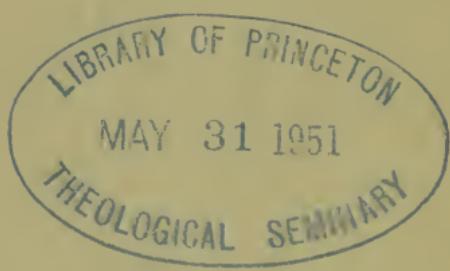


Acts  
of the  
Particular Synod  
of New-York,  
in the Year 1811

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1811

ACTS  
OF THE  
*Ch. in America*  
PARTICULAR SYNOD  
OF NEW-YORK,  
*IN THE YEAR 1811.*

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GEORGE FORMAN, PRINTER, 178 GREENWICH-STREET.

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RESOLVED, *That the Stated Clerk cause One Hundred Copies of the Acts of this Synod to be printed, and distributed proportionally among the respective Classes belonging to this Body.*

**T**HE Particular Synod of New-York, met according to adjournment, in the city of New-York, on Tuesday the 7th day of May, 1811.

## FORMATION OF THE SYNOD.

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### ARTICLE 1.

#### OPENING OF THE SYNOD.

The President of the last ordinary session being absent, the Synod was opened with prayer by the Vice-President.

### ARTICLE 2.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT.

From the credentials produced, it appeared that the following persons were duly delegated as members, and took their seats accordingly.

##### FROM THE CLASSIS OF NEW-YORK.

Rev. *Peter Lowe*,      Rev. *John Schureman*.

##### ELDERS.

*Elias Hubbard*,      *Anthony Post*.

##### FROM THE CLASSIS OF BERGEN.

Rev. *John Duryea*,      Rev. *Peter Stryker*.

##### FROM THE CLASSIS OF PARAMUS.

Rev. *Nicholas Lansing*,    Rev. *Wilhelmus Eltinge*.

##### ELDERS.

*Abraham P. Blauvelt*,    *Jacob Banta*.

FROM THE CLASSIS OF BRUNSWICK.

*Rev. Dr. Ira Condict, Rev. Cornelius T. Demarest.*

ELDERS.

*Peter Voorhees, Cornelius Messler.*

FROM THE CLASSIS OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

*Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook,  
Rev. Andrew N. Kittle.*

ELDERS.

*Cornelius R. Van Wyck, Shibboleth Bogardus.*

ARTICLE 3.

MODERATORS.

The Rev. Mr. Schureman was chosen President, the Rev. Mr. Lowe, Vice-President; and the Rev. Messrs. Kittle and Eltinge, Clerks.

ARTICLE 4.

DELEGATES FROM THE PARTICULAR  
SYNOD OF ALBANY.

The Rev. Messrs. Jacob Sickles and John Gosman, with the Elder, Mr. Abraham Hoffman, were received as corresponding members from the Synod of Albany.

ARTICLE 5.

ADVISORY MEMBERS.

The Rev. Dr. Gerardus A. Kuypers, and the Rev. Messrs. Bork, Rowan, Brodhead, Cornelison, Van Pelt, and Hardenbergh, were received as advisory members.

The following question was decided in the negative :

Have the advisory members a right to speak on the resolutions before Synod, without being asked by the chair?

#### ARTICLE 6.

#### READING OF MINUTES.

The minutes of the last ordinary session of this Synod were read, together with the minutes of the last Synod of Albany.

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### ACTS OF THE SYNOD.

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#### ARTICLE 1.

#### ORDERS AND RULES.

These were read.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Rev. Messrs. Stryker and Eltinge, with the Elder, Mr. Post, were appointed a committee on the professorate.

The Rev. Messrs. Lowe and Kittle, with the Elder, Mr. Hubbard, were appointed a committee on prevailing sins.

The Rev. Messrs. Lansing and Westbrook, with the Elder, Mr. Van Wyck, were appointed a committee on missions.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, p. m. Closed with prayer.

TUESDAY, 3 o'clock, p. m.

Opened with prayer.

#### ARTICLE 2.

#### GENERAL SYNOD.

Under this lemma, nothing occurred.

