

To his excellency Abraham Lincoln President  
of the United States

Whereas the Gen. Assembly at its  
annual meeting in Phil<sup>a</sup> in the month of  
May 1861, did adopt the following expression  
of their loyalty viz: Resolved that this Gen.  
Assm. in the spirit of that Christian patriotism  
wh. the scriptures enjoin & which has always  
characterized this Church, do hereby acknowledge  
and declare our obligation to promote and  
perpetuate so far as in us lies, the integrity  
of these United States and to strengthen uphold  
and encourage the federal govt in the exercise  
of all its functions under our noble Constitution  
& to this Constitution in all its <sup>provisions</sup> requirements  
and principles we profess our unabated  
loyalty." And whereas the Presbytery  
of Memphis did at an adjourned meeting  
on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June following denounce &  
repudiate this noble expression of loyalty  
by our Gen. Assembly as "unconstitutional and  
unchristian" and did furthermore  
Resolve "that in the fear of God and in view  
of all the consequences we hereby renounce  
all their ecclesiastical supervision and declare  
our connection with the Gen. Ass<sup>m</sup> of the U. S.  
dissolved." And whereas furthermore

in obedience to the call of the Presbytery of  
Memphis accompanying this their acts of  
ecclesiastical secession, a Genl. Assembly  
for the South was formed in the month  
of December following entitled "The Genl.  
Assm. of the Pres<sup>ch</sup> in the Confederate States  
of America, And whereas the property  
held by these chhes was originally dedi-  
cated to the religious uses of Pres<sup>n</sup> Chhes  
in connection with the Gen. Ass. of that ch.  
in the U. S. from wh. uses it is now diverted  
in violation of the trust under which alone  
it can be lawfully held. Therefore Resolved  
That the whole eccl. organism of the South  
as far as the pres<sup>ch</sup> is concerned is  
a political organization based upon  
political secession and pledged to its  
support as the facts clearly show.

Resolved 2<sup>nd</sup>

That in the opinion of this Presbytery the  
political and rebel church organization  
of which the southern portion of our Church  
is only a specimen and a part is the  
right arm of the rebellion and that its de-  
struction is not only consistent with all  
the essential principles of religious liberty  
but is absolutely necessary to the suppression  
of the rebellion itself.

Resolved 3d.

That in order to the destruction of this rebel Church and the restoration to the authorities of presbyterian Churches in connection with the Gen. Assembly of the Pres. Ch. in the United States of all our ch. property - violently taken from us by the grasp of secession, it is by no means necessary that the Federal Government assume to "run churches", or to appoint supervisors or trustees for the same but only so far to protect our rights as to put our property as fast as reclaimed from the rebel flag back where it was subject to the control of those lawfully entitled thereto, being the authorities of the Pres. Church in connection with the general assembly in the U. S. States and to see to it that it may so be held on the ground, until the assembly can, by her agents or Commissioners take formal possession of it and order and arrange so that it be used for the purposes of loyal Christian worship as formerly.

4 Resolved That to this end this Pres. mat earnestly requests and hereby petitions his Excellency the Pres. of the U. S. to direct forthwith by a general and

and uniform order that in every point  
and in all our reclaimed territory the  
military authorities allow no minister church  
session or Trustees to hold and use any ch  
Edifice or ch. properly hitherto in connection  
with and under the control of the Gen. Assm  
(old school) of the presbyterian Church in the  
U. States until the same shall first renounce  
the authority of and all connection with  
the Gen. Assembly of the South which ~~was~~  
first organized in Decr. 1861 in the City of  
Augusta Georgia and shall agree and promise  
to hold the same henceforth subject to the author-  
ities of the Chhes in connection with the Gen. Ass.  
in the U. S. wh. declaration shall be duly recorded:  
and provided those holding said property in any  
given locality refuse thus to renounce the authority  
of the Rebel Church it shall be given to those who  
may loyally hold and use it subject to the control  
of the proper church authority in connection with  
and under the supervision of our Genl. Assembly  
and in accordance with her declaration of loyalty  
made at Phil<sup>a</sup> in May, 1864,  
and for which we will ever pray.