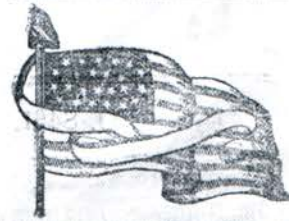


# 1865 Thirteenth Amendment

The outcry against slavery was not universal and hard feelings persisted after the war. The Republicans, party of Abraham Lincoln, were all for abolition. Among the Democrats, however, the feeling was somewhat different. In the Democratic Almanac for 1869, for example, the Constitution and first twelve Amendments were faithfully printed. This was followed by the headline "Amendments Claimed by the Mongrels to have been Legally Added to the Constitution" printed above the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments. Nonetheless, whether they liked it or not, the days of slavery were over. The Emancipation Proclamation and Thirteenth Amendment, together abolishing and prohibiting slavery, were only the beginning. The amendment also gave Congress the authority to provide for the passage of any future laws that would help to enforce the ban on slavery. Though slavery was now legally outlawed, its legacy made life for African Americans difficult for many years to come. Slavery was illegal, but racism was not. Bias against former slaves translated to economic hardship and often violence.

*An article about the Thirteenth Amendment from a Massachusetts newspaper, February 1, 1865.*

THE DAILY COURIER.  
Wednesday, February 1, 1865.



PASSAGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH SLAVERY. Yesterday the House of Representatives of the United States took a step that will render the 31st of January a memorable day in American history. By a vote of 119 to 56—seven more than the two-thirds required by the Constitution—the House passed the proposed amendment to the Constitution, which if adopted by three-fourths of the States, forever abolishes slavery in the United States. The proposed amendment is in the following words:—

"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.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The Senate passed the amendment last year by vote of nearly three to one, but it was rejected in the House by 94 to 63. As the House is composed of 103 Union men or Republicans, to 80 Democrats, at least 16 Democrats must have voted for the proposed bill, if all the Union members were present. English of Connecticut, and Ganson of New York, are known to have voted in its favor, and no doubt Odell of New York, voted the same way.

There was a large attendance of spectators, and when the result was known the hall rang with applause, and the ladies waved their handkerchiefs in token of approval. A salute of one hundred guns was fired in the evening in honor of the great event. Should it be necessary to go back to the Senate for the action of that body, it will there pass, and after receiving the signature of the President, immediately go to the Legislatures for their action.

The bill will be adopted without delay by the following State Legislatures, which are now in session:—California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—eighteen in all. To addi...

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*Section 2.* Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. . . .



## What They Were Saying

from the *Lowell Daily Courier* (Massachusetts), February 1, 1865:

Yesterday the House of Representatives of the United States took a step that will render the 31st of January a memorable day in American history. By a vote of 119 to 56—seven more than the two-thirds required by the Constitution—the House passed the proposed amendment, which if adopted by three-fourths of the States, forever abolishes slavery in the United States . . . There was a large attendance of spectators, and when the result was known the hall rang with applause, and the ladies waved their handkerchiefs in token of approval. A salute of one hundred guns was fired in the evening in honor of the great event . . . Under any circumstance, the amendment may be considered as secured beyond question, and universal freedom will hereafter be the destiny of the great American Republic.

