



Augusta February 6<sup>th</sup> 1865

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have the honor to lay before you an official copy of "A Resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States," adopted by Congress.

By the proposed amendment, slavery or involuntary servitude, except as the punishment for crime, is forever prohibited in the United States, or in places subject to their jurisdiction. Your ratification thereof is invited.

I congratulate the people of this State that the time has arrived, when, in a legitimate and constitutional method, a subject which has so long been the exciting cause of angry discussions, and at last was made the pretext for plunging the

nation into a bloody and fratricidal war attended with unutterable woes, may be finally put at rest.

I congratulate you personally that in your character as the constitutional representatives of the people of Maine, the felicity is now vouchsafed to you, to give effect to their will, by voting for the extirpation of a system utterly at variance with every other American institution, offensive to the best interests of our species, founded in disregard of the first principles of human justice, and in violation of the laws of God.

Sam'l C. Cony

54 416  
An Act-

Amendment of the  
Constitution.

1865

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.

DONE at the City of Washington, this Second day  
of February, — A. D. 1865, and of the Independence  
of the United States of America the 89<sup>th</sup>

Wm. H. Seward



on, namely:

Article XIII.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor

# 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 Constitu-  
tion, 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.