

In the meaning of the clause, the person is only one, as far as the Government's power is concerned, who by that act has the greatest number of votes.

It is true that the Constitution never contemplated (but could it, notwithstanding the increasing capacity of those who formed it for of the free people, who adopted it?) that the time could ever come when, in the most rigid principle of liberty, the election of voters would be decided, not by the free choice, but only the choice of political clubs and in that case, the rights and honor of a free State—a State that through difficulties of no less than almost insurmountable nature, in the election of her own representatives, would stand as a model to the world. That such a state might be selected for an experiment of a fully illegal and tyrannical military power, has excited reflecting loyal men throughout the Country, and has led them to feel, since the last rebellion now raging in the land, that the law, and will be put down, it is almost an equal imperative obligation, looking to the preservation of individual liberty and State freedom, that Military measures shall be urged, and the parties engaged in them sternly rebuked.

But in those which have occurred in the present just rebuke, I am of opinion that you have no executive power, either by virtue of the authority vested in your Excellency by the Constitution or the laws.

With great respect, your obedient servant,
BEVERLY JOHNSON
 His Excellency,
 Governor Lincoln,
 Springfield.