

State laws on the subject of Elections, and by these laws it is forbidden to any "Commissioned or non-Commissioned Officers, having command of any soldier or soldiers quartered or posted in any district of any County of the State, to muster or embody any of said troops, or march any recruiting party within the view of any place of Election during the time of holding said Election.

It is also made their "special duty" to give information to the State's Attorney for the county, of all infractions of the State laws on the subject of elections, and by these laws it is forbidden to any "Commissioned or non-commissioned officers, having command of any soldier or soldiers quartered or posted in any district of any county of the State, to muster or embody any of said troops, or march any recruiting party within the view of any place of election during the time of holding said election."

I need not, I am sure, remind them of the terms of the oath they are required to take before entering upon their duties, and according to which they swear to "permit all persons to vote who shall offer to poll at the election, &c., who; in *their judgment, shall, according to the directions contained in the Constitution and laws, be entitled to poll at the same election, and not to permit any person to poll at the same election who is not in (their) judgment qualified to vote as aforesaid.*"

It is the *judgment of the judges of election* alone, founded upon the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the State, that must determine the right to vote of any person offering himself for that purpose. I trust and believe that they will form that judgment, and discharge their duty, as their conscientious convictions of its requirements, under the solemn obligations they assume, shall dictate, undeterred by any order to Provost Marshals to report them to "Head Quarters."

Whatever power the State possesses, shall be exerted to protect them for anything done in the proper execution of its laws.

Since writing the above, I have seen a copy of the President's letter to the chairman of the Union State Central Committee, bearing the same date with the order, and evidently showing that the order was unknown to him, that it would not have been approved by him, if he had known it, and that it is therefore all the more reprehensible.

A. W. BRADFORD.

By the Governor :

WM. B. HILL, *Secretary of State.*