

G. W. Parson's Statement about Election in SALISBURY DISTRICT, SOMERSET CO.

Salisbury, Somerset County, Md., November 5th, 1863.

To His Excellency, A. W. BRADFORD,
Governor of State of Maryland.

Honored and Esteemed Sir:—Pardon what seems an unwarranted liberty in one who has but a slight acquaintance with you, in the statements which I am about to make—but I think it the duty of some one to inform you of the manner in which the election was conducted yesterday in our County, in the face of your Proclamation, which was received and circulated here on the 3d.

The day before the election, 400 cavalry arrived per R. R. in Salisbury, squads of whom were immediately despatched to all the polls in Somerset and Worcester Counties, to enforce the orders of General Schenck. In Princess Anne Election District, the Judges of Election were arrested by the soldiers there stationed—as soon as the polls were opened—because, as I am informed, they claimed the right of administering the “oath” to voters instead of the military doing so. At Salisbury, my own voting place, (which is a fair sample of proceedings at the other polls, as far as heard from,) the polls were opened as usual at 9 o'clock. Immediately thereafter a squad of cavalry were stationed on each side of the approach to the ballot box, with orders from our Provost Marshal “to disregard all orders except General Schenck’s No. 53, and strictly to carry this out. Further, to allow but one voter to approach the polls at a time,