he had openly espoused the cause of a new Constitution and emancipation early in the fall campaign. Entirely in the dark as to the course of events,[23] Governor Bradford unknowingly followed the example of Thomas Swann, and on October 31 wrote President Lincoln, stating that rumors were current to the effect that the military forces were to be present at the polls, and protesting against the same, also saying: "As there is no reason, in my opinion, to apprehend any riotous or violent proceedings at this election, the inference is unavoidable that these detachments, if sent, are expected to exert some control or influence in that election." The letter protested against any "restrictions or qualifications on the right of suffrage," and added that, judging from the President's previous course, he thought any orders issued must be without his knowledge.

On November 2 Mr. Lincoln wrote in answer to this letter, that he had conferred with General Schenck, who had assured him that it was almost certain that violence would be used at some of the voting places on election day unless prevented by his provost guards. Further, he justified his position with reference to his policy in the past on the ground that the laws of Maryland required no test of loyalty, and added that General Schenck's order " assumes the right of voting to all loyal men, and whether a man is loyal, allows that man to fix by his own oath. . . . I revoke the first of the three propositions in General Schenck's General Order No. 53,[24] not that it is wrong in principle, but because the military being, of necessity, exclusive judges as to who shall be arrested, the provision is liable to abuse. For the revoked part I substitute the following: That all provost marshals and other military officers do prevent all disturbance and violence at or about the polls, whether offered by such persons as above described, or by any other person or persons whatsoever.

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[23] It appears that General Schenck's order was not at once generally published.   [24] See page 20.