

THE PRINCIPAL  
ACTS  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
*Free Church of Scotland*  
1930 – 1939

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
THE MOUND

CONTENTS 1930.

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 Regulations for Foreign Missions 4. Act anent Regulations of Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee 5. Act anent Chair of Apologetics 6. Act anent Collections 7. Act anent Standing Orders 8. Act anent General Trustee 9. Act anent Commission of Assembly 10. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XX., MCMXXX. (1930)

**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 1930. 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 loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 26th day of May 1930, desire anew to express our unwavering attachment to your Majesty's Person and Throne.

Along with all your Majesty's faithful subjects we unfeignedly rejoice in the fact that your Majesty's health has been so far restored as to make it possible for you once more to discharge the duties of your exalted office; and for this signal manifestation of the Divine goodness we give thanks to Almighty God, and earnestly pray that His favour may be so continued to you as that your Majesty's energies may attain in ever-increasing measure to their wonted vigour.

We give thanks to God for the safe return of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales after his recent extended travels, and cherish the confidence that the influence of his personality, his ready sympathy, and his devotion to duty, will result in strengthening still further the ties

which bind into a strong and compact unity the various Dominions which own allegiance to your Majesty's Throne.

Recognising the vital importance of International Peace to the well-being of mankind, and to the progress of the Kingdom of God throughout the world, we rejoice that, under the inspiration of your Majesty's example and encouragement, the efforts that have recently been made by representatives of the Great Powers to arrive at mutual understandings that are calculated to diminish the risks of war have been attended with so substantial a measure of success; and we entertain the hope that more and more in the days to come it will be recognised as an imperative obligation among all peoples that international differences shall be settled by methods of peaceful adjustment rather than by the judgment of the sword.

While as a Christian Church we recognise that the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad is our supreme task, we are at the same time keenly interested in all questions that bear upon the amelioration of social conditions among the people, and we are encouraged in our efforts in this direction by the example of practical sympathy and helpfulness given by your Majesty and your Royal Consort during the present time of social and economic distress.

We further pray that it may not be long until the unsettled conditions which at present prevail in your Majesty's Indian Empire will give place to a new era of stable prosperity and harmonious co-operation among all classes of the community.

We pray that all heavenly blessings may rest upon your Majesty's Person and Rule, upon Her Gracious Majesty, the Queen, and upon all the 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,

ROBERT M. KNOX, Moderator.

## **II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1930. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly declare, for the year 1929, an Equal Dividend to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend at 31st December 1929 at the rate of £250 per annum, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable in behalf of such ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £88 be set apart to augment the salaries of ministers settled under Special Arrangements, to be apportioned among them so that their salaries shall in no case be less than £200, or thereby made more than the Equal Dividend.

The Assembly also authorise payment to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and

Supply Committee of a sum of £275, to be applied, at the discretion of that Committee, for supplementing the salaries of their resident Lay Agents.

The General Assembly do hereby enjoin upon each Presbytery to require that the Courts (including Finance Committees) of each congregation within the bounds, in addition to due submission of the several Records for inspection and attestation, shall, not later than 31st January annually, furnish to the Presbytery a complete Financial Return, and a complete Schedule of Statistics, for the year ending 31st December immediately preceding, and to ascertain that these Returns agree with the Records submitted, and that duplicates thereof are forthwith transmitted to the General Treasurer of the Church that they may be made available to the several Standing Committees. The Assembly further require that Presbyteries and Congregations furnish prompt and categorical answers to such queries as the Clerk of Assembly, or General Treasurer, may, on behalf of these Committees, find it necessary to issue for the elucidation of any matter wherein it may appear that the information in the Schedules is inadequately stated.

The Assembly enjoin a Presbyterial visitation of settled Congregations which have in three years out of the past five years fallen in their contribution to the Sustentation Fund below the minimum sum promised, and request a report of such visitation to be made to the Assembly by the Presbyteries concerned.

The Assembly enjoin Presbyteries, Deacons' Courts and Finance Committees, in their several spheres, to continue to exercise the most careful supervision over the organisation of the Sustentation Fund.

The Assembly place Rev. Hector MacAulay, Minister at Strathy and Halladale, Rev. Roderick MacCowan, Minister at Kiltarlity, and Rev. Dugald S. Cameron, Minister at Brodick, Arran, on the List of Beneficiaries under Section V. (1) of the Regulations for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Act V., 1928.

### **III. - Act anent Regulations for the Guidance of Foreign Missionaries. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1930. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly approve of the amendment of the General Regulations for the Guidance of Missionaries from Scotland, approved by last General Assembly, by the addition thereto of the Articles set forth in Appendix IV. to this Report(\*), said Articles to be numbered 20 to 28 of the said Regulations, and enact and declare that the said Regulations as so amended shall be the General Regulations for the Guidance of Missionaries from Scotland, and they hereby repeal all Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent with the said General Regulations.

(\* - these Regulations will be found on pages 464, 465, 466.)

### **IV. - Act anent Regulations of Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1930. Sess. 8.**

The Assembly recognise the necessity requiring the Committee to recommend amendment of the existing Rules and Regulations in relation to (A) Home Missions; (B) Highlands and

Islands; and (C) Supply. These amended Rules and Regulations(\*), as detailed in the Appendix to this Report, the General Assembly now sanction.

(\* - These Regulations will be found on pages 490, 491, 492.)

**V. - Act anent Chair of Apologetics (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1930. Sess. 7.**

It was moved, and seconded, that the Rev. Principal John Macleod, D. D., Minister of the Free North Church, Inverness, be appointed to the vacant Chair of Apologetics, Natural Science, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, and Missions in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, under the same arrangements as to emoluments as were fixed by the Assembly of 1919, in connection with the appointment of Professor Mackay.

The Motion for the appointment of Principal Macleod being put to the Assembly was adopted unanimously.

The General Assembly hereby dissolve the pastoral tie between the Free North Church, Inverness, and the Rev. Principal John Macleod, M.A., D.D., and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the requisite steps, according to the laws of the Church, for the induction of the Rev. Principal John Macleod, M.A., D.D., to the Chair of Apologetics, Natural Science, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, and Missions in the Free Church College, Edinburgh.

**VI. - Act anent Collections (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1930. Sess. 13.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His great goodness as manifested in the liberality of the people of the Church during the past year. They, however, cherish the hope that their faithful people will abound more and more in the exercise of this Christian grace, and they appeal to all Congregations to aim at an increased contribution to the various schemes of the Church each year.

The General Assembly remind Congregations that the responsibilities of the Church with regard to Foreign Missions are increasing with the expansion of the work abroad and with the burden of debt that threatens to hinder further expansion in that direction, and that consequently there is need of greater liberality towards the Foreign Mission Scheme in particular. They exhort that a Foreign Mission Association be formed in every Congregation, that an effort be made to increase the number of mission box holders, and that the ordinary collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September be not omitted, even in Congregations which contribute to the Fund in other ways.

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 1930 Publications 2. „ August „ Constitutional and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. „ September „ Foreign Missions. 4. „ October „ Highlands and Islands. 5. „ November „ Jewish Mission. 6. „ January 1931 Welfare of Youth. 7. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 8. „ March „ Buildings. 9. „ April „ Colonial Missions. 10. „ May „ Home Missions.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed or on the most convenient date, and that in no case should the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these Collections be withheld from the people.

Conveners of Committees are directed to arrange that intimation of these Collections be duly sent to every Congregation.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the Congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections, and that the number of such Congregations has increased. 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 of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which the Congregations belong, and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk of Assembly, not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, that the same may be laid before the Assembly.

**VII. - Act anent Standing Orders (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1930. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly ordain that the last sentence of Standing Order VI. (2) be amended to read as follows :-” When a Presbytery is not represented, by a minister or elder of a congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery, on the Sustentation Fund Committee,” etc., etc.; and that Standing Order VI. (3) be amended to read as follows :- “ The General Trustees (other than a Trustee holding the office of General Treasurer or Auditor) shall be ex officii members of the Finance Committee.”

The General Assembly ordain that Standing Order V. 3 (1) be amended to read as follows:- That the Reports of all Committees reporting to the General Assembly (excepting only (1) that part of the Report of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee which sets forth the results of the Welfare of Youth Examinations, and (2) that part of the Law and Advisory, Claim of Right, and Nominations Committee which complies with Standing Order VI.,10) shall, together with Deliverances to be proposed, be transmitted for printing to the Clerk of Assembly not later than the 1st day of April. All Reports, inclusive of the Report in terms of Standing Order VI., 10, shall be stitched together, and be circulated among the Commissioners to the General Assembly not later than the eighth day before the meeting of the Assembly.

The General Assembly ordain that Standing Order V. 3 (4) be amended to read as follows: That all amendments on a Committee’s proposed Deliverance on their Report, other than the Report of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee, shall be handed to the Clerk not later than the day before they are intended to be moved, and shall be read by him before the first adjournment, and shall also be printed for the use of members. Any amendment to the proposed Deliverance on the Report of the last-named Committee - other than that part of the Report dealing with the results of the Welfare of Youth Examinations shall be handed to the Clerk of Assembly, and shall be read by him to the Assembly before the conclusion of the first diet of the Assembly.

**VIII. - Act anent appointment of General Trustee (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1930. Sess. 9.**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and nominate and appoint Mr John Fraser, 7 St Fillan's Terrace, Edinburgh, to be a General Trustee of the Church in addition to those presently holding office as General Trustees.

**IX. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1930. 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 REV. ALEXANDER STEWART, D.D., 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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.

**X. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1930. Sess. 13.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 19th day of May 1931, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

## CONTENTS 1931

### 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 Appointment of Auditors 4. Act anent List of Mission Charges and Chaplains 5. Act anent Editor of the Instructor 6. Act anent General Trustee 7. Act anent Assessors 8. Act anent Standing Orders 9. Act anent Abertarff Presbytery 10. Act anent Collections 11. Act anent Commission of Assembly 12. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XIX., MCMXXXI. (1931)

#### **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, 26th May 1931 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 in Edinburgh on the 26th day of May 1931, desire most respectfully to assure Your Majesty of our continued loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's Person and Rule. We offer unto God our heartfelt thanks that Your Majesty's health has been so far restored as to permit of Your attending directly to the varied and onerous duties of Your exalted station, and we recognise that in the faithful and unselfish discharge of the responsibilities of office Your Majesty has invariably furnished an inspiring example to all Your subjects.

We rejoice in the assurance that amid the upheavals which have recently taken place in many lands the stability of Your Majesty's Throne remains unshaken, rooted, as we are confident it is in affectionate regard for Your Majesty's Person and Royal House, and reinforced by a recognition of the beneficence of Your Majesty's Rule.

We have followed with special interest the recent visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Continent of South America, and recognise with deep satisfaction the importance of His labours, not only for the furtherance of British industrial prosperity, but also for the promotion of the great Cause of international peace and good-will. We may be permitted in this connection to note with peculiar gratification the fact that during the visit of His Royal Highness to Peru, the Missionary activities of this Church in that land, and more particularly her educational work in the city of Lima, had the honour of being brought under the notice of His Royal Highness.

In common with all other branches of the Christian Church, we are interested in the economic well-being of the people, and regret that so many of Your Majesty's subjects are still being called upon to endure the hardships resulting from unemployment, and trust that in the good Providence of God the shadow of industrial depression may ere long be lifted from our land.

Your Majesty's subjects in this Church are deeply conscious of the many blessings which have come to our Nation in connection with that Reformed Faith with which Your Throne is so closely associated, and they beg to express to Your Majesty their conviction that under Your wise and righteous Rule the great heritage of our civil and religious liberties will continue to be faithfully maintained.

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,

ALEXANDER M. RENWICK, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th, May 1931. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly declare, for the year 1930, to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend on 31st December last, an Equal Dividend at the rate of £250 per annum plus the annual premium of £7 payable on behalf of such Ministers to the Widows and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise a sum of £89 to be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers under Special Arrangements and to be apportioned among them so that their salaries shall in no case be less than £200, or, thereby, made more than the Equal Dividend.

The Assembly also authorise that a sum of £275 be given to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee to supplement, at the discretion of that Committee, the salaries of their resident Lay Agents.

The Assembly anew enjoin the Courts of the Church, under whose care this Fund is, to continue to give close attention to the Sustentation Fund as being that which must have first place.

The Assembly recognise and appreciate the tabulative work of the Committee with regard to the average givings of people to the Sustentation Fund. They regret the failure of some Congregations timeously to lodge their Financial and Statistical Schedules and again enjoin upon Presbyteries to point out to Congregations the necessity for doing this by the 31st January of each year, which is the prescribed period.

The Assembly remit to Presbyteries the proposed Regulations for Grants to widows and Dependants of deceased Ministers set forth in Appendix A. to this Report for approval or emendation. And they enjoin them to have these forwarded to the Sustentation Fund Committee on or before 31st December 1931.

The Assembly place upon the list of Beneficiaries under Section V. (1) of the Regulations for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Act V. 1928, the undermentioned Ministers, viz.

Rev. Duncan Macdonald, M.A., Milton Free Church, Glasgow. Rev. Archd. Munro, Kilberry and South Knapdale. Rev. Samuel Maclver, Kilmuir Easter.

But in view of the finding in 1928 with respect to Rev. Samuel Lindsay, Kirkcaldy, the Assembly remit to the Law and Advisory Committee to enquire whether Messrs Andrew Sutherland, Norman Matheson, and Samuel Lindsay, who have served 12, 11 and 9 years respectively in the Ministry of the Free Church, are eligible in terms of Act V. 1928, Section V. (1), and to report to the November Commission of Assembly, which is hereby authorised to dispose thereof.

### **III. - Act anent Appointment of Auditors (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1931. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly appoint the present auditors, Messrs Aitken, Mackenzie & Clapperton. C.A.. Glasgow, as auditors of the General Treasurer's Accounts for the year 1932.

### **IV. - Act anent List of Mission Charges and Chaplains (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1931. Sess. 6.**

In compliance with the Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans' Fund Order Confirmation Act, 1930, and of the 11th Section of the Provisional Order scheduled to that Act, the General Assembly adopt the List of Mission Charges and of Chaplains specified in the Report and declare in terms thereof.

### **V. - Act anent Editor of the Instructor (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1931.**

**Sess.7.**

The General Assembly unanimously appoint the Rev. Roderick A. Finlayson, M.A., Minister at Urray, to be the Editor of the Instructor, on the terms on which the former Editor had been appointed.

**VI. - Act anent General Trustee (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1931 Sess. 9.**

The Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and nominate and appoint John William Baxter, B.Com, residing at 5 Marchmont Street, Edinburgh, to be a General Trustee of the Church in addition to those presently holding office as General Trustees.

