

THE PRINCIPAL  
ACTS  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
*Free Church of Scotland*  
1910 – 1919

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
THE MOUND

## CONTENTS 1910.

### PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

##### 1. Act anent Public Worship

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

2. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 3. Act anent Address to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra 4. Act anent Sustentation Fund 5. Act anent Finance 6. Act anent Reading Act 1, Class I., 1910 7. Act anent Postures in Public Worship 8. Act anent Scheme of Studies 9. Act anent Collections 10. Act anent General Trustees 11. Act anent Commissioners to the General Assembly 12. Act anent Commission of Assembly 13. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIV., MCMX. (1910)

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

##### **I. - Act anent Public Worship (No. 1 of Class I.) Edinburgh 31st May 1910. Sess. 11.**

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 ex-

pressly 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 practiced 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.

## **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, 1st June 1910. Sess. 14.**

TO HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.

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, desire with unfeigned respect to give expression to the dutiful sentiments that, in common with our flocks, we entertain towards Your Majesty's person and government. We call to mind the intimate connection that has long existed between Your Majesty's house and the Protestant profession of the realm, and the part Your Majesty's ancestors and predecessors have played in the defence of civil and religious freedom. With all who survive of the generation that remember the beneficent life-work of the good Queen Victoria, and the peaceful, prosperous, and constitutional reign of the late King, Your Majesty's father, we seek to give thanks to the Giver of all good for His favours shown to this kingdom in raising up such wise rulers. We tender to Your Majesty our heartfelt sympathy in the bereavement which the death of our late Sovereign has caused to Your Majesty, to the Royal Family, and to the Empire. In particular we would take this opportunity of uttering our condolences with the widowed Queen Alexandra, Your Majesty's Royal Mother. We cordially join in the many salutations that have greeted Your Majesty's succession to the Throne, and this we do in the hearty confidence that the rights and welfare of Your Majesty's people will ever be Your Majesty's concern. We humbly pray Almighty God in the riches of His Grace, to bless abundantly Your Majesty, Her Majesty the Queen, and the members of the Royal Family, that Your Majesty's reign may be crowned with felicity through the benediction of the Highest, and when the years have expired, that an entrance may be ministered to you abundantly into the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, to exchange an earthly for an heavenly crown.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment

J. K. CAMERON, Moderator.

### **III. - Act anent Address to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra (No. 2 of Class II.)**

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY ALEXANDRA, THE QUEEN MOTHER.

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, in General Assembly, desire to express our sincere and deep sympathy with Your Majesty in your sore and sudden bereavement by the death of His Majesty, King Edward VII., distinguished by so many endearing qualities of head and heart, whose death has created a sorrow unparalleled in depth and extent. We desire, and fervently pray that your own life may be long spared, and be productive of ever increasing good, and that the God of all consolation, Who has promised to, be a husband to the widow, and has said, - " Let your widows trust in Me," will comfort Your Majesty in your great grief and loneliness with that comfort wherewith He comforts His own. We also desire, and fervently pray that Your Majesty and King George V., and Queen Mary,

and all the Royal Mourners may enjoy all New Covenant Blessings.

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

J. K. CAMERON, Moderator.

**IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1910. Sess. 2.**

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 year to 31st December 1909. The Assembly direct that the Shilling Fund, which now stands at £713, be applied in payment to the Ministers on the Fund of the sums by which their incomes were reduced by the declaration of the Dividend for the year 1905 at the rate of £145 in place of a Dividend at the rate of £160, and that the balance be applied pro tanto in the first place to refunding to the Ministers under special arrangements the amount deducted for 1908 as premiums to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The Assembly direct that Ministers to whom grants for unordained Assistants have been, or may be, authorised, shall be entitled to receive the same although they do not employ probationers as assistants, provided they employ such assistants as shall be approved by the Sustentation Fund Committee and by the Presbytery, the operation of this direction to draw back to 1st January 1909.

**V. - Act anent Finance (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1910. Sess. 4.**

The assembly receive and adopt the Report and relative accounts and schemes. The Assembly direct that the feu-duty, taxes, insurance, and repairs of and for the Assembly Hall Buildings be borne equally as from 1st January 1910, by the Assembly Arrangements Committee and Free St. Columba Congregation. The Assembly direct the Committee to levy assessment on the Presbytery of Edinburgh, for its use of the Presbytery Hall in accordance with the conditions on which the Hall was given to the Church.

**VI. - Act anent Reading Act I. Class I., 1910 (No. 5 of Class II.)**

The Assembly enact and ordain that the following portions, brevity causa, of the Act be publicly read before the Questions appointed by Act XII., 1846, at ordinations and inductions. 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 re-

mained 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 . . . .” Accordingly, the Assembly (of the Free Church of Scotland) 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 practiced 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.

**VII. - Act anent Postures in Public Worship (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1910. Sess. 11.**

WHEREFORE the General Assembly, having considered the Overture from the Presbytery of Inveraray, recognise the importance of the subject. As the Assembly has anew, with the unanimous approval of Presbyteries, emphasized the law with respect to the maintenance of purity and uniformity of worship, it is reasonable that they should meet the prayer of the

Overture. The General Assembly therefore declare that the posture in public prayer sanctioned by Scripture and authorised by this Church, and the reverence due to the professed worship of God, is that of standing; and inasmuch as there is no such guidance in the matter of praise, it is expedient, having regard to the comfort of worshippers, that the posture in praise be that of reverent sitting in the pew.

### **VIII. - Act anent Scheme of Studies. (No. 7 of Class II.)**

The Assembly approve of the Scheme of Studies submitted by the Committee, and authorise them to have it carried out, as follows :-

#### **I. ARTS CURRICULUM.**

1. For students who pass the whole of the University Preliminary Examination the Arts Curriculum is one of three years or less, and normally ends in graduation.
2. For students unable to pass the University Preliminary Examination in whole or in part, the subjects of study for the Arts Curriculum shall be selected from among the subjects now prescribed for graduation in Arts, namely : Latin, Greek, Celtic, English, History, Logic, Moral Philosophy, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Political Economy, Geography, Zoology, Botany, Chemistry.
3. The selection of subjects shall not be left to the students alone, but shall be under the direction of a Board of Studies, consisting of the Senatus, the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Training of the Ministry Committee, with the Principal as Convener; and students who comply with the recommendations of this Board of Studies shall be regarded as regular students.
4. The selection of subjects by the Board of Studies shall have immediate reference to the present attainments of students. the due claims of literary discipline, and pre-eminent rights of sacred learning
5. The selection of subjects shall always include Greek, and all students, before entering the Class of Greek Exegesis, shall pass the Entrance Examination of the College in Greek, or an examination strictly equivalent thereto, unless they have already taken Greek for their Degree Examination.

#### **II. DIVINITY CURRICULUM.**

To meet cases where it is found that a student, without detriment to his equipment for the ministry, can complete his Divinity Curriculum in three years, this Committee is empowered to arrange his course according to the following scheme :-

The present requirement of the Church slightly exceeds one thousand lectures spread over four years. By re-arranging the time table, and without undue strain upon the students, the same amount of work can be compressed into three years, as under

First Year.

Apologetics and Natural Science ; Junior Hebrew ; Junior Systematic ; Homiletics.

Second Year.

Junior Hebrew ; Junior Exegesis ; Junior History; Evangelistic Theology.

Third Year.

Senior Systematic; Senior Exegesis; Senior History; Pastoral Theology.

**IX. - Act anent Collections. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1910. Sess. 13.**

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 1910 - Training of Ministry. 2. 3rd " August ,, - Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers. 3. 3rd " September ,, - Foreign Missions. 4. 3rd " October ,, - Highlands and Islands. 5. 3rd " December ,, - Jewish Missions. 6. 3rd " January 1911 - Welfare of Youth. 7. 3rd " May ,, - Home Missions.

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 the 31st December, 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 purpose for which they are appointed to be made.

**X. - Act anent General Trustees. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1910. Sess. 13.**

Whereas doubts have been expressed as to the legal position of any of the General Trustees of the Church on ceasing to be an office-bearer of the Church, the Assembly hereby declare and enact that, when it is brought to the knowledge of this Assembly that any of the General Trustees of the Church has ceased to be an office-bearer of the Church, the General Assembly shall instruct the Clerk to request such Trustee to resign office, and failing his doing so, or showing good cause to the contrary, within one month, such failure shall be reported by the Clerk to the next ensuing diet of the Assembly, or of its Commission, and such Trustee shall forthwith and thereafter cease to be a General Trustee of the Church.

**XI. - Act anent Commissioners to the General Assembly (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1910. Sess. 14.**

The Assembly, in view of the great importance of the business which falls to be dealt with, and also the smallness of the attendance of members during several diets since the present session began, find it necessary to instruct the Presbyteries of the Church, when appointing their Commissioners to future Assemblies, to elect only such as are in circumstances to attend the meetings, and further enjoin the Presbyteries, at the earliest opportunity after the rising of the General Assembly, to enquire as to the diligence of their representatives during the sittings of the Assembly to which they were commissioned; and also to instruct all who accept nomination as Commissioners to the General Assembly that, having accepted nomination, it is not a matter of opinion whether they shall attend any or all of the sittings of the Assembly, but on the contrary that, in terms of their Commission, they are bound to attend all the diets of the same.

**XII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1910. Sess. 14.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of the Rev. Professor Alexander, 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 exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commissioners under 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.