## ARTICLE 3.

## SYNOD OF ALBANY.

Information being received from the corresponding members of the Synod of Albany, with regard to the distressed state of the Rev. Petrus Van Vlierden, Synod resolved, That it be recommended to the several consistories under the jurisdiction of this body, to make a collection in behalf of said brother, and forward the same to Col. Bruyn, of Kingston, for that purpose.

## ARTICLE 4.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The committee on this lemma reported, That in consequence of the unsettled state of Europe, the correspondence with the Synod of North Holland, continued to be interrupted.

## ARTICLE 5.

## CLASSICAL REPORTS.

The Classis of New-York reported as follows :

The North-West Church has 230 members in full communion, and 125 catechumens.

The Church of Greenwich has 78 families. Total of the congregation, 352. Members received since the last report on confession of their faith, 12; by certificate, 6; dismissed, 2. Total now in communion, 73—2 adults and 8 infants baptized.

The Church of Bloomingdale has received one member into full communion since the last report. Total now in communion, 24. No adults and 12 infants baptized.

The Church of Courtland-Town, has received, during the last year, 12 members. Total now in communion, 34. No adults and 12 infants baptized.

The Church of Flatbush has 124 families. Total of the congregation, 1159. Received on confession since the last report, 7; died, 3. Total now in communion, 90. No adults and 17 infants baptized.

The Church of Flatlands has 62 families. Total of the congregation, 520. Received on confession since the last report, 5; died, 2. Total now in communion, 46—1 adult and two infants baptized.

The Church of Newtown has 79 families. Total of the congregation, 427. Received on confession since the last report, 4. Total now in communion, 76.

The Church of Jamaica has 107 families. Total of the congregation, 513. Total number of communicants, 56; died, 1—1 adult baptized.

The Church of Success has 54 families. Total of the congregation, 254. Received on confession since the last report, 3. Total now in communion, 49—2 adults and 10 infants baptized.

The Church of Oyster-Bay has 66 families. Total of the congregation, 313. Received on confession since the last report, 3. Total now in communion, 50. No adults and 20 infants baptized.

The Churches of New-York, Haerlem, Fordham, Tarry-Town, Staten-Island, Brooklyn, New-Utrecht, Gravesend, and Bushwick, submitted no statistical tables.

The Classis farther reported,

1. That the Gospel is preached in its purity ; the Heidelberg Catechism regularly explained ; Church discipline faithfully exercised ; the youth catechised and instructed in the principles of the Christian religion.

2. That the candidate, Mr. Abraham Hoffman, had been ordained to the ministry of the Word, and installed Pastor of the Congregation of Courtland-Town.

3. That they have two candidates under their care, viz. Messrs. Gilbert R. Livingston and John Hendricks.

4. And that although they know of no special effusion of the Spirit of God on our Churches, yet the external attention to divine ordinances is increasing ; and therefore have reason to hope, that while the means of grace are attended to, sinners will obtain the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls.

5. That they have enjoined it on those consistories which have not presented their annual reports, to prepare one by the next meeting of the Classis in April, 1812.

The Classis of Bergen reported,

1. That with regard to the injunction of General Synod, on the subject of a statistical account of the churches within their bounds, having come to hand through the medium of the Particular Synod at so late a date, it was impossible to carry it into effect before the present meeting ; and since another stated

meeting of the Particular Synod, and also of the Classis, will occur before that of the General Synod, it was earnestly enjoined on the several congregations belonging to this Classis, to have said tables prepared at the next ordinary meeting.

2. That they have installed the Rev. Peter Stryker Pastor of the congregations of Belleville, and Stone-House Plains.

3. That they have at present five vacancies within their bounds, viz. Preakness, Boontown, Pompton, Ponds, and Fairfield; and one Minister without a charge—the Rev. John Duryea.

4. That the doctrines of the Gospel are preached; the Heidelberg Catechism explained; orders and morals attended to; and that the word and ordinances, though faithfully administered, are not accompanied with that practice and experience of religion they could wish, for the prosperity of our Zion.

