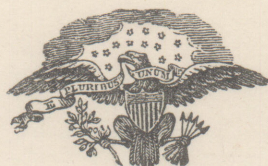


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

DEPARTMENT



OF STATE,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I certify, That annexed is a true copy of a Joint Resolution of Congress entitled "A Resolution submitting to the legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States;" the original of which is on file in this Department.

In testimony whereof, I, *William H. Seward*,
SECRETARY OF STATE of the UNITED STATES, have hereunto subscribed my
name and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

ONE at the City of Washington, this *second* _____ day
of *February*, _____ A. D. 186*5*, and of the Independence
of the United States of America the *89th*.

Wm H Seward



A Resolution

Submitting to the legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both houses concurring,) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

Article XIII.

Section 1. Neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have
power to enforce this article by
appropriate legislation.

Approved, February 1. 1865.

Department of State

Washington 2^d February 1865

To His Excellency

The Governor of the State of Maryland
Annapolis Maryland

Sir:

I transmit an attested copy of a Joint Resolution of Congress, approved on the 1st instant, proposing to the Legislatures of the several States a Thirteenth Article to the Constitution of the United States. Your Excellency is requested to cause the decision of the Legislature of Maryland to be taken upon the subject. An acknowledgment of the receipt of this communication is requested by

Your Excellency's
Most obedient servant

F. W. Seward
Acting Secretary

Secretary of State
enclaving copy of Resolution
of Congress proposing 13th
Article to Constitution of the States

W
Feb. 27th 3rd 1865

Department of State,
Washington, Nov. 18. 1865.

To His Excellency
the Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Md.

Sir -

Congress in February last, by the requisite vote of two-thirds of both houses, passed a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which declares that neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction, and that Congress shall have power to suppress this article by appropriate legislation. - A certified copy of this resolution was promptly transmitted by mail to each of the Governors of all of the States. - When the proposed amendment shall have been adopted, by being ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, the law makes it the duty of the Secretary of State, after official notice thereof has been received at the Department of State, forthwith

to cause the said amendment to be published in the newspapers authorized to promulgate the laws, with his Certificate, specifying the States by which the same may have been adopted, and that the same has become valid to all intents and purposes, as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

Up to the present time official notice of the ratification of said Amendment by the Legislatures, of eighteen States has been received; but there is reason to believe, that the ~~the~~ Legislatures of other States have ratified the said Amendment - It is also supposed to be probable that the Legislatures of still other States will shortly ratify it. In that case and upon receiving the proper notices, it will become necessary for this Department to fulfil the duty of publication and certification already referred to.

With a view, therefore, of being prepared for the prompt performance of the important duty thus enjoined by law, I have to request that Your Excellency will be pleased to give to this Department, as soon as convenient, the official notice contemplated, whenever the Legislature of the State of Maryland

shall have duly ratified the amendment
in question.-

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's
Most obedient servant -
Will. D. Lewis

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

shall have duly certified the amendments
in the newspapers authorized to print
the laws, with his certificate specifying the
States and Territories where the amendments
adopted, respectively, have become valid.
-X-
as a part of the
Constitution of the United States

Wm. W. Howard

requesting official notice
of the ratification by Mass.
of the Constitutional
Amendment abolishing
Slavery

Feb. Nov. 29. 1868

the of the ratification of the
the Legislatures of eighteen
occurs, but there is reason to believe
the the Legislatures of other
find the said amendments
to be probable that the Legislatures of
other States will shortly ratify
same and upon receiving the proper
it will be found necessary
to fulfil the duty of publishing
certificates already referred to.

With a view therefore of being prepared
for the prompt performance of the important duty
thus enjoined by law, I have to request that
Your Excellency will be pleased to give to this De-
partment, as soon as convenient the official
notice contemplated whenever the Legislature
of the State of Maryland

Department of State,
Washington, December 1, 1865.

His Excellency
A. W. Bradford,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Md.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, transmitting an authenticated copy of the resolution of the Legislature of Maryland ratifying the amendment proposed by Congress in February last to the Constitution of the United States, prohibiting slavery, &c. The letter, with its enclosure, has been placed on file in this Department.

I am your obedient servant,

Wm. H. Seward

Hon. Wm. H. Stewart
acknowledging receipt
copy of Resolution of the
Legislature adopting the
Constitutional amendment

Jan. 21st. 1865