

emergency, and then their seizure or their enlistment should not be by the arbitrary process noticed, but governed by some such fixed rule as would make all alike subject to the burden and allow no discrimination either as between individuals or loyal States.

I know not that you possess any power in the premises, but I feel bound to lay the subject before you with a statement of the course I have felt it to be my duty to pursue, and that you may be more fully possessed thereof, I herewith transmit a copy of my letter to the President on the subject to which I have referred.

One of the conditions upon which compensation has been promised to the owners of slaves enlisted in the service is that a deed of manumission shall be executed as a preliminary to its payment. To enable the owner to comply with that condition, I recommend the immediate repeal of the 42d Section of the 66th Article of the Code which prohibits such manumission.

MILITARY INTERFERENCE WITH ELECTIONS.

I avail myself of this occasion to advert to certain events connected with our recent election which deserve your most serious consideration.

It would be much more agreeable to me to avoid all allusion to them; I cannot however do so, consistently with my sense of what is due to the rights and honor of the State, to the office which by the favor of its citizens I occupy, or—I may with sincerity add—to the cause of the Union itself, in my opinion, so intimately blended with the cause of the Law and Constitution, that any outrage inflicted, and especially in its name, upon them, necessarily to some extent recoils upon it.

A few days before that election a military order was issued from the Army Head Quarters at Baltimore which in effect placed the polls under the surveillance and at the command of the military authority.

I was the less prepared for any such order from the fact that though in frequent personal communication with the military authorities of the Department, I had received no intimation whatever of such a proceeding or of any supposed necessity for it. In that part of the State against which the movement seemed to be more particularly directed, (the Eastern Shore,) there would seem to have been less necessity, as there certainly was less semblance of authority than elsewhere; for whilst Martial Law had been proclaimed upon the Western Shore of the State in June last, and had not been repealed up