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OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

United States of America.

WITH

AN APPENDIX.

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Christian religion, but declares his intention to continue his connection with the Friends' Society.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported a recommendation that the inquirers be referred to the answers in the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, to the question, "To whom is baptism to be administered?"

The report was adopted.

Overture No. 8, from the Board of Directors of the Western Theological Seminary, asking "that it be required of candidates for the ministry in our Church, before entering the theological seminary, or commencing their regular course of theological study, to put themselves under the care of a Presbytery, unless specially hindered, in which case it shall be done at the first stated meeting of the proper Presbytery thereafter."

The Committee on Bills and Overtures recommended that it be strongly recommended to all young men entering the theological seminaries to put themselves under the care of the Presbyteries to which they naturally belong, as soon as possible.

The recommendation was adopted.

Overture No. 9, from the Presbytery of Allegheny on the Book of Psalms and Hymns. It was

Resolved, That the Overture be referred to the Committee which has been raised under the report of the Committee on Psalmody.

Overture No. 11, from the Synod of the Pacific, on the amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

On the recommendation of the Committee to examine the docket, the following paper, previously offered by Dr. Musgrave, was taken from the docket, and adopted as a sufficient answer.

Whereas, Almighty God, the God of nations, is the head and source of all authority and power in civil government, and nations as such are the subjects of his moral laws, and his revealed will is the supreme law of national life: *whereas*, the Christian and loyal people of our country are everywhere beseeching God to interpose for our deliverance as a nation from the assaults of a most groundless and wicked rebellion, and to establish and maintain the national unity and authority: and *whereas*, resolutions have already passed the Senate of the United States, and are pending in the House of Representatives, recommending amendment of the National Constitution in several other particulars. Therefore,

Resolved, That it is our solemn national duty so to amend our fundamental and organic law, that the preamble of the National Constitution shall read in substance as follows: "We the people of the United States, [humbly acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the Governor among the nations, and His revealed Will as the supreme law of the land, in order to constitute a Christian government, and] in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure [the inalienable rights and] the blessings of [life,] liberty, [and the pursuit of happiness,] to ourselves, our posterity, [and all the people,] do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

And, further,

Resolved, That this General Assembly recommend to all the people in the congregations under its care to memorialize Congress upon this subject.

Overture No. 13, being a letter from the Rev. John Montgomery, requesting the Assembly to take such action as shall authorize a meeting of the Presbytery of Lafayette, Synod of Upper Missouri, at the First Church of Pettis, in the county of Pettis, state of Missouri, on Friday, the 16th day of September, 1864.