**XIII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1910. Sess. 14.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet at Edinburgh on Tuesday the 23rd day of May 1911, at twelve o'clock noon.

CONTENTS 1911

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Finance 4. Act anent Collections 5. Act anent Standing Orders of General Assembly 6. Act anent Foreign Missions 7. Act anent Commission of Assembly 8. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIII., MCMXI. (1911)

**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, 30th May 1911. Sess. 12.**

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 convened in General Assembly, desire to tender to You our sincerest homage, and to express anew our unswerving attachment to Your Majesty's throne and person. 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 recall with liveliest 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 government are for ever settled in Scotland. We also acknowledge with deepest gratification Your Majesty's most gracious reception of a deputation, representative of the Protestant Churches of Great Britain, on the occasion of the recent Tercentenary of the Authorised Version of the English Bible, as also Your most reverent and hearty avowal of the supreme, moral, and spiritual value of the Sacred Volume, in connection with the foregoing; thereby spontaneously affirming Your unfeigned adhesion to the Protestant Principles professed and maintained by Your illustrious ancestors. In our expression of unwavering loyalty to Your Majesty's throne and person, we desire to include our humble duty to Your Royal Consort, Queen Mary, and to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Your Majesties in view of Your approaching Coronation, praying that all felicities may attend that august event. To His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and to the other members of the Royal Family, we tender our most dutiful salutations. To the Queen Mother, the beloved and venerated Queen Alexandra, we also pay our most profound respects. We humbly pray that the Most High, by Whom kings reign and princes decree justice, may ever uphold Your Majesty both as King and Emperor in Your arduous rule over so many kindreds and tongues and peoples and nations, being confident that their highest welfare will always engage Your warmest regard. We likewise supplicate the favour of God Almighty, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, that He may constantly replenish Your Majesty with all blessings of heaven above and of earth beneath, so that You may long and gloriously reign over us, and may finally attain unto the Crown of Life which fadeth not away.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful and obedient subjects,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment

W. MENZIES ALEXANDER, Moderator

## **II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1911. 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 all ministers from whose incomes the deduction has been made. The Assembly also resolve that £100 of the balance at the credit of the Sustentation Fund Committee at 31st December 1910, be put at the disposal of the Sustentation Fund Committee for distribution among the ministers under special arrangements, according to the sum by which each of these ministers was short of the Equal Dividend in 1910.

### **III. - Act anent Finance (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh 24th May 1911. Sess. 2.**

In accordance with the recommendations of the Report, the General Assembly direct that, unless otherwise directed by the testators, legacies of £100 and upwards be capitalised, and the income credited to the Beneficiary Fund, and that smaller legacies be reckoned into the year's income of the Beneficiary Fund. In connection with congregational endowments held by the General Trustees, the Assembly direct that the income of such endowments, in so far as destined to supplement ministers incomes, and where permissible according to the constitution of the endowments, shall, during a vacancy in the ministry, and subject to the concurrence of the Presbytery, be applied to the credit of the congregation's contributions to the Sustentation Fund.

### **IV. - Act anent Collections (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1911. 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 1911 - Training of Ministry. 2. 3rd " August ,, - Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. 3rd " October ,, - Highlands and Islands. 4. 3rd " December ,, - Jewish Missions. 5. 3rd " January 1912 - Welfare of Youth. 6. 3rd " May ,, - Home Missions.

The Assembly have enjoined, in connection with the Report of the Foreign Missions Committee, that Associations for this purpose shall, as far as possible, be set up in each congregation of the Church; but if in any congregation it shall be found impracticable to secure this end within the current year, they appoint a collection for Foreign Missions to be made in such congregation on the third Sabbath of September. 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 the Deacons' Courts shall arrange for collections being made on other dates, when the dates specified above are not found suitable. They also direct Conveners of Committees to arrange that leaflets bearing upon the claims of the various collections shall be prepared and forwarded to Deacons' Courts for distribution in the pews. The General Assembly regret to find that so many congregations of the Church have failed during the past year

to make all those collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, 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 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 purpose for which they are appointed to be made.

**V. - Act anent Standing Orders of General Assembly (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1911. Sess. 11.**

The Assembly resolve that Standing Order VI., 2, be altered so as to read:-

That each of the principal Committees, other than the Finance Committee, the Sustentation Fund Committee, and the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee, shall consist (including members ex officii) of not less than twelve and not more than fifteen members, whereof at least four shall be laymen, in order that the ex officii members may not be excluded from acting on other principal Committees, and their standing as members ex officii on a principal Committee shall count as equivalent to nominated membership of that Committee, in order to comply with Standing Order VI., paragraph 5; and over and above the nominated strength of the Sustentation Fund Committee, and the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee, each Presbytery not represented thereon shall be entitled to a representative on these Committees.

**VI. - Act anent Foreign Missions (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1911. Sess 10.**

In view of the special circumstances alluded to in the Report, with reference to the Church's Missionary Superintendent in that region (South Africa), the General Assembly declare Mr. Dewar to be entitled to be present at all meetings of Church Courts connected with the Mission in South Africa, and to have the right of access to all the documents of those Courts. The Assembly direct the Foreign Missions Committee to impress upon all native pastors and agents the duty of loyally recognising the position occupied by Mr. Dewar as their Missionary Superintendent, and of co-operating harmoniously with him in every way for the promotion of the great ends for which the Mission exists. They further authorise the Committee to take such measures as they may consider advisable for dealing with any special difficulties that may arise in connection with the working of the Mission, and to report with regard to such questions to any meeting of the Assembly's Commission, which they accordingly empower to deal fully with the same. The Assembly recognise the importance of having an Association for Foreign Missions established in each congregation, in order that this method of collection may, as far as possible, become the regular practice adopted within the Church. They accordingly enjoin upon ministers and Deacons' Courts to further by every possible means the efforts of the various Presbyterial Auxiliaries to organise such Associations in all congregations in which they do not already exist They appoint that all funds collected for

Foreign Missionary purposes shall pass through the hands of the Deacons' Court; that in cases where an Association exists, the annual church-door collection shall be left to the option of local Deacons' Courts; and that where such Associations are in operation, the Foreign Mission Quarterly shall be distributed among subscribers free, the necessary cost to be defrayed out of the Committee's funds through the General Treasurer; and, in view of the circumstances set forth in the Report, the Assembly declare the name of the Association, now enlarged in its scope and operations, to be "The Foreign Missionary Association of the Free Church of Scotland."

**VII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1911. Sess. 14**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of the name of the Rev. Professor Moore, 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 exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commissioners under 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.

**VIII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1911. Sess. 12.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 21st day of May 1912, at twelve o'clock noon.

CONTENTS 1912

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Assessors' Expenses 4. Act anent Serving Citations 5. Act anent Serving of Edicts 6. Act anent Revision of Libels 7. Act anent Australian Students 8. Act anent Standing Orders of the General Assembly 9. Act anent Collections 10. Act anent Commission of Assembly 11. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXI., MCMXII. (1912)

**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. 28th May 1912. Sess. 12.**

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 convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, desire to express the devoted loyalty which we, in common with all the members and adherents of the Church we represent, cherish towards Your Majesty's throne and person. We also desire to express our deep sorrow at the bereavements which Your Majesty has recently sustained, and we likewise offer our most respectful condolences to Her Majesty, the beloved and venerated Queen Alexandra. We pray that the Divine consolations may, through our Lord Jesus Christ, sustain Your Majesty and all the members of Your Royal House under these heavy times. In the expression of our unswerving loyalty to Your Majesty's throne and person, we would include our humble duty to Your Royal Consort, Queen Mary, and our profound regard for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. 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 recall with liveliest satisfaction Your Majesty's subscription of the Oath of Security as embodied in the Treaty of Union in 1707 whereby the true Protestant Religion contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Presbyterian

Church government are for ever settled in Scotland. Having followed with affectionate interest the course of events from the beginning to the conclusion of the State visit of Your Majesties, the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress, we have noted with delight the brilliant success of the Imperial Durbar at Delhi, and the happy inauguration of a new era of progress and prosperity in the complete cessation of former grave disaffection, the spontaneous and universal manifestation of enthusiastic loyalty, the wise and liberal dispensation of material benefactions, together with the new and magnificent establishment of education, both primary and secondary. We rejoice that Your Majesties have thus endeared Yourselves to all classes and races and creeds of Your subjects in that ancient land of India, and have thereby greatly strengthened the bonds of Empire. For these high achievements, and for Your safe return, we render unto God Almighty great and hearty thanks. We earnestly pray that He whose favour is life, and whose loving-kindness is better than life, may constantly replenish Your Royal House with all blessings of heaven above and of earth beneath, and may ever defend and support Your Majesties in Your exalted station, so that You may long and gloriously reign over so many kindreds and tongues and peoples and nations, unto the furtherance of their highest welfare, the preservation of peace among the nations, and the promotion of the Kingdom of God on earth.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful and obedient subjects,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment

WILLIAM FRASER, Moderator

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1912. 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 all ministers from whose incomes the deduction has been made. The Assembly approve of the scheme proposed by the Committee for the future management of the Constitutionalist Ministers' Fund, and authorise its execution accordingly. The Assembly also resolve that £250 of the balance at the credit of the Sustentation Fund Committee at 31st December 1911 be put at the disposal of the Sustentation Fund Committee for distribution among the ministers under special arrangements - £150 of this sum being distributed on the same basis as last year, and £100 being divided equally amongst those ministers whose congregations contributed the amount promised when authorised to call a minister.

