

to the day of election, upon the Eastern Shore it had never been proclaimed at all.

You will be furnished with a copy of this order and it is not necessary further to recite it than to state in general terms that it was to be executed by the military, aided by the Provost Marshals. They were to arrest voters whom they might consider disloyal approaching or hanging about the polls; a prescribed form of an oath was furnished, without taking which, no one, if challenged, could vote; and the several commanding officers were charged to report to Head Quarters any Judge of Election who should refuse to administer that oath or to aid in carrying out that order. The President modified the first part of the order on the Monday preceding the election, but even that modification seemed to receive no attention from those entrusted with its execution, and was in some instances openly disregarded.

Prominent among the Provost Marshals to whom the execution of this order was in part committed were several who were themselves candidates for important offices.

These Marshals appointed for the purpose of the militia enrollment and draft were placed by the law creating them under the control of the Provost Marshal General, but to ensure the right to employ them about this election order, special authority was obtained from Washington to place them for the time being under the orders of the military authorities.

If with these facts before me, and seeing the Judges of election, sworn to conduct it according to the laws of the State, openly menaced with arrest unless they recognized the military authority and conducted it by the rules which that authority prescribed, I had stood silently by and failed to assure them of the protection of the State to the extent of its ability, I should have felt myself utterly unworthy of the place of its Chief Magistrate.

I therefore on the Monday evening preceding the election issued a Proclamation giving them this assurance, a copy of which is herewith submitted.

Before the following morning, military orders were sent to the Eastern Shore, directing its circulation to be suppressed, the public papers were forbidden to publish it, and an embargo laid on all the steamers in port trading with that part of the State lest they might carry it.

An attempt has been made to justify the military order upon the ground that its only purpose was to exclude disloyal voters who had by their conduct justly forfeited their fran-