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Presbyterian  
Church of Australia  
Rev. W. J. ...

2271

# MINUTES

OF

## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

## Presbyterian Church of Australia.



HELD IN MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1902.

*Session Second*

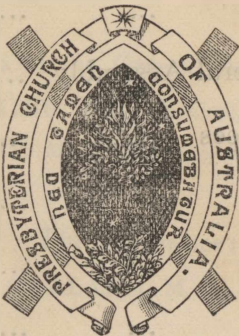
Sydney :

SAMUEL E. LEES, PRINTER AND STATIONER, 81 CLARENCE STREET.

1902.



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# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

## Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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Right Rev. the Moderator:

REV. ALEXANDER HAY, D.D., St. Andrew's Church, Rockhampton.

Clerks of the General Assembly:

REV. JAMES S. LAING, D.D., (Senior), Muswellbrook, N.S.W.

REV. GEORGE TAIT, M.A., (Junior), South Yarra, Melbourne.

The Procurator:

MR. JOHN GARLAND, M.A., LL.B., Sydney.

The Law Agents:

MESSRS. DAVIES & CAMPBELL, Melbourne.

Treasurers:

THE TREASURERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE NEW SOUTH  
WALES CHURCH,

Scots Church, York Street, Sydney.

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

## Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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### THE THEOLOGICAL HALLS.

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#### ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Professor of Christian Philosophy and Apologetic and New Testament Greek Exegesis—  
REV. J. LAURENCE RENTOUL, D.D.

Professor of Church History and Systematic Theology—REV. M. MACDONALD, D.D.

Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis—REV. A. CAMPBELL SMITH, M.A.

'Wilson' Lecturer on Elocution—REV. THOMAS TAIT, M.A., B.D.

#### ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, SYDNEY.

Professor of Hebrew and Exegetical Theology of Old Testament—REV. ANDREW  
HARPER, D.D.

Professor in Apologetics and Ethics—REV. JOHN KINROSS, D.D.

Lecturer in Exegetical Theology of New Testament—REV. GEORGE MACINNES, D.D.

Lecturer in Historical Theology—REV. THOMAS F. CLOUSTON, D.D.

Lecturer in Systematic Theology—REV. W. M. DILL MACKY, D.D.

'Steel' Lecturer in Pastoral Theology—REV. ROBERT H. WAUGH, M.A. (1903).

Lecturer in Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure—JOHN GARLAND, ESQ., M.A., LL.B.

#### BOARD OF EXAMINATION.

REV. JOHN AULD, M.A.  
D. MCKAY BARNET, B.A.  
J. KEMP BRUCE  
H. M. BURNS, B.D.  
JAMES COSH, B.D.  
G. CONNOR, M.A.  
JOHN FERGOSON  
S. FRASER, M.A.  
J. GILLIES, B.D.  
J. GRAY, B.D.  
ROBERT KAY, M.A.  
J. F. MACRAE  
J. V. MCNAIR

REV. J. MACCULLAY, M.A.  
W. G. MACONCHIE  
J. MATHEW, B.D.  
J. MEIKLEJOHN, D.D.  
F. E. OKER, B.D.  
DAVID PATON, D.D.  
J. B. RUSSELL, B.D.  
ALEXANDER SKENE, M.A.  
DAVID SMITH, M.A.  
ROBERT STEEL, M.A.  
ALEXANDER STEWART, M.A.  
R. SCOTT WEST  
ALEXANDER YULE, M.A.

Together with the Professors and Lecturers, members *ex officio*.

THE  
LAW

OF THE

STATE OF

NEW YORK

IN SENATE

JANUARY 18

1880

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

LAND OFFICE

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

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SESSION SECOND.

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*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Wednesday,  
17th day of September, 1902, at 7.30 p.m.*

1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened. Public worship was conducted by the Right Rev. the Retiring Moderator (Dr. Meiklejohn) who preached from 1 Peter v. 12—"The true grace of God: stand ye fast therein" (R.V.). After sermon, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Opening of Assembly.

2. THE SENIOR CLERK, in accordance with the resolution of last Assembly, laid on the table the Roll printed in the White Book, which, having been adjusted, was approved as the Roll of this Assembly as follows :—

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

Rev. S. G. Crawford, M.A.	Mr. Stephen Mather
James Kinghorn	Alfred Mitchell
John C. McDonald, M.A.	James Simmons

PRESBYTERY OF THE CLARENCE.

Rev. Charles H. Hain	Mr. Duncan McFarlane
William Walter Watts	Donald Shearer

PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN.

Rev. Charles Crane, B.A.	Mr. William Affleck, M.I. A.
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PRESBYTERY OF THE HASTINGS.

Rev. William Tassie	Mr. John Cameron
---------------------	------------------

PRESBYTERY OF THE HAWKESBURY.

Rev. James McKee	Mr. John Anderson
J. A. Perkins, B.A.	Peter Kirchner
Robert Steel, M.A.	George McCredie

PRESBYTERY OF THE HUNTER.

