

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MARCH 24, 1862.

Read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Territories.

MAY 1, 1862.

Reported back with an amendment to the title, ordered to be printed, and re-committed to the Committee on the Territories. Strike out the parts in [brackets] and insert those in *italics*.

Mr. ARNOLD, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

[To render freedom national and slavery sectional.] *To secure freedom to all persons within the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government.*

To the end that freedom may be, and remain forever, the fundamental law of the land in all places whatsoever, so far as it lies within the powers or depends upon the action of the government of the United States to make it so: Therefore—

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 *That slavery and involuntary servitude, in all cases whatso-*
4 *ever, (other than in the punishment of crime, whereof the*
5 *party shall have been duly convicted,) shall henceforth cease,*
6 *and be prohibited forever in all the following places, viz:*

7 First. In all the Territories of the United States now ex-
8 isting, or hereafter to be formed or acquired in any way.

9 Second. In all places purchased or to be purchased by
10 the United States, with the consent of the legislatures of the
11 several States, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals,
12 dock-yards, and other needful buildings.

13 Third. In all vessels on the high seas, and on all national
14 highways, beyond the territory and jurisdiction of each of the
15 several States from which or to which the said vessels may
16 be going.

17 Fourth. In all places whatsoever where the national
18 government is supreme, or has exclusive jurisdiction and
19 power.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That any person now
2 held or attempted to be held hereafter as a slave in any of
3 the places above named is hereby declared to be free, and
4 the right to freedom hereby declared may be asserted in any
5 of the courts of the United States or of the several States, in
6 behalf of the party, or his or her posterity, after any lapse of
7 time, upon the principle that a party once free is always free.

H. R. 374.

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