**III. - Act anent Assessors' Expenses (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1912. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly ordain that :-

1. When an Assessor attends a Presbytery meeting, lawfully summoned, he shall be paid his travelling expenses per rail, steamer, or public road conveyance. Such expenses, on being certified by the Moderator and Clerk of Presbytery, shall be paid by the General Treasurer of the Free Church, and shall be charged against the General Purposes Account.

2. When an Assessor, by instruction of the Presbytery, travels for the discharge of Presbyterial duty e.g., presiding over kirk-session meetings, congregational meetings for election of minister or moderation in call to a minister, the serving of edicts, or the ordination of office-bearers, such travelling expenses by rail, steamer, or public road conveyance shall, on the certificate of the Moderator and Clerk of Presbytery, be paid by the General Treasurer, and charged to General Purposes Account. In such cases, maintenance expenses or their equivalent shall be found by the congregation to which the service is rendered.

3. When an Assessor, in accordance with any scheme of ministerial service in vacant charges organised by the Presbytery in obedience to the instruction of the General Assembly, shall incur travelling expenses by rail, steamer, or public road conveyance, such expenses shall be paid by the General Treasurer, and charged to General Purposes Account; and a copy of the scheme of visitation under which the expenses have been incurred shall be sufficient voucher warranting payment by the General Treasurer. In such cases, maintenance expenses or their equivalent shall be found by the congregation to which the service is rendered; and the fee for supply of the pulpit of the visiting minister (if required) shall be paid in accordance with the practice of the Supply Committee, who shall be responsible if called upon for the provision of such supply.

4. Should circumstances in any case arise in which, from causes over which the Assessor has no control, necessary expenses cannot be recovered in manner aforesaid, or excess of expenditure shall have been incurred, the Assessor shall submit the facts to the Finance Committee, which is hereby empowered to deal with the case as they may deem best fitted to promote the general interests of the Church.

#### **IV. - Act anent Serving Citations (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1912. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly recognise, in addition to the methods hitherto in practice of serving Citations to appear before the Church Courts, that of having the Citation issued by registered post a valid one, and ordain accordingly.

#### **V. - Act anent Serving of Edicts (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1912. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly ordain that the interval intervening between the serving of an Edict in the case of Elders and their ordination should be at least seven clear days.

#### **VI. - Act anent Revision of Libels (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1912. Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly ordain that all Libels, before they are served by the Courts of the Church, should be submitted to the Law Agents of the Church, and the Law Agents are empowered to take the advice of Counsel when such is deemed desirable.

**VII. - Act anent Australian Students (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh 24th May 1912.  
Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly enact as follows :-

That all accredited Students of the said Churches intending to study for the ministry of those Churches be admitted to the Theological College of this Church, and to all the rights and privileges of regular Students thereof, it being stipulated that such Students be subject to the jurisdiction of a Presbytery of this Church during their course of study, and pass such examinations as do regularise Students of this Church; and in the event of any such Students electing to serve in the ministry of any Church other than this Church or said Churches, they shall refund grants of which they were recipients, other than bursaries won in competition, and that, on completing their studies, on passing the usual prescribed examinations, and on proving themselves otherwise worthy, they be received for license by any Presbytery of this Church, subject to the approval of their own Presbytery; it being always understood that, in recognition of these privileges and rights, the aforesaid Churches shall contribute to the Training of the Ministry Fund of this Church according to their ability.

**VIII. - Act anent Standing Orders of the General Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1912. Sess. 11.**

The Assembly resolve that the Standing Orders be altered to the following extent :-

1. That the business of the Church between one Assembly and the next ensuing shall be carried on by Committees arranged as follows :-

A. Principal Committees, which shall meet quarterly at stated hours.

Hour. 1. Sustentation Fund and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 9.15 - 11.15

2. Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply 11.15 - 1

3. Foreign Missions, Colonial, Continental, and Jewish 3 - 5

4. Training of the Ministry 9.15 - 11.15

5. Welfare of Youth and Publications 11.15 - 1

6. Buildings Fund 3 - 5

7. Finance 5 - 7

The hours stated are meant to be adhered to. If any Committee has not completed its work within the time allotted, it shall adjourn to meet again at an hour when all its members are free to attend.

B. Special Committees, to meet as required.

1. Law and Advisory.
2. Religion, Morals, and Public Questions.
3. Assembly Arrangements and General Interests.
4. Nominations.
5. Claim of Right.

And such other Committees as the Assembly or its Commission may appoint from time to time. The Conveners of Special Committees shall endeavour, in fixing the hour and date of meeting, not to interfere with those of other Committees, so as to allow all their members to be present.

2. That each of the principal Committees, other than the Finance Committee, the Sustentation Fund Committee, and the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee, shall consist of not less than twelve and not more than fifteen members, whereof at least four shall be laymen; and over and above the nominated strength of the Sustentation Fund Committee, and the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee, each Presbytery not represented thereon shall be entitled to a representative on these Committees.

3. That the Finance Committee shall consist of the Conveners and Vice-Conveners of the other principal Committees, with such laymen added as shall secure a majority of laymen on the Committee. The General Trustees shall be ex officio members of the Finance Committee.

4. That should the Training of the Ministry Committee not have three members of the Senatus nominated to serve upon it, the Senatus shall be empowered to elect as many of its own number to serve as shall bring their representation up to three; and the editors of the Church's papers, the Record and the Instructor, shall be members supernumerary of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee. Such ex officio membership shall not interfere with the qualification of those who hold it to serve on other three principal Committees.

6. That the Assembly shall in each year appoint the Convener and Vice-Convener of the principal Committees, due regard being had to effective working and continuity of policy.

7. 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 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.

9. That between 1st April and 1st May the Nominations Committee shall select, out of the

names so submitted by Presbyteries, as many ministers and elders as shall fill the vacancies on the various Committees. This recommendation shall, not later than 1st May, be communicated by the Committee to the Clerk of Assembly, and shall be included in the papers to be printed.

11. That in making their selection the Nominations Committee shall have regard (1) to fitness for the work of the particular Committee for which the persons are to be nominated; (2) to as even a distribution of influence as possible over the Church ; and (3) to economy as regards the expense connected with attendance at meetings of Committees.

12. That the constitution and tenure of office of all the special Committees shall be as may be determined by the Assembly.

### **IX. - Act anent Collections (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1912. Sess. II.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for the spirit of liberality which He has given to the people of the Church. The Church's operations are earnestly carried on, and new fields of activity are opened up. There is, therefore, urgent need for increased liberality in every department of the work of the Church. The Assembly appoint the following collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the congregations of the Church :-

1. On 3rd Sabbath of July 1912 Training of the Ministry. 2. ,, 3rd ,, ,, August ,, Constitutional-ist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, 3rd ,, ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, 3rd ,, ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, 3rd ,, ,, December ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, 3rd ,, ,, January 1913 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, 3rd ,, ,, March ,, Buildings. 8. ,, 3rd ,, ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed, as far as possible, in every congregation, and where such Associations are in operation the collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September may be omitted. In appointing these collections the Assembly enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating them, to recommend them to the liberality of the congregations, and to direct their attention to the agencies of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that they may contribute with willingness and prayerful interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that leaflets explaining the claims of the various collections be prepared, and in the hands of Deacons' Courts for distribution on the Sabbath when the collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations; and that the opportunity and the privilege of contributing to these collections should in no circumstances be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that so many of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of the Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st day of December, 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 two weeks 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 Assembly. The Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this

Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of the Act, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**X. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1912. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Mr. Peter Clarkson, minister at Aberfeldy, 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commissioners under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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, further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they 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, 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, 28th May 1912. Sess. 12.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to be held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1913, at twelve o'clock noon.

CONTENTS 1913

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to his Majesty the King. 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund. 3. Act anent Collections. 4. Act anent Standing Orders of the General Assembly. 5. Act anent Standing Orders of the General Assembly. 6. Act anent Commission of Assembly. 7. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly.

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

MAY XX., MCMXIII. (1913)

**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, 27th May 1913. Sess. 12.**

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 most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly on 27th May 1913, desire to express the unswerving loyalty which we, in common with all our people, cherish towards Your Majesty's throne and person. We render unto God Almighty great and hearty thanks for the manifold kingly virtues wherewith He has endowed You for bearing rule over so many kindreds and tongues and peoples and nations. With sincerest gratification we have followed Your unwearied efforts to promote the highest welfare of Your subjects: admiring the readiness of Your sympathies, the swiftness of Your penetration, the soundness of Your judgment, coupled with a most singular facility for finding the fitting formula to embody the emotion or moral or principle of any occasion. The value of all these things is for us greatly enhanced by the reverent regard daily paid by You to the Word of God, which is the secret of Britain's greatness. In our expression of loyalty to Your Majesty's throne and person, we would include our humble duty to Your Most Gracious Consort, Queen Mary, whose ceaseless concern for the sick and the afflicted

has brought light to many a darkened home, and whose noble example has stirred up many to similar services of love. To the Queen-Mother - the beloved, the venerated, the much-remembered - we also offer our most profound respects. Seeing that peace is the greatest interest of the nations, Your Majesty's constant labours in this direction evoke our warmest appreciation. We in like manner offer to Your Majesties our heartiest congratulations on the happy effects already produced by Your presence at the august festivities at Berlin, as powerfully tending to foster and maintain kindly relations betwixt this Empire and a great and friendly nation. We earnestly pray that He by whom kings reign and princes decree justice may ever replenish Your Majesty with all gifts and graces for the right discharge of the duties of Your exalted office. We also pray that God Almighty may richly bless all the members of Your Royal House. Thus may You long and gloriously reign over us for the promotion of that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God on earth ; and we should rejoice to see Your Dominions, which are rich and wide, continuing peaceful and prosperous, and all the portions thereof united and happy in the bonds of amity.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

SAMUEL LYLE ORR, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1913. 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 hereby ordered to be paid to all ministers from whose income the deduction has been made. The Assembly also instruct that £250 of the balance at the credit of the Sustentation Fund Committee at 31st December 1912 be put at the disposal of the Sustentation Fund Committee for distribution among the ministers under special arrangements, on the principle authorised by the Assembly of 1911 provided always that this grant does not bring their income from the Sustentation Fund above the Equal Dividend.