The Classis of Paramus reported as follows:

The Church of Hackensack has 100 families.—Total of the congregation, 459. Members received on confession of their faith, 2; by certificate, 1; suspended, none; died 2. Total now in communion, 144—1 adult and 27 infants baptized. Vital religion not so lively as formerly, but considerably conspicuous.

The Church of Chralenburgh has 117 families. Total of the congregation, 548. Members received on confession of their faith, 1; by certificate, 11; dismissed, 3; suspended, 4; excommunicated, 2;

died, 8. Total now in communion, 163. No adults, and 19 infants baptized. Vital religion not so lively as formerly, but still considerably attended to.

The Church of Aquackenunck has 192 families. Total of the congregation, 1062. No members received, dismissed, nor died, since the last report; but 2 suspended. Total now in communion, 94. No adults, and 52 infants baptized.

The Church of Tappan has 172 families. Total of the congregation, 801. Members received on confession of their faith, 6; by certificate, 2; dismissed, 6; suspended, none; died, 3. Total now in communion, 234—1 adult, and 42 infants baptized. They have reason to be thankful that their flock continues under the droppings of the sanctuary.

The Church of Ramapough has 150 families.—Total of the congregation, 837. Members received on confession of their faith, 3; by certificate, 3; dismissed and suspended, none; died, 2. Total now in communion, 69—No adults, and 39 infants baptized. Vital religion appears in a languid state: luke-warmness and indifference to the things that appertain to their eternal peace, seem to have spread their baneful influence over the minds of sinners, and even the generality of professors, whose walk and conversation favours too much the course of this world. Yet amidst these deplorable circumstances, we have cause of gratitude, that a small remnant is left, who exhibit good evidences of the

power of godliness on their minds, and whose conversation savours the things of God.

The Church at Paramus stated, that, at the time of the settlement of our present Minister (1799) there were 165 members in full communion, of which 42 have died, 3 dismissed, and 2 suspended. That during his twelve years residence, 397 members have been received into the church ; 65 adults baptized ; of which number 13 have died, 45 dismissed, and 22 suspended ; 12 for heresy, and 10 for mal-conduct. The church at present has 300 families. Total of the congregation, 2000. Members received on confession of their faith, 12 ; by certificate, 2 ; dismissed, 6 ; suspended, 3 ; died, 4. Total now in communion, 431—2 adults and 50 infants baptized.

The Consistory, although earnestly desirous to be blessed with times of more refreshing from the presence of the Lord, yet are sensible that they ought not to despise the day of small things ; because, though the shower has passed over, their Society still continues under the droppings of the Spirit.

From the Churches of Kakejat, Totawa, and Warwick, no statistical accounts were received.

The Classis further reported,

1. That they have installed the Rev. James Demarest Pastor of the congregations of Ramapough, and West New-Hempstead.
2. That they have dismissed the candidate, Mr. Abraham Hoffman, upon his having accepted a call from the church of Courtland-Town, and removed within the bounds of the Classis of New-York.

3. That they have at present under their care one vacant congregation, viz. Warwick ; one candidate, Mr. Samuel Bogert ; and one minister without a charge, namely, the Rev. John Demarest.

4. That the Gospel is preached in its purity ; the Heidelberg catechism explained ; the youth instructed ; family visitation performed ; discipline generally attended to ; and that most of their congregations continue under the droppings of the Spirit.

The Classis of New-Brunswick reported,

1. That there are at present seven vacant congregations within their bounds, viz. Hillsborough, Smithfield, Walpeck, Minising, Mehakkamack, Clove, and Canawago ; and three ministers without pastoral charges, viz. Rev. Messrs. Van Buncoten, Van Harlingen, and Van Nest.

2. That the Rev. John L. Zabriskie has accepted a call from the congregation of Hillsborough, but has not yet removed thither : that the Classis have appointed the Rev. Mr. Cannon to instal him in said congregation, when the Rev. Mr. Zabriskie shall have removed, and shall request the same.

