a marked contrast to those of the other States of the American Union in that its device consists of armorial bearings of a strictly heraldic character, being in fact the family arms of the Lords Baltimore, which were placed by the first Proprietary upon the Seal of the Province.

THE FIRST SEAL.

The First Great Seal of Maryland was lost or stolen in 1644, during the rebellion of Richard Ingle. No description of this seal remains.

THE SECOND SEAL.

The Second Great Seal was sent to the Province by Lord Baltimore to replace the lost or stolen first, and was described by Lord Baltimore as differing but little from the first one. A minute description of the second seal is found in Lord Baltimore's letter of commission to Gov. Stone, August 12, 1648. On the obverse of this seal was the