**III. - Act anent Collections. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1913. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for the spirit of liberality which He has given to the people of the Church. The Church's operations are earnestly carried on, and new fields of activity are opened up. There is, therefore, urgent need for increased liberality in every department of the work of the Church. The Assembly appoint the following collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the congregations of the Church

1. On 3rd Sabbath of July 1913 Training of the Ministry. 2. ,, 3rd ,, ,, August ,, Constitutional-

ist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, 3rd ,, ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, 3rd  
,, ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, 3rd ,, ,, December ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, 3rd ,, ,,  
January 1914 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, 3rd ,, ,, March ,, Buildings. 8. ,, 3rd ,, ,, May ,, Home  
Missions.

The Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed, as far as possible, in every congregation, and where such Associations are in operation the collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September may be omitted. In appointing these collections the Assembly enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating them, to recommend them to the liberality of the congregations, and to direct their attention to the agencies of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that they may contribute with willingness and prayerful interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that leaflets explaining the claims of the various collections be prepared, and in the hands of Deacons' Courts for distribution on the Sabbath when the collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations and that the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these collections should in no circumstances be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that so many of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st day of December, 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 two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of the Act, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

#### **IV. - Act anent Standing Orders of the General Assembly. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1913. Sess. 11.**

The Assembly resolved that Standing Order V., section 2, sub-section 2, should read as follows:-

That the Assembly shall, at their first diet, appoint a Committee for printing the Acts of Assembly. The said Committee shall prepare an Interim Report with special reference to the selection of Principal Acts, which shall be laid on the table at the forenoon diet of the last Monday during the sittings of the Assembly, and after being printed, shall be considered at the forenoon diet of the Tuesday following.

The Committee are directed to arrange that the Acts be divided into two classes:- Class I., those which have passed the Barrier Act; Class II., Acts which are of General Interest to the Church.

#### **V. - Act anent Standing Orders of the General Assembly. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1913. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly resolve that Standing Order V., section 2, sub-section 1, should read as follows:-

That the Assembly shall, at their first diet, appoint a Committee to arrange the Business of the House (other than the Report of the Committee on Welfare of Youth and Publications, which hereafter shall be considered at the evening sederunt of the opening day of the Assembly's Proceedings the proposed Deliverance on said Report being freed from the application of Standing Order V., section 3, sub-section 4) ; that said Business Committee shall meet the same day, and be prepared to make their first Report to the Assembly at the first diet of the succeeding day, immediately after the Report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures has been read. And further, that the Business Committee shall report from time to time to the Assembly till the whole business has been disposed of.

**VI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1913. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Mr. Alexander Stewart, minister at 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 Inverness, the second Wednesday of August, at twelve of the clock noon, and thereafter at Edinburgh, 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets ; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commissioners under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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 further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive any reference and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods in matter of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end : And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they 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, 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. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1913. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to be held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 19th day of May 1914, at twelve o'clock noon.

CONTENTS 1914

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King. 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund. 3. Act anent Collections. 4. Act anent Commission of Assembly. 5. Act anent Appointment of next; General Assembly.

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

MAY XIX., MCMXIV. (1914)

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

NONE

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

**1. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1914. 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, Your Majesty's most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly on 26th May 1914, desire anew to express the deep,

sentiments of affection and loyalty which we, in common with all our people, cherish towards Your Majesty's person and throne. We render unto God Almighty hearty thanks for the gift of a Sovereign whose wise and sympathetic rule so powerfully promotes the highest welfare of the Kingdom and Empire of which we form a part. We rejoice that, in a period of ominous unrest and perplexing change, the free participation of Your Majesty with Your Royal Consort in the life of the nation has been a tranquillising and uplifting influence. It is with peculiar pleasure that we look forward to the sojourn of Your Majesties in our land, and Your visitation of towns and districts, for the most part hitherto remote from Royal progresses and pageants, believing that thus the cottage will be more closely linked to the throne, and a fresh stimulus given to all that is worthy in our national achievements and aspirations. As the subjects of Your Majesty, unfeignedly devoted to the Protestant principles professed and maintained by Your illustrious ancestor's, we are deeply concerned about the course of events in the sister Isle, profoundly sympathising with our fellow-Protestants there, and earnestly praying that counsels of goodwill and harmony may speedily prevail. We offer our sincerest congratulations upon the happy conclusion of Your Majesties' State visit to a great and friendly nation, thus confirming the fraternal relations betwixt two peoples, equally the servants and the sentinels of peace. It is our eager desire that the Gospel of our Lord be proclaimed through the whole extent of Your Majesty's dominions; and as a Church we labour, according to our opportunity, among the subjects of Your Majesty in India and in Africa, ever inculcating as an integral part of our most holy faith the precept "Fear God, and honour the King." We supplicate the blessing of the Most High upon Your Majesty, upon Queen Mary, and upon all the members of Your Royal House. We offer our fervent intercessions unto God that He may continually protect You, and multiply to You all needed gifts and grades for the discharge of the manifold duties of Your exalted office.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

FINLAY MACRAE, Moderator

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1914. Sess. 3.**

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 hereby ordered to be paid to all ministers from whose income the deduction has been made. The Assembly also instruct that £225 of the balance at the credit of the Sustentation Fund Committee at 31st December 1913 be put at the disposal of the Sustentation Fund Committee for distribution among the ministers under special arrangements, on the same principle as was authorised by last year's Assembly : provided always that this grant does not bring their ministerial income above the Equal Dividend.

### **III. - Act anent Collections. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1914. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for the spirit of liberality which He has given to the people of the Church. The Church's operations are earnestly carried on, and new fields of activity are opened up. There is, therefore, urgent need for increased liberality in every department of the work of the Church. The Assembly appoint the following collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the congregations of the Church

1. On 3rd Sabbath of June 1914, For Fraserburgh. 2. ,, 3rd ,, ,, July ,, Training of the Ministry. 3. ,, 3rd ,, ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, 3rd ,, ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, 3rd ,, ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, 3rd ,, ,, December ,, Jewish Missions. 7. ,, 3rd ,, ,, January 1915, Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, 3rd ,, ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, 3rd ,, ,, May ,, Foreign Missions.

The Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed, as far as possible, in every congregation, and where such Associations are in operation the collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September may be omitted. In appointing these collections the Assembly enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating them, to recommend them to the liberality of the congregations, and to direct their attention to the agencies of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that they may contribute with willingness and prayerful interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that leaflets explaining the claims of the various collections be prepared, and in the hands of Deacons' Courts for distribution on the Sabbath when the collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations, and that the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these collections should in no circumstances be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that so many of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st day of December, 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 two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of the Act, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

### **IV. - Act anent Commission of Assembly. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1914. 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 Mr. John Macleod, minister at Glasgow, 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 eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the first 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets ; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commissioners under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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 further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and finally dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned : And in all their actings they 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, 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. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1914. Sess. 18.**

The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to be held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 18th day of May 1915, at twelve o'clock noon.

## CONTENTS 1915

### PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King. 2 Act anent Finance. 3. Act anent Sustentation Fund. 4. Act anent Education 5. Act anent Collections 6. Act appointing Commission of Assembly. 7. Act Appointing next Meeting of General Assembly.

