

On Sunday the 1st of November, for the first time, a detailed exhibit was made to me of the special and extraordinary arrangements matured by the Mayor for the maintainance of the peace and the protection of the citizens in the exercise of their rights at the approaching election. The submission of these arrangements for my consideration then, which were withheld from me on my first arrival in the city, was the result of some consultations brought about through the intervention of several gentlemen, representing the respective views of the Mayor and myself. This plan was in terms plausible; it had the appearance of sincerity of purpose, and, I doubt not, was offered, in good faith. I must confess, however, that had the proceedings I had commenced been sustained with all the vigor the occasion required, I could not have withheld the conciliatory step, I deemed it proper to take, in view of the arrangements submitted for my consideration by the Mayor, and especially as each of the gentlemen with whom I was in consultation seemed to be entirely confident of the sufficiency of the arrangements which had been now adopted. Under this impression I was urged to withdraw my Proclamation and to rescind all military orders. I positively refused under any circumstances to comply with any proposition which included such a stipulation. First, because it had the appearance, at least, of a surrender of my constitutional authority at a time when violent opposition to the laws was openly threatened; and secondly, because I knew not what exigency might arise on the day of election. But in deference to the opinions of gentlemen in whom I then had, and still have, great confidence, who were citizens of Baltimore, and who knew more of the local condition of affairs than myself, I consented to an announcement, that in view of the sufficiency of the arrangements just made, "I did not contemplate the use of the military force which I had ordered to be enrolled and organized," on the day of election.

In this state of public affairs the day of election approached. A form of suffrage was observed under circumstances defiant of the execution or the laws. Riot in its vociferous and most formidable aspect did not occur, but I was made the recipient of almost ceaseless complaints of outrage, violence, and organized ruffianism at the polls, whereby multitudes of citizens, native and naturalized, were deterred from voting. I was powerless for their protection. The opportunity was past in which as a lawful and enrolled force they could have exhibited a moral as well as material power, against their assailants. They were at the mercy of a mob, and without protection from the civil power.

Abundant evidence from respectable citizens in all parts of the city could be obtained to prove a state of society verging upon the fiercest anarchy; outrages almost incredible, in a civilized community; and the ubiquity of an organization which