**VII. - Act anent Assessors (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1931. Sess. 12.**

The Assembly enact that when by a Superior Court an Assessor is appointed to a Presbytery or to a Kirk Session the Court making the appointment shall at the time of appointment specify whether the appointment is general or special. Assessors appointed generally shall possess all the rights and privileges and may exercise all the powers of constituent members of the Presbytery or of the Kirk Session, and shall hold office up to and inclusive of the meeting of Presbytery or Kirk Session, which shall be held next after the meeting of the Court which had made the appointment occurring not less than eleven months after the date of appointment. An assessor appointed specially shall have the rights, privileges and powers of a constituent member of Presbytery or Kirk Session, but only in connection with the business to be mentioned in his appointment, and he shall hold office until a date to be specified in his appointment or until conclusion of the business mentioned, whichever shall be the shorter period

This enactment shall take effect from this date (26th May 1931); that is to say all existing Assessors (other than such as have been already appointed expressly as special Assessors) shall be deemed to be general Assessors appointed or re-appointed on this date

**VIII. - Act anent Standing Orders (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1931. Sess. 12.**

The Assembly amend Standing Order No. VI. (9) to read as follows :-

Not later than the first day of January in each year the Principal Clerk of Assembly shall furnish to the Clerk of each Presbytery a list of the members of the Standing Committees indicating thereon which members of these Committees will retire from office at the next ensuing Assembly and which members may have died, or resigned. or become disqualified. Each Presbytery shall, not later than the 27th day of February next ensuing, furnish to the Principal Clerk of Assembly the names of Ministers and Elders (not necessarily members of that Presbytery) recommended by the Presbytery as suitable for appointment generally (that is without specification of vacancies) to Standing Committees, these lists not to contain more names than the known number of vacancies. The Principal Clerk of Assembly shall forthwith cause these lists to be laid before the Nominations Committee.

The Assembly amend Standing Order No. VI. (3) by inserting after the words “ General

Treasurer “ occurring therein the words “Depute Treasurer.”

**IX. - Act anent Abertarff Presbytery (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1931. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly having received the Overture from the Synod of Moray and having sustained the relative Reference from the Presbytery of Lorn and having considered the subject matter referred to therein, do hereby (1) disjoin the Charges of Fort-William and Kilmonivaig, Kilmallie and Arisaig, Fort-Augustus and Glenmoriston, and Glenurquhart from the Presbytery of Inverness and detach the Station of Small Isles from the Presbytery of Lorn and erect these Charges into a Presbytery to be named the Presbytery of Abertarff; (2) appoint Rev. Malcolm Galbraith, Minister at Fort William and Kilmonivaig, to be the first Moderator of the Presbytery; (3) appoint the Presbytery to hold its first meeting at Fort-Augustus on the 16th day of June 1931, the Presbytery itself to determine the place and time of subsequent meetings and (4) ordain that the Presbytery of Inverness and the Presbytery of Abertarff shall together constitute the Synod of Moray.

**X. - Act anent Collections (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1931. Sess. 13**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for his great goodness as manifested in the liberality of the people of the Church during the past year. They cherish the hope, however, that their faithful people will abound more and more in the exercise of this distinctive Christian grace, and they appeal to all Congregations to aim at an increased contribution to the various schemes of the Church each year.

The General Assembly remind Congregations that the responsibilities of the Church with regard to Foreign Missions are increasing with the expansion of the Church's work abroad, and that further expansion is being hindered, and the very existence of our present missions threatened, by a heavy and increasing burden of debt. They accordingly urge upon their loyal people the urgent necessity for greater liberality towards this cause, and they exhort that a Foreign Mission Association be formed in every Congregation, and every possible opportunity given to the people to contribute by means of house to house collections, church door collections and mission boxes.

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 1931 Publications. 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Mission. 6. ,, January 1932 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions. 10. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the nearest convenient date thereafter, and that in no case should the opportunity and privilege of contributing be withheld from the people.

Conveners of Committees are directed to arrange that intimation of these Collections be sent

to every Congregation. 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 December, a list of all defaulting Congregations, and the Clerk of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which the Congregations belong, and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a report to the Clerk of Assembly, not later than two weeks before the next Meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such collections, that the same may be laid before the Assembly.

**XI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1931 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 REV. DONALD SMITH, named by the Moderator : TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any 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 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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.

**XII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh,  
26th May 1931. Sess. 13.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1932, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1932

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 Regulations for Dependants of Deceased Ministers. 4. Act anent Regulations for Foreign Missionaries 5. Act anent Requirement at Ordinations and Inductions 6. Act anent Collections 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 XXIV., MCMXXXII. (1932)

**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, 31st May  
1932. Sess. 11.**

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 dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly this 31st day of May 1932, seek to tender to Your Majesty this expression of the loyal sentiments which we cherish towards the Throne.

Being mindful of the injunctions laid upon us by the Word of our Lord to honour the King,

and to make prayers and supplications with thanksgiving for Kings and all in authority we aim at the maintenance and promotion of good order, and righteousness throughout the portion of Your Majesty's Realm of Scotland where our influence can tell on our fellows; and at the same time we entreat the King of Kings to whose good hand we trace the blessings of peace, and security so richly enjoyed within our borders, to bless Your Majesty and Your Royal Household with every blessing in this world and in that which is to come, that not only may Your Majesty rule over a contented and devoted people, but when your course on Earth is run you may, through the abounding Grace which makes the whole company of Christian believers Kings and Priests unto God and their Father, exchange a crown on earth for a crown in Heaven.

It is our Prayer that Your Majesty's Throne may be established in righteousness and that the Counsellors who surround it may be men of wisdom that fear God, and hate covetousness, so that their Counsel shall advance the highest interest of our land and the well-being of the wide world to whose utmost bounds the influence of Your Majesty's Empire extends.

Being persuaded that Godliness is the surest guarantee of righteousness on earth we labour to hold fast and to hold forth the Word of Christ our Lord that all men may come under His Yoke, and in His service may answer the great end of their being and of their calling. With the prevalence of such godliness, and righteousness at home and abroad there will come the happy consummation when men will beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, and shall learn War no more.

That the efforts in the Conference of the Nations put forth by Your Majesty's Counsellors to secure such a desirable end shall be crowned with success, and that this land should be in the fore front of mankind in bringing in the settled peace of a better and brighter day, would be the chiefest glory that could distinguish Your Majesty's Reign.

It is our humble supplication that such a result may be hastened.

May all Heavenly blessings rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Rule, upon Her Gracious Majesty, The Queen, and upon all the Members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's dutiful Subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met at Edinburgh in General Assembly.

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,

(Signed) PETER CLARKSON, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1932. Sess. 3.  
The Assembly express their deep sense of the continued goodness of the great Head of the Church in providing them with means to maintain Gospel Ordinances.**

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1931 to all Ministers upon the Platform of the Equal Dividend at 31st December last at the rate of £250 per annum, exclusive of the Premium of £7 payable on behalf of such Ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise a sum of £90 to be distributed among the Ministers on Special Arrangements, so that their salaries shall not be less than £200, or made, thereby, more than the Equal Dividend.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £200 be given to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee to supplement, at the discretion of that Committee, the salaries of their Lay Agents.

The Assembly renew their injunction to Deacons' Courts and Finance Committees to give diligent attention to the claims of the Sustentation Fund and the necessity for its maintenance.

**III. - Act anent Regulations for Dependants of Deceased Ministers. (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 25th May 1932. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly approve and enact Regulations for grants to Widows and Dependants of Deceased Ministers as follows, viz.:

REGULATIONS FOR GRANTS TO WIDOWS AND DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED  
MINISTERS.

1. On the death of a Minister whose Stipend is chargeable to the Sustentation Fund there shall be payable out of the Fund a sum in respect of funeral expenses not exceeding in any case £75.
2. If the Minister shall be survived by a Widow there shall be payable to her out of the Sustentation Fund a sum equivalent to one quarter of the Stipend payable to the Minister in respect of the year terminating at 31st December last before the date of his death.
3. If the Minister shall leave no Widow but shall leave Dependants, inclusive of any female relative who for at least six months immediately preceding his death shall have been residing with him and in charge of his house, there shall be paid out of the Sustentation Fund a sum equivalent to one quarter of the Stipend payable to the Minister in respect of the year terminating at 31st December last before the date of his death, such sum to be divided among the Dependants, inclusive as aforesaid, in such proportions as the Committee in their absolute discretion shall determine.
4. The foregoing Rules shall, mutatis mutandis, apply to a Minister whose Stipend is no longer payable from the Sustentation Fund, but who is in receipt of a personal grant from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and the provision for the Widow or for the Dependants, if any, shall be equal to one quarter of the annual personal grant payable to the Minister at the date of his death.

**IV. - Act anent Regulations for Foreign Missionaries (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh,**

## 26th May 1932. Sess. 6.

The General Assembly, with respect to the General Rules for the Missions and the guidance of the Missionaries from Scotland of the Free Church of Scotland, enact as follows, viz. (i) They repeal Article 4 thereof and enact and declare that the following Article, to be number "4," shall be substituted therefor, namely :-

4. (a) Marriage.-" It is not desirable that young (Men) Missionaries of any class should marry until after experience of the climate and work, and until after learning the vernacular of the people. If a Woman Missionary shall marry, her engagement under the Committee shall at once terminate. If at the date of such marriage the Woman Missionary shall have served for less than 3 years since the date of entering upon duty, either for the first time or after furlough, she shall be bound to re-pay to the Committee a proportion of the money paid to, or spent upon, her by the Committee in name of outfit or passage money for her last outgoing corresponding to the proportion which the unexpired portion of the period of 3 years shall bear to the whole period of 3 years. In no case shall the Committee be bound to provide return passage to Great Britain for a Woman Missionary whose engagement shall be terminated as aforesaid. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall be competent for the local authority to continue to employ a married Woman Missionary as a Member of the Staff, subject to such special adjustment of terms as to residence, remuneration and duration of engagement as the local authority in their discretion may deem proper, the action of such local authority to be forthwith communicated to the Committee and to be subject to confirmation by the Committee."

(b) Missionaries proceeding to India, South Africa, or Peru, shall receive the sum of £60 for outfit; those proceeding to a Mission elsewhere, or to labour among the Jews either in Great Britain or any Foreign Field, shall receive such greater or less sum, if any, as the Committee may deem appropriate.

**(c) Passage. - In every case the passage out shall be paid, including reasonable travelling expenses at each end.**

(ii) They enact and declare that Article 6 thereof shall be amended as follows, namely :- The second paragraph of Article 6 (entitled "Insurance of Unordained Missionaries") shall be amended by introducing after the words " absolute property of the Missionary," which terminate the second sentence of that paragraph, a new sentence, - "If the Missionary shall leave the service of the Church before attaining the stipulated age, but after having completed at least one full period of five years, the Policy shall be reassigned to the Missionary, who shall be bound to accept the same, the Committee making no claim in respect of the proportion of Premiums paid by them." The sentence, hitherto the third and now to be the fourth sentence of the paragraph, shall be amended to read :- "If the Missionary shall leave the service of the Church before attaining the stipulated age, and before having completed a full term of five years, the Policy, etc., etc." They repeal Article 24 and enact and declare that the following Article, to be numbered "24," shall be substituted therefor, namely :- 24. "Every Ordained Missionary (Minister or Elder) who is at home on furlough and who may not have been appointed a Commissioner shall nevertheless be a member of the General Assembly and the Commission thereof, provided he shall furnish to the Clerk of Assembly, not later than seven days before the opening of the Assembly (or a diet of the Commission thereof), a Certificate

of his standing under the hand of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Foreign Missions Committee, and as such member he shall be subject to no disqualification.”

**V. - Act anent Requirement at Ordinations and Inductions (No. 5 of Class II) Edinburgh, 30th May 1932. Sess. 10. (The date and session should be 31st. May Sess.11)**

The General Assembly enact and ordain that at Ordinations and Inductions the presiding Minister shall, prior to putting the appointed questions to the Ordinand, make the following intimation, namely :- It is my duty to explain to you, and also to the Congregation here present, with reference to that part of the question which will be put to you as to “ Purity of Worship as presently practised in this Church,” that, in 1910, the General Assembly reaffirmed the legislation of the Church as to uniformity in public worship going back to the year 1707; and that, in accordance with that legislation, it is the present practice of the Free Church to avoid the use in public worship of uninspired materials of praise as also of instrumental music. Such present practice determines the purity of worship to the maintenance of which the Ordinand pledges himself.

The General Assembly repeal Act VI. 1910.

**VI. - Act anent Collections (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1932.**

The General Assembly record their gratitude to God for His great goodness, as manifested in the liberality of their people during the past year.

Notwithstanding that it has been a year of great and unprecedented stress on the economic fabric, the various schemes of the Church have, on the whole, been well maintained. While recognising with deep appreciation the loyalty and self-sacrifice this involved on the part of their faithful people, the General Assembly would urge them not to relax, but rather, if possible, to increase their efforts to further the work of the Church at home and abroad.

They would remind them that giving to the Cause of Christ is a privilege as well as a duty, the exercise of which brings great blessing to the cheerful giver.

The General Assembly recommend Deacons' Courts to appoint a day for a Special Collection on behalf of the distressed Churches of the Evangelical Protestant Faith on the Continent of Europe.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1932 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 7. ,, January 1933 Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 9. ,, March ,, Buildings. 10. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions. 11. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed or on the nearest convenient date thereto, and that in no case should the opportunity and privilege of

contributing be withheld from the people. Conveners of Committees are directed to arrange that intimation of these Collections be sent to every Congregation.

The General Assembly regret to find an increase in the number of Congregations failing 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 December, a list of all defaulting Congregations, and the Clerk of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which the Congregations belong. The said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a report not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, so that these reasons may be laid before the Assembly.

**VII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1932.  
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 Rev. John Shaw, 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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 mem-

bers are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**VIII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1932. Sess. 12.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 23rd day of May 1933, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1933.

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 Reserve Fund 4. Act anent Return of Part of Sustentation Fund Contributions to Vacant Congregations 5. Act anent Regulating the Curriculum of Students 6. Act anent Regulation 24 of the General Rules for the Missions, and the guidance of the Missionaries from Scotland, of the Free Church of Scotland 7. Act anent Care and Condition of Buildings 8. Act anent Standing Order VI. 2. 9. Act anent Standing Order VI. 8. 10. Act anent Standing Order VI. 10. 11. Act anent Collections 12. Act anent Commission of Assembly 13. Act anent Appointing next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIII., MCMXXXIII. (1933)

**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 1933. Sess. 11.**

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 subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened at Edinburgh, tender to Your Majesty our loyal homage as we pray that Heaven's choicest benediction may rest on Your Majesty's Person and House.

