
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 4, 1865.

Mr. SUMNER asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read, passed to a second reading, and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

Supplying appropriate legislation to enforce the amendment to the
Constitution prohibiting slavery.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a
4 punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly
5 convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place
6 subject to their jurisdiction.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* If any person shall
2 attempt to control, or shall, by act or word, lay claim to any
3 right to control the services of any other person contrary to
4 the provisions of the foregoing section, the person so offending
5 shall, upon indictment and conviction in the district court of
6 the United States for the district where the crime was com-
7 mitted, be punished by a fine not exceeding ten thousand
8 dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten

9 years, or by both, to be inflicted at the discretion of the court;
10 and it shall be no defence nor cause of mitigation of sentence
11 that such claim or attempt is sanctioned by any pretended
12 law of a State or any judgment of a State court. But nothing
13 herein contained shall be held to impair any other remedy
14 now existing by habeas corpus or otherwise.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That in further
2 enforcement of the provision of the Constitution prohibiting
3 slavery, and in order to remove all relics of this wrong from
4 the States where this constitutional prohibition takes effect, it
5 is hereby declared, that all laws or customs in such States
6 establishing any oligarchical privileges and any distinction of
7 rights on account of color or race are hereby annulled, and all
8 persons in such States are recognized as equal before the law;
9 and the penalties provided in the last section are hereby made
10 applicable to any violation of this provision, which is made in
11 pursuance of the Constitution of the United States.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That in further
2 enforcement of the provision of the Constitution aforesaid, the
3 courts of the United States in the States aforesaid shall have
4 exclusive jurisdiction of all offences committed by persons not
5 of African descent upon persons of African descent; also of
6 all offences committed by persons of African descent; and
7 also of all causes, suits, and demands to which any person of

8 African descent shall be a party ; and it is hereby declared
9 that all such cases are to be treated as cases arising under the
10 Constitution of the United States.

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