

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, ANNAPOLIS, }  
 November 2d, 1863. }

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR.

*To the Citizens of the State,*

*and more especially the Judges of Election :*

A Military Order, issued from the Head Quarters of the "Middle Department," bearing date the 27th ult., printed and circulated, as it is said, through the State, though never yet published here, and designed to operate on the approaching election, has just been brought to my attention, and is of such a character and issued under such circumstances as to demand notice at my hands.

This Order reciting, "that there are many evil disposed persons now at large in the State of Maryland, who have been engaged in rebellion against the lawful Government, or have given aid and comfort, or encouragement to others so engaged, or who do not recognize their allegiance to the United States, and who may avail themselves of the indulgence of the authority which tolerates their presence, to embarrass the approaching election, or through it to foist enemies of the United States into power, proceeds among other things to direct 'all Provost Marshals and other Military Officers to arrest all such persons found at, or hanging about, or approaching any Poll or place of Election, on the 4th of November, 1863, and report such arrest to these Head Quarters.'"

This extraordinary Order has not only been issued without any notice to, or consultation with the constituted Authorities of the State, but at a time and under circumstances when the condition of the State, and the character of the Candidates are such as to preclude the idea that the result of that Election can in any way endanger either the safety of the Government, or the peace of the community.

It is a well-known fact that, with perhaps one single exception, there is not a Congressional Candidate in the State, whose loyalty is even of a questionable character, and in not a County of the State, outside of the same Congressional District, is there, I believe, a Candidate for the Legislature, or any State office, whose loyalty is not equally undoubted. In the face of this well-known condition of things, the several classes of persons above enumerated are not only to be arrested *at* but "*approaching any poll or place of election.*" And who is to judge whether voters thus on their way to the place of voting have given "aid,