

THE PRINCIPAL  
ACTS  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
*Free Church of Scotland*  
1900 – 1909

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
THE MOUND

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MAY XXIV., MDCCCC (1900)

**CLASS I. - ACTS OF LEGISLATION.**

**I. - Anent Union with the United Presbyterian Church (No. 1 of Class I.) Edinburgh,  
31st May 1900. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly, with consent of a majority of Presbyteries, enact and ordain as follows :-

Whereas the General Assembly of 1895 declared their sense of the obligation lying on this Church to aim at the general re-union of Scottish Presbyterians, and in particular, to embrace the earliest fitting opportunity of accomplishing Union with the United Presbyterian Church, and appointed a Committee to consider the subject and to report; whereas, the Assembly of 1896 welcomed a communication from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, expressing their readiness to enter into Union on the ground of the Standards as at present accepted by the Churches, and re-appointed their Committee to consider this question ; whereas, the Assembly of 1897 instructed the Committee to consider and confer with a similar Committee of the United Presbyterian Synod regarding the practical questions which bear on incorporating union ; whereas the said Committee submitted to the Assembly of 1898 a joint report of both Committees, setting forth Questions and Formula proposed to be adopted in a United Church, which report was approved by the Assembly and sent down to Presbyteries that they might consider it and send up to the Committee suggestions, as they might think fit; whereas, while Presbyteries were largely of one mind in approving of said Questions and Formula, suggestions were sent up by some of them which have been considered by the Committee, and the Questions and Formula as now adjusted, have been reported to this Assembly and approved; whereas, further, the Committee, in conference with the Committee of the United Presbyterian Church, have considered the arrangements necessary to be made in harmonising the methods of the two Churches, so far as that is needful, with a view to inaugurate the orderly and harmonious action of a United Church, and have presented detailed proposals for that purpose, which have been sent down to Presbyteries for suggestions, and after consideration of suggestions sent up have been adjusted by the Committee, reported to this Assembly and approved, which proposals have respect; First, to the Provision for the Ministry; Second, to the Training of the Ministry; Third, to Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund; Fourth, to the Constitution of the General Assembly ; Fifth, to Rules and Forms of Procedure ; Sixth, to Administration of Missions ; Seventh, to arrangements for Home Work ; Eighth, to Government Grants to Training Colleges and Mission Schools - all as set forth in Appendix to the Report of the Committee on Relations with the United Presbyterian Church, herewith sent down ; whereas, while according to these proposals, some matters need not be made matter of legislation previous to union, yet many require to be legislatively dealt with in terms of the said proposals ; whereas, further, proposals in regard to rearrangement of Presbyteries and Synods have been sent to Presbyteries, and suggestions have been received, which require to be further considered by the Committee, and in regard to which the Committee have been directed to report finally to next Assembly; and whereas, none of these proposals is in any respect inconsistent with the Standards of this Church, with its constitutional law and practice, or with the liberty of its members ; whereas also an extract minute from the proceedings of the recent meeting of the United Presbyterian Synod has been laid upon the table, from which it appears that the said Synod have taken all steps necessary according to their rules of procedure with a view to enable them at any future meeting to enter into Union on the terms proposed ; but whereas the terms of a Uniting Act, comprehending certain declarations, have not yet been finally adjusted: Therefore, the General Assembly, with consent of a majority of Presbyteries, hereby enact and ordain, that the plan of Union set forth in the proposals hereinbefore referred to, including the rearrangement of Presbyteries and Synods as that may be approved by next or any subsequent Assembly, is authorised and accepted by this Church, with a view to an incorporative Union with the United Presbyterian Church, as a plan to come into operation, as soon as a Uniting Act shall have been passed by the General Assembly, with consent of a majority of the Presbyteries of the Church, it being understood that the United Church may

be declared to consist of the Free Church of Scotland as existing previously to the Union, and the United Presbyterian Church as existing previously to the Union, under such common designation as may be agreed upon; and that secondary details may be adjusted as to that Assembly may seem meet.

**CLASS II. - ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH.**

**II. - Address to Her Majesty with Reference to the Anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday (No. 2 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 26th May 1900. Sess. 4.**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,-

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened, desire, on this, the recurrence of your Majesty's Birthday, to renew the expression of our devoted loyalty. We share with all ranks, classes and religious denominations of your people throughout Great Britain, as well as with all those in Your Majesty's widespread Empire, the profound attachment which has long been shown to Your Majesty's Throne, person and family; and each succeeding year has only deepened and strengthened this loyal attachment. While we lament the unhappy war which now desolates South Africa, and which has brought sorrow to so many hearts and darkened so many homes within the wide limits of the British Empire, we offer our respectful congratulations on the success which has attended the operations of Your Majesty's forces in that country. We also pray that their efforts may, through the favour of Almighty God, speedily be crowned with complete success and that a satisfactory and settled peace, with equal rights to all civilised men, and justice to the native races may be the result of this great struggle. We have noticed with thankfulness Your Majesty's sympathy, and womanly pity shown to the sick and wounded who have returned from the battlefields of South Africa. We offer our sincere and hearty' thanks to Almighty God that He has been pleased to grant Your Majesty length of days beyond the usual limit of human life ; and we pray that He may still add to those days, and grant to Your Majesty, in health, and in wealth of all earthly good and heavenly blessing, long to rule over us ; and that your people may still continue to enjoy those benefits which they have highly valued in the past, and which have marked Your Majesty's long and beneficent reign.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful Subjects,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, IN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENEED.

Signed in Name and by Appointment of The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland at Edinburgh, the 26th day of May 1900 years, by

WALTER ROSS TAYLOR, D.D., Moderator.

**III. - Anent Payment of Assembly Expenses (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1900. Sess. 2.**

The General Assembly hereby amend the Regulations for payment of Assembly expenses as follows :-

Congregations contributing less than £60 to the Sustentation Fund hitherto charged 7s. 6d. to be charged 8s. Congregations contributing £60 and under £150 hitherto charged 10s. to be charged 11s. Congregations contributing £150 and under £300 hitherto charged £1 to be charged £1, 2s. 6d. Congregations contributing £300 and under £500 - £1, 5s. Congregations contributing £500 or above - £1, 10s.

**IV. - Anent Sustentation Fund (No 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 30th May 1900. Sess. 10.**

The Assembly declare the Dividend payable to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend, who are entitled to a full Dividend, to be at the rate of £160 for the past year. Further, the Assembly declare an additional Dividend of £7 to each Minister in sole charge of a Congregation, and to Junior Colleagues, as at 15th May current. The Assembly further resolve that the Surplus which still remains be divided this year according to the following regulations

1. The Surplus shall be divided among all the congregations where the ministerial income from all sources is under £200, on the understanding that this grant shall not augment any ministerial income beyond £200.
2. In cases where there is no manse, allowance shall be made for the value of a manse, generally on the basis stated in the Assembly's Supplement Regulations, when estimating ministerial income.
3. As the Surplus to be apportioned may be looked on as an addition to the past year's income of the several recipients, ministers who have received their share of the Sustentation Fund for only a portion of the year will receive a proportional share of the Surplus.
4. The share of the Extra Dividend accruing to ministers in receipt of grants from the Supplementary Sustentation Fund shall not affect the amount of these grants so long as their ministerial income, apart from the Extra Dividend and allowance for house rent, is under £150.

The Assembly observe with much gratification that there is again a marked increase in the amount contributed to the Fund, and that this increase has arisen from Associations. They record their thankfulness to God that the deepened and extended interest in the Fund, which appeared during two previous years, continues to be manifested, and they also record their sense of obligation to the Organisation Sub-Committee for its wise and vigilant efforts, and to those brethren who have carried on the work of visitation. At the same time they renew their warmest thanks to the Treasurers, Deacons and Collectors, on whose regular and persevering work the welfare of the Fund from year to year depends; and they commend the interests of the Fund with full confidence to their continued care. The Assembly approve of the proposal to carry on systematically the work of visiting Presbyteries, Deacons' Courts and

Congregations, in the interest of the Fund, and that every Congregation be visited at least once in the course of five years. They empower the Committee to hold special visitations wherever the circumstances appear to require special action. The Assembly approve of the proposed Regulations anent Supplementary Fund Grants, and anent contributions from Territorial and Church Extension Charges. Further, the Assembly approve of the Committee's recommendation that the present Convener be re-appointed for a further term of years.

**V. - Anent Platform of Equal Dividend (No. 4 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 30th. May 1900. Sess. 10.**

The Assembly admit to the Platform of the Equal Dividend the Congregations of Bank (Cumnock), Garve, Oban (Argyll Square), Glasgow (Somerville), Glenboig, and Carradale and Skipness.

**VI. - Anent Collections (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 5th June 1900. Sess. 19.**

The General Assembly resolve to place on record their gratitude to God for the varied opportunities of service which in His Providence have been opened up to this Church. Every year the fields of the Church's operations are being extended, and new fields are calling for labour, so that there is urgent need for increased effort and greater liberality. The General Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made during the ensuing five months in all the Congregations of the Free Church of Scotland, viz.

1. On the Third Sabbath of June . . Colonies. 2. On the Third Sabbath of September . Building Funds. 3. On the Third Sabbath of October . . Highlands.

Further, the General Assembly appoint that a Collection shall be made for Foreign Missions on the Third Sabbath of July in every Congregation which has no Association in aid of that Scheme. Also, the General Assembly strongly recommend that all our people should contribute to the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Women's Jewish Missionary Association, and that opportunity be afforded them for so doing, either by a Special Collection, or by any other means that may be considered most suitable. In appointing these collections, and commending them to the liberality of every member of the Church, the General Assembly exhort their people to acquaint themselves with the purposes and operations of the various Missions and Agencies for which their freewill offerings are asked, so that they may give of their means, as God has prospered them, with intelligent interest, with prayerful sympathy, and with enlightened liberality ; and further, the Assembly instruct all ministers, or probationers supplying vacancies, in intimating these collections on the Sabbath preceding that on which the collection is to be made, to direct the attention of the people to the special purposes of these Schemes, and to ask of them their liberal support. The General Assembly enjoin that the collections be made in every case on the appointed days, or, when that is impossible, on the most convenient day immediately preceding or succeeding the day appointed, and that the opportunity and privilege of subscribing to these collections should in no circumstances be restricted or withheld from the people. Further, the General Assembly strongly recommend that these collections should be kept separate from the ordinary Congregational offerings, and that, for the purpose of affording every worshipper an opportunity of contributing to each of these important Schemes of the Church, the collections for them should be taken up from pew to pew before the conclusion of the service, or in any

other distinctive way as Deacons' Courts may find most convenient. The General Assembly appoint the foregoing portion of this Act to be read from the pulpit of every Congregation within the bounds of the Church on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof, or, where it is the Communion Sabbath, on the first Sabbath thereafter; and the Assembly recommend ministers on that occasion to draw the attention of their people to the duty of systematic giving. The General Assembly instruct the Conveners of Committees for whose objects collections are appointed, to state in the notices issued regarding the collections for the different schemes the approximate amount necessary for carrying on the work for the current year, and to issue the notices for the pews in sufficient time to permit of the collection being made, when necessary, on the Sabbath before that named above in this Act. Further, the Assembly instruct all Committees entrusted with the administration of the Schemes for which collections are appointed, within two months after the date fixed for each collection, to inquire into every case where such collection has not been made, and carefully to consider the reasons assigned for the omission. They further instruct the Committee to report to Presbyteries all cases in which no reply to their inquiries has been received, or in which the reply seems unsatisfactory; and they instruct Presbyteries to take up the cases reported to them, to inquire into the circumstances, and to report the result to the Committee concerned; and likewise enjoin the several Synods to take a particular account of the diligence of Presbyteries, and to record it in their Synod Records.

**VII. - Anent Appointing Commission Of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 5th June 1900. Sess. 20.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Dr. THOMAS SMITH, named by the Moderator :- TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty one or more of their number, where sixteen at the least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the fourth Wednesday of October, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any act or order of the Assembly; and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion; that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : In view of the approaching Union the Assembly empower the Commission to dispose of any proposals that may be made to facilitate its completion, and which it may be found desirable to deal with before the meeting of Assembly in October: And the Assembly declare that the said meeting in October shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to receive and finally dispose of all references, complaints, or appeals, arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church : And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to transmit all such cases to this Meeting in due time, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly : And the said Commission are hereby appointed, at each stated meeting, to hold a diet for receiving information on the progress of the Missionary Schemes of the Church, and imploring the Divine blessing thereon. And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the Act and Constitution of this Church, and

to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission. And for the better securing a quorum and attendance of members, the General Assembly prohibit the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and all other Presbyteries within fifty miles of Edinburgh, to meet on any of the days appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof. And the General Assembly appoint this their Commission, at the first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relating to the settlement of vacant churches as they can overtake.

**VIII. - Anent Appointing next Meeting of Assembly (No. 7 of Class II). Edinburgh, 5th. June 1900. Sess. 20.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 30th day of October 1900, at half-past Eleven o'clock forenoon.

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

OCTOBER XXX. MDCCCC. (1900)

CLASS II.- ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH.

**I. - Anent Standing Orders (No. 1 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 31st October 1900. Sess. 4**

It was moved, seconded, and agreed to, That Sections II., III., and IV., Section V., Sub-Section 1 (Paragraph 1), Sub-Sections 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14, Sub-Section 6 (Paragraphs 1 and 9), and Section VI. of the Standing Orders of Assembly, be suspended during the remainder of this General Assembly, and until the Assembly should otherwise resolve.

**II. - Anent Property in hands of General Trustees and Finance Committee (No. 2 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 31st October 1900. Sess. 4.**

It was moved, seconded, and agreed to, That the General Trustees and the Finance Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, as existing at the date of assemblage of the General Assembly of said Church which convened on 30th October 1900, be and are hereby instructed meantime to hold the Assembly Hall, College Buildings, and Offices of the Church and other buildings connected therewith, for the use of and subject to the directions of this General Assembly and its Commission, and that they be and are hereby interpellated from permitting the same to be used or enjoyed in any way by the United Free Church of Scotland, its General Assembly or others (unless in so far as expressly authorised by this Assembly), and in particular from making, or allowing to be made by others on their behalf, any structural alterations upon any of the said buildings.

**III. - Anent Property in hands of Congregational Trustees (No. 3 of Class II).  
Edinburgh, 31st October 1900. Sess. 4.**

It was moved, seconded and agreed to, That the Trustees in whom any properties, congregational or other, stood vested for the Free Church of Scotland or congregations in connection therewith under deed in form of the Model Trust Deed or similar form, as at the date of assemblage of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, convened to meet at Edinburgh on the 30th October 1900, be appointed to continue to hold the same for behoof of the Free Church of Scotland, and be interpellated from parting with the same to any parties appointed as Trustees by the United Free Church or on its behalf, and such Trustees are further appointed to hold the same for the uses of the Free Church of Scotland, subject to the directions of this General Assembly or its Commission ; with permission, however, to such Trustees to make such arrangements (subject to the orders of the Assembly and its Commission) as to the use of the properties held by them respectively by Members adhering either to this Church or to the United Free Church, as the particular circumstances of each case may seem to demand, until the further orders of this Assembly.