Met as we are in the name of our Lord by Whom Kings reign and Princes decree justice and Who is the Prince of the Kings of the earth to Whom Kings and Princes are called to bow and Whose yoke they are called upon to wear, we recognise that it is righteousness that exalteth a Nation while sin is the reproach of to any people; and we feel satisfied that what is fitted to promote a nation's chief glory is the maintenance and the prevalence of true Religion and undefiled.

We heartily acknowledge that under Your Majesty's benign rule we in common with our fellow-subjects enjoy the liberty that has long been the ancestral distinction of our country. Under the aegis of this liberty it is our humble endeavour to uphold the banner of the historic Faith of the Reformed Churches which has been so highly honoured in the past in purifying the life and moulding the beneficent civilisation of Your Majesty's Home Dominions and far-flung Empire.

In the period of World Depression through which the Business Community in many lands is passing we recognise the disposing hand of the Supreme Governor Whose voice is heard in the Dispensations of His Holy Providence. We take it that the cloud which has come over the prosperity of the World at large speaks of the righteous judgments of Him Who is Governor among the nations, and that the abiding sunshine of world-wide security and peace can come only in the train of Righteousness, National and International. The very leaven of the Kingdom of our Lord is Righteousness, and with its advance and establishment will come the advent of that day when the work of Righteousness shall be peace, and the effect thereof quietness and assurance for ever. In this conviction our prayer is for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and for this we labour, believing that as the leaven of that Kingdom works it will sweeten the relationships of life, and then may men safely beat their swords to ploughshares and their spears to pruning-hooks, when they shall study war no more. That the counsels of Your Majesty's advisers may further this end in conjunction with the representatives of the Nations, is our sincere desire.

For Your Majesty's Throne we seek that it may be established in Righteousness and for your Person it is our earnest prayer that you may so know our Lord as your Saviour that when the call comes that summons mortal man into the presence of his Maker and his Judge there may be an abundant entrance into the Kingdom, all of whose people are Kings and Priests unto God and His Christ. Commending Your Majesty thus to the mercy of our Saviour and Lord, we avow ourselves Your Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects.

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

(Signed) A. M. Ross, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1933. Sess.  
3.**

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1932 to all Ministers upon the Platform of the Equal Dividend at 31st December last of £250, exclusive of the Premium of £7 payable on behalf of such Ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The Assembly authorise a sum of £90 to be distributed among Ministers on Special Arrangements, so that their salaries shall not be less than £200 or be made, thereby, more than the Equal Dividend.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £200 be given to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee to supplement, at the discretion of that Committee, the salaries of their Lay Agents.

The Assembly add the names of Mr Robert M. Knox, Minister of Buccleuch and Greyfriars Congregation, Edinburgh, and Mr James Macdonald, Minister at Killearnan, Presbytery of Chanonry, to the list of beneficiaries under Act. V. 1928, V.1.

### **III. - Act anent Reserve Fund (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1933. Sees. 5.**

The General Assembly do hereby recall the direction of Assembly 1931 that the rate of Interest to be paid on the Capital of the Reserve Fund be half the flat rate, and in lieu thereof the General Assembly enact and direct that no Interest shall meantime, and until a further direction thereanent be given by the Assembly, be credited to the Reserve Fund in respect of its Capital, but that there shall be credited to the Reserve Fund in the current year out of the balance on the General Interest Account after meeting the payments of interest to the pooled funds at the flat rate (first) so much as shall be sufficient to meet any liabilities chargeable against the Reserve Fund for the current year, and (second) the sum of £36, 2s. 8d., being the sum required to bring the capital of the Reserve Fund up to the sum of £40,000, and that any remainder of any such balance on the General Interest Account shall be carried forward to next year's Account and taken into account in fixing the flat rate for that year.

### **IV. - Act anent Return of Part of Sustentation Fund Contributions to Vacant Congregations. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1933. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly remind Deacons' Courts (and Finance Committees in Congregations where such exist in place of Deacons' Courts) that it is the duty of Office-bearers to encourage individual contributions by Members and Adherents to the Sustentation Fund and that, when such have been made and entrusted to Deacons' Courts (or Finance Committees), these Courts (or Committees) are acting unfaithfully if they retain any part of these moneys for any local purpose instead of transmitting the same, at once, to the General Treasurer.

The General Assembly recognise that, although the arrangements for Ministerial supply are made, and the cost thereof defrayed, by the General Assembly's Committee on Supply, there must fall upon Deacons' Courts (or Finance Committees) certain local expenses incidental to the supply. These local expenses should usually be borne by the ordinary funds of the Congregation. When Deacons' Courts (or Finance Committees) shall conceive that there is necessity for applying to the Sustentation Fund Committee for assistance towards the meeting of these local charges, the Committee (regard being had to the contributions made by the Congregations to the Sustentation Fund and to the expenses borne by the Supply Committee) are authorised to give such grant as shall appear to them to be proper. When it shall appear to the Sustentation Fund Committee that the cost of supplying any Congregation is excessive in

relation to the contributions to the Sustentation Fund (as revealed by detailed statistics of cost and contributions of Vacant Charges to be supplied annually by the Supply etc. Committee to the Sustentation Fund Committee), the Sustentation Fund Committee shall draw the attention of the Congregation to the matter, through the Deacons' Court (or Finance Committee), and, in conference with the Supply Committee, shall take steps to adjust the relation between cost and contribution so that the burden on Central Funds shall be reduced. Act VI. 1890 is hereby repealed.

**V. - Act anent Regulating the Curriculum of Students (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1933. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly repeal Paragraph 3 of Section II. (Irregular Students) of Act IV., 1915, anent Education, and in lieu thereof enact that :-

3. Students who comply with the regulations of the Board of Studies, and who satisfactorily complete the course prescribed for them, may enter upon their Divinity Course as irregular students, and they shall remain irregular until their course has been regularised by the General Assembly.

**VI. - Act anent Regulation 24 of the General Rules for the Missions, and the guidance of the Missionaries from Scotland, of the Free Church of Scotland. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1933. Sess. 9.**

The Assembly amend Regulation 24 (Act IV., 1932), of the General Rules for the Missions, and the guidance of Missionaries from Scotland, of the Free Church of Scotland, by adding thereto the following:-

To secure the balance of Ministers and Elders on the Roll of the Assembly, the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dingwall and Tain, and Inverness in rotation, on their being advised by the Clerk of Assembly of the need for such nomination, are hereby authorised to nominate an Elder or a Minister, as the case may be, to correspond with each Minister or Elder who is commissioned under the former part of this regulation. In the case of an Elder from the Foreign Mission Field to whom a Commission is given under the hand of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Foreign Missions Committee, such Commission shall be held to cover both his Presbyterial and Session Certificates.

**VII. - Act anent Care and Condition of Buildings (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1933. Sess. 10.**

While recognising that the responsibility for care of Congregational Property rests with local Trustees, from whom it would be improper to transfer the same, nevertheless the General Assembly deem it prudent to remind Presbyteries that the careful husbanding of the Churches' resources is not alien to the oversight vested in Presbyteries; therefore the General Assembly do hereby enjoin upon Presbyteries to obtain, from Deacons' Courts and from local Trustees, full returns of all heritable property belonging to Congregations showing the condition, and such provision as may have been made for the maintenance, thereof, these returns to be communicated, not later than 31st January next to the Buildings Committee for submission by them to next General Assembly; and the Buildings Committee is enjoined to furnish

to Presbyteries such Forms and other documents, and such assistance, as will facilitate the ingathering of the desired information.

**VIII. - Act anent Standing Order VI. 2. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1933. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly repeal the second paragraph of Standing Order VI. (2).

**IX. - Act anent Standing Order VI. 8 (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1933. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly add to Standing Order VI. (8) the following sentence :-

Any Member of the Standing Committees who shall, without good reason to be stated by him to, and sustained by, the Nominations Committee, have failed to attend any of the Meetings of his three Standing Committees during the period between the last General Assembly and the meeting of the Nominations Committee for the purpose of Standing Order VI. (10) shall be deemed to have resigned his membership of each of these Standing Committees.

**X. - Act anent Standing Order VI. 10 (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1933. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly amend Standing Order No. VI. (10) by the deletion of the words “ between 1st April and “ from the first line of the Order, and the substitution therefor of the words “not later than.”

**XI. - Act anent Collections (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1933. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His continued goodness as manifested in the liberality of their people during the past year. The various schemes of the Church have, on the whole, been well supported notwithstanding the wide-spread industrial depression of the period under review.

The General Assembly appeal to all their faithful people to continue their efforts to further the work of the Church at home and abroad by exercising to the utmost of their ability the grace of Christian liberality, remembering that this is not only their duty, but also their privilege.

The General Assembly recommend Deacons' Courts to appoint a day for a Special Collection on behalf of the distressed Churches of the Evangelical Protestant Faith on the Continent of Europe. 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 June 1933 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 7. ,, January 1934 Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 9. ,, March ,, Buildings. 10. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions. 11. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the nearest convenient date thereto, and that in no case should the opportunity and privilege of contributing be withheld from the people. Conveners of Committees are directed to arrange that intimation of these Collections be sent to every Congregation.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of Congregations 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 of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which the Congregations belong. The said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report not later than two weeks before the next Meeting of General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, so that these reasons may be laid before the Assembly.

**XII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1933. 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 Rev. John Shaw, 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 Inverness, the second Wednesday of August, at six of the clock afternoon, and thereafter at Edinburgh on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 General 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: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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.

**XIII - Act anent Appointing next General Assembly (No. 13 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1933. Sess. 12.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 22nd day of May 1934, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1934.

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 Dependants of Deceased Ministers 4. Act anent dividing the Presbytery of Edinburgh and erecting the Presbytery of Perth 5. Act anent Collections 6. Act anent Commission of Assembly 7. Act anent Appointing next General Assembly

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

MAY XXII., MCMXXXIV. (1934)

**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, 23rd May 1934. Sess. 3.**

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 loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 23rd day of May 1934, respectfully offer Your Majesty this expression of our constant and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

Knowing Your Majesty's firm personal trust in God, we believe that it may be pleasing to You to be assured that in this Church, where families still gather morning and evening to worship God, prayer is daily offered at the family altar that God may continue richly to bless Your Majesty with blessings of manifold goodness.

We give thanks always to God for all that He has done for You, and, through You, for this nation and for Your Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas, in which there is such abundant loyalty to Your Majesty and Your Royal House, as that amidst upheavals in many lands, Your Throne stands stable and sure.

We observe with gladness how His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales continues to interest himself in all movements that tend for the well-being of the youth of the land, and how all the Princes of Your Royal Home by their gracious interest in what deeply concerns Your people at home and abroad strengthen the ties that bind Your people one to another, and to the Throne.

We rejoice that the dark clouds of economic depression which so long overshadowed the land at last appear to be lifting; and very earnestly do we pray that soon we may greet the dawn of a prosperous era.

It is our fervent prayer to God that the efforts which Your Majesty has unweariedly put forth for the establishment of peace among the nations of the world may be abundantly crowned with success, and that Your Majesty may richly enjoy the blessedness of the Peacemaker.

May Heaven's choicest blessings rest on Your Majesty's Person and Rule, upon Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and upon all the Members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh in General Assembly.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

(Signed) DUNCAN MACDONALD, MODERATOR.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1934. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly declare for 1933 an Equal Dividend at the rate of £245 per annum (being 2 per cent. less than in the preceding year), exclusive of the Premium of £7 paid on their behalf to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend at

31st December last.

The Assembly authorise a sum of £90 to be distributed among the Ministers on Special Arrangements, so that their salaries be not less than £200, or made, thereby, more than the Equal Dividend, their total income from the Sustentation Fund to be subject to a reduction of 2 per cent.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £200 be given to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee, to supplement, at the discretion of that Committee, the salaries of their resident Lay Agents.

The Assembly remind Deacons' Courts and Finance Committees of the importance of this Fund and the many claims thereon; and enjoin them to give all diligence to maintain and increase the contributions thereto by their Congregations.

**III. - Act anent Regulations for Dependants of Deceased Ministers. (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1934. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly approve and enact amended Regulations for Grants to Widows and Dependants of Deceased Ministers as follows, viz.

1. On the death of a Minister whose Stipend is chargeable to the Sustentation Fund there shall be payable out of the Fund a sum in respect of funeral expenses not exceeding in any case £75.
2. If the Minister shall be survived by a Widow there shall be payable to her out of the Sustentation Fund a sum equivalent to one quarter of the Equal Dividend obtaining in respect of the year terminating at 31st December last before the date of the Minister's death.
3. If the Minister shall leave no Widow but shall leave Dependants, inclusive of any female relative who for at least six months immediately preceding his death shall have been residing with him and in charge of his house, there shall be paid out of the Sustentation Fund a sum equivalent to one quarter of the Equal Dividend obtaining in respect of the year terminating at 31st December last before the date of the Minister's death, such sum to be divided among the Dependants, inclusive as aforesaid, in such proportion as the Committee in their absolute discretion shall determine.
4. The foregoing rules shall, mutatis mutandis, apply to a Minister whose Stipend is no longer payable from the Sustentation Fund, but who is in receipt of a Personal Grant from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and the provision for the Widow or for the Dependants, if any, shall be equal to one quarter of the Equal Dividend obtaining in respect of the year terminating at 31st December last before the Minister's death, such provision to be paid out of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.
5. All previous regulations bearing on allowances or grants to Widows, Relations, or Dependants of deceased Ministers are hereby repealed.

**IV. - Act anent dividing the Presbytery of Edinburgh and erecting the Presbytery of**

**Perth. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1934. Sess. 9.**

The General Assembly receive the Overture from the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and, in accordance with the Crave thereof, disjoin from the Presbytery the Congregations of Stirling, of Aberfeldy, of Glenlyon, of Perth and Scone, of Dundee, and of Aberdeen, and constitute these into a new Presbytery comprising in area the Counties of Stirling, Kincardine, Perth, Angus and Aberdeen, and having its seat normally in Perth, and to be known as the Presbytery of Perth.

The General Assembly direct the Presbytery of Perth to meet within Knox Free Church, Perth, on Tuesday, 4th September, at 2.30 p.m., the Rev. Donald Fraser. Minister at Aberfeldy, to be first Moderator.

**V. - Act anent Collections (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1934, Sess. 12**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His continued goodness as manifested in the liberality of their people during the past year. Despite the widespread depression bearing upon the economic resources of all classes, there is reason for thankfulness that the various schemes of the Church have been so well maintained.

The General Assembly appeal to all their faithful people to continue in diligence in their efforts to further the work of the Church at home and abroad by the exercise of Christian liberality, realising that this grace is not only their duty, but also their privilege.

The General Assembly renew the recommendation to Deacons' Courts to appoint a day for a Special Collection on behalf of the distressed Churches of the Evangelical Protestant Faith on the Continent of Europe.