3. That the Rev. Mr. Force is still continued as a supply in the congregation of Walpeck.

4. That the Heidelberg Catechism is regularly explained, and church discipline exercised : that in all the congregations under their care, there is a regular and respectful attendance on the administration of the word ; and in most of them a greater or less number of individuals under awakenings and

a serious concern about their salvation, and considerable additions to the communion of the church.

5. That the Classis feel themselves highly gratified in stating, that the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston has accepted the call to the professorship of Theology in Queen's College, has removed to New-Brunswick, and entered upon the duties of his office.

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The report of the Classis of Poughkeepsie was received, but afterwards mislaid, and therefore could not be inserted in the synodical minutes.

#### ARTICLE 6.

#### CLASSICAL APPEALS.

None.

#### ARTICLE 7.

#### CLASSICAL REFERENCES.

The Classis of Paramus submitted the following question to be forwarded through the medium of this Synod, to the General Synod for their decision, viz. "Are adult persons, living within the bounds of a congregation, who have been initiated by the ordinance of baptism in infancy, but who are not members in full communion, to be considered as subjects of discipline, and dealt with as such?"

The following propositions were submitted to the consideration and decision of this Synod by the delegates of the Classis of Poughkeepsie:

1. That no infants, but the children of those parents, one of whom at least is a member of the church in full communion, shall be admitted to baptism.

2. That some effectual and decisive measure be adopted to discipline those persons who have been admitted into the church in infancy by baptism, and who lead irregular lives.

3. That some effectual and decisive measure be adopted to oblige parents to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

4. That persons offering themselves for church membership, be strictly examined as to their knowledge of systematic, practical, and experimental religion; and that none be admitted who cannot give satisfaction in such examination; and that it be furthermore required from those who are about to be admitted to communion, to observe secret and family devotion.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Condict, Rev. Mr. Eltinge, with the Elder, Mr. Abraham Voorhees, be a committee to report *sedente synodi* on said propositions, who submitted the following report, which was adopted.

That in their opinion, the ground on which infants are to be admitted to the ordinance of baptism, having lately been fully discussed and decided by the General Synod, the first resolution cannot with propriety be taken up, much less adopted by this Synod: that the evils and difficulties upon this subject, evidently great, arise from a lamentable laxness of discipline, and that a strict compliance with the injunctions and directions of General Synod upon this subject, will, perhaps, be the best remedy that we can at present attempt to apply.

That the second resolution which respects the exercise of discipline toward baptized persons who have not been admitted to full communion, cannot at present with propriety be discussed or adopted, as a question embracing this subject has been referred through the medium of this Synod to the General Synod, and now awaits the decision of the latter.

That with respect to the third and fourth proposed resolutions, the existing regulations of our church, are, as your committee conceives, sufficient to enable every consistory to obtain, as far as may be, the desirable ends in view; and that nothing farther is incumbent on this Synod with relation to these subjects, unless it be to exhort those ministers and consistories, who are negligent in these particulars, to the faithful discharge of the duties which are already required of them.

#### ARTICLE 8.

#### CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Nothing occurred under this lemma.

#### ARTICLE 9.

#### DOCTRINES AND MORALS.

Under this lemma, nothing occurred.

#### ARTICLE 10.

#### CUSTOMS AND USUAGES.

This lemma is attended to.

#### ARTICLE 11.

#### SCHOOLS AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

Upon enquiry from the Chair, it appeared that the plan recommended by the General Synod of

1809, had been adopted by some of the classes composing this Synod. Adjourned until to-morrow, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Closed with prayer.

**WEDNESDAY, 10 o'clock, A. M.**

Opened with prayer.

**ARTICLE 12.**

**PROFESSORATE.**

The committee on this lemma brought in the following report, which was accepted.

That the permanent Professor having removed to New-Brunswick, opened the Theological school; and having at present five students under his care, your committee deem it highly important that Synod should enquire whether the churches in the state of New-York have attended to the collection for the erection of the Professoral Hall, and urge the attention of the delinquents to this subject.

Resolved, That the classes under the jurisdiction of this Synod enjoin it on those consistories which have not yet made collections for the Professoral Hall, to attend to the injunction of Synod on this subject without delay.