**IV. - Anent Appointment of Law and Advisory Committee (No. 4 of Class II).  
Edinburgh, 1st November 1900. Sess. 5.**

The Assembly took into consideration the arrangements rendered necessary by the proceedings referred to in the preceding Minutes, and after considerable discussion, it was moved, seconded, and agreed to, That the Assembly appoint the following, namely - The Reverend Colin A. Bannatyne, the Reverend J. D. M'Culloch (Convener), the Reverend J. K. Cameron, J. Hay Thorburn, A. MacNeilage, and W. Rounsfell Brown, as a Law and Advisory Committee, and empower the Committee to watch over all cases which may arise, and to take such steps as may seem to them advisable. The Assembly further authorise The Moderator, Clerk, and Members of Committee aforesaid, to take in name and on behalf of the Assembly or its Commission, or otherwise, all such steps as may be necessary by legal proceedings or otherwise for maintaining the whole interests of the Church with permission to the remnant Members of Assembly to conjoin themselves in the instance of any proceedings for their interests as Member of Assembly.

**V. - Appeal to the People of the Free Church (No. 5 of Class II). Edinburgh, 2nd  
November 1900. Sess. 6.**

To the people of the Free Church of Scotland. The earnest appeal of the Ministers and Elders at present convened in solemn Assembly. You are doubtless aware that a large number of the Members of the Assembly have withdrawn themselves from the Free Church, and have formed a new Church on a new basis, and under a new name. Such abandonment of an historic Church we deeply deplore, and cannot imitate. At all costs we are prepared to adhere to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the other Standards of the Church of 1843 as heretofore understood. And we affectionately appeal to you to join with us in our endeavour to maintain the ideal of the Church as the pillar and ground of the truth, the whole truth, as revealed by God in Holy Scripture, and of which so admirable a compend is exhibited in the Standards of our Church. For the guidance of those who are in difficulty at this trying time, we would point out it is the duty of our office-bearers not to recognise the jurisdiction of the new Church Courts which are being set up all over the land, and that they should lodge a

protest, forms of which will be forwarded on application. Members and adherents who adhere to us should resist any attempt made to enrol them under the flag of the new Church. Circumstances may vary in each special case, but the minority should ever realise that they belong to the Free Church of Scotland for the maintenance of whose distinctive principles the fabrics in which they worship were originally erected. Individual Members who are scattered over our large cities and country districts should not lift their certificates of Membership, but should intimate to the Minister or Session Clerk of the nearest congregation remaining faithful to the Free Church, that they adhere to the Free Church, even though they could seldom worship with that congregation, being necessitated by distance to worship elsewhere. Special attention must be given that collections, monthly and quarterly, be taken, as you have been accustomed to contribute, to the Sustentation Fund and other schemes of the Free Church of Scotland. In closing, we would appeal to you in the words of Dr. John Erskine: "Be valiant for the truth upon the earth; when truth falls in the street, resolve to fall with it, rather than renounce it. Hold fast the profession of your faith without wavering; contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." The Lord hath said, "Them who honour Me I will honour, and they who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."

**VI. - Anent appointing Commission Of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 2nd November 1900. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the Members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of the Reverend J. D. M'Culloch, nominated by the Moderator, to be a Commission of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be five or more of their number, whereof three at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the 5th day of December, at 12.30 o'clock afternoon, and thereafter on the 6th day of March, at the same hour, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above-mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them by and in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent as they will be answerable. In view of the disturbance to the Church occasioned by the withdrawal of a majority of Ministers and Elders of the Church to unite with another body, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church : And the Assembly declare that the said meetings in December and March shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all questions which may arise in connection with the matters foresaid: And said Commission are hereby specially empowered to increase the representation to next General Assembly, even to the extent of all the Ministers of the Church adhering thereto, and such representation of Elders as to the Commission may seem fit: As also to receive and finally dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church: And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meeting in March in due time, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly. And, in all their actings, the said Commission are to proceed in accordance with the Act and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all

their actings they shall be accountable to and censurable by the next General Assembly as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and Members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**VII. - Anent appointing next Meeting of Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 2nd November 1900. Sess. 6.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh on the 21st May 1901.

**VIII. - Notarial Protest (No. 8 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 2nd November 1900.**

Be known to all whom it may concern by this public Instrument of Protest, that on the 2nd day of November 1900 years, and in the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the sixty-fourth year, in presence of me, William Gunn, Notary Public, residing in Edinburgh, and of the witnesses after designed and hereto subscribing, appeared :- Colin Archibald Bannatyne, Minister of the Free Church of Culter, Biggar, who solemnly represented and set forth that on Wednesday, the 31st day of October 1900, at half-past eleven o'clock forenoon, he, accompanied by the Reverend John Kennedy Cameron, Minister of the Free Church of Scotland, Brodick; the Reverend William MacKinnon, Minister of the Free Church of Scotland, Gairloch; the Reverend Murdo M'Queen, Minister of the Free Church of Scotland, Kiltarn; Mr. Walter Rounsfell Brown, Elder, Glasgow; Mr. John Hay Thorburn, Elder, Leith; and others, Members of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, met and presented themselves at the entrance gate of the Free Church Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, and demanded admission for the purpose of conducting the business of the meeting pursuant to adjournment of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, and found the entrance gate to the said hall locked, and admission was there and then refused them: Therefore the said Colin Archibald Bannatyne, for himself and the said other Members of the General Assembly, protested against the said refusal of admission, and against all and every person or persons whom it shall or may concern: Whereupon and upon All and Sundry the premises, the said Colin Archibald Bannatyne asked and took Instruments in the hands of me, Notary Public. These things were so said and done at and within my writing-chambers, in number fifteen Queen Street, Edinburgh, between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock forenoon on the day, month, and year first above written, before and in presence of James Simpson, Solicitor Supreme Courts of Scotland, Edinburgh, and Steven Peters Leslie, Law Clerk, number fifteen Queen Street, Edinburgh, witnesses to the premises specially called and required, and hereto with me and with the said Colin Archibald Bannatyne subscribing.

Egi Cogitate,

James Simpson, Witness. WILLIAM GUNN,

S. P. Leslie, Witness. Notary Public. COLIN A. BANNATYNE.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MAY XXI. MDCCCXI. (1901)

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH.**

**I. - Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.). Edinburgh 24th May 1901. Sess. 6.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly, desire to express our sense of the overwhelming loss sustained by Your Majesty, the Royal Family, and the whole British Empire, in the death of our beloved Sovereign, Queen Victoria, an event which has called forth feelings of profound sorrow in every quarter of the globe. Full of years and honours, after a reign unequalled in our annals in respect of its duration, lustre, and prosperity, our late venerated Monarch has passed to her rest, and we take this opportunity of placing on record our high sense of the noble qualities, public and private, which adorned her long and illustrious career. The eminent wisdom and ability displayed by her late Majesty in the Government of her vast Empire, often in times of grave difficulty and danger, commanded universal admiration, whilst her many personal virtues, her great kindness of heart, and the tender and loving

sympathy with which she entered into the joys and sorrows of all classes of her subjects, endeared Queen Victoria to her people in a manner unparalleled in history. As Members of a Church of Christ, we would recall with special thankfulness to God her high Christian character, her simple and unaffected piety, and her loyal attachment to the great principles of the Protestant faith so essential to our national liberties and welfare, and by its firm adherence to which the illustrious House of Hanover has ever been honourably distinguished. Mourning deeply as we do the removal of a Sovereign so deservedly honoured and beloved, we desire at the same time humbly to express our congratulations on the occasion of Your Majesty's succession to the Crown of your ancestors, and to tender our loyal allegiance to Your Majesty's Throne and Person. In these congratulations we would also include our gracious Queen Alexandra, who has so long and so justly endeared herself to the people of these realms. Standing as we do on the historic position of the Church of Scotland in virtue of the Claim of Right and Protest of 1842 - 1843, we acknowledge with satisfaction Your Majesty's first act in subscribing to the Oath of Security as embodied in the Treaty of Union determined in 1707, whereby the true Protestant Religion and Presbyterian form of Church government are for ever settled in Scotland as also the declaration provided by the Bill of Rights taken by Your Majesty on your first meeting with Parliament. That it may please Almighty God, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice, to bestow upon Your Majesty every blessing, spiritual and temporal, that you may long be spared to reign over a loyal, prosperous, and United Empire, and that finally when this life has closed, you may receive a crown of glory in the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the earnest and heartfelt prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, dutiful, and obedient subjects,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Signed in our name, and by our appointment,

JAMES D. M'ULLOCH, Moderator

**II. - Anent Appointment of Committee on Public Questions (No. 2 of Class II).  
Edinburgh , 22nd May 1901. Sess. 2,**

The Assembly appoint a Committee on Public Questions as follows, namely :Mr. J. D. M'Culloch, Mr. C. A. Bannatyne, Mr. Donald MacLeod, Mr. John MacIver, Mr. Murdo Macqueen, Mr. Roderick Finlayson, Ministers; Mr. Archibald MacNeilage, Mr. J. Hay Thorburn, Mr. Jas. Coltart, Mr. W. Rounsfell Brown, Elders; Mr. M'Culloch, Convener; Mr. MacNeilage, Vice-Convener; with instructions to watch over the various matters referred to in the Overture, and any other questions bearing on public morality, the interests of Religion, the relation between Church and State, Romanism and Ritualism, the sanctification of the Sabbath, the cause of Temperance, Education, and whatever bears on the honour of the great Head of the Church, and the spiritual and moral well-being of the community, to take such action as may seem best fitted to further the great ends of a Christian Church in connection therewith, and to report to next General Assembly.

**III. - Anent Sustentation Fund and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (No. 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1901. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly approve of the Report, and thank the Committee especially the Convener. The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers on the platform of the Equal Dividend to be at the rate of £160 for the past year, exclusive of the premium of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which will be paid by the Committee from the balance still on hand. The Assembly instruct the Committee to hold the surplus in their hands as subject to any demand of the Commission of Assembly, at same time indicating that the necessity for an Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund is peculiarly a burden on the surplus. The Assembly instructs the Committee to assume the care of re-opening that Fund, and direct them to consider what means, in addition to the usual collection, are the best for that purpose. The Committee is authorised to report to the Committee of Assembly at any of its diets, and the Commission is authorised to consider such report with powers. The Assembly reappoints Mr. Colin A. Bannatyne to be Convener of the Committee, and appoints Mr. W. Rounsfell Brown to be Vice-Convener.

**IV. - Anent Foreign Missions (No. 4 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1901. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly receive and adopt the Report, thanking the Committee, and especially the Convener, who is re-appointed. The Assembly resolves to grant the sum of £90 as a contribution to the Mission of the United Original Secession Church at S,oni, India, and the sum of Twenty guineas as a contribution to the Zenana Mission at the same place. The Assembly further commend this excellent Mission, in its general and its Zenana branches, to the liberal concern of the people, and authorise the Committee to make a contribution thereto of all money received by it during the year, and not otherwise destined. The Assembly repeats its ever-deepening conviction of the claims of Israel on Christian gratitude, and its regret that recent events have severed the Church's more immediate connection with esteemed Missionaries and their familiar fields. It authorises the Committee to consider the propriety of devoting the money at its command to some other work among Jews ; at the same time urging congregations to devise liberal things towards Israel by heartily supporting what the Committee may recommend. The Assembly rejoices that new circumstances do not necessitate any change of attitude towards the Livingstonia Mission, and they urge upon the Committee to do its utmost to continue and to increase the Church's support of the work which is under the devoted care of Dr. Laws. The Assembly direct the Committee to pay special attention to the Youth of the Church in this connection, so as to increase their knowledge and evoke their zealous support.

**V. - Anent King's Protestant Declaration (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 23rd May 1901. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland views with concern, though not with surprise, the recent outcry for alteration on the terms of the Declaration of Adherence to the Protestant Reformed Religion required from the Sovereigns of these Realms on accession to the Throne; although veiled under the form of a protest against the use of plain words to express what was intended to be signified, the General Assembly is persuaded that the object aimed at is the entire removal of this constitutional guarantee of a Protestant Monarchy. The Assembly is gratified to find that the terms of the reference made by the House of Lords to a

select Committee save the efficacy of the Declaration, but the Assembly is of opinion that in all the circumstances the best way to secure this is to leave the Declaration unaltered. The General Assembly instructs its Committee on public questions to consider the report of the House of Lords Committee and the legislation, if any, that it may recommend. Further, the General Assembly direct a copy of this resolution to be forwarded to the Prime Minister.

**VI. - Anent Civil Actions (No. 6 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 23rd May 1901. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly having heard the Report of the Law and Advisory Committee on the various actions, at the instance of the General Assembly and other parties adhering to the Free Church of Scotland, with a view to declare and maintain and secure the civil interests of the Church, as also report of actions raised by the United Free Church and others against congregations adhering to the Free Church of Scotland affecting civil interests, approve generally of the proceedings taken by way of action and defence on the authority and advice of the Law and Advisory Committee. The General Assembly hereby re-appoint the Law and Advisory Committee, with power to add to their number. And without prejudice to the foresaid generality, the General Assembly hereby sanction and approve of the steps taken, and to be taken as aforesaid, in the following cases

BANNATYNE versus OVERTOUN.

Whiting Bay. Coll. Shiskine. Buccleuch and Greyfriars'. Edderton. Aultbea. Kinlochewe. Kyleakin. Snizort. Oban. Dornoch.

And in each of these actions, or in any further actions that, with approval of the Law and Advisory Committee, may yet be raised or defended, the General Assembly expressly authorise the parties suing or defending such action in the interest of the Free Church of Scotland or its congregations, to do so as with the express consent of the General Assembly.

**VII. - Anent appointment of Publications Committee (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 23rd May 1901. Sess. 5.**

The Assembly declare their appreciation of the manner in which the Record has been conducted, recognise its great usefulness throughout the country, and tender to the Editor their hearty thanks for the service thereby rendered to the cause of truth, and his able defence of the distinctive principles and testimony of the Free Church of Scotland. The Assembly take over the Record as a Church publication, and appoint the following as a Publications Committee :- Mr. C. A. Bannatyne, Mr. J. D. M'Culloch, Major Greig, Mr. A. MacNeilage; Mr. M'Culloch, Convener; charging them to give assistance to the Record. The Assembly recognises that the fullest editorial discretion rests with Mr. MacNeilage.

**VIII. - Anent Declaratory Act (No. 8 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1901. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly receives with sympathetic interest the Overtures from the Presbyteries of Dingwall and Chanonry, and from the Synods of Ross and Glenelg. Having regard to the questions raised in the Overtures, the Assembly remits them to a Committee, consisting of the Moderator, the Clerks, and Mr. W. Rounsfell Brown, to consider and to report to next Assembly what measures are best fitted to meet the purpose of the Overtures. Meanwhile, the

Assembly recalls that Act XII., 1892, anent the Confession of Faith, was passed by a former Assembly against certain distinct protests and dissents, the protection afforded by which protests and dissents is available to all who concur therein.

**IX. - Anent appointment of Committee on the Training of the Ministry (No. 9 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1901. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly, under a deep sense of the urgent importance of the special attention of the Church being directed to the training of the ministry and the many matters connected therewith, in the present circumstances of the Church requiring early attention, refer the whole subject to a Committee as follows - Messrs. C. A. Bannatyne, J. D. M'Culloch, J. K. Cameron, John Macleod, Murdo MacKenzie, Ministers; Messrs. J. Hay Thorburn, Archibald MacNeilage, W. Rounsfell Brown, Major Robert Greig, Elders; to consider and report to the Commission at any of its stated diets.

