

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Free Church of Scotland
1920 – 1929

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE MOUND

CONTENTS 1920

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Appointment of Assistant Clerk of Assembly 4. Act anent Appointment of Professor of Church History and Principles. 5. Act anent Collections 6. Act anent Commission of Assembly 7. Act anent Appointment of Next General Assembly

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

MAY XVIII., MCMXX. (1920)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th, May 1920. Sess. 10.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, desire to express the entire loyalty and devoted attachment which we, in common with all the members of the Church to which we belong, and which we represent, cherish towards Your Majesty's throne and person. We desire to express our Christian sympathy with Your Majesty and the Royal Family in the recent bereavement that Your Majesty has suffered, and we seek to convey our sincere condolence with your Royal House in their sorrow. When we express our unswerving loyalty to Your Majesty and Your Majesty's Government, we call to mind the intimate connection that has long existed between Your Majesty's house and the maintenance of the Protestant profession, and the Presbyterian Government of the Reformed Church in Scotland. Although changes have taken place in the legislation relating to the Protestant profession of the Ministry of the Church as by law established, the Free Church of Scotland, adhering to her Claim of Right, stands firmly for the unabated profession of the Protestant Faith which has for more than two

centuries been required of the Church of Scotland in terms of her Constitution and Establishment. And she views with unfeigned concern the movements afoot to revolutionise the happy settlement of 1690 and 1707 which, under the blessing of Heaven and in connection with the Protestant Succession to the throne was productive of untold good to Scotland. We earnestly pray that when any further legislative changes take place in regard to the recognition of the Constitution of the Church nothing may be done that will preclude the possibility of her reconstruction in keeping with her historic Confession and her best Evangelical traditions or prejudice the national profession of the Reformed Faith and the administration on behalf of all Your Majesty's loyal subjects of the public ecclesiastical endowments. In the midst of the unsettlement that still affects the Continent of Europe and even the whole world, we feel that alike throughout Your Majesty's dominions at large and in particular in this homeland we have abundant reason for thankfulness to God not only that peace has been restored but that in such a measure temporal prosperity has been granted. And we beseech Almighty God to vouchsafe through the effectual working of His Spirit the establishment of righteousness on the earth which will promote goodwill between man and man and among the nations of the world. We are satisfied that the very glory of our Country and our Empire is the prevalence of righteousness and the recognition of the claim of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We recognise with gratitude the many blessings that we enjoy under the beneficent sway of Your Majesty's sceptre. These we trace through God's hand to the working of Christian principles which have shaped and determined the course of Britain's civilisation and history. These blessings we pray God to continue with us and with our children, and what we ask for our own country we ask for the whole world. We humbly pray Almighty God that in His rich grace He will bless Your Majesty, Her Majesty the Queen, and the Members of the Royal Family, not only with the blessings that exalt the nation and its reigning house on earth, but with those higher and more enduring blessings which enrich the company who as priests and kings unto God will yet be crowned with the unfading crown of everlasting life and glory.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

JOHN MACLEOD, Moderator.

II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1920. Sess. 4.

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all Ministers in Charges on the Platform of the Equal Dividend of £215, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and authorise that a sum of £400 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements to be apportioned among them so that their total ministerial income for the year 1919 shall in no case exceed £222. The Assembly place on a special list all the Ministers nominated by Presbyteries for benefit under Act III., 1918, as these are set forth in Appendix A to the Report of the Sustentation Fund Committee sub-

mitted to this Assembly. The Assembly further authorise that the sum of £803, 14s. 10d. be taken over from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and that in 1920, from the sum thus taken over, £10 be paid to each of these Ministers who at 1st January 1920 had served over thirty years in the Ministry, and £5 to each of those who had served for a less period; further, that all these Ministers shall be placed on this Fund for 1920 to the extent to which an equal division of the balance of the said sum of £803, 14s. 10d. will allow, and that the Sustentation Fund be relieved in respect of each of these Ministers to the extent of said division.

III. - Act anent Appointment of Assistant Clerk of Assembly (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1920. Sess. 3.

The Assembly adopt the recommendation of the Committee and appoint as Assistant Clerk during the sittings of this Assembly, in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Roderick MacKenzie, Clerk of the Presbytery of Lewis, the permanent Assistant Clerk to be appointed by the Assembly. It was moved, seconded, and agreed to, that the Rev. Alexander Renwick, B.D., be appointed Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly.

IV. - Act anent Appointment of Professor of Church History and Principles. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1920. Sess. 7

The General Assembly hereby appoint the Rev. Donald Maclean, D.D., 12 Hartington Gardens, Edinburgh, Secretary to the Highland and Home Missions Committee, 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 Assembly of 1919 in connection with the appointment of Professor MacKay.

V. - Act anent Collections (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1920. Sess. 11.

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His great goodness to them during the past year, evinced by the spirit of liberality on the part of the people throughout the Church. There is still urgent need, however, for the increased exercise of this Christian grace on behalf of every department of the work of the Church, and members and adherents should ask themselves whether they are giving all they might give. The Church is still passing through strenuous and very difficult times, and there are many fields of activity both at home and abroad which claim her attention. All these things constitute a call upon the resources of the Church, which can only be met by earnest and energetic effort and by liberal and cheerful giving. The General Assembly appoint the following Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1920 Publications. 2. „ August „, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. „ September „, Foreign Missions. 4. „ October „, Highlands and Islands. 5. „ December „, Jewish Missions. 6. „ January 1921 Welfare of Youth. 7. „ March „, Buildings. 8. „ May „, Home Missions.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every Congregation of the Church, if possible, and where such Associations are in operation, the collection appointed for the third Sabbath of September may be omitted. The General

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

**VI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1920.
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 the Rev. Donald Munro, Ferintosh, named by the Moderator: TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take: And further, the said Commission are hereby

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

VII. - Act anent Appointment of Next General Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1920. Sess. 11.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1921, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1921

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

1. Act agent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Foreign Missions 4. Act appointing additional General Trustee 5. Act anent Collections 6. Act anent Commission of Assembly 7. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIV., MCMXXI. (1921)

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

NONE

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

1. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1921. Sess. 10.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, May 1921, desire most respectfully to assure Your Majesty of our continued loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's person and rule. We offer unto God our sincerest thanks that, in a time of phenomenal unrest, Your Throne abides in its strength and serenity. We rejoice in Your Majesty's earnest pursuit of all that is fitted to advance the highest well-being of Your subjects, and note with peculiar satisfaction the tranquillizing effect of the free participation of Your Majesties in the life of the nation. The incomparable services recently rendered to the Empire by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales have greatly enhanced the profound esteem in which he is held in our midst. We pray for, the speedy vindication of the right in the adjacent Isle, and for the establishment of harmony among its people. We also pray that the present measure of self-government granted to that ancient land India may assuage residual discontent, and may inaugurate a new era of moral and material welfare among her diverse races. Believing, as we do, in the ultimate reign of the Prince of Peace over the whole world, we supplicate the blessing of the Most High upon the labours of the League of Nations for the furtherance of goodwill among men. We humbly and earnestly pray that the good hand of God may be upon Your Majesty to protect, support, and guide you in Your exalted office; also upon our gracious Queen and all the Royal Family.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment.

R. McLeod, Moderator.

II. - Act anent the Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1921. Sess. 4.

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all ministers at this date in charges on the Platform of the Equal Dividend for the year 1920 at the rate of £220, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and authorise that a sum of £393, 18s. 6d. be set apart to augment the salaries of ministers settled under special arrangements to be apportioned among them so that their total ministerial income for the year 1920 shall in no case exceed £227. The General Assembly authorise that the sum of £722, 11s. 3d. be taken

over from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund and that, in 1921, from the sum thus taken over £10 be paid to each of those ministers whose names appear in Appendix A of the Report of the Sustentation Fund Committee, and who, at 1st January 1921, had served over thirty' years in the Ministry, and £5 to each of those who had served for a less period; further, that all these ministers shall be placed on this Fund for 1921 to the extent to which an equal division of the balance of the said sum of £722, 11s. 3d. will allow, and that the Sustentation Fund be relieved in respect of each of these ministers to the extent of said division.

III. - Act anent Foreign Missions (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1921. Sess. 7.

The General Assembly record their deep sense of gratitude to God for the measure of success which He has been pleased to vouchsafe to the efforts of the Church in the various fields in which her work is being carried on. They hear with much satisfaction of earnest, patient effort in South Africa, and, while rejoicing in the tokens of Divine favour which attend the labour of their agents in that wide field, renew their expression of sympathy with them in the difficulties under which they carry on their work. They are also deeply gratified with the continued success of the work in Peru. They hear with much pleasure of the encouraging nature of the report submitted to the Committee by the deputies who visited the Mission in Lima during the year, and note with interest the recommendations made by them as a result of their observations on the field. They approve of the action taken by the Committee with reference to these recommendations, and, in particular, with a view to securing that all agents of the Church labouring in that field shall be entitled to furlough at the end of every five years, they enact and declare that Clause 2 of Act VI., Class II of 1917, shall be, and is hereby, amended by the substitution therein of the words "after five years' service" for the words "after six years' service." They further appoint that Mr V. R. Browne, whose eminent services to the School in Lima they warmly appreciate, shall be definitely recognised as a Missionary agent of the Church, with all the privileges accompanying that position. The Assembly learn with special pleasure of the arrangements being made by the Committee with a view to resuming independent Missionary operations in India. They authorise the Committee to send out Dr. Annie M. Mackay to S,oni as a Medical Missionary of the Church during the present year, and they warmly appreciate the action of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Original Secession Church in so readily agreeing to afford Dr. Mackay the facilities necessary for equipping herself specifically for her future work. They instruct the Committee, to continue their diligence in making all needed arrangements for the definite inception of the work. They further authorise the Committee to pay Miss Macleod's salary as formerly, with such increment as may be agreed upon in consultation with the Committee of the Original Secession Church. The Assembly hear with much interest of the Committee's proposal with reference to work among the Jews. They regret that the circumstances of the time appear to necessitate the discontinuance of the work carried on in Edinburgh, but they welcome the prospect of co-operation with the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews, and they cordially approve of the arrangements which the Committee have made, as detailed in their Report, with this end in view. They express their satisfaction that, as a result of this agreement, the Church will continue to have the opportunity of taking some honourable share in the work of spreading the light of the Gospel among God's ancient people. They authorise the Committee to dispose of the Hall in Marshall Street on the most favourable terms that can be secured. The Assembly express their satisfaction that the givings of the people for the cause of Foreign Missions reveal a steady upward tendency, and they record

their special appreciation of the substantial help to the funds of the Church for this object which has been given by the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia. They realise, however, that the increasing responsibilities of the Church in the Foreign Field demand a corresponding increase of liberality on the part of all their faithful people; and, with a view to securing this end, they renew their injunction that a branch of the Foreign Missionary Association should be set up in every congregation of the Church where that does not already exist. The Assembly commend this great work of Foreign Missions to the rich blessing of the Lord of the harvest.

IV. - Act appointing additional General Trustee (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1921. Sess. 3.

The Assembly appointed the Rev. Donald Maclean, D.D., Professor of Church History and Free Church Principles in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, one of the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland in room of the late Professor Bannatyne.