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

MAY XVIII., MCMXV (1915)

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

#### **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 19th May 1915. Sess. 4

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 most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 19th May 1915, desire to renew the expression of the ardent attachment and loyalty which we, with all our people, cherish towards Your Majesty's person and throne. Though the dread shadow of war be upon the land, we cannot forget the happy results which have flowed from the recent sojourn of Your Majesty and Your Royal Consort in your ancient Palace of Holyrood, and Your visitation of adjacent towns and cities. We recall with sincerest appreciation Your earnest strivings for the maintenance of peace among the nations till mad ambition and the lust of conquest rendered all such efforts futile. We have also followed with warmest admiration Your unwearied labours in perfecting the defence of the Realm, and in promoting the highest welfare of Your Army and Navy. From the very outset of this cosmic struggle, our Church never had the slightest hesitation regarding the righteousness of Britain's cause, and was the first in Scotland to offer to Your Majesty's Government all material and spiritual service in its power towards the successful prosecution of this war. Among us, every home has made hearty contribution to the needs of our soldiers and sailors, as also to those of the distressed and the

exiles. Every congregation has furnished the flower of its young men, and voices of intercession never cease for our brave Allies and our gallant kinsmen from the whole of Your vast dominions, who by day and night, by sea and land, confront the deadliest perils undismayed. Many who have gone from amongst ourselves have already fallen ; yet our deep sorrow in this regard serves only to strengthen in our midst the undying resolve that we, in common with all Your most devoted subjects, shall shrink from no service or sacrifice in that sacred cause which is nothing less than the defence of truth, justice, civilization, and Christianity itself, against the whole generation of anti-Christ and the Rulers of the Darkness of this world. It is with great interest that we have observed the noble example set by Your Majesty to all your subjects in the matter of temperance. We have also noted with much pleasure the manifold invaluable services and sacrifices rendered to the Empire by the whole Royal Family in connection with the war specially those of Her Majesty Queen Mary, and Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Princess Mary. At this time of crisis, when we almost hear the beating of the wings of the Angel of Death, we realise that God has drawn near to the whole Kingdom and Empire in most solemn appeal, that all may humble themselves in the very dust beneath the rod of His chastisement, confident that thus, in His infinite mercy, He will not forsake us, but will prosper the cause which is His own and speedily bring forth judgment unto victory. We earnestly supplicate the blessing of God Almighty upon Your Majesty and all the members of Your Royal House, praying that He may graciously sustain you in all the duties of Your exalted office, and may long spare You to rule over a people purified in the furnace of affliction and consecrated to the Gospel of Peace.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment

JOHN MACDONALD, Moderator.

## **II. - Act anent Finance. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1915. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly hereby adopt the Report of the Finance Committee, with relative audited Abstract of Accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1914, and the Scheme appended to the Report, and enact and ordain as follows :-

I. Repeal the Act anent Finance (No. 2 of Class II.), 1908, with the exception of the first two sentences thereof;

II. Repeal the provision in the Scheme referred to in the Act anent Finance (No. 4 of Class II.), 1910, that the £20,000 allocated to the Buildings Committee be replaced as in the former Scheme;

III. Suspend for the period from 1st January 1908 to 31st December 1914 the operation of the Regulations for the General Interest Account, approved by the General Assembly in 1896,

so far as regards appropriation of the surplus revenue of the pooled investments to form a reserve fund;

IV. Direct the Sustentation Fund Committee, out of its special, to repay to the General Interest Account (1) the Sums carried therefrom to the Sustentation Capital Account between 1st January 1910 and 31st December 1914, and (2) the sums credited within the same period to the Sustentation Fund Revenue Account as interest on the foresaid £20,000;

V. Direct the Training of the Ministry Committee, out of the College Fund Capital Account, to repay to the General Interest Account the interest between 1st January 1910 and 31st December 1914 credited to the College Fund beyond interest at the rate of 3 per cent. on the capital of the College Fund;

VI. Direct that the sums to be repaid as above provided to the General Interest Account be credited to the various funds forming the pooled investments in amounts proportioned to the average amounts of their respective capitals between 1st January 1910 and 31st December 1914;

VII. Direct that the proportion of the sums to be credited (under VI. above) to the funds amongst which was allocated in 1910 the provision of £250,000 for support of Ministers and Itinerant Preachers, and for administration and management, under deduction of a sum of £1500 thereof, which shall be credited to the revenue of the Sustentation Fund, be credited to the capital of the Sustentation Fund towards replacement of the sum of £20,000 referred to in II. above

VIII. Direct that the proportion of the sums to be credited (under VI. above) to the College Fund, under deduction of a sum of £1500 thereof which shall be credited to the revenue of the College Fund, be credited to the capital of that Fund (1) in replacement of the sum provided to be paid out of capital under V. above, and (2) towards restoration of the capital of that Fund to its original amount of £92,308

IX. Direct that the proportions of the sums to be credited (under VI. above) to funds other than those referred to under VII. and VIII. above be credited (1) to the capital of such funds to the extent of £20 or any multiple of £20, and (2) to the revenue of such funds to the whole extent where the total amount is less than £20, and in any other case to the extent of the balance of the total amount beyond £20 or any multiple of £20 ; and

X. Alter the Scheme of Allocation referred to in II. above by transferring from General Purposes Capital Account to Sustentation Fund Capital Account such a sum as will, with the capital sum credited under VII. above, make up the capital of the Sustentation Fund to the amount of £158,500, plus legacies credited thereto since 1st January 1910.

**III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh. 19th May 1915. Sess.**

**4.**

The General Assembly declare the Dividend to all ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend to be at the rate of £160 for the year 1914, and they instruct the Committee to pay to ministers on the Equal Dividend in 1915 the proportion due to each minister on the Fund

to which He may be entitled for the period from 11th November to 31st December 1915, in order to make the year for this Fund co-equal with the year of the other finances of the Church - namely, the calendar year. The General Assembly also instruct that the sum of £225 be put at the disposal of the Sustentation Fund Committee for distribution among the ministers under special arrangements, on the same principle as was authorised by the General Assembly of 1914 : provided always that the proportion of this grant which any minister may receive does not raise his ministerial income to a figure in excess of that of the Equal Dividend. The General Assembly record their thanks to generous donors who responded to special appeals made by the Committee in 1914 and in view of the receipt of a contribution of £290 from one such donor on the day of the opening of this Assembly, authorise payment to be made of the sum of £7 to each of those ministers from whose stipends the said sum was deducted as premium to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in 1914. The General Assembly ordain that the annual premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and presently deducted on ministers' salaries, be henceforth paid, as in the case of vacant charges, out of the funds that are under the control of the Sustentation Fund Committee this order to take effect as from 1st January 1915. The General Assembly further instruct the Committee to give the closest possible attention to the matter of ministerial stipends, with the view, if possible, of raising them beyond the present standard.

#### **IV. - Act anent Education (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1915. Sess 7.**

In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, the General Assembly ordain :-

##### **I. REGULAR STUDENTS**

1. That all students studying with a view to the ministry of the Free Church be required as heretofore, and so far as circumstances may permit, to pass the Entrance Examination to the University, or its equivalent, and study with a view to graduation.
2. That the Training of the Ministry Committee annually take into consideration the case of every central or secondary school pupil who is preparing for entrance into the University, and to whom they grant a bursary or other monetary aid, and endeavour to induce said pupil to take Latin and Greek as subjects of study where facilities for such exist at his centre and where facilities do not obtain, to endeavour to make arrangements that will allow of such knowledge being obtained by the pupil. The Training of the Ministry Committee is also empowered to act along with other Churches, or separately, in order to secure, if possible, that Greek and Latin be taught in all central schools throughout the country.
3. Students who do not take Latin or Greek for graduation are required to secure, during their University course, by attendance at University extra mural classes, a knowledge of these languages which on examination shall be found satisfactory to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

##### **II. IRREGULAR STUDENTS**

1. The Training of the Ministry Committee is empowered to determine who shall be recognised as irregular students in their University course.

2. All such students shall have determined for them year by year, by the Board of Studies, the classes to be attended by them, and the Board is enjoined to meet annually early in October for this purpose. Such classes may be University or extra mural ones ; but preferably University ones where such can be attended with advantage to the student.

3. Every student complying with the regulations of the Board of Studios, and who satisfactorily completes the course so prescribed to him, shall be regarded as a Regular student when he enters upon his course of study in Divinity.

4. To Curriculum (as in the case of Ordinary Degree students) shall consist of seven subjects. This number may be reduced should a student be required to take the same subject for more than one academical session.

The subjects of study shall be chosen' by the Board of Studies from the following :-

Languages and Literature. Mental Philosophy

Latin. Logic and Metaphysics. Greek. Moral Philosophy English Political Economy Education.

Science History

Mathematics. History Natural Philosophy Geography. Zoology. Botany.

Students must satisfy the Board of Studies annually not only that they have regularly attended the classes prescribed, but also that they have duly performed the work thereof. Should special examinations be necessary to ascertain the latter, such may be set by the Board, and students are required to sit at the same.

### III. COMBINED CURRICULA.

Students who take part of their University course along with their Arts course are required to take in any one session (except where otherwise allowed by the Training of the Ministry Committee) fewer classes in Divinity than in Arts, and the last year in Divinity must be free from Arts classes.

### V. - Act anent Collections (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1915. Sess. 12.

The General Assembly would acknowledge with gratitude to Almighty God their experience of His goodness and the liberality of their people. the circumstances of the country at this time call for special recognition, and even in the appointment of collections the peculiarity of these circumstances is reflected. The General Assembly appoint the following collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the congregations of the Church:-

1. On 3rd Sabbath of June 1915 - Belgian Refugees in Scotland 2. ,, 3rd ,, ,, July ,, - Training of the Ministry. 3. ,, 3rd ,, ,, August ,, - Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, 3rd ,, ,, September ,, - Foreign Missions. 5. ,, 3rd ,, ,, October ,, - Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, 3rd ,, ,, December ,, - Jewish Missions. 7. ,, 3rd ,, ,, January 1916 - Welfare of

Youth. 8. ,, 3rd ,, ,, March ,, - Buildings. 9. ,, 3rd ,, ,, May ,, - Foreign Missions.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed, as far as possible, in every congregation, and where such Associations are in operation the collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September may be omitted. In appointing these collections the Assembly enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating them, to recommend them to the liberality of the congregations, and to direct their attention to the agencies of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that they may contribute with willingness and prayerful interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that leaflets explaining the claims of the various collections be prepared, and in the hands of Deacons' Courts for distribution on the Sabbath when the collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations, and that the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these collections should in no circumstances be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that so many of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st day of December, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these congregations belong and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a report to the Clerk, not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of the Act, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving. With reference to the PROMPT=W collection to be made for Belgian Refugees, the Assembly remit to the Committee on Foreign, Colonial, Continental, and Jewish Missions to issue the appropriate notice to congregations, and to superintend the disbursement of the sums collected. Congregations which fail to have their contributions to Assembly collections forwarded to the General Treasurer before 31st October should be notified of the fact.