**X. - Anent Collections (No. 10 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1901. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly expresses its gratitude to God for the spirit of liberality which of His overruling Grace, has distinguished the last few months of an otherwise trying year. The Assembly appoints the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Free Church viz. :-

1. On the 3rd Sabbath of October - Highlands and Islands.
2. “ “ 3rd “ November - Aged and Infirm Ministers.
3. “ “ 3rd “ December - Jewish Mission,
4. “ “ 3rd “ February - Home Mission,

Further, the General Assembly appoints a Collection to be made for Foreign Missions, on the third Sabbath of July, in every Congregation which has no Association in aid of that Scheme. The Assembly desires to make it known that the moneys contributed for Foreign Missions will be given to the United Original Secession Church, as a contribution in aid of its general Mission and of its Zenana Mission, both at S,oni, India. That Mission is worthy of the warm support of the Free Church. The general Assembly is grateful for the opportunity which this Mission affords to the Church of continuing unbroken the devotion to Foreign Missions which has characterised the Free Church throughout her history. The duty of giving, as the Lord has prospered them, will become also a privilege in the hands of those members who diligently study the purposes and the work of the Agencies and Missions for which Collections are to be taken. Members are, therefore, urged to use all opportunities which the several Committees may offer for giving information about the different schemes. Above all, let there be much prayer for the Father's blessing on every contribution and every labour. The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made in every case on the appointed day, or, when that proves impossible, on the nearest convenient, either before or after the day appointed, and that the opportunity and privilege of subscribing be withheld from none of the people. Deacons' Courts are required to arrange for these Collections being kept separate from the ordinary Congregational offerings. The General Assembly appoint the foregoing portion of this Act to be read from the pulpit of every Congregation, within the bounds of the Church, on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof or, where it is the Communion Sabbath, on the first Sabbath thereafter; and the Assembly recommend Ministers on that Occasion to

draw the attention of their people to the duty of systematic giving.

**XI. - Anent appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1901. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Mr. D. M. Macalister, named by the Moderator - To be a Commission of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any five or more of their number, whereof three at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of present circumstances, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church ; and the Assembly declare that the said meetings in August, November, and March shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all questions which may arise ; And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and finally dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church; And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly) ; And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed in accordance with the Act and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all their actings they shall be accountable to and censurable by the next General Assembly as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XII. - Anent appointing next Meeting of Assembly (No. 12 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1901. Sess. 6.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh on the 20th May 1902, at 12 o'clock noon.

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OVERTURE - Anent Declaratory Act of 1892

THE PRINCIPLE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XX. MDCCCCII. (1902)

**CLASS II. - ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH.**

**I. - Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 Of Class II.). Edinburgh, 23rd May 1902.  
Sess. 7.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly, desire to record our fidelity to Your Majesty and Your Royal House, and to offer our sincere and humble prayer to Almighty God, who has in His good providence called Your Majesty to this sacred office, that Your Majesty's reign, so auspiciously begun, may be, under the blessing of God, a period as glorious and full of prosperity as that with which this country was so signally favoured under the will and beneficent reign of Your Majesty's revered and beloved Mother, our late gracious Queen Victoria. Especially in this year, which will be rendered ever memorable by the most solemn and significant ceremony of Your Majesty's Coronation, do we thank Almighty God, who has raised up around his people such pledges and safeguards for the national liberties, whereby the true Protestant Religion and Presbyterian form of Church government are for ever settled in Scotland, and again confirmed on Your Majesty's accession to the Throne. That it may

please Almighty God, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice, to bestow upon Your Majesty every blessing, spiritual and temporal, as also on our beloved Queen Alexandra, and all the members of Your Royal House, so that you may be long spared to reign over a loyal, prosperous, and United Empire, and that finally when this life has closed, your memory may live in the hearts of your people, and that you may receive a crown of glory in the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the earnest and heartfelt prayer of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful and obedient servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Signed in our name, and by our appointment,

D.M. MACALISTER, Moderator.

**II. - Anent Sustentation Fund and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund ( No. 2 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 21st May 1902. Sess. 2.**

The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers on the platform of the Equal Dividend to be at the rate of £160 for the past year, exclusive of the premium of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which having been already deducted and paid to the Treasurer of that Fund, is now ordered to be refunded to the Ministers. The Committee is instructed also to repay the premiums of Mr Alex. Auld and Mr D. M. Macalister. The Assembly authorise a salary of £80 to Probationers, instead of £70 being at present paid to them. The Assembly approve of the action of the Committee with reference to the entrance fees and premiums for Mr. Munro and Mr. John Macdonald. While recognising the uncertainty attaching, meanwhile, to these gentlemen's claim to participate, the Assembly is not, in present circumstances, able to recognise any obligation to provide, nor to hold out prospects of provision being made for these and other new Ministers in lieu of the Fund. The Assembly, however, remit this point to the Committee to consider and bring up a recommendation for meeting these cases. The Assembly authorise and instruct the Committee to transfer £300 from the Sustentation Fund to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. Further, the Assembly approves of the diligence of the Committee with reference to the proposed scheme of insurance, and remits the subject to the Committee for further consideration and to report.

**III. - Anent Collections ( No. 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 23rd May 1902. Sess. 7.**

Again and again during its sittings, the General Assembly has been moved to thankfulness to God for the providence which has enabled the Church to meet all the obligations laid upon her. In assured confidence that the spirit of liberality will not be found wanting among our people, the Assembly appoints the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Free Church, viz:-

On the 3rd Sabbath of August - Aged and Infirm Ministers.  
“ “ 3rd “ “ October - Highlands and Islands.

“ “ 3rd “ “ December - Jewish Mission.  
“ “ 3rd “ “ January - Training of the Ministry.  
“ “ 3rd “ “ March - Home Mission.

Further, the General Assembly appoints a Collection to be made for Foreign Missions on the third Sabbath of July, in every Congregation which has no Association in aid of that Scheme. As was done last year, all moneys contributed for Foreign Missions will be given to the United Original Secession Church, as a contribution in aid of its general Mission, and of its Medical and Zenana Missions, all in S<sup>o</sup>ni, India. Out of very gratitude to the Most High for moving His faithful people to liberality, the Assembly would urge the members of the Church to cultivate this Grace, for their own edification, by studying, and praying for, the enterprises of the various committees for which the Collections are to be taken up. The Assembly has not departed from the usual order in appointing the Collections, but representations have been made that the summer time is the more convenient for many Congregations. The Assembly enjoin Presbyteries to take cognizance of this matter, and to alter the date within their bounds, should that be found necessary, and to see that in no case is the Collection overlooked by any Deacons' Court. The General Assembly appoint the foregoing portion of this Act to be read from the pulpit of every Congregation on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof, or, where that is the Communion Sabbath, on the first Sabbath thereafter; and the Assembly recommend Ministers on that occasion to draw the attention of their people to the duty of systematic giving.

#### **IV. - Anent appointing Commission of Assembly ( No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1902. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Mr Colin A. Bannatyne, named by the Moderator - To be a Commission of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any five or more of their number, whereof three at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognose and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of present circumstances, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church; and the Assembly declare that the said meetings in August, November, and March shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all questions which may arise; And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and finally dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church; And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time ( in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly ); And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed in

accordance with the Act and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all their actings they shall be accountable to and censurable by the next General Assembly as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**V. - Anent appointing next Meeting of Assembly ( No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1902. Sess. 7**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh on the 19th May 1903, at twelve o'clock noon.

**OVERTURE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO PRESBYTERIES FOR THEIR OPINION.  
ANENT DECLARATORY ACT of 1892.**

Whereas the General Assembly of 1892 did, on the 26th day of May of that year, with consent of Presbyteries, pass an Act entitled " Act anent Confession of Faith, " which Act ( on the preamble that it was expedient to remove difficulties and scruples which had been felt by some in reference to the declaration of belief required from persons who receive licence, or are admitted to office, in the Church ) made certain declarations as to the sense in which the Church held and taught the doctrines of the Confession of Faith, and as to the Church's authority to control diversity of opinion on points in the Confession:

And whereas the said Act ( the promotion and adoption of which caused serious dispeace throughout the Church ) was passed, not by the voice of the whole Assembly, but by a majority thereof, and contrary to dissents and protests by members of the Assembly, directed against the competency of the Assembly to pass the Act, and against the manner in which the Act dealt with divine truth as set forth in the Confession

And whereas the General Assembly of 1894 did, on the 29th day of May of that year, pass an Act entitled " Act anent Declaratory Act, 1892, on Confession of Faith, " whereby it enacted and declared that the statements of doctrine contained in the said Declaratory Act, 1892, were not thereby imposed upon any of the Church's office-bearers as part of the standards of the Church, but that those who should be licensed or ordained to office in the Church, in answering the questions and subscribing the formula, should be entitled to do so in view of the said Declaratory Act; which Act was passed notwithstanding protest and dissent on the part of members of Assembly and without the consent of Presbyteries being obtained

And whereas, in the providence of God, the Church, not feeling such scruples and difficulties as have been referred to, is now able - of one mind, - to deal with the said Declaratory Act so as to give effect to the dissents and protests before referred to

Therefore the General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, repeals the said Declaratory Act of 1892, and relative legislation in so far as the same innovated upon the previously existing laws of the Church.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MAY XIX., MDCCCIII. (1903)

**CLASS II. - ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH.**

**I. - Address to His Majesty the King ( No. 1 of Class II. ). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1903. Sess. 6.**

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly, desire to record our fidelity to Your Majesty and your Royal House, and desire to offer our sincere and earnest prayer to Almighty God, that much blessing may rest upon all Your Majesty's labours for the welfare of your people. We recall with thankfulness the years of prosperity which have been graciously vouchsafe to this country. We believe that national faithfulness to the great Reformation principles is our only warrant for expecting the continuance of national prosperity, as they are the securities and safeguards of all our civil and religious liberties. It is our earnest prayer that it may please Almighty God to bestow upon Your Majesty health and strength to fulfil the many and arduous duties which pertain to your Royal estate. We also renew the expression of devotion to our gracious and beloved Queen, whose interest in the condition of the people elicits the sympathy and regard of all throughout the whole bounds of the Empire. Finally, we commend Your Majesty and your Royal House to the protection and guidance of Him who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most devoted and obedient servants,

The Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland

Signed in our name, and by our appointment,

ANGUS GALBRAITH, Moderator.

**II. - Anent Sustentation Fund ( No. 2 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 20th May 1903 Sess. 2.**

The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers of charges, on the platform of the Equal Dividend, to be at the rate of £160 for the past year, exclusive of the premium of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund ; and direct the premiums for all the Ministers of the Church (including Mr. Alexander Auld and Mr. D. M. Macalister, Ministers-emeriti) to be paid out of the Fund. The Assembly approve of the action of the Committee with reference to the relation of Ministers recently ordained to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and continue the remit on this subject made by last Assembly. The Assembly continue for consideration by the Committee the subject of a provision for Aged and Infirm Ministers.

**III. - Anent Foreign Missions ( No. 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 21st May 1903. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly receive the Report, and thank the Committee endorsing most heartily the views of the Committee as to the duty and privilege of the Church in this connection. The Assembly tender their thanks to the representatives of other Churches who have now addressed the House, and assure them of the cordial desire of this Church to labour for the extension of Christ's kingdom in harmony with all who name the Saviour's name. The Assembly instruct the Committee to apply the contributions ( not otherwise specially destined) which they may receive during the current year in aid of the work of the United Original Secession Church in S,oni, India, and to apply out of the sums contributed for Jewish Missions, £50 to the Moravian Mission for its Leper Hospital at Jerusalem, and £20 in aid of some society labouring among Jews in Scotland or in England. The Assembly cordially appreciate the invitation of the Original Secession Synod to appoint two representatives from this Assembly to the Synod's Mission Board, and the Assembly nominate Rev. D. M. Macalister and Mr. W. Rounsfell Brown to be their representatives.

**IV. - Anent Declaratory Act (No. 4 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 21st May 1903. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly have anew had their attention directed to the Declaratory Act of 1892, by Overtures from the Presbyteries of Dingwall, Inverness, Dornoch, and Caithness, and the Synods of Ross, and Sutherland and Caithness. The General Assembly renew their resolution to annul or repeal the said Declaratory Act of 1892, and in respect that the Overture sent down to Presbyteries last year under the Barrier Act has not secured the approval of a majority of Presbyteries, remit the Overtures now on the table to a Committee, with instructions to frame, with the aid of the law agents of the Church, an Overture for the repeal of the Declaratory Act on the line of these Overtures, and to submit the same to next General Assembly.

**V. - Anent Union with Free Presbyterian Church (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh , 21st. May 1903. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly having heard the communication from the Synod of the Free

Presbyterian Church, express their regret at the terms of the message, and therefore, with reluctance, pass from the subject and discharge the Committee. Nevertheless, the Assembly declare afresh their friendly feeling towards that Church and their readiness to give effect to that feeling whenever that is practicable in view of the circumstances in which many congregations of the two Churches find themselves in close neighbourhood.

#### **VI. - Anent Collections (No. 6 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1903. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly give ungrudging thanks to the Members of the Church for their prompt and liberal support of the Schemes of the Church, at the same time believing that none who have been moved to liberality have failed to realise that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." In reliance on the continued bounty of God, the General Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Free Church, viz.:-

1. On the 3rd Sabbath of August - Aged and Infirm Ministers.
2. " 3rd " October - Highlands and Islands.
3. " 3rd " December - Jewish Mission.
4. " 3rd " January - Training of the Ministry.
5. " 3rd " March - Home Mission.

Further, the General Assembly appoint a Collection to be made for Foreign Missions on the third Sabbath of July, in every Congregation which has no Association in aid of that Scheme. The contributions so made have been ear-marked by the Assembly as contributions to the Mission at S,oni, India, of the United Original Secession Church. The Assembly are aware that in some parishes these dates will be found inconvenient. Deacons' Courts are therefore enjoined at their first meeting after receipt of this Act to consider the suitability of the dates for their respective Congregations, and wherever a change is found desirable, to tabulate a new series of dates, and make the same known to their people. It is not to be forgotten that it is the duty of a Deacons' Court to give its Congregation an opportunity of contributing to all the Collections appointed by the Assembly. It is equally the duty of every Member to become informed of the work for which the Collections are to be made, and to consider prayerfully the claims made. The General Assembly appoint the foregoing portion of this Act to be read from the pulpit of every Congregation within the bounds of the Church on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof, or where that is the Communion Sabbath, on the first Sabbath thereafter; and the Assembly recommend Ministers on that occasion to draw the attention of their people to the duty of systematic giving.

#### **VII. - Anent appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1903. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Mr. Murdo Mackenzie, Minister at Inverness, named by the Moderator :- To be a Commission of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any five or more of their number, whereof three at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March

next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of present circumstances, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church, in all such questions as may arise: And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church: And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly): And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all their actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**VIII. - Anent appointing next Meeting of Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1903. Sess. 6.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh on the 24th day of May 1904, at twelve o'clock noon.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS GENERALASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MAY XXIV., MDCCCCIV. (1904)

CLASS II.- ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH.

**I. - Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 27th May 1904. Sess. 6.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly, desire to renew the expression of our unwavering fidelity to Your Majesty and your Royal House, and to unite in earnest prayer to Almighty God that the Divine blessing may rest on and follow all the labours of Your Majesty for the welfare of this great Empire. We specially recall with thankfulness the efforts of Your Majesty on behalf of the preservation of peace among the counsels of Europe, and trust that by the blessing of God much good may be done in this direction in future. Believing, as we most sincerely do, that national prosperity in things temporal is dependent on our faithfulness in things sacred as a nation to the King of kings, we trust that all the securities and safeguards of our civil and religious liberties may be the objects of Your Majesty's special regard. That it may please Almighty God to bless you and our gracious Queen with health and strength for all the duties appertaining to Your Royal Estate, and that you may be long spared to go out and in among a loyal and devoted people in the fear of the Lord and in the power of His Might is the earnest prayer of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most devoted and obedient servants

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Signed in our name, and by our appointment,

MURDOCH MACQUEEN, Moderator.

