

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 perpetration 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.

The Governor shall not affix the Great Seal to any document without accompanying it with his signature; nor shall he permit any paper issuing from his department to be sealed therewith without affixing his signature thereto.

The Governor is authorized to cause the Great Seal to be affixed to patents issued by the Commissioner of the Land Office and to copies of Laws and resolutions certified by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.

(P. G. L., Article 41, sections 1, 2, 3 and 4.)