

cause of offence to Maryland, I think she has been her own example for it. If I mistake not it is precisely what Genl. Dix did when your Excellency was elected Governor.

I revoke the first of the three propositions in Genl. Schenk's general order No 53; not that it is wrong in principle, but because the Military being of necessity the exclusive judges as to who shall be arrested, the provision is too liable to abuse. For the revoked part, I substitute the following:

"That all provost marshals and other Military officers do prevent all disturbance and violence at or about the polls, whether offered by such persons as above described or by any other person or persons whomsoever."

The other two propositions of the order I allow to stand. Genl. Schenk is fully determined, and has my strict orders besides, that all loyal men may vote, and vote for whom they please.

Your obdt. servt.

A. Lincoln

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863

His Excellency

President Lincoln,

Sir:

Your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Inst. in reply to mine of 31<sup>st</sup> ulto., reached me to day after I had already read it in the Baltimore papers of this morning. Your Excellency has in this respect the advantage of me, for though, following your example, I shall send a duplicate of this to the press, the probabilities are, looking to recent events, that the Military authorities will not allow its publication.

When I wrote to you on Saturday last, I had not been able to procure a copy of the military order in reference to the election, and acted merely on the rumors of its character. When I saw it, as I did for the first time on Sunday, I found it even more objectionable than rumor had represented it; and when I was shown on the same day a copy of your letter to Mr. Swann, in which you say you trust there is "no just ground for the suspicion" he had expressed, and declaring that you felt "mortified that there could be a doubt upon this point of your (his) inquiry," which point was a suggestion by Mr. Swann "that the election about to take place will be attended with undue interference on the part of persons claiming to represent the wishes of the Government," I rested satisfied that I should receive from you a prompt countermand of the order in question.

Of the sending out of one or more Regiments of soldiers, distributing them among several of the Counties to attend their places of election, in defiance of the known laws of the State prohibiting their presence; ordering military officers and provost marshals to arrest voters guilty, in the opinion of such officers, of certain offences; and menacing judges of election with the power of the military arm in