

The Committee on Elections and Privileges, on the part of the Senate of Maryland, to whom was referred so much of the message of the Governor as relates to military interference with the elections in Maryland, in November, 1863, beg leave to report that they have carefully read and considered the several documents and statements annexed to and accompanying said message, and which unmistakably present a sad and humiliating history of the scenes and occurrences which characterize the second, third and fourth days of November last.

Your committee have been impressed by the violence, illegal and unwarranted conduct and acts of persons engaged in the military service of the United States under the authority to pretended authority of military necessity; and that this report may be fully understood, your committee will briefly recapitulate some of the prominent facts as disclosed by the testimony of the Judges of election, certificates, in some instances, sustained by affidavit of respectable and well known citizens of several counties of the State.

It appears that on Monday, the second day of last November, Major General Schenck, at that time in command of the Middle Department 8th Army Corps, issued from Head Quarters, General Order, No. 53, in words following:

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 53.

HEAD QUARTERS, MIDDLE DEPARTMENT, 8TH ARMY CORPS, }
BALTIMORE, Md., October 27th, 1863. }

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 is therefore ordered :

I. That all Provost Marshals and other military officers do arrest all such persons found at or hanging about, or approaching any poll or place of election on the 4th of November, 1863, and report such arrest to these Head Quarters.

II. That all Provost Marshals and other military officers commanding in Maryland, shall support the Judges of Election on the 4th of November, 1863, in requiring an oath of allegiance to the United States, as the test of citizenship of any one whose vote may be challenged on the ground that he