**ARTICLE 13.**

**STUDENTS IN THEOLOGY.**

This lemma is complied with.

**ARTICLE 14.**

**STRICT EXAMINATIONS.**

Ordered, That the injunction of Synod on this subject be strictly attended to.

## ARTICLE 15.

**SUBSCRIBING OF THE FORMULA.**

This lemma is attended to.

## ARTICLE 16.

**CHURCH VISITATION.**

The substitute for church visitation, recommended by the Synod, has been adopted, and is acted upon by all the Classes, excepting the Classis of Poughkeepsie, which had not attended to it for want of information on the subject; which information was requested from Synod, and granted.

## ARTICLE 17.

**PREVAILING SINS.**

The committee on this lemma brought in the following report, which was accepted.

That so far as they can gather from the representation of the churches, the state of morals and the prevalence of sins, differ very little from the last reports of Synod on this subject. We have still abundant reason to mourn the progress of practical infidelity, and of immoral habits, which continue to destroy the beauty of our Zion, and grieve the hearts of her children.

Your committee deem it unnecessary to enter into a particular detail of those sins which continue to prevail: suffice it to say, they are such as call loudly and imperiously for the active exertions of every individual of this Body, and every friend to religion and human happiness. We do therefore beg leave to suggest,

1. That the members of this Synod be respectfully exhorted to enforce every laudable mean of counteracting and suppressing vice and immorality which may prevail within their sphere of action.

2. That every effort be used to excite magistrates, and influential members of society by their example and influence, to suppress and discountenance the practices of iniquity.

Finally : We hope and pray that the Great Jehovah, who is the guardian of his church and people, will hear their prayers, in wrath remember mercy, and hasten on the glorious day when the kingdom of satan shall be destroyed, and the kingdom of the Redeemer rise upon its ruins.

#### ARTICLE 18.

#### MISSIONS.

The committee on Missions reported as follows :

That they have no documents before them so as to present any thing concerning the Missionary business at all interesting to the Synod ; except a letter from John N. Bleeker, to the Ministers and Elders of the Particular Synod, enclosing an account of the receipts and expenditures of the committee of Missions between the 25th of April, 1810, and 24th April, 1811—From which it appears, that there is a balance of 387 dollars 44 cents due the committee.

Your committee rejoice that something considerable has been done already in the Missionary business. And as it is indispensably necessary that the

Missionary fund be regularly replenished by the contributions of our congregations, they would recommend, together with the injunctions upon congregations to make yearly collections, the publication of such parts of the Missionary transactions of our church as will give the congregations a better view of the subject: this will make the delinquent congregations acquainted with the nature of this business, and show them what other congregations have done. Without this your committee are apprehensive that any call upon several congregations for collections will be in vain.

Resolved, That the Synod deem the reasons assigned by the Classis of Poughkeepsie for discontinuing their annual Missionary collections to be unsatisfactory, and that they therefore be enjoined to renew them immediately.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, p. m.

Closed with prayer.

**WEDNESDAY, 3 o'clock, p. m.**

Opened with prayer.

#### ARTICLE 19.

#### WIDOWS' FUND.

Resolved, That the committee on this lemma be served with a synodical notice to attend to the object of their commission; and that the Rev. Dr. Kuypers, and the Elder, Mr. Post, be added to said committee.

## ARTICLE 20.

## SYNODICAL INJUNCTIONS.

Upon enquiry from the Chair, it appeared that the Classes of Paramus and Poughkeepsie had attended to the injunction of this Synod in regard to the new plan for organizing the General Synod, recommended in their session of 1809, and approved of the same.

The Classes of New-York, Bergen, and New-Brunswick, which had not, for various reasons, attended to the injunction of Synod on this subject, were directed to report their opinion at the next ordinary session of this Synod.

## ARTICLE 21.

## DEPUTATI SYNODI.

The following persons were appointed Deputati Synodi :

## FOR THE CLASSIS OF NEW-YORK.

- Rev. *Thomas G. Smith*, Primarius.  
Rev. *Stephen N. Rowan*, Secundus.

