

would not dare to send Soldiers against the express provisions of the Law. The subordinates however, in imitation of General Schenck, did put at defiance your authority, treated your proclamation with contumely, and the people of the Eastern Shore as subjects of a subjugated and conquered province.

Your Governor we believe that similar and worse outrages are contemplated at the approaching election; We are a quiet, peaceable and loyal people. If left alone, there will be no disquiet, disturbance or disorder, and the elections will be peaceable, regular and orderly. The pretext of hunting up affidavits of persons in the Counties, of heated and unprincipled politicians, or men of the baser sort, expressing apprehensions that loyal voters will not be permitted to vote, is too shallow a subterfuge to influence any sane or honest man. It is too ridiculous to require comment. There may at all times and in all places be found men, mean and unprincipled enough to make such calls, while concealing their own cowardice behind a Soldier's coat. I am sure that my assurance to you that not a single soldier is necessary at the elections on the Eastern Shore, will be credited by you. As the occasion is one of unusual magnitude and of the deepest interest to the people of the State and the Nation, it requires corresponding efforts on your part, to arrest the purposes and thwart the evil designs of those, who will seek to defeat the Will of the People, by acts destructive of the principles of the Government under which we live. Will you as the Chief Executive officer of the State permit it? I think and hope not. How you are to execute the duties of your office in this respect it may be of doubtful propriety for me to suggest, after our late correspondence in reference to the exercise of your authority, to prevent the grossest wrongs upon the State, which subsequent developments have made us realize; and yet the immense and incalculable interest involved, will justify me in my position as a Citizen of the State, and an Electoral Candidate for the District composing the whole Eastern Shore, in making some demands and suggestions in a respectful manner.

I think Governor, that in view of the past and in contemplation of the future, you should at once call on the Military Department in Baltimore and ascertain its intentions in the premises; examine closely into the matter and obtain written pledges that neither the Commander nor his subordinates shall send soldiers to the Counties; to see that orders are given to the subordinates; and if you cannot accomplish what you desire there, to go in person to Washington and see and consult the President and Secretary of War, and insist upon orders to the Commandant of the Maryland Department; to issue a Proclamation in due time to the Judges of Election and the people of the State, taking the same or higher ground than you did on the 2nd Nov. 1863, the language of which I have partly quoted. If the people are to submit to such Military usurpations, and be virtually reduced to vassals, let it be known at once; If they are to be treated as American Citizens let their rights be maintained to their utmost extent. The President in his recent reply to the Tennesseans, has taken the ground that he has no right under the Constitution, to interfere with a Presidential election (he certainly has none with a State election). His own language can be quoted and enforced. You have the Military and all the power of the State at your disposal, to have the laws