

presume, with an account of part only of the outrages to which their citizens were subjected. The "Government Ticket" above referred to was in several, if not all of these counties, designated by its color, it was a yellow ticket, and armed with that, a voter could safely run the gauntlet of the sabres and carbines that guarded the entrance to the polls, and known sympathizers with the Rebellion were, as certified to me, allowed to vote unquestioned, if they would vote that ticket, whilst loyal and respected citizens, ready to take the oath, were turned back by the officers in charge without even allowing them to approach the polls.

In one district, as appears by certificate from the Judge, the military officer took his stand at the polls before they were opened, declaring that none but "the yellow ticket" should be voted, and excluded all others throughout the day. In another district a similar officer caused every ballot offered to be examined, and unless it was the favored one, the voter was required to take the oath and not otherwise; and in another again, after one vote only had been given, the polls were closed, the Judges all arrested and sent out of the county, and military occupation taken of the town.

But I will not detain you with a recapitulation of all the abuses that these statements disclose. I have caused copies of them to be transmitted to you and they cannot fail to arrest your attention. They present a humiliating record such as I had never supposed we should be called upon to read in any State, still less in a loyal one like this. Unless it be indeed a fallacy to suppose that any rights whatever remain to such a State, or that any line whatever marks the limit of Federal power, a bolder stride across that line that power never made even in a Rebel State than it did here on the fourth of last November.

A part of the Army which a generous people had supplied for a very different purpose, was on that day engaged in stifling the freedom of election in a faithful State, intimidating its sworn officers, violating the Constitutional rights of its loyal citizens, and obstructing the usual channels of communication between them and their Executive.

If I have deprecated such proceedings, I have been actuated in so doing scarcely more by the sense of what was due to the Laws and Constitution of the State, than by a regard for the safety and success of the Union and the maintenance of that popular respect for and confidence in its constituted authorities so important to the triumph of the great cause they have in charge. The moral influence of such sentiments is worth, to those administering the Government far more