

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO.

RELATIVE TO

Amendment of the Constitution regarding slavery.

JANUARY 20, 1865.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

THE STATE OF OHIO.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Columbus, January 12, 1865.

SIR: In compliance with the request of the general assembly, I herewith hand you the enclosed resolutions.

Very respectfully,

JOHN BROUGH.

Hon. JAMES M. ASHLEY,
Washington, D. C.

JOINT RESOLUTION instructing the members of Congress from this State in relation to amending the Constitution of the United States, relative to slavery.

Whereas, the declaration "that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and to secure these rights all just governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed," is as true and self-evident now as when first enunciated by the fathers and founders of the republic; and,

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States was ordained and established "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to the people of the United States;" and,

Whereas, slavery, or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, is a violation of the inherent and inalienable rights of men, a crime against justice and humanity, a disturber of the Union and of domestic tranquility, a hindrance to the common defence, a spoiler of the public liberties, has inaugurated civil war, and is the cause of our national calamities; therefore,

2 **AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION—LEGISLATURE OF OHIO.**

Be it resolved, by the general assembly of the State of Ohio, That our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to use their influence and vote for the proposition now pending in Congress to amend the Constitution of the United States, so that neither slavery or 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, and giving to Congress power to enforce such prohibition by appropriate legislation.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward to each of our senators and representatives in Congress a copy of these resolutions.

JOHN JOHNSTON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHARLES ANDERSON,

President of the Senate.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,

Columbus, Ohio, January 12, 1865.

I certify the foregoing to be correctly copied from the original roll on file in this office.

W. W. ARMSTRONG,

Secretary of State.