

[Lincoln] thought [the amendment] was a very fitting if not an indispensable adjunct to the winding up of the great difficulty. He wished the reunion of all the States perfected and so effected as to remove all causes of disturbance in the future; and to attain this end it was necessary that the original disturbing cause should, if possible, be rooted out. He thought all would bear him witness that he had never shrunk from doing all that he could to eradicate slavery, issuing an emancipation proclamation. But that proclamation falls far short of what the amendment will be when fully consummated ... this amendment is a King's cure for all the evils. It winds the whole thing up. ... He could not but congratulate all present, himself, the country and the whole world upon this great moral victory.

-New York Tribune, "Lincoln's Remarks on the Thirteenth Amendment" (1865 February 3) excerpt