

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 11, 1867.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A BILL

To enforce the thirteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

Whereas the Congress of the United States, at the second session of the thirty-eighth Congress, proposed to the several States for adoption the thirteenth amendment of the Constitution, which has now, by ratification of three-fourths of the States of the Union, become part of the Constitution, and which by its terms forever prohibits slavery or involuntary servitude, "except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted;" and whereas in some parts of this Union it is wrongfully asserted and maintained that, notwithstanding said amendment, it is lawful to sell or otherwise commit into unofficial subjection and slavery the persons who may be convicted of offences against the law, by reason whereof certain inferior tribunals have adjudged free citizens of the United States to be so disposed of as to re-establish chattel slavery for life, or for years, against the principles of the Christian religion, of civilization, and of the Constitution of the United States, which now recognizes no involuntary servitude, except to the law and to the officers of its administration: Now, therefore,

To enforce the thirteenth amendment of the Constitu-
tion of the United States.

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