Roane, Calhoun, Gilmer, Barbours, Tucker, Lewis, Braxton, Upahur, Randolph, Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, Clay, Nicholas, Cabell, Wayne, Boone, Logan, Wyoming, Mercer, McDowell, Webster, Pocahontas, Fayette, Raleigh, Greenbrier, Monroe, Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire, and Morgan; and whereas both the Convention and the Legislature aforesaid have requested that the new State should be admitted into the Union, and the Constitution aforesaid being republican in form, Congress doth hereby consent that the said forty-eight counties may be formed into a separate and independent State. Therefore —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the State of West Virginia be, and is hereby, declared to be one of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union, after the proclamation of the President, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and until the next general census shall be entitled to three members in the House of Representatives of the United States: Provided, always, That this act shall not take effect until after the proclamation of the President of the United States hereinafter provided for.

It being represented to Congress that since the Convention of the twenty-sixth of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, that framed and proposed the Constitution for the said State of West Virginia, the people thereof have expressed a wish to change the seventh section of the Constitution by striking out the same and inserting the following in its place, viz: "The children of slaves born within the limits of this State after the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be free; and that all slaves within the said State who shall, at the time aforesaid, be under the age of ten years, shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-one years; and all slaves over ten and under twenty-one years shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-five years; and no slave shall be permitted to come into the State for permanent residence therein:" Therefore —

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That whenever the people of West Virginia shall, through their said Convention, and by a vote to be taken at an election to be held within the limits of the said State, at such time as the Convention may provide, make, and ratify the change aforesaid, and properly certify the same under the hand of the president of the Convention, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to issue his proclamation stating the fact, and thereupon this act shall take effect and be in force from and after sixty days from the date of said proclamation.

APPROVED, December 31 1862.

CHAP. VII. — An Act to improve the Organization of the Cavalry Forces.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter each regiment of cavalry organized in the United States service, may have two assistant surgeons, and each company or troop of cavalry shall have from sixty to seventy-eight privates.

APPROVED, January 6, 1863.

CHAP. IX. — An Act prescribing the Times and Places for holding Terms of the Circuit Court for the Districts of Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the terms of the Circuit Court for the districts of Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas shall be holden in each and every year at the following times and places, to wit: For the district of Iowa, at Des Moines, on the first Tuesday in May and Novem-
ber; for the district of Minnesota, at St. Paul, on the third Monday of June and October; and for the district of Kansas, at the place prescribed by law for holding terms of the district court therein, on the fourth Monday of May and November.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That all writs, process, and other proceedings of whatever kind relative to any cause, civil or criminal, pending in or returnable to the Circuit Court for said districts of Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas, at terms heretofore prescribed by law, are hereby declared continued, transferred, and returnable to the said Circuit Court for said districts, respectively, at the terms first to be held under the provisions of this act. And no process issued, proceeding pending, bail-bond or recognizance taken in or returnable to either of said circuit courts shall be avoided, invalidated, or impaired by the change in the time or place of holding the terms of such court made by this act; and the entries of record may be made in conformity with the provisions of this act.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That so much of the first section of "An act to amend the act of the third of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, entitled 'An act supplementary to the act entitled "An act to amend the judicial system of the United States,"' approved July fifteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, as conflicts with this act be and is hereby repealed.

APPROVED, January 13, 1863.

CHAP. X.—An Act to provide for the Imprisonment of Persons convicted of Crime by January 16, 1863.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons who shall hereafter be convicted by the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia of any offence, the punishment of which by law shall be confinement in the penitentiary, shall be confined during the term for which they shall be sentenced by said court in some suitable prison in a convenient State, where they can be employed at suitable labor, to be designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the managers or superintendent of a suitable prison in some convenient State for the imprisonment and subsistence and proper employment of all prisoners who shall be convicted in said court of such offences, on the best terms that he can; and he shall, on or before the first day of each term of the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia, inform said court in writing of the designation and location of the prison in which he shall have made provision for the confinement and support of prisoners; and said court shall sentence all persons who shall, during said term, be convicted of such offences, to confinement at hard labor in the prison so designated.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to make suitable provision for the safe transportation of all prisoners to the prison to which they shall be sentenced by the court, and until they shall be so transported they shall be confined in the jail of Washington City.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the action of the Secretary of the Interior, in transferring the prisoners confined in the penitentiary of the District of Columbia to the penitentiary in the city of Albany, in the State of New York, in the month of September last, by direction of the President, is hereby legalized and declared valid, and the said prisoners shall continue in confinement in said prison until the expiration of their several terms of imprisonment, or until they shall be legally discharged.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That all appropriations herebefore provided for process pending or returnable.