

Marshals, or other Military Officers, were ordered to arrest them on the way, or, so far as we have ever heard, even test their allegiance by an oath.

With these facts before us, it is difficult to believe that the suggestion that the enemies of the United States may be foisted into power, at our coming Election, was the consideration that prompted this order; but whatever may have been that motive, I feel it to be my duty to solemnly protest against such an intervention with the privileges of the ballot box, and so offensive a discrimination against the rights of a loyal State.

I avail myself of the occasion to call to the particular attention of the Judges of Election the fact that they are on the day of election clothed with all the authority of Conservators of the Peace, and may summon to their aid any of the Executive Officers of the County, and the whole power of the County itself, to preserve order at the polls and secure the constitutional rights of the voters.

It is also made their "special duty" to give information to the State's Attorney for the County of all infractions of the State laws on the subject of elections, and by these laws it is forbidden to any "Commissioned or Non-Commissioned Officers having command of any soldier or soldiers quartered or posted in any district of any County of the State, to muster or embody any of said troops, or march any recruiting party within the view of any place of election during the time of holding said election."

I need not, I am sure, remind them of the terms of the oath they are required to take before entering upon their duties, and according to which they swear "to permit all persons to vote who shall offer to poll at the election, &c., who, in *their judgment, shall, according to the directions contained in the Constitution and Laws, be entitled to poll at the same election*, and not to permit any person to poll at the same election who is not in (their) judgment qualified to vote as aforesaid."

It is the *judgment of the Judges of Election* alone, founded upon the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State, that must determine the right to vote of any person offering himself for that purpose. I trust and believe that they will form that judgment, and discharge their duty, as their conscientious convictions of its requirements, under the solemn obligations they assume shall dictate, undeterred by any order to Provost Marshals to report them to "Headquarters."

Whatever power the State possesses shall be exerted to protect them for any thing done in the proper execution of its laws.