**II. - Anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1904. Sess. 2.**

The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers of charges on the platform of the Equal Dividend to be at the rate of £160 for the past year, exclusive of the premium of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and direct the premiums for all the Ministers of the Church to be paid out of the Fund. In the case of Ministers who are not to receive the Equal Dividend, the General Assembly authorise the Committee to pay the premiums and all other fees deducted from such Ministers in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, so far as such payments are required to ensure to these Ministers the minimum of £100. The Assembly

continue their remit with reference to the relation to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund of Ministers ordained since 31st October 1900. The Assembly continue for consideration by the Committee the subject of a provision for Aged and Infirm Ministers. The Assembly enjoin upon all congregations of the Church to make the Collection appointed by the Assembly in behalf of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

### **III. - Anent Foreign Missions (No. 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 26th May 1904 Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly receive the Report, and thank the Committee, especially the Convener, and also the two ladies who assisted in preparing the New Year gift to the orphan children at S<sup>o</sup>ni. The Assembly concur in the gratification expressed in the Report that the members of the Church, amidst so many local demands and embarrassments, continue to manifest zeal for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom. The Assembly are further gratified at the prospect of soon having a direct representative on the mission field in the person of one of their own members. The Assembly are sure that the Church continues to find pleasure in co-operating with the United Original Secession Church, and therefore instruct the Committee to apply the collections of the coming year to the work in S<sup>o</sup>ni. The Assembly instruct the Committee to make a grant of £50 to the Moravian Mission, in aid of the Leper Hospital at Jerusalem to give £20 to the London City Mission for its work among Jews and authorise the Committee to make such further grants for work among Jews, at home or abroad, as the Committee may think fit. The Assembly appoint the Rev. Ewen MacLeod and Mr. Robert Reid to represent the Church on the Mission Board of the United Original Secession Church during the ensuing year.

### **IV. - Anent Training of the Ministry, and Appointment of Dr. Alexander as Professor of Divinity (No. 4 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 26th May 1904. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly receive the Report, and thank the Committee, especially the Convener, for their diligence. The General Assembly rejoice at the large measure of success that has crowned their efforts, as also of the good work done by the devoted Lecturer and those under his care. In view of the paucity of actual Divinity students as yet offering themselves, the General Assembly, in re-appointing the Committee, commend the case of the students in Arts to their special consideration, as also that of the laymen in the regular employment of the Church. The General Assembly, in view of the singular value of Dr. Alexander's services during the past two years, and believing that he is admirably fitted to occupy a Theological Chair, resolve to offer to him, as they hereby do, the appointment of Professor of Divinity to the Church, with the full status of an ordained Minister of the Church, and all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, leaving it to a future diet of this Assembly, after Dr. Alexander's answer, to make all other necessary arrangements in connection therewith and remit to the Presbytery of Inverness to make arrangements for a summer course of lectures to students in that town. The General Assembly, appreciating the response already made to the Committee's appeal for funds, finally commend the whole work of the training of the Ministry to the increased sympathy and prayers and liberality of the entire Church. Dr. Alexander being present, the Moderator intimated to him his appointment Dr. Alexander intimated his acceptance of the office. The Assembly engaged in prayer, Mr. M'Culloch leading their devotions, and imploring the blessings of the Great Head of the Church on their brother who is about to enter on the important duties of the Professorial office.

Edinburgh. 27th May 1904. Sess. 6.

On an application from the Committee on the Training of the Ministry, the Assembly remit to the Presbytery of Glasgow to make all necessary arrangements for the induction of Dr. Alexander, with full rights as an ordained Minister of this Church.

**V. - Anent Collections (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 27th May 1904. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly are again moved to acknowledgment of the striking liberality of the Members of the Church as revealed by the Financial Reports which it has been the privilege of the Assembly to hear. At the same time, the Assembly recognise that the call to the Church in all the departments of its work is to go forward. The Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church :-

1. On the 3rd Sabbath of August - Aged and Infirm Ministers. 2. " 3rd " October - Highlands and Islands. 3. " 3rd " December - Jewish Mission. 4. " 3rd " January - Training of the Ministry. 5. " 3rd " March - Home Mission

Further, the General Assembly appoint a Collection to be made for Foreign Missions on the third Sabbath of July, in every Congregation which has no Association in aid of that Scheme. The contributions so made have been allotted by the Assembly to the Mission Work at S<sup>o</sup>ni, India, of the United Original Secession Church. The Assembly observed from the reports of various committees that in many instances Congregations did not contribute to certain schemes. The Assembly would remind Deacons' Courts that it is their duty to give their Congregations an opportunity of contributing to every collection. It lies with the members, not with the office-bearers, to determine whether they will contribute or not. The Assembly are aware that in some Congregations these dates will be found inconvenient. The Deacons' Courts are enjoined to fix the dates most suitable for their respective Congregations, and to inform the people of the special work for which the collections are to be made, and the claim that work has on their liberality. [The General Assembly appoint the aforesaid portion of this Act to be read from the pulpit of every Congregation within the bounds of the Church on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof, or where that is the Communion Sabbath, on the first Sabbath thereafter. The Assembly recommend Ministers on that occasion to direct the attention of their people to the duty of systematic giving. Further, in the case of Congregations failing to make the Collection on behalf of any Fund within a reasonable time, the Committee in charge of the Fund are authorised and instructed to ask for an explanation of the omission from the Deacons' Court, according to the former practice of the Church.]

**VI. - Anent appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 27th May 1904. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Mr. Alexander Auld, Minister at Olig, named by the Moderator :- TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any five or more of their number, whereof three at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and

thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to, them, by or in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of present circumstances, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church, and such as the Assembly themselves might take, in all the questions that may arise thereanent: And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church: And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly): And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all their actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**VII. - Anent appointing next Meeting of Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 27th May 1904. Sess. 6.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh on the 23rd day of May 1905, at twelve o'clock noon.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MAY XXIII., MDCCCCV. (1905)

### **CLASS I. - ACTS OF LEGISLATION.**

#### **I. - Act anent Trustees (No. 1 of Class I.) Edinburgh, 5th October 1904.**

The Commission of General Assembly hereby appoint the following office-bearers of the Church :- Major Robert Greig, Craigmichen, St Alban's Road, Edinburgh; Robert Reid, Killellan, Campbeltown ; James Coltart, Hawkhill, Bearsden, Glasgow ; John Macdonald, 12 Rupert Street, Glasgow ; Charles MacKessock, Wester Alves, Forres; and John Pursell, Rhynd Lodge, Seafield, Leith, to be the General Trustees for holding the whole property of the Free Church of Scotland, and for the purposes specified in the Act of General Assembly XXVI. of 1844 ; and in particular to receive and hold as such Trustees all property of the Church in the hands of the General Trustees of the United Free Church of Scotland and others bound to denude themselves of the same ; and, further, appoint and declare that three shall be a quorum of said General Trustees.

#### **II. - Act anent Trustees (No. 2 of Class I.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1905. Sess. 5.**

Whereas in the action, Bannatyne, and Others, against Lord Overtoun, and Others, it was, on 22nd October 1904, found and declared by Interlocutor of the Second Division of the Court of Session applying the Judgment of the House of Lords, as follows :- (1) That the association or body of Christians calling themselves the United Free Church of Scotland has no right, title, or interest in any part of the whole lands, properties, sums of money and others which stood vested as at the 30th day of October 1900 in the Right Honourable John Campbell Baron Overtoun, and Others, general trustees of the Free Church of Scotland: And (2) that the appellants (pursuers) and those adhering to and lawfully associated with them, conform to the constitution of the Free Church of Scotland, are, and lawfully represent the said Free Church of Scotland, and are entitled to have the whole of said lands, property, and funds applied according to the terms of the trust upon which they are respectively held for behoof of themselves and those so adhering to, and associated with them and their successors, as constituting the true and lawful Free Church of Scotland, and that the defenders, the said Right Honourable John Campbell Baron Overtoun, and Others, as general trustees aforesaid, or the defenders second enumerated, or those of the defenders in whose hands, or under whose control the said lands, property, and funds, may be for the time being, are bound to hold and apply the same (subject always to the trusts aftermentioned) for behoof of the pursuers, and those adhering to, and associated with them as aforesaid, and subject to the lawful orders of the General Assembly of the said Free Church of Scotland, or its duly

appointed commission for the time being, and, in particular, that they are bound to denude themselves of the whole of said lands, property, and funds in favour of Major Robert Greig, Shortwoodend, Moffat; Robert Reid, Esq., of Killellan, Campbeltown; James Coltart, Esq., Hawkhill, Bearsden, Glasgow; John MacDonald, Esq., 12 Rupert Street, Glasgow; Charles MacKessock, Esq., Wester Mains of Alves, Forres; John Pursell, Esq., Rhynd Lodge, Seafield, Leith (three being a quorum), as general trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, and their successors in office, but subject always to the trusts upon which the said lands, property, and funds, were respectively held by the said defenders for behoof of the Free Church of Scotland as at 30th October 1900: AND WHEREAS in pursuance of said Interlocutor the said Right Honourable John Campbell Baron Overtoun, and Others, as general trustees aforesaid, did grant in favour of the said Major Robert Greig, Robert Reid, James Coltart, John MacDonald, Charles MacKessock, and John Pursell, as general trustees foresaid, and their successors in office, a disposition of certain lands, property, and funds: AND WHEREAS doubts have been suggested as to the position as trustees of the said Right Honourable John Campbell Baron Overtoun, and Others, and it is expedient that all such doubts should be settled: THEREFORE this Assembly enacts and declares that the said Right Honourable John Campbell Baron Overtoun and Others, who acted as general trustees of the Free Church of Scotland at said 30th October 1900, and who have since adhered to, and associated themselves with, the said United Free Church of Scotland, are no longer general trustees acting under the authority of this Church ; and the General Assembly hereby declares that the whole of said lands, property, and funds, which had been vested in the said Right Honourable John Campbell and Others, as aforesaid, at said date, and such further lands, property, and funds, as may have accrued to this Church, or any of its schemes from said 30th October 1900, or which may hereafter accrue to the same, are, and shall henceforth be held only by the said Major Robert Greig, Robert Reid, James Coltart, John MacDonald, Charles MacKessock, and John Pursell, and their successors in office, as general trustees, acting under the various relative Acts of Assembly of this Church, subject always to the trusts upon which said lands, property, and funds, were respectively held for behoof of the Free Church of Scotland, as at said 30th October 1900.

### **III. - Act anent Trustees (No. 3 of Class I.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1905. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr. Donald Macalister Smith, W.S. Edinburgh, and Ebenezer Turner, M.D. Kirkcaldy, general trustees for the Free Church, in addition to the general trustees appointed by the Commission of Assembly on 5th October last.

### **CLASS II. - ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL USE OF THE CHURCH,**

#### **I. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 1 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1905. Sess. 2.**

The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers of charges on the platform of the Equal Dividend as at 31st December 1904 to be at the rate of £160 for the past year, exclusive of the premiums of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and direct that said premiums of £7 for all the Ministers of the Church to be paid out of the Fund. The Assembly authorise payment of grants of £30 each for unordained assistants to Mr. Murdo Mackenzie, Inverness, and Mr. Angus Galbraith, Lochalsh. Further, the Assembly direct that Presbyteries appoint corresponding members, who will take a special interest in this Fund, and enable their respective Presbyteries to further the interests of the Fund. Having regard to the state of the

Fund, the Assembly instruct the Committee to be cautious in putting congregations on the Equal Dividend platform as from 1st January 1905, and particularly not to put on the platform any congregation which does not give reasonable prospect of contributing a satisfactory sum.

**II. - Act anent the appointment of the Rev. J. D. M'Culloch to be Principal of the New College, and the Rev. Colin A. Bannatyne to be Professor of Church History and Church Principles and Theology, and the Rev. Robert Moore to be Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis (No. 2 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1905. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly hereby appoint the Rev. J. D. M'Culloch to be Principal of the New College ; the Rev. Colin A. Bannatyne to be Professor of Church History and Church Principles and Theology; and the Rev. Robt. Moore, B.A., B.D., to be Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis. The Assembly appoint intimation to be made to them, in due form, of these appointments. They, being in the precincts of the House, were called in, and intimation was made to them by the Moderator. They having intimated their acceptance, the Assembly engaged in prayer, commending them to the Divine guidance and blessing, - the Rev. Murdo MacKenzie leading the devotions. The Assembly then instructed the Edinburgh Presbytery to take the requisite steps, according to the laws of the Church, for their induction to their respective offices. Further, the Assembly, with the view of Mr. Bannatyne entering upon the duties of his office, do hereby loose him from his pastoral relation to the congregation of Culter, and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for declaring the said congregation of Culter vacant,

**III. - Interim Act anent rescinding Declaratory Act (No. 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh. 25th May 1905. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain, ad interim, WHEREAS this Church adheres, as she has always adhered, to her Subordinate Standards in terms of the Act, 1846, anent Questions and Formula. WHEREAS an Act. entitled "Act anent Confession of Faith." passed by the General Assembly of 1892, on the 26th day of May of that year, in face of protests and dissents on the part of ministers and elders faithfully adhering to the constitution of this Church, and commonly known as the Declaratory Act, made certain declarations as to the sense in which this Church held and taught the doctrine set forth in her Subordinate Standards, and the relation of the Church to these Standards ; AND WHEREAS it is necessary to remove all dubiety as to the relation of the Church to these Subordinate Standards, THEREFORE the General Assembly hereby rescind and annul the said Declaratory Act of 1892, and all Acts and resolutions involving approval thereof.

**IV. - Interim Act anent Formula for Deacons (No. 4 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1905. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain, ad interim, WHEREAS the General Assembly did pass in 1884, an Act, entitled "Act anent the Subscription of Formula by Deacons," whereby Deacons are relieved of subscription to the Confession of Faith. WHEREAS the same Act was passed in face of protests and dissents by a faithful minority. AND WHEREAS it is most desirable that all office-bearers in this Church should subscribe to the Confession of Faith. The General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, repeal said

Act of 1884, and revert to the former practice of this Church.

**V. - Act anent Public Worship (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1905. Sess. 5.**

1. The General Assembly hereby recall resolutions authorising and sanctioning the use of uninspired hymns, of dates June 3, 1872; May 27, 1881 May 26, 1896; and May 24, 1897; and repeal Act of Assembly, of date 31st. May 1883, entitled "VII. Act anent Instrumental Music (No. 4 of Class II. )." 2. The General Assembly reaffirm the Disruption position of 1843 in respect of doctrine, worship, discipline, and government, and enjoin all their congregations to adhere to purity of worship, as that was understood and practiced at that period, and so secure that the present practice of the Church be in accord with the terms of the Formula of 1846, "purity of worship presently authorised and practised in the Free Church of Scotland."

**VI. - Act anent Presenting Claim of Right to the Government (No. 6 of Class II.).  
Edinburgh, 25th May 1905. Sess. 5.**

The Assembly reappoint the Committee, with instructions to watch over the interests of the Church in connection with this matter, and also appoint the following a deputation to wait upon the Government and present her Claim of Right, - viz., The Moderator, Mr. D. M. Macalister, Mr. C. A. Bannatyne, Mr. J. D. M'Culloch, Mr. A. Galbraith, Mr. Wm. MacKinnon, Mr. J. K. Cameron, ministers; with Mr. A. MacNeilage, Mr. R. Reid, and Mr. J. Hay Thorburn, elders.

