

turbance about the Polls, must necessarily be empowered to arrest the parties they may charge with such disorder, and they are still left in effect "the exclusive Judges as to who shall be arrested"—a power they may as readily abuse as any other.

I regret, therefore, that I can perceive no such change in the general principles of the order as to induce me to change the foregoing Proclamation.

A. W. BRADFORD.

BALTIMORE, *Monday Evening, Nov. 2, 1863.*

That the first order and the modification of the President in its first paragraph may be better understood, the entire order as originally issued is subjoined.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 53.

HEAD QUARTERS, MIDDLE DEPARTMENT, 8TH ARMY CORPS,

BALTIMORE, MD., October 27th, 1863.

It is known 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. It is therefore ordered:

I. That all Provost Marshals and other military officers do 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.

II. That all Provost Marshals and other military officers commanding in Maryland, shall support the Judges of Election on the 4th of November, 1863, in requiring an oath of allegiance to the United States, as the test of citizenship of any one whose vote may be challenged on the ground that he is not loyal or does not admit his allegiance to the United States, which oath shall be in the following form and terms:

I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign; that I hereby pledge my allegiance, faith and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State Convention or State Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; that I will at all times yield