V. - Act anent Collections (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1921. Sess. 11.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1921 Publications. 2. ,, August .. Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. November ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, January 1922 Welfare of Youth 7. ,, February ,, Save the Children Fund. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, May Home Missions.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every congregation of the Church, if possible. The General Assembly also enjoin the ministers and preachers of the Church, when intimating these Collections, to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church for which the offerings of the people are solicited, that the people may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that pulpit intimations urging the claims of the agencies of the Church be prepared and forwarded in good time to every congregation for the use of ministers and preachers on the Sabbath when the Collection is intimated. The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations; and that in no case should the opportunity of contributing to these Collections be restricted or withdrawn from the people. The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which the congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly. The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and the privilege of systematic giving. The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His great goodness

to them during the past year, evinced by the spirit of liberality on the part of the people throughout the Church. There is still urgent need, however, for the increased exercise of this Christian grace on behalf of every department of the work of the Church, and members and adherents are again called upon individually to consider whether they are giving all they might to the work of the Lord. The Church is still passing through difficult days, and there are many fields of activity both at home and abroad which claim her attention, and strain her resources, so that the need for earnest effort and generous giving is steadily increasing.

**VI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1921.
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. Roderick Mackenzie, Back, named by the Moderator - TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

VII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1921. Sess. 11.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Inverness on Tuesday, the 23rd day of May 1922, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1922.

PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Training of Students 4. Act anent Collections 5. Act anent Commission of Assembly 6. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIII., MCMXXII. (1922)

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

NONE

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

1. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.) Inverness, 26th May 1922. Sess. 7.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,-

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Inverness, May 1922, desire most respectfully to assure Your Majesty of our continued loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's person and rule. We offer unto God our sincerest thanks that the strength of Your Throne has been maintained, and the beneficence of Your rule has been continued unto us as a people. We desire to acknowledge our indebtedness for Your Majesty's earnest pursuit of all that is fitted to advance

the highest well-being of Your subjects, and for Your Majesty's devotion to their interests. We have followed with special pleasure the visit recently paid by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Your Majesty's Great Empire of India, the profound esteem which he evoked from Your Majesty's subjects throughout these vast dominions, and the inestimable service he has been enabled to render to the cause of loyalty and peace. We congratulate Your Majesty on the marriage of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Mary, and we supplicate Almighty God that His rich and abiding blessing may rest upon the union so happily consummated. We deeply regret the want of harmony that prevails in the adjacent Isle of Ireland, and the many hideous crimes to which it has led. We pray for the speedy establishment of wise government and prosperity to the unhappy people of that Island. We humbly and earnestly pray that God may protect, support and guide Your Majesty in all that pertains to Your exalted office; and also our gracious Queen, and the Princes of Your Royal House.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

NORMAN CAMPBELL, Moderator.

II. - Act anent the Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Inverness, 24th May 1922. Sess. 4.

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend for the year 1921 at the rate of £230, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They authorise that a sum of £383 be set apart to augment the salaries of ministers settled under special arrangements to be apportioned among them so that their total ministerial income for the year 1921 shall in no case exceed £237. The General Assembly authorise that the sum of £712, 9s. 7d. be taken from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and be dealt with during 1922 under the terms of Act III., 1918.

III. - Act anent Training of Students (No. 3 of Class II.) Inverness, 26th May 1922. Sess. 7.

The Assembly express their profound thankfulness to God for His goodness to this Church in making such provision for the Ministry both in the past and the present. They earnestly pray that the living fire from heaven may descend upon many of our young men, so that they may go forth in the power of the Spirit to do battle against the strongholds of wickedness. The Assembly renew their exhortation to Ministers and Presbyteries to encourage promising young men of piety and scholarship to study for the Ministry, and to bring the claims of the Gospel before the young in our congregations

The General Assembly are gratified to learn of the surplus standing to the credit of the College Account, and in accordance with the recommendations made in the Report, instruct :-

(1) That a Supplement of 20 per cent. on their present salaries be given to the Principal and Professors beginning with the year 1921, the continuance or discontinuance of this Supplement to be considered by the General Assembly of 1923.

(2) That students receiving Theological Bursaries have the present amount of these bursaries increased by 20 per cent., the rate of bursary thus fixed to continue during the same period as the increase of 20 per cent. made on Professors' salaries.

(3) That the whole annual expense of printing the College Calendar, all the fees due to Examiners, and half the expenses of members attending the Committee, be charged against the College Account as from the beginning of 1922.

The Assembly approve the proposed addition to the legislation of the Assembly of 1920 anent "Concessions to men over 35 years of age," as set forth in the Appendix, and instruct that this finding should apply to the payment of bursaries to students taking the concurrent courses in Arts and Divinity as from the beginning of Session 1921-2 the same rule to apply *pari passu* to ex-service men who take concurrent courses, irrespective of their age.

The Assembly approve the course proposed in regard to Mr John Macdonald, Vancouver, and remit the matter to the Board of Studies to be dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Report.

The General Assembly, keenly alive to the needs of students in their earlier stages, hereby revive the Annual Collection for the Training of the Ministry, and instruct the Committee appointed to frame an Act anent Collections to find a place for this collection.

The Assembly learn with thankfulness of the students who have now finished their Theological course, and commend them to God. In the case of Mr Alexander Macleod, the Assembly approve the payment made to them.

IV. - Act anent Collections (No. 4 of Class II.) Inverness, 30th May 1922. Sess. 12.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1922 Protestant Churches in Devastated Areas. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 7. ,, January 1923 Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, February ,, Training of Ministry. 9. ,, March ,, Buildings. 10. ,, May Home Missions.

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His great goodness to them during the past year, as seen in the liberality of the people throughout the Church. In the strenuous and difficult times through which our Church is still passing there is an urgent need evident for the exercise of the spirit of liberality, as there are many fields of activity both at home and abroad that are claiming her attention and to which she dare not turn a deaf ear.

These constitute a drain upon the resources of the Church, which can only be met by continued liberal and cheerful giving on the part of her faithful people.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every congregation of the Church, if possible.

The General Assembly also enjoin the ministers and preachers of the Church when intimating these Collections to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church for which the offerings of the people are solicited, that the people may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that pulpit intimations urging the claims of the agencies of the Church be prepared and forwarded in good time to every congregation for the use of ministers and preachers on the Sabbath when the collection is intimated.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations; and that in no case should the opportunity of contributing to these collections be restricted or withdrawn from the people.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly.

The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and the privilege of systematic giving.

**V. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 5 of Class II.) Inverness, 30th May 1922.
Sess. 12.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. D. S. Cameron, Croy, named by the Moderator: TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that

the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end : And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the 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.

VI.- Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.) Inverness, 30th May 1922. Sess. 12.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of May 1923, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1923

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent the Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Training of Students 4. Act anent Collections 5. Act anent Commission of Assembly 6. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXII., MCMXXIII. (1923)

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, 29th, May 1923 Sess. 10.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, May 29th 1923, desire anew to express our devoted attachment to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

We rejoice that Your influence has been so constantly and so fruitfully exerted for the mitigation of distress in a period of transition, and for the promotion of the welfare of Your People. In this regard, also, we recall, with sincerest esteem, the benignant ministries of Your Royal Consort, Queen Mary. We offer to Your Majesties our heartiest congratulations on the marriage of His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, to the Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, which is a source of joy to the whole Scottish nation.

The moving expressions of gratitude and reverence to Britain's noble dead, uttered by Your Majesty, on the plains of Flanders and the uplands of Vicenza, have deeply touched our hearts; whilst Your hope, that war shall not henceforth be accepted as a burden recurrent and inevitable upon mankind, finds instant response in our endeavours to further the beneficent work of the League of Nations, and, above all, in our efforts to diffuse among mankind the glorious Gospel, whose end is Righteousness and whose fruit is Peace.

As ardent supporters of the Protestantism which is at the very core of the British Constitution, we are anxiously concerned that its essential principles stand fast in their integrity; and, as Your most loyal subjects, we hold and teach that no earthly throne may rise higher than Your Majesty's Throne within Your vast dominions.

We tender our most respectful salutations to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who is honoured and beloved, wherever His princely qualities and achievements are known.

We supplicate the blessing of God Almighty upon Your Majesty and upon our Most Gracious Queen, likewise upon all the members of the Royal Family. We earnestly pray that the God of all grace may ever sustain You in the duties of Your exalted Office; preserving You long to rule over a happy and prosperous Realm.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful subjects,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

GEORGE MACKAY, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent the Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1923.
Sess. 3.**

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend for the year 1922 at the rate of £246, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable in behalf of said Ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £440 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements, to be apportioned among them so that their total ministerial income for the year 1922 shall in no case exceed £253.

The General Assembly authorise that the sum of £784, 16s. 10d. be taken from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund, and be dealt with during the year 1923 under the terms of Act III, 1918.

**III. - Act anent Training of Students (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1923.
Sess. 7.**

The Assembly note with deep interest, and profound gratitude to God, that so many young men have been led to offer themselves for the work of the ministry. They call upon the faithful people of the Church to abound in prayer, that the blessing of the Almighty may rest upon the work of our Professors and students. They renew their exhortation to Ministers and Presbyteries to encourage promising young men of piety and scholarship to study for the Ministry, and to bring the claims of the Ministry before the young in our congregations.

The General Assembly renew the Supplement to their salaries granted to the Principal and Professors by last Assembly the continuance or discontinuance of this Supplement to be considered by the General Assembly of 1924.

The Assembly learn with regret of the deficit on the Undergraduate and Secondary School Bursary Fund, and express the hope that, as the Annual Collection has now been revived, the liberality of the Church may prove equal to meeting the deserving claims of this Fund.

The Assembly approve of the recommendation of the Committee with regard to the Concession made to ex-Service men by the General Assembly of 1920, and inasmuch as this Concession has now served its purpose, they repeal the same, except in the case of those ex-

Service men who are at present recognised by the Training of the Ministry Committee as students looking forward to the work of the ministry, or who have at this date begun a regular Arts Course at a University, and may be afterwards recognised by the Committee as students for the ministry.

The General Assembly record their thanks to the Principal and Professors for their services to the College, and pray that much blessing may attend their labours.

IV. - Act anent Collections (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1923. Sess. 11.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1923 Publications. 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions. 6. ,, January 1924 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, February ,, Training of Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His great goodness to them during the past year, as seen in the liberality of the people throughout the Church, liberality that is specially praiseworthy in view of the difficult times the nation is passing through financially. These times of stress and strain may last yet a while, but the Church depends on its loyal people to continue to give to the work of the Lord as the Lord has prospered them. New fields of service may open up before the Church at home and abroad, and, therefore, liberal and cheerful giving is called for, in order that the Word of the Lord may run and be glorified.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every congregation, if possible. Never was this injunction more urgent than now.

The General Assembly also enjoin the Ministers and Preachers of the Church, when intimating these Collections, to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church; that the people may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that pulpit intimations urging the claims of the different Schemes of the Church be prepared and forwarded to each congregation for the use of Ministers or Preachers on the Sabbath when the Collection is intimated. The whole statement issued by each Convener should be read to the congregation, and not merely the substance of it.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations.