**VII. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh 26th  
May 1905. Sess. 6.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly, desire to record our fidelity to Your Majesty and Your Royal House, and offer our sincere and earnest prayer to Almighty God that much blessing may rest on all Your Majesty's labours. We recall with thankfulness Your Majesty's most successful efforts in the interest of peace among the nations, and the uninterrupted tranquillity, and other advantages, enjoyed by this country during the past year. While we devoutly acknowledge the goodness of Almighty God as the source of all temporal as well as spiritual blessings, we at the same time recognise a gratifying proof of the confidence reposed in Your Majesty's person, and in the manifold benefits arising from the just and well-established principles on which the public administration is conducted, which have been specially manifested to us during that period. We rely with confidence on the protection afforded to all your loyal subjects, be they weak or be they powerful, under the Constitution of which Your Majesty is the Crown and Custodier. We earnestly pray that it may please Almighty God to bestow upon Your Majesty health and strength to fulfil the many and arduous duties which pertain to Your Royal Estate. We also renew the expression of devotion to our gracious and beloved Queen,

whose unfailing interest in the condition of the people everywhere elicits the sympathy and regard of all. Finally, we commend Your Majesty and Your Royal House to the protection and guidance of Him who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most devoted and obedient servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Signed in our name, and by our appointment,

EWAN MACLEOD, Moderator.

**VIII. - Act anent Elective Members of Certain Trusts (No. 8 of Class II). Edinburgh,  
26th May 1905. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly appoint the members of the Law and Advisory Committee to be the elective members of such trusts, corporations, or other bodies, as it is the right or duty of the General Assembly or of the Free Church to be represented upon, provided that, where in any case the members of the Law and Advisory Committee exceed in number those required, the appropriate number shall be arrived at by taking the names of ministers and elders alternately from the top of the list of members of the Law and Advisory Committee, as the same shall stand printed in the Proceedings of the Assembly, excluding always the names of such members as may already, on another title, be members of the trust, corporation or body in question.

**IX. - Act anent Collections (No. 9 of Class II.). Edinburgh 26th.. May 1905. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly, in addressing itself to the subject of Collections, must pause to express anew its sense of gratitude to God for the memorable providences of the past years. The altered circumstances do not, however, exempt the Church from the necessity of having the usual collections. The Assembly do not regret this. The gifts of God to men are without repentance, and the gifts of men towards God's Service ever revert to the donors in fresh accessions of grace and good. The General Assembly therefore makes bold to appeal for greatly increased attention to the collections for the ensuing year. The General Assembly appoint the following collections to be made in all the congregations of the Free Church, viz.

1. On the 3rd Sabbath of August - Aged and Infirm Ministers.
2. " 3rd " October - Highlands and Islands.
3. " 3rd " December - Jewish Missions.
4. " 3rd " January - Training of Ministry.
5. " 3rd " March - Home Missions.

Further, the General Assembly appoint a collection to be made for Foreign Missions, on the third Sabbath of July, in every congregation which has no association in aid of that scheme. In this connection the Assembly direct special attention to, and compliance with, the deliverance pronounced by the Assembly when adopting the Report of the Committee on the Foreign Missions. Should the dates specified for collections be found inconvenient in

congregations, the Deacons' Courts are enjoined to arrange for collections being made on other dates, so that poor people be not deprived of the opportunity for contributing. The Assembly regret to observe that in some congregations certain collections have not been made ; this implies a grave dereliction of duty on the part of office-bearers. The Assembly trust that in no case will the like occur this year. The Assembly appoint the foregoing portions of this Act to be read from each pulpit in the Church on the first Sabbath after the receipt of a print of the Act, and the Assembly recommend preachers on that occasion to draw attention to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**X. - Act anent appointment of Commission (No. 10 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 26th May 1905. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the Members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Mr. J. C. Robertson, Minister at Rayne, Aberdeenshire, named by the Moderator : TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any five or more of their number, whereof three at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on, every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of present circumstances, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church,, and such as the Assembly themselves might take, in all the questions that may arise thereanent: And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church: And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly) : And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all their actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XI. - Act anent appointment of next General Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 26th May 1905. Sess. 6.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh on 22nd May 1906, at 12 o'clock noon.

OVERTURES TO BE TRANSMITTED TO PRESBYTERIES FOR THEIR OPINION.

## **1. - Overture anent rescinding Declaratory Act.**

The Committee beg now to submit the following Overture and proposed Rescissory Act, which has been approved by the Law Agents of the Church, and, if the Assembly approve thereof, they recommend that it be passed as an Interim Act, as well as sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act WHEREAS this Church adheres, as she has always adhered, to her Subordinate Standards in terms of the Act, 1846, anent Questions and Formula. WHEREAS an Act, entitled “Act anent Confession of Faith,” passed by the General Assembly of 1892, on the 26th day of May of that year, in face of protests and dissents on the part of ministers and elders faithfully adhering to the Constitution of this Church, and commonly known as the Declaratory Act, made certain declarations as to the sense in which this Church held and taught the doctrine set forth in her Subordinate Standards, and the relation of the Church to these Standards ; AND WHEREAS it is necessary to remove all dubiety as to the relation of the Church to these Subordinate Standards. THEREFORE the General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, hereby rescind. and annul the said Declaratory Act of 1892, and all Acts and resolutions involving approval thereof.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MAY XXII., MDCCCXVI. (1906)

### **CLASS I. - ACTS OF LEGISLATION.**

**I. - Act anent repeal of (Act 8 of Class II., 1892) “Act anent Confession of Faith” (No. 1 of Class I.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1906. Sess. 5.**

WHEREAS this Church adheres, as she has always adhered, to her Subordinate Standards in

terms of the Act, 1846, anent Questions and Formula. WHEREAS an Act, entitled “Act anent Confession of Faith,” passed by the General Assembly of 1892, on the 26th day of May of that year, in face of protests and dissents on the part of ministers and elders faithfully adhering to the Constitution of this Church. and commonly known as the Declaratory Act, made certain declarations as to the sense in which this Church held and taught the doctrine set forth in her Subordinate Standards, and the relation of the Church to these Standards; AND WHEREAS it is necessary to remove all dubiety as to the relation of the Church to these Subordinate Standards. THEREFORE the General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, hereby rescind and annul the said Declaratory Act of 1892, and all Acts and resolutions involving approval thereof.

**II. - Act anent the repeal of (Act 1 of Class I., 1884) “Act anent the Subscription of Formula by Deacons” (No. 2 of Class I.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1906. Sess. 5.**

WHEREAS the General Assembly did pass in 1884, with consent of Presbyteries, an Act, entitled “ Act anent the Subscription of Formula by Deacons,” whereby Deacons are relieved of subscription to the Confession of Faith. WHEREAS the same Act was passed in face of protests and dissents by a faithful minority. AND WHEREAS it is most desirable that all office-hearers in this Church should subscribe to the Confession of Faith. The General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, repeal said Act of 1884, and revert to the former practice of this Church.

**CLASS II. - ACTS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL USE OF THE CHURCH.**

**III. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1906. Sess. 7.**

TO THE KING’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty’s faithful subjects, Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly, desire to record our loyalty to Your Majesty and Your Royal House, and offer our sincere and earnest prayer to Almighty God that much blessing may rest on all Your Majesty’s labours. We record anew our thankfulness for the preservation of peace, and sincerely trust that it may be long preserved for the prosperity of this great Kingdom and Empire of which we form a part. Suffering as we as a church are, from the exceptional legislation of last year, the far-reaching effects of which are now unfortunately manifesting themselves, we pray that such events may be over-ruled for the Glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom, and that protection may be afforded to all Your loyal subjects, especially to those who are weak. We earnestly pray that the great Protestant Cause entrusted to Your Majesty may ever be maintained in solid integrity, and that no countenance may be given to those who are hostile to the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty so highly prized by Your Majesty’s faithful subjects. We earnestly pray that it may please Almighty God to bestow upon Your Majesty health and strength to fulfil the many and arduous duties which pertain to Your Royal Estate. We also renew expression of our devotion

to our gracious and beloved Queen, and in the recent bereavement occasioned by the death of Her Majesty's Royal Father we, and the whole Church, desire to express our profoundest sympathy. Finally, we fervently commend Your Majesty and Your Royal House to the protection and guidance of Him who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most devoted and obedient servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Signed in our name, and by our appointment,

COLIN A. BANNATYNE, Moderator.

**IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 23rd May 1906. Sess. 2.**

The Assembly declare the stipend due to each Minister entitled to the Equal Dividend as at 31st December 1905 to be at the rate of £160, exclusive of the premiums due to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and direct that these premiums for all the Ministers of the Church be paid out of the Fund. The Assembly record their thankfulness to Almighty God for His goodness to the Church, manifested in the measure of success attending this important scheme. The Assembly authorise the Committee, by deputies or otherwise, to foster and encourage the concern and interest of congregations in the Fund. In this connection, it is recommended that an official be appointed to take the management of this important department of the work of the Church, and the General Assembly remit the matter to any Committee which may be appointed to deal with the re-arrangement of the official staff of the Church. The General Assembly enjoin upon the Committee to keep in view, as a standard that might guide them in retaining congregations on the Equal Dividend Platform, the minimum of 1d. per head per week. The Assembly also enjoin upon the Committee to report to the General Assembly all cases of congregations which may fail (with the Committee's opinion on the cause of failure) in making the minimum contributions promised by them to the Sustentation Fund when leave was granted them to call a minister ; and the Assembly enact that, in all cases of settlement after this date, the relation of the ministers of such congregations to this Fund shall be open to review at the end of each period of three years. The General Assembly having considered the relative Overtures from the Synod of Moray and Presbytery of Dingwall, remit the same to the Sustentation Fund Committee, and enjoin this Committee to have regard to the prayer of these Overtures in placing congregations on the Platform of the Equal Dividend.

**V. - Act anent the appointment of the Rev. John MacLeod to be Professor of New Testament Exegesis, and the Rev. John Kennedy Cameron, to be Professor of Systematic Theology (No. 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1906. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly hereby appoint the Rev. John MacLeod, M.A., to be Professor of New Testament Exegesis, and the Rev. John Kennedy Cameron, M. A., to be Professor of Systematic Theology. The Assembly appointed intimation to be made to Mr. MacLeod and

Mr. Cameron of their appointments.

Edinburgh, 24th May 1906. Sess. 5.

Messrs. MacLeod and Cameron being present, intimation was made to them of their Professorial appointments, and they having intimated their acceptance, the Assembly engaged in prayer, commending them to the Divine guidance and blessing. The Assembly then instructed the Edinburgh Presbytery to take the requisite steps, according to the laws of the Church, for their induction to their respective offices. Further, the Assembly, with the view of Mr. Cameron entering upon the duties of his office, do hereby loose him from his pastoral relation to the congregation of Kilbride, Arran, and instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow to take the necessary steps for declaring the said congregation of Kilbride vacant.

**VI. - Act anent Collections (No. 4 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1906. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly cordially express thanks to the members of the Church for their growing liberality towards the Schemes of the Church. Liberality to be of most use must be orderly. Therefore it is desirable to tabulate the dates on which the givings of the people should be taken up. The Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made in all the Congregations of the Free Church, viz.

1. On the 3rd Sabbath of August - Aged and Infirm Ministers
2. “ 3rd “ October - Highlands and Islands
3. “ 3rd “ December - Jewish Mission.
4. “ 3rd “ January - Training of Ministry.
5. “ 3rd “ March - Home Missions.

Further, the General Assembly appoint a Collection to be made for Foreign Missions on the 3rd Sabbath of July, in any congregation which has no association in aid of that scheme. Where the dates specified for Collections are found inconvenient for congregations, Deacons' Courts are enjoined to arrange for Collections being made on other dates. Care is to be taken that the people are not deprived of the opportunity of contributing. The Assembly regret to observe that in some congregations certain Collections were not made last year. This failure the Assembly is unable to excuse, The Assembly enjoin Presbyteries to ascertain if all the Collections have been duly made, and to report to next Assembly every case of failure, and the reason therefor. The Assembly appoint the foregoing portions of this Act to be read from each pulpit on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of a print of the Act; the Assembly recommend preachers on that occasion to draw attention to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**VII. - Act anent appointment of Commission (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1906. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Rev. D. M. Macalister, Edinburgh, named by the Moderator :- TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to

come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly ; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of the present exceptional circumstances created by the late legislative action of the Government the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church. And the Assembly declare that the said Meetings of Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all questions which may arise in connection with the matters aforesaid. Further, the Commission is particularly directed to consider and determine, at its seditments or by reference to Committees composed of Ministers and Elders of the Church, whether any, and if so, what changes are, or may come to be, required in the arrangements for the training of the Ministry and for performing the clerical and secretarial work of the Church and of its Committees, and to initiate and carry through such legislation as may be found desirable for giving effect to the determinations of the Commission : And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church : And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly) : And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in or for all their actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**VIII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 6 of Class II).  
Edinburgh, 25th May 1906. Sess. 7.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet on Tuesday the 21st day of May 1907, at twelve o'clock noon.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XXI., MDCCCCVII. (1907)

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH.**

I. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King ( No. 1 of Class II. ). Edinburgh 24th May 1907. Sess. 7.

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,-

Your Majesty's faithful subjects, Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly, desire to record our fidelity to Your Majesty and Your Royal House, and unite in supplication to Almighty God that every blessing may rest on Your Majesty, and on the discharge of the duties which devolve upon you. We again take this opportunity of congratulating Your Majesty on the fruits already resulting from Your Majesty's exertions in the interests of international peace, and pray that the entente cordiale may spread to all nations, and that wise counsels may prevail in their high places. While truly thankful for the blessings of peace, and all temporal blessings, which can alone flow from the administration of law and justice, we believe that no country or government can prosper which in any way departs from fundamental principles. We rely with confidence in the protection vested in Your Majesty as the custodian of the rights of all classes of the community, knowing that Your Majesty's influence will always be manifested in the protection of Your Majesty's subjects, whether they be weak or strong, and should the time ever come when we have to appeal to Your Majesty, we believe that we shall not be disappointed. We earnestly pray that it may please Almighty God to bless Your Majesty with health and strength for the fulfilment of the onerous duties which devolve upon Your Royal Estate. It is with sincere admiration and devotion that we again express our affection for our gracious and beloved Queen, whose tender sympathy is on all occasions exhibited in her interest in the condition of the people. That You and Your Royal House may be long spared to go in and out among a loyal and devoted people, is the earnest prayer of the Ministers and Office-bearers of this Church. Finally, we commend Your Majesty and the Royal House to the guidance of Him by whom alone Kings reign, and in whose righteousness alone a nation can be established.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most devoted and obedient servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Signed in our name, and by our appointment,

MURDO MACKENZIE, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund ( No. 2 of Class II. ). Edinburgh , 22nd May 1907.  
Sess. 3.**

The Assembly adopt the Committee's Report, and anew commend the claims of the Fund to every member and adherent of the Church. The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers on the platform of the Equal Dividend to be at the rate of £160 for the past year, exclusive of the premium of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which, having been already deducted and paid to the Treasurer of that Fund, is now ordered to be refunded to the Ministers. The Assembly is gratified to learn that the Committee are endeavouring to make arrangements whereby vacant congregations can have the fullest possible benefit of the settled ministry of the Church, with a lessening of the expenditure at present incurred upon week-end supply.

**III. - Act anent Publications ( No. 3 of Class II. ) Edinburgh , 23rd May 1907. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly ordain that the Editors of the Monthly Record and Instructor should henceforth be members, ex officio, of the Publications Committee, and should be responsible to the General Assembly through this Committee, it being always recognised that the fullest editorial discretion is vested in the Editors of these respective magazines.

