

"Resolved, That we recommend it to our fellow-citizens throughout the Union, who appreciate liberty, to hold meetings and make proper exertions, that by a simultaneous effort the subject may be brought before Congress with a respectability of number not to be disregarded.

"Resolved, That a copy of this meeting's proceedings, together with those which we have adopted, be addressed severally to the Speaker of the Senate and House of Representatives of this state and the United States."

Committees were appointed to carry these resolutions into effect, and report to an adjourned meeting to be held at the home of D. Witmer, Jr., on Saturday, December 18th, 1830. Whether or not the meeting was held as announced, is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers contain no references to it.

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## Clerk in Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**I**T is not generally known that at least as late as 1816 the First Presbyterian church of Lancaster, Pa., employed a clerk. The special duties of this official are not now known. In all probability, they corresponded to those of the parish clerk in the Church of England in America, which, after the Revolutionary War, became the Protestant Episcopal Church. The parish clerk announced the hymns, led the singing, made responses during the rendition of the liturgy, read the lessons, and made himself generally active about the church. His usefulness waned during the early years of the nineteenth century; and shortly after the War of 1812, the office was discontinued, for the most part, in America.

That a clerk was employed in the First Presbyterian church, Lancaster, as late as 1816, whose duty it probably was to direct the music during divine service, is evident from a notice which appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, September 27th, 1816. The advertisement was as follows:

"E. W. Jenkins (clerk of the English Presbyterian church) and James Snodgrass, respectfully inform their friends and the public that they will open a singing school at the house of Mr. Stacy Swem, in North Queen street, on Sunday evening next, where they hope to merit a share of public patronage. Those who have subscribed, will please to furnish themselves with Smith's and Little's Collection of Sacred Music, to be had at Mr. Dickson's bookstore.

"Terms of tuition, for two evenings in the week, two dollars per quarter, one dollar payable at entrance. One evening in the week, one dollar and fifty cents, one dollar to be paid in advance."