#### **VI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 6 of Class II.)**

Edinburgh, 25th May 1915. 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 Mr. Donald MacLean, minister at 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 eleven of the clock forenoon, 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets ; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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 further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and finally dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned : And in all their actings they 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, 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. - Act Appointing next Meeting of General Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1915. Sess. 13.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to be held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of May 1916, at twelve o'clock noon.

CONTENTS. 1916.

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Collections 4. Act anent Commission of Assembly 5. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIII., MCMXVI (1916)

**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, 25th May 1916. 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 most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 25th May 1916, desire anew to express our unwavering attachment to Your Majesty's throne and person. We render unto God Almighty heartfelt thanks and praise for His good hand upon You, preserving You in the hour of danger, and now restoring You to wonted vigour. We have followed with delight the manifold activities of Your Majesty, whether welcoming the representatives of the Allies, or stirring the enthusiasm of Your gallant officers and men, or cheering the sick and the wounded by gracious visitation, or sharing the burdens of war by the regal munificence of Your freewill offering to the nation. In these and other ways you have enhanced the cordial feelings of esteem and gratitude entertained towards You by all who are proud to acknowledge Your sovereignty. Our faith in the righteousness of Britain's cause, and our confidence in its ultimate triumph, have only increased with the lapse of time. Yet we harbour no illusions regarding the magnitude of the task on hand, seeing that Britain and her heroic Allies are wrestling against men whose actions prove them to be destitute of honour, chivalry, or shame, and whose monstrous ambitions can only be satisfied by the enslavement of all the free nations of the world. Whilst deeply mourning the heavy loss of most precious lives many of them being of our own kith and kin - we deprecate a peace which would render null and void the colossal sacrifices of the past. We therefore, with all the loyal members of the realm, are more determined than ever to endure unto the end, so that an aggressive and dehumanising militarism may be clean shattered once for all; our absolute conviction being that only thus can our glorious heritage of freedom and Christianity be handed on, unimpaired and untarnished, to succeeding generations. In the checkered events of the last twelve months, as in the present bitter dissensions of the sister Isle, we recognise the urgent call of God to the nation to bestir itself in contrite searching of heart and humblest supplication, so that He may hear in heaven His dwelling-place, and of His exceeding goodness speedily crown the arms of the Allies with decisive victory. We earnestly pray that the blessing of God our Father may rest in richest measure upon Your Majesty, likewise upon Your Royal Consort, Queen Mary, also upon His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the other members of Your Royal House, all of whom we hold in most grateful remembrance for innumerable services to the common cause. And now may the God of all grace long spare You to rule over an Empire happily

delivered at length from the scourge of war, nobly knit together through the discipline of trial, abounding in resources, the zealous servant of the Prince of Peace.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

ANGUS MACKAY, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1916. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly hereby declare a Dividend at the rate of £168 per annum - exclusive of the annual payment of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund - for the year 1915 to all ministers who are on the Platform of the Equal Dividend, and set aside a sum of £300 to be divided among the ministers who have been settled over Congregations under special arrangements, in the proportions according to which a similar division was made by the General Assembly of 1915, and subject to the proviso that in no case shall the total ministerial income of any of these brethren exceed the amount of the Equal Dividend now declared. The General Assembly instruct the Committee, should the revenues of the Fund during the current year admit, to make three payments to ministers on the basis of an Equal Dividend of £160 per annum for all ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend, and to others according to the practice hitherto followed. The General Assembly renew the injunction of preceding assemblies to Deacons' Courts and Finance Committees to have the collections for the Sustentation Fund throughout the Church made every month.

**III. - Act anent Collections (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1916. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly would acknowledge with gratitude to Almighty God their experience of His goodness and the liberality of their people. The circumstances of the country at this time call for special recognition, and even in the appointment of collections the peculiarity of these circumstances is reflected. The General Assembly appoint the following collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the congregations of the Church :-

1. On 3rd Sabbath of July 1916 Training of the Ministry. 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, December ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, January 1917 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, March ,, Buildings. 8. ,, May ,, Rome Missions,

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed, as far as possible, in every congregation, and where such Associations are in operation the collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September may be omitted. In appointing these collections the Assembly enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating them, to recom-

mend them to the liberality of the congregations; and to direct their attention to the agencies of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that they may contribute with willingness and prayerful interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that leaflets explaining the claims of the various collections be prepared, and in the hands of Deacons' Courts for distribution on the Sabbath when the collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations, and that the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these collections should in no circumstances be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that so many of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st day of December, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a report to the Clerk, not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of the Act, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving. Congregations which fail to have their contributions to Assembly Collections forwarded to the General Treasurer before 31st October should be notified of the fact.

**IV. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1916:  
Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Mr. Duncan MacDonald, Minister at Duthill, 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 eleven of the clock forenoon, 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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 further, the said Commission are

hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly, upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned : And, in all their actings, they 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 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. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1916. Sess. 8.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to be held at Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 22nd day of May 1917, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1917.

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Finance 3. Act anent Sustentation Fund 4. Act anent Aged and Infirm Minister' Fund 5. Act anent Collections 6. Act anent Foreign Missions 7. Act anent Sale of Property 8. Act anent Commission of Assembly 9. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXII., MCMXVII. (1917)

**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, 25th May 1917. Sess. 5.**

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 most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 25th May 1917, desire again to express the deep sentiments of loyalty and esteem which we entertain towards Your Majesty's throne and person. We rejoice that, in the good providence of God, You have been preserved in health and strength for the discharge of duties of inestimable worth to all the peoples over whom You rule. We also note with peculiar satisfaction Your unstinted devotion to the manifold interests of the Navy and the Army; likewise also Your gracious ministrations to the hapless sufferers from this war: coupling here, with the name of Your Majesty, that of Your Royal Consort. The grim struggle in which the Empire is involved has darkened every home in our midst; yet we clearly recognise that the future of civilisation can only be secured by the utter subversion of those thrones of iniquity which glory in adding crime to crime and infamy to infamy. We, therefore, with all Your faithful subjects, heartily undertake all duty and self-sacrifice inherent in Your recent appeal and injunction, touching the present requirements of the realm. Holding, as we do, that, under God, moral forces are the mightiest forces in the world, we feel perfectly assured regarding the ultimate triumph of our righteous cause; yet all the more do we deplore the continuance in the land of those gigantic evils which so powerfully impair the might of Britain and retard the hour of victory. Therefore, do we, as a Church, seek the more fervently to press upon the national conscience the divine demand for repentance, faith, and new obedience; being fully persuaded that thus, by the grace of God, these days of tribulation shall be shortened, and judgment speedily return to righteousness. We supplicate the richest blessings of God our Father upon Your Majesty, upon Queen Mary, upon the Prince of Wales, and all the other members of Your Royal House, trusting that You may long be spared to rule over an Empire happily delivered from its fiery ordeal, sealed with the seal of the living God for the service of humanity and the furtherance of that Kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy to all who receive it.

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

JOHN MACLEOD (Urray), Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Finance (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1917. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly anew urge upon the Church the duty and the privilege of contributing to the support of the Gospel each one as the Lord has prospered him.

**III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh 23rd May 1917. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly hereby declare a Dividend for the year 1916 to ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend of £168, exclusive of the payment of £7 premium to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and set aside the sum of £250 for the augmentation of the stipends of ministers settled under Special Arrangements to be apportioned among these brethren in such wise as that their total ministerial income for the year 1916 shall in no case exceed the amount of the Equal Dividend now declared. The General Assembly record their cordial thanks to the anonymous donor whose liberal contribution towards the Fund to augment the salaries of lay agents for 1916 has enabled the Assembly to discharge that duty without drawing upon the ordinary revenue of the Sustentation Fund. The General Assembly renew their instruction to Deacons' Courts and Finance Committees to perfect their organisation, and especially to arrange that contributions to the Sustentation Fund should be collected monthly. The Assembly ordain that grants made from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund for unordained assistants, and for aged and infirm ministers for whom the Church makes a total provision of less than £100 per annum, be increased by 50 per cent.

**IV. - Act anent Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1917. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly ordain that grants from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund for unordained assistants, and for aged and infirm ministers for whom the Church makes a total provision of less than £100 per annum, be increased by 50 per cent.

**V. - Act anent Collections (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1917. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for the spirit of liberality which He has given to the people of the Church and for His goodness to them.

The Church's operations are earnestly carried on, and new fields of activity are opened up; there is, therefore, urgent need for increased liberality in every department of the work of the Church.

The Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church

1. On 3rd Sabbath of July 1917 Publication. 2. „ August „ Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. „ September „ Foreign Missions. 4. „ October „ Highlands and Islands. 5. „ December „ Jewish Missions. 6. „ January 1915 Welfare of Youth. 7. „ March „ Buildings. 8. „ May „ Home Missions.

The Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed, as far as possible, in every congregation, and where such Associations are in operation the Collection

appointed for the 3rd Sabbath of September may be omitted. In appointing these Collections, the Assembly enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating them, to recommend them to the liberality of the congregations, and to direct their attention to the agencies of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that they may contribute with willingness and prayerful interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that pulpit intimation urging the claims of the various Collections be prepared, and in the hands of ministers and preachers on the Sabbath when the Collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations; and that the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these Collections should in no circumstances be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that so many of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to make representations, as soon as possible after the 31st day of October, to defaulting congregations; and he 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 two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such Collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt of the Act, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**VI. - Act anent Foreign Missions (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1917. Sess. 6.**

The Assembly approve of the regulations embodied in the Appendix to the Committee's Report, and adopt the same as their regulations for the Mission in South America, viz.:-

1. Local leave of absence within the country shall be granted by the local authority in charge - the Missionary Superintendent. (Par. 7.)
2. Furlough - After Six years' service, a furlough of one year, including journeys, shall be allowed. (Par. 8.)
3. Salary of married agents on furlough shall be at the rate of £280 per annum, and of unmarried agents £200 per annum; and of nurses £75 per annum, to run from date of leaving post.
4. Payment of Passage of Missionary's Wife - The Committee pay the passage home and out of the wife of the missionary taking furlough. A missionary's wife is entitled to the same number of passages at the cost of the Committee as her husband, and no more. In the case of a missionary's wife not being entitled to furlough under this rule, and coming home, the local authority is empowered to advance the amount of her passage money, which shall be repaid by her husband, as may be arranged in each case.
5. The Mission shall be under the general administrative control of the Foreign Missions Committee.

**PROPERTY**

6. Abroad, as at home, Acts of the General Assembly passed in and since 1844 vest all herit-

able property and money for Church and Mission purposes in the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, who grant powers of attorney to the local agent in South America.

7. The third sentence of paragraph 15 is altered to read as follows :- “ The General Assembly have declared that the Church’s Missionary Superintendents in South Africa and in South America are entitled to be present at all meetings of Church Courts connected with the Mission in South Africa and South America respectively, and to have the right of access to all the documents of those Courts.”

#### SALARIES.

8. The salary of married ordained missionaries shall be at the rate of £300 per annum, with house rent and taxes, plus £10 for each child; of single ordained missionaries at the rate of £200 per annum, plus allowance, not exceeding £50 in lieu of house. The salary of male medical missionaries shall be the same as for ordained missionaries, married and single; for female medical missionaries at the rate of £200 per annum, plus allowance, not exceeding £50 in lieu of house. The salary of nurses shall be at the rate of £50 per annum, with maintenance. The allowances for the children of missionaries shall cease at the age of eighteen years. (The references are to the Foreign Mission Regulations, page 206, Practice of the Free Church of Scotland, 1912 Edition.)

#### **VII. - Act anent Sale of Property (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1917. Sess. 7**

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the General Trustees of the Church shall in all time coming, but always with the consent and Concurrence of the Finance Committee of the Church first had and obtained, or at the request of the foresaid Committee, and not otherwise, have full power to sell by public roup or private bargain, and to dispose and convey any property or properties at present vested, or that may hereafter be vested, in the said Trustees in trust for the Church or for any Church purposes, other than properties vested in the said Trustees and held under the conditions and provisions of the “Model Trust Deed.”

#### **VIII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th, May 1917. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Kenneth Cameron, Minister at Stornoway, 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 least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 final 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 avert 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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 further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned : And, in all their actings, they 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 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, 25th May 1917 Sess. 8.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to be held in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 21st day of May 1918, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1918.

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 4. Act anent Collections 5. Act anent Secretary to Highlands Committee 6. Act anent Commission of Assembly 7. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXI., MCMXVIII. (1918)

**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 1918. Sess. 8**

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, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on May 24th, 1918, desire again to express our ardent attachment to Your Majesty's throne and person. We render unto God Almighty heartfelt thanks and praise for His good hand upon You, protecting You in the time of danger, guiding You in the hour of perplexity, bestowing upon You power to speak the word in season to our heroes in the grim struggle by land and sea, as also to the sick and the wounded in our hospitals. As we fully recognise that no compromise is possible with Powers given over to unmitigated deceit and violence and bloodshed, we cherish no illusions about a diplomatic peace, but steadfastly devote ourselves, each according to his opportunity, to those services and sacrifices which may prove worthy of our noble dead and fruitful in bringing this dread war to a victorious issue. Believing, as we do, that righteousness exalteth a nation, we, as a Church, bind upon ourselves the whole Word of God, as the rule of faith and life, and seek to bind it also upon the heart and conscience of mankind, - being convinced that only unre-served obedience to Him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords can produce that League of Nations which shall bring in the reign of universal peace and brotherhood. We earnestly pray that the blessing of God our Father may rest abundantly upon Your Majesty, so that You may ever be as a royal diadem in the hand of our God. We likewise supplicate all blessing, of heaven above and earth beneath, upon Your Royal Consort, upon the Prince of Wales, and upon all the other members of Your Royal House.

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

DONALD MUNRO, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1918. Sess. 4.**

The Assembly declare a Dividend for the year 1917 to all ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend of £160 exclusive of the payment of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; and order that from the balance of £1160, 2s. 6d. at the credit of the Committee a sum be divided among all ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend who are at this date in charges in the Church, that will secure to each of said ministers an additional income at the rate of £14 per annum; further, that £250 be used to augment the stipends of ministers settled under Special Arrangements who are at this date in charges in the Church - to be apportioned among these ministers in such wise as that their total ministerial income for the year 1917 shall in no case exceed the amount of the Equal Dividend now declared; and further, that £100 be transferred to the Highlands and Islands Committee for distribution by that Committee among lay agents in supplement of their incomes; and that the balance of about £26 be divided equally among the Ordained — - Missionaries in supplement of their salaries.

**III. - Act anent Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1918. Sess. 4.**

The Assembly adopt the recommendations of the Committee, and in accordance therewith they enact and ordain as follows:-

1. That the balance which, in each year, may remain of the revenue from the Fund after payment shall have been made of grants to senior colleagues, retired professors, and for unordained assistants (as these may from time to time be sanctioned by the General Assembly) and other charges, shall be distributed among such ministers as may, from time to time, be named on a list to be approved by the General Assembly as a list of ministers who, though not yet infirm as judged by medical standards, are nevertheless, and particularly by length of service, entitled to special consideration and help.
2. That the ministers to be placed on the list referred to in paragraph 1 shall, after having served at least twenty years in the ministry and being nominated to the Assembly by the Presbytery of the bounds, be such as, in the judgment of the Assembly, have borne the heat and burden of ministerial work to a marked degree.
3. That such ministers as may be placed on the list under this recommended arrangement should receive as combined income from this Fund and from the Sustentation Fund a sum which may be varied inter se as the General Assembly may direct, and which in any case or in all cases may exceed by ten per cent., but by no more, the amount of the Equal Dividend that may be declared from year to year by the General Assembly.
4. That where, in any special case, a minister voluntarily retires, or is at the request of the Church (speaking through the Presbytery or the General Assembly) retired, according to the laws of the Church, for the purpose of meeting an emergency in the Church it shall - if the General Assembly shall certify the case to be one falling within the scope of this provision -

be competent for the Committee having the administration of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund to grant to such minister such annual allowance out of the free income of the Fund as aforesaid, as the Committee may think fit; but so that such grant, together with the grant or grants, if any, which may be made to him from the Sustentation Fund and from his Congregation, shall not exceed the average income enjoyed by such minister during the five year's immediately preceding the date of the General Assembly's Certificate. It shall be necessary for the Committee to require that, as a condition of the grant to be made from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, a grant of any required amount shall be made from the Sustentation Fund or from the Congregation, in every case where the average income exceeds the Equal Dividend.

5. That in the case of Senior Colleagues, payments sanctioned to them by the General Assembly, according to Scale under Act XI., 1863, shall immediately fall wholly as a burden upon the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, with the exception of the annual premium of £7 payable in behalf of such ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

6. The General Assembly alter and repeal Act XI., 1863, and Act IV., 1891, anent the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, so far as is necessary to give effect to the foregoing provisions.

#### **IV. - Act anent Collections (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1918. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His continued goodness to them during the past year, evinced by the spirit of liberality which has prevailed among the people of the Church. There is still urgent need, however, for the increased exercise of this Christian grace on behalf of every department of the work of the Church, owing to the present strenuous times, together with the new fields of activity which are opening up. These constitute a call upon the resources of the Church which can only be met by earnest and energetic effort. The Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1918 Publications. 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, December ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, January 1919 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, March ,, Buildings. 8. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every Congregation of the Church if possible, and where such Associations are in operation the Collection appointed for the 3rd Sabbath of September may be omitted. The Assembly also enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating these Collections, to recommend them to the liberality of the people, and to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that each Congregation may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that pulpit intimation, urging the claims of the agencies of the Church, be prepared and duly forwarded to every Congregation for the use of ministers and preachers on the Sabbath when the Collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various Congregations; and that in no case should the opportunity of contributing to these Collections be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the Congregations of

the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to make representations as soon as possible after the 31st day of October, to all defaulting Congregations; and he is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which such Congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk, not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such Collections not being made that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every Congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**V. - Act anent Secretary to Highlands Committee (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1918. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr. Donald MacLean to be Secretary to the Highlands &c. Committee, at the salary of £380 annually, subject to the terms contained in the Report of the Special Committee, declaring that this appointment is subject also to such subsequent alterations on, or additions to, the duties of it, as the Church in future arrangement of Offices may resolve upon. The Assembly having heard Mr. Maclean declare his acceptance of office, and with a view to his entrance thereon, hereby loose him from the pastoral charge of St Columba Congregation, Edinburgh, and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to declare that Church vacant. Notwithstanding Mr. Maclean's separation from the Congregation, the Assembly declare that he shall remain a member of the Presbytery of Edinburgh.

