

to have the laws executed for Law, without the power and practical exertions of it to enforce the requisition, would cease to be a law, and the Government would exist only in a name. The Executive is therefore clothed with ample power to perform this duty. Shall it be exercised to prevent a violation of law or suffer the infraction, and leave the Citizen the hopeless task of seeking and obtaining redress by judicial action? The adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" though homely, finds its application in a case like this. It is apprehended and seriously so, that Military interference with the freedom of election, will be practiced at the coming election. This apprehension is predicated upon the fact that outrages of this character, unparalleled in enormity, were practiced at the election in November 1863; A Military officer bearing the title of a Major General, almost within the sight and hearing of the Governor, sent large bodies of soldiers to the different places of holding the elections, under orders to interfere, without consulting your Excellency, without your knowledge and against your wishes. When you by proclamation, attempted to prevent the execution of this illegal order he laid an embargo on your written manifests, and refused to suffer you, the chief executive officer of the State, to correspond or communicate with the people, upon matters vital to their peace and good government. In your repressed proclamation, you took occasion to call the attention of the Judges of Election to the law and their power under it, "to summon to their aid any of the executive officers of the County, and the whole power of the County itself to preserve order at the polls, and secure the Constitutional rights of the voters." You further added that "whatever power the State possesses shall be exerted to protect them from anything done in the proper execution of the Laws."

It was hoped that this exhibition and the exposures which followed it, would have prevented any future violations. But, unfortunately this has not been the case; at the election for members of the State Constitutional Convention the Military of the United States were sent to the different Counties; On the Monday previous to the late election to ratify or reject the Constitution, apprehensive as many of us were, that the scenes and occurrences of 1863 would be re-enacted, I sent to you by special messenger 5 affidavits and 2 certificates, of the tranquility of our County; the peaceful character of our people, the entire absence of any necessity for the use of the Military in our County or Shore, and called upon you by letter to take such steps as would prevent the repetition of such presence or interference. You issued a brief proclamation the next day Tuesday, to the Judges of Election and referred them to the Law upon the subject of such interference and their duty to respect the same. About the time you issued your notice and on the day previous Military had been sent to various places on our Shore. While on Sunday I had the honor to address the people of Caroline, 100 Military were around and about the Court house where I spoke; on the next day and in the face of your directions to the Judges &c 100 Massachusetts soldiers arrived in Chester-Town from the City of Baltimore, and were quartered in the Court House within a few yards of the place of voting. The messenger I sent to you, reported that you stated to him that General Wallace had gone West and his subordinates