

1890

Facsimile of the First Draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, July 1862

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In pursuance of the sixth section of the act
of Congress entitled "An act to suppress insurrection
and to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and
confiscate property of rebels, and for other purposes"
Approved July 17, 1862, and which act, and the
Joint Resolution explanatory thereof, are herewith
published, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of
the United States, do hereby proclaim to, and
warn all persons within the contemplation of
said sixth section to cease participating in, aid-
ing, countenancing, or abetting the existing rebel-
lion, or any rebellion against the government
of the United States, and to return to their pro-
per allegiance to the United States, on pain of the

forfeitures and seizures, as within and by said
sixth section provided.

And I hereby make known that it is my
purpose, upon the next meeting of Congress, to again
recommend the adoption of a practical measure
for tendering pecuniary aid to the free choice or
rejection, of any and all States which may then
be recognizing and practically sustaining the author-
ity of the United States, and which may then have
voluntarily adopted, or thereafter may voluntarily
adopt, gradual ^{abolishment} ~~adoption~~ of slavery, within
such State or States - that the object is to prac-
tically restore, thenceforward to ^{be} maintain, the con-
stitutional relation between the general government,
and each, and all the States, wherein that relation

is now suspended, or disturbed; and that,
for this object, the war, as it has been, will
be prosecuted. And, as a fit and necessary
military measure for effecting this object,
I, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and
Navy of the United States, do order and de-
clare that on the first day of January in the
year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred
and sixty-two, all persons held as slaves within
in any State or States, wherein the Constitution-
al authority of the United States shall not
then be practically recognized, submitted to,
and maintained, shall then, thenceforward, and
forever, be free.