

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM WALTER,

AS TO PROCEEDINGS AT

Tyaskin District, Somerset County,

ON THE DAY OF ELECTION, 1863.

The Statement of William Walter, relative to the Proceedings at the Voting Place in Tyaskin District, in Somerset County, Maryland, on the 4th day of November, 1863.

I was at the polls at the time of their opening by the Judges ; there were six soldiers present, armed and commanded by a Corporal, as I believe, but under the control of John W. Davis, Deputy Provost Marshal. One soldier was stationed on each side of the window through which the voters handed their ballots to be deposited in the ballot box. They were both fully armed with carbine and sabre. I asked Mr. Davis why these soldiers were posted at the window, and he replied that they were to protect the Judges.

Mr. Davis said, previous to the opening of the polls, that if I would vote for him, I would not be interfered with, nor would any one else who would vote for him. Mr. Davis was a candidate for Sheriff of Somerset County. He said no one would be questioned who would vote for him. The Democrats then, as it was rumored, agreed to put Mr. Davis on their ticket, and give him their votes in consideration for the privilege of voting as they chose unquestioned. The election then went on without interference by the soldiers. The non-interference was commonly understood to be the price paid by Mr. Davis for the