The General Assembly further enjoin that in no case should the opportunity and the privilege of contributing to these Collections be restricted or withdrawn from the people. The General Assembly lay great stress upon this.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to

transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly.

The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and the privilege of systematic giving.

**V. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1923.
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 the Rev. John Macdonald (Rosskeen) named by the Moderator - TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and

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

VI. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1923. Sess. 11.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1924, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1924

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent the Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Administration of Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee 4. Act anent Collections 5. Act anent Commission of Assembly 6. Act anent the North American Mission 7. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

Overture sent down to Presbyteries for their Consideration.

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

MAY XX., MCMXXIV. (1924)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1924. Sess. 10.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The loyal and dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to His Majesty the King.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, 27th May 1924, renew the expression of our loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

We fully recognise that the problems of Peace have been hardly less exacting than those of the Great War. With equal clearness we realise that the fabric of commerce and civilization has been severely shaken, whilst the fundamentals of morality and religion have been rudely assailed. All the more gratefully, therefore, do we note the numerous occasions upon which You, with Your Royal Consort, Queen Mary, have rendered by speech and example most admirable service to those great principles of Conduct and Faith which are vital to the welfare of Humanity.

We deeply regret that, under the stress of adverse circumstances, so many of our kith and kin have been forced to seek new homes beyond the sea; but we trust that though thus lost to the land of their fathers, they may prove a lasting gain to the Empire elsewhere.

We offer our profoundest respects to His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, - the happy embodiment of sincerity, kindness, tactfulness, and courage.

We fervently supplicate the blessing of God Almighty upon Your Majesty and upon our Gracious Queen; likewise upon all the members of the Royal Family. We pray very specially that God our Father may constantly replenish You with all needed gifts and grace for the fulfillment of the manifold duties of Your exalted Office; granting also length of days and favour unto Life Eternal.

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful subjects,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

KENNETH CAMERON, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent the Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1924.
Sess. 3.**

The Assembly declare the Dividend to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend to be at the rate of £244 for the past year, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and direct that a sum of £219 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements, to be apportioned to them so that their total ministerial income for the year shall in no case exceed £251.

The Assembly place on the special list of ministers nominated by Presbyteries for benefit under Act III 1918, the minister whose name is set forth in Appendix A to the Report, and the

Assembly authorise that the sum of £1,088, 7s. 6d. be taken over from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund in accordance with the provisions of Act III.1918, and that this sum be dealt with under the terms of said Act.

III. - Act anent Administration of Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1924. Sess. 6.

WHEREFORE, the Assembly thank the members of the Committee for their Report.

But inasmuch as the Report discloses serious differences of opinion, and:

Inasmuch as the minister mentioned in the Report has indicated his unwillingness to accept the appointment if offered to him, and

Inasmuch as that the layman, recommended by half the Committee has no preaching experience, such as is required by the Assembly's finding on 22nd May 1924, and inasmuch as he has no experience of Committees or of other administrative work of the Church.

The General Assembly remit the whole question to the Highlands and Islands and Finance Committees, acting conjointly, to consider the whole question anew in terms of the Assembly's finding aforesaid, and to report to the August Commission of Assembly, which is hereby empowered to deal with the same, and make an appointment if so advised, and the Assembly appoint the Convener of the Finance Committee to be Convener of the Joint Committee.

And further, the General Assembly direct and empower the Finance Committee to make such arrangements and adjustments as are needful for the carrying on of the work of the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee until such time as a permanent arrangement is come to.

IV. - Act anent Collections (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1924. Sess. 11

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1924 Publications 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highland and Islands. 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Mission. 6. ,, January 1925 Welfare Of Youth. 7. ,, February ,, Training Of The Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, April ,, Colonial. 10. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His abounding goodness during the past year, as shown by the liberality of the people. The times are yet full of difficulty and strain, yet it is false economy to contribute to the Lord's Cause in any other way than according to the Scriptural rule, viz., To give according as the Lord has prospered us. The commitments of the Church both at home and abroad are increasing, and can be met according to the liberality of her faithful people.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every Congregation. The urgency. of this injunction is increased year by year. They ordain

that the Colonial Collection sanctioned by this Assembly be taken on the third Sabbath of April.

The General Assembly also enjoin the Ministers and Preachers of the Church, when intimating these Collections, to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church; that the people may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are also directed to arrange that pulpit intimations urging the claims of the different Schemes of the Church be prepared and forwarded to each congregation for the use of Ministers or Preachers on the Sabbath when the Collection is intimated. The whole statement issued by each Convener should be read to the congregation, and not merely the substance of it.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on file days appointed, or on the most convenient dates for the various congregations.

The General Assembly further enjoin that in no case should the opportunity and the privilege of contributing to these Collections be restricted or withdrawn from the people. The General Assembly lay great stress upon this.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for such collections not being made, that the same may be laid before the Assembly.

The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion draw the attention of the people to the duty and privilege of systematic giving.

**V. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1924.
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. Hector Kennedy (Raasay), named by the Moderator: TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that

the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the 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.

VI. - Act anent the North American Mission (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1924. Sess. 8.

The General Assembly learn with great interest and deep gratitude of the promising field of labour for this Church which offers itself among our people in Canada. In view of the ever continuing tide of emigration, the Assembly realise the urgency of taking all possible steps for providing ordinances in the chief centres of North America, where considerable bodies of our members and adherents are found.

The Assembly instruct the Colonial Committee to endeavour to secure the permanent settlement of ministers of the Church in Toronto; Fort William, Ontario; and Winnipeg, Manitoba, as soon as possible, these ministers to be settled as Colonial Missionaries until a Presbytery of North America in connection with the Free Church of Scotland can conveniently be formed.

The Assembly enjoin the Colonial Committee to endeavour to secure that when settlements are effected the minimum salary of ministers to be appointed shall be not less than 1600 dollars; and unless this amount can be provided by the local parties, the Committee is hereby authorised to contribute what is necessary to secure this minimum. With regard to the stipend of the Rev. Duncan McDougall, his congregation having promised 1200 dollars per annum, the Committee are instructed to add to this amount 400 dollars per annum, or such lesser sum as will bring his stipend up to 1600 dollars per annum the amount thus added to the Congregational contribution not to exceed 400 dollars each year.

The Assembly enjoin upon the Committee to give first attention to consolidating our cause in the cities already mentioned, but to give sympathetic consideration to requests for services from any other fields in North America where it may appear work can be profitably begun.

The Assembly approve and adopt the Recommendations in the Report marked (d), (e), (f) (subject to the word “consideration “ in (f) being read “recommendation”), (q) and (i), and enjoin upon the Committee to give special consideration to Recommendation (d) with regard to Title Deeds and Incorporations.

The Assembly refer Recommendations (b) and (h) to the Committee for consideration, and to report to next Assembly whether they consider these two recommendations should be given effect to.

The Assembly resolve that the North American Mission be meanwhile connected with the Presbytery of Glasgow.

The Assembly learn with great pleasure of the reasonable spirit displayed by Mr. MacDougall in his interviews with the Commissioners, as referred to in the body of the Report; but regret exceedingly to note Mr MacDougall’s reference to his possible resignation from the service of the Committee, as reported in the Addendum.

The Assembly express their earnest hope that Mr. MacDougall may have much joy and prosperity in his work, and assure him of the sympathetic interest of the Church. It is their earnest hope that matters may not eventuate as suggested in the Addendum to the Report; but should this occur, the November and March Commissions are hereby fully empowered to deal with the situation.

With regard to possible alterations in the Constitution of the Congregation at Vancouver, the Assembly remit the matter to the Colonial Committee to give all needed help, legal or otherwise, to the Vancouver Congregation to enable them to make such alterations as may make it impossible at any time to alienate the property from the Free Church of Scotland.

As regards other financial matters mentioned in the Report, the Assembly remit them for further consideration to the Colonial Committee, and to report to the November or March Commissions which are empowered to deal with the matter.

The Assembly order a Collection to be made throughout the congregations of the Church for Colonial work, and instruct the Committee appointed to prepare an Act anent Collections to find a place for this Collection.

The Assembly commend the whole work in Canada to the blessing of the Almighty, and pray that He may raise up labourers for that great field.

**VII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh,
27th May 1924. Sess. 11.**

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edin-

burgh, on Tuesday, the 19th day of May 1925, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

OVERTURE SENT DOWN TO PRESBYTERIES FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

WHEREAS last General Assembly remitted to the Presbyteries simpliciter for their opinion the Overture from the Presbytery of Edinburgh to increase the representation of Presbyteries to the General Assembly from one-third to two-thirds of charges in Presbyteries.

Whereas the General Assembly, being of a representative character, always claimed and exercised the right to vary the representation of Presbyteries to it from time to time.

Whereas it has long been an unwritten law of the Church that ex-Moderators should be returned annually as Commissioners to the Assembly, so that their ripe experience might be available in the discharge of its business.

Whereas in the case of several Presbyteries of the Church, should ex-Moderators continue to be returned as Commissioners, other Ministers of said Presbyteries, under the present arrangement of a one-third representation, cannot be returned, as is their due, every third year.

Whereas the Presbyteries are accordingly faced with the alternatives of disregarding the practice hitherto observed of returning the ex-Moderators yearly, or depriving their other ministerial members of the privileges of being commissioned once in three years.

The Assembly ordain that Presbyteries be at liberty to send up as Commissioners their ex-Moderators (with a corresponding number of elders) over and above the quota of one-third otherwise assigned to them.

The Assembly otherwise allow the one-third representation to continue.

The General Assembly transmit the above Overture to Presbyteries for their consideration.

CONTENTS 1925

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

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

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

MAY XIX., MCMXXXV (1925)

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, 20th May 1925. Sess. 10.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The loyal and dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to His Majesty the King.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, 20th May 1925, desire anew to express our unwavering attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We rejoice that Your Rule is so happily established in the reverent esteem and affectionate regard of Your subjects, and offer unto God Almighty our heart-felt thanks that He, in His good Providence, has restored You to wonted health and vigour.

Believing, with Your Majesty, that the British Empire depends for its security and prosperity on goodwill between its constituent peoples, we note with deepest interest the phenomenal success attendant on the official visits of Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, to the more distant parts of Your Dominions; thus strengthening the bonds of Empire, amid the homage of utter loyalty.

Whilst, as a Church, we strive together for the Faith of the Gospel at home and abroad, we also strive after social amelioration, according to our Lord and His Apostles; being greatly encouraged in our efforts by the inspiring example of Your Majesty and Your Royal Consort.

We earnestly pray that all blessings may rest upon Your Majesty in the discharge of the duties of Your exalted office. We likewise supplicate the divine favour upon our Most Gracious Queen and upon all the members of Your Royal House.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful subjects,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

ROBERT MOORE, Moderator.

II. - Act anent the Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1925. Sess. 8.

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend for the year 1924 at the rate of £240, exclusive of the annual premium of £7, payable on behalf of said Ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £130 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements, to be apportioned among them so that their total ministerial income for the year 1924 shall in no case exceed £247.

The General Assembly authorise that the sum of £925 be taken from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and be dealt with during the year 1925 under the terms of Act III. 1918.

III. - Act anent Collections (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1925. Sess. 11.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1925 Publications. 2. ,, August Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. November ,, Jewish Mission. 6. ,, January 1920 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, April ,, Colonial. 10. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His abounding goodness during the past year as shown by the liberality of the people of the Church. The General Assembly urge all the faithful people of the Church to continue to contribute to the Lord's cause, according as the Lord may prosper them, and always to contribute with Calvary in full view, thus giving heed to the teaching of Paul on Christian liberality in 2nd Corinthians, chapters viii. and ix. The Claims of the different Schemes of the Church are more clamant than ever.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every congregation. They consider this a matter of very great urgency.

The General Assembly also enjoin the Ministers and Preachers of the Church, when intimating these Collections, to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church; that the people may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are again directed to arrange that pulpit intimations urging the claims of the different Schemes of the Church be prepared and sent out to each congregation. The whole statement

issued by each Convener should be read to the congregation, and not merely the substance of it.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the nearest convenient date.

The General Assembly further enjoin that in no case should the opportunity and the privilege of contributing to these Collections be withheld from the people. The General Assembly lay great stress upon this.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the Congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, that the same reasons may be laid before the Assembly.

The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion urge on the people the duty and the privilege of systematic giving.

IV. - Act anent Office of General Treasurer (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1925. Sess. 7.

The General Assembly having learned that Mr W. Rounsfell Brown, an esteemed member of this House, and General Treasurer of the Church during the trying period between 1900 and 1901, is due to retire from his office under the Glasgow Education Authority at the end of October 1925, and, being assured of his willingness to serve the Church for such period as God, in His Providence may permit, hereby appoint Mr Rounsfell Brown to the office of General Treasurer, and at the same time they appoint Mr. John W. Baxter, Interim General Treasurer, to be Depute General Treasurer, the combined salaries allotted to these officials not to exceed the total salary paid to the late General Treasurer.

The Finance Committee are hereby authorised to fix the salaries pertaining to the respective offices.

The following terms and conditions shall be attached to the office of General Treasurer, viz. :

-

(1) That the General Treasurer be required to devote his whole time, within office hours, to the duties of his office.

(2) That he reside in Edinburgh during his tenure of office.

(3) That the appointment be terminable by six months' notice in writing on either side; and

(4) That the General Treasurer be required to find caution to the amount of £3,000 by a cautionary Bond by a Guarantee Company of good standing - the premium to be payable by the Church.

V. - Act anent Office of Secretary to the Highlands and Islands Committee (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1925. Sess. 9.

The General Assembly repeal the Act No. 4, Class II. 1908, in so far as it provides that all letters addressed to the Convener of the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee shall be laid unopened before the Treasurer, or, in his unavoidable absence, the Senior Clerk (Article 4), and when opened shall be at once sent to the Convener of the said Committee; in so far as it provides that the said Convener shall reply to all letters addressed to him and return them to the Office; and in so far as it provides that letters to be sent out in implement of the Minutes of Meeting of the said Committee shall be sent to the Convener thereof for signature. (Article 6).

The Assembly also repeal the enactment of 24th May 1922 (in the Deliverance upon the Report of the Finance Committee), in so far as it may be deemed to preclude the making of an appointment of a Secretary to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee, and declare that the Secretary to the said Committee is not included in the “ subordinate Staff,” or in the “ other members of the Staff “ referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of the Scheme appended to the said Act No. 4, Class II. 1908.

The Assembly, notwithstanding any irregularities that may attach to the action of the General Assembly of 1924 or its Commission, in the appointment of Mr D. MacBeath as Secretary of the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee, confirm his appointment and the conditions attached thereto, as made by the Commission of Assembly of 13th August 1924.

VI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.), Edinburgh, 26th May 1925. Sess. 11.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. John Shaw (Leith); named by the Moderator :- TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence

upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets: and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Church, arising out of the allocations of the Commission under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, the General Assembly empower their Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to be taken in the interests of the Church in that connection, and such as the Assembly themselves might take: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

VII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1925. Sess. 11.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 18th day of May 1926, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1926

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

1. Act anent Appointment of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Acts anent changes of Standing Orders 4. Act anent Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees. 5. Act anent Appointment of General Trustees 6. Act anent Training of the Ministry 7. Act anent Address to the King 8. Act anent Collections 9. Act anent Appointment of Commission of Assembly 10. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XVIII., MCMXXVI. (1926)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Appointment of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1926. Sess. 2.

The Assembly were informed that sundry nominations for the office had been made by the Presbyteries of the Church. After certain of the nominees had withdrawn their names, there remained the Rev. J. Shaw, Rev. W. Macleod, and Rev. D. McKenzie.

The appointment of each of these was moved and seconded.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands upon the three nominations, the Rev. D. McKenzie was declared to have the least number of votes, and his name was accordingly dropped.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands between Mr. Shaw and Mr. Macleod, it was declared that a majority voted in favour of Mr Shaw.

The motion for appointment of Mr. John Shaw was then put to the Assembly, and was adopted unanimously.

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

II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1926. Sess. 2.

The Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend, for the year 1925, at the rate of £250, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable on behalf of said Ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £175 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements, to be apportioned among them so that their total ministerial income for the year 1925 shall in no case exceed £257.

The Assembly also authorise that a sum of £275 be placed at the disposal of the Highlands Committee towards supplementing the remuneration of their Agents.

The Assembly authorise that the sum of £1000 be taken from the credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and be dealt with during the year 1926 under the terms of Act III. 1918.

The Assembly receive the resignation by Professor Cameron of the office of Secretary of the Sustentation Fund Committee, appoint the Assistant Clerk of the Assembly (unpaid) Secretary in room of Professor Cameron.

III. - Acts anent changes of Standing Orders (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 1st June 1926. Sess. 2.

The Assembly ordain that Standing Order VI. 2 be altered so as that its closing paragraph should read, “ and that the Assistant Clerk of Assembly, as Secretary of the Sustentation Fund Committee, shall be ex officio a member of the Sustentation Fund Committee.”

Edinburgh, 4th June 1926. Sess. 8.

The Assembly ordain that Standing Order VI. 7 shall now stand as follows :-

VI.7. That the Standing Committee changed throughout, and these retiring members who are not laymen are not to be eligible for appointment to any other Standing Committee for at least one year from the date of their retirement (it being competent to appoint a layman to another Committee than that which he has just vacated), and in the event of the death, &c.

IV. - Act anent Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 2nd June 1926. Sess. 4.

The General Assembly approve of and authorise the incorporation of the General Trustees of the Church as a Company to be named “The Free Church of Scotland General Trustees’ Nominees,” to be limited by guarantee, for the purpose of holding the Church’s securities and investments in order to the more convenient and economical transaction therewith, and authorise the Committee to take such steps as may be proper and necessary to originate the Company; and further authorise the General Trustees and others holding securities for behoof of the Church to transfer the same to the Company.

V. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustees (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 2nd June 1926. Sess. 4.

The General Assembly nominate and appoint the Rev. Alexander Stewart, 5 Forbes Road, Edinburgh; the Rev. John Macleod, O.B.E., 8 Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow; Mr John Macdonald, 33 Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow; Mr George Hendry Macdonald, Bank of Scotland House, Fort William; Mr Finlay Graham, 37 Queen Mary Avenue, Crosshill, Glasgow; Mr John Fraser, 19 Crown Drive, Inverness; Mr Roderick Cameron, Bank Agent, 164 High Street, Elgin; and Mr John Hosack, Commercial Bank House, Kyle, to be General Trustees of the Church in addition to those presently holding office as General Trustees.

VI. - Act anent Training of the Ministry (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 4th June 1926. Sess. 8.

The Assembly, on the recommendation of the Training of the Ministry Committee, ordain that Act IV., 1915 and Act V., 1919 be amended by altering the words “endeavour to induce said

pupil to take,” in paragraph 2, to “ make it a condition that said pupil take,” and by omitting the words “ to endeavour “ before “ to make arrangements,” in the same paragraph, and by altering the last clause of paragraph 3 from “which on examination shall be found satisfactory to the Training of the Ministry Committee” to “sufficient to enable them to pass the examination to the Divinity College.” So that paragraphs 2 and 3 will read

2. That the Training of the Ministry Committee annually take into consideration the case of every Central or Secondary School pupil who is preparing for entrance into the University and to whom they grant a bursary or monetary aid, and make it a condition that said pupil take Latin and Greek as subjects of study where facilities for such exist at his Centre, and where facilities do not obtain to make arrangement that will allow of such knowledge being acquired by the pupil.

The Training of the Ministry Committee is also empowered to act along with other Churches, or separately, in order to secure, if possible, that Latin and Greek be taught in the Central Schools throughout the country.

3. Students who do not take Latin and Greek for graduation are required to secure, during their University Course by attendance at University or extra-mural Classes, a knowledge of these languages sufficient to enable them to pass the Entrance Examination to the Divinity College.

That in the Deliverance of Assembly 1920, Appendix I., in Section II., Sub-Section 2, last paragraph, the words “ Religious Knowledge along with any four other subjects “ be altered to “ Religious Knowledge and Greek along with any three other subjects.” So that the paragraph will read:

The Subjects of Examination are eight in number and are the same for both Examinations; of these candidates must take Religious Knowledge and Greek along with any three other subjects, unless exempted as above, the time for each paper set will be one hour and a half.

For the encouragement of the study of Gaelic literature the Assembly enact that Gaelic-speaking students be allowed to substitute a prescribed course in Gaelic for the course in Mathematics at the Entrance Examination to the Divinity College.

VII. - Act anent Address to the King (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 4th June 1926 Sess. 8.

TO THE KING’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The loyal and dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to His Majesty the King.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty’s faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, 4th June 1926, again pledge our cordial devotion to Your Majesty’s Throne and Person.

We most respectfully offer to You our sincere condolences upon the passing of Your venerated Mother, Queen Alexandra, of precious memory; whilst we also rejoice with You over the recovery of Your Sister, Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria, from serious illness.

We greatly deplore the recent industrial turmoil, with its grave menace to ordered rule and national well-being. We fervently thank God that its threatened calamities are now overpast : leaving our civic institutions unimpaired in strength and Your Majesty's Throne exalted in splendour.

It is our earnest prayer that all the peoples under Your sway may become increasingly imbued with those ideals of duty and benevolence which are enshrined in the Teaching of our Lord disposing the minds of men to reverence in the use of freedom, justice in the exercise of power, generosity in the protection of the weak, concord betwixt man and man, and goodwill among the nations.

With one heart and mind, we supplicate the blessing of God Almighty upon Your Majesty, also upon our Gracious Queen, upon His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and all the other members of your Royal House; gratefully acknowledging Your unwearied efforts to promote the material and moral welfare of all within the Empire. We trust that You may long reign over a prosperous and contented Realm - a perennial blessing in the midst thereof.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most loyal servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our authority,

ALEXANDER STEWART, Moderator.

VIII - Act anent Collections (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 4th June 1926. Sess. 9.

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

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1926 Psalmody. 2. ,, July ,, Publications. 3. ,, August ,, Constitutional-ist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 4. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 5. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands.' 6. ,, November ,, Jewish Mission. 7. ,, January 1927 Welfare of Youth. 8. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 9. ,, March ,, Buildings. 10. ,, April ,, Colonial. 11. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly desire to place on record their gratitude to God for His abounding goodness during the past year as shown by the liberality of the people of the Church. The General Assembly urge all the faithful people of the Church to continue to contribute to the Lord's cause, according as the Lord may prosper them, and always to contribute with Calvary

in full view, thus giving heed to the teaching of Paul on Christian liberality in 2nd Corinthians, chapters viii. and ix. The Claims of the different Schemes of the Church, are more clamant than ever.

The General Assembly further enjoin that an Association for Foreign Missions be formed in every congregation. They consider this a matter of very great urgency.

The General Assembly also enjoin the Ministers and Preachers of the Church, when intimating these Collections, to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church; that the people may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are again directed to arrange that pulpit intimations urging the claims of the different Schemes of the Church be prepared and sent out to each congregation. The whole statement issued by each Convener should be read to the congregation, and not merely the substance of it.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the nearest convenient date.

The General Assembly further enjoin that in no case should the opportunity and the privilege of contributing to these Collections be withheld from the people. The General Assembly lay great stress upon this.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting congregations and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, that the same reasons may be laid before the Assembly.

The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion urge on the people the duty and the privilege of systematic giving.

IX. - Act anent Appointment of Commission of Assembly (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 4th June 1926. Sess. 9.

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, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter re-

ferred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end : And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned : And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

X. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 4th June 1926. Sess. 9.

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1927, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1927

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

1. Act anent the Sustentation Fund 2. Act anent the Appointment of a Principal to the College. 3. Act anent Collections 4. Act anent Address to the King 5. Act anent Commission to the Moderator 6. Act anent Orderly Constitution of the Assembly of 1928. 7. Act anent Appointment of Commission of Assembly. 8. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly

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

MAY XXIV., MCMXXVII. (1927)

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

NONE

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

**I. - Act anent the Sustentation Fund (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1927.
Sess. 5.**

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend to all Ministers on the Platform of the Equal Dividend, for the year 1926, at the rate of £250, exclusive of the annual premium of £7 payable for each Minister to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £175 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements, that sum to be apportioned among them at the discretion of the Committee, but so that the total Ministerial income of no such Minister shall thereby, for the year 1926, exceed the Equal Dividend.

The Assembly also authorise the payment by the Committee to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission and Supply Committee. of the sum of £275 to be applied by the latter Committee, at their discretion, for supplementing the remuneration of their Highland Agents.

The Assembly approve the transfer of £1,000 from the Credit balance of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund to the Sustentation Fund to be dealt with during the year 1927, agreeably to the terms of Act III., 1918: and the Assembly add the Rev. John Macleod O.B.E., to the list of beneficiaries under that Act.

In administering that Act, the Committee are instructed that the lower rate of bonus to a Minister (not retired) whose period of service in the Ministry does not exceed thirty years is, without further authorisation, to be raised to the higher rate after the completion of thirty years' service.

II. - Act anent the Appointment of a Principal to the College. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1927. Sess. 7 and 8.

The General Assembly hereby appoint the Rev. John Macleod, D.D., Free North Manse, Inverness, to be Principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh.

Intimation having been made by telegram to the Rev. John Macleod, D.D., Free North Manse, Inverness, of his appointment to be Principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and Dr. Macleod having by telegram intimated his acceptance of the appointment, 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; and they ordain that his salary begin from this date.

III. - Act anent Collections (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1927. Sess. 11.

The General Assembly place on record their fervent gratitude to God for His goodness as shown in the liberality of their people during the past year. They now appoint the following Collections to be made in all Congregations of the Church during the ensuing

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1927 Publications. 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Mission. 6. ,, January 1928 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, April ,, Colonial. 10. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly, in appointing these Collections, anew afford opportunities to their faithful people of supporting and extending most worthy and necessary Christian work at home and abroad, and exhort their people to do so in a manner worthy of the causes these Collections represent.

The General Assembly remind Congregations that giving is a grace, and as we are exhorted to "grow in grace" it follows that we are to grow in giving.

The General Assembly enjoin that special attention be given to the cause of Foreign Missions, as the obligations and responsibilities of the Church therein are manifoldly increasing, and they exhort that, as far as possible, a Foreign Mission Association be formed in every Congregation where it does not already exist.

The General Assembly also, enjoin the Ministers and Preachers of the Church, when intimating these Collections, to emphasise the importance of the various Schemes of the Church, that the people may contribute with prayerful and intelligent interest. Conveners of Committees are again directed to arrange that pulpit intimations urging the claims of the different Schemes of the Church be prepared and sent out to each Congregation. The whole statement issued by each Convener should be read to the Congregation, and not merely the substance of it.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Collections be made on the days appointed, or on the nearest convenient date.

The General Assembly further enjoin that in no case should the opportunity and the privilege of contributing to these Collections be withheld from the people. The General Assembly lay great stress upon this.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the Congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting Congregations; and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these Congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby

enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating the reasons assigned for the failure to make such Collections, that the same reasons may be laid before the Assembly.

The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of this Act be read in every Congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion urge on the people the duty and the privilege of systematic giving.

IV. - Act anent Address to the King (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1927. Sess. 10.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The loyal and dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly in Edinburgh, 24th May 1927, as Your Majesty's loyal subjects, anew pay our respectful homage to Your Majesty's person, and renew the pledge of our unfeigned devotion to Your Majesty's Throne.

We rejoice at the cordial goodwill that pervades and binds together in filial devotion the various members of the Commonwealth of Nations over which your sceptre holds beneficent sway.

We humbly offer our hearty thanks to the God of Providence, who has extended the protection of His Fatherly care over the persons of their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of York, in their abundant and arduous services in the Overseas Dominions; for the warmth of affection shown by the peoples of these Dominions to Their Highnesses' Persons, and Your Majesty's Throne: and we earnestly pray that Their Highnesses may be brought safely back across the seas to the Motherland.

We pray for the continued prosperity of the diverse peoples and races under Your Majesty's rule; for continued harmony in the peaceful relation of Your Throne with the Nations of the Earth; and for the advancement of the peace ideals advanced by Your Majesty's Government and set forth in the teaching of Him who is the Prince of Peace.

We earnestly supplicate the blessing of God Almighty upon Your Majesty's person and our Gracious Queen, and upon all the members of the Royal Family; humbly and gratefully recognising Your Majesty's unwearied services for the well-being of the people, and Your Majesty's inspiring example of a devoted life, and we earnestly pray that you may long reign over a prosperous and contented people.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most loyal servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our authority,

ALEXANDER DEWAR, Moderator.

V. - Act anent Commission to the Moderator (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1927. Sess. 3.

The General Assembly find that the failure of the Presbytery of Kaffraria to appoint the Rev. Alexander Dewar as a Commissioner is due to defective legislation on the part of the General Assembly itself, and the General Assembly here and now enact and ordain that Mr Dewar be here and now declared to be competently a Member of this General Assembly.

VI. - Act anent Orderly Constitution of the Assembly of 1928. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1927. Sess. 10.

The General Assembly, in accordance with recommendation made, enact that during the period of his present furlough, the Rev. Alexander Dewar have a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and be a constituent Member of that Presbytery.

VII. - Act anent Appointment of Commission of Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1927. Sess. 11

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. John Shaw, named by the Moderator TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to it for raising preaching stations to fully sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; and to receive any refer-

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

VIII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 31st May 1927. Sess. 11.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 22nd day of May 1928, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1928

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

1. Act anent Appointment of Editor of the Instructor 2. Act anent Salaries of General Treasurer and Depute General Treasurer 3. Act anent Sustentation Fund 4. Act anent Cancellation of Building Debts 5. Act anent Regulations for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 6. Act anent Salary of Secretary of Highlands and Islands Committee 7. Act anent Regulations of the Highlands and Islands Committee concerning provision for Aged and Infirm Agents. 8. Act anent Training of the Ministry 9. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 10. Act anent Congregational Titles 11. Act anent Collections 12. Act anent Commission of Assembly 13. Act anent Appointment of next Assembly

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

MAY XXII., MCMXXVIII. (1928)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of the Instructor (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1928. Sess. 2.

The Assembly unanimously appoint the Rev. Robert M. Knox, Minister of Buccleuch and Greyfriars Congregation, Edinburgh, to be the Editor of the Instructor, on the terms on which the former Editor had been appointed.

II. - Act anent Salaries of General Treasurer and Depute General Treasurer (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1928. Sess. 3.

The General Assembly hereby resolve that from and after the term of Whitsunday 1928 the salary of each of the General Treasurer and the Depute General Treasurer shall be £350 per annum.

III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1928. Sess. 3.

The Assembly, having regard to the effect of payments made in terms of Act III., 1918, declare, for the year 1927, an Equal Dividend to all Ministers who, on 31st December 1927, were on the Platform of the Equal Dividend, at the rate of £250. exclusive of the sum of £7 payable on behalf of said Ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £255 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements, that sum to be apportioned among them at the discretion of the Committee, but so as that none of these Ministers shall thereby have less than £200 nor more than the Equal Dividend.

The Assembly also authorise the payment to the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee of a sum of £275. to be applied, at the discretion of that Committee, for supplementing the remuneration of their resident Lay Agents.

The Assembly add to the list of beneficiaries, under Act III. 1918, the following: Rev. Peter Clarkson, Coulter; Rev. John Macleod, D.D., Inverness; Rev. Angus MacKay, Farr; Rev. John P. Sinclair, Orlig; and Rev. Alexander M. Ross, Oban.

IV. - Act anent Cancellation of Building Debts (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1928. Sess. 7.

The Assembly authorise the cancellation of the whole debts due, under obligations entered into with the Buildings Committee by the following congregations, viz. - Aberdeen, Kirkcaldy, Shettleston, Stevenston; Portnahaven, and Arisaig. With regard to the debts due by remaining congregations, as detailed in the Statement appended to the Committee's Report, the Assembly instruct the Committee to take steps to ascertain through the respective Presbyteries if the congregations concerned can reasonably be expected to implement their undertakings, and, if so, to urge upon them their duty, and to report their diligence to the

General Assembly of 1929.

**V. - Act anent Regulations for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. (No. 5 of Class II.)
Edinburgh, 25th May 1928. Sess. 7.**

The General Assembly enact and ordain that from and after 15th May 1928, Ministers who have been ordained (or, if already ordained, inducted) to and who at that date occupy or who shall come thereafter to occupy Foreign Mission Stations or Charges of the Free Church of Scotland outwith Scotland, such Charges being under the cognisance of the Foreign Mission, Colonial, Continental and Jewish Committee, shall be eligible as beneficiaries of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund in accordance with the Regulations of the Fund.

