

conflicting authority and such an uncertain and complicated state of affairs were as might easily have been foreseen.

The election took place, as stated above, on Wednesday, November 4, 1863, and resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Union ticket.

Goldsborough, for Comptroller, received 36,360 votes, and Maffitt, 15,984, an Unconditional Union majority of nearly 20,000. In Baltimore City, the vote was 10,545 for Goldsborough, and 367 for Maffitt. A majority of the state Legislature also was in favor of the Constitutional Convention and emancipation. John A. J. Creswell, Edwin H. Webster, Henry Winter Davis, and Francis Thomas, the Unconditional Union candidates in the first four districts respectively, were elected to Congress, Webster and Davis with practically no opposition, but the Fifth District went Democratic, Benjamin G. Harris being successful against his Conditional and Unconditional Union opponents. Goldsborough's majority was about ten thousand less than that of Governor Bradford in 1861, but the Democratic votes cannot be compared, as that party had no candidates for state officers in 1863. The entire Union vote (of both parties) was practically the same in 1863 as in 1861, although the total vote was only about half that of the Presidential election of 1860. Part of this decrease was of course caused by lack of Democratic nominations and also the numbers of secession sympathizers who had gone South to enter the Confederate service; but fear of the military at the polls, or the intimidation practiced by it (of which there is absolute proof) were the greatest causes, the number not voting at this election for these latter reasons being estimated at about one-third of the total vote in many districts of the state.²⁸ Allowing absolute fairness at the polls, and even this entire amount throughout the state as going solidly for Maffitt, Goldsborough would still likely have won by a good round majority, so that the mili-

²⁸ See evidence in contested election cases, House Documents, 1864; also contemporary newspapers.