**IV. - Act anent disjunction of certain Congregations from the Presbytery of Glasgow,  
and resuscitation of the Presbytery of Inveraray ( No. 4 of Class II. ). Edinburgh , 23rd  
May 1907. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly disjoin the congregations of Lochfyneside, Strachur, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, North Knapdale, Kilberry, South Knapdale, Tarbert, Campbeltown, Killean, Kilcalmonell, Killarrow, Kilchoman, Kildalton, Portnahaven, and Jura, from the Presbytery of Glasgow; form the said congregations into a Presbytery to be called the Presbytery of Inveraray, and appoint its first meeting to be held at Tarbert, on Tuesday the 9th day of July 1907, at one o'clock in the afternoon, and thereafter as the said Presbytery shall appoint. The Presbytery of Inveraray shall be connected with the Southern Synod.

**V. - Act anent Buildings (No. 5 of Class II. ). Edinburgh , 24th May 1907. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly authorise the Committee to consult with the Law and Advisory Committee as to a general building scheme, as to the best way of securing the necessary funds, and to report to any of the Commissions of the General Assembly; and that the Commission to which the said Report may be submitted be authorised to deal with the same.

The Assembly also instruct and ordain that no claim be considered by the Committee till it has first received the approval of the local Presbytery; that the congregations which have been deprived of their buildings have a prior claim upon the Committee for consideration; but that, before their claim is considered, plans and estimates of any proposed new buildings and repairs must be submitted, and have the approval of the local Presbytery and of this Committee.

**VI. - Interim Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches, and Repeal of diverse Acts (No. 6 of Class II.). Edinburgh , 24th May 1907. Sess. 7.**

Whereas it is desirable to amend the legislation relative to the admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches, and federal relations with other Churches, the General Assembly enact and ordain ad interim, as follows :-

I. No minister or probationer of another denomination or Church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without an unqualified subscription of the Formula.

II. No minister or probationer of another denomination or Church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without the authority of the General Assembly or their Commission.

III. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made through one of its Presbyteries.

IV. Every Presbytery, to which an application to be received as aforesaid shall be made, shall transmit to the Assembly or their Commission, through the Admissions Committee :- (1) Answers, subscribed by the applicant, to the queries set forth in the first Schedule to this Act or, if the applicant is a probationer, answers subscribed by him to such of the queries set forth in the first Schedule to this Act, as relate to the case of a probationer :- and (2) their own answers, subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, to the queries set forth in the second Schedule to this Act

V. Act VII., Assembly 1846, "anent the Admission of Ministers from other Churches" ; Act VIII., Assembly 1850, "anent the Admission of Ministers from other Churches"; Act VI., Assembly 1858, "anent the Synod of Victoria"; Act VII., Assembly 1861, "anent the Australian Churches"; Act III., Assembly 1873, "anent the Mutual Eligibility of Ministers of the United Presbyterian, Reformed Presbyterian, and Free Churches"; Act I., Assembly 1878, "anent Probation required of Ministers admitted from other Churches"; Act III., Assembly 1888, "anent Federal Relations with the Presbyterian Church of England"; Act III., Assembly 1889, "anent Probationers from other Churches"; and Act VIII., Assembly 1890, "anent Regulations as to Probationers, &c., from the Federated Churches"; so much of Act II., Assembly 1874, "anent Signing of the Formula" as relates exclusively to the case of a Minister who belongs to another branch of the Church of Christ being proposed to be called to any charge in this Church; and all other enactments inconsistent with Section 2 hereof as depending on the foregoing, are hereby repealed, saving and excepting all rights arising out of or effects consequent upon, any procedure thereunder regularly taken prior to the passing of this Act.

## SCHEDULES.

### First Schedule

1. What are applicant's age and place of birth?
2. Is applicant married or unmarried?
3. What are the particulars of applicant's curriculum of study (a) in Arts; and (b) in Theology? State in regard to both (a) university or college ; (b) number of years and classes; and (c) degree.
4. By what Presbytery, and at what date, was applicant licensed ?
5. By what Presbytery, and at what date, was applicant ordained?
6. With what denomination has applicant been connected, and in what capacities? Give dates and particulars, and reasons for any change of church connection.
7. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to leave his present Church?
8. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to be received into the Free Church of Scotland?
9. Does the applicant believe in the scripturalness of the Presbyterian mode of Church government?
10. Is the applicant well acquainted with the contentings of the Free Church of Scotland against Erastianism and against Voluntaryism, and is he prepared to maintain her testimony against both of these?
11. Does the applicant believe in the inerrancy of Holy Scripture?
12. Does the applicant accept the Calvinistic system of doctrine as against Arminianism and other false systems, and is he prepared to teach the same?
13. Does the applicant approve of the purity of worship at present authorised in this Church, whereby uninspired hymns and the use of instrumental music are disallowed, and is he prepared to conform to, and maintain said purity of worship?

### SECOND SCHEDULE.

1. What opinion have the Presbytery formed regarding the bona fides of the answers to the queries in the Schedule signed by the applicant, and what special inquiry have they made into the case?
2. What is the Presbytery's information as to, or opinion of, the applicant's pulpit gifts?

3. Do the Presbytery recommend that the applicant be admitted into the Church?

**VII. - Act anent Collections (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1907. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly express their gratitude for the increased liberality of the members and adherents of the Church, as manifested by the financial reports which have been submitted. The Assembly appoint the following collections to be made in all congregations during the ensuing year:

1. On the 3rd Sabbath of August 1907 - Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 2. " 3rd " October - Highlands and Islands. 3. " 3rd " December - Jewish Missions 4. " 3rd " January 1908 - Training of Ministry. 5. " 3rd " March - Home Missions.

Further, the General Assembly appoint a collection to be made for Foreign Missions, on the third Sabbath of July, in any congregation which has no association in aid of that scheme. When the dates specified for collections are found inconvenient for congregations, Deacons' Courts are instructed to arrange for collections being made on other dates. Care is to be taken, however, that the people are not to be deprived of the opportunity of contributing. The Assembly are gratified to observe that the number of the congregations which have failed to take up all the collections is less than formerly. There is still room for improvement in the observance of the duty which lies on every Deacons' Court. The Assembly enjoin upon Presbyteries to ascertain if all the collections have been duly made, together with the reason alleged in any case of failure, and to report thereon to the Finance Committee, not later than the 31st day of March. The Assembly appoint the foregoing part of this Act to be read from each pulpit on the first convenient Sabbath after the receipt of the print of this Act. The Assembly recommend preachers on that occasion to draw attention to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**VIII. - Act anent appointment of Commission (No. 8 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 24th May 1907. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the Members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of Rev. A. Torrens, named by the Moderator:- To be a Commission of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of the present exceptional circumstances created by the late legislative action of the Government, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary

and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church. And the Assembly declare that the said meetings of Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all questions which may arise in connection with the matters aforesaid. And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church: And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly) : And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in or for all their actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**IX. - Act anent appointment of next General Assembly (No. 9 of Class II.). Edinburgh  
24th May 1907. Sess. 7.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet at Edinburgh on Tuesday, 19th May 1908, at twelve o'clock noon.

**OVERTURE TRANSMITTED TO PRESBYTERIES FOR THEIR OPINION.**

Anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches, and Repeal of diverse Acts.

Whereas it is desirable to amend the legislation relative to the admission of ministers and probationers from other Churches, and federal relations with other Churches, the General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, enact and ordain as follows :-

I. No minister or probationer of another denomination or Church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without an unqualified subscription of the Formula.

II. No minister or probationer of another denomination or Church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without the authority of the General Assembly or their Commission. .

III. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made through one of its Presbyteries.

IV. Every Presbytery, to which an application to be received as aforesaid shall be made, shall transmit to the Assembly or their Commission, through the Admissions Committee :- (1) Answers, subscribed by the applicant, to the queries set forth in the first Schedule to this Act ; or, if the applicant is a probationer, answers subscribed by him to such of the queries set forth in the first Schedule to this Act, as relate to the case of a probationer; and (2) their own answers, subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, to the queries set forth in the second Schedule to this Act.

V. Act VIII., Assembly 1846, “anent the Admission of Ministers from other Churches”; Act VIII., Assembly 1850, “anent the Admission of Ministers from other Churches”; Act VI., Assembly 1858, “anent the Synod of Victoria” ; Act VII., Assembly 1861, “ anent the Australian Churches” ; Act III., Assembly 1873,” anent the Mutual Eligibility of Ministers of the United Presbyterian, Reformed Presbyterian, and Free Churches”; Act I., Assembly 1878, “anent Probation required of Ministers admitted from other Churches”; Act III., Assembly 1888, “anent Federal Relations with the Presbyterian Church of England”; Act III., Assembly 1889, “anent Probationers from other Churches”; and Act VIII., Assembly 1890, “anent Regulations as to Probationers, &c., from the Federated Churches”; so much of Act II., Assembly 1874 “anent Signing of the Formula” as relates exclusively to the case of a Minister who belongs to another branch of the Church of Christ being proposed to be called to any charge in this Church; and all other enactments inconsistent with Section 2 hereof as depending on the foregoing, are hereby repealed, saving and excepting all rights arising out of or effects consequent upon, any procedure thereunder regularly taken prior to the passing of this Act.

## SCHEDULES.

### First Schedule

1. What are applicant’s age and place of birth?
2. Is applicant married or unmarried?
3. What are the particulars of applicant’s curriculum of study (a) in Arts; and (b) in Theology? State in regard to both (a) university or college ; (b) number of years and classes; and (c) degree.
4. By what Presbytery, and at what date, was applicant licensed ?
5. By what Presbytery, and at what date, was applicant ordained?
6. With what denomination has applicant been connected, and in what capacities? Give dates and particulars, and reasons for any change of church connection.
7. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to leave his present Church?
8. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to be received into the Free Church of Scotland?
9. Does the applicant believe in the scripturalness of the Presbyterian mode of Church government?
10. Is the applicant well acquainted with the contendings of the Free Church of Scotland against Erastianism and against Voluntaryism, and is he prepared to maintain her testimony against both of these?
11. Does the applicant believe in the inerrancy of Holy Scripture?

12. Does the applicant accept the Calvinistic system of doctrine as against Arminianism and other false systems, and is he prepared to teach the same?

13. Does the applicant approve of the purity of worship at present authorised in this Church, whereby uninspired hymns and the use of instrumental music are disallowed, and is he prepared to conform to, and maintain said purity of worship?

#### Second Schedule

1. What opinion have the Presbytery formed regarding the bona fides of the answers to the queries in the Schedule signed by the applicant, and what special inquiry have they made into the case?

2. What is the Presbytery's information as to, or opinion of, the applicant's pulpit gifts?

3. Do the Presbytery recommend that the applicant be admitted into the Church?

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#### THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XIX., MDCCCXVIII. (1908)

##### **CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT.**

**I. - Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches, and Repeal of diverse Acts. Edinburgh, 22nd May 1908. Sess. 6.**

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend the legislation relative to the admission of ministers and probationers from other Churches and federal relations with other Churches, the General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, enact and ordain as follows :-

I. No minister or probationer of another denomination or Church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without an unqualified subscription of the Formula.

II. No minister or probationer of another denomination or Church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without the authority of the General Assembly, or their Commission

III. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made through one of its Presbyteries.

IV. Every Presbytery, to which an application to be received as aforesaid shall be made, shall transmit to the Assembly or their Commission, through the Admissions Committee (1) Answers, subscribed by the applicant, to the queries set forth in the first Schedule to this Act ; or, if the applicant is a probationer, answers subscribed by him to such of the queries set forth in the first Schedule to this Act, as relate to the case of a probationer ; and (2) their own answers, subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, to the queries set forth in the second Schedule to this Act.

V. Act VIII., Assembly 1846, “ anent the Admission of Ministers from other Churches “ ; Act VIII., Assembly 1850, “ anent the Admission of Ministers from other Churches “ ; Act VI., Assembly 1858, “ anent the Synod of Victoria ” ; Act VII., Assembly 1861, “ anent the Australian Churches “ ; Act III., Assembly 1873, “ anent the Mutual Eligibility of Ministers of the United Presbyterian, Reformed Presbyterian, and Free Churches ” Act I., Assembly 1878, “ anent Probation required of Ministers admitted from other Churches “ ; Act III., Assembly 1888, “ anent Federal Relations with the Presbyterian Church of England “ ; Act III., Assembly 1889, “ anent Probationers from other Churches “ ; and Act VIII., Assembly 1890, “ anent Regulations as to Probationers, &c., from the Federated Churches ” ; so much of Act II., Assembly 1874, “ anent Signing of the Formula ” as relates exclusively to the case of a Minister who belongs to another branch of the Church of Christ being proposed to be called to any charge in this Church; and all other enactments inconsistent with Section 2 hereof as depending on the foregoing, are hereby repealed, saving and excepting all rights arising out of, or effects consequent upon any procedure thereunder regularly taken prior to the passing of this Act.

## SCHEDULES.

### FIRST SCHEDULE.

1. What are applicant's age and place of birth?
2. Is applicant married or unmarried?
3. What are the particulars of applicant's curriculum of study (a) in Arts ; and (b) in

Theology ? State in regard to both (a) university or college ; (b) number of years and classes; and (c) degree.

4. By what Presbytery, and at what date, was applicant licensed ?

5. By what Presbytery, and at what date, was applicant ordained? 6. With what denomination has applicant been connected, and in what capacities? Give dates and particulars, and reasons for any change of church connection.

7. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to leave his present Church ? 8. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to be received into the Free Church of Scotland?

9. Does the applicant believe in the scripturalness of the Presbyterian mode of church government? 10. Is the applicant well acquainted with the contentings of the Free Church of Scotland against Erastianism and against Voluntaryism, and is he prepared to maintain her testimony against both of these?

11. Does the applicant believe in the inerrancy of Holy Scripture?

12. Does the applicant accept the Calvinistic system of doctrine as against Arminianism and other false systems, and is he prepared to teach the same?

13. Does the applicant approve of the purity of worship at present authorised in this Church, whereby uninspired hymns and the use of instrumental music are disallowed, and is he prepared to conform to, and maintain said purity of worship ?

## SECOND SCHEDULE.

1. What opinion have the Presbytery formed regarding the bona fides of the answers to the queries in the Schedule signed by the applicant, and what special inquiry have they made into the case ?