Further, the General Assembly approve and adopt the Regulations for the administration of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund appended to the Report, these Regulations being altered as follows, viz. :-

By the deletion therefrom of (i) Sub-Section (1) of Section III. and (ii) the whole of Section V. as therein printed, and the substitution therefor respectively of (i) Section III. (1)- "Grants of two kinds may be made from the Income of the Fund to persons eligible as beneficiaries who apply therefor agreeably to these Regulations, such beneficiaries being in this connection referred to as Applicants, viz., (a) Grants (hereinafter referred to as Aid Grants) to aid in the employment as Assistants of Lay Agents or Licentiates approved by the Committee and the Presbytery; (b) Grants (hereinafter referred to as Personal Grants) because of Age or Infirmary. Grants shall be regulated as regards amount by the length of time during which the beneficiary shall, under the Regulations, be deemed to have been eligible as a beneficiary"; and (ii) Section V. (1) " 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 thereagainst, 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 20 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 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 30 years in duration, and £10 in the case of those whose service as aforesaid exceeds 30 years."

(2) All payments to a Minister under the provisions of the immediately preceding Sub-Section shall cease if and which a Personal Grant shall be payable to him." And ordain that the same, altered as aforesaid, shall as from and after the 15th day of May 1928 be the Regulations under which the Fund shall be administered; but under reservation always to the recipients of grants corresponding to " Personal" or "Aid" Grants at the foresaid date of their whole rights to the continuance of payment to them of the sums then payable to them, which rights shall in no way be prejudicially affected by the said Regulations. Further, the General Assembly do hereby repeal the Acts or Deliverances specified in the first column of the Schedule appended to the foresaid Regulations to the extent specified in the second column of the said

Schedule.

Further, the General Assembly enact and declare that when any Minister, Foreign Missionary, or Professor shall have been retired and shall become a recipient of a Personal Grant from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund in terms of the Regulations thereanent nevertheless there shall continue to be paid out of the Sustentation Fund, Foreign Mission Fund, or College Fund, as may be appropriate, the sum of £7, and any additional sum as Climatic Rate, requisite for keeping him within the provisions of the Free Churches (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund; and they further enact and declare that, subject to the Regulations, it shall be incumbent upon the Minister, Foreign Missionary, or Professor so retiring to Vacate the Manse or residence, if any, attached to his Charge, Station or Chair, and that the entire income of the Charge, Station or Chair shall be available to the Colleague or Successor who may be appointed to him.

VI. - Act anent Salary of Secretary of Highlands and Islands Committee (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1928. Sess. 8.

The General Assembly authorise an increase of the Salary of the Secretary of the Highlands and Islands, Home Mission, and Supply Committee from £300 to £350 per annum, as from 15th May 1928.

VII. - Act anent Regulations of the Highlands and Islands Committee concerning provision for Aged and Infirm Agents. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1928. Sess. 8.

The General Assembly recognise the careful way in which the Committee have sought to carry out the injunction given them by the General Assembly of 1927, in the sense that they should prepare a set of Rules and Regulations to determine the conditions, in respect of length of service and remuneration, that would guide them in future in making provision for disabled or retired Agents.

These Rules and Regulations, as detailed in the Appendix to this Report the General Assembly now sanction, excepting that the words "and (2) The . . . Act 1925 in paragraph VI. of the Regulations, be deleted.

VIII. - Act anent Training of the Ministry (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1928. Sess. 11.

The Assembly, on the recommendation of the Training of the Ministry Committee ordain :-

(1) That Act IV., 1915, be amended by adding to Section 2, Sub-Section I., the words "Application to be so recognised may be made only by Students who have attained the age of 23 and who have been handicapped through early Educational disadvantages. No Student in receipt of financial assistance from the Committee, who enters the University, can be regarded as doing so with the sanction of the Committee, unless he shall qualify as a regular Student or obtain this recognition from the Training of the Ministry Committee

(2) That Act V. 1919, be amended by cancelling Sub-Section IV. of Section 3;

so that Act IV. 1915, Section 2, Sub-Section (1) shall read :-

“The Training of the Ministry Committee is empowered to determine who shall be recognised as Irregular Students in their University Course. Application to be so recognised may be made only by Students who have attained the age of 23 and who have been handicapped through early Educational disadvantages. No Student in receipt of financial assistance from the Committee, who enters the University, can be regarded as doing so with the sanction of the Committee unless he shall qualify as a Regular Student or obtain this recognition from the Training of the Ministry Committee”; and Act V., 1919, Section 3, Sub-Section (4), shall disappear, viz.: “To prevent undue advantage being taken of the provisions of Part II., Students whose Arts Course has been irregular shall not be admitted to the study of Divinity until they have attained the age of 25 years.”

The Assembly approve the continuance for another year of the Supplement of 20 per cent. granted last year to the Principal and Professors on their salaries, and to Divinity Hall Students on their Bursaries.

IX. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1928. Sess. 11.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The loyal and dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, 29th May 1928, desire most respectfully to assure Your Majesty of our unswerving allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne. We fervently thank God Almighty for all he has been pleased to do for You and in You and by You for the material welfare, the social amelioration, and the moral advancement of the multitudes who own Your sway.

We rejoice at the better prospects of trade and commerce within Your Dominions; but deeply deplore the continued depopulation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, many of our finest young men and women being compelled to seek a career in foreign lands.

We note with pleasure the growing self-restraint and mutual helpfulness among the diverse peoples over whom You rule. We diligently labour for the utter cessation of war among the nations and gladly further all formal schemes which make for this great end, whilst, as the servants of the Prince of Peace, we endeavour to exhibit and apply those Gospel principles which destroy the glamour of war and the lure of conquest, fostering, at the same time, the spirit of harmony and goodwill among men.

We earnestly pray that Your Majesty may long be spared to wield a sceptre of truth and righteousness; reigning over a Kingdom-and-Empire which stands for freedom, peace, security, and the noblest ideals of Christian civilization. May all blessings of Heaven above and earth beneath attend Your Majesty and Your Royal Consort, Queen Mary; likewise His Royal

Highness, the Prince of Wales, and all the other Members of Your Royal House.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient Servants,

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

Signed in our name and by our authority,

A.D. CAMERON, Moderator.

X. - Act anent Congregational Titles (No. 10 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1928. Sess. 11.

The Assembly commend the care shewn by the Committee for the interest of Congregations with reference to the feudal conditions affecting, and the continuity of Trustees for holding, heritable properties; and the Assembly enjoin upon Presbyteries that they expressly warn Deacons' Courts and Committees of Management to make periodical examination into the state of Congregational titles. This matter ought to be a specific subject of enquiry on each occasion of Presbyterial Visitation of a Congregation.

XI. - Act anent Collections (No. 11 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1928. Sess. 12.

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

They now appoint the following Collections to be made throughout the Church during the ensuing year

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1928 Publications. 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions. 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands. 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Mission. 6. ,, January 1929 Welfare of Youth. 7. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry. 8. ,, March ,, Buildings. 9. ,, May ,, Home Missions.

The General Assembly, in appointing these Collections, anew afford opportunities to their faithful people of supporting and extending worthy and necessary Christian work at home and abroad, and exhort their people to do so in a manner worthy of the causes these Collections represent.

The General Assembly remind Congregations that giving liberally to distinctively Christian work is the exercise of a great Christian grace.

The General Assembly remind their Congregations that the Foreign Mission responsibilities of the Church are increasing with the rapid expansion of our work abroad, and they exhort that a Foreign Mission Association be formed in every congregation.

The General Assembly enjoin upon Ministers and Preachers to explain fully to Congregations the object for which each particular Collection is made, and to help the people in every possible way to contribute prayerfully and intelligently.

The General Assembly enjoin that, in so far as possible, regard will be had to the dates appointed by the Assembly for making the various Collections.

The General Assembly enjoin that the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these Collections will in no circumstance be withheld from the people.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the Congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting Congregations, and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these Congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating reason assigned for the failure to make such Collections, the said reason to be laid before the Assembly.

The General Assembly direct that the foregoing part of the Act be read in every Congregation on the first convenient Sabbath after receipt thereof, and that preachers on that occasion urge on the people the duty of systematic giving.

XII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly (No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1928 Sess. 12.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Donald Munro, D.D.. named by the Moderator : TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly. with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first WEDnesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, the subject matter which in the Deliverance upon the Foreign Mission Committee's Report, was remitted to Presbyteries, who are directed to report to the Commission, and in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets: and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : And further, the said Commission are

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

XIII. - Act anent Appointment of next Assembly (No. 13 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May 1928. Sess. 12.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 21st day of May 1929, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

CONTENTS 1929.

PRINCIPAL ACTS

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT. NONE.

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

1. Act anent Address to His Majesty the King 2. Act anent Sustentation Fund 3. Act anent Regulations for the guidance of Foreign Missionaries 4. Act anent Collections 5. Act anent Representation on Committees 6. Act anent Week of Humiliation and Prayer 7. Act anent Commission of Assembly 8. Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly.

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

MAY XXI., MCMXXIX. (1929)

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

NONE

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

1. - Act anent Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1929. Sess. 11.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The loyal and dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, 28th May 1929, desire anew to express our unwavering attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Throne. In common with all Your devoted subjects, we followed with deep concern the course of Your Majesty's recent serious illness. From every family altar and from every pulpit of our Church prayers ascended for Your relief from bodily distress and for restoration to former fulness of health and vigour. And in common with all Your devoted subjects, we adore and magnify the marvellous loving kindness of God Almighty towards You.

We rejoice at the spirit of goodwill and mutual responsibility which in growing measure makes for the abatement of industrial distress and the solution of international problems. In both respects Your Majesty's interest has been invaluable.

We fervently pray that all blessings both temporal and spiritual may be the happy portion of Your Majesty and of Your Royal Consort, likewise of all the Members of Your Royal House. Long may You be spared to reign over the Kingdom and Empire.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful subjects,

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

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

JOHN R. MACKAY, Moderator.

II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1929. Sess. 3.

The Assembly humbly recognise the goodness of God Who has enabled their people to provide for the maintenance of Gospel Ordinances during the past year, and they thank their loyal people for their continued interest in the support of the Lord's Cause. The Assembly having regard to the payments made in terms of Act V., 1928, declare for the year 1928 an Equal Dividend to all Ministers who, on 31st December 1928, were on the Platform of the Equal Dividend at the rate of £250, exclusive of the sum of £7 payable on behalf of said Ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Assembly authorise that a sum of £114 be set apart to augment the salaries of Ministers settled under Special Arrangements, that sum to be apportioned among them at the discretion

of the Committee, but so as that none of these Ministers shall have less than £200 nor thereby more than the Equal Dividend.

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

The Assembly place Rev. John MacNeilage, Minister at Bower, in the Presbytery of Caithness, on the List of Beneficiaries under Section V. (1) of the Regulations for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund - Act V., 1928.

The Assembly renew their injunction to Presbyteries, Deacons Courts, and Finance Committees to keep the organisation of the Fund as efficient as possible.

The Assembly commend the Committee and their work to the prayers and liberality of their loyal people.

III. - Act anent Regulations for the Guidance of Foreign Missionaries. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1929. Sess. 6.

The General Assembly approve of the Regulations for the Guidance of Missionaries from Scotland, as appended to the Report (Of the Foreign Missions Committee, page 171), other than Article 17, Articles 18, 19 and 20 to be re-numbered 17, 18 and 19 respectively. In respect the Article printed as No. 17 (including Sub-Sections (a), (b) and (c)), on pages 82 and 83 of the Reports, deals with matters that are of very great importance, and that demand fuller consideration than they can receive from this General Assembly, the said Section is remitted to the Committee in order that the subject dealt with in it may be anew considered by them, and especially the question of the constitution of Presbyteries as provided for by the legislation of this Church, especially Acts IX., 1843; X., 1845; XVII., 1847; and I., 1889; and the rights and authority of said Courts where they exist, the Committee being enjoined to report on the matter to next General Assembly, and to indicate what legislation is necessary to give effect to the ends which they have in view, and also define more clearly the respective provinces of the Foreign Missions Committee, and Foreign Mission Presbyteries.

The Regulations as approved are:

FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE MISSIONS, AND THE GUIDANCE OF THE MISSIONARIES FROM SCOTLAND, OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

1. The Free Church of Scotland, through its Committee above named, selects, appoints, and sends forth to its present fields (and to any fields that may hereafter be taken up), the following classes of Missionaries :-

(1) Ordained Ministers, who have passed through the regular course of study in Arts and Theology, and have been by a Home Presbytery inducted to a particular field or office.

(2) Medical Graduates or Licentiates, who may either have received ordination as Ministers after a restricted course of Theological training, or, having been ordained Elders in a Home Congregation of the Church, have been set apart by a Home Presbytery under the Deliverance of the General Assembly of 1882.

(3) Male Graduates of Faculties other than those of Theology and Medicine in any University, members and, preferably, office-bearers in a Home Congregation of the Church who have been appointed Missionary Professors or Teachers in, the Christian Colleges, or Institutions and Schools of the Church.

(4) Certificated Male Teachers, members and, preferably, office-bearers in a Home Congregation of the Church.

(5) Women who are Medical Graduates or Licenciates, Graduates of Faculties other than Theology and Medicine, Certificated Teachers, Zenana Visitors, Trained nurses or Bible Women, members in a Home Congregation of the Church.

A Missionary of any class who is not a member in a Home Congregation of the Church shall not be appointed, except in special circumstances applicable to a particular location and office therein, and then only by direct authority of the General Assembly.

To the Industrial and School Departments of the various Missions, Colleges or Institutions local appointments are made by the Local Authority and duly reported to the Committee.

Missionaries, while appointed in the first instance to a particular station, may be transferred by, or by authority of, the Committee from one station to another in the same field.

2. Medical Certificate. - All appointments are subject to a medical certificate for both Missionaries and their wives, and for those who go out to be married to Missionaries.

3. Term of Office. - It shall always be within the power of the Committee at the time of an appointment to enter into special arrangements with any Missionary, Ordained or Unordained, for a definite term of service of such length and subject to such conditions as may be agreed on. Failing any such special arrangements (which are to be made only in exceptional circumstances and to be forthwith reported to the next ensuing General Assembly or meeting of its Commission), the following conditions shall apply, viz. -

(a) Ordained Missionaries. - In the case of Ordained Missionaries the appointment contemplates a service for life, but terminable at any time either, (1) by resignation, after six months notice given to the Committee and by them accepted; or (2) under the discipline of the Church Courts ; or (3) by a resolution of the Committee dispensing with the services of the Missionary for special reasons satisfactory to the Committee, and confirmed by the General Assembly. In the case of the Committee's resolution being confirmed, a year's notice, to date from the resolution of the Committee, or a year's salary, will be given, along with return passage if the Missionary whose services are so dispensed with shall not have already returned to Scotland at the expense of the Committee. If a Missionary shall resign, as above provided for, and his resignation shall have been accepted, the Committee shall not make payment of the passage home of the Missionary unless (i) the service of the Missionary since

the time of induction or the date when his last furlough took end (whichever is the later date) shall have endured for at least one-half of the period which in the particular field warrants a furlough, and (ii) the Missionary shall sail for Scotland within three months of his resignation taking effect, without prejudice always to the Committee making payment of the passage home where in their judgment the circumstances justify their so doing.

(b) All Unordained Missionaries (inclusive of Medical Missionaries, Teachers and others ordained as Elders), except such as shall be locally appointed to industrial and school departments, shall be appointed on a written engagement for a period which shall (subject to the terms of Rule 9 (v)) terminate at the expiration of five years from the date of landing at the principal port of the country to which they are sent, subject always to termination under discipline of the Church Courts, and subject also to a break at the end of three years, on either side, upon six months' notice, the side giving notice to be responsible for return passage. On the completion of the five years' term, the Committee shall pay three months' salary at furlough rate and also provide return passage, if the Missionary sails within three months after the expiry of the term of five years. It is hoped, however, as has frequently been the case, that the five years' engagement will be renewed indefinitely or for a specified period. An engagement renewed indefinitely will be terminable at any time by resignation after six months' notice given to the Committee, and by them accepted, in which event the conditions applicable in the case of the resignation of an Ordained Missionary shall apply. Each completed engagement, in the case of engagements for a definite period not renewed, and the operation of any authorised break in any such engagement, will found a claim for three months' salary at furlough rate and for return passage within three months of the date of leaving the Mission Station.

(c) Appointments run from the date of ordination and induction in the case of Ordained Missionaries, and in other cases from a date to be specified at the time of appointment. Salary shall be payable from these dates, but only at home (or furlough) rate until arrival at the seaport of the Mission country.

4. Marriage, Outfit, and Passage. - It is not desirable that young Missionaries of any class should marry until after experience of the climate and work, and until after learning the vernacular of the people. Where a married rate of salary is provided for, the same shall not, in ordinary circumstances, be given until the Committee are satisfied that the Missionary has attained working proficiency in the language of the people. Missionaries proceeding to India, South Africa or Peru, shall receive the sum of £60 for outfit; those proceeding to a Mission elsewhere, or to labour among the Jews, either in Great Britain or any Foreign Field, shall receive such greater or less sum, if any, as the Committee may deem appropriate. In every case the passage shall be paid, including reasonable travelling expenses at each end.

5. Widows' and Orphans' Fund. - Every Missionary who comes within the definition of "Missionary" in order No.19 (Widows' and Orphans' Fund) of the Commissioners acting under the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, or any Act or Order coming in place thereof, shall become connected with the Free Churches (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund, or any Fund coming in place thereof, and shall, during his term of service, pay, and so relieve the Committee of, the Annual Premium payable to the Fund. The entry money and the Marriage Tax required by the Regulations of the Fund shall also be payable by the Missionary. These several payments shall in the first instance be advanced by the Committee and retained from

the first quarterly salary due to be paid to the Missionary, three months after any such advance. But any additional payment required of a Missionary in respect of climatic risk shall be payable only by the Committee, and shall not be recoverable from the Missionary.

6. Insurance of Unordained Missionaries. - At the time of appointment each Unordained Missionary shall, at the request of, and as shall be arranged for by the Committee, enter into an insurance contract with a company to be approved by the Committee for effecting (a) an Endowment Insurance, payable on attainment of the age of 65, or at death, whichever shall first happen, of £500 in the case of Doctors (male or female), £400 in the case of Teachers (male or female), or £300 in the case of Zenana Visitors, Nurses and Bible Women, or (b) in the Missionary's option a Deferred Annuity, to begin at an age not exceeding 65, of £150 for Doctors, £100 in the case of Teachers, and £60 in the case of Zenana Visitors, Nurses and Bible Women premiums to be returnable with interest in the case of death or cancellation before the stipulated age.

These insurances shall be contributory - i.e., the premium shall be payable to the extent of two-thirds by the Committee and one-third by the Missionary, the Committee to advance, and deduct from the Missionary's salary, the Missionary's proportion of premium. If, in the case of an Endowment Policy, the Missionary shall continue in the service of the Church under the Committee, and shall survive until he shall attain the age of 65, then the sum payable shall be the absolute property of the Missionary. If the Missionary shall leave the service of the Church before attaining the stipulated age, the policy (a) in the case of Endowment Insurance, shall be surrendered, and the surrender value shall be divided between the Committee and the Missionary in proportion to the premiums paid by them respectively, but with an option to the Missionary to pay to the Committee a sum equivalent to their share of surrender value, and to take over and continue the policy on his or her own account; or (b) in the case of Deferred Annuity, shall be cancelled, and the amount of premiums returnable by the Insurance Company, with the interest thereon, shall be divided between the Committee and the Missionary in proportion to the premiums paid by them respectively, but with the option to the Missionary of paying to the Committee their proportion of the returnable premiums and interest, and taking over and continuing the policy in his or her own interest. If, on the other hand, the Missionary shall die before the stipulated age and while still in the service of the Committee, the sum payable under an Endowment Policy, or the premiums and interest returnable in respect of a Deferred Annuity Policy, as the case may be, shall be recovered by the Committee, and shall be paid over by them (a) to the widow of the Missionary if there shall be no child of the Missionary, or (b), if there be no widow, to the child if there be only one, or if there be more than one child then to the children in such proportions as the Committee in the exercise of their sole and absolute discretion shall determine; or (c) if there be both a widow and a child or children then to the widow and child or children in such proportions as the Committee as aforesaid shall determine; or (d) if there shall be neither a widow nor a child then the Committee shall be entitled, but shall not be bound, to pay the sum recoverable under an Endowment Policy, or the premiums and interest returnable in respect of a Deferred Annuity Policy, or any part of such sum or of such premiums and interest, to such of the relatives of the Missionary as the Committee in the exercise of their sole and absolute discretion shall select to be the beneficiaries thereof, and, in the event of the Committee not making payment, or so far as payment shall not be made, to any relative, the Committee shall be entitled to carry such sum or such premiums and interest or part thereof unpaid to relatives to the credit of the Capital Account of the Aged and Infirm Ministers',

Professors' and Missionaries' Fund, subject always to a right on the part of the Committee to withdraw the same or any part thereof, but without interest, in the event of their afterwards determining that the same, or part thereof, shall be paid to any relative of the deceased.

In order to give effect to this regulation, the Insurance Policy shall be taken out upon an application by, and in the name and on behalf of the Missionary, who shall forthwith assign the policy to the Committee, and an express written agreement shall be entered into between the Committee and the Missionary, all to the foregoing effect, in which agreement it shall be stipulated that implement by the Committee of their part of the agreement shall preclude any claim upon or against the Committee by the Missionary or his or her representatives in respect of the incapacity through age or infirmity or of the death of such Missionary.

7. Vernacular Languages. - Missionaries are required to gain a knowledge of the vernacular language, and, until working proficiency therein is attained, the Committee are authorised to make modification of salary as in the circumstances of each case may appear to them appropriate and just.

8. Leave. - Local leave or absence within the Mission country for not more than one month in each year may be granted by the Local Authority, it being recognised that climatic considerations may make it more imperative than at home for Missionaries to have an annual change. Sick-leave for not more than one month, on medical certificate, may be granted at any time by the same authority in cases of emergency. Local leave beyond a month or sick-leave for return home must be authorised by the Committee. In cases of authorised sick-leave for return home, the Local Authority may advance the necessary travelling expenses.

9. (i) Furlough for Ordained Missionaries shall, provided always that the state of the work of the Mission and the arrangements for carrying it on during temporary absence are such as warrant the local authority to recommend the furlough, be allowed, and passage-money home and back to duty shall be paid by the Foreign Missions Committee as follows:-

(a) India. - After the first term of five years' service and each subsequent term of seven years' service on full pay, furlough for fourteen months - to be so arranged, if possible, that the Missionary shall be absent for two hot seasons.

