

than any results of an election where such proceedings are tolerated. But notwithstanding their occurrence, I trust and believe, they will never cause you to forget your duty to your country, cool your ardent devotion to the Union, lead you to feel the slightest sympathy with those who have assailed it, or to seek a fellowship with them that do.

Maj. Gen. Dix when in command of this Department, at the time of the election in 1861, and when too Rebellion was backed by its organized supporters in our very midst, took the true and statesmanlike view of the policy proper for such an occasion, when in directing his Provost Marshal he said, that whilst there was no difficulty in controlling Maryland by force, that this was not what was wanted, but that we wished to control it by the power of opinion, and that to satisfy the country that the people were on our side, we must leave them to an unbiassed expression of their wishes. They were left to that unbiassed expression, and such was its character, that I had supposed no one would still require evidence of their loyalty.

Gen. Dix was even appealed to by some of the Judges of Election to authorize an oath to voters of doubtful loyalty, and although it appears from the tenor of his reply that the oath suggested was nothing more than an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, he refused to order it, saying to them among other things, "*the Constitution and Laws of Maryland provide for the exercise of the elective franchise by regulations with which I have no right to interfere.*"

A copy of this letter dated November 1st, 1861, and addressed to the Judge of an Election District of Carroll county is herewith communicated and commended to your attention.

Had the Department Commander who issued the recent order taken the same view of his duty, it would, in my opinion, have been a fortunate conclusion of his military administration, which had been previously distinguished by marked ability and success.

So far, however, as concerns those more immediately connected with the preparation of that order, it will doubtless appear, should its unwritten history be ever published, that the Commanding General deserved less censure than those who instigated it, and to whose influence he probably yielded the more readily, as such instigations came partly from our own citizens. Such a consideration, however, is by no means calculated to diminish the danger of such a precedent. If men interested in accomplishing certain political results, can by any influence enlist in their behalf, such a tremendous in-