

Elections in Maryland — and I trust there will be little or no difference between us as to the policy best adapted to advance the interest of the Union and promote the welfare of this State — I take occasion to suggest in this connection, that a clause wisely inserted in the Act authorizing the expected Constitutional Convention, will have the effect, I hope, of purging the Polls of all who have justly forfeited their right of suffrage by taking sides with or encouraging the Rebellion.

By a section in our Election Law as it has for years existed it is provided that: "the Judges of Election may administer an oath in any enquiry they may deem necessary to be made, touching the right of any person offering to vote, and if any person shall swear falsely in relation thereto, he shall upon conviction thereof suffer the pains and penalties of perjury."

The duty of the Judge of Election under this clause was discretionary only, but by a provision in the law authorizing the Convention, it is made obligatory upon him to administer such oaths "to every person offering to vote, whose vote shall be challenged on the ground that such person has served in the Rebel Army or has either directly or indirectly given aid, comfort or encouragement to those in armed Rebellion against the Government of the United States, or is for any other reason not a legal voter" —

These two provisions properly enforced, as I believe they will be, will I trust, exclude to a great extent, the disloyal from the Polls. —

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully,

Your obtt. Servt.

A. W. Bradford

Adj. Gen. Middle Department

8th Army Corps

Baltimore March 30th 1864

His Excellency,

Gov. A. W. Bradford,

Dear Sir:

Herewith please find official copies of papers, a glance at which will doubtless satisfy you that persons disloyal to the Government of the United States are candidates for the Constitutional Convention, the election for which takes place on the 6th of April next. It is hardly necessary for me to say that I am deeply interested in the prevention of the scheme disclosed, and as my offer of co-operation in all matters calculated to promote the welfare of the people of Maryland was very kindly received by you, I am encouraged to ask a question touching a subject about which your Excellency's official opinion is entitled to the most distinguished consideration.