

1863

kind at the polls on the day of election. In the absence of any military display there would certainly seem to be as little cause for such apprehensions as ever before existed. A preparation by the Government by military means to provide for such a contingency will be quite as likely to provoke as to subvert such a disposition. Not only so, but the military thus required to prevent violence or disturbance about the polls must necessarily be empowered to arrest the parties they may charge with such disorder and they are still left in effect "the exclusive judges as to who shall be arrested" a power they may as readily abuse as any other.

I regret therefore, that I can perceive no such change in the general principles of the order as to induce me to change the foregoing proclamation.

Baltimore Monday Evening November 2^d 1863.

A. W. Bradford

That the first order and the modification of the President, in its first paragraph may be better understood the entire order as originally issued is subjoined

General Order No. 53.

Headquarters Middle Department 8th Army Corps.

Baltimore Md. October 27th 1863.

It is known that there are many evil disposed persons now at large in the State of Maryland who have been engaged in rebellion against the lawful Government or have given aid and comfort or encouragement to others so engaged or who do not recognize their allegiance to the United States and who may avail themselves of the indulgence of the authority which tolerates their presence to subvert the approaching election or through it to first enemies of the United States into power. It is therefore ordered.

1. That all Provost Marshals and other military officers do arrest all such persons found at or hanging about or approaching any poll or place of election on the 4th November 1863 and report such arrest to their Headquarters.

2. That all Provost Marshals and other military officers commanding in Maryland shall support the Judges of Election on the 4th November 1863 in requiring an oath of allegiance to the United States as the test of citizenship of any one whose vote may be challenged on the ground that he is not loyal or does not admit his allegiance to the United States which oath shall be in the following form and terms:

I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and government of the United States against all enemies whether domestic or foreign; that I truly pledge my allegiance faith and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State Convention or State Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; that I will at all times yield a hearty and willing obedience to the said Constitution and government and will not either directly or indirectly do any act in hostility to the same either by taking up arms against them or aiding, abetting or countenancing those in arms against them; that without permission from the lawful authority, I will have no communication