2. What is the Presbytery's information as to, or opinion of, the applicant's pulpit gifts ?

3. Do the Presbytery recommend that the applicant be admitted into the Church?

## **CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH.**

### **II. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II).**

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

May it please Your Majesty,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly, desire to assure Your Majesty of our deep attachment to Your

Majesty and Your Royal House. Our earnest prayer to Almighty God is that He would be pleased to bless and prosper Your Majesty's efforts for the welfare of your people and for the preservation of the peace of the world. We gratefully recognise the many advantages and privileges which we enjoy under Your Majesty's beneficent sway. We recall with profound thankfulness the many years of prosperity which have been vouchsafed to this vast Empire. We believe that, if we may anticipate in the days that are to come, a continuance of the blessings we have hitherto enjoyed, it can only be by adhering to those principles of righteousness and truth which have been the glory and safeguard of our country in the past. In our humble opinion, the preservation of civil and religious liberty is dependent on the maintenance of the safeguards cast around our National Protestantism. We sincerely trust Your Majesty's influence will ever be exerted to preserve these in their integrity. We earnestly pray that, by the good hand of the King of Kings, Your Majesty may be protected from danger, and have health and strength to discharge the numerous and onerous duties which belong to Your Royal Estate. We also renew our expression of loyal devotion to our beloved Queen, whose unfailing interest in the condition of the people everywhere, and especially whose gracious sympathy with the poor and afflicted elicit the regard and admiration of all. Finally, we commend Your Majesty and Your Royal House to the protection and guidance of the Almighty.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most devoted and obedient servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Signed in the name, and by our appointment,

WILLIAM MACKINNON, Moderator

### **III. - Act anent Finance (No. 2 of Class II). Edinburgh, 20th May 1908. Sess. 2.**

The General Assembly receive the Report now presented, and thank the Committee, and especially the Convener. The Assembly adopt the Abstract of Accounts annexed to the Report. The Assembly approve generally of the Scheme of Distribution recommended by the Committee, and annexed to the Report, empowering the Committee to modify the same in detail, if, through variation in the final allocation by the Executive Commission, that shall appear proper to the Committee. The Assembly recognise that the capital at the credit of the Sustentation Fund Committee should not be less than £140,000. They direct that the income from all investments, including College Investments, be pooled by the Finance Committee, and payment made to each Committee at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum upon the sum at the credit of each Committee, subject to these provisos (1) that the sum paid to the Training of the Ministry Committee, as for the College Fund, shall be the fixed sum of £3000 per annum : and (2) that the interest payable to the Sustentation Fund Committee shall be calculated as upon a capital of £140,000 ; that thereafter the whole income from investments be added to the capital at the credit of the Sustentation Fund Committee until that capital shall amount to £140,000 ; on which being done, the whole free income from investments shall be funded as a reserve against depreciation, or loss, of capital. As to the income from

Special Trusts, and assuming that the sum of £66,000 shall be received from the sources already indicated, the Assembly direct that the administration of the income from Peat's Trust, from Hunter's first Trust for Territorial Charges in Edinburgh and in Glasgow, and the Chalmers' Endowment for Territorial Charges in Glasgow, be undertaken by the Home Mission Committee ; that the income from Hamilton's Trust, Mackay (Rockfield) Trust, and Smeaton's Trust, be administered by the Sustentation Fund Committee ; that the administration of the Funds for Invalid Ministers and for Invalid Lay Agents be undertaken by the Sustentation Fund Committee these several Committee being hereby enjoined to prepare rules for the administration of the respective funds (or other funds, if any, in lieu thereof), and to submit the same for the approval of next Assembly, or of the Commission of this Assembly. With reference to the Archibald Macdonald Trust, the General Assembly recall that although this money was left for Foreign Missions, the testator's will expressly bore that after forty years - i.e., in 1908, "The High Rulers who are over the Free Church of Scotland may change the interest of the money, if they think so proper, and give it for the preaching of the Gospel to poor people who have got no settled ministers, from year to year, throughout the Highlands of Scotland." The Assembly hereby expressly change the destination of this Fund, and give the same to the Highland Committee.

**IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 3 of Class II). Edinburgh, 20th. May 1908. Sess. 2.**

The Assembly is gratified at knowing that a considerable amount of capital funds have been allocated for the purposes of this Committee, but deplore the inadequacy of it, and the allocation to another Church of funds in regard to which there can be no question as to capacity to use on the part of this Church. The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend to be at the rate of £160 for the past year, exclusive of the premium of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which, having been already deducted, and paid to the Treasurer of that Fund, is now ordered to be refunded to the Ministers.

**V. - Act anent Official Staff (No. 4 of Class II). Edinburgh, 20th May 1908. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly approve generally of the Report of the Committee on the Official Staff of the Church, in so far as it affects the General Treasurer's department; but, otherwise, the Assembly resolve on a reduction in the size and cost of the Staff; the Assembly direct that the office of General Secretary be abolished on and after 1st August 1908. In respect of his signal services to the Church, in her recent crisis in her history, the Finance Committee is hereby authorised to grant to Mr. J. Hay Thorburn, on his demitting office on 1st August 1908, an honorarium of not less value than £1000, to be fixed otherwise in amount and in nature by the Finance Committee. The Assembly contemplate that the clerical work of the Church shall be performed by the Conveners of Committees, assisted, in the Sustentation Fund Committee, by the Principal Clerk of Assembly, who shall ex officio be (unpaid) Secretary of that Committee ; and assisted, in the other Committees, by a staff of subordinate clerks, approximate to the subordinate staff recommend by the Report, for which purpose the Assembly approve generally of the following suggested scheme for the office work, and remits the scheme to the Finance Committee, with powers to carry the same into effect, with or without modification, as may appear necessary. If letters shall at any time be received, or if business shall arise, which does not appear to be appropriate to any Committee of the

Church, the member or official, who is first informed thereof, shall report the same to the Clerk of Assembly, who shall take the instructions thereon of the Moderator of the last Assembly and of the Principal of the College. The Moderator, the Principal, and the Clerk of Assembly shall be a Committee to represent the Church in all matters of ceremony, or matters of business not involving issues such as would require the mind of the Church to be ascertained in an orderly way.

#### SCHEME REFERRED TO.

1. The appointment, remuneration, control, and discipline of the subordinate staff shall belong to the Finance Committee, which is authorised to appoint and act through such Sub-Committees as it may think requisite.
2. The General Treasurer shall be in daily attendance in the office, and shall be the resident head of the staff. He shall report to the Finance Committee from time to time as to the attendance, conduct, and sufficiency of the other members of the staff.
3. All expenditure on stationery, furnishings, appliances, and other such items shall be made by the Finance Committee, on the recommendation of the Treasurer.
4. The Clerks shall be detailed by the Finance Committee to attend to the affairs of the several Committees. The daily correspondence arriving in the Offices shall be laid, unopened, before the Treasurer, or in his unavoidable absence, before the Senior Clerk. Letters addressed to Conveners or other persons, by name, shall be redirected and sent, or handed, to the addressees. Letters addressed to the "Convener" of a particular Committee, shall be handed to and opened by the Secretary or by the Clerk detailed to the Committee. Letters addressed to the Church or Officials thereof, without specification, shall be opened by the Treasurer. Letters for Conveners when opened (if not relating to mere routine which the clerk can dispose of) shall be at once sent to the Convener, together with such papers out of the archives as may be pertinent to the subject of the letters. Conveners shall reply to the letters, and, if time permits, return them to the Office that the Secretary or Clerk may file copies before despatch to the addressees.
5. Conveners shall inform their Secretary or Clerk what items are to be put on the Agenda of Meetings. A Secretary or Clerk shall not bring any subject before a Committee without previous communication to the Convener, or (if the business arises at, or on the eve of a meeting, and the Convener is absent) to the Chairman of the meeting.
6. After a Committee meeting, and before leaving Edinburgh, Conveners will adjust (or if necessary they shall depute to the Vice-Convener, or other member to adjust) with the Secretary or Clerk, all letters to be sent out in implement of the Minutes of the Meeting. The letters shall, when ready, be sent to the Conveners for signature, and thereafter the routine of correspondence will be followed as in paragraph 4.
7. When the business of a Committee requires frequent attendance at the Offices, the Convener may, if not resident in, or convenient to Edinburgh, depute the Vice-Convener or other member who is resident in, or convenient to Edinburgh, and such member may act as for the Convener in dealing with correspondence or emergency business ; or a Committee

may appoint one of its number to be unpaid Secretary.

**VI. - Act anent Ordained Missionaries (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 21st May 1908. Sess. 4.**

The Assembly, following the Act VIII. of Assembly 1895, anent Ordained Preachers, determine that the Presbytery in all Charges served by Ordained Missionaries shall continue to appoint a Moderator of Session, but shall have the power to appoint such Ordained Missionary as an Assessor to the Session during his service in such Charges ; that such Ordained Missionary may be authorised to act for the Moderator in his absence, and to administer ordinances at the request of the Session ; and that he shall be eligible for election as a representative elder to the Presbytery so long as he is employed within its bounds, and is an elder to the Assembly either by his own or another Presbytery

**VII. - Act anent Consolidation of Charges (No. 6 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 21st May 1908 Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly receive the Report ; and, in accordance with the views of Presbyteries, now empower the Presbyteries, as they see fit, to consolidate Charges, or make arrangements for joint working, in the following Charges :- Forfar with Dunnichen, Kilcalmonel with Killean, Kilmartin with Lochgilphead, Kilchoman with Kildalton, Killarrow with Portnahaven, Acharacle with Strontian, Muckairn with Ardchattan, Fort-William with Kilmallie, Arisaig with Small Isles, Daviot with Stratherrick, Fort Augustus with Glenmoriston, Kiltarlity with Kirkhill and Strathglass, Avoch with Fortrose, Kilmorack with Urray, Contin with Strathpeffer, Maryburgh with Dingwall, Glenelg and Arnisdale with Glenshiel, Little Lochbroom with Lochbroom, Duirinish with Waternish, Tain with Edderton, Croick with Kincardine, Assynt with Stoer, Brora with Golspie, or Golspie with Rogart, Tongue with Farr, Lenimore with Lochranza, Carloway with Uig. Further, the General Assembly declare the following Charges to be Stations :- Burntisland, Falkirk, Forfar and Dunnichen, St Andrews, Strachur, Muckairn and Ardchattan, Morven, Ross and Brolas, Arisaig and Small Isles, Forres, Grantown-on-Spey, Achnasheen and Achanalt, Bernera, Carinish, Harris, Arnisort, Eddrachillis. Further, the General Assembly, recognising that the Free Church congregations of Edinburgh High and of Port-William have ceased to assemble, hereby declare these charges to be dissolved.

**VIII. - Act anent Buildings (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1908. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly receive the Report upon Buildings, and commend the work of erecting and repairing buildings and liquidating debts to the diligence of the Committee, recommending them to carry this out as expeditiously and economically as possible, keeping always in mind the necessities of the field as a whole, and doing as justly as the funds at their disposal will allow to the congregations having claims on the Committee. The Assembly further empower the Committee to send delegates, wherever their assistance is necessary, to help local parties in carrying out the details of their scheme.

**IX. - Act anent Standing Orders of Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.). Edinburgh 22nd May 1908. Sess. 6.**

That the Standing Order No. 2, Branch VI., be altered to read as follows :-

2. That each of the principal Committees, other than the Finance Committee, shall consist (over and above any members ex officii) of twelve members, whereof at least four shall be laymen.

That Standing Order No. 3, Branch VI., be altered by inserting after the word "secure" the following parenthesis - "(without counting the number of members ex officii)"

That Standing Order No. 4, Branch VI., be altered to read as follows :- "That the three senior members of Senate who may not otherwise have been appointed members of that Committee, shall be, ex officii, members of the Training of the Ministry Committee"

That Standing Order No. 5, Branch VI., be altered by inserting after the words "three of these," the parenthesis "(not counting the Finance Committee)."

That Standing Order No. 7, Branch VI., be altered by deleting the parenthesis "(including the Convener and Vice-Convener)."

That Standing Order No. 8, Branch VI., should be amended to read as follows :- "That the Nominations Committee shall not later than three days after the March Commission of Assembly in each year, intimate to the Clerks of Presbyteries the names of all members of Committees who have died or resigned, and the names of all members of Principal Committees who fall to retire at the ensuing Assembly, with particulars of such Committees as these retiring members are eligible for. Not later than forty-two days after such intimation, each Presbytery shall send to the Nominations Committee the names of eight ministers and eight elders (not necessarily members of that Presbytery) who are proposed as suitable and competent for serving on the Principal and Special Committees."

#### **X. - Act anent Collections (No. 9 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1908. Sess. 6.**

The Assembly realise the increasing obligation which lies upon the Church of maintaining in full vigour the agencies to which, in God's providence, she has been called to put her hands. In present circumstances, it is necessary to remind the Church's faithful members that the grace of liberality should be in more lively exercise day by day - "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The Assembly appoint the following collections to be made in all congregations is during the ensuing year :-

1. On the 3rd Sabbath of August 1908, - Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 2. " 3rd " October - Highlands and Islands. 3. " 3rd " December - Jewish Missions. 4. " 3rd " January 1909, - Training of the Ministry. 5. " 3rd " May - Home Missions.

Further, the General Assembly appoint a collection to be made Foreign Missions, on the third Sabbath of July, in any congregation which has no association in aid of that scheme. When the dates specified for collections are found inconvenient for congregations, Deacons' Courts are instructed to arrange for collections being made on other dates, care to be taken, however, that the people are not to be deprived of the opportunity of contributing. The Assembly are gratified to observe that the number of the congregations which have failed to make all the

collections are less than formerly. There is still room for improvement in the observance of the duty which lies on every Deacons' Court. The Assembly enjoin all the Presbyteries to ascertain if all the collections are duly made. The Assembly appoint the foregoing part of this Act to be read from each pulpit on the first convenient Sabbath after the receipt of the print of this Act. The Assembly recommend preachers on that occasion to draw attention to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**XI. - Act anent General Assembly (No. 10 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 22nd May 1908.  
Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, resolve that the General Assembly be constituted as formerly on the Tuesday next after the 17th day of May in each year, and that henceforth the Assembly continue in session during the succeeding week for such time as may be required for the transaction of the business before it. The Assembly also resolve to send down to the Presbyteries the following queries :-

1. Would it, in your opinion, be desirable that the General Assembly should meet at a later date than at present?
2. If so, would you be in favour of first Tuesday of June?
3. Or, alternatively, would you be in favour of first Thursday of June

**XII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.). Edinburgh 22nd May 1908. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the Members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of the Rev. A. Gilfillan, named by the Moderator. : TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly , with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of the present exceptional circumstances of the Church in respect of the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take. And the Assembly declare that the said Meetings of Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly, to deal with all questions which may arise in connection with the matters aforesaid. And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law

and practice of the Church: And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly) : And in all their actings, the said Commission are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in or for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XIII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 12 of Class II. ).  
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1908. Sess. 7.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet at Edinburgh on Tuesday, 18th May 1909, at twelve o'clock noon.

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OVERTURE TRANSMITTED TO PRESBYTERIES

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XVIII., MDCCCCIX. (1909)

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**I. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II. ) Edinburgh, 20th May 1909. Sess. 13.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly, avail ourselves of the opportunity anew to tender the expression of our continued loyalty and devoted attachment to Your Majesty's person, family, and throne. We give humble and hearty thanks to the Giver of all good for the singular benefits which the nation continues to enjoy under Your Majesty's wise and beneficent reign. As a Church, we seek in all things to be guided by the revealed will of Him who is alone Head of the Church, and by whom kings reign and princes decree justice. In the light of His word we feel persuaded that it is only by adhering to principles of righteousness and truth, which, since the Reformation, have been the safeguard of our country, that our continued prosperity can be assured. The civil and religious liberties that have been so long enjoyed in this realm are now being seriously threatened by the growing disregard to the sanctity of the Lord's Day as a day of sacred rest and worship, by an increasing apathy to the claims of religion, and by encroachments, both insidious and overt, made by the Church of Rome on the Protestant Constitution of the kingdom. We continue instant in prayer and supplication that Your Majesty, amidst the duties and cares of your high position, by personal influence and example, may set your face against these tendencies that we so much deplore, and be instrumental, under the divine blessing, in promoting pure and undefiled religion among all ranks of the people, and in averting the dangers that beset the maintenance of the Protestant Succession to your throne. We recognise with thankfulness Your Majesty's influence in promoting the cause of peace among the nations. We pray that Your Majesty may be long spared to reign over a loyal and loving people that in Your Majesty's reign peace and prosperity may continue to be enjoyed by the nation; and that in God's good time, and through His rich blessing, Your Majesty, having lived a life of faith in the Son of God, may receive the Crown of Glory that fadeth not away. Praying Your Majesty's gracious acceptance of this expression of the loyalty and affection of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's dutiful and obedient subjects,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED.

Signed in name and by appointment of the Free Church of Scotland at Edinburgh, the 26th  
day of May 1909 years, by

JAMES HENRY, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Appointment of Assistant Clerk (No. 2 Of Class II.). Edinburgh, 19th  
May 1909. Sess. 2.**

The Assembly adopt the Committee's recommendation that a Depute Clerk should not meantime be appointed; that an Assistant Clerk should be appointed at the opening of each General Assembly, the office to be held during the time of the Assembly only; that those holding the office should be the Clerks of the Presbyteries of the Church; that they should be appointed in rotation ; and that the remuneration for such services should be £5, 5s.