Rev. William Bain	Mr. Alexander Gillon
James Crookston	J. A. McKenzie
Philip Norman	Donald McMichael

PRESBYTERY OF ILLAWARRA.

Rev. Charles A. White, B.A.	Mr. Charles Cameron
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PRESBYTERY OF THE LACHLAN.

PRESBYTERY OF MONARO.

Rev. J. D. Murray	Mr. J. C. Rylie
-------------------	-----------------

PRESBYTERY OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE.

Rev. Matthew Bell	Mr. William Ross
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PRESBYTERY OF NEW ENGLAND.

Rev. George M. Torbett, M.A.	Mr. Alexander Robertson
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PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY.

Rev. John Auld, M.A. David Bruce, D.D. T. E. Clouston, D.D. Thomas W. Dunn John Ferguson Professor Harper, D.D. George MacInnes, D.D. W. M. Dill Macky, D.D. John Walker	Mr. R. E. Blanchard John Candlish Walter G. Crane D. Elphinstone Walter G. Geikie Colonel Goodlet Mr. John Marden, LL.D. Alexander Martin J. S. Mollison
--	--

PRESBYTERY OF WAGGA WAGGA.

Rev. David Smith, M.A.	Mr. James H. Balfour
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PRESBYTERY OF YOUNG.

Rev. W. Gould Taylor	Mr. Joseph Hannah
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. J. Kemp Bruce J. Burgess, M.A. James Cameron, D.D. Professor Kinross, D.D. James S. Laing, D.D. James Lamont, F.L.S. Alexander McKinlay Robert H. Waugh, M.A. R. Scott West	Mr. John A. Aitken James Angus James Barrie Alexander Dean David McConaghy William McKenzie Samuel Moore, B.A. John Ross David Steele
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VICTORIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT.

Rev. Thomas R. Cairns William Fraser, B.A. Elder Gray, D.D. John H. Mitchell	Mr. D. McKenzie H. Sleeman J. W. Surnam A. E. White
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PRESBYTERY OF BEECHWORTH.

Rev. J. Hall Angus J. Howard Meek, M.A.	Mr. Donald Fletcher J. S. Key
--	----------------------------------

PRESBYTERY OF BENDIGO.

Rev. John C. Johnstone, M.A. J. Kirkwood	Mr. W. Mackiehan William Ramsay
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## PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG.

Rev. Charles J. Baird	Mr. P. M. Broom
Alexander Houston	J. Goller
John McIntosh, M.A.	H. Stoner

## PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND.

Rev. George M. Connor	Mr. Thomas W. Coto
John G. Wilson	A. Hamilton

## PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN VALLEY.

Rev. A. Chambers, B.A.	Mr. A. Campbell
R. Thom, M.A.	R. Forsyth
James Weir, B.A.	D. M. McLennan

## PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Rev. J. Kennedy Macmillan, B.A.	Mr. W. Armstrong
W. Campbell Wallace, M.A.	D. Laidlaw

## PRESBYTERY OF MACEDON.

Rev. John Meek	Mr. A. Buchanan
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## PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. J. A. McLellan	Mr. — Esler
John Watson, M.A.	A. Lorimer

## PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH.

Rev. G. Carson	Dr. Agnew
T. Edwards	Mr. A. Byers
D. Fraser	R. Milne
S. G. McLaren, M.A.	Dr. MacFarland
J. A. Stuart	Mr. A. McIntosh
Alexander Yule, M.A.	J. McKinnon
— — —	E. Tiley
— — —	W. Warrick

## PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH.

Rev. Hugh M. Burns, M.A., B.D.	Mr. D. Bain
Robert M. Fergus, M.A.	A. Cattach
W. G. Maconochie	J. G. Cramond
E. Rorke, B.A.	Dr. Morrison
David Ross, M.A.	Mr. H. R. Reid
A. J. Wade	A. Thomson
— — —	R. Welch.

## PRESBYTERY OF MORTLAKE.

Rev. William McBride	Mr. William Anderson
William Thomson	G. S. Mackay

PRESBYTERY OF PENOLA.

Rev. T. J. Smith, M.A.		Mr. John Watson
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PRESBYTERY OF WIMMERA.

Rev. W. J. Duncan		_____
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. D. A. Cameron, M.A. James Jackson Professor Macdonald, D.D. A. Marshall, D.D. J. Meiklejohn, D.D. Professor Rentoul, D.D. Hume Robertson, B.A. C. Robinson W. S. Rolland Alexander Skene, M.A. Alexander Stewart, M.A. D. Macrae Stewart George Tait, M.A.		Hon. J. Balfour Mr. J. M. Campbell J. C. Cochrane Hon. J. M. Davies Mr. T. J. Finlay R. Gillespie M. L. Hutchinson G. Howat H. H. Kemp W. Michie W. Rain P. H. Speedie
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QUEENSLAND.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE.

Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A. Peter Robertson		Mr. David Ewart George Hall W. A. Smith
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PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. John MacKenzie		Mr. George Stupart
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PRESBYTERY OF ROCKHAMPTON.

Rev. Alexander Hay, D.D.		Mr. Thomas McAdam
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PRESBYTERY OF TOOWOOMBA.

Rev. Richard Kerr Joseph Lundie, B.A.		Mr. J. De Conlay J. H. Robertson
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PRESBYTERY OF TOWNSVILLE.

Rev. D. Gordon Baillie, B.A.		Mr. James Chapman
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. James Gibson, M.A. W. Sweyn Macqueen		Mr. Thomas Kennedy A. S. Lang
--	--	----------------------------------

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF ADELAIDE.

Rev. J. Mathie  
Robert MitchellMr. H. J. Congreve  
T. W. Fleming

PRESBYTERY OF BELALIE.

Rev. William Gray

Mr. John Drennan

PRESBYTERY OF ONKAPARINGA.

Rev. G. C. Love, M.A., B.D.

Mr. John Clezy, senr.

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. David Paton, D.D.

Rev. W. F. Main

## TASMANIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF HOBART.

Rev. J. Galbraith Millar  
Alexander DoctorMr. James Murdoch  
William Woodside

PRESBYTERY OF LAUNCESTON.

Rev. Thomas Cunningham  
Alexander HardieMr. John Crooks  
Donald McKinnon

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. James Scott, D.D.

Mr. F. Burbury

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

Rev. A. King

PRESBYTERY OF FREEMANTLE.

Rev. Douglas B. Smith, M.A.

## PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

Rev. J. Gray, M.A., B.D.

Mr. R. Robertson

## ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. Alexander McCarlie

3. APOLOGIES were received and accepted from the following representatives, who were unable to be present, viz. :—Revs. J. Gibson (Moderator of General Assembly of Queensland), R. Kerr, J. MacKenzie, Dr. W. M. Dill Macky, W. F. Main, Messrs. G. Hall, D. Elphinstone, and Dr. Marden.

Apologies received.

4. THE MODERATOR having intimated that a majority of Presbyteries had nominated the Rev. Alexander Hay, Doctor of Divinity and Minister of St. Andrew's, Rockhampton, as Moderator of this Assembly, Dr. Macdonald moved :—That the nomination be sustained and Dr. Hay elected, which was seconded by Dr. Clouston and carried on the voices.

Election of Moderator.

Dr. Hay was conducted to the Chair and delivered a suitable address.

5 THE MINUTES of the First Session of the General Assembly in the Clerks' copy of the Blue Book (1901) were laid on the table, and being taken as read were confirmed.

Minutes (1901) confirmed.

6. ON the motion of Rev. J. K. Macmillan, duly seconded, the Assembly resolved :—That cordial thanks be given to the Ex-Moderator for the excellent sermon preached by him at the opening of the Assembly, and also for the efficient manner in which he had performed all his duties during his year of office.

Thanks to Ex-Moderator.

The thanks of the Assembly were conveyed to Dr. Meiklejohn by the Moderator.

7. IT was agreed, on the motion of the Senior Clerk, duly seconded :—That the hours of meeting be—Morning Sederunt, 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., with an interval of an hour at 1 p.m.; Evening Sederunt, 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. That the following be the Business Committee for the Session, with instructions to meet every evening at 7 p.m., and to report the business arranged for next day at the Evening Sederunt, viz. :—Revs. the Clerks, Dr. Bruce, J. Burgess, D. A. Cameron, Dr. Elder Gray, W. Gray, A. McCarlie, Dr. MacInnes, J. K. Macmillan, Dr. Meiklejohn, Dr. Nisbet, Dr. Scott, J. Walker, *Ministers*; Hon. W. Anderson, Messrs W. Affleck, J. Candlish, T. W. Fleming, G. S. Mackay, *Elders*; the Junior Clerk, *Convener*.

Hours of Meeting.

Business Committee.

The order of business proposed for to-morrow was amended and approved.

Adjournment.

8. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 10 p.m. to meet again to-morrow at 10 a.m. for the Observance of the Communion, and at 11 a.m. for the transaction of business, whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

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## SECOND SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Thursday, the 18th day of September, 1902, at 10 a.m.*

The Communion

9. THE members of the Assembly united in a Communion Service conducted by the Moderator, assisted by Dr. Clouston and Rev. Alexander Hardie.

11 a.m.

Assembly constituted.

10. AT the conclusion of the Solemn Service, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator and proceeded to business.

Minutes confirmed.

11. THE MINUTES of the First Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Notices of Motion :  
Rev. A. Stewart

12. REV. ALEXANDER STEWART gave notice of a motion anent the Commonwealth Public Service Act Regulations as to Sabbath work.

Dr. Meiklejohn.

13. DR. MEIKLEJOHN gave notice of a motion for a Committee to consider the time and place of meeting of next Assembly.

Point of Order.

14. DR. RENTOUL raised a point of Order challenging the competency of the appointment of the Clerks of Assembly as permanent officials, by the last Assembly.

After debate, the Moderator ruled that he saw no occasion for raising the question.

Report :  
Statistics.

15. THE ASSEMBLY proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on Statistics, which was submitted by Rev. J. K. Macmillan, *Convener*.

Dr. MacInnes moved :—That the Report be received and approved generally, with thanks to the Committee, especially to the Convener. The resolution was seconded.

Thereafter Rev. J. Walker moved that the debate be adjourned to allow of the Report being printed. The motion was seconded and carried, and the debate adjourned.

16. REV. W. S. ROLLAND, *Convener*, submitted the Report of the Committee on the *Record*, and moved :—Receive and approve the Report, and recommend Presbyteries to take steps to increase the circulation of the *Record* within their bounds. Report : Record

The resolution was seconded and carried.

17. CALLED for Report of the Board of Foreign Missions, which was submitted by Rev. T. R. Cairns, *Chairman*. The Report was taken as read. Report : Foreign Missions.

Mr. Cairns having addressed the House, moved the following Clauses of the deliverance, which were put *seriatim* and carried :—

Receive the Report. Deliverance.

Thank the Board, especially the Chairman, and the Convener of the Queensland Executive Committee ; also the Rev. J. B. Russell, B.D., for his admirable report of the work being done at Weipa ; and the Queensland Government for the site which has been granted on the Archer River for a third Mission Station.

Approve of the appointment of Rev. Mr. Richter as *locum tenens* for Rev. N. Hey, and instruct the Board to open a new station on the Archer River so soon as the resources at their disposal will admit of this.

Resolve that the Assembly shall as soon as possible celebrate the formation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia by the commencement of work in another Foreign Mission field, and remit the matter to the Board, with instructions to consider the whole question and report to next Assembly.

In view of the expenses necessarily involved, exhort the whole membership of the Church to greatly increased liberality toward our Foreign Mission work.

Approve of the working expenses of the Board of Missions being paid out of the General Assembly's Expenses Fund.

Authorise the Board to arrange for an overdraft at the Bank to provide for the regular payment of the Mission Agents.

Instruct the Board to keep a watchful eye upon the treatment meted out to the aborigines, and to use all possible efforts to ensure a merciful and kindly treatment for the remnants of the aboriginal population of Australia so as to further their moral, spiritual and physical well-being.

Instruct the Board to consider the employment and training of lay agents, and report to next Assembly.

The following Clause was postponed : Resolve, for the effective carrying on of the Foreign Mission Work of the Church, to authorise the Board to appoint an Organising Agent as soon as they feel themselves in a position to do so ; the Agent so appointed to hold office till the meeting of next Assembly.

Motion.

It was moved and seconded :—Direct Congregations to make an annual collection for the Board of Missions.

Amendment  
(Adopted)

An amendment was moved by Rev. J. Ferguson, and seconded :—Remit the Clause to the Finance Committee with instructions to report to a future Sederunt.

The amendment was carried, and thereafter the further consideration of the deliverance was postponed.

Returns to  
Remits on  
Articles V. and  
VII.

18. CALLED for Returns to Remits anent Articles V. and VII. of the Articles of Agreement, which were read by the Senior Clerk.

It appeared that a majority of the Presbyteries, and of the State Assemblies had made Returns in favour of the Remit.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed :—

Articles as  
amended.

Receive the Returns ; approve the Remit and alter the Articles to the following effect :—

Article V. 3.—Two members to be added to the Judicial Commission for Western Australia, and consequently increasing the whole number to 38.

Article VII. 1.—One member to be added to the Board of Missions for Western Australia, and consequently increasing the whole number to 20.

The consideration of the Returns on the Designation of Assemblies was postponed.

Adjournment.

19. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 5 p.m. to meet again this evening at 7.30 p.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

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### THIRD SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Col'ins-street, on Thursday,  
the 18th day of September, 1902, at 7.30 p.m.*

Assembly  
constituted.

20. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator.

Report :  
Business  
Committee.

21. THE REPORT of the Business Committee, with the arrangement of business proposed for to-morrow and Saturday, was submitted by the Convener and approved.

It was agreed :—That nominations of members of the Standing Committees and Conveners should be given in at to-morrow morning's Sederunt



up to 1 p.m.; and that the ballot should be taken at 4 p.m. Revs. C. A. White, R. M. Fergus, Mr. W. Affleck, and Hon. W. Anderson were appointed to act as Scrutineers, and to prepare the voting papers.

Scrutineers appointed.

22. THE REPORT of the Committee on the Hymn Book for Sabbath Schools was read by Rev. D. Macrae Stewart, in the absence of the Convener.

