

that it would not have been approved by him if he had known it [beforehand?] and that it is, therefore, all the more reprehensible."

A postscript was added containing the modification by the President of General Order No. 53, as has been already stated.

Military orders were immediately sent to the Eastern Shore, against which it was claimed the General Order had been especially directed (as martial law had never been declared in this part of the state) ordering that the circulation of the Proclamation be suppressed. An embargo was laid on all steamers trading with that part of the state, and the newspapers were forbidden to publish it.²⁶ However, Governor Bradford issued it in pamphlet form on the same day,²⁷ and it was finally permitted to appear in the Baltimore papers on the morning of the election (November 4). This action on the part of the military authorities is explained by General Schenck in a reply published by him on November 3, in which he stated that he desired that there should go out with the Governor's proclamation the letter from President Lincoln to Governor Bradford on the subject of the action of the military. He added that the simple purpose of the order was "to prevent traitorous persons from controlling in any degree by their votes, or taking part in the coming election." Further, in order to secure peace and good order at the polls, the officers entrusted with this duty were in every case furnished with written or printed instructions containing the following: "The officers and men are cautioned not to commit or permit any unlawful violence. They must not enter into political discussions, and are to remember that while protecting the polls from rebel sympathizers, they are conservators of the peace, and are there to support the judges of election."

This public controversy ended here, but the results of

²⁶ Governor's Message, Senate and House Documents, 1864.

²⁷ "Sun," November 4.