In the Senate and House of Representatives:

Augusta, January 6, 1865

I have the honor to lay before you an official copy of a Resolution submitting to the Legislature 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, as 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 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, is about to be finally put at rest. I congratulate you personally that in your character as the constitutional sovereign allies of the people of Maine, the faculty is now conferred upon you, to give effect to their will, by voting for the ratification of a measure settled at variance with every other American institution offensive to the Constitution of the United States, founded in disregard of the first principles of human justice, and in violation of the laws of God.

John A. Brown
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 2nd day of February, A.D. 1865, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 89th.

William H. Seward

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 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.