

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 16, 1861.

Mr. POMEROY asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, and ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

A BILL

To suppress the slaveholders' rebellion.

WHEREAS, by article first, section eight, of the Constitution of the United States, Congress has power "to provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States," "to raise and support armies," "to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces," "to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union," "to suppress insurrection and repel invasion," and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers; and whereas the creation of the Union by the people of the original thirteen States was a mutual pledge of both people and States to a republican form of government, guaranteed to each by the united force of all; and whereas in securing this end, if to repel the encroachments of despotic institutions from without be the well settled policy of this American government, much more is it essential to its self-preservation that, in "providing for the general welfare," the united government should crush from the soil of the Union every germ of despotism that threatens its liberties; and whereas slavery in this

republic has culminated in a formidable rebellion, which threatens the liberties of the whole nation; and whereas the rise of the slave power within its limits proves how utterly incompatible with republican institutions is every form of despotism; and whereas the great question before this nation, which it is called upon to settle now—and settle forever—once for all, and for which the loyal people and States of this country are pouring out their blood and lavishing their treasure, is, whether American slavery shall die or American freedom shall live; therefore, by virtue of the Constitution, as herein set forth, and as a great military necessity, forced upon us by this rebellion—

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
 3 from and after the passage of this act, there shall be no
 4 slavery or involuntary servitude in any of the States of this
 5 Union that claim to have seceded from the government, and
 6 are in open and armed resistance to the execution of the
 7 laws and the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That immediately*
 2 upon the passage of this act the President of the United
 3 States shall cause his proclamation to be issued, setting forth
 4 the immediate and unconditional emancipation of all persons
 5 held as slaves in any of the aforesaid States, under the laws
 6 thereof. And also ordering all officers to give protection to
 7 all such emancipated slaves, and accept the services of all
 8 who may tender them in behalf of the government, if in
 9 the judgment of such officers such services shall be useful or
 10 necessary to the prosecution of this war.

37TH CONGRESS, }
1ST SESSION. } S. 28.

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