

HEAD QUARTERS MIDDLE DEPARTMENT,

General Orders, } EIGHTH ARMY CORPS.
 No. 112. } Baltimore, Md., November 9th, 1865.

Official information having been furnished, making it clear that evil disposed parties in certain counties of the State of Maryland, within the limits of the Middle Department, intend obstructing the operation, and nullifying, as far as they can, the emancipation provision of the New Constitution; and that for this purpose they are availing themselves of certain laws, portions of the ancient slave code of Maryland, as yet unrepealed, to initiate as respects the persons heretofore slaves, a system of forced apprenticeship; for this, and for other reasons, among them that if they have any legal rights under existing laws, the persons spoken of are in ignorance of them; that in certain counties the law officers are so unfriendly to the newly made freedmen, and so hostile to the benignant measure that made them such, as to render appeals to the courts worse than folly, even if the victims had the money with which to hire lawyers; and that the necessities of the case make it essential, in order to carry out truly and effectively the grand purpose of the people of the State of Maryland, emancipation of every slave, man, woman and child, within her limits, from and after the 1st day of November of this present year,—that there should be remedies extraordinary for all their grievances,—remedies instantaneous without money or reward,—and somebody to have care for them, to protect them, to show them the way to the freedom of which they have yet but vague and undefined ideas; *It is therefore ordered:*

I. That all persons within the limits of the Middle Department heretofore slaves, but now free, by operation of the New Constitution, shall be considered under special military protection, until the Legislature of Maryland may, by its enactments, make such military protection unnecessary.

II. A Freedman's Bureau for said Department, is hereby created, office in Baltimore, Major Wm. M. Este, A. D. C., in charge.

III. Major Este is entrusted with the execution of this order; and to make it effective, he is authorized to institute investigations, to send for persons and papers, and to make necessary arrests.

IV. Provost Marshals in their several Districts, particularly those on the Eastern and Western Shores, are requested and directed to hear all complaints made to them by persons within the meaning of this order, to collect and forward information and proofs of wrongs done to such persons, and, generally, to render Major Este such assistance as he may require in the performance of his duty.