

On the evening of October 28 the Unconditional Unionists closed the campaign with a large and enthusiastic mass-meeting in Monument Square, the largest held in Baltimore for years. John Lee Chapman, Mayor of Baltimore, presided, and addresses were made by Henry Winter Davis, Salmon P. Chase, General James A. Garfield, Brigadier-General E. B. Tyler, and others of local or national reputation. Strong resolutions were passed favoring the prosecution of the war, "supporting the whole policy of the [National] administration," and also saying "we are in favor of emancipation in Maryland by a Constitutional Convention," and that "the convention ought to meet and conclude its labors that the Constitution may be ratified at least by the next Presidential election." An additional clause declared that "traitors who do not acknowledge the government whose authority protects the ballot-box have no right to meddle with the elections." This was perhaps intended as a judicious hint of what followed during the next few days.

In spite of the great weight and importance of the questions involved, it has been stated by those in a position to know, that there was much less strife and animosity of party feeling than might have been expected, which can be explained by the fact that the larger part of the contestants were united in their loyalty to the Union. In addition, affairs were further complicated and party lines practically broken by a dissatisfied independent movement in Baltimore City, which nominated several candidates of its own for local offices and the Legislature. This did not obscure the dominant questions, however, which were to be decided on the election of a Comptroller.

Suddenly a different phase was put on the entire situation by the interference of an exterior force—the military—acting to some extent at least on the authority of the National Government.

On October 26, Thomas Swann, chairman of the (Conditional) Union State Central Committee, had sent the following letter to President Lincoln: