

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Free Church of Scotland
1940 – 1949

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE MOUND

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

MAY XXI., MCMXL (1940)

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 1940. 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,

At a time when the Nation is engaged in a valiant struggle to uphold righteousness and truth We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 21st May 1940, respectfully assure Your Majesty of our unfeigned allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne, and of our loyal, support of the Cause nobly espoused by Your Majesty with the mighty Forces of your far-flung Empire.

Your Majesty's direction to the members of your Forces with regard to the Scriptures will, we are confident, contribute mightily to the overthrow of evil, and Your Majesty's command to the Nation to supplicate the help of the Lord God of our fathers in the day of our trouble will,

we are persuaded, lead on in God's good time to complete and glorious victory.

In those days of sorrow, suffering and anxiety, Your Majesty's high courage and devotion to duty inspire your people with confidence, and the practical sympathy manifested by Her Gracious Majesty The Queen is a source of unfailing encouragement. Our prayer is that the storm may be changed into a calm, that these sad calamities of the present may be speedily overpassed, and that many years of abundant peace may yet mark Your Majesty's illustrious reign.

We ask leave, through you, to submit our respectful homage to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to Queen Mary, and the Princesses of Your Royal Household.

We humbly assure Your Majesty of our unceasing prayer that God may give the victory to Your Majesty's arms, and that He may mightily sustain Your Majesty's dominion with which is bound up the freedom of many peoples near and far.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

William MacLeod, Moderator.

II. - Act amending Standing Order VI., 9. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1940. Sess. 3

The General 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 every 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 20th 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.

III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1940. Sess. 3

The General Assembly (1) declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1939 at the rate of £216 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1939, in addition to the premium of £7 paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; (2) authorise payment of a sum of (a) £45 for distribution to Ministers on Special Arrangements so that their salaries shall not be less than £200, or made thereby more than £240, and (5) £200 to the Highlands and Islands Home Mission and Supply Committee to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents;

and (3) relieve the Sustentation Fund Committee of payment in respect of General Charges for the year 1940.

The General Assembly continue for other three years the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregations of Bishopbriggs, Kinglassie and Shettleston, on condition that they contribute the following sums to the Sustentation Fund

Bishopbriggs... .. £100 per annum. Kinglassie £75 ,, Shettleston £70 ,,

The General Assembly note with regret that during the year 1939 eight Congregations failed to contribute the promised minimum. The General Assembly direct that Congregations falling behind the promised minimum for five consecutive years will require to submit a new Schedule.

IV. - Act anent Ministers serving as Combitants. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1940. Sess. 3

The Assembly declare that the relations between a Minister serving as a combitant in any of the Armed Forces, and the Sustentation Fund and his Congregation, shall be the same as those at present existing between a Minister serving as a Chaplain and the Sustentation Fund and his Congregation.

V. - Act amending Act III., 1934, anent Grant to Widows and Dependants of Deceased Ministers. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1940. Sess. 3

The General Assembly enact and ordain:

That Act III., 1934, be amended by substituting the following for the first paragraph of the said Act, namely :- “ 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 £40.”

Act III., 1934, will now read as follows :-

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 £40.
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.

As a temporary measure the Committee are authorised, in respect of a death occurring between 1st January 1940 and 31st December 1940, to base their grants upon an "Equal Dividend" of £240.

VI. - Act amending Act. V., 1937, anent Payment to Ministers out of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1940. Sess. 3

The General Assembly enact and ordain:-

That Act V., 1937, amending Act V., 1928, be amended by (1) deleting the following words after the word "Ministers" occurring in the fifth line of Sub-Section (1) of Section V. of Act V., 1928, as amended by Act V., 1937, namely :- "whose congregations have completely implemented their obligations to the Sustentation Fund," and (2) by substituting the following for the words after "but such payment shall be" occurring in the third last line of the said sub-section, namely :- "discontinued in respect of non-self-supporting congregations failing to implement their obligation to the Sustentation Fund for three consecutive years." Sub-Section (1) of Section V. of Act V., 1928, as amended by Act V., 1937, 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 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 discontinued in respect of non-self-supporting congregations failing to implement their

obligation to the Sustentation Fund for three consecutive years.

VII. - Act appointing Day of Humiliation and Prayer. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1940. Sess. 4

The General Assembly, realising that when the judgments of the Lord are upon the earth, the duty of humiliation is signally incumbent upon all who profess His fear, realising, too, that the case of our country in State, Church and social body is such as to give us reason to fear yet further manifestations of His displeasure, and remembering that He is plentiful in mercy, call upon their loyal people throughout their congregations to observe Thursday, the 13th day of June, as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer.

VIII. - Interim Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1940. Sess. 5

The Assembly pass the following legislation, anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches, into an Interim Act, and transmit the same to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act for report to next General Assembly :-

Whereas it is desirable that the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches should be effected by the General Assembly

And whereas the exigency has passed which occasioned the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches under Act I., 1908, "Anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches," being effected by the Commission of Assembly as well as by the Assembly itself

Therefore it is hereby enacted and ordained as follows :-

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

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

III. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant has his ordinary residence; or, if the applicant's residence be not within a Presbytery of this Church, it shall be made to a Presbytery to whose members the applicant is well known.

IV. Every Presbytery, to which an application to be received as aforesaid shall be made, shall transmit to the Assembly, through the Admissions Committee:-

(1) Answers, subscribed by the applicant, to the queries set forth in the First Schedule to Act I., 1908; or, if the applicant be a probationer, answers subscribed by him to such of the queries set forth in the aforementioned schedule, as relate to the case of a probationer; and

(2) their own answers, subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, to the queries set forth in the Second Schedule to Act I., 1908.

V. All previous enactments inconsistent with the foregoing are hereby repealed.

IX. - Act anent Collections. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1940. Sess. 8

The General Assembly desire to make humble and grateful acknowledgment of the Lord's goodness in the way He has moved the hearts of their people to support the various Schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly emphasise the necessity of continuance in well doing, and would impress upon all their faithful people the duty of supporting conscientiously and wholeheartedly the Lord's work as represented by the activities of their Church.

The General Assembly renew their recommendation to Deacons' Courts to bear in mind the clamant need of Continental Protestant Churches, and especially the desirability of alleviating distress among Jewish Christian Refugees.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1940 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 1941 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 that adequate opportunity and encouragement should be given to all their people to contribute generously to all the Collections appointed by the General Assembly.

They instruct all Congregational Treasurers to ensure the timeous transmission to the Treasurer of the Church of all Collections taken for the Schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly regret to find that several Congregations failed to make some of the Appointed Collections in 1939. 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 those 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 be laid before the Assembly.

X. - Act anent Commission of Assembly. (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1940. Sess. 8

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Robert M. Knox, 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; 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, 24th May 1940. Sess. 8

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1941, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

OVERTURES SENT DOWN UNDER THE BARRIER ACT.

I. - Overture anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers. Edinburgh, 23rd May 1940. Sess. 5

The Assembly pass the following legislation, anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers

from other Churches, into an Interim Act, and transmit the same to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act for report to next General Assembly:-

Whereas it is desirable that the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches should be effected by the General Assembly

And whereas the exigency has passed which occasioned the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches under Act I, 1908, "Anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches," being effected by the Commission of Assembly as well as by the Assembly itself:

Therefore it is hereby enacted and ordained as follows:-

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

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

III. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant has his ordinary residence; or, if the applicant's residence be not within a Presbytery of this Church, it shall be made to a Presbytery to whose members the applicant is well known.

IV. Every Presbytery, to which an application to be received as aforesaid shall be made, shall transmit to the Assembly, through the Admissions Committee:-

(1) Answers, subscribed by the applicant, to the queries set forth in the First Schedule to Act I., 1908; or, if the applicant be a probationer, answers subscribed by him to such of the queries set forth in the aforementioned schedule, as relate to the case of a probationer; and

(2) their own answers, subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, to the queries set forth in the Second Schedule to Act I., 1908.

V. All previous enactments inconsistent with the foregoing are hereby repealed.

II. - Overture anent Representation of Presbyteries in the General Assembly. Edinburgh, 24th May 1940. Sess.7

Whereas the growing stringency of finance tends to increase the number of Congregations which, by a competent Church Court, are being debarred from the right - save on cause shewn and at discretion of the Court - to call, and have settled over them, a pastor who shall hold office ad vitam aut culpam.

And whereas Congregations so debarred are nevertheless constituent portions of the Church, amenable to the oversight and control of, and equitably entitled to representation in, all the

Courts of the Church.

And whereas the present practice is to determine the number of Commissioners to, and Members of, the Supreme Court of the Church by the number, not of Congregations in each Presbytery, but of Charges (meaning thereby the benefice - whether occupied or vacant - of Ministers as individuals in contra-distinction from Congregations), which practice does not take full account of the interests of Congregations, and hampers the part which Presbyteries are entitled to have in the ultimate business of the Church.

And whereas the present-day circumstances of the Church as well as of the Nation, call for consideration afresh of the question whether the practice referred to should not now be altered.

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 Charge 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 said General Assembly to be returned by each Presbytery respectively.

Edinburgh, 24th May 1940. Sess. 8

It was moved, seconded, and resolved that the Overture be sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act.

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PRINCIPAL ACTS

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1. - Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches

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 Arrangements for Centenary of the Disruption of 1843
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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XX., MCMXLI. (1941)

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

I. - Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches (No.1 of Class I.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1941. Sess. 5

The General Assembly pass the Overture anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers into a Standing Act of the Church, namely:-

Whereas it is desirable that the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches should be effected by the General Assembly

And whereas the exigency has passed which occasioned the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches under Act I., 1908, "Anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches," being effected by the Commission of Assembly as well as by the Assembly itself

Therefore it is hereby enacted and ordained as follows :-

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

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

III. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant has his ordinary residence; or, if the applicant's residence be not within a Presbytery of this Church, it shall be made to a Presbytery to whose members the applicant is well known.

IV. Every Presbytery, to which an application to be received as aforesaid shall be made, shall transmit to the Assembly, through the Admissions Committee:

(1) Answers, subscribed by the applicant, to the queries set forth in the First Schedule to Act I., 1908; or, if the applicant be a probationer, answers subscribed by him to such of the queries set forth in the afore-mentioned schedule, as relate to the case of a probationer; and

(2) their own answers, subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, to the queries set forth in the Second Schedule to Act I., 1908.

V. All previous enactments inconsistent with the foregoing are hereby repealed.

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

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 21st May 1941. 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.

In this hour of national crisis, 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 1941, respectfully offer to Your Majesty this renewed expression of our unswerving allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne, and of our wholehearted support of the stern crusade against the forces of oppression and tyranny in which Your Majesty's Empire and its valiant allies are now engaged.

We give thanks unceasingly for Your Majesty's steadfast affirmation of devout trust in Almighty God, by Whom Kings reign and Princes decree justice, and for Your Majesty's repeated calling of the Nation to earnest supplication at the Throne of Grace.

We praise with all our hearts the God in Whose hands our breath is for His protection of Your Majesty amid many perils by day and by night, and we most fervently pray that He may continue to guard from all harm Your Majesty and all the Members of Your Royal House, in the secret place of His presence.

In these day's of widespread calamity when wasting and destruction visit so many parts of Your Majesty's Kingdom, when historic buildings are in ruins, and many precious lives have been lost, we are profoundly grateful for Your Majesty's resolute courage, and unflinching devotion to duty. We feel deeply moved by the manner in which Your Majesty has entered into the privations and woes of the people, and also by the winsome sympathy manifested by Her Gracious Majesty The Queen towards those rendered homeless in recent fierce Air Raids and towards all other sufferers.

Our prayer is that He Who is the Governor among the Nations may, at His own time, turn the way of the wicked upside down and foil the evil plots of Your Majesty's cruel and unscrupulous foes, and that He Who makes the wrath of man to praise Him may, out of the miseries of

these days, bring lasting blessing for Your Majesty's far-flung Empire and for all humanity.

We ask leave, through Your Majesty, to submit our dutiful homage to Her Majesty The Queen, to Queen Mary, and to the Princesses of the Royal Household.

Your Majesty's most obedient and humble servants,

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

JOHN SHAW, Moderator.

II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1941. Sess. 4

The General Assembly (1) declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1940 at the rate of £240 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1940, in addition to the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; and (2) authorise payment of £200 to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents.

The General Assembly view with profound misgiving the necessity for the cut in the remuneration of Ministers being continued, and direct the Committee to frame their budget for 1942 so as to avoid any further reduction in Ministers' Salaries in the present circumstances.

The General Assembly continue for other three years the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregation of Golspie on condition that they contribute the sum of £75 per annum to the Sustentation Fund, and they continue for another year the arrangement sanctioned by last General Assembly with regard to Bishopbriggs Congregation.

The General Assembly direct that strict regard be had to the bearing of Act VIII., 1893, upon financial arrangements by Congregations with respect to the Retirement and Settlement of Ministers.

III. - Act anent Arrangements for Centenary of the Disruption of 1843. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1941. Sess. 4

The Assembly took up an Overture from the Presbytery of Edinburgh anent Arrangements for the Centenary of the Disruption of 1843.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed to, that the crave of the Overture be granted, and that the personnel of the Committee be fixed at a later sederunt.

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1941. Sess. 7

The Assembly took up consideration of a Report on the personnel of a Committee to make arrangements for the Centenary of the Disruption.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed to, that:-

The Assembly appoint the personnel of the Committee to make arrangements for the Centenary of the Disruption of 1843 as follows:-

The Stated Clerks of the General Assembly and of the Presbyteries, with Messrs Peter W. Miller, George N. M. Collins, Robert C. Christie, William J. Cameron and Dr Donald Maclean, Ministers; and Mr W. Rounsfell Brown, Dr John Cairns Christie, Messrs William M. Mackay, Roderick Cameron, and George H. Macdonald, Elders; Dr Maclean to be Convener, and Rev. John Shaw to be Clerk.

**IV. - Act anent Appointment of Committee on Welfare of Troops. (No. 4 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1941. Sess. 5**

The General Assembly approve the action of this Committee and of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee in arranging for a Joint Sub-Committee on the Welfare of Troops.

The General Assembly recognise this Joint Sub-Committee as a distinct Committee answerable to the General Assembly.

V. - Act anent Collections. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1941. Sess. 8

The General Assembly record their gratitude to God for His grace of liberality bestowed upon their people as manifested in the support given to the various Schemes of the Church, and they take this opportunity of urging their people to continue cheerfully in this grace.

The General Assembly renew the recommendation to Deacons' Courts to keep in mind the clamant need of Continental Protestant Churches, and also the distressful conditions prevailing among Jewish Christian Refugees.

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

1. 3rd. Sabbath of June 1941 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 1942 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 the nearest convenient date thereto, and that opportunity be given to all the Congregations of the Church to contribute to all the Schemes sponsored by the General Assembly.

The Assembly emphasise the obligation on Congregational Treasurers to transmit to the Treasurer of the Church at the earliest opportunity the Collections taken for Church Schemes.

The General Assembly regret to find that several Congregations failed to make some of the appointed Collections in 1940. 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 those 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 be laid before the Assembly.

VI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1941 Sess. 8.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Geo. N. M. Collins, 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed: And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

VII. - Act appointing next General Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1941. Sess. 8

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh

on Tuesday, the 19th day of May 1942, at 11 o'clock forenoon.

OVERTURE SENT DOWN TO PRESBYTERIES UNDER THE BARRIER ACT.

Overture anent Representation of Presbyteries in the General Assembly.

Whereas the growing stringency of finance tends to increase the number of Congregations which, by a competent Church Court, are being debarred from the right - save on cause shown and at discretion of the Court - to call, and have settled over them, a pastor who shall hold office ad vitam aut culpam.

And whereas Congregations so debarred are nevertheless constituent portions of the Church, amenable to the oversight and control of, and equitably entitled to representation in, all the Courts of the Church.

And whereas the present practice is to determine the number of Commissioners to, and Members of, the Supreme Court of the Church by the number, not of Congregations in each Presbytery, but of Charges (meaning thereby the benefice - whether occupied or vacant - of Ministers as individuals in contra-distinction from Congregation), which practice does not take full account of the interests of Congregations. and hampers the part which Presbyteries are entitled to have in the ultimate business of the Church.

And whereas the present-day circumstances of the Church, as well as of the Nation, call for consideration afresh of the question whether the practice referred to should not now be altered.

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 Charge 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 said General Assembly to be returned by

each Presbytery respectively.

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

MAY XIX., MCMXLII. (1942)

CLASS 1. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT.

I. - Act anent Representation of Presbyteries in the General Assembly. (No.1 of Class I.) Edinburgh, 21st. May 1942. Sess. 5

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

Whereas the growing stringency of finance tends to increase the number of Congregations which, by a competent Church Court, are being debarred from the right - save on cause shown and at discretion of the Court - to call, and have settled over them, a pastor who shall hold office ad vitam aut culpam.

And whereas Congregations so debarred are nevertheless constituent portions of the Church, amenable to the oversight and control of, and equitably entitled to representation in, all the Courts of the Church.

And whereas the present practice is to determine the number of Commissioners to, and Members of, the Supreme Court of the Church by the number, not of Congregations in each Presbytery, but of Charges (meaning thereby the benefice - whether occupied or vacant - of Ministers as individuals in contra-distinction from Congregation), which practice does not take full account of the interests of Congregations. and hampers the part which Presbyteries are entitled to have in the ultimate business of the Church.

And whereas the present-day circumstances of the Church, as well as of the Nation, call for consideration afresh of the question whether the practice referred to should not now be altered.

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 Charge 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 said General Assembly to be returned by each Presbytery respectively.

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

I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th. May 1942. Sess. 4

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

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

Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on 20th May 1942, respectfully assure Your Majesty of our unfeigned and unchanging allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give most hearty thanks to Almighty God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, for the humble and serene trust in Himself with which He has inspired Your Majesty. We are especially grateful to Your Majesty for calling the people of Your Majesty's far-flung Empire time and again to prayer, because we firmly believe that penitent, quiet, expectant waiting upon God will ever bring to us new stores of moral and spiritual strength.

We desire again to give respectful expression to our unceasing admiration of the winsome

and unrewearying service given to all ranks and classes by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, for whom we daily give God thanks.

We ask leave, through You, to submit our respectful homage to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to Queen Mary, and to the Princesses and the other members of Your Royal Household.

We humbly assure Your Majesty of our unceasing prayer that, in the present terrific struggle against godless aggression and tyranny, the victory may, in God's good time, be given to Your Majesty's forces, and that, when the war clouds have rolled away, Your Majesty may be long spared to rule over a God-fearing and truly happy people.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

(Sgd.) J. CALVIN MACKAY, Moderator.

II. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustee. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1942 Sess. 2.

The General Assembly appoint Mr. John Shaw, M.A., Minister at Leith, to be a General Trustee of the Church.

III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th. May 1942. Sess.

4

The General Assembly are deeply grateful for the sound and hopeful position of the Fund. They recognise with humble thankfulness the favour of the Head of the Church in the Christian liberality abounding in the Congregations of the Church.

The General Assembly (1) declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1941 at the rate of £240 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1941, in addition to the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; (2) authorise payment of £200 to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents; and (3) direct that a sum of £60 be made available to supplement the salaries of Ministers on Special Arrangements. subject to the provision that such salaries shall not in any case exceed the Equal Dividend.

The General Assembly rejoice in the confident anticipation of the Committee that the remuneration for 1942 shall not fall below £250.

The General Assembly continue for other three years the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregation of Dumfries, on condition that they contribute the sum of £90 per annum to the Sustentation Fund; and they continue Wick for other three years on the Equal Dividend Platform, on condition that the Congregation contribute the sum of £100 per annum to the Sustentation Fund.

The General Assembly endorse the Committee's proposal for the recovery of supply expenses due on account of settled charges; and they authorise the Committee to recover such expenses, if necessary, by deduction from Ministers' stipends, but only after one month has elapsed from notification to the Minister concerned of the amount due.

The General Assembly instruct the Committee to make enquiry into the relation of the Rev. Norman Morrison to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and to report to the Assembly, or its Commission, should the Committee experience difficulty in determining the continuance of Mr Morrison as a beneficiary.

The General Assembly recognise that as the Invalid Ministers and Lay Agents' Fund is at present constituted the term "Lay Agent" refers to Lay Agents in the service of the Church under the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee.

The General Assembly record their appreciation of the work done during the past year by Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees, and Collectors.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1), the following names, viz.: Mr John Calvin Mackay, Minister at Kincardine and Croick, Presbytery of Dornoch; Mr Ronald L. Fraser, Minister at Lochcarron, Presbytery of Lochcarron; and Mr Peter M. Chisholm, Minister at Lochalsh, Presbytery of Lochcarron.

IV. - Act appointing Principal of College. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st. May 1942. Sess. 5

The General Assembly call Rev. Donald Maclean, D.D., Professor in the College, to higher service therein, and they appoint him to the office of Principal of the College with effect from 1st June 1942.

The Rev. Professor Donald Maclean, D.D., having intimated his acceptance, the Assembly hereby instruct the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the requisite steps according to the laws of the Church for his induction as Principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh.

The House engaged in prayer, Rev. George Mackay leading the devotions.

V. - Act appointing Professor to the Chair of Apologetics, etc., in the Free Church College. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st. May 1942. Sess. 5

The General Assembly hereby appoint Mr David McKenzie, M.A., Minister at Nairn, to the vacant Chair of Apologetics, Natural Science, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, and Missions under the same arrangements as to emoluments as were fixed by the Assembly of 1937 in connection with the appointment of Rev. Professor Alexander Ross. The Assembly hereby loose Rev. David McKenzie from his pastoral charge in Nairn Free Church Congregation, and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair of Apologetics, Natural Science, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, and Missions, his relationship to Nairn Congregation to subsist till he be actually inducted to the charge aforesaid.

Rev. David McKenzie, being on the premises, intimation was made to him of his appointment to the Chair of Apologetics, Natural Science, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, and Missions in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and he intimated his acceptance thereof and promised to discharge the duties thereof faithfully.

The House engaged in prayer, Rev. Professor Peter W. Miller leading the devotions.

VI. - Act anent Erecting the Presbytery of Peru. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st. May 1942. Sess. 6

The General Assembly appoint the three ordained Missionaries on the field to constitute themselves a Missionary Presbytery of the Church to be called "The Presbytery of Peru," and in view of the special circumstances they instruct Dr A. M. Renwick, Missionary Superintendent, to fix the time and place of the first meeting and to give timeous notice thereof to the other Missionaries concerned, which meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the rising of the General Assembly and before the end of 1942.

They appoint Dr A. M. Renwick to be the first Moderator, and instruct him to report to the Clerk of Assembly the constitution of the proposed Presbytery as soon as possible after its formation.

VII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd. May 1942. Sess. 8

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great head of, the Church for the way in which He has opened the hearts of His people, in these days of stress and anxiety, to give towards the carrying on of the various activities of the Church.

At the same time, the General Assembly regret to find that there is a large increase in the number of Congregations who failed to make all the Collections for the Schemes ordered by last General Assembly. The Assembly anew enjoin Presbyteries to make sure that all Congregations are given an opportunity of contributing to every Scheme of the General Assembly, so that the cause of Christ may not suffer through lack of support.

In view of the general rise in the scale of wages and the consequent increased cost of living, the General Assembly remind our faithful people that these increases are reflected in a rise in the cost of carrying on the Church's work, and appeal to them for a corresponding increase in their liberality.

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 1942 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 1943 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 (which may be done by postcard) to the Congregations of the Church, so as to prevent, as far as possible, any oversight.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of March, June, September, and 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 to rectify any such omissions.

The General Assembly enjoin that this Act be read from the pulpit in every Congregation of the Church on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof.

VIII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd. May 1942. Sess. 8

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Duncan Leitch, 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; 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 call 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 appointing next General Assembly. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd. May 1942. Sess. 8

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 18th day of May 1943, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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

MAY XVIII., MCMXLIII. (1943)

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

NONE

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

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 19th May 1943. 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 faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, the 19th Day of May 1943, again pledge our cordial devotion to Your Majesty's Person and Throne. We respectfully offer to You our sincere condolences on the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent in the course of military duty; and on the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in Canada.

We recall with gratitude that Your Majesty called the Nation to prayer on a week-day on 9th September last, and we firmly believe that penitent and expectant waiting upon God has had its reward in the Divine blessing so conspicuously given to Your Majesty's Forces in the great victory they have won in North Africa. We fervently thank God for Your Majesty's Christian leadership with helpful and compassionate interest in Your people, and Your unwearied labours for the welfare of those in the Services.

We count it a happy privilege to express our constant admiration and appreciation of the practical and loving interest of Her Majesty the Queen in the homes of the people and in their sorrows. It is our earnest prayer that speedy Victory and the means thereto will be afforded to Your Majesty's Armed Forces. We supplicate the God of all Grace that the peoples under Your rule may know and preserve those ideas that are emphasised in the Word of God so that the minds of men may be disposed to the Christian way of Life, thereby leading on to the solution of both war and post-war problems. With united hearts we pray for the blessing of the Most High God upon Your Majesty and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth, upon Queen Mary, the Royal Princesses, and the other members of Your Royal House. It is our sincere prayer that You may long reign over a victorious, prosperous and contented people.

Your Majesty's most obedient and humble servants,

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

D.McKENZIE, Moderator.

II. - Act Appointing of General Trustee. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1943. Sess. 3

The General Assembly appoint Major William Morton Mackay, B.Sc., University Lecturer, 305 Clepington Road, Dundee, to be a General Trustee in addition to those already holding office.

III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1943. Sess. 3

The General Assembly continue for three years further the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregations of Bishopbriggs, Kinglassie and Shettleston, in the confident anticipation that their contributions to the Fund will continue to increase.

The General Assembly (1) declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1942, at the rate of £250

per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1942, exclusive of the £7 premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and (2) authorise payment of £350 to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee to supplement the salaries of Lay Agents. The General Assembly, mindful of the significance of the Centenary year, authorise that the stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform be made £270 for 1943, subject to the resources of the Fund permitting it, and to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances, as may seem proper to the Committee.

The General Assembly receive the Roll of Honour, containing the names of 162 persons who have acted as Collectors of the Sustentation Fund for over twenty years. The General Assembly are highly appreciative of their long and valuable service, and they authorise that each of the Collectors be presented with a suitably inscribed Bible, bearing the signatures of the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Convener of the Sustentation Fund Committee. The General Assembly further authorise that the services of other Collectors be similarly recognised every five years. The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V, 1928, V. (1), the names of Mr John Shaw, Minister at Leith, Presbytery of Edinburgh, and Mr William A. Fowler, Minister at Alvie, Presbytery of Inverness.

The General Assembly again place on record their gratitude to Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees and Sustentation Fund collectors, and they commend the work of the Committee anew to the prayerful and practical sympathy of every Congregation.

IV. - Act anent Disruption Centenary (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 18th May 1943. Sess. 2

The Committee are continued in office for the winding up of its finances, and restoring to friends all relics received on loan. The Committee are instructed to report the completion of this purpose to the Commission of Assembly at any of its diets, which being done, the Committee shall stand discharged.

The Assembly remit to the Centenary Committee to consider the matter of an Assembly Centenary Message to Congregations and have it sent to them.

V. - Act appointing Principal of Free Church College (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1943. Sess. 5 and 6

The General Assembly appoint Professor J. Kennedy Cameron, D.D., Principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh. Intimation having been made by telegram to the Rev. Professor J. Kennedy Cameron, D.D., of his appointment to be Principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and Professor Cameron having by telegram intimated his acceptance thereof, and promised to discharge the duties thereof faithfully, the General Assembly instruct the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the requisite steps according to the Laws of the Church for his induction as Principal of the Free Church College.

VI. - Act appointing Professor of Church History and Principles (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th and 21st May 1943. Sess. 5 and 7

The General Assembly hereby appoint the Rev. Alexander M. Renwick, M.A., B.D., D.Litt., late Superintendent of the Free Church Mission in Peru, and at present a Minister without Charge of the Free Church of Scotland, to the vacant Chair of Church History and Principles in the Free Church College; under the same arrangements as to emoluments as were fixed by the General Assembly of 1942 in connection with the appointment of Professor David McKenzie, and instruct the Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh to arrange for the induction of Dr Renwick to the Chair on his arrival from South America. The General Assembly direct the Training of the Ministry Committee to arrange with the Senatus for the work of the Chair during the coming session.

Intimation was made by cable of Dr Renwick's acceptance of his appointment as Professor of Church History and Principles in the Free Church College, and undertaking to discharge the duties thereof faithfully. His present appointment in Santiago terminates in August 1944.

VII. - Act appointing Governor of the Highlands and Islands Education Trust. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1943. Sess. 5

The General Assembly appoint the Rev. John Shaw, M.A. Minister at Leith, and residing at 48 Netherby Road, Trinity Edinburgh, a Governor of the Highlands and Islands Education Trust for the interim period to 1st August 1943 and for five years thereafter.

VIII. - Act anent Salaries of Lay Agents (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1943. Sess. 5

The General Assembly receive with sympathy the Overture from the Synod of Sutherland and Caithness, and remit the same to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee for consideration and report, after conference with the Sustentation Fund Committee, to the August diet of the Commission of Assembly as to how provision can be made for granting the crave of the Overture for a stipend of £120 per annum.

IX. - Act anent Collections. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1943. Sess. 8

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the way in which He has opened the hearts of his people in these days of stress and anxiety, to give towards the carrying on of the various activities of the Church.

The Assembly are glad to observe a large decrease in the number of Congregations failing to make all the Collections for the Schemes ordered by last General Assembly. While thankful for this, the Assembly again enjoin Presbyteries to make sure that Congregations are given an opportunity of contributing to every Scheme of the General Assembly, that the Cause of Christ may not suffer through lack of support.

The General Assembly once more remind our faithful people of the increased cost of carrying on the Church's work in these days, and appeal to them, in view of the general rise in the level of wages, for a corresponding increase in their liberality, especially in this Disruption Centenary Year, commending to them the example of their Disruption forebears.

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 1943 Retired Lay Agents 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions 4. 1st. ,, October ,, Welfare of Troops 5. 3rd. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions 7. ,, January ,, Welfare of Youth and Publications 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. 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 prevent, as far as possible, any oversight.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the fifteenth day of March, June and September, and the first day of 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 to rectify any such omissions.

The General Assembly enjoin that this Act be read from the pulpit in every Congregation of the Church on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof.

X - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1943. Sess. 8

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Kenneth A. MacRae, 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 Foreign

Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; 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 appointing next General Assembly. (No. 11 of. Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1943. Sess. 8

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday. the 23rd day of May 1944, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

REGULATIONS ANENT INVALID MINISTERS' AND LAY AGENTS' FUND.

These Regulations were approved by the General Assembly in its Deliverance upon the Finance, etc. Committee's Report.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ALLOCATION OF THE INVALID MINISTERS' AND LAY AGENTS' FUND.

1. The persons eligible for grants from the above Fund are

(a) Ordained Ministers of the Free Church of Scotland.

(b) Lay Agents who are Missionaries of the Free Church, appointed by and serving under the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee, and the Foreign Missions, Colonial, Continental and Jewish Committee.

(c) Licentiates of the Free Church of Scotland.

2. Ordained Ministers. In support of each application for a grant there shall be submitted (1) a medical certificate; (2) details of supply expenses; and (3) details of other expenses connected with the illness.

3. Lay Agents. An application from a Lay Agent shall be accompanied by (a) a medical certificate; (b) details of expenses connected with the illness.

4. Licentiates. An application from a Licentiate shall be accompanied by (a) a medical certificate; (b) details of cost or loss connected with his illness.

5. The expenditure of the Committee shall not exceed in any year the income available.

6. The balance of unexpended income at the end of any year shall, in so far as it exceeds £100, be added to capital.

7. Applications for grants shall be stated upon a form to be supplied, on request, by the Clerk of the Sustentation Fund Committee.

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

MAY XXIII., MCMXLIV. (1944)

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

NONE

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

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)
Edinburgh 24th May 1944. 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 24th May 1944, respectfully tender this renewed expression of our sincere attachment and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

In the present alarming situation of world affairs, we observe with deep thankfulness the manifold evidences given by Your Majesty of devout trust in Almighty God, and Your desire to lead the Nation in the way of supplicating God as the hearer and answerer of prayer. We are thankful to God for the protection vouchsafed to Your Majesty when You visited the allied armies after their triumphant victory in Tunisia and also during Your tour of the redoubtable stronghold of Malta. We fervently pray that the Giver of all good may continue to guard Your Majesty and all the Members of Your Royal House from danger in days of peril.

We have followed with profound admiration the sympathetic interest manifested by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen in the welfare of the people, the work which they have to perform, and the privations which they have to endure.

As subjects of the Prince of Peace, we pray for the termination of the destructive war in which we are involved, but in the meantime we humbly seek strength to bear the burdens and endure the sufferings which it necessarily imposes, and we earnestly look to the Ruler of all Nations for the blessing of victory over the forces of aggression which are antagonistic to our most valued and dearest rights. May the richest and deepest blessings of the Divine Grace rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Rule, Her Gracious Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Royal Princesses, and the other Members of Your Royal House.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

EWEN MACRURY, Moderator.

II. - Act appointing Trustee of Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh 23rd May 1944. Sess. 2

The General Assembly receive the Report, and thank the Trustees, especially the Chairman. Further, the General Assembly re-appoint Mr W. Rounsfell Brown, B.L., a Trustee of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh 24th May 1944. Sess.

3

The General Assembly continue for a further period of three years the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregation of Golspie, being confident that not only will their contributions be maintained, but that they will continue to increase. The General Assembly enjoin all Chaplains serving with His Majesty's Forces to make such arrangements as will ensure that their Congregations maintain the minimum sum promised to the Sustentation Fund

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for the year 1943 at the rate of £270 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1943, exclusive of the £7 premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and a proportionate addition to the stipends of Ministers on Special Arrangements.

The General Assembly, mindful of the satisfactory state of the Fund, and having regard to the increased cost of living, authorise that the stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform be calculated at the rate of £300 per annum for 1944, and that a proportionate addition be made to the stipends of Ministers on Special Arrangements, provided the resources of the Fund, as these are ascertained on 31st August and 30th November next, permit of this, and subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances, as may seem proper to the Committee.

The General Assembly place upon the list of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (I), as amended by Act VI., 1940, the names of Mr Donald Ferguson, Minister at Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, Presbytery of Abertarff, and Mr Donald MacKinnon, Minister at Kennoway, Presbytery of Edinburgh.

The General Assembly place on record their gratitude to Deacons Courts, Finance Committees, and Sustentation Fund Collectors, and commend the work of the Committee to the prayerful and practical sympathy of all Congregations throughout the Church.

The General Assembly ordain that an increase at the rate of £20 per annum be given to retired Ministers for the year 1944.

IV. - Act anent Modified Course of Study. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh 25th May 1944. Sess. 5

The General Assembly, recognising the importance of suitable and special provision being made for Students whose studies have been interrupted or hindered by War Service, ordain and enact that for all such men studying for the Ministry a Modified Course of Studies shall be available as follows:-

1. Students of this class can take the Arts Course and the Divinity Course concurrently.
2. Students who are eligible for the Modified Course, and who wish to avail themselves of it can apply to the Training of the Ministry Committee for exemption from the Entrance Examination to the College, with the exception of the examination in Scripture, the Committee being empowered to grant this exemption.
3. The Arts Curriculum for Students taking the Modified Course shall be
 - I. English.
 - II. Political Economy or History (British or European).
 - III. Logic or Psychology or Moral Philosophy.
 - IV. Geography or Geology or Botany or other approved Science subject.

Variations within this curriculum will be arranged by the Board of Studies according to the Student's attainments and preference, but there must be one subject in each of I., II., III. and IV. in the selection.

4. The Board of Studies shall certify to the Training of the Ministry Committee that a Student taking a Modified Course has received class certificates in the Arts classes of his curriculum before a certificate attesting the completion of the Student's course is issued.

5. Permission to undertake a Modified Course of Training shall be given to Candidates carefully selected. The selection shall be made upon a report of the Executive of the Training of the Ministry Committee. The Executive Committee shall interview applicants, and ascertain the relevant particulars to enable the Training of the Ministry Committee to decide upon applicants' suitability for training for the Ministry by a Modified Course. The Training of the Ministry Committee are authorised to test by examination, if necessary, the suitability of an applicant.

6. The Committee are empowered to exempt Students taking this Course from all Exit Examinations, except the Scripture Exit Examinations.

7. These new regulations shall apply to Students beginning their studies in 1944-45, and shall continue for five full years after cessation of hostilities and demobilisation of the Forces.

8. This Course shall also be the Modified Course available for men over 35 years of age, proposing to study for the Ministry.

9. The bursaries of Students taking a Modified Course shall be paid out of the undergraduate Fund for the first two years of the Course, and out of the College Fund for the last two years.

The General Assembly recall the provisions in Act V., 1919, Section 6 of Part III., and findings, of the General Assemblies of 1920 and 1922, relating to the training of ex-Service men, and men over 35 years of age, with respect to Students beginning their studies in session 1944-45 and thereafter.

V. - Act anent Collections. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh 26th May 1944. Sess. 8

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the marked spirit of liberality with which He has endowed His people, particularly in these days of stress and strain, thus enabling the various activities of the Church to be carried on.

The Assembly, however, observe with regret an increase in the number of Congregations failing to make all the Collections ordered by the last General Assembly, and urge upon Presbyteries and Congregations the clamant duty of arresting and overcoming this downward trend. They again enjoin Presbyteries and Congregations that the people be given an opportunity of contributing to every Scheme appointed by the General Assembly, that the Cause of Christ may not suffer through lack of support.

The General Assembly once more remind our faithful people of the steadily increasing cost of effectively carrying on the Church's work under the prevailing circumstances, and appeal to them, in view of their increased earnings, for a proportionate increase in their liberality.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the

coming year in all the Congregations of the Church.

1. 3rd. Sabbath of June 1944 Retired Lay Agents 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions 4. 1st. ,, October ,, Welfare of Troops 5. 3rd ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions 7. ,, January ,, Welfare of Youth and Publications 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. 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 prevent, as far as possible, any oversight.

The General Assembly direct the General Treasurer to intimate on the fifteenth day of March, June and September, and the first day of 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 to rectify any such omissions.

The General Assembly enjoin that this Act be read from the pulpit in every Congregation of the Church on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof.

VI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh 26th May 1944. Sess. 8

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of 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, 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 Foreign Missionaries in

the Mission Fields of the Church; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end : And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed : And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

VII. - Act appointing next General Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1944. Sess. 8.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of May 1945, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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

MAY XXII., MCMXLV. (1945)

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

NONE

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

1. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1945 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 1945, respectfully assure Your Majesty of our unfeigned and unfaltering loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne, and of our gratitude to Providence that Your Majesty's Person has been preserved from harm through the manifold perils of over five years of war.

In common with all Your loyal Subjects we give thanks to Almighty God for the signal Victory granted to Your Majesty's Arms on the battlefield of Europe, and for the complete overthrow of that tyranny which threatened our liberties and our faith.

We recall with gratitude Your Majesty's frequent summons to the Nation to Prayer for Divine Strength and help in our mortal struggle, and Your renewed call for Thanksgiving to God on the proclamation of Victory, and are assured that Your Majesty's example of devout dependence upon God and selfless devotion to duty has been an inspiration to Your people everywhere.

We pray that the blessing of the Most High God may continue to rest upon the valiant efforts of Your Majesty's fighting Forces still engaged in conflict with a ruthless and treacherous foe, and that their valour may be crowned with early victory and the restoration of Your Majesty's Possessions to the peace and liberty enjoyed within our Commonwealth of Nations.

We thank God for the notable example of courage and dutifulness given to the womanhood of the nation by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and by the Princesses of Your Royal Household. We have noted with gratitude and pride the place taken up by Princess Elizabeth in the Women's Auxiliary Services.

We ask leave to submit our respectful and affectionate homage to Her Majesty, Queen Mary, the memory of whose noble life will be treasured in the hearts of the millions of the nation's womanhood for many years to come.

We humbly assure Your Majesty of our unceasing prayer that God may grant a Revival of True Religion whereby the wounds of the nation may be healed and the needed wisdom given to meet the many and intricate problems of peace.

May Heaven's choicest 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 IN GEN-

ERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED

RODERICK A FINLAYSON, Moderator

II. - Act appointing Trustee of Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1945 Sess. 2.

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr John Shaw, M.A., Minister at Leith, to be a Trustee of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. &

III. - Act anent Retiring Allowances to Ministers and Eligibility of Ministers from other Churches. (No. 3 of Class II.)

The General Assembly, being satisfied that there is need for betterment of the provision for retiring allowances to Ministers, Foreign Missionaries, and Professors, make the following amendments to Act V. (1928) (Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund), Sect. III., para. (6) Table of Personal Grants, to become effective commencing with the payments in respect of the year 1945:-

(1) The amount of increase of personal grant with service in the table shall stand scaled at £2 per annum, from 20 to 45 years, instead of at £10 per 5 years, e.g., for service of 39 years hut not over 40 years, the grant shall amount to $£143 + 8 = £151$, instead of £143.

(2) The eighth line in the table, viz., "45 years, but not more than 50 years, £163," shall be altered, to read "45 years, £163," and the last line, "50 years, £173," shall be deleted.

(3) The amount of personal grant per annum as shown in the Table, amended by clauses (1) and (2) immediately preceding, shall be increased by one-third, e.g.:-

35 years' service shall qualify for $£143 \times \frac{4}{3} = £190 \frac{2}{3}$

39 ,, ,, $£151 \times \frac{4}{3} = £201 \frac{1}{3}$

45 ,, ,, $£163 \times \frac{4}{3} = £217 \frac{1}{3}$

Having regard to the increased demands which may be expected in the near future upon the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, the General Assembly make provision as follows for the current year

(1) They direct that for the year 1945 only, Act V., 1928, Sect. V. (Annual Balance), para. (I), line 1, shall be amended to read, "Half the balance which at the end of the year 1945 may remain of the Revenue...."

(2) They continue the remit to the Finance, Law, and Advisory Committee to the effect following :- To investigate, in conjunction with the Sustentation Fund Committee, the best application of the annual balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, with due regard to the provisions of Sect. V. of Act V. (1928), in respect of stipends to Ministers, with increments for 20 years' service or over; to continue consideration of the Government's Social

Insurance Scheme until it shall have become effective, and of other relative matters; and to report to next General Assembly.

The General Assembly approve the reckoning of eligibility of Ministers joining the Free Church from other Churches prior to the year 1920 to count as Beneficiaries under Act V. (1928), Sect. II. and III., as from the date of their ordination, commencing with the payment in respect of the year 1945.

IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1945 Sess. 3.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1944 at the rate of £300 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1944, in addition to the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and a proportionate addition to the stipend of the Minister on Special Arrangements.

The General Assembly, mindful of the satisfactory state of the Fund, and having regard 'to the increased cost of living, authorise that the stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform continue to be calculated at the rate of £300 per annum for 1945, and that a proportionate addition be made to the stipends of Ministers on Special Arrangements, provided the resources of the Fund, as these are ascertained on 31st August and 30th November next, permit of this, and subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances, as may seem proper to the Committee.

The General Assembly place upon the list of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act VI., 1940, the names of Mr Angus Mackinnon, Minister at Poolewe and Aultbea, Presbytery of Lochcarron, and Mr William Fraser, Junior Minister at Kiltarlity, Presbytery of Inverness.

V. - Act appointing Principal of the College. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1945. Sess. 5.

The General Assembly appoint Professor Peter W. Miller Principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh. Intimation having been made to Professor Miller, who was on the premises, of his appointment, he intimated his acceptance thereof, and promised to discharge the duties faithfully. The General Assembly instructed the Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the requisite steps according to the Laws of the Church for his induction as Principal. The House then engaged in prayer, Mr W. Rounsfell Brown leading the devotions.

VI. - Act appointing Trustees and Power of Attorney in Lima. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1945. Sess. 6.

The General Assembly accept the Committee's proposals :-

(1) To nominate Trustees for the Colegio San Andres, Lima, and instruct a Constitution for the College to be prepared under Peruvian law.

(2) That the Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees grant (a) a New Power of

Attorney in favour of a British Bank in Lima nominated by Dr Mackay; and (b) a Lease under Peruvian law of the College to the College Trustees; and (c) that, in making the Lease, the question of local taxation be taken into account and that it be clearly settled who is to pay the owner's taxes hitherto borne by the College.

The General Assembly enjoin the Committee: -

(1) That in the Constitution of the College (a) the spiritual and educational aims be subject at all times to the approval of the General Assembly, and (b) the functions of Director, Associate-Director and Sub-Director be clearly set forth as to Management and routine duties, and

(2) That in the Lease (a) the rent stipulated should be, looking to the fluctuations in exchange, such sum as is reasonable in the circumstances with power to alter the amount every 3 or 5 years, and (b) that it be provided that the lease should ipso facto become null and void if the spiritual and educational aims and methods of the College be not approved by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly authorise the August or November Commission to vary and adjust the details of the scheme when the Committee shall have received the opinion of Dr Neil A. R. Mackay and the College lawyers.

VII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 7 of Class II.), Edinburgh, 24th May 1945. Sess. 5.

The General Assembly record anew their gratitude to God for the liberality with which our loyal people have responded, during these exacting years of War, to, the various Schemes of the Church.

The Assembly, however, view with disappointment the still large incidence of Congregations failing to take all the Collections appointed by the General Assembly. They urge upon Deacons Courts and Finance Committees to give every opportunity to Congregations of contributing to all the Collections appointed by the General Assembly, and upon Presbyteries to keep a vigilant eye to see that such opportunity is given. And, where, for some reason there is failure to take an appointed Collection, adequate reason should be furnished to the Assembly.

The General Assembly would bring to the notice of our faithful people the increased demands which the Reconstruction of Peace will make upon the resources of the Church, and appeal to them for an increase of liberality.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1945 Retired Lay Agents
2. ,, July ,, Church Extension and Testimony
3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund
4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions
5. ,, October ,, Aid to Distressed Evangelical Churches of Europe
6. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands
7. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions
8. ,, December ,, Welfare of Troops
9. ,, January 1946 Welfare of Youth and Publications
10. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry
11. ,, March ,, Buildings
12. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions
13. ,, May ,, Home Missions

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the appointed dates, or the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are asked to see that timely notice of each Collection is given to each Congregation of the Church, so that any oversight may be prevented.

The General Assembly direct the General Treasurer to intimate on the 15th of March, June, and September and on the 1st of December, to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of Congregations within their bounds, which, up to these respective dates may have failed to take any of the appointed Collections, with a view to the Presbyteries taking action to rectify any such omission.

**VIII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th
May 1945. Sess. 8.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. A. D. Cameron, 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 call 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; 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 appointing next General Assembly. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1945, Sess. 8.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland is appointed to meet at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 21st day of May 1946, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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

MAY XXI., MCMXLVI. (1946)

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

NONE

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

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1946. 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 faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly in Edinburgh on the 21st day of May 1946, approach Your Majesty's Throne, rejoicing in the opportunity which the return of this day presents of tendering to Your Majesty the assurance of our devoted attachment to Your Majesty's person, of our loyalty to Your government, and of our earnest and constant prayer for Your Majesty's temporal and spiritual welfare.

We have noted with unfeigned admiration the readiness with which Your Majesty and the Queen have shared the perils and sorrows of Your people during the years of War, and we believe that a link forged in common suffering will remain an indissoluble tie between Your subjects and Your Royal Person.

We count it a happy privilege to express our admiration of the Queen's warm sympathy, and her readiness to rejoice with those who do rejoice, and to enter into the sorrows of those who are in trouble.

We are pleased to see the Princesses taking their share with increasing frequency in the public life of the nation, and especially the alacrity with which Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth responds to the call of every worthy cause.

We rejoice and give thanks to Almighty God for the complete victory Your Majesty's Forces have won over all your enemies; and we earnestly pray that in making the Peace Treaties Your Majesty's Ministers may be directed and given counsel to act in the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In common with all other branches of the Christian Church, we regret that so many of Your Majesty's subjects, along with most of the countries of Europe, are called upon to suffer the hardships resulting from the world shortage of food; and we trust that in the good providence of God this depression may ere long pass away.

We pray that the blessing of the Most High may continue to rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Rule, upon Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and upon their Royal Highnesses the Princesses, and upon Her Majesty Queen Mary and upon all the Members of Your Royal House.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

WILLIAM FRASER, Moderator.

II. - Act anent Welfare of Youth Examinations. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1946. Sess. 2.

The General Assembly approved the Regulations, as amended, governing the Welfare of Youth Examinations.

REGULATIONS ANENT WELFARE OF YOUTH EXAMINATIONS.

1. For purposes of examination entrants shall be divided into four grades according to age, namely, (1) Primary Grade, for those not over nine years of age, (2) Junior Grade, Sub-division I., for those not over ten years, Sub-division II., not over twelve years, (3) Intermediate Grade, Sub-division I., not over fourteen years, Sub-division II., not over sixteen years, (4) Senior Grade, not over twenty years, in each case ages to be reckoned as on the 31st day of March of the Syllabus year.

2. Answers to questions shall be written, except in the case of those entrants in the Primary Grade who are not over seven years of age, where the examination shall be oral.

3. Subjects of examination shall be, in the Primary Grade, Scripture narratives, repetition of Scripture and a selected portion of the Shorter Catechism, and in all other Grades, an Essay on a prescribed subject, Shorter Catechism and Scripture, including Repetition.

4. In all cases, entrants must sit the examinations on the prescribed dates. The taking of the examination on any other date than that laid down, is not permissible except in very special circumstances and with the prior approval of the Convener and Vice-Convener on behalf of the Committee.

5. These examinations shall be supervised by the Superintendents, Teachers of Sabbath Schools, or Office-bearers, or where such supervision is not available, by such responsible persons as may be approved by the Committee.

6. The papers set for examination shall not be opened until the children are present at the hour of examination. Immediately on conclusion of the examination, written papers shall be sealed, and posted to the appointed Examiners within 48 hours.

7. Supervisors shall see to it that written examinations do not exceed the time allotted.

8. No books or papers may be brought into the Examination Room, and all consultation or collaboration between competitors is prohibited.

9. Supervisors are requested to ensure that examinations are conducted strictly in accordance with these rules.

10. The number of prizes to be awarded in each Grade shall be at the discretion of the Committee, and shall be governed by the number of competitors entering in any Grade. First Class Certificates shall be awarded to those attaining 70 per cent. or over in any subject, Second Class to those between 50 per cent. and 70 per cent., and Merit Certificates to those under 50 per cent.

11. Examination papers shall be set on the syllabus published in the September issue of The Instructor.

III. - Act anent Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1946. Seas. 3.

The General Assembly, having in view the desirability of clarifying the grounds of transference of the Balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund to the Sustentation Fund, hereby repeal Section V. - Annual Balance paragraphs (1) and (2), of Act V., 1928, in toto, and enact the paragraph subjoined in replacement of the same:-

(V.) ANNUAL BALANCE. When a minister, having attained the statutory age for retiral, remains in active oversight of a congregational charge, or in discharge of the duties of a station or chair, and in consequence does not draw directly from the Fund the Personal Grant to which his years of service entitle him, it shall be competent for the Committee, after payment shall have been made of all Aid Grants and Personal Grants chargeable in that year against the Revenue of the Fund, to transfer, out of the balance which may remain of its revenue, from the Fund to the Sustentation Fund, on behalf of every such minister, a sum not exceeding the equivalent of the aforesaid Personal Grant, towards meeting a portion of his stipend, the balance of stipend being met from the Sustentation Fund; such stipend being declared to be the Equal Dividend as declared by the General Assembly for that year, augmented by not more than £5 in the case of ministers of over 20 but under 30 years service in the ministry; and by not more than £10 in the case of ministers of over 30 years service, such increments being subject to the recommendation of the Presbytery concerned.

The General Assembly, having regard to the desirability of reducing the statutory age for retiral of ministers from 70 to 65, hereby amend paragraph (5) (i) of Section III. - Grants, of Act V., 1928 - to read : "aged, that is to say who has attained to or passed the sixty-fifth anniversary of his birth."

IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1946. Sess. 3.

The General Assembly continue for three years further the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregation of Kinglassie and Shettleston, on condition that they contribute the sum of £75 each per annum.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1945 at the rate of £300 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1945, in addition to the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and a proportionate addition to the stipend of the Minister on Special Arrangements.

The General Assembly, having regard to the increased cost of living, authorise that the stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform continue to be calculated at the rate of £300 per annum for 1946, and that a proportionate addition be made to the stipends of Ministers on Special Arrangements, provided the resources of the Fund, as these are ascertained on 31st August and 30th November next, permit of this, and subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances, as may seem proper to the Committee.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act VI., 1940, the name of Mr Malcolm MacIver, Minister at Lochs, Presbytery of Lewis.

V. - Act anent Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1946. Sess. 5.

The General Assembly approve of the inauguration of a bookroom in the Free Church Offices under the control of the Publications Committee; the inauguration of a colportage effort by Free Church students and others in the areas specified by way of experiment, if practicable, this summer and autumn, and the transfer from the funds of the Committee on Church Extension and Testimony to the Publications Committee of the sum of One hundred pounds for the purchase, with a view to sale, of religious books and literature and, if thought desirable, towards the publication of new literature as well as of religious books now out of print.

The General Assembly instruct Presbyteries to consider the appointment of a correspondent for the dissemination of information regarding Presbyterian and Congregational activities.

The General Assembly recommend the Glasgow Presbytery to review the situation at Clydebank and Paisley, and to make a survey of other industrial areas adjacent to Glasgow where there may be the nucleus of a Free Church Congregation, and that meantime; where possible, house meetings and Sabbath School meetings in houses be encouraged in districts and new housing areas where no Free Church buildings at present exist.

The General Assembly authorise that in future the name of the Committee be the "Committee on Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension."

The General Assembly order a collection to be taken in all Congregations for the funds of the Committee.

The General Assembly enjoin all Presbyteries, and through them the whole Church, to work and pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that men and women may dedicate their lives and energies to the service of God.

VI. - Act anent Foreign Missionaries' Salaries. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1946. Sess. 6.

The General Assembly enact and declare that Article 10, page 20, of the Supplement to the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland be amended as follows :- The salaries of Missionaries shall be as may be specially arranged on the occasion of each appointment. In addition to such salaries an allowance shall be made for each child of a married Missionary according to the following scale Children 1-5 years £10; 6-10 years £15; 11-15 years £20; and 16-18 years £25.

The Assembly also enact and declare that from the last clause of Article 13, page 20, of the same Supplement the words "and of those only once" be deleted.

The Assembly further enact and declare that the following words be added to Article 10, page 20, of the same Supplement "An additional allowance shall be made to Missionaries in India who, on account of the climate, may require a holiday in the hills. The Hill Allowance shall be charged against Mission Expenses and shall be as follows - for a married Missionary £25 for a single Missionary £10."

The General Assembly approve the increase of 10 per cent. which has been paid to Missionaries on furlough. They further approve of the steps the Committee have taken to prepare a scheme to provide Retiring Allowances for Lay Missionaries, and they instruct the Committee to submit the completed scheme to next General Assembly.

VII. - Act anent Colonial Missions. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1946. Sess. 6.

The Assembly are ever mindful of their Ministers and people in the Dominion of Canada. They commend them for their loyalty in the past, and they trust that any plans they make for the future may serve to strengthen the ties which bind them one to another. They approve of the following rules prepared by the Committee, and instruct that they be inserted in the Supplement to the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland after Article 28, page 24, under the title " Rules governing Colonial Missions " :-

(1) That a Call or Petition from a Colonial Congregation under the supervision of the Colonial Committee to a Minister or Ordained Missionary of the Free Church shall be transmitted through the Committee, who shall exercise their discretion as to whether the Call shall be passed through the usual channels to the Minister concerned.

(2) That before any such Call or Petition is entertained by the Committee the minimum Stipend promised by the Congregation and the financial arrangements for meeting this charge shall be submitted to the Committee for approval.

(3) That the Congregation calling the Minister shall be responsible for his outgoing travelling expenses.

(4) That the Committee shall accept responsibility for the furlough expenses to this country of a Minister after he has given a period of seven years' service in the Colonial Field, it being understood that the Congregation determine the length of furlough and retain responsibility for the Stipend.

(5) That, in the event of a Congregation failing to provide the promised minimum Stipend, the Committee undertake to make up the deficit at the end of each financial year for a period of three years and, failing more satisfactory financial arrangements at the end of this period, the Committee to provide, if desired, the Minister's travelling expenses to this country.

(6) That, in the case of a Minister having given seven years service and not wishing to return to the Colonial Field, he receive six months' salary, the cost to be borne equally by the Congregation and the Committee.

VIII. - Act anent Trustees for the Colegio San Andres. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23th May 1946. Sess. 6.

The General Assembly recall the instruction in last year's Deliverance to nominate Trustees for the Colegio San Andres, Lima, and instruct a Constitution for the College to be prepared under Peruvian Law and in place thereof enact :-

(1) That a “Civil Association” be incorporated under Peruvian Law to administer and maintain the Colegio San Andres, Lima, the Constitution of which shall be prepared by Peruvian Lawyers and submitted for approval to the Foreign Missions Committee;

(2) The Directors of the Association shall be those nominated to be Trustees in last year’s Deliverance; and

(3) Subject to these alterations, last year’s Deliverance will remain in force and shall be construed by substituting the words “The Directors of the Civil Association for “ Trustees.”

They approve the transfer of the Lima land loan from the Savings Bank in Lima to Mr Paz, a Teacher in the College.

**IX. - Act appointing Professor to Chair of Systematic Theology (No. 9 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 24th May 1946. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Roderick A. Finlayson, M.A. Minister of Hope Street Free Church Congregation, Glasgow, to the Chair of Systematic Theology in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, under the same arrangements as to emoluments as were fixed by the Assembly of 1943 in connection with the appointment of Professor Alex. M. Renwick. The Assembly hereby loose Rev. Roderick A. Finlayson from his pastoral charge in Hope Street Free Church Congregation, Glasgow, and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair of Systematic Theology, his relationship to the Congregation of Hope Street Free Church to subsist till he be actually admitted to the Charge aforesaid.

Rev. R. A. Finlayson, being on the premises, intimation was made to him of his appointment to the Chair of Systematic Theology in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and he intimated his acceptance thereof and promised to discharge the duties thereof faithfully.

X. - Act anent College. (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1946 Sess. 7.

The General Assembly resolve that the College session be lengthened by a Summer Term, and that the College fees be adjusted accordingly, as follows, viz.:-

1. The Summer Term will begin on the second Tuesday of April, and end not later than the Friday preceding the opening of the General Assembly.

2. The fees chargeable for the whole session will be Matriculation Fee... £1 1 0 Four Year Course... £7 10 0 (inclusive fee) per annum. Three Year Course... £10 0 0 (inclusive fee) per annum. Single Class ... £3 3 0

The General Assembly ordain that the order of Classes in the College be as follows, viz.:-
Four Year Curriculum. Three Year Curriculum.

First Year. First Year.

Apologetics, Natural Science, Apologetics, Natural Science. Homiletics, Junior Hebrew and Homiletics, Junior Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis. Old Testament Exegesis, Junior Greek and New Testament Exegesis.

Second Year. Second Year

Senior Hebrew and Old Testament Senior Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis, Junior Systematic Exegesis, Senior Greek and New Testament Exegesis, Junior Greek and Testament Exegesis, Junior New Testament Exegesis. Church History and Church Principles, Junior Systematic Theology.

Third Year. Third Year.

Senior Systematic Theology, Senior Church History and Church Senior Greek and New Testament Principles, Senior Systematic Exegesis, Junior Church Theology, Pastoral Theology History and Church Principles. Evangelistic Theology.

Fourth Year.

Senior Church History and Church Principles, Pastoral Theology, Evangelistic Theology.

The General Assembly further resolve that the regulations for the Entrance and Exit Examinations for the College be amended so that in the Entrance Examination

1. Five subjects must be passed.
2. Scripture, Greek, Hebrew will be compulsory, and two optional subjects will be chosen from the following, viz., Latin; Logic and Metaphysics; Moral Philosophy; English Literature; Mathematics (pure and applied); British History; Gaelic, and Modern Languages.
3. The pass marks for the Entrance Examination will be Scripture ... 60 per cent. Other Subjects ... 40 per cent. Average over all... 50 per cent.

In the Exit Examinations :-

Latin in First Exit Examination will be an optional subject, with Ancient History as the alternative. In order to obviate the necessity of changing existing legislation governing licensure, Final Year Students will complete their Course in March at the end of the Spring Term.

The General Assembly note that the Committee have given attention to the remit by last Assembly regarding the teaching of Psalmody in the College.

The Assembly being convinced that attention to the welfare of Students during their training is of great importance, and noting the suggestion thereanent embodied in the Report that a hostel or residence for Students is desirable, hereby authorise the Committee to take such steps as may be practicable to establish in Edinburgh a residence for Free Church Students, and instruct the Committee to report progress to any diet of the Commission of the Assembly,

and to next General Assembly.

The General Assembly, having regard to the high cost of living now prevailing, and to the satisfactory state of the funds of the Committee, authorise that the Bonus of 20 per cent. added to the Secondary School and Undergraduate Bursaries be continued for next session. They further sanction the payment of the same supplement as last year to the Principal, Professors and Student Bursars; or, failing sufficient funds, of such proportion of it as the finances available will permit. The Assembly commend to the prayers and liberality of our faithful people the work of the Training of the Ministry Committee.

XI. - Act anent Provision for Aged and Infirm Lay Agents. (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1946. Sess. 8.

The General Assembly approve of, and sanction, the Regulations governing Retiring Allowances to Lay Agents as set forth in the Appendix to the Committee's Report.

XII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1946. Sess. 11.

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the Head of the Church for the liberality of His people towards the carrying on of the varied activities of the Church.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of Congregations failed to make all the Collections for the Schemes of the Church ordered by last General Assembly. The Assembly enjoin Presbyteries to make sure that all Congregations are given an opportunity of contributing to every Scheme of the General Assembly, so that all possible support may be given to the cause of Christ on earth.

The General Assembly remind our faithful people of the increasing cost of carrying on the work of the Church, and confidently appeal to them to meet this rising expenditure with correspondingly greater liberality.

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 1946 Retired Lay Agents 2. ,, July ,, Foreign Missions 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 4. ,, September ,, Distressed Churches in Europe 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions 7. ,, December ,, Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension 8. ,, January 1947 Welfare of Youth and Publications 9. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry 10. ,, March ,, Buildings 11. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions 12. ,, May ,, Home Missions

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

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of December to each Clerk of Presbytery a List of Congregations within their bounds which,

until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to each Presbytery taking action to rectify any such omissions.

XIII - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 13 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1946. 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 Principal P. W. Miller, 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; 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 appointing next General Assembly. (No. 14 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1946 Sess. 12.

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1947, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1947

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

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

MAY XX., MCMXLVII. (1947)

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

NONE

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

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 21st May 1947. 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 loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 20th day of May 1947, respectfully declare our devoted allegiance, and our constant loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne, and our gratitude to Almighty God for His grace bestowed upon Your Majesty to sustain the Government of your great Empire.

We rejoice with all Your loyal subjects at the safe return of Your Majesty, Her Majesty the

Queen and the Princesses of Your Royal House to the homeland from your sojourn in the Union of South Africa, and are grateful to the Most High for Your Majesty's abundant labours abroad whereby the ties of commonwealth are greatly strengthened.

We are profoundly grateful and greatly encouraged in these grave days by Your Majesty's recognition that "except the Lord builds the house they labour in vain that build it," and we assure Your Majesty that Your Majesty's call to prayer will command a full response in the Free Church of Scotland.

We are deeply moved by the solicitude for the welfare of the nation, during the recent distress through flood and tempest, manifested by Your Majesty and Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and we humbly assure Your Majesty that we pray without ceasing for a spiritual revival in this land, since we are convinced that righteousness alone exalteth a nation.

May the Lord enrich with choice covenant blessings Your Majesty's Person and Rule, Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, Her Majesty Queen Mary, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, and all the members of Your Royal House.

So pray' Your Majesty's faithful subjects,

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

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Moderator

II. - Act amending Standing Order V., 7 (3) anent Methods of Voting in the General Assembly. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1947. Sess. 3.

The General Assembly amend Standing Order V., 7 (3) by the addition of the words "or by card."

III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1947. Sess. 5.

The General Assembly continue for three years further the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregations of Kennoway and Golspie, on condition that they contribute the sum of £110 and £120 per annum respectively. The General Assembly declare that the arrangement by which a Minister settled over the Congregation of Dumfries "may get the equivalent of the Equal Dividend together with a sum of not more than £50 in lieu of a Manse" be subject to revision at the end of three years from date of settlement. The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1946 at the rate of £300 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1946, in addition to the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and a proportionate addition to the stipend of the Minister on Special Arrangements.

The General Assembly, having regard to the increased cost of living, authorise that the stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform continue to be calculated at the rate of £300 per annum for 1947, and that a proportionate addition be made to the stipends of Minis-

ters on Special Arrangements, provided the resources of the Fund, as these are ascertained on 31st May and 30th November next, permit of this, and, subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances, as may seem proper to the Committee.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. Jonathan Campbell, Minister at Kilmallie and Arisaig, Presbytery of Abertarff, and Rev. Donald Mackay, Minister at Watten, Presbytery of Caithness.

IV. - Act amending Act X. of Class II., 1946, anent date of opening of College Summer Term. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1947. Sess. 7.

The General Assembly resolve that the date of the opening of the summer term in the College be the second Wednesday of April.

V. - Act amending Regulations anent Modified Course for Students. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1947. Sess. 7.

The General Assembly resolve to amend the Regulations anent the Modified Course for war-service students to include the adoption of an Acceptance Test as follows, viz.:- That all applicants for recognition as students studying for the Ministry of the Church be required to sit an Examination in (a) English with History and Geography; (b) Arithmetic and Mathematics; and (c) General and Religious Knowledge; and further (1) that candidates' papers be examined by those who shall be appointed by the Committee from time to time for this purpose; (2) that the pass mark in each subject be 55 per cent. with a general pass mark over all of 60 per cent. - this marking to be subject to revision in the light of further experience; (3) that doubtful cases be reported by the examiners to the Committee for action if they see fit; (4) that the Acceptance Test be used for other than war-service candidates for ascertaining their educational attainments; (5) that all examinations be held in Edinburgh.

VI. - Act appointing Trustees to Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1947. Sess. 8.

The General Assembly appoint Mr J. W. Baxter, B.Com., Treasurer of the Free Church of Scotland, 15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh, to be a Trustee in place of Mr W. Rounsfell Brown. They re-appoint Mr D. M. Smith, W.S. to be a Trustee.

VII. - Act anent Congregational Funds on Deposit Receipt in Account of Custodier of Titles. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1947. Sess. 9.

The General Assembly authorise the Finance Committee, on written application by the Congregations concerned, through the Congregational Court or Courts responsible, to uplift and invest, separately or in combination, in name of General Trustees' Nominees, moneys standing at the credit of the Congregation on deposit receipt in the account of the Custodier of Titles; and, except where otherwise provided for, to add the interest received, less current administration charges, to capital, at half-yearly terms; uplifting of the principal sum being subject to due notice being given to the Treasurer of the Church and to the approval of the

Custodier of Titles. The Congregation concerned shall accept the realisation value of money so invested in full settlement.

VIII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1947. Sess. 10.

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the Head of the Church for the generous manner in which His people have supported the various schemes of the Church during the past year.

It is a cause of regret, however, to find that a number of Congregations failed to make all the collections for the Schemes of the Church ordered by last General Assembly. The Assembly enjoin Presbyteries to make sure that all Congregations are given an opportunity of contributing to every scheme of the General Assembly, so that all possible support may be given to every department of the Church's work.

Changing conditions and increasing costs make an ever-growing demand on the resources of the Church and the General Assembly appeal anew to our loyal people to meet this rising expenditure with a corresponding greater liberality.

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 1947 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July Distressed Churches in Europe 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions 7. ,, December ,, Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension 8. ,, January 1948 Welfare of Youth and Publications 9. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 10. ,, March ,, Buildings 11. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions 12. ,, May ,, Home Missions

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

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of December to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of Congregations within their bounds which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to each Presbytery taking action to rectify any such omissions.

IX. - Act appointing next Commission of Assembly (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1947. Sess. 11.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. William R. Mackay, B.Sc., 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 on the second Wednesday of August, and 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, 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; 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 appointing next General Assembly (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1947. Sess 11.

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 18th day of May 1948, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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

MAY XVIII., MCMXLVIII. (1948)

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

NONE

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

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 19th May 1948. 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 18th day of May 1948, respectfully declare our devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We rejoice, along with your loyal subjects everywhere, in the happiness that has come during the past year to your Royal Household through the marriage of Princess Elizabeth, and our fervent prayer is that heavenly blessings may richly endow the union.

We are profoundly grateful to God for the noble example given to this land by Your Majesty and Your Gracious Queen, all the more because we are firmly convinced that only a spiritual recovery will release the energies necessary for national restoration. We feel strongly that God-given institutions and ordinances through which spiritual quickening and reviving normally come are doubly precious at such a time as this. Cherishing these convictions we are thankful that Your Majesty and leading Ministers in Your Majesty's Government recognise that the inspirational centres of life must be dealt with to secure peace and prosperity.

May the Lord abound in choicest blessings unto Your Majesty's Person and Rule, Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, Her Majesty Queen Mary, Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth, His Grace the Duke of Edinburgh, and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and all members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's faithful subjects.

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

ALEXANDER MACDONALD, Moderator

II. - Act anent Publication of Welfare of Youth Results. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1948. Sess. 3.

The General Assembly sanction an allotment of the sum of £12, 10s. annually from the Funds of the Assembly Arrangements Committee to the Funds of the Publications Committee against the cost of publishing the results of the Welfare of Youth Examinations.

III. - Act anent Budgets, amending Act III., 1909. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1948. Sess. 3.

The General Assembly ordain that the relevant date for the submission of the Budgets of the Principal Standing Committees of the Church shall be the last day of February in each year, and to that extent amend Act III., 1909 (No. 3 of Class II.) by the deletion of the date “ 15th January “ and the substitution of the words “ the last day of February”.

IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1948. Sess. 5.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1947 at the rate of £300 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1947, in addition to the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform be calculated at the rate of £330 per annum for 1948, provided the resources of the Fund as ascertained on 31st May and 30th November next permit of this and subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances, as may seem proper to the Committee.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. John A. Macdonald, Minister at Kiltearn, Presbytery of Dingwall and Tain; Rev. Angus A. Macdonald, Minister at Bracadale, Presbytery of Skye and Uist; Rev. William Campbell, Minister at Knock; and Rev. Murdoch McRae, Minister at Kinloch.

The General Assembly, in view of the facts recorded in the body of the Report, authorise that the Retiring Allowance to Rev. John Shaw be reckoned as for a ministry of 25 years.

The General Assembly record their deep appreciation of the work done by Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees, Sustentation Fund Collectors, and all members and adherents of the Church during the past year, and commend the work of the Committee to the prayerful and practical interest of all Congregations within the Church.

The General Assembly instruct the Committee, together with the Law and Advisory Commit-

tee, to make a full inquiry into the reasons for the refusal of a number of Ministers to become beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, and report to next General Assembly.

V. - Act appointing a Special Committee on College Funds. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1948. Sess. 7.

The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee, consisting of the Conveners of the Training of the Ministry Committee and the Finance Committee, the Principal of the College, together with one representative nominated by each of these Committees and one by the Senatus, the Treasurer to be present in a consultative capacity, and the Convener of the Finance Committee to preside. The Special Committee is authorised to investigate the financial difficulties revealed by the present state of the College Funds, and to make recommendations for the relief of such financial stringency as may be found to exist during the present year, and to report to the Commission of Assembly in August or November which is hereby authorised to dispose of this part of the remit.

The Special Committee shall further examine wider issues affecting the College Funds and their future mode of administration and they shall report these findings and recommendations to next General Assembly.

VI. - Act appointing Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1948. Sess. 5.

The General Assembly reappoint the Rev. John Shaw, M.A., 49 Stirling Road, Edinburgh, to be a Trustee of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

VII. - Act anent Salaries of Lay Agents. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1948. Sess. 5.

The General Assembly authorise the Committee, if funds at their disposal permit, to raise the salaries of all Lay Agents by 10 per cent. or such less percentage as shall be proportional to any increase in the Equal Dividend paid by the Sustentation Fund.

VIII. - Act anent Triennial Report on Condition of Buildings. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1948. Sess. 9.

The General Assembly instruct congregations to submit triennial reports upon congregational property in place of the annual reports hitherto required. The Committee are enjoined to prepare and issue the first of the triennial schedules in 1950.

IX. - Act anent Standing Order VI., 7. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1948. Sess. 10.

The General Assembly amend Standing Order VI., 7, to read as follows:-

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 shall not be eligible for appointment to any other Standing Committee for at least one year from the date of their retirement; 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.

