

which can only be efficiently carried out under the circumstances by the greatest promptitude. I hereby proclaim to the citizens of Baltimore, that in virtue of my powers and duties under the constitution and laws of the State, I have directed the proper military officers to enroll and hold in readiness their respective corps for active service at once, and especially on the approaching day of election; and I have issued to them full instructions to preserve the peace of the city, and secure to the legal voters their rights against the violence and intimidation of the lawless ruffians who have disgraced the city, and outraged the elective rights in the recent election.

In thus acting, I have sought merely to discharge my duty, and insure to the citizen the rights pledged to him by the constitution and the laws, and I earnestly invoke the moral support and aid of all good citizens who value their government and its privileges.

Especially do I forewarn all persons against all illegal conduct in the obstruction of voters, and admonish them of the serious responsibility which awaits the infraction of the law.

It is to be seen if republicanism is adequate for its own protection. The Governor confidently relies on the loyalty of the citizens of this great metropolis, and in the hearty readiness with which they will co-operate in the vindication of the city and State from any ignominious submission to lawless ruffians. If they do, all parties will rejoice in the triumph of government, and every good man that the pledges of the constitution are not an empty mockery. At all events, the Governor will do his duty, if constitutional authority and law are not upheld and vindicated, the responsibility must rest elsewhere.

But there is no reason to fear any adverse result. The Governor will not question the fidelity of the military arm, or doubt its ability for any emergency that may arise. The military officers with whom I have consulted, express their readiness to serve the State, and I have no doubt of their sufficiency for the occasion; and good citizens may confidently trust that their title to a constitutional government will be fully redeemed.

Let all citizens therefore, exercise their rights, abstain from disorder and violence, and trust in the genius of the constitution and the laws.

Let no man leave the precincts of his own ward, unless ordered to do so by competent authority. Thus he will promote the fairness of the election, and avoid the just retribution that will be dealt to those vagrant emissaries of disorder, who wander from polls to polls, for the purpose of illegal voting, and to deter peaceable citizens from the exercise of their rights; but it is the sincere hope of the Governor, that the majesty of the law, supported by the countenance of good citizens, will make the en-