


## 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 concurrent resolution of Congress, entitled, "Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States;" the original of which resolution, received to-day is on file in this Department.

{  } In testimony whereof, I, William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, have hereto subscribed my name and caused the Seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

The Committee have considered the question of ratification thus submitted to the Legislature of Maryland, with all the careful deliberation which so important a measure demands.

The State of Maryland has the deepest interest in the speedy and peaceful restoration of friendly relations, and intercourse between all the States and sections of the Union.— Her geographical position, her intimate connexions in trade, commerce and travel, with all portions of the Union, as well as her patriotic desire for the prosperity and happiness of the whole country, would induce her to make every possible sacrifice to promote the great objects of the Federal Constitution. These are declared to be "to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our prosperity."

We have to confess that we are unable to discover any possible tendency in the proposed amendment to promote any of these indispensable requisites of good government.

The distribution of powers between the Federal and State Governments, when acting in harmonious co-operation, having proved adequate to every emergency, in peace and in war, during the entire existence of the Constitution down to our late unhappy troubles, and having elevated our country to the highest point of national prosperity and greatness, the wisdom, patriotism and sagacity of the framers of the Constitution were exhibited by the results of their labors.

In the proposition now under consideration, the people of the several States, acting through their several Legislatures, are called upon to strip themselves and their State Governments of powers most vital to their safety and freedom, yea, even to their continued existence in any useful or practical operation; and to bestow those powers upon the Federal Government.

Before yielding to such a demand, the proposition ought to receive the most careful consideration in all its aspects and consequences.