**VI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1918. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Mr. John MacDonald, Rosskeen, 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 least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on, the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and of 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the, General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the

Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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 further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned : And, in all their actings they 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 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. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1918. Sess. 8.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to be held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1919, at 11 o'clock forenoon.

CONTENTS 1919

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 4. Act anent Collections 5. Act anent Education of Students 6. Act anent Appointment of Professor 7. Act anent Salaries of Professors 8. Act anent Commission of Assembly 9. Act anent Appointment of Next General Assembly

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

MAY XX., MCMXIX. (1919)

**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 27th May 1919. Sess. 10.**

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 most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 27th May 1919, desire anew to express our steadfast and devoted loyalty to Your Majesty's throne and person. We render unto God humble and heartfelt thanks for the glorious success with which He has crowned the untiring and valorous efforts of Your Majesty's Forces on sea and land for the defence of Your Majesty's wide realms and the liberties of the human race. We rejoice that Your Majesty's plenipotentiaries in Paris, along with the plenipotentiaries of Allied Nations, are formulating, for the future well-being of the world, terms of Peace that recognise the heavy sacrifices and sufferings of Your Majesty's subjects in the late War, and that a League of Nations is about to be established which, under God, may assure for the world a lasting Peace, and prevent the evil forces of uncontrolled militarism from again threatening the liberties of mankind. Representing, as we do to a large extent, the social and spiritual interests of the Highland people, whose sufferings in the War and in the sad disaster to the Iolaire at Stornoway have been borne by them with Christian patience, we humbly and respectfully recognise Your Majesty's deep personal interest in them in the prompt expression of Your own and the Queen's deepest sorrow with the bereaved, and in the providing of fairer homes for the people of this country, as well as in the general improvement of their social circumstances. The loyalty of these, Your Majesty's subjects, has been cemented by the blood of their sacrifices, and by their knowledge of Your Majesty's personal interest in their well-being and deepest sympathy in their sorrow, into an unshakable devotion to Your Majesty's person. In the great task of building up Your Majesty's Empire, and in establishing even more firmly the bonds of brotherhood through all its members upon the foundation of a righteous and abiding Peace, we pray earnestly that God our Father may constantly sustain Your Majesty, and that His richest blessing may rest upon Your Majesty and upon Your Royal Consort Queen Mary; also upon His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and upon the other members of Your Royal House, to all of whom we entertain the feelings of deepest gratitude for their many and great services to Your Majesty's subjects in the dark years that are now happily behind us. And may the God of all Grace long spare Your Majesty to rule over Your wide Empire, wielding your sceptre in the spirit and love of a zealous servant of the Prince of Peace.

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

DONALD MACLEAN, Moderator,

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1919. Sess. 4.**

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend of £160, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, with an additional payment at the rate of £40 to all such ministers who are alive and in the service of the Church at this date; and authorise that a sum of £360 be set apart for the augmentation of the stipends of ministers settled under Special Arrangements who on 1st May 1919 were alive and in the service of the Church, to be apportioned among these ministers in such wise as that their total ministerial income for the year 1918 shall in no case exceed £200. The Assembly place on a special list all the ministers nominated by Presbyteries for benefit under Act III., 1918, as these are set forth in Appendix A to the Report of the Sustentation Fund Committee submitted to this Assembly. The Assembly further authorise that the sum of £1,400 be taken over from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and that in 1919, from the sum thus taken over, £10 be paid to each of these ministers who at 1st January 1919 have served over thirty years in the ministry, and £5 to those of them who have had less than thirty years' service at that date; further, that all these ministers shall be placed on this Fund for 1919 to the extent to which an equal division of the balance of the said sum of £1,400 will allow, and that the Sustentation Fund be relieved in respect of each of these ministers to the extent of said division.

**III. - Act anent Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1919. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly authorise an increase of 50 per cent. on the amount to which a Senior Colleague Minister may be entitled under the scheme in the Act of 1863, regulating grants from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

**IV. - Act anent Collections (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1919. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His great goodness to them during the past year, evinced by the spirit of liberality on the part of the people throughout the Church. There is still urgent need, however, for the increased exercise of this Christian grace on behalf of every department of the work of the Church, owing to the present strenuous times, together with the new fields of activity which are opening up both at home and abroad. These constitute a call upon the resources of the Church which can only be met by earnest and energetic effort. The General Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church:

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1919 Publications
2. „ August „, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.
3. „ September „, Foreign Missions.
4. „ October „, Highlands and Islands.
5. „ December „, Jewish Missions.
6. „ January 1920 Welfare of Youth.
7. „ March „, Buildings.
8. „ May „, Home Missions.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in

every Congregation of the Church, if possible, and where such Associations are in operation, the Collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September may be omitted. The General Assembly also enjoin the ministers and preachers, when intimating these Collections, to recommend to the liberality of the people, and to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church for which their offerings are solicited, that each Congregation may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that pulpit intimation urging the claims of the Agencies of the Church be prepared and duly forwarded to every Congregation for the use of ministers and preachers on the Sabbath when the Collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various Congregations; and that in no case should the opportunity of contributing to these Collections be restricted or withheld from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the Congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st day of December, a list of all defaulting Congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these Congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such Collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every Congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**V. - Act anent Education of Students (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1919.  
Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly approve of the suggested Amendments on Act IV., 1915, as follows:-

I. Regular Students.

That paragraph (1) be altered to read as follows:-

“That all Regular Students studying with a view to the Ministry of the Free Church be required to pass the Entrance Examination to the University, or its equivalent; and study the number of subjects required for graduation, passing, as heretofore, the degree examinations in these subjects as far as circumstances permit.”

II. Irregular Students.

That to paragraph (4) French, German, Celtic, and Spanish be added under Languages; and that Geology, Chemistry, and Astronomy be added under Science.

That part III. of the Act 1915 (page 40 of College Calendar, “Combined Curricula”) be rescinded, and the following put in its stead:-

III. Divinity Curriculum.

(1) All students (Regular and Irregular) before entering on the study of Divinity, must have

completed a full Arts course of at least three academical years, this course being as prescribed in either Part I. or Part II. of the foregoing regulations.

(2) All students studying for the Free Church Ministry must pass the full Entrance Examination of the College before matriculating in Divinity, according to the regulations hitherto in force.

(3) Students in Divinity shall take a three years course or a four years course. They must decide on matriculating which they prefer, and arrange their work accordingly for succeeding sessions.

(4) To prevent undue advantage being taken of the provisions of Part II., students whose Arts course has been irregular shall not be admitted to the study of Divinity until they have attained the age of 25 years.

(5) Students coming from other collegiate institutions who have passed examinations equivalent to those required by the Free Church College, shall have their academic standing fixed accordingly, on producing evidence as to character and attainments which shall be satisfactory to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

(6) The foregoing regulations shall not apply to private students who may wish to take the classes, but not for the Free Church Ministry.

These amended regulations shall not apply to the following three classes, members of which may, if they so desire, prosecute their studies according to the scheme of Act IV. 1915 (Act anent Education)

(1) Those who have served in His Majesty's Naval, Military, or Air Forces at any time between 4th August 1914 and the conclusion of Peace, and who may hereafter study for the Ministry of the Free Church.

(2) Students who have matriculated at the Free Church College during Session 1918-19 or prior thereto.

(3) Men over 35 years of age who secure the permission of the Training of the Ministry Committee to take concurrent classes in Arts and Divinity.

**VI. - Act anent Appointment of Professor (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1919. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly hereby appoint the Rev. John Robertson Mackay, M.A., 5 Hartington Gardens, Edinburgh (late of Inverness) to the vacant Chair of Greek and New Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College under arrangements as to emoluments already fixed by this Assembly.

**VII. - Act anent Salaries of Professors (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st and 23rd May 1919. Sess. 4 and 7**

The General Assembly expressly authorise repayment to the present Professors, and to ex-Professor John Macleod, of the £7 deducted from each of them in respect of Widows' and Orphans' Fund Premiums since 1st January 1912. Further, the Assembly expressly minute that the salary of each of the existing Professors is the sum of £500 per annum over and above the Premiums payable in respect of them to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, these salaries, so long as the College Fund shall admit thereof, being payable to the existing Professors (equally inter se) as preferable charges upon that Fund. The salary of the Professor now about to be appointed should be £500 per annum, so long as the College Fund shall admit thereof, it being distinctly understood that out of this sum the Professor shall be bound to repay to the College Fund all payments, which may be paid in respect of him, to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

**VIII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1919. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. John Macleod, Glasgow, 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 least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal Concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General 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 further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries. and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned : And, in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the preju-

dice 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.

**IX. - Act anent Appointment of Next General Assembly (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh,  
27th May 1919. Sess. 11.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 18th day of May 1920, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.