Report: Hymn Book for Sabbath Schools

Dr. Meiklejohn moved :—

Re-appoint the Committee, and draw the attention of the Committee to the urgent need of a Hymn Book being recommended to the Sabbath Schools.

Motion.

Instruct the Committee to consider the merits of various Hymn Books and authorise them to make a recommendation. The motion was seconded.

An amendment was moved by Rev. W. G. Maconochie and seconded :—  
Re-appoint the Committee and authorise it, if the new School Hymnary prove suitable, to recommend it for use throughout the Church.

Amendment (Adopted)

The amendment was put to the vote by a show of hands and was carried, and the Assembly resolved in terms thereof.

23. THE REPORT of the Committee on Home Missions was submitted by Rev. J. Ferguson, Convener. The Report was taken as read, and Mr. Ferguson having addressed the House, moved :—Receive the Report, which was seconded and agreed to, and thereafter the further consideration of the deliverance was postponed.

Report: Home Missions.

24. PROFESSOR HARPER gave notice of a motion anent consideration of the Federal Divorce Bill.

Notice of Motion: Prof. Harper.

25. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 10 p.m. to meet again to-morrow at 11 a.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

Adjournment.

#### FOURTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Friday, the 19th day of September, 1902, at 11 a.m.*

26. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator.

Assembly constituted.

27. THE MINUTES of the Second and Third Sederunts were read and confirmed.

Minutes confirmed.

28. A COMMUNICATION was read from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, congratulating the Assembly on the Union.

Communication from Presbyterian Church of Canada.

It was moved by Dr. Meiklejohn, seconded and carried:—Appoint the Clerks of the Assembly a Committee to draw up a letter acknowledging receipt of the communication from the Canadian Church, and to convey the congratulations of this Church.

Public Service  
Act Regulations:  
Resolution.

29. ACCORDING to notice, Rev. A. Stewart moved:—That in the opinion of this Assembly the Commonwealth Public Service Act Regulations should include a clause exempting public servants from any requirement to do violence to their consciences by Sabbath work, and from prejudice to their positions or places of service in consequence of their conscientious refusal to do such work, and the Assembly resolve to ask the Secretary for Home Affairs to receive a deputation on this subject.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Notice of  
Meetings:  
Resolution.

30. DR. MACINNES moved:—That Conveners of Committees be required to put notices of the meetings of their Committees on the inside of the division doors of the Assembly Hall.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Membership of  
Standing  
Committees:  
Resolution.

31. IN regard to the election of members of Standing Committees, it was agreed that members of State Assemblies, not being members of this General Assembly, may be nominated as members or Conveners of the General Assembly's Standing Committees.

Time of next  
Assembly.

Committee.

32. ACCORDING to notice, Dr. Meiklejohn moved:—That Revs. Professor Macdonald (*Convener*), G. Tait, Dr. Meiklejohn, Dr. Laing, Dr. Nisbet, Dr. MacInnes, J. Burgess, W. Gray, and A. McCarlie, Hon. W. Anderson, Hon. J. Balfour, and Colonel Goodlet be appointed a Committee to consider the time and place of meeting of next Assembly and report to a future Sederunt. The motion was seconded and carried.

Report:  
Rules on  
Article IX.

Committee of  
the Whole.

33. THE REPORT of the Special Committee appointed to frame Rules contemplated in Article IX. was submitted by Professor Macdonald, *Convener*. The Report was taken as read.

The Report was received, and at 12.45 p.m. the House resolved into Committee of the Whole to consider the proposed Rules. The Moderator in the Chair.

At 2.40 p.m. the House resumed, and the Clerks reported the Rules amended and passed. The Report was received.

Dr. Macdonald moved the following deliverance, which was seconded and carried:—

Adopt the Report.

Deliverance.

Remit.

Approve of its recommendations and Rules; declare them of *interim* authority, and send them down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies for consideration, and report to next Assembly.

Appoint a Standing Committee on the Reception of Ministers, and instruct Presbytery Clerks and Conveners of Home Mission Committees to report to it all applications for admission to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Instruct Presbyteries and State Assemblies to make their Returns to this Remit to the General Assembly's Committee on the Reception of Ministers.

34. A LETTER was read and received from Mr. John Garland, the Procurator, apologising for his absence. Mr. Garland was granted leave of absence for this Session. Apology from Procurator.

35. CALLED for Overture from the General Assembly of New South Wales on Article III. of the Articles of Agreement. Overture on Article III.

The Overture was read by the Senior Clerk. Rev. J. Burgess was heard in its support.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded and agreed :—

Receive the Overture, and Remit the same to the Code Committee to report on the matter to a future Sederunt.

36. RESUMED consideration of the Report of the Committee on Statistics, postponed at the Second Sederunt. Report : Statistics.

Dr. MacInnes' motion was put and carried as follows :—That the Report be received and approved generally, with thanks to the Committee, and especially to the Convener. Deliverance.

37. DR. MEIKLEJOHN, *Convener*, submitted the Report of the Committee on the Mode of Electing the Moderator of the General Assembly, and moved :— Report Mode of Electing Moderator.

Receive the Report ; discharge the Committee, and resolve that the nomination of the Moderator of the General Assembly be by Presbyteries. Motion : (Adopted).  
The motion was seconded.

Mr. Davies moved the following amendment :—That the present plan be continued for the year, and that the Committee be continued, with instructions to further consider the subject, and report thereon to next Assembly. Amendment.

The amendment was seconded and negatived.

The motion was carried on the voices, and the Assembly resolved in terms thereof.

38. CALLED for Returns to the Remit on the Designation of Assemblies. Return : to Remit on Designation of Assemblies.

The Senior Clerk tabled the Returns from Presbyteries, and reported that a Return had been received from only one State Assembly.

Motion  
(Adopted)  
Remit.

It was moved by Dr. MacInnes and seconded:—Remit the Overture to Presbyteries and State Assemblies in terms of Article XIII.

Amendment

An amendment was moved by Dr. Nisbet:—That the Returns lie on the table, and the Assemblies and Presbyteries that have sent no Returns be instructed to send their Returns to next Assembly. The amendment was seconded and negatived. The motion was carried.

Notices of  
Motion;  
Rev. W. W.  
Watts.

39. REV. W. W. WATTS gave notice of a motion in favour of unsectarian State Education.

D. MacInnes.

40. DR. MACINNES gave notice of a motion anent the appointment of Standing Committees on the Reception of Ministers and the *Year Book*.

Rev. G. Tait.

41. REV. G. TAIT gave notice of a motion on the Amalgamation of the Theological Halls.

Rev. P.  
Robertson.

42. REV. P. ROBERTSON gave notice of a motion *re* the appointment of representatives.

Ballot  
postponed.

43. It was resolved to postpone the taking of the Ballot till 7.45 p.m. this evening.

Adjournment.

44. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 5 p.m. to meet again this evening at 7.30 p.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

## FIFTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Friday, the 19th day of September, 1902, at 7.30 p.m.*

Assembly  
constituted.

45. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator.

Report:  
Business  
Committee.

46. THE REPORT of the Business Committee with the arrangement of business proposed for Monday next was given in by the Convener and approved.

Ballot taken.

47. THE BALLOT for the election of Assembly members of the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and Standing Committees was now taken.

Report:  
Theological  
Hall Committee.

48. DR. MEIKLEJOHN, *Convener*, submitted the Report of the Theological Hall Committee.

The Report was taken as read, and Dr. Meiklejohn having addressed the House, moved the deliverance clause by clause.

The following Clauses were approved :—

Receive the Report.

Agree that the first Entrance Examination be held on the 2nd day of February, 1904; that it be on the Syllabus contained in the Report; and that it be held in such places and under such superintendence as may be approved.

The next Clause was moved and seconded as follows :—

Motion.

Agree, further, that the Exit Examination be held at the close of the Session in 1904, and that it be on lectures on prescribed subjects, text books and books for consultation to be recommended by the Board.

Rev. J. Ferguson moved the omission of the words "on lectures," which was seconded. Amendment.  
(Adopted)

After considerable discussion, on being put to the vote the amendment was carried, and thereafter the debate was adjourned.

49. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 10.20 p.m., to meet again to-morrow at 10 a.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

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## SIXTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Saturday, the 20th day of September, 1902, at 10 a.m.*

50. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator. Assembly  
constituted.

51. THE MINUTES of the Fourth and Fifth Sederunts were read and confirmed. Minutes  
confirmed.

52. THE ASSEMBLY proceeded to the consideration of the draft Standing Orders as printed. Draft Standing  
Orders.

At 10.45 a.m. the House resolved into Committee of the Whole to consider the same. The Moderator in the Chair. Committee of  
the Whole.

At 12.20 p.m. the House resumed, and the Clerks reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

53. THERE was read the Report of the Scrutineers of the Ballot for the election of Assembly members of the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and of the Standing Committees. Report of  
Scrutineers.

Returns from  
State Assemblies

There were also laid on the table the Returns from State Assemblies nominating members of the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and the Standing Committees.

Committees  
elected.

The Report and Returns were received ; the Election sustained, and the Committees declared appointed in accordance therewith.

[For list of Standing Committees, Judicial Commission, Board of Missions and Special Committees, see pp. 39-42].

Adjournment.

54. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 12.30 p.m., to meet again on Monday at 2 p.m., whereof public intimation having been given the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

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### SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Monday, the  
22nd day of September, 1902, at 2 p.m.*

Assembly  
constituted.

55. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator.

Notice of  
Motion :  
Dr. Meiklejohn.

56. DR. MEIKLEJOHN gave notice of a motion on the mode of electing the Standing Committees.

Notice of  
Motion :  
Professor  
Harper.