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 June 1934 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 7. ,, January 1935 Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 9. ,, March ,, Buildings. 10. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions 11. ,, May ,, Home Missions

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the day appointed, or on the nearest convenient date, and that on no account should the opportunity of contributing be withheld from the people. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of the foregoing be sent to every Congregation.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of Congregations failed last year to make some of the appointed 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 of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which the Congregations belong. The said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report not later than two weeks before the next meeting of General

Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, so that these reasons may be laid before the Assembly.

**VI. - Act anent appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh 29th  
May 1934 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 Rev. Andrew Sutherland, 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, and or the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 General 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada , 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 appointing next General Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh 29th.  
May 1934 Sess.12**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 21st day of May 1935, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1935.

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 Duration of Service and Furlough of Missionaries in India 4. Act anent Powers of the Training of the Ministry Committee 5. Interim Act anent Mental Illness 6. Act anent appointment of Trustees 7. Act anent Collections 8. Act anent appointing Commission of Assembly 9. Act anent appointing next General Assembly

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

MAY XXI., MCMXXXV. (1935)

**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, 22nd May 1935. Sess. 3.**

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 loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 22nd day of May 1935, respectfully offer to Your Majesty this expression of our constant and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

In this year of Jubilee we give special thanks to Almighty God for the grace bestowed upon Your Majesty which has enabled Your Majesty to rule in righteousness and in the fear of the Lord over Your Majesty's far-flung Dominions during the exacting and critical years which have elapsed since Your Majesty's accession to the Throne.

We rejoice in the manifold evidences given by Your Majesty that You devoutly trust in the

Living God, and that Your desire has ever been to honour and to serve Him by Whom kings reign and princes decree justice, and we commend Your Majesty afresh to His gracious keeping and His sure guidance.

We observe with deep gratitude to God the zeal with which Your Majesty and all the members of Your Royal House engage in good works in the interests of all ranks and classes among Your faithful people in this country and beyond the seas. The tireless efforts of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on behalf of the youth of this country, and in many other laudable enterprises, we observe with deep joy and admiration.

With the rest of Your Majesty's subjects we rejoice in the recent marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, and we humbly invoke upon their wedded life the richest blessing of the God Whose mercies are new every morning to those who sincerely trust in Him.

We have ever noted with profound admiration the noble example afforded by Your Majesty of devotion to the sanctity of the home and of family life, and we cherish the fervent hope that that example may exercise a mighty influence for good, far and near, throughout Your Majesty's Empire.

We rejoice to learn that the nation's campaign against unemployment, and its attendant hardships and miseries, has achieved some measure of success, and we earnestly wish that campaign so favourable an issue that, in the good Providence of God, there shall be no complaining in our streets, and Your Majesty shall rule over a prosperous and contented people.

We observe with heartfelt gratitude Your Majesty's unwearied efforts in the cause of International Peace, and we pray without ceasing that, by the blessing of God, these efforts may be so abundantly successful that a righteous and enduring peace shall be established among the nations of Europe and throughout the world.

May the richest and deepest blessings of the Divine Grace ever rest on Your Majesty's Person and Rule, upon Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and upon all the members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, in General Assembly. Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

(Signed) ALEXANDER ROSS, Moderator.

## **II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1935. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1934 at the rate of £245 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at the end of December last, exclusive of the premium of £7 paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in behalf of such Ministers.

The General Assembly direct that a sum not exceeding £90 be distributed to Ministers on Special Arrangements in such manner as that their salaries shall not be less than £200, or made thereby more than the Equal Dividend.

The General Assembly authorise that a sum of £100 be given to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee to be distributed to their Lay Agents according to the discretion of that Committee.

The General Assembly, recognising the burden on this Committee for Administrative Expenses to be excessive in the present circumstances of the Church, and the urgent necessity of maintaining the Equal Dividend at its present level, hereby direct that, pending final adjustment of General Charges by the General Assembly in consonance with the finding of the General Assembly of 23rd May 1865 and with the present circumstances of the Church, the Committee's proportion of these expenses in excess of £500 per annum be meantime made a Charge against the free income from the Reserve Fund.

The General Assembly commend the efforts of Presbyteries to stimulate interest in and support for this important Fund. They renew their injunction to Deacons' Courts and all who have to do with the Fund that they review the organisation thereof in their respective Congregations, explaining its importance to the people; and they exhort their faithful people to respond to these fresh appeals "as God hath prospered them."

The General Assembly place the names of Mr Farquhar Matheson, Minister at Tarbat, Presbytery of Dingwall and Tain; Mr Donald Macnaughton, Minister at Clyne, Presbytery of Dornoch; and Mr Donald Smith, Minister at Govanhill, Glasgow, Presbytery of Glasgow, on the list of beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1).

**III. - Act anent Duration of Service and Furlough of Missionaries in India. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1935 Sess. 6.**

The General Assembly receive the Report of the Committee, upon the remit of last General Assembly, with respect to the duration of periods of service abroad and the incidence of furloughs, adopt the same, and direct that for India each term of service after the first period be five years and that the furlough in each case be for twelve months.

**IV. - Act anent Powers of the Training of the Ministry Committee (This Act is being sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act, it being Declaratory.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1935. Sess. 8.**

The Assembly declare that the oversight of the general suitability of candidates for the Ministry, including the admission or rejection or removal of Students of any class studying with a view to the Ministry, exercised by their predecessors in office for a long series of years, is part of the responsibility laid upon the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee, their action being always subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

**V. - Interim Act anent Mental Illness (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1935. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly adopt the Report (Of the Law and Advisory Committee.) under its first head, and they accept the Draft Act referred to in the Report and hereinafter printed as an Overture to be transmitted, and they hereby do transmit the Overture to Presbyteries for their opinion agreeably to the Barrier Act, and further, the General Assembly adopt and pass the said Act as an interim Act, the tenor thereof being as follows:-

Whereas it is desirable, in the event of a Minister or a Professor being incapacitated by mental illness, to make provision for such Minister or Professor and for the welfare, in that event, of the Congregation of such Minister or of the Chair of such Professor, it is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland as under written, that is to say :-

#### PART ONE.

##### Preliminary.

1. If and when a Statement shall be made to a Presbytery in writing, signed by two or more persons who are either Members of the Presbytery or Elders (not Members of Presbytery) or Deacons of the Congregation concerned or other persons having an interest, that the Minister of a Charge within the bounds of the Presbytery, or that a Professor who is a Member of the Presbytery, is or appears to be incapable of the full and ordinary duties of his Charge or Chair by reason of mental illness, it shall be the duty of the Presbytery, by the hand of the Moderator or of their Clerk, to give notice of the Statement in writing to the Minister or Professor and one of his nearest known relatives, requiring them, at a meeting of Presbytery to be held not sooner than 14 days and not later than 31 days after the date of the notice, to shew cause why the Presbytery should not proceed to an enquiry in terms of, and as provided by, this Act.
2. Any Statement made in terms of this Act shall be deemed to be privileged in law.

#### PART TWO.

##### As to Ministers.

3. If a Minister to whom notice shall have been given in terms of Section 1 shall fail to appear personally, or by a Member of Presbytery, or an Office-Bearer in his Congregation, or a Member of his family, or such other person as the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him at the appointed meeting of Presbytery, the Presbytery shall hold him as confessed and shall forthwith grant to him four months' leave of absence from duty and shall appoint an Interim Moderator of his Kirk Session.
4. If the Minister shall appear personally or by a Member of Presbytery, an Office-Bearer of his Congregation or a Member of his family, or other person whom the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him, the Presbytery shall, with reasonable dispatch, duly cite to a meeting of the Presbytery the parties and any witness who may be named by parties, and shall hear parties and take all relevant evidence tendered to them, which evidence shall include the written and certified testimony of at least one fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioner, if such be furnished by the Minister or other person appearing for him, and the Presbytery shall thereupon come to an appropriate finding. If the Presbytery shall be satisfied that the Statement made to them has not been borne out they shall pass from the subject,

without prejudice to their power, to grant to the Minister in usual manner leave of absence in respect of any physical illness from which he may be suffering. Should the Presbytery have reason to believe that the Minister is suffering from mental illness the Presbytery shall grant to him four months leave of absence and shall appoint an Interim Moderator of Session.

5. Upon the Presbytery granting leave of absence, whether under Section 3 or Section 4 of this Act [excepting, however, such leave of absence as is provided for under Section 4 for illness other than mental], they shall report that they have done so to the next ensuing General Assembly or Stated Diet of the Commission of Assembly (whichever shall first meet), the Report to be accompanied by a narrative of the procedure taken by, and a precis of the evidence given to, the Presbytery, and thereafter procedure under this Act shall be taken by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, but without prejudice to the powers and duty of the Presbytery to have regard to the welfare of the Congregation until procedure under this Act shall take end.

6. If at any time between the granting of a first period of leave in terms of this Act and a final determination by the General Assembly or its Commission in terms of the next succeeding Section of this Act the General Assembly or the Commission shall be satisfied by medical or other evidence that the Minister is no longer suffering from mental illness such as to warrant continued procedure under this Act, the General Assembly or the Commission shall intimate their finding to that effect to the Presbytery, whereupon procedure under this Act shall take end; and any period of leave of absence which at the date of such finding shall be unexpired shall be deemed to be a period of leave in respect of physical disablement.

7. Leave of absence granted by the Presbytery, whether under Section 3 or Section 4 of this Act, may be renewed by the Assembly or Commission of Assembly for a second or third period of four months. At the end of the last period which shall have been granted, the General Assembly or the Commission shall require the Minister to submit to examination by two fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioners nominated by the Presbytery. If these Practitioners shall certify on soul and conscience that the Minister suffers from mental illness to an extent which renders him unfit for Ministerial duty, but that such illness is likely to be of short duration, the General Assembly or the Commission may continue leave of absence for such period or periods as they shall think proper before calling for another examination by the same or other such Medical Practitioners.

8. On two such Medical Practitioners certifying that the Minister, by reason of mental illness, is unfit for Ministerial duty, but not certifying that such illness is likely to be of short duration; or if the Minister shall refuse to submit himself to such Medical Practitioners on being required so to submit himself, the General Assembly or the Commission shall forthwith declare the Minister to be loosed from his Charge and shall remit the case to the Presbytery, instructing them to authorise the Congregation (subject to the usual reference to the Sustentation Fund Committee) to proceed in ordinary course to the filling up of the Vacancy.

9. The whole expenses (in so far as these do not exceed one half of the Minister's stipend from the Sustentation Fund) to be incurred by the General Assembly's Committee on Supply for the Maintenance of Ordinances in the Congregation while the Minister is the subject of procedure under this Act prior to his being loosed from his Charge shall be borne by the Minister and shall be chargeable against his stipend payable from the Sustentation Fund and

an account or accounts of such expenses evidenced by Certificate of the Clerk of the General Assembly's Committee on Supply shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer from time to time to deduct the amount of such accounts from the Minister's stipend.

10. An Excerpt Minute of the General Assembly or the Commission declaring the Minister to be loosed from his Charge as aforesaid shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer to cease payment of stipend and shall authorise the Committee administering Act V., 1928 (as if all requisite procedure had been observed), to grant to the Minister a Personal Grant according to the terms of Act V., 1928, augmented if the Committee, in view of all the facts of the case shall so determine, by a sum not exceeding 25 per cent. of the prescribed grant. And augmentation so made by the Committee shall be reported by the Committee to next ensuing Assembly for confirmation. If so confirmed the augmentation shall be reviewed by the Committee at intervals of five years thereafter, subject always to confirmation of such review by the General Assembly.

### PART THREE.

As to Professors.

11. If a Professor to whom notice shall have been given in terms of Section 1 shall fail to appear personally, or by a Member of Presbytery, or a Member of the Senatus, or a Member of his family, or other person whom the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him at the appointed meeting of Presbytery, the Presbytery shall hold him as confessed and shall forthwith report the case to the General Assembly's Committee on Training of the Ministry.

12. If the Professor shall appear personally, or a Member of Presbytery, or a Member of Senatus, or a Member of his family, or other person whom the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him, the Presbytery shall, with reasonable dispatch, duly cite to a meeting of the Presbytery, the parties and any witnesses who may be named by parties and shall hear parties and take all relevant evidence tendered to them, which evidence shall include the testimony, written or certified, of at least one fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioner if such be furnished by the Professor or other person appearing for him, and thereupon the Presbytery shall come to an appropriate finding. If the Presbytery shall be satisfied that the statement made to them has not been borne out they shall pass from the subject. Should the Presbytery have reason to believe that the Professor is suffering from mental illness they shall report their finding, with a narrative of the procedure taken, and a precis of the evidence given to them, to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

13. On receipt from the Presbytery of a Report under either Section 11 or Section 12 of this Act, the Training of the Ministry Committee shall grant to the Professor four months leave of absence, and, after consultation with, and subject to the concurrence of, the Senatus, shall make arrangements for the conduct of the work of the Professor's Chair during that period and during any subsequent period of leave.

14. Upon the Training of the Ministry Committee granting leave of absence in terms of Section 12 of this Act they shall report that they have done so to the ensuing General Assembly or to the ensuing Stated Diet of the Commission of Assembly (whichever shall first

meet), the Report to be accompanied by a narrative of the procedure taken by and a precis of the evidence given to the Presbytery, as transmitted by the Presbytery to the Committee, and thereafter procedure under this Act shall be taken by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, but without prejudice to the powers and duty of the Training of the Ministry Committee and the Senatus to have regard to the welfare of the College until procedure under this Act shall take end.

15. If at any time between the granting of a first period of leave in terms of this Act and a final determination by the General Assembly or its Commission in terms of the next succeeding Section of this Act the General Assembly or the Commission shall be satisfied by medical or other evidence that the Professor is no longer suffering from mental illness such as to warrant continued procedure under this Act the General Assembly or the Commission shall intimate their finding to that effect to the Training of the Ministry Committee, whereupon procedure under this Act shall take end; and any period of leave of absence which at the date of such finding shall be unexpired shall be deemed to be a period of leave in respect of physical disablement.

16. Leave of absence granted by the Training of the Ministry Committee may, by the General Assembly or the Commission, be renewed for a second or third period of four months. At the end of the last period which shall have been granted, the General Assembly or the Commission shall require the Professor to submit himself to examination by two fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioners nominated by the Training of the Ministry Committee. If these Practitioners shall certify on soul and conscience that the Professor suffers from mental illness to an extent which renders him unfit for the duties of his Chair, but that such illness is likely to be of short duration, the General Assembly or the Commission may continue leave of absence for such period or periods as they shall think proper before calling for another examination by the same or other such Medical Practitioners.

17. On two such Medical Practitioners certifying that the Professor is, by reason of mental illness, unfit for the duties of his Chair, but not certifying that such illness is likely to be of short duration, or if the Professor shall refuse to submit himself to such Medical Practitioners on being required so to submit himself, the General Assembly or the Commission shall forthwith declare the Professor to be loosed from his Chair and shall remit the case to the Training of the Ministry Committee, instructing them to initiate procedure in usual course for filling the Chair.

18. The whole expenses to be incurred by the Training of the Ministry Committee in carrying on the work of the Chair during the period or periods of leave, shall be chargeable against the income of the Chair. An Excerpt Minute of the Committee certifying the amount of these expenses shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer from time to time to deduct the same from the income of the Chair.

19. An Excerpt Minute of the General Assembly or of the Commission of Assembly declaring a Professor to be loosed from his Chair shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer to cease payment of the Professor's salary and shall authorise the Committee administering Act V., 1928, and all other relevant Acts dealing with the Retiring Allowance of Professors (as if all requisite procedure had been observed) to grant to the Professor a Retiring Allowance according to the terms of Act V., 1928, and the foresaid other Acts, augmented if the Commit-

tee, in view of all the facts of the case shall so determine, by a sum not exceeding 10 per cent. of the Allowance (but so that the Allowance shall not in any event exceed the maximum of one half of the income of the Chair). Any augmentation so made by the Committee shall be reported by them to the ensuing General Assembly for confirmation. If so confirmed the augmentation shall be reviewed by the Committee at intervals of five years thereafter, subject always to confirmation of such review by the General Assembly.

#### PART FOUR.

##### General.

20. If and when a Minister or Professor loosed from his Charge or Chair under this Act shall recover his health he shall be eligible for full service to the Church as a Minister without Charge. If called in ordinary course to, and settled in, a Charge, the personal grant to such Minister from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund or the retiring allowance to such Professor, as the case may be, shall cease.

21. Save where otherwise expressly provided all procedure under this Act shall be in accordance with the practice of the Courts of the Church, including rights of appeal.

22. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to a Minister or a Professor who holds a Charge, whether in a Congregation or in the College, of the Free Church of Scotland at the date of the passing of this Act.

#### **VI. - Act anent Appointment of Trustees (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1935. Sess. 9.**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and nominate and appoint Mr Donald MacArthur, Solicitor, 119 Mitre Road, Jordanhill, Glasgow, and Mr James J. Morton, Farmer, Machrie, Shiskine, Arran, to be General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, to act along with those at present holding office as Trustees.

#### **VII. - Act anent Collections (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1935. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to the Most High for His continued goodness as manifested in the liberality of their faithful people during the past year. There is reason for thankfulness that the different Schemes of the Church have been so well maintained, and that the widespread depression bearing upon the economic resources of all classes is beginning to lift.

The General Assembly appeal to all their faithful people to continue in diligence in their efforts to further the work of the Church at home and abroad by the exercise of Christian liberality, realising that this grace is not only their duty, but also their privilege.

The General Assembly renew the recommendation to Deacons' Courts to appoint a day for a Special Collection on behalf of the Distressed Churches of the Evangelical Protestant Faith on the Continent of Europe.

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 June 1935 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 7. ,, January 1936 Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry 9. ,, March ,, Buildings. 10. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions. 11. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the appointed, or on the nearest convenient, dates, and that on no account should the opportunity of contributing be withheld from the people. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of the foregoing be sent to every Congregation.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of Congregations failed last year to make some of the appointed 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 of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which the Congregations belong. The said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report, not later than 1st April next, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections so that these reasons may be laid before the Assembly.

**VIII. - Act anent appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1935, 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 Rev. John Macleod, O.B.E., 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, and on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 General 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: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colo-

nial Missionaries in Canada; 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 appointing next General Assembly (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1935. Sess. 12.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 19th day of May 1936, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1936.

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

Act anent Mental Illness

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Finance and Foreign Mission Funds 3. Act anent Office Staff, Legal Expenses, and Standing Orders 4. Act anent Sustentation Fund 5. Act anent Training of the Ministry Grants 6. Act anent Repealing Act. IV.1935, re Powers of Training of the Ministry Committee 7. Act anent Assembly Hall and Assembly Officer 8. Act anent Representative Elders in Presbytery and Synod 9. Act anent Appointment of Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis 10. Act anent Collections 11. Act anent Commission of Assembly 12. Act anent appointing next General Assembly

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

MAY XIX., MCMXXXVI. (1936)

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

**I. - Act anent Mental Illness (No. 1 of Class I.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1936. Sess. 7.**

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

Whereas it is desirable, in the event of a Minister or a Professor being incapacitated by mental illness, to make provision for such Minister or Professor and for the welfare, in that event, of the Congregation of such Minister or of the Chair of such Professor, it is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland as under written, that is to say :-

#### PART ONE.

##### Preliminary.

1. If and when a Statement shall be made to a Presbytery in writing, signed by two or more persons who are either Members of the Presbytery or Elders (not Members of Presbytery) or Deacons of the Congregation concerned or other persons having an interest, that the Minister of a Charge within the bounds of the Presbytery, or that a Professor who is a Member of the Presbytery, is or appears to be incapable of the full and ordinary duties of his Charge or Chair by reason of mental illness, it shall be the duty of the Presbytery, by the hand of the Moderator or of their Clerk, to give notice of the Statement in writing to the Minister or Professor and one of his nearest known relatives, requiring them, at a meeting of Presbytery to be held not sooner than 14 days and not later than 31 days after the date of the notice, to shew cause why the Presbytery should not proceed to an enquiry in terms of, and as provided by, this Act.

2. Any Statement made in terms of this Act shall be deemed to be privileged in law.

#### PART TWO.

##### As to Ministers.

3. If a Minister to whom notice shall have been given in terms of Section 1 shall fail to appear personally, or by a Member of Presbytery, or an Office-Bearer in his Congregation, or a Member of his family, or such other person as the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him at the appointed meeting of Presbytery, the Presbytery shall hold him as confessed and shall forthwith grant to him four months' leave of absence from duty and shall appoint an Interim Moderator of his Kirk Session.

4. If the Minister shall appear personally or by a Member of Presbytery, an Office-Bearer of his Congregation or a Member of his family, or other person whom the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him, the Presbytery shall, with reasonable dispatch, duly cite to a meeting of the Presbytery the parties and any witness who may be named by parties, and shall hear parties and take all relevant evidence tendered to them, which evidence shall include the written and certified testimony of at least one fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioner, if such be furnished by the Minister or other person appearing for him, and the Presbytery shall thereupon come to an appropriate finding. If the Presbytery shall be satisfied that the Statement made to them has not been borne out they shall pass from the subject, without prejudice to their power, to grant to the Minister in usual manner leave of absence in respect of any physical illness from which he may be suffering. Should the Presbytery have reason to believe that the Minister is suffering from mental illness the Presbytery shall grant

to him four months leave of absence and shall appoint an Interim Moderator of Session.

5. Upon the Presbytery granting leave of absence, whether under Section 3 or Section 4 of this Act [excepting, however, such leave of absence as is provided for under Section 4 for illness other than mental], they shall report that they have done so to the next ensuing General Assembly or Stated Diet of the Commission of Assembly (whichever shall first meet), the Report to be accompanied by a narrative of the procedure taken by, and a precis of the evidence given to, the Presbytery, and thereafter procedure under this Act shall be taken by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, but without prejudice to the powers and duty of the Presbytery to have regard to the welfare of the Congregation until procedure under this Act shall take end.

6. If at any time between the granting of a first period of leave in terms of this Act and a final determination by the General Assembly or its Commission in terms of the next succeeding Section of this Act the General Assembly or the Commission shall be satisfied by medical or other evidence that the Minister is no longer suffering from mental illness such as to warrant continued procedure under this Act, the General Assembly or the Commission shall intimate their finding to that effect to the Presbytery, whereupon procedure under this Act shall take end; and any period of leave of absence which at the date of such finding shall be unexpired shall be deemed to be a period of leave in respect of physical disablement.

7. Leave of absence granted by the Presbytery, whether under Section 3 or Section 4 of this Act, may be renewed by the Assembly or Commission of Assembly for a second or third period of four months. At the end of the last period which shall have been granted, the General Assembly or the Commission shall require the Minister to submit to examination by two fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioners nominated by the Presbytery. If these Practitioners shall certify on soul and conscience that the Minister suffers from mental illness to an extent which renders him unfit for Ministerial duty, but that such illness is likely to be of short duration, the General Assembly or the Commission may continue leave of absence for such period or periods as they shall think proper before calling for another examination by the same or other such Medical Practitioners.

8. On two such Medical Practitioners certifying that the Minister, by reason of mental illness, is unfit for Ministerial duty, but not certifying that such illness is likely to be of short duration; or if the Minister shall refuse to submit himself to such Medical Practitioners on being required so to submit himself, the General Assembly or the Commission shall forthwith declare the Minister to be loosed from his Charge and shall remit the case to the Presbytery, instructing them to authorise the Congregation (subject to the usual reference to the Sustentation Fund Committee) to proceed in ordinary course to the filling up of the Vacancy.

9. The whole expenses (in so far as these do not exceed one half of the Minister's stipend from the Sustentation Fund) to be incurred by the General Assembly's Committee on Supply for the Maintenance of Ordinances in the Congregation while the Minister is the subject of procedure under this Act prior to his being loosed from his Charge shall be borne by the Minister and shall be chargeable against his stipend payable from the Sustentation Fund and an account or accounts of such expenses evidenced by Certificate of the Clerk of the General Assembly's Committee on Supply shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer from time to time to deduct the amount of such accounts from the Minister's stipend.

10. An Excerpt Minute of the General Assembly or the Commission declaring the Minister to be loosed from his Charge as aforesaid shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer to cease payment of stipend and shall authorise the Committee administering Act V., 1928 (as if all requisite procedure had been observed), to grant to the Minister a Personal Grant according to the terms of Act V., 1928, augmented if the Committee, in view of all the facts of the case shall so determine, by a sum not exceeding 25 per cent. of the prescribed grant. And augmentation so made by the Committee shall be reported by the Committee to next ensuing Assembly for confirmation. If so confirmed the augmentation shall be reviewed by the Committee at intervals of five years thereafter, subject always to confirmation of such review by the General Assembly.

### PART THREE.

As to Professors.

11. If a Professor to whom notice shall have been given in terms of Section 1 shall fail to appear personally, or by a Member of Presbytery, or a Member of the Senatus, or a Member of his family, or other person whom the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him at the appointed meeting of Presbytery, the Presbytery shall hold him as confessed and shall forthwith report the case to the General Assembly's Committee on Training of the Ministry.

12. If the Professor shall appear personally, or a Member of Presbytery, or a Member of Senatus, or a Member of his family, or other person whom the Presbytery shall recognise as entitled to represent him, the Presbytery shall, with reasonable dispatch, duly cite to a meeting of the Presbytery, the parties and any witnesses who may be named by parties and shall hear parties and take all relevant evidence tendered to them, which evidence shall include the testimony, written or certified, of at least one fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioner if such be furnished by the Professor or other person appearing for him, and thereupon the Presbytery shall come to an appropriate finding. If the Presbytery shall be satisfied that the statement made to them has not been borne out they shall pass from the subject. Should the Presbytery have reason to believe that the Professor is suffering from mental illness they shall report their finding, with a narrative of the procedure taken, and a precis of the evidence given to them, to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

13. On receipt from the Presbytery of a Report under either Section 11 or Section 12 of this Act, the Training of the Ministry Committee shall grant to the Professor four months leave of absence, and, after consultation with, and subject to the concurrence of, the Senatus, shall make arrangements for the conduct of the work of the Professor's Chair during that period and during any subsequent period of leave.

14. Upon the Training of the Ministry Committee granting leave of absence in terms of Section 12 of this Act they shall report that they have done so to the ensuing General Assembly or to the ensuing Stated Diet of the Commission of Assembly (whichever shall first meet), the Report to be accompanied by a narrative of the procedure taken by and a precis of the evidence given to the Presbytery, as transmitted by the Presbytery to the Committee, and thereafter procedure under this Act shall be taken by the General Assembly or the Commis-

sion of Assembly, but without prejudice to the powers and duty of the Training of the Ministry Committee and the Senatus to have regard to the welfare of the College until procedure under this Act shall take end.

15. If at any time between the granting of a first period of leave in terms of this Act and a final determination by the General Assembly or its Commission in terms of the next succeeding Section of this Act the General Assembly or the Commission shall be satisfied by medical or other evidence that the Professor is no longer suffering from mental illness such as to warrant continued procedure under this Act the General Assembly or the Commission shall intimate their finding to that effect to the Training of the Ministry Committee, whereupon procedure under this Act shall take end; and any period of leave of absence which at the date of such finding shall be unexpired shall be deemed to be a period of leave in respect of physical disablement.

16. Leave of absence granted by the Training of the Ministry Committee may, by the General Assembly or the Commission, be renewed for a second or third period of four months. At the end of the last period which shall have been granted, the General Assembly or the Commission shall require the Professor to submit himself to examination by two fully and legally qualified Medical Practitioners nominated by the Training of the Ministry Committee. If these Practitioners shall certify on soul and conscience that the Professor suffers from mental illness to an extent which renders him unfit for the duties of his Chair, but that such illness is likely to be of short duration, the General Assembly or the Commission may continue leave of absence for such period or periods as they shall think proper before calling for another examination by the same or other such Medical Practitioners.

17. On two such Medical Practitioners certifying that the Professor is, by reason of mental illness, unfit for the duties of his Chair, but not certifying that such illness is likely to be of short duration, or if the Professor shall refuse to submit himself to such Medical Practitioners on being required so to submit himself, the General Assembly or the Commission shall forthwith declare the Professor to be loosed from his Chair and shall remit the case to the Training of the Ministry Committee, instructing them to initiate procedure in usual course for filling the Chair.

18. The whole expenses to be incurred by the Training of the Ministry Committee in carrying on the work of the Chair during the period or periods of leave, shall be chargeable against the income of the Chair. An Excerpt Minute of the Committee certifying the amount of these expenses shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer from time to time to deduct the same from the income of the Chair.

19. An Excerpt Minute of the General Assembly or of the Commission of Assembly declaring a Professor to be loosed from his Chair shall be a Warrant to the General Treasurer to cease payment of the Professor's salary and shall authorise the Committee administering Act V., 1928, and all other relevant Acts dealing with the Retiring Allowance of Professors (as if all requisite procedure had been observed) to grant to the Professor a Retiring Allowance according to the terms of Act V., 1928, and the foresaid other Acts, augmented if the Committee, in view of all the facts of the case shall so determine, by a sum not exceeding 10 per cent. of the Allowance (but so that the Allowance shall not in any event exceed the maximum of one half of the income of the Chair). Any augmentation so made by the Committee shall be

reported by them to the ensuing General Assembly for confirmation. If so confirmed the augmentation shall be reviewed by the Committee at intervals of five years thereafter, subject always to confirmation of such review by the General Assembly.

#### PART FOUR.

General.

20. If and when a Minister or Professor loosed from his Charge or Chair under this Act shall recover his health he shall be eligible for full service to the Church as a Minister without Charge. If called in ordinary course to, and settled in, a Charge, the personal grant to such Minister from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund or the retiring allowance to such Professor, as the case may be, shall cease.

21. Save where otherwise expressly provided all procedure under this Act shall be in accordance with the practice of the Courts of the Church, including rights of appeal.

22. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to a Minister or a Professor who holds a Charge, whether in a Congregation or in the College, of the Free Church of Scotland at the date of the passing of this 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, 20th May 1936, Sess. 3**

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 loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 20th May 1936, respectfully offer Your Majesty this expression of our constant and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

In the year of Your Majesty's Accession to an illustrious Throne, we mention with sympathetic and grateful memory the moving dignity with which Your Majesty bore the deep personal grief of being bereft of a noble and affectionate father, and we observe with admiration the solemn and considerate example which Your Majesty exhibits in leading the Nation in their mourning for that revered and beloved Sovereign. We earnestly pray that God would bestow on Your Majesty His most abundant grace for bearing the weighty responsibilities, and seizing the valuable opportunities, of Your Majesty's exalted and commanding station.

We have also in thankful remembrance Your Majesty's long and close contacts with all ranks and classes in the country, Your Majesty's direct and personal knowledge of the scattered peoples of our race, Your Majesty's deep interest in the suffering and distressed members of

society, and Your Majesty's constant efforts for the benefit of the young and rising generation. Our earnest expectation and prayer are that by the blessing of Almighty God Your Majesty's wide experience of life may serve to bring continued and enhanced prosperity and richest blessings to Your Majesty's far-flung Dominions throughout the reign of Your Majesty, which has so auspiciously begun.

With never-ceasing gratitude to God we observe the noble part which continues to be played by Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary and the other members of the Royal House in the kindly and generous support lent to every cause that makes for the happiness and well-being of Your Majesty's faithful subjects.

With the rest of Your Majesty's subjects we rejoice in the recent marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and we humbly invoke on their wedded life the choice blessings of the God of the families of all the earth.

We rejoice to learn that the nation's campaign against unemployment, and its attendant hardships and miseries, has achieved some measure of success, and we earnestly wish that campaign so favourable an issue that, in the good providence of God, there shall be no complaining in our streets, and Your Majesty shall rule over a prosperous and contented people.

We observe with heartfelt gratitude Your Majesty's unwearied efforts in the cause of International Peace, and we pray without ceasing that, by the blessing of God, these efforts may be so abundantly successful that the colossal evil of war may be avoided and a righteous and enduring peace shall be established among the nations of Europe and throughout the world.

May the richest and deepest blessings of the Divine Grace ever rest on Your Majesty's Person and Rule, and upon all the members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, in General Assembly.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

(Signed) PETER W. MILLER, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Finance and Foreign Mission Funds (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1936. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly approve of the proposal of the Foreign Missions Committee to write off the debit balance of £7,039, Os. 3d. out of the Reserve Fund of £40,000, and instruct the Finance Committee to take the necessary action for giving effect to the proposal.

**III. - Act anent Office Staff, Legal Expenses, and Standing Orders. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1936 Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly approve and adopt the recommendations submitted by the Committee under the heads B. 1 Office Staff, and 2 Legal Expenses. The Remit of last General Assembly, in so far as not exhausted, is renewed.

To facilitate the experimental re-adjustment of Staff and the lessening of Office work mentioned in the Report, the General Assembly approve and authorise the re-arrangement of Standing Committees set forth in the Memorandum by the General Treasurer appended to this Deliverance, and the General Assembly instruct the Nominations Committee to meet forthwith and to frame, and they are instructed to submit to a future diet of the Assembly, a re-adjustment of the personnel of Standing Committees as set forth in their Report, with consequent change of Standing Orders, for giving effect to the re-arrangement now authorised.

#### APPENDIX TO DELIVERANCE.

Re-arrangement of Standing Committees into two groups meeting simultaneously :-

FORENOON SESSION First Group. Second Group. (1) Committee on Sustentation Fund (3) Committee on Public Questions from 9.30 till 11 9.30 till 11. (2) Committee On Highlands, Home (4) Committee On Church and Manse Missions, and Supply, Buildings - 11 - 12. from 11 till 1 p.m. (5) Committee on Psalmody 12 till 1 p.m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

(6) Committee on Welfare of Youth (8) Foreign, Colonial, Continental and Publications - 2 till 3. and Jewish Missions - 2 till 5. (7) Committee on Training of the Ministry and Admissions from 3 till 5 p.m.

EVENING SESSION (9) Finance and Law and Advisory Committee from 5 till 7.

#### NOTES:-

1. The same person to be Clerk to Committees Nos. 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9.
2. Another person to be Clerk to Committees Nos. 1, 2, 6 and 7, he being relieved from Week-end Supply.
3. Mr Brown to give oversight generally, but in particular of the business of Committees 3, 8 and 9.
4. The personnel of each Committee, other than No. 9, to be 12 Ministers and 6 Elders - total 36, as at present.
5. Members of 1 and 2 to be identical; of 3, 4 and 5 to be identical; of 6 and 7 to be identical, and will meet successively.
6. Members of Committees in forenoon groups may be re-arranged to form membership of Committees in afternoon groups.

7. Finance Committee to consist of Conveners of Committees 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, the General Trustees - other than paid officials who may hold that office - with such additional Elders as the General Assembly may appoint - there being always a preponderance of Elders; the Convener and Vice-Convener to be Elders.

8. Conveners and Vice-Conveners of any Committee to form, with such other members, if any, as the Committee may appoint, the Executive of the Committee.

9. Conveners to give close attention to the provisions of Act V., 1908, "Anent Official Staff"

Edinburgh 26th May 1936. Sess. 11

Consequent on the adoption of the Finance Committee's Report, the General Assembly enact as follows :-

#### I. STANDING ORDERS.

That Section VI. be altered to read thus -

#### VI. AS TO COMMITTEES.

1. That the business of the Church between one Assembly and the next ensuing shall be carried on by Standing Committees, to meet as may be required, and to be arranged in groups, meeting simultaneously, as follows :-

FORENOON SESSION First Group. Second Group. (1) Committee on Sustentation Fund, (3) Committee on Public Questions Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 9.30 a.m. till 11 a.m. and Statistics (4) Committee on Church and Manse from 9.30 till 11 a.m. Buildings - 11 a.m. - 12 noon. (2) Committee On Highlands, Home (5) Committee on Psalmody Missions, and Supply, 12 noon till 1 p.m. from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

(6) Committee on Welfare of Youth (8) Foreign, Colonial, Continental and Publications - 2 till 3 p.m. Jewish Missions - 2 till 5 p.m. (7) Committee on Training of the Ministry and Admissions from 3 till 5 p.m.

EVENING SESSION (9) Finance and Law and Advisory Committee from 5 till 7 p.m.

Note. - Committees not here detailed are Special Committees, and shall meet as business requires. Chief among these Special Committees is the Assembly Arrangements Committee, consisting of the Moderator (Convener), all ex-Moderators, and such laymen as the Assembly may see fit to appoint. Standing Orders (as regards number, term of service, and retirement of members) shall not apply to Special Committees.

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 some later convenient hour.

That such other Committees as the Assembly or its Commission may appoint from time to time shall meet as shall be fixed by their Conveners; and that 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 Committees, other than the Finance Committee, shall consist of not more than eighteen members, whereof at least one-third shall be laymen that each Presbytery shall be represented on the Standing Committees.

3. That the Finance Committee shall consist of the Conveners of the other Standing Committees, with such laymen added from these other Committees as shall secure a majority of laymen on the Committee. The General Trustees (other than a Trustee holding the office of General Treasurer, Depute Treasurer, or Auditor) shall be *ex officio* members of the Finance Committee.

4. That the Senatus shall have the right to appoint one of their number as, *ex officio*, a supernumerary member to the Training of the Ministry' Committee, unless they are otherwise represented on that Committee; and that the Editors of the Record and the Instructor, if not otherwise on that Committee, shall, *ex officio*, be members supernumerary of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee, and such supernumerary membership shall not interfere with the qualification of those who hold it to serve on other Committees.

5. That every person nominated to the Standing Committees must serve on all the Committees of one forenoon and one afternoon group (not counting the Finance Committee).

6. That the Assembly shall in each year appoint the Convener and Vice-Convener of each Standing Committee, due regard being had to effective working and continuity of policy, the Convener of the Finance and Law and Advisory Committee being always an Elder.

7. That of the Standing Committees, twelve of the nominated members in normal conditions, those who have served longest on the Committee shall retire annually, so that within three years the membership of each Committee shall be changed throughout, and these retiring members who are not Elders shall not be eligible for appointment to any other Standing Committee for at least one year from the date of their retirement (it being competent to appoint an Elder to another Committee than that which he has just vacated); and that in the event of the death or resignation of a member of a Committee 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 the period of his appointment.

8. That resignation of membership of one of the Standing Committees shall be intimated to the Convener of the Nominations Committee, and shall involve resignation from the other Standing Committees to which the member resigning belongs. Any member of the Standing Committees who shall, without good reason to be stated by him to, and sustained by, the Nominations Committee, have failed to attend any of the meetings of his several Standing Committees during the period between the last General Assembly and the meeting of the Nominations Committee for the purpose of Standing Order VI. (10) shall be deemed to have resigned his membership of each of these Standing Committees.

9. Not later than the first day of January in each year the Principal Clerk of Assembly shall furnish to the Clerk of each Presbytery a list of the members of the Standing Committees indicating thereon which members of these Committees will retire from office at the next ensuing Assembly and which members may have died, or resigned, or become disqualified. Each Presbytery shall, not later than the last day of February next ensuing, furnish to the Principal Clerk of Assembly the names of Ministers and Elders (not necessarily member of that Presbytery) recommended by the Presbytery as suitable for appointment generally (that is without specification of vacancies) to Standing Committees, these lists not to contain more names than the known number of vacancies. The Principal Clerk of Assembly shall forthwith cause these lists to be laid before the Nominations Committee.

10. That not later than 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 Standing Committees, and shall recommend these to the General Assembly, and that the names so recommended shall, not later than 1st May, be communicated by the Nominations Committee to the Clerk of Assembly, and shall be included in the papers to be printed.

11. That it shall be competent for any member of Assembly to move an amendment or amendments to the recommendations of the Nominations Committee, provided that notice of such amendment shall have been given to the Clerk of Assembly in writing, not later than the second last day of Assembly, and provided that such amendments are in conformity with Standing Order No. VI. 2.

12. 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.

13. That in the selection of names of Ministers and Elders to form any Special Committee, which is to report to a subsequent Assembly, the Assembly shall not be restricted to its own members.

14. That no Committee shall sit while the Moderator is in the Chair at any diet of the Assembly's meeting.

#### **IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1936 Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1935 at the rate of £245 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at the end of last December, in addition to the premium of £7 paid in their behalf to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that a sum of £90 be distributed to Ministers on Special Arrangements so that their salaries be not less than £200 or made thereby more than the Equal Dividend.

The General Assembly also authorise payment to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee of a sum of £80 to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents.

The General Assembly recognise the loyalty and support of their faithful people hitherto in responding so readily to the calls made upon them, and they respectfully enjoin them to continue in the grace of liberality. The Assembly thank all those in charge of the Fund in all Congregations and would impress upon them in their several spheres to continue to exercise the most careful supervision of the organisation of the Sustentation Fund. They commend Presbyteries for the valuable assistance given by them to the Committee in pressing the claims of the Fund. The Assembly expect that in the coming year Presbyteries will give further assistance in advocating the support thereof and in making such adjustments as are competent, so that the burdens thereupon may be reduced.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1) the following, namely :-

Mr. Malcolm Galbraith, Minister at Fort William, Presbytery of Abertarff. Mr. John Mackay Maclellan, Minister at Lairg, Presbytery of Dornoch. Mr. Peter W. Miller, Minister at Partick, Presbytery of Glasgow. Mr. Alexander Ross, Minister at Dumbarton, Presbytery of Glasgow.

**V. - Act anent Training of the Ministry - Grants (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1936. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly commend the efforts of the Committee to maintain a high standard of education for the ministry, and they approve of the regulation by which no candidate shall receive a Maintenance Grant until he has satisfied the Committee by examinations as to his knowledge of Scripture and the Shorter Catechism.

**VI. - Act anent Repealing Act IV., 1935. Re POWERS OF THE TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1936 Sess. 6.**

The Assembly grant the prayer of the Overture from the Dornoch Presbytery and other Presbyteries, and rescind Act IV., 1935.

**VII. - Act anent Assembly Hall and Assembly Officer. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh 20th May 1936, Sess. 3**

The General Assembly approve of the arrangements made with respect to the Assembly Hall as detailed in the Report (the Assembly Arrangements Committee Report), and they confirm the appointment of the Deacons' Court of St. Columba Congregation as the Caretakers thereof on the terms and conditions specified in the Report. The General Assembly further appoint Mr. Thomas C. Maclellan to be the Assembly Officer on the terms and conditions specified in the Report, the said appointment to date as from Monday, the 18th day of May current.

**VIII. - Act anent Representative Elders in Presbytery and Synod. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1936. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly adopt the Report under its first head. In particular, the General Assem-

bly reiterate that the practice of the Church is that in a consolidated charge where there are separate Kirk Sessions and only one settled Minister there can be only one Ruling Elder appointed as representative to Presbytery and Synod, the appointment preferably being made by rotation from each Session.

**IX. - Act anent Appointment of Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1936. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly hereby appoint the Rev. Peter Waters Miller, M.A., B.D., 30 Rowallan Gardens, Glasgow, Minister at Partick, to the vacant Chair of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College, under the same arrangements as to emoluments as were fixed by the Assembly of 1920 in connection with the appointment of Professor Donald Maclean. The Assembly hereby loose Rev. Peter Waters Miller from his pastoral charge in Partick Free Church Congregation, and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis.

Rev. Peter Waters Miller, being on the premises, intimation was made to him of his appointment to the Chair of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and he having intimated his acceptance, the Assembly engaged in prayer, commending him to the Divine guidance and blessing.

**X. - Act anent Collections (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th, May 1936. Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their profound thankfulness to the God of all grace for inspiring in their faithful people during the past year remarkable liberality in their givings for the support of His own Cause. The General Assembly appeal to their faithful people to continue to seek the blessedness that attends the "cheerful giver," as the claims of the various Schemes of the Church do not grow less with the passing of the years.

The General Assembly renew the recommendation to Deacons' Courts to find a day for a Special Collection on behalf of the Distressed Congregations of the Evangelical Protestant Churches on the Continent of Europe.

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 June 1936 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 7. ,, January 1937 Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 9. ,, March ,, Buildings. 10. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions. 11. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the appointed date, or on the nearest date thereto that is convenient, and that on no account should the opportunity and the privilege of contributing be withheld from the people. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of each Collection be sent to every Congregation.

The General Assembly regret to find that so many Congregations failed last year to make

some of the appointed 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 of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these Congregations belong. The said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report, not later than 1st April next, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, so that these reasons may be carefully considered and examined by the Assembly.

**XI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May  
1936 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 Rev. Alexander M. Ross, 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, and on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 General 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, save as hereafter stated, 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for authority to dispose of any urgent application that may be made to them for the sale of any Church property; for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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.

**XII. - Act anent appointing next General Assembly (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th, May 1936. Sess 12.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 18th day of May 1937, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1937 - 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 Appointment of Principal Clerk of Assembly 2. Act anent Appointment of Assistant Clerk of Assembly 3. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 4. Act anent Sustentation Fund 5. Act anent Amending Act V., 1928 6. Act anent Retirement of General Treasurer 7. Act anent Standing Orders 8. Act anent Appointment of Editor of Monthly Record 9. Act anent Appointment of Professor of New Testament Exegesis 10. Act anent Appointment of General Trustees 11. Act anent Appointment of Editor of Instructor 12. Act anent Collections 13. Act anent Commission of Assembly 14. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XVIII. MCMXXXVII. (1937)

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

NONE

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

**I. - Act anent Appointment of Principal Clerk of Assembly. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1937. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr John Shaw, Minister at Leith, to be Principal Clerk of the General Assembly.

The result being intimated by the Moderator to Mr Shaw, he accepted the appointment and promised to discharge faithfully the duties of the office.

**II. - Act anent Appointment of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1937. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr William Macleod, Minister at Dornoch, to be Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly.

The result being intimated by the Moderator to Mr Macleod, he accepted the appointment and promised to discharge faithfully the duties of the office.

**III. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1937. Sess. 3.**

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.

While the air is still vibrant with the Nation's joyous acclamation joined in not least heartily by us - on the occasion of the Coronation of Your Majesty and of Your Majesty's Royal Spouse, Queen Elizabeth, we, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 19th May 1937, respectfully assure Your Majesty of the unfailing allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne of ourselves and all others within the Church.

Your Majesty's obedience to the unexpected call to accept the weighty responsibility of a high office has called forth the sympathetic and loving praise of Your subjects, whose response to Your example of high devotion to duty we pray may fall out for the spiritual, as well as the material, good of the Commonwealth.

Your Majesty's youthful, and well-proven activity in the sad days of warfare; Your Majesty's personal interest in the training and welfare of young men; and, not less, the Queen's well-known sympathy for the sick and infirm, encourage the assurance that during Your reign - long may it last the humane side of public and governmental life will have Your beneficent support.

The returning prosperity of the Country must be matter of Royal satisfaction, and so too is the general, and manifest, desire for contentment, and the abatement of hardships and misunderstandings throughout the industrial life of Your people.

The shadow of war overhanging the world, and the difficulties resulting therefrom which burden the life of Your Majesty's Ministers, move us, in the Free Church of Scotland, to earnest prayer that Your Majesty's reign may be free from calamitous events such as, for a time, saddened the day of Your father, of blessed memory.

We ask leave, through You, to submit our respectful salutations to Her Majesty, Queen Mary.

The Free Church rejoices at the singular felicity of seeing in the family of Your Majesty and Queen Elizabeth the happy reunion of two lines of parallel and distinguished descent from the Royal House of a bye-gone time.

For Your Majesty, for the Queen, and for Your daughter Princesses, as for the other members of the Royal House, the people of the Free Church of Scotland do earnestly pray.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

DONALD MACLEAN, Moderator.

**IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1937. Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and Vice-Convener.

The General Assembly record afresh their sense of indebtedness and gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for His goodness in enabling their people to contribute so liberally towards the maintenance of Gospel Ordinances.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1936 at the rate of £245 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1936, in addition to the premium of £7 paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that a sum of £80 be distributed to Ministers on Special Arrangements so that their salaries shall be not less than £200 or made thereby more than the Equal Dividend.

The General Assembly also authorise payment to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee of a sum of £80 to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents.

The General Assembly cordially commend the support given by Congregations to the Sustentation Fund. They would, however, impress upon Congregations the need for even greater liberality in the coming year. Especially would they exhort settled Congregations to make special effort this year, so that the Fund will not suffer through the failure of any settled Congregation to contribute the minimum sum promised, and they commend this exhortation to the Presbyteries of the Church for their particular attention. The Assembly thank Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees and Sustentation Fund Collectors for their diligence in the interests of this important fund.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1) the following names :-

Mr. William M. Cameron, Minister at Resolis, Presbytery of Chanonry Mr. Dugald Cameron, Minister at Ardersier, Presbytery of Inverness. Mr. Ewen MacRury, Minister at Shiskine, Presbytery of Glasgow. Mr. Kenneth A. Macrae, Minister at Stornoway, Presbytery of Lewis. Mr. John Macleod, Minister at Barvas, Presbytery of Lewis.

**V. - Act anent Amending Act V., 1928. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1937. Sess. 3.**

The Assembly ordain (1) that the following words be inserted after the word “Ministers” occurring in the 5th line of Sub-Section (1) of Section V. of Act V., 1928, namely - “whose congregations have completely implemented their obligation to the Sustentation Fund”; (2) that the following words be added after the words “which shall exceed the Equal Dividend” in the said Section, namely - “or Special Arrangements”; and (3) that the following words be added at the end of the said Sub-Section, namely - “but such payment shall be made only in respect of any year in which such congregations shall duly implement this foresaid obligation.”

Sub-Section (1) of Section V. of Act V., 1928, will now read as follows :-

The balance which in each year may remain of the revenue of the Fund, after payment shall have been made of all Aid Grants and Personal Grants chargeable in that year against the Revenue of the Fund, and all other proper charges there-against, shall be divided among such Ministers whose congregations have completely implemented their obligation to the Sustentation Fund, ordained or inducted to and serving in Charges of the Free Church of Scotland situated within Scotland, as may from time to time after nomination by their Presbyteries, be placed by the General Assembly upon a list of Ministers who during at least twenty years’ service in the Ministry have in the judgment of the Church borne the burden and heat of Ministerial work in a marked degree, each of such Ministers to receive in addition, out of the Sustentation Fund, such payment as shall secure to him a Stipend, from the Fund and from the Sustentation Fund, which shall exceed the Equal Dividend or Special Arrangements as declared by the General Assembly for that year by no more than the sum of £5 in case of Ministers whose service as aforesaid does not exceed thirty years in duration, and £10 in the case of those whose service as aforesaid exceeds thirty years, but such payment shall be made only in respect of any year in which such congregations shall duly implement this foresaid obligation.

**VI. - Act anent Retirement of General Treasurer. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1937. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly fix the Retiring Allowance to Mr W. Rounsfell Brown under Act IV., 1890, at £140 per annum, payable quarterly, during the pleasure of the Church.

**VII. - Act anent Standing Orders. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1937. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly enact that in Standing Order VI. (1) the tabulation of Committee Meetings be amended to read as follows, namely :-

FORENOON SESSION.

First Group.

(1) Committee on Sustentation Fund, Aged and Infirm Ministers’ Fund and Statistics to meet from 9.30 till not later than 11 a.m.

(2) Committee on Highlands and Islands, Home Missions and Supply from the conclusion of

the business of the last named Committee till not later than 1 p.m.

Second Group.

(3) Committee on Public Questions 9.30 a.m. till not later than 11 a.m.

(4) Committee on Church and Manse Buildings from conclusion of business of last named Committee till not later than 12 noon.

(5) Committee on Psalmody from conclusion of business of last named Committee till not later than 1 p.m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

(6) Committee on Welfare of Youth and Publications from 2 till not later than 3.30 p.m.

(7) Committee on Training of the Ministry from conclusion of the business of last named Committee till not later than 5 p.m.

(8) Foreign Missions, Colonial, Continental and Jewish Committee from 2 till 5 p.m.

#### EVENING SESSION.

(9) Finance and Law and Advisory Committee from 5 till 7 p. m.

- and that Standing Orders VI. (6) be amended by an addition thereto in the terms following, namely :- In the event of the death or resignation of the Convener of any of the Standing Committees, the Vice-Convener shall forthwith be promoted to be Convener; and in the event of the death, resignation, or promotion as aforesaid of the Vice-Convener, the Committee shall forthwith appoint one of their members to be Vice-Convener in room and place of the Vice-Convener so deceasing or resigning or being promoted; but the Convener by such promotion or Vice-Convener so appointed by the Committee shall hold office only until the second last day of the meeting of the next ensuing General Assembly

#### **VIII. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of Monthly Record (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1937. Sess. 5. Edinburgh, 21st May 1937. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Roderick A. Finlayson, M.A., Urray, to be Editor of the Monthly Record.

His appointment being intimated to Mr Finlayson, he indicated by letter his acceptance thereof and promised to discharge faithfully the duties of the office.

#### **IX. - Act anent Appointment of Professor of New Testament Exegesis. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1937. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly hereby appoint Mr Alexander Ross, M.A., B.D., Minister of Dumbar-ton Free Church Congregation, to the vacant Chair of New Testament Exegesis in the Free

Church College, Edinburgh, under the same arrangements as to emoluments as were fixed by the Assembly of 1936 in connection with the appointment of Professor Peter W. Miller. The Assembly hereby loose Rev. Alexander Ross from his Pastoral Charge in Dumbarton Free Church Congregation, and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair of Greek and New Testament Exegesis, his relationship to Dumbarton Congregation to subsist till he be actually admitted to the Charge aforesaid.

Rev. Alexander Ross, being on the premises, intimation was made to him of his appointment to the Chair of New Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and he intimated his acceptance thereof and promised to discharge the duties thereof faithfully.

**X. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustees. (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1937. Sess. 9.**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and thank the Trustees.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Wm. Macleod, Minister at Dornoch, and Professor Duncan M. Blair, Glasgow University, to be General Trustees.

**XI. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of Instructor. (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1937. Sess. 10.**

The General Assembly appoint Rev. George N. M. Collins, B.D., Greenock, to be Editor of the Instructor.

On his appointment being intimated to Mr Collins, he indicated his acceptance thereof and promised to discharge faithfully the duties of the office.

**XII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1937. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to the Head of the Church for disposing the hearts of so many of their faithful people to continue to support with commendable liberality the various schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly renew the appeal to their people to express by their continued liberality, their thankfulness to the Giver of all good, and their loyalty to the Church of their fathers. The growth of the Church involves increasing expenditure, which can only be met by a corresponding increase in the givings of the people.

The General Assembly, in view of the deepening need of the Evangelical Protestant Churches on the Continent of Europe, renew the recommendation to Deacons' Courts to find a day for the taking of a Special Collection for these Churches.

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 June 1937 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5.

„ October „ Highlands and Islands. 6. „ November „ Jewish Missions. 7. „ January 1938 Welfare of Youth. 8. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 9. „ March „ Buildings. 10. „ April „ Colonial Missions. 11. „ May „ Home Missions.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the appointed date, or on the nearest date thereto that is convenient. and that on no account should the opportunity and the privilege of contributing be withheld from the people. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of each Collection be sent to every Congregation.

The General Assembly regret to find that so many Congregations failed last year to make some of the Appointed Collections.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December, to each Clerk of Presbytery, a list of any Congregations in the Presbytery which, until these respective days, have failed to make any of the appropriate Collections appointed by the General Assembly, with a view to each Presbytery taking action for having any omissions made good and Act X., 1936, is amended accordingly.

### **XIII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly. (No. 13 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1937. 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 Rev. John Macleod, O.B.E., 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, and on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 General 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, save as hereafter stated, 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for authority to dispose of any urgent application that may be made to them for the sale of any Church property; for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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.

**XIV. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly. (No. 14 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1937. Sess. 12.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Hope Street Free Church, Glasgow, on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1938, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

**OVERTURE ANENT REPRESENTATION OF PRESBYTERIES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. (Sent down to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act.)**

The General Assembly having accepted the Report of the Finance and Law and Advisory, etc., Committee anent change in the basis of Assembly representation, do now accept and adopt the Report of the Special Committee appointed to prepare an Overture in that behalf; and the General Assembly do now accept and adopt the Draft Act hereinafter printed as an Overture to be transmitted, and they hereby transmit the same to Presbyteries for their opinion agreeably to the terms of the Barrier Act, the tenor of said draft being as follows :-

Whereas it is desirable fully to realise that all Congregations, even though without Pastors, are constituent parts of the Church and have a vital interest in the welfare and activities of the Church - an interest of moment in the determination of the Composition of the General Assembly therefore it is hereby enacted and declared :-

1. That each Presbytery of the Church shall be represented in the General Assembly by such a number of the Ministers of the Church within the Presbytery, inclusive of Assessors and Ministers who, though without charge, may have been duly granted seats in the Presbytery, as will be but will not exceed one-third of the number of Congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery, together with a like number of Elders who are bona fide acting Elders of Congregations of the Free Church of Scotland in the same or other Presbyteries, and who shall have signed the Formula.
2. The term Congregation in this Act shall mean a body of Members of the Free Church of Scotland which is under the care and oversight of its own Kirk Session.
3. For the purpose of ascertaining precisely the number of Ministers and Elders to be elected as Commissioners to the next ensuing General Assembly, each Presbytery shall not later than the 31st day of December in each year certify and transmit to the Clerk of Assembly for submission to the Assembly Arrangements Committee a nominal Roll of the Congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery; and the Assembly Arrangements Committee shall in due

course and in conformity with the existing practice, determine and intimate to each Presbytery the number of Commissioners to the General Assembly to be returned by each Presbytery respectively.

## CONTENTS 1938

### 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 Repealing Act VII., 1912 4. Act anent Appointment of General Trustees 5. Act anent Nomination of Moderator 6. Act anent Collections 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 XXIV., MCMXXXVIII. (1938)

#### **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.) Glasgow, 25th May 1938. Sess. 3**

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 loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly in Glasgow, desire most respectfully to assure Your Majesty of our continued loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We thank God for the splendid health enjoyed by Your Gracious Majesty, by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and by Your Royal Family, and by Her Majesty Queen Mary.

We give sincere thanks to God for having called You to Your Kingly Office in these serious

days when Your wisdom and understanding, and the confidence in You of Your subjects throughout the Empire are of inestimable value for the preservation of peace throughout the world. May God Almighty continue to grant to You and Your Counsellors of State, the grace that is sufficient for the discharge of Your high duties, that these may be instrumental in advancing righteousness and peace throughout the world.

Meeting as the General Assembly does in Glasgow, it is fitting that we recall the honour conferred on the City and the gracious act whereby You recently opened the Empire Exhibition, and thereafter paid a visit of encouragement to the Distressed Areas of the neighbourhood.