## FOR THE CLASSIS OF BERGEN.

- Rev. *Henry Polhemus*, Primarius.  
Rev. *John Duryea*, Secundus.

## FOR THE CLASSIS OF PARAMUS.

- Rev. *James Demarest*, Primarius.  
Rev. *Wilhelmus Eltinge*, Secundus.

## FOR THE CLASSIS OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

- Rev. *Cornelius T. Demarest*, Primarius.  
Rev. *Peter Labagh*, Secundus.

FOR THE CLASSIS OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

Rev. *Cornelius C. Cuyler*, Primarius.

Rev. *Andrew N. Kittle*, Secundus.

ARTICLE 22.

PARTICULARIA.

The following communication was laid before the Synod from the Classis of Paramus :

Resolved, That the delegates of the consistory of Paramus to the Classis of Paramus, be instructed to request the said Classis to forward to the Particular Synod of New-York, at their next session in May, a request by their delegates to said Synod, requesting them to devise some general form of petition to be recommended to, and circulated for subscription throughout the Dutch congregations in the states of New-Jersey and New-York, and to be forwarded to the Legislatures of said states, praying for an amendment to the law for granting licences to inn-keepers, and for affixing a penalty on all inn-holders, who shall allow frolicking to be carried on in their taverns or out-houses ; and that it be suggested to the Particular Synod whether it would not be advisable to solicit the concurrence of other Christian churches ?—Classis resolved, That said request be granted, and that the delegates to Particular Synod attend to the same.

Synod resolved, That the above communication be forwarded by their delegates to the General Synod.

## ARTICLE 23.

## QUESTORATE.

The Questor laid upon the table a statement of his accounts, from which it appeared, that there is in his hands a balance of 166 dollars 22 cents in favour of the missionary fund ; and a balance of 15 dollars 53 cents in favour of the contingent fund.

The Stated Clerk and Door-keeper, presented their accounts, which were ordered to be paid.

Ordered, That the sum of 10 dollars each, be paid to the Rev. Messrs. Rowan, Cuyler, and Veder ; and the Elders, Messrs. Schenck and Ham, for defraying their expences in attending the Particular Synod of Albany.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk, Questor, and Door-keeper, be continued in their respective offices.

Resolved moreover, That the Stated Clerk cause one hundred copies of the Acts of this Synod to be printed, and proportionally distributed among the respective classes composing this Body.

## ARTICLE 24.

## DELEGATES TO GENERAL SYNOD.

Nothing occurred under this lemma.

## ARTICLE 25.

## DELEGATES TO THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. John Duryea, and Andrew N. Kittle ; with the Elders, Messrs. Elias Hubbard, and Anthony Post, be delegated to

represent this Synod in the next Particular Synod of Albany.

#### ARTICLE 26.

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATES.

Resolved, That our delegates to the next General Synod be instructed to obtain from that Body, the printing of all those Rules and Church Orders, which have been adopted since the year 1792; and the forwarding them when printed to all the churches under their care.

And also, That they request said Synod to cause such parts of the proceedings of the committee of Missions to be made public, as may be necessary to inform the Church in general of the state of our missionary business.

#### ARTICLE 27.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Resolved, That the next ordinary meeting of this Synod be held in the city of New-York, on the first Tuesday in May, 1812.

#### CLOSE OF THE SYNOD.

##### RESUMPTION AND CLOSE.

The minutes being read and approved, the Synod was concluded with prayer by the President.

*JOHN SCHUREMAN*, President.

*PETER LOWE*, Vice-President.

*ANDREW N. KITTLE*, }  
*WILHELMUS ELTINGE*, } Clerks.

(A TRUE COPY.)

*Attest,*

*GERARDUS A. KUYPERS,*

Stated Clerk.

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## *ERRATA.*

Page 6, 4th line from top—for *with regard to, &c.* read *of.*

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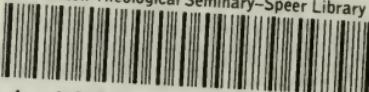
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