

had aroused bitter opposition in the Southern sympathizers and also the more conservative Union people of the state, who were stated above as opposing the policy of the administration. On the other hand, the outspoken Unionists had, in many cases, enthusiastically supported General Schenck. A good instance of this is found in the fact that, when in July, 1863, he levied damages on known Southern sympathizers in Harford county to reimburse their Union neighbors for wanton destruction of their property by unknown persons,<sup>20</sup> the Second Branch of the City Council on August 10 passed unanimous resolutions thanking him for this severe measure, and endorsing his administration.<sup>21</sup>

Now, on October 27, 1863, General Schenck issued his famous "General Order No. 53," in which he practically took military control of the ballot-box in the coming election. After stating that "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 embarrass the approaching election, or through it to foist enemies of the United States into power," it was ordered, first, that provost-marshals and other military officers "arrest all such persons found at, or hanging about, or approaching any poll or place of election on November 4, 1863;" second, that these officers should require of voters who were challenged on the ground of disloyalty the following oath: "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 hereby pledge my allegiance, faith and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or State Legislature to the contrary

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<sup>20</sup> "Sun," July 30, August 8.

<sup>21</sup> "Sun," August 11.