

In the meaning of the clause, the person *is duly* elected, as far as the Governor's power is concerned, who by that test has the greatest number of votes.

It is true that the Constitution never contemplated (how could it, notwithstanding the far-seeing sagacity of those who framed it, or of the free people who adopted it?) that the time could ever come when, in this most vital principle of liberty, the election of rulers would be decided, not by the free choice, but under the duress of military violence, and in utter disregard of the rights and honor of a loyal State—a State that, through difficulties at one time almost appalling, threatening the safety of her faithful sons, to the joy of her loyal sisters, and in vindication of her own reputation, remained, with steadfast firmness, true to duty. That such a State should be selected for an experiment of wholly illegal and tyrannic military power, has startled reflecting loyal men throughout the Country, and satisfied them that, altho' the foul rebellion now waging in the land must be put down, and will be put down, it is almost an equally imperative obligation, looking to the preservation of individual liberty and State freedom, that Military excesses shall be arrested, and the parties engaged in them sternly rebuked.

But in those which have occurred in the election just closed, I am of opinion that you have no corrective power, either by virtue of the authority vested in your Excellency by the Constitution or the Code.

With great respect, your obd't serv't,

REVERDY JOHNSON.

His Excellency,
GOVERNOR BRADFORD,
Annapolis.