

comfort, or encouragement," to persons engaged in the rebellion, or that they do not recognize their allegiance to the United States," and may avail themselves of their presence at the polls "to foist enemies of the United States into power?" As I have already said, in a very large majority of the Counties of the State, there are not to be found among the Candidates any such "enemies of the United States," but the Provost Marshals—created for a very different purpose—and the other military officials who are thus ordered to arrest approaching voters are necessarily made by the order the sole and exclusive judges of who fall within the proscribed category: an extent of arbitrary discretion, under any circumstances the most odious, and more especially offensive and dangerous in view of the known fact that two at least of the five Provost Marshals of the State are themselves Candidates for important offices, and sundry of their deputies for others.

This Military order, therefore, is not only without justification when looking to the character of the Candidates before the people, and rendered still more obnoxious by the means appointed for its execution, but is equally offensive to the sensibilities of the people themselves and the authorities of the State, looking to the repeated proofs they have furnished of an unalterable devotion to the Government. For more than two years past there has never been a time when, if every traitor and every treasonable sympathizer in the State had voted, they could have controlled, whoever might have been their Candidates, a single Department of the State, or jeopardized the success of the General Government. No State in the Union has been, or is now, actuated by more heartfelt or unwavering loyalty than Maryland—a loyalty intensified and purified by the ordeal through which it has passed; and yet, looking to what has lately transpired elsewhere and to the terms and character of this Military order, one would think that in Maryland and nowhere else is the Government endangered by the "many evil disposed persons that are now at large."

Within less than a month the most important Elections have taken place in two of the largest States of the Union; in each of them Candidates were before the people, charged by the particular friends of the Government with being hostile to its interests, and whose election was deprecated as fraught with the most dangerous consequences to its success. One of the most prominent of these Candidates was considered so dangerously inimical to the triumph of the National cause that he has been for months past banished from the country, and yet hundreds of thousands of voters were allowed to approach the polls, and to attempt to "foist" such men into power, and no Provost