So pray Your Majesty's dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met at Glasgow in General Assembly.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENE THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY 1938.

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

J. MACKAY MACLENNAN, Moderator.

## **II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.) Glasgow, 26th May 1938. Sess. 5**

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1937 at the rate of £250 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1937, in addition to the premium of £7 paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise the payment of a sum of £80 for distribution to Ministers on Special Arrangements so that their salaries shall not be less than £200 or made thereby more than the Equal Dividend; further, they authorise payment of a sum of £200 to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents.

The General Assembly assure all Vacant Congregations of their anxiety to maintain ordinances with regularity, and of their desire for increase in the number of Ministerial settlements. Recognising, however, that the circumstances of some Congregations make it unlikely that, for an indefinitely long period, Ministers can be settled over these Congregations on the usual terms, the General Assembly authorise the Commission of Assembly, on the initiative of the Presbytery, so to deal with "the Charge or Benefice" in connection with any Congregation as will, agreeably to the Statutory provisions governing the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, relieve the Sustentation Fund of payment as for a Vacant Charge.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1) the following names :-

Mr. Walter Macquarrie, Minister at Knockbain, Presbytery of Chanonry. Mr. William Macleod, Minister at Dornoch, Presbytery of Dornoch.

The General Assembly cordially commend the support of the Fund by Congregations. They exhort the Congregations to maintain the level of giving attained in 1937 during 1938. They rejoice in the improvement in the position as regards Congregations failing to contribute the minimum sum promised, and thank the Presbyteries for their assistance in securing this improvement. The Assembly thank Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees and Sustentation Fund Collectors for their diligence in the interests of this important Fund.

**III. - Act anent Repealing Act VII., 1912. (No. 3 of Class II.) Glasgow, 27th May 1938. Sess. 9**

The General Assembly, while welcoming to our College Students from other Churches who hold a like precious faith with us, are of opinion that the licensing of Students from other denominations by the Presbyteries of this Church opens the door to irregularities.

They accordingly repeal Act VII., 1912, anent Australian Students, in so far as it deals with the licensing of Students by the Presbyteries of this Church, and adopt the recommendations of the Committee that, in the case of Students from other denominations who have taken a Theological Course in our College, the educational record of such Students be sent to their respective Churches, that they may have licence in accordance with the regulations existing in the said Churches.

**IV. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustees. (No. 4 of Class II.) Glasgow, 28th May 1938. Sess. 9**

The Assembly accept, with great regret, the resignation of Mr John MacDonald, 33 Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow, as General Trustee.

The General Assembly appoint Dr John Thomson, Cadzow Bank, Hamilton, and Mr Thomas Tulloch, F.R.S.A., 77-79 Church Street Inverness, to be General Trustees.

**V. - Act anent Nomination of Moderator. (No. 5 of Class II.) Glasgow, 31st May 1938. Sess. 11**

The General Assembly receive the Overture, and appoint a Special Committee, consisting of the Conveners and Vice-Conveners of the Standing Committees, along with the retiring Moderator as Convener, to submit the nomination of a Moderator for the General Assembly to the joint meeting of Standing Committees as at present for their consideration and, if agreeable, their approval.

**VI. - Act anent Collections. (No. 6 of Class II.) Glasgow, 31st May 1938. Sess. 11**

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His abundant goodness as manifested in the liberality of their people during the past year in connection with the various Schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly remind Congregations that the responsibilities of the Church are increasing with every expansion of the work at home and abroad, and they accordingly

impress upon their loyal people the urgent necessity of continued liberality as co-workers in Christian service.

The General Assembly, being aware of the difficulties which beset the Evangelical Churches on the Continent of Europe, renew their recommendation to Deacons Courts to make arrangements for a Special Collection on behalf of these Churches.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1935 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, January 1939 Welfare of Youth and Publications. 7. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions. 10. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the appointed date, or on the nearest date thereto that is convenient. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of each Special Collection be sent to the Congregations of the Church so as to avoid any oversight as much as possible.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of Congregations have failed to make some of the appointed Collections.

They direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December, to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of Congregations within their bounds which, until these respective dates, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to each Presbytery taking action for rectifying any omissions.

**VII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.) Glasgow, 31st May 1938.  
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 Rev. Principal John Macleod, D.D., 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, and on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 General 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, save as hereafter stated, 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges; for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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.

**VIII. - Act anent Meeting of next Assembly. (No. 8 of Class II.) Glasgow, 31st May 1938.  
Sess. 12**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 23rd day of May 1939, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

**OVERTURE ANENT REPRESENTATION OF PRESBYTERIES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. (Sent down to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act.)**

WHEREAS it is desirable fully to realise that all Congregations, even though without Pastors, are constituent parts of the Church and have a vital interest in the welfare and activities of the Church - an interest of moment in the determination of the Composition of the General Assembly whereas the deliverance of the General Assembly (1938) on the Report of the Sustentation Fund, so far as relates to Vacant Congregations, is fitted to cause uncertainty as to what Congregations should be taken into account in ascertaining the measure of Presbyterial representation in the General Assembly:-

Therefore it is hereby enacted and declared :-

1. That each Presbytery of the Church shall be represented in the General Assembly by such a number of the Ministers and Professors of the Church within the Presbytery, inclusive of Assessors and Ministers who, though without charge, may have been duly granted seats in the Presbytery, as will be but will not exceed one-third of the number of Congregations and Professorial Chairs within the bounds of the Presbytery, together with a like number of Elders who are bona fide acting Elders of Congregations of the Free Church of Scotland in the same or other Presbyteries, and who shall have signed the Formula.

2. The term Congregation in this Act shall mean a body of Members of the Free Church of Scotland which is under the care and oversight of its own Kirk Session, a consolidated Con-

gregation being reckoned as two or more Congregations if and when there shall be two or more Kirk Sessions.

3. For the purpose of ascertaining precisely the number of Ministers and Elders to be elected as Commissioners to the next ensuing General Assembly, each Presbytery shall not later than the 31st day of December in each year certify and transmit to the Clerk of Assembly for submission to the Assembly Arrangements Committee a nominal Roll of the Congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery; and the Assembly Arrangements Committee shall, in due course and in conformity with the existing practice, determine and intimate to each Presbytery the number of Commissioners to the General Assembly to be returned by each Presbytery respectively.

## CONTENTS 1939

### 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 College Entrance Examination 4. Act Repealing Act III, 1938 5. Act anent Keeping Buildings in Good Order 6. Act anent Capital Redemption Account 7. Act anent Arrangements with Rev. Norman Morrison 8. Act anent Day of Humiliation and Prayer 9. Act anent Collections 10. Act anent Commission of Assembly 11. Act anent Meting of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIII, MCMXXXIX (1939)

#### **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 1939. Sess. 3.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

Your Majesty's most loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland,

convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 23rd day of May 1939, respectfully offer to Your Majesty this expression of our constant and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

In this year of international unrest we give thanks to Almighty God for the continuance of peace, and sympathise most sincerely with Your Majesty's anxiety due to the constant strain imposed by the unsettled state of the World.

We admire the courage, devotion to duty and deep interest in all the subjects of Your far-flung Empire manifested by the visit which Your Majesty and Her Majesty The Queen are paying to the Dominion of Canada. We rejoice to learn of the very warm and loyal welcome Your Majesties are receiving.

It is our earnest and humble prayer that in the Divine Providence Your Majesties may enjoy good health during Your strenuous jounries in Canada and the United States, and that Your Majesties be brought back in safety.

We pray that the richest blessings may rest on Your Majesty's Person and Rule, upon Her Gracious Majesty The Queen, and all the members of Your Royal House, and, at this hour especially, Her Majesty Queen Mary, to whom our deepest devotion ever goes out, and for whom our most fervent prayers ever ascend.

So pray Your Majesty's dutiful subjects.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENEED THIS 23RD DAY OF MAY 1939.

FARQUHAR MATHESON, Moderator

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1939. Sess. 4.**

The General Assembly are gratified to observe the gradual filling up of Ministerial Charges, which have been vacant for a long time, but as most of these require substantial assistance, they would urge upon their loyal people the necessity for a revision of their standard of Christian giving, so that the Cause of the Gospel may not suffer for lack of financial support.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1938 at the rate of £250 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1938, in addition to the premium of £7 paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise payment of a sum of £85 for distribution to Ministers on Special Arrangements, so that their salaries shall not be less than £200 or made thereby more than the amount of the Equal Dividend; they further authorise payment of a sum of £200 to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents.

The General Assembly, while thanking Deacons' Courts and Finance Committees for their efforts in the interests of the Sustentation Fund, would again stress the necessity for constant attention to the details of organisation. The General Assembly regret to note that, during the year 1938, twelve Congregations failed to contribute the minimum promised. The General Assembly direct the Committee, in association with the Presbytery of the Bounds, to deal with each such Congregation, and to report specifically thereon to the November diet of the Commission of Assembly, which is empowered, but subject to confirmation by next General Assembly, to make modification on the obligation of the Congregation and/or on the relation of the Minister to the Sustentation Fund.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1) the names of Mr. Murdo Macleod, Minister at Park, Lewis; Mr. George Muirden, Minister at Maryburgh; Mr. Andrew Sutherland, Minister of Duke Street Gaelic Free Church Congregation, Glasgow; and Mr. Duncan MacDougall, Minister at Dunoon.

**III. - Act anent College Entrance Examination. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1939. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly ordain that Gaelic, French or German may be offered as alternatives to Mathematics at the Entrance Examination to the College, and they repeal accordingly their former provisions relative hereto.

**IV. - Act Repealing Act III., 1938. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1939. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly sustain the Overture, grant its prayer, and hereby enact and ordain the repeal of Act III., 1938.

**V. - Act anent Keeping Buildings in Good Order. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1939. Sess. 9.**

The General Assembly agree with the Committee in their desire to preserve the fabric of Churches and Manses from decay, and to lessen the cost of repairs by constant attention to, and annual report upon, the condition of buildings. The General Assembly enjoin upon the Deacons' Court (or Committee of Management) of each Congregation to give regular attention to, and promptly to see to the making good of, defects in Church or Manse; and for that end, direct that each Deacons' Court (or Committee of Management) shall in the month of October in each year furnish to the Clerk of Presbytery (1) a Report giving detail of, and the expenditure upon, all repairs to Church and Manse during the twelve months preceding the date of report, (2) a Certificate under the hand of a qualified person employed for the purpose, whom failing, an Office-bearer or member or adherent of the Congregation (or failing such, of a neighbouring Congregation), who is a tradesman, that the fabric of Church and Manse is in a good state of repair, subject to such defects (if any) as exist and are specified. Further, the General Assembly enjoin upon Presbyteries to see that these Reports and Certificates are duly furnished to them, Presbyteries to take appropriate action where these have not been furnished, the Clerk of Assembly to be informed (for the use of the Buildings Committee), not later than 31st January in each Assembly year, of all Reports received and of any

instances of failing and the consequent action taken by the Presbytery.

**VI. - Act anent Capital Redemption Account. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1939. Sess. 7.**

The Assembly ordain that the interest for 1939 on the Capital Redemption Fund be made available for the work of the Buildings Committee.

**VII. - Act anent Arrangements with Rev. Norman Morrison (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1939. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly enact that, in the arrangements made for Rev. Norman Morrison by the Commission of Assembly on 11th August 1937, the paragraph marked "Thirdly" be recast to read as follows:-

That Mr. Morrison place himself unreservedly at the disposal of the Supply Committee for supply purposes, at such times and places and for such periods as directed by the Committee, and that he be paid during the subsistence of this arrangement for each period during which he gives supply at the rate per week of one fifty-second part of the Equal Dividend. less the foresaid sum of £93.

No payment shall be made for any period during which he, being required to give supply, does not do so, and he shall remain in whatever Congregation the Committee may appoint him during the pleasure of the Committee, and otherwise conform to the terms of said arrangements. Declaring that for the purposes of the said arrangements the words "supply purposes" shall mean not only the duty of taking Sabbath services, but also all such other duties as the Committee may from time to time direct Mr. Morrison to carry out.

The General Assembly further enact that the paragraph of the said arrangements marked "Fifthly" shall now read : - Fifthly : That these arrangements under the heads Thirdly and Fourthly shall be operative until 31st May, 1940, and thereafter shall continue to be operative unless and until the same be reviewed by the General Assembly or its Commission on the initiative of the Supply Committee.

**VIII. - Act anent Day of Humiliation and Prayer. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1939. Sess. 5.**

The Assembly receive the Overture and grant its prayer Having regard to the lukewarm spiritual condition of the Church, the dangers which threaten the well-being of their young people and the urgent need of the quickening influences of the Holy Spirit in connection with the ordinances of grace, the General Assembly appoint Thursday, the 6th day of July, or the nearest convenient date thereto, to be observed throughout the Congregations of the Church as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer, and entreat their loyal people to be instant, earnest, and humbly insistent in their supplications, that haply the God of All Grace may return unto us again in the plenitude of His power.

**IX. - Act anent Collections. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1939. Sess. 11.**

The General Assembly hereby place on record their acknowledgement of the Divine goodness experienced during the year that is past, and their grateful sense of the prevalence of the grace of Christian liberality among their people as revealed in the loyal response of Congregations to the appeals made on behalf of the Schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly desire that the Congregations of the Church abound still more in this grace which has God's rich blessing and promise attached to it, forasmuch as the Church's various activities continue to need and to deserve all possible support.

The General Assembly renew their recommendation to Deacons' Courts to make arrangements for a Special Collection for the Evangelical Protestant Churches of the Continent of Europe, and they strongly commend to the same practical sympathy the unhappy plight of the many European political refugees, and particularly ostracised and persecuted Israel.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made in all the Congregations of the Church

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1939 Retired Lay Agents 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, January 1940 Welfare of Youth and Publications. 7. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions. 10. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly ordain that Collections be made on the appointed date or on the nearest date thereto that is convenient, and they urge that Collections when made be remitted without undue delay to the Treasurer. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of each Collection is sent to Congregations.

The General Assembly note with gratification that the number of Congregations which have failed to make one or more of the appointed Collections is considerably reduced. 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 of Assembly is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these Congregations belong. The said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report, not later than 1st April next, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, so that these reasons may be laid before the Assembly. Presbyteries are further enjoined to review, at least once a year, the regularity with which the provisions of this Act are being attended to within their bounds.

**X. - Act anent Commission of Assembly. (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1939. 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 Rev. Principal John Macleod, D D., 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, and on the third Wednesday of November and the first

Wednesday of March next to come, at eleven of the clock forenoon, 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 General 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, save as hereafter stated, 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 : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges; for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; 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.

**XI. - Act anent Meeting of next General Assembly (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1939. Sess. 12**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 21st day of May 1940, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.