X. - Act anent Collections. (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1948. Sess.10.

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the Head of the Church for the generous measure of support which has been received by the various schemes of the Church during the past year.

It is a matter of regret, however, that a few congregations failed to make all the Collections for the Schemes of the Church ordered by last General Assembly. The Assembly enjoin Presbyteries to make sure that all congregations are given an opportunity of contributing to every scheme of the General Assembly, so that all possible support may be given to every department of the Church's work.

Changing conditions and increasing costs make an ever-growing demand on the resources of the Church, and the General Assembly appeal anew to our loyal people to meet this rising expenditure with a corresponding greater liberality.

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 1948 Retired Lay Agents. 2. ,, July Distressed Churches in Europe 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions 7. ,, December ,, Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension 8. ,, January 1949 Welfare of Youth and Publications 9. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 10. ,, March ,, Buildings 11. ,, April ,, Colonial Missions 12. ,, May ,, Home Missions

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of each Special Collection be sent to the congregations of the Church.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of December to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of congregations within the bounds, which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections with a view to each Presbytery taking action to rectify any such omissions.

XI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1948. Sess. 10.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. William MacLeod, M.A., 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 on the second Wednesday of August, 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; 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 appointing next General Assembly. (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1948. Sess. 10.

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1949, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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

MAY XXIV., MCMXLIX. (1949)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1949. 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, met in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 24th day of May 1949, offer Your Majesty this expression of our sincere attachment and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks always to Almighty God for the affectionate loyalty with which Your Majesty and Your Royal House are esteemed throughout Your dominions, and for the strength and stability which in consequence accrue to Your Majesty's Throne.

It was with grave concern that we learned of Your Majesty's illness which necessitated the postponement of Your visit to Australia. We give thanks, however, to the Divine Restorer, by Whose favour Your Majesty's health has so steadily improved, and pray that complete recovery may be given You to exercise, without undue strain, the manifold duties pertaining to Your exalted office, to the ever-growing affection and admiration of Your subjects everywhere.

We rejoice in the happy event which, since we last met in General Assembly, has brought joy to Your Majesty's Home, as also to the entire Commonwealth of the British Peoples, namely,

the birth of a Son to Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh; and we pray that God's richest blessing may rest upon the Royal Parents and Their Child.

We unite in thanksgiving to the Prince of Peace for the various international agreements which, during the past year, have brightened the prospect of world peace and prosperity. We rejoice, in particular, in the solidarity of the Western nations in defence of Christian democracy, and pray that counsels of peace may continue to prevail.

May the richest blessings of Heaven rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Rule; Her Majesty the Queen; Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Charles; Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret; Her Majesty Queen Mary; and all Members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's dutiful and obedient servants,

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

Geo. N. M. COLLINS, Moderator

**II. - Act Appointing Senior Clerk of Assembly and Salaries of Senior and Junior Clerks.
(No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1949. Sess. 1.**

The General Assembly learn with regret of the retirement of the Senior Clerk of Assembly, and grant his request to be relieved of the Clerkship as from the close of this Assembly. They thank him for his many years of excellent service to the Assembly and to the Church, and authorise the Finance Committee to give him a retiring allowance in terms of Act IV., 1890.

In accordance with the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1868, the General Assembly appoint Mr William MacLeod, Junior Clerk, to be the Senior Clerk of Assembly at a salary of £60 per annum, his appointment to date from the close of this Assembly.

And consequent upon the vacancy thus caused in the Junior Clerkship, the Assembly enjoin the Presbyteries and Synods of the Church to nominate a suitable person for the Junior Clerkship, such nominations to be in the hands of the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee not later than 1st October next, and from these nominees the November Commission of Assembly are authorised to select and appoint a Junior Clerk of Assembly at the salary of £40 per annum. Intimation of the appointment was made by the Moderator to Mr MacLeod who intimated his acceptance of office and promised to discharge the duties thereof faithfully.

**III. - Act appointing College Committee. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1949.
Sess. 3.**

The General Assembly hereby appoint a College Committee, composed as follows : from the Training of the Ministry Committee the Convener, Vice-Convener, and one other member (provided that a member of Senatus holding such office shall be replaced by another member

of Committee); from the Senatus - three members; the Committee to appoint its own Con-
vener who shall be elected in alternate years from the Training of the Ministry personnel and
the Senatus, commencing with the former.

The College Committee shall administer the general finances of the College and shall attend
to any other College business not expressly the function of the Senatus (i.e., excluding such
matters as allocation of bursaries, discipline, etc.), and shall report through the Training of
the Ministry Committee to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly instruct the College Committee as above constituted to review the
financial position of the College for the present year in time to report to the Training of the
Ministry Committee at their August meeting, the latter Committee being authorised, after
consultation with the Finance, Law, and Advisory Committee, to submit proposals for balanc-
ing the current year 5 College Account to the Commission of Assembly at its August or
November diet, which is hereby empowered to dispose of the same.

IV. - Act anent State of Religion. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1949. Sess. 4.

The General Assembly receive the Overture, grant its prayer, and enjoin the several
Presbyteries of this Church to set apart the first Tuesday of September 1949 or the nearest
convenient date thereto, for the consideration of the matters referred to in this Overture;
further, the General Assembly ordain that, as far as possible, the Presbyteries and Kirk Ses-
sions of the Free Church of Scotland give effect to the proposals contained in the Overture.

**V. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1949. Sess.
5.**

The General Assembly record their deep thankfulness to God for the liberality shown by our
people during the past year.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1948 at the rate of £330 per annum to
every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1948, exclusive of the
premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend
Platform be calculated, for the current year, at the rate of £330, payable at the rate of £25 per
month, plus two instalments of £15 payable in May and November.

The General Assembly authorise that the amount required to raise to £80 the sum in lieu of a
Manse payable to the Ministers of Shettleston and Dumfries respectively be charged to the
Sustentation Fund, the increase to take effect from 20th May 1948.

The General Assembly authorise that a Minister called to Elgin shall receive the Equal Divi-
dend, with the addition of £50 and the sum of £80 in lieu of a Manse, that all payments be
charged to the Sustentation Fund, and that the arrangement be subject to revision at the end
of three years from date of settlement.

The General Assembly continue, for a further period of three years, the existing arrangements

in respect of the Congregations of Kinglassie and Shettleston on condition that these Congregations contribute the sum of £80 each per annum.

The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee to examine the Regulations governing the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund with a view to bringing up such proposals for their clarification as may seem necessary.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries under Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. G. N. M. Collins, Minister at St Columba, and Rev. J. M. Macleod, Junior Minister at Leith, both in the Presbytery of Edinburgh.

The General Assembly continue the remit anent inquiry into the reasons for the refusal of a number of Ministers to become Beneficiaries.

The General Assembly record their deep appreciation of the work done by Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees, Collectors, and all members and adherents of the Church during the past year, and commend the work of the Committee to the prayerful and practical interest of all Congregations within the Church.

That the General Assembly direct Congregations to take into their serious consideration the paramount need of maintaining Gospel ordinances adequately, and to this end recommend that Deacons Courts and congregational Committee should, after complying with the requirements of Chap. I., Part II., para. 16, in the 1912 Ed. of the Free Church Practice, remit to the Sustentation Fund a proportion of the remaining balance before it is held applicable to any other purpose whatsoever. The Assembly direct that this recommendation be sent to Congregations along with the Congregational Schedules and notice of Assembly Assessment.

**VI. - Act anent Regulations of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. (No. 6 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 26th May 1949. Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee to report in terms of paragraph 8 of the Deliverance on the Sustentation Fund Committee's Report as follows - Messrs G. N. M. Collins, Convener; Principal Miller, Professor A. M. Renwick, J. Shaw, W. MacLeod, J. M. MacLennan, A. Macdougall, C. Graham, W. J. Cameron, J. M. Morrison (Cross), Ministers; with Messrs W. M. Mackay and D. MacArthur, Elders.

**VII. - Act rescinding Act IV., 1944, anent Modified Course of Study. (No. 7 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 27th May 1949. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly rescind Act IV., 1944, as amended by Act V., 1947, anent Modified Course of Study with effect from 31st May 1950, and instruct that the Regulations governing admission and training of Students be completely overhauled in the light of present-day requirements, the draft of such Regulations to be submitted by the Committee to next General Assembly.

**VIII. - Act appointing Committee on the question of Baptism. (No. 8 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 27th May 1949. Sess. 7**

The General Assembly receive the Overture and grant it prayer to the extent that they appoint a committee to investigate the whole matter and report with recommendation to the next General Assembly.

The following Committee, in terms of this finding, were appointed, viz. : Messrs G N. M. Collins, Professor R. A. Finlayson, K. A. MacRae, Donald McKay, Alex. MacLeod, C. Graham, J. Fraser, Ministers; with Mr Collins as Convener.

IX. - Act anent Change in Articles of Association of General Trustees Nominees. (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 30th May 1949. Sess. 9.

The General Assembly approve of the proposed change in the Articles of Association of "The Free Church of Scotland General Trustees' Nominees" to exclude the Company from the provision of the 1948 Companies Act that a Director must retire at the age of 70; and they leave the Company to carry through the business in the prescribed manner.

X. - Act anent Collections. (No. 10) of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1949. Sess. 10.

The General Assembly express their gratitude to the Head of Church for the Grace of liberality bestowed by Him upon her people for the support of the Church's various activities during the past year.

The General Assembly regret, however, that some Congregations failed to make all the Collections ordered, and, accordingly, enjoin Presbyteries to take such measures as will give an opportunity to every Congregation of contributing to all the schemes, so that the highest degree of support may be given to every department of the Church's work.

The General Assembly appeal to all who are in a position to give to the Lord's work to meet rising expenditure by increased liberality.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1949 Retired Lay Agents 2. ,, July ,, College 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions and Colonial 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands and Home Missions 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions 7. ,, January 1950 Welfare of Youth and Publications 8. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry 9. ,, March ,, Buildings 10. ,, May ,, Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension, Distressed Churches of Europe

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the dates appointed or on the nearest convenient date thereto, and that Conveners of Committees give timely intimation of each Collection to the Congregations of the Church. The General Assembly direct the General Treasurer to intimate by the first day of November to Clerks to Presbyteries a list of the Congregations within their bounds which, until that date, may have failed to make all the Collections appointed, in order that action may be taken to rectify all such omissions.

XI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st

May 1949. Sess. 11.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Professor Alexander M. Renwick, 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 on the second Wednesday of August, at Inverness the third Wednesday of November and at Edinburgh 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 Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church 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 appointing next General Assembly. (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1949. Sess. 11.

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of May 1950 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.