

been allowed to be cast there without objection, and with no limit upon the elective franchise other than the state laws prescribe, and where one at least of the candidates so supported was considered so hostile to the Government that for months past he has been banished from the country, certainly any such interference as between the loyal men now candidates in this state would, under such comparisons, be more justly objectionable, and finds nothing in the present condition of things here to justify it.

I rely, therefore, upon your Excellency for such an order as will prevent it.

I have the honor to be, with great respect

Your Excellency's obedient servant

A. W. Bradford

Executive Mansion

Washington Nov. 2nd 1863

His Excellency A. W. Bradford
Governor of Maryland
Sir:

Yours of 31st Uto. was received yesterday about noon, and since then, I have been giving most earnest attention to the subject-matter of it. At my call, Genl. Schenck has attended; and he assures me it is almost certain that violence will be used at some of the voting-places on election day, unless prevented by his provost guards. He says that at some of these places, Union voters will not attend at all, or run a ticket, unless they have some assurance of protection. This makes the Missouri case, of my action in regard to which you express your approval.

The remaining point of your letter, is a protest against any person offering to vote, being put to any test not found in the laws of Maryland. This brings us to the difference between Missouri and Maryland. With the same reason in both states, Missouri has by law, provided a test for the voter, with reference to the present rebellion, which Maryland has not. For example Genl. Trimble, captured fighting us at Gettysburg, is, without recanting his treason, a legal voter by the laws of Maryland. Even Genl. Schenck's order admits him to vote, if he recants upon oath. I think that is cheap enough. My order in Missouri, which you approve, and Genl. Schenck's order here, reach precisely the same end. Each assumes the right of voting to all loyal men; and whether a man is loyal, each allows that man to fix by his own oath.

Your suggestion that nearly all the candidates are loyal, I do not think quite meets the case, for this struggle for the Nations life I can not so confidently rely on those whose elections may have depended on disloyal votes. Such men when elected, may prove true; but such votes are given them in expectation that they will prove false.

Nor do I think that, to keep the peace at the polls, and to prevent the persistently disloyal from voting, constitutes just