

sensibilities of the people themselves, and the authorities of the State, looking to the repeated proofs they have furnished of an unalterable devotion to the Government. For more than two years past there has never been a time when, if every traitor and every treasonable sympathizer in the State had voted, they could have controlled whoever might have been their candidates, a single Department of the State or jeopardized the success of the General Government. No State in the Union has been or is now actuated by more heartfelt or unwavering loyalty than Maryland—a loyalty intensified and purified by the ordeal through which it has passed; and yet looking to what has lately transpired elsewhere, and to the terms and character of this Military Order, one would think that in Maryland and nowhere else is the Government endangered by the “many evil disposed persons that are now at large.”

Within less than a month the most important Elections have taken place in two of the largest States of the Union; in each of them candidates were before the people, charged by the particular friends of the Government with being hostile to its interests, and whose election was deprecated as fraught with the most dangerous consequences to its success. One of the most prominent of these candidates was considered so dangerously inimical to the triumph of the National cause, that he has been for months past banished from the country, and yet hundreds of thousands of voters were allowed to approach the polls, and to attempt “to foist” such men into power, and no Provost Marshals or other Military Officers, were ordered to arrest them on the way, or so far as we have ever heard, even test their allegiance by an oath.

With these facts before us, it is difficult to believe that the suggestion that the enemies of the United States may be foisted into power at our coming Election, was the consideration that prompted this order; but whatever may have been that motive, I feel it to be my duty to solemnly protest against such an intervention with the privileges of the Ballot-Box, and so offensive a discrimination against the rights of a loyal State.

I avail myself of the occasion to call to the particular attention of the Judges of Election, the fact that they are on the day of Election cloated with all the authority of Conservators of the Peace, and may summon to their aid any of the Executive Officers of the county, and the whole power of the county itself to preserve order at the Polls, and secure the constitutional rights of the voters.

It is also made their “special duty” to give information to the State’s Attorney for the County of all infractions of the