57. PROFESSOR HARPER gave notice of a motion on Senator Dobson's Divorce Bill.

Jubilee of Rev.  
J. Campbell :  
Resolution.

58. DR. MEIKLEJOHN moved :—In view of the fact that the Rev. Lachlan Campbell, of Oatlands Church, Tasmania, is about to celebrate his Jubilee, and has been Minister of his present Charge for fifty years, agree to congratulate him on the event, to acknowledge gladly his long and faithful service, and to express the hope that his day of usefulness will be lengthened, and at evening time there may be light.

Further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to him.

The resolution was seconded and carried on the voices.

Overture in the  
position and  
rights of  
of Adherents.

59. CALLED for Overture from the General Assembly of Western Australia on the Position and Rights of Adherents. The Overture was read by the Senior Clerk.

Remit.

On motion made and seconded, it was resolved to receive the Overture and to remit the same to the Code Committee.

60. REV. W. W. WATTS moved the following resolution :—The Assembly declare their adherence to the principle of unsectarian State Education, and their uncompromising purpose to resist any attempt to give State aid to denominational Schools. The motion was seconded.

State Education Motion.

An amendment was moved by Professor Harper and seconded :—That this Assembly declare their uncompromising purpose to resist any attempt to give a separate grant to any religious denomination for educational purposes. The amendment was seconded.

Amendment.

Previous Question negatived.

After discussion, the previous question was put and negatived.

After further discussion, the previous question was again moved and carried, and the Assembly proceeded to the next business.

Previous Question passed.

61. ACCORDING to notice, Dr. MacInnes moved :—Resolve to appoint a Standing Committee on the Reception of Ministers and a Standing Committee on the Year Book.

Appointment of Standing Committees.

Resolution.

Instruct State Assemblies to elect representatives on these Committees, on the basis of the resolution (Min. 135) of the Assembly of 1901, and that Special Committees be appointed for this year pending the election by the State Assemblies.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

The following were appointed :—

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS : Revs. Dr. Bruce, Dr. Clouston, W. R. Cunningham, G. Davidson, R. Hanlin, A. S. Houston, Dr. MacInnes, W. S. Macqueen, P. J. Murdoch, Dr. Nisbet, Dr. D. Paton, W. S. Radcliffe, J. Russell, A. Skene, Professor A. C. Smith, J. Walker, A. Yule, *Ministers* ; Hon. J. Balfour, Messrs. T. W. Fleming, T. Kennedy and Colonel Goodlet, *Elders* ; Rev. Alexander Skene, *Convener*.

Committees. Reception of Minutes.

THE YEAR BOOK : Revs. J. Burgess, G. Davidson, J. Ferguson, R. Hanlin, J. Jackson, R. Kerr, Hume Robertson, J. Russell, *Ministers* ; Messrs. A. Byers, T. W. Fleming, G. Hall and W. Wood, *Elders* ; Rev. James Jackson, *Convener*.

Year Book.

62. REV. P. ROBERTSON moved the following resolution, which was seconded and carried :—

Election of Members of Assembly : Resolution

Instruct Presbyteries that in the event of any of the members elected to attend the General Assembly finding it impossible to do so, it is lawful for the Presbytery to accept the resignation of said member and to appoint another member up to the date of the meeting of the Assembly.

63. PROFESSOR HARPER submitted the Report of the Committee on the Church Paper. The Report was taken as read. Dr. Harper moved :—

Report : Church Paper.

Deliverance.

Receive the Report.

Express satisfaction that so much success has crowned the effort to have such a bond of union throughout the Church as a common weekly paper would supply, and hope that a further amalgamation may take place, which will bring in the States which still have papers of their own.

Discharge the Committee, as its work is practically finished.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Notice of Motion :  
Professor Harper

64. PROFESSOR HARPER gave notice of a motion on the Education question.

Adjournment.

65. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 5 p.m., to meet again to-morrow at 10 a.m. (the Home and Foreign Missions Demonstration taking place in the Town Hall this evening) whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

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### EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of September, 1902, at 10 a.m.*

Assembly constituted.

66. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator.

Minutes confirmed.

67. THE MINUTES of the Sixth and Seventh Sederunts were read and confirmed.

Notice of Motion : Rev. A. Stewart

68. REV. A. STEWART gave notice that he would move that the following be substituted for the Statement of Doctrine in the Report of the Committee on the Federation of the Protestant Churches, viz. :—

1. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the supreme standard of doctrine and duty for mankind.
2. God is Spirit, Light, and Love, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in the attributes of His being which include all perfection of wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth, and He is both immanent and transcendent in relation to the universe.
3. The Godhead is essentially triune.
4. The relation in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is eternal, and was revealed by the Son Incarnate, through whom the human race becomes possessed of the Spirit, and enjoys the privileges of sonship to God.
5. Jesus Christ the Son of God Incarnate is truly God and truly man.
6. Sin is universal in the human race, and implies lawlessness and alienation from God, and unless repented of and forgiven, involves death eternal.