**III. - Act anent Finance (No. 3 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 19th May 1909. Sess. 2.**

The Assembly approve of the Report and of the Accounts submitted, without prejudice to the Assembly's right to deal with the Accounts of the several Committees when the business of these Committees shall come before the House. With a view to the cautious administration of the Church's Funds, the Assembly ordain that every Committee of the Church, charged with the administration of Funds, shall prepare a Budget of its probable income and expenditure for the year, beginning with the date of the Budget; such Budget, in the case of the Principal Standing Committees, to be dated 1st January, and submitted to the Finance Committee on or before 15th January in each year; and in the case of other Committees, to be dated 1st June, and submitted to the Finance Committee on or before 1st August in each year. The Assembly confers upon the Finance Committee power to review such Budgets and to inform the several Committees, submitting the same, whether, and to what extent, any expenditure, in excess of probable income, will be honoured by the Finance Committee. The General Assembly advert to the Deliverance (Act III., 1908), and authorise the Finance Committee to reconsider the allocation of Funds therein contained, and to approve or disapprove of any variations of the same which may be suggested by any other of the Committees, - the Finance Committee having power to settle any difference arising between the other Committees as to such re-allocations.

**IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 4 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 20th May 1909. Sess. 4.**

WHEREFORE the General Assembly adopt the Report, and anew impress on the congregations and friends of the Church the growing claims of the Fund upon their generous support. The General Assembly greatly regret that on account of the debit balance shown against the Committee on 31st December 1908, being £3718, 19s. 1d., they are unable to authorise an Equal Dividend, to Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform for the year 1908, of more than £145, but they earnestly plead with ministers, office-bearers, and people, to increase the Fund during the year 1909. The General Assembly authorise the Committee to deduct from the salary of ministers that may be ordained or inducted after this date, and of the ministers of those congregations whose relations to the Sustentation Fund may be open to reconsideration under Act IV., 1906 (Act anent Sustentation Fund), whatever sum the congregations of said ministers may have come short during the immediately preceding year of the minimum contribution to the Sustentation Fund promised by them at the time of settlement till such cases are reported to the General Assembly, and the Assembly has expressly dealt with them, provided that no satisfactory cause is shown to the Committee for said shortcoming. The Assembly enjoin all Presbyteries of the Church to see to such organisation being set up throughout all the congregations of the Church as will allow of the people contributing monthly to the Sustentation Fund. The General Assembly also approve of the Report in respect of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund, and anew record regret that so many congregations of the Church failed to make the collection for this Fund ordered by last General Assembly.

**V. - Act anent Management of the Assembly Hall Buildings (No. 5 of Class II.).  
Edinburgh, 19th May 1909. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly approve of the scheme submitted by the Committee for managing the Assembly Hall Buildings, and for apportioning the expenses thereof as follows :-

(1) That the Arrangements Committee (with concurrence of Deacons' Court of St Columba) appoint a caretaker to reside on the premises, and to be entirely responsible to the Assembly Arrangements Committee for the condition of the premises, and to act as Assembly Officer.

(2) That the Congregation of St Columba have the services of the caretaker as beadle in respect only of supplying him with fuel and light.

(3) That the Assembly Arrangements Committee pay the electric light used by them according to metre; the Deacons' Court of St Columba to pay all other electric light and all fuel, including fuel used during the Assembly, or any meetings sanctioned by the Assembly Arrangements Committee.

(4) That all other costs (e.g., feu-duty, insurance, and repairs) be borne by the Deacons' Court to extent of two-thirds, and by the Assembly Arrangements Committee to extent of one-third.

(5) That the Assembly Arrangements Committee retain the use of the Moderator's room in the building for storing Assembly property.

(6) That the Assembly Arrangements Committee have power to sanction the use of the premises for any general church purposes, subject to the adjustment of dates with the Deacons' Court.

(7) That collections, if any, taken at sitting of the Assembly, on the Assembly Sabbath day, and at any meetings under clause 6, shall be at the disposal of the General Assembly.

**VI. - Act anent Supplying of Ordinances at Fishing Stations and Vacant Congregations (No. 6 of Class II. ). Edinburgh, 21st May 1909. Sess. 7.**

The Assembly have heard with warm interest of the devotion with which the Deputies, Lay Agents, and Bible-woman did their work at the Fishing Stations in Scotland and England, and the encouraging success of the effort of the Committee to circulate healthy literature among our people at these stations. The Assembly enjoin ministers to respond to invitations to undertake work at these stations, and on Sacramental occasions in the Presbyteries of Lewis and Skye, and further, they would enjoin all Presbyteries in the Church to have all vacant congregations within their bounds ministered to, at least once in six weeks, by one of their ministerial members. While the Assembly rejoice to learn that the number of students in training for the ministry is such as gives promise of a fairly adequate supply of preachers for the coming year, they would impress upon the people the claims the ministry in the Highlands have upon their sons, and strongly recommend the claims of this Committee for increased support to all the congregations of the Church, and to all who are interested in her work to enable the Committee to carry out with greater efficiency the work entrusted to it in the Highlands and the Home Missions' field.

**VII. - Act anent Buildings (No. 7 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1909. Sess. 11.**

The Assembly are gratified to learn that provision has been made in the direction of housing so many congregations of the Church, and also that arrangements have been made to relieve

other congregations of undesirable burdens and debts, and trust that, under the careful supervision of the Committee, further progress may be reported to the next General Assembly. The Assembly authorise the Committee to report to the Commission of Assembly, at any of its meetings, any cases needing the authority of the Supreme Court for their disposal, and the Commission is empowered to deal with and dispose of cases so brought before it.

**VIII. - Act anent Standing Orders of Assembly (No. 5 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1909. Sess. 12.**

The Assembly re-adjust the Standing Orders as follows :-

**Branch VI. - Committees - Paragraph 2. - “That each of the Principal Committees, other than the Finance Committee and the Sustentation Fund Committee, shall consist (including members ex officiis) of not less than twelve, and not more than fifteen members, whereof at least four shall be laymen, in order that the ex officiis members may not be excluded from acting on other Principal Committees, and their standing as members ex officiis on a Principal Committee shall count as equivalent to nominated membership of that Committee, in order to comply with Standing Orders VI., paragraph 5 ; and, over and above the nominated strength of the Sustentation Fund Committee, each Presbytery, not represented thereon, shall be entitled to a representative on that Committee.”**

Also that paragraph 7 of Branch VI. be reconstructed to read as follows :”That, of the Principal Committees, one-third of the nominated members - in normal conditions, those who have served longest on the Committee - shall retire annually, so that in three years the membership of each Committee shall be changed throughout. In the year 1910-1911, the members to retire shall be selected by the Nominations Committee, with a view to bringing about normal conditions in 1912. In the event of the death or retiral of a member of the Committees before his three years have expired, the Nominations Committee are empowered to nominate to the Assembly, or its Commission, a substitute who will finish the unexpired portion of said three years.”

“Resignation of membership of one of the Principal Committees involves resignation from each of the three to which the member resigning belongs, and must be intimated to the Convener of the Nominations Committee.”

**IX. - Act anent Collections (No. 9 Of Class II.). Edinburgh, 25th May 1909. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly recognise the obligation which lies upon the Church of maintaining in a state of undiminished efficiency her various agencies in connection with the Lord’s work at home and abroad. They would record their gratitude to Almighty God for the measure of success which has hitherto attended the efforts of the Church in this connection, and in view of the fact that her activities in various directions are steadily being multiplied, they realise that there is an urgent demand for extended liberality on the part of all her faithful people. The Assembly appoint the following collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the congregations:

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1909 Welfare of Youth. 2. 3rd ,, ,, August ,, Aged and Infirm Minis-

ters'. 3. 3rd ,, ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 4. 3rd ,, ,, December ,, Jewish Missions. 5. 3rd ,, ,, January 1910, Training of Ministry. 6. 3rd ,, ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly also appoint that a collection shall be made for Foreign Missions, on the third Sabbath of September, in those congregations which have no association in aid of that scheme. The Assembly claim, on behalf of their people, that all of them shall have the opportunity of contributing, as they may be enabled, to each of the objects thus submitted to their notice, and to secure this end, they enjoin that the various collections shall be duly intimated from the pulpit and recommended to the congregations, and that Deacons Courts shall arrange for collections being made on other dates, when the dates specified above are not found suitable. The General Assembly regret to find that there are some congregations of the Church which still fail to make all those collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after 31st March, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which those congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a report to the Clerk, not later than one week before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not having been made, that the same may be laid before the General Assembly. The Assembly appoint the foregoing part of this Act to be read from each pulpit on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of the print of this Act. They recommend preachers on that occasion to draw attention to the duty and privilege of systematic giving, and to impress upon the congregations the importance of accompanying their contributions with their earnest prayers to God that these collections may, with His blessing, accomplish the purposes for which they are appointed to be made.

**X. - Act anent Professors being returned as Elders to the General Assembly (No. 10 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 18th November 1908.**

The following Report was submitted from the Law and Advisory Committee, in accordance with a remit made to them in regard to the Eligibility of Professors to be returned as Elders to the General Assembly, viz :-.

“The Committee are of opinion that a Professor, who is a bona fide acting elder in a congregation, should be declared eligible to be returned as an elder to the Assembly by any Presbytery of the Church, when not otherwise returned. Before the Disruption, a duly qualified Professor might be returned by University or Presbytery to the Assembly. There does not, therefore, appear to be any objection, on the ground of principle, to his having the privilege revived of two avenues of approach to the Supreme Court. His relation as a Professor, not to one Presbytery merely, but to the whole Church, renders such concession reasonable, especially in the present circumstances, while the equity of a member of Session, because he is a Professor, being deprived of an important privilege belonging to his office, is far from apparent. Though other elders, when representing a Session, have a seat in the Presbytery, no loss of eligibility for membership in the Assembly follows thereupon as representing either their own or another Presbytery. Further, if the possession of a seat in the Presbytery does not prevent a Professor becoming a ruling elder in a Session, it is difficult to appreciate why it should act upward, and prevent his being returned as a ruling elder to the General Assembly. The recognition of such eligibility would also appear to be the natural corollary of the decision of the Assembly in the case of Assessors to Presbyteries, in as much as Assessors have been granted the privilege of representation in virtue of their discharging the duties of minis-

ters in these Presbyteries.”

It was moved, seconded, and agreed to :-

That the Commission adopt the Report, and determine accordingly.

**XI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 26th May 1909. Sess. 13.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of the Rev. D. Maclean, named by the Moderator: TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at the least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve o'clock noon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. In view of the present exceptional circumstances of the Church in respect of the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take. And the Assembly declare that the said meetings of Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all questions that may arise in connection with the matters aforesaid. And the Assembly hereby empower the Commission to receive and dispose of all references, complaints, and appeals arising in the Inferior Courts, which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church : And the Inferior Courts are hereby instructed to remit all such cases to the said meetings in due time (in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly) : And in all their actings the said Commission are to proceed in accordance with the Acts and Constitution of the Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in or for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed, and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 12 of Class II.). Edinburgh, 26th May 1909. Sess. 13.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh on Tuesday the 24th day of May 1910, at twelve o'clock noon.

OVERTURE TRANSMITTED TO PRESBYTERIES FOR THEIR OPINION.

## Anent - Public Worship.

Whereas the maintenance in all respects by this Church of her historic position, as the Church of Scotland Free, ought to be made abundantly clear, and any misunderstanding regarding the same prevented; Whereas evil effects arose from the introduction of uninspired materials of praise at variance with the Scriptural principles and usage regulating her worship, as also of instrumental music, by the late prevailing party in her judicatures; and Whereas, on the secession of that party in October 1900, neither of these innovations remained within her borders, and they are now authoritatively proscribed by Act of Assembly, 1905, entitled, Act anent Public Worship (No. 5 of Class II.); and Whereas, further, the peace and harmony of this Church ought to be safeguarded against disturbance in all time coming from attempts to introduce these and similar innovations, the General Assembly (with the consent of Presbyteries) do, therefore, resolve to embody in this present Act, the Act XV. of Assembly 1707, entitled Act against Innovations in the Worship of God, that thereby the better knowledge and observance of the same may be secured, the terms whereof are these :- “The General Assembly of this Church, taking into their serious consideration that the purity of religion, and particularly of Divine worship, and uniformity therein, is a signal blessing to the Church of God, and that it hath been the great happiness of this Church, ever since her reformation from Popery, to have enjoyed and maintained the same in a great measure, and that any attempts made for the introduction of innovations in the worship of God therein have been of fatal and dangerous consequence: Likeas, by the 5th Act of the Parliament, anno 1690, and 23rd Act of the Parliament, 1693 years [C. 22 in Claim, Declaration, and Protest, and 38 in the Record Edition of the Acts of Parliament], and the Act lately passed for security of the present Church Establishment, the foresaid purity and uniformity of worship are expressly provided for; and being well informed, by representations sent from several Presbyteries of this Church, that innovations, particularly in the Public Worship of God, are of late set up in some places in public assemblies within their respective bounds, and that endeavours are used to promote the same, by persons of known disaffection to the present establishment, both of Church and State, the introduction whereof was not so much as once attempted, even during the late Prelacy; and considering also that such innovations are dangerous to this Church, and manifestly contrary to our known principle, (which is, that nothing is to be admitted in the worship of God but what is prescribed in the Holy Scriptures), to the constant practice of this Church, and against the good and laudable laws made since the late happy Revolution for establishing and securing the same, in her doctrine, worship, discipline, and government, and that they tend to the fomenting of schism and division, to the disturbance of the peace and quiet both of Church and State : Therefore, the General Assembly being moved with zeal, for the glory of God, and the purity and uniformity of His worship, doth hereby discharge the practice of all such innovations in Divine worship within this Church, and does require and obtest all the ministers of this Church, especially those in whose bounds any such innovations are, or may happen to be, to represent to their people the evil thereof, and seriously to exhort them to beware of them, and to deal with all such as do practice the same, in order to their recovery and reformation; and do instruct and enjoin the Commission of this Assembly to use all proper means, by applying to the Government or otherwise, for suppressing and removing all such innovations, and preventing the evils and dangers that may ensue thereupon to this Church.” And the Assembly declare that they ratify and approve the said Act XV., 1707, thus hereinbefore expressed as setting forth the permanent principles regulating the purity of worship maintained by this Church, and asserting the fatal and dangerous consequence of attempts to innovate upon the said purity of worship, and

that the historical references thereof are to be held as illustrative of the godly zeal of their forefathers in maintaining these principles, - not necessarily, however, with full approval of their methods, and the injunctions contained therein are to be implemented in accordance with the declarations contained in Act XII., 1846. Accordingly, the Assembly prohibit the practice of all such innovations in Divine worship within this Church, and require all the ministers of this Church, especially those whose congregations may happen to be in danger of being contaminated thereby, to represent to their people the evil thereof, and seriously to exhort them to beware of them. They enjoin Presbyteries, where innovations are represented as having taken place, in the order and form of Public Worship, confirmed by Acts of Assembly, and presently practised in this Church, to adopt such course as seems best fitted for restoring uniformity within their bounds, and decree that orders of Presbytery, issued to that effect, are to be obeyed, until reversed or modified by the Superior Courts. Further, they instruct and enjoin the Commission of this Assembly to use all proper means for suppressing and removing all such innovations, should they appear in connection with any of the congregations, and for preventing the evils and dangers that may ensue thereupon to this Church.