

I consider it of the utmost importance that the election should be a fair one, and that there should be no obstruction to the free and full expression of the voice of the people of the State, believing as I do, that it will be decidedly in favor of the Union. But it is in the power of the Judges of Election, under the authority given them, to satisfy themselves as to the qualifications of the voters, to put to those who offer to poll, such searching questions in regard to residence and citizenship as to detect traitors, and without any violation of the Constitution or laws of Maryland, to prevent the pollution of the ballot-boxes by their votes.

I am, very respectfully, Yours,

[Signed]

JOHN A. DIX,
Maj. Gen'l Commanding.