

chise. An examination of the oath, however, which it prescribed, will show that even had it emanated from undoubted authority it could accomplish no such end.

No matter what had been the conduct of the voter, there was nothing in the oath calculated to exclude him; it had no reference to his past conduct, and every traitor who had left the State and had but just returned from the Rebel Army, might have taken it with impunity. It contained only a promise for future good behaviour—a promise which as a very slight atonement, many a Rebel sympathizer might and doubtless did very readily make, whilst the loyal citizen who had stood always faithful to his allegiance, would feel justly indignant at having his loyalty challenged, or being required to give any guarantee for his future conduct, or to enable him to exercise a privilege he had never forfeited.

How far it accomplished the purpose claimed for it, or how far my anticipations of the consequences of the order and the abuses to which it would lead were realized, will appear by a brief reference to some of the transactions connected with its execution. These abuses commenced even before the opening of the polls. On the day preceding the election, the officer in command of the Regiment which had been distributed among the counties of the Eastern Shore, and who had himself landed in Kent county, commenced his operations by arresting and sending across the Bay some ten or more of the most estimable and distinguished of its citizens, including several of the most steadfast and uncompromising loyalists of the Shore. The jail of the county was entered, the jailor seized, imprisoned and afterwards sent to Baltimore, and prisoners confined therein under indictment were set at liberty. The commanding officer referred to gave the first clue to the character of the disloyalty against which he considered himself as particularly commissioned by printing and publishing a Proclamation in which, referring to the election to take place next day, he invited all the truly loyal to avail themselves of that opportunity and establish their loyalty "by giving a full and ardent support to the whole Government ticket upon the Platform adopted by the Union League Convention," declaring that "none other is recognized by the Federal authorities as loyal or worthy of support of any one who desires the peace and restoration of the Union."

To secure the election of that ticket seemed to be the business to which he and his officers especially devoted themselves throughout the day of election. In the statements and certificates which have been forwarded to me from different counties in that Congressional District, I have been furnished, I