

The right of all Citizens to vote, without any other qualification than those prescribed by the Constitution and Laws of the State, was thus asserted by your Excellency to countervail the Military order in question, and solely, as we are informed, for refusing to take the oath thus required by this order, we, with other Citizens of the State, have been arrested as before stated. We regarded the Proclamation of your Excellency as an invitation to all Citizens of the State entitled to vote, under its Constitution and laws boldly and fearlessly to attempt the exercise of a freeman's greatest privilege, and we made the effort which has resulted in our arrest.

We have therefore deemed it our duty to make known to your Excellency the above facts that you may take such steps for the protection of the Citizens of your State as in your judgement your official duty may require.

In conclusion we seize this occasion to declare to your Excellency that as Citizens of Maryland one of the United States we have always considered, and do now consider, the Constitution of the U. States and the laws of Congress passed in pursuance thereof the Supreme law of the Land, and we have never violated the same in any manner or form. But as such Citizens we claim our birthright privilege of approving or disapproving the measures of the Government under our responsibility to God and the Constitution of our Country.

Thomas G. Pratt
 Jos. W. Nicholson
 N. W. Green
 Geo. M. Durall
 Wm. Tell Claude
 Oliver Miller
 James Revell
 James E. Tate
 M. F. Revell
 Robert W. Tate

State of Maryland
 Executive Department
 Annapolis Nov. 22, 63

To Thos. G. Pratt, Jos. W. Nicholson,
 & Wm. Tell Claude, Esqrs.

Gentlemen:

You handed me this morning a communication signed by yourselves and other gentlemen of this County, setting forth the fact that you had been arrested by Military authority and were under parole to report at the Head Quarters of the Military Department in Baltimore, and that the sole cause of such arrest, as you understood it from the Provost Marshal making it, was the refusal to take the oath prescribed by Military order No 53 of that Department upon its being tendered to you by the Judges of Election at the Polls on the 4th Inst. — you refer also to my Proclamation issued in consequence of that order, and seem to consider it as a proffer of the