7. Salvation is wholly of God, having the Father as its Source, the Son as its Mediator, the Holy Spirit as its Agent, and is appropriated by faith.
8. The Sacrifice consummated in the passion and death of Jesus Christ is vicarious and propitiatory.

69. ON the motion of Hon. James Balfour, the following were appointed a Deputation to wait upon the Minister for Home Affairs with reference to the Regulations of the Commonwealth Public Service Act regarding Sabbath Work, viz. :—Revs. S. G. Maclaren, J. Walker, W. Gray, P. Robertson, with Messrs. A. Gillespie, J. G. Cramond, J. Cochrane, and Hon. J. Balfour.

Deputation re  
Public Service  
Regulations.

70. RESUMED consideration of the deliverance on the Theological Hall Committee's Report.

Report resumed  
Theological  
Hall.

Rev. A. Stewart moved the following addition to the second Clause, which was seconded and carried :—

Resolutions.

But no Student shall be eligible for examination until the Senatus or Faculty of his College shall have certified the Board of Examination that he has satisfied them in Class-work.

A further addition was moved, seconded, and carried :—

That the examination be set and the papers marked by Examiners (outside the teaching Staff), who shall consult the teachers as to the questions set, but the responsibility of drawing up and marking the papers shall rest with the Examiners, and that any matter of difference be referred to the Examination Board for decision.

The following Clauses were passed :—

Agree that the questions dealing with the securing of Home Mission Agents and their training, remitted to them by last General Assembly, be referred to the Home Mission Committee.

Approve of an effort being made to raise a Students' Aid Fund, to provide bursaries to enable deserving men, studying with a view to the Ministry of the Church, to attend Secondary Schools and to furnish them with help during their University and Theological Hall Curricula.

Approve of the effort to get arrangements made for securing of Degrees in Divinity for colonially-trained Students, and recommend the Committee to take such steps as may seem to them wise and needful to attain the end in view.

Rev. G. Tait moved the following addition to the deliverance, which was seconded :—The Assembly declare that the amalgamation of the Theological Halls is desirable if it can be carried out, and appoint a Committee with instructions to consider its practicability, and if possible, prepare and submit a detailed Scheme to next Assembly.

Motion.

## Amendment.

Dr. D. Paton moved the following amendment, which was seconded :—  
 Appoint a Committee to consider the question of the possibility of amalgamating the Halls in Sydney and Melbourne with advantage to the Church, and if found possible, to prepare a Scheme for next Assembly.

The amendment was put and negatived, and thereafter the motion was also negatived.

## Deliverance.

The deliverance as amended was then adopted as follows :—

Receive the Report.

Agree that the first Entrance Examination be held on the 2nd Tuesday of February, 1904; that it be on the Syllabus contained in the Report, and that it be held in such places and under such superintendence as may be approved of by the College Committee.

Agree, further, that the Exit Examination be held at the close of the Session in 1904, and that it be on prescribed subjects, text books, and books for consultation to be recommended by the Board, but no Student shall be eligible for examination until the Senatus or Faculty of his College shall have certified the Board of Examination that he has satisfied them in Class work; that the Examination be set and the papers marked by Examiners (outside the teaching Staff), who shall consult the teachers as to the questions set, but the responsibility of drawing up and marking the papers shall rest with the Examiners, and that any matter of difference be referred to the Examination Board for decision.

Agree that the questions dealing with the securing of Home Mission Agents and their training, remitted to them by last General Assembly, be referred to the Home Mission Committee.

Approve of an effort being made to raise a Students' Aid Fund, to provide bursaries to enable deserving men, studying with a view to the Ministry of the Church, to attend Secondary Schools and to furnish them with help during their University and Theological Hall Curricula.

Approve of the effort to get arrangements made for the securing of Degrees in Divinity for colonially-trained Students, and recommend the Committee to take such steps as may seem to them wise and needful to attain the end in view.

## Dissent.

Dr. Rentoul craved leave to enter his dissent from this deliverance, which was granted.

State  
Education.

71. THE Order of the Day, Professor Harper's motion on Education was reached.

A point of order was raised as to whether a motion could be introduced on a subject concerning which the "previous question" had been passed at a previous Sederunt. Point of Order.

The Moderator ruled the motion competent.

Professor Harper moved the following resolution, which was seconded:— Motion.  
That this Assembly strongly support the National Education systems as established in the various States, but earnestly desire to see Scripture lessons introduced into all schools, and would urge Presbyterians throughout the States to endeavour to have Scripture lessons introduced where they are not now in use.

Dr. Nisbet moved the following amendment:—That this Assembly Amendment  
(Adopted).  
strongly support the National Education systems as established in the various States, but earnestly desire to see Scripture lessons introduced into all schools, and would urge