

The following message was received from the Executive, by the hands of John M. Carter, Esq., Private Secretary :

STATE OF MARYLAND,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

ANNAPOLIS, *February 1st*, 1865.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates :*

I have just received from the Secretary of State of the United States, notification of the fact that the following joint resolutions proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, have passed both Houses of Congress, viz :

Joint resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

*Be it 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 said Constitution, namely :*

Article 13, Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crimes, 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.

As this proposed amendment requires the ratification of the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, which there is every reason to believe it will promptly receive, I take the earliest opportunity of bringing the subject to your attention, in the hope that Maryland will be the first State to ratify the amendment proposed.

A. W. BRADFORD.

Which was read.

Mr. McCauley moved that the message be referred to the committee on Federal Relations ;

Decided in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Harris,

The rules were suspended, and he submitted the following