(b) South Africa. - After each term of seven years' service as aforesaid furlough for twelve months.

(c) Peru. - After each term of five years' service as aforesaid, furlough for twelve months.

(ii) The period of furlough shall be reckoned from the sailing of the first available steamer from the usual seaport of the Mission Country after the Missionary leaves his station; and the period occupied by his journey back to that seaport shall be included in the furlough period.

(iii) The Committee reserve the power to judge how far sick or special leave may affect furlough and the salary or allowance, if any, to be paid during that leave.

(iv) These regulations as to furlough for Ordained Missionaries shall apply also to Unordained Missionaries who shall have completed a term of five years and shall, within one

month before such completion, have agreed to renew their service for a new and agreed on period or indefinitely, and with respect to Ordained Missionaries and such Unordained Missionaries as shall renew their service indefinitely it is a condition that the acceptance of furlough shall imply an agreement by such Missionaries to continue service entitling to furlough.

(v) It shall be a definite condition, with reference alike to Ordained and Unordained Missionaries, that if the termination of a specified period of service or arrival of the time for furlough to begin shall occur during the currency of a School Session or a recognised year of operation in any College, Hospital or Institution in which the Missionary may be engaged such termination of service or beginning of furlough shall stand deferred until the close of such Session or recognised year.

(vi) In all stations, and especially in all District Missions, the aim of the Missionary must be to train Native Agents, so that during the temporary absence of a Missionary the work may be efficiently carried on by them under the supervision of a neighbouring Missionary.

10. Salaries.- The salaries of Missionaries shall be as may be specially arranged on the occasion of each appointment. In addition to such salaries an allowance of £10 shall be made for each child of a married Missionary until such child shall attain the age of sixteen.

11. Furlough (or Home Rate) Salary. - A Missionary, during time of furlough, shall receive full salary while on the journey between his station and the usual seaport, and furlough pay while on the journey between that seaport and Scotland. The rates of furlough pay shall be as follows:-

For Men (Ordained Ministers, Doctors and Teachers) -

(a) Unmarried men and widowers, £150 per annum; married men, £280 per annum. Allowances for children shall be continued during furlough.

For Women -

(b) Doctors, £150 per annum; Teachers £140 per annum; Zenana Visitors, Nurses and Bible Women, £100 per annum.

If any Missionary is summoned home, or detained at home, by the Committee for special reasons he shall receive salary at furlough rate, unless the Committee shall determine otherwise.

12. Travelling Expenses. - When the Committee defray the cost of a Missionary's journey, it shall be at 3rd. class rate on British railways, at 2nd class rate on board ship, and at 1st class rate on foreign railways, together with reasonable baggage allowances.

13. Payment of Passage of Missionary's Wife. - The Committee (subject always to Rule 2) pay the passage out of a Missionary's wife or of a lady going out to be married to a Missionary. The Committee also pay the passage home and out again of the wife of a Missionary who is taking furlough. A Missionary's wife is entitled, at the cost of the Committee, to the same

passages as her husband may be entitled to after his marriage, and no more. In the case of a Missionary's wife who is not entitled to furlough under this rule coming home, the local authority is empowered to advance the amount of her passage money, which shall be repaid by her husband, as may be arranged in each case. The Committee shall bear the expense of bringing home from India or Peru the children of Missionaries when they reach the age at which, from consideration of health or other reason sustained by the Committee, it is necessary or desirable that they should be in this country. When Missionaries bring home children otherwise than as here provided for the Committee will pay the passage of those under sixteen years of age, and of those once only.

14. Employment of Missionary during Furlough. - Missionaries at home on furlough, or invalided, are expected, so far as the state of their health and other circumstances admit, to co-operate in promoting the interests of the Foreign Missions throughout the Church. Normally, they shall be expected to do so during one-half of their time at home.

15. Missionary's Duties. - A Missionary shall not (save in circumstances which constitute an emergency) absent himself from his own sphere for a longer period than one month without the consent of the Committee; he shall not undertake duties outside those to which he has been appointed which may conflict with his full performance of such duties; and he shall not undertake any scheme (and particularly any scheme involving the Committee in charges and expenses) which is novel or is an extension of any scheme already sanctioned and defined by the Committee beyond such sanction and definition, without the Committee being advised thereof in advance and their approval being first obtained.

16. Correspondence with the Committee.- Every Missionary is required to send a letter to the Committee at least once a year, for the communication of suitable information through the usual channels to the Church, to stimulate the knowledge, prayer, and self-sacrifice of the members of the Church. Local Authorities will correspond with the Committee through the Convener as frequently as the business of the Mission requires, and shall also, not later than 10th. January in each year, furnish the Committee with a financial statement of work in the field, and a budget for the ensuing year of income and expenditure shewing what money the Committee is asked to provide. Further, the Local Authority shall transmit an Annual Report for the General Assembly, so as to reach the Committee not later than 31st. March. No Missionary shall communicate to the Press, including in that term the Magazines of the Church, any article involving matter of policy with respect to either doctrine, methods, or extension of sphere of operations, without first submitting the same to the Committee and receiving their concurrence.

17. Local Authority. - Where no Mission Presbytery exists, but where there are two or more Missionaries, whether Ordained or Unordained, in any field or station in any field, these Missionaries may, with approval of the Committee, be formed into a Mission Council, the Superintendent, if it be a Field Council in a Field in which a Superintendent has been appointed, or if it be a Station Council in a Station in which a Superintendent is resident, to be Chairman thereof; otherwise one of the Missionaries, to be specifically designated by the Committee for that purpose, to be Chairman thereof. The function of the Council shall be advisory, that is to say: they may advise, and through their Chairman in the manner to be determined by the Committee, may make recommendations for the consideration of the Committee. Where neither a Superintendent has been appointed nor a Mission Presbytery nor

a Mission Council shall have been formed, but there are on the Field two or more Ordain Unordained Missionaries, one of these Missionaries shall be designated by the Committee to be the Missionary Correspondent. The term "Local Authority" used in these Regulations shall mean the Mission Presbytery, or if there be no Presbytery then the Missionary Superintendent, the Mission Council, or the Missionary Correspondent, as the case may be.

18. Property. - Abroad, as at home, Acts of the General Assembly passed in and since 1844 vest all heritable property and moneys for Church and Mission purposes in the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, who may, as and when required, grant powers of attorney to local agents in the Mission Fields. The Missionaries are charged with the management of the property in the best interests of the Church, under the Foreign Missions Committee. Repairs and insurance should be locally provided for. Occupants of mission-houses shall pay tenants' taxes.

19. Relation of Missionaries to the Native Church and Agents. - All native agents, whether Ordained Missionaries and Pastors, or employed in the other departments of evangelistic, educational, or medical work, are held to be in the service of the Native Church or local missions, as sanctioned by the General Assembly. The Committee attach the highest importance to the formation and development in every station of self-propagating and, as soon as possible, self-supporting congregations, however small at first, under their own pastors, not only in town and the great centres, but in villages. Towards the payment of Native Pastors the Committee may grant small supplements, so as to help such congregations as help themselves. All grants for native agents are made in the currency of their own country. The General Assembly have declared that the Church's Missionary Superintendent in South Africa is entitled to be present at all meetings of Church Courts connected with the Mission in South Africa, and has the right of access to all the documents of those Courts. A like declaration shall be deemed to have been made with reference to each Mission Field in which a Missionary may have been or may be designated by the General Assembly as Missionary Superintendent.

IV. - Act anent Collections. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1929. Sess. 12.

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

They now appoint the following Collections to be made throughout the Church during the ensuing year :-

1. 3rd Sabbath of July 1929 Publications 2. ,, August ,, Constitutionalist and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund 3. ,, September ,, Foreign Missions 4. ,, October ,, Highlands and Islands 5. ,, November ,, Jewish Missions 6. ,, January ,, Welfare of Youth 7. ,, February ,, Training of the Ministry 8. ,, March ,, Buildings 9. ,, May ,, Home Missions

The General Assembly, in appointing these Collections, anew afford opportunities to their faithful people of supporting and extending most worthy and necessary Christian work at home and abroad, and exhort their people to do so in a manner worthy of the causes these Collections represent.

The General Assembly remind Congregations that giving liberally to distinctively Christian work is the exercise of a great Christian grace.

The General Assembly remind their Congregations that the Foreign Mission responsibilities of the Church are increasing with the rapid expansion of our work abroad, and they exhort that a Foreign Mission Association be formed in every congregation.

The General Assembly earnestly enjoin upon Ministers and Preachers to fully explain to Congregations the object for which each particular Collection is made, and to help the people in every possible way to contribute prayerfully and intelligently.

The General Assembly enjoin that, in so far as possible, regard will be had to the dates appointed by the Assembly for making the various Collections.

The General Assembly enjoin that the opportunity and privilege of contributing to these Collections will in no circumstances be withheld from the people.

The General Assembly regret to find that a number of the Congregations of the Church have failed to make some of the appointed Collections. They direct the Treasurer of the Church to transmit to the Clerk of Assembly, as soon as possible after the 31st December, a list of all defaulting Congregations, and the Clerk is instructed to communicate immediately with the Presbyteries to which these Congregations belong; and the said Presbyteries are hereby enjoined to send up a Report to the Clerk not later than two weeks before the next meeting of the General Assembly, stating reason assigned for the failure to make such Collections, the same reason to be laid before the Assembly.

V. - Act anent Representation on Committees. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1929. Sess. 11.

The General Assembly, in order to secure the closest co-operation between Presbyteries and the Sustentation Fund, Highlands and Islands, and Foreign Missions Committees, ordain that Standing Orders be amended to permit of representation on these Committees from every Presbytery, that is to say, that Standing Order VI. 2 be amended by addition of the following sentence, viz. :- “ When a Presbytery is not represented on the Sustentation Fund Committee, or on the Highlands and Islands Committee, or on the Foreign Missions Committee as these may have been constituted by the General Assembly, that Presbytery shall at its first Ordinary Meeting after the rising of the Assembly nominate one Minister or Elder from its own membership to be a Supernumerary Member of the Committee or Committees in question, such Supernumerary Member to hold office only until the Presbytery shall come to be represented in due course on the Committee or Committees in question.”

VI. - Act anent Week of Humiliation and Prayer. (No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1929. Sess. 10.

The Assembly, realising that only the intervention of the Most High can save the land from the inroads of a sweeping godlessness alike threatening to morality and vital religion, appoint the week beginning Sabbath, 17th November, as a week of Humiliation and Prayer and

recommend Presbyteries, where deemed expedient, to endeavour to secure like action on the part of other denominations in their area so that as far as may be the season be generally recognised.

VII. - Act anent Commission of Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1929. Sess. 12.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. JOHN SHAW named by the Moderator :- TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly, with power to the said Commission, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh, the second Wednesday of August, at eleven of the clock forenoon, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them, or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by the Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations to fully-sanctioned charges; and applications prior to the next meeting of Assembly for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada; and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall ha accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed : And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

VIII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 28th May 1929. Sess. 12.

The next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was appointed to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1930, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.