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FREE MISSOURI.

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TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH

FROM

THE GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI,

ANNOUNCING

*By proclamation freedom in Missouri.*

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JANUARY 16, 1865.--Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

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JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, *January 14, 1865.*

The following is the proclamation of Thomas C. Fletcher, first governor of free Missouri. We know you join in spirit with Missouri in her jubilee to-day.

GEORGE SMITH,

*President of the Senate of Missouri.*

W. L. LOVELACE,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives of Missouri.*

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

*Jefferson City, Missouri, January 11, 1865.*

It having pleased Divine Providence to inspire to righteous action the sovereign people of Missouri, who, through their delegates in convention assembled, with proper legal authority and solemnity have this day ordained that hereafter in this State there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, and that all persons held to service or labor as slaves are hereby declared free: Now, therefore, by authority of the supreme executive power vested in me by the constitution of Missouri, I, Thomas C. Fletcher, governor of the State of Missouri, do proclaim that henceforth and forever no person within the jurisdiction of this State shall be subject to any abridgment of liberty, except such as the law shall prescribe for the common good, or know any master but God.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, at Jefferson City, this eleventh day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

THOMAS C. FLETCHER.

By the Governor:

FRANCIS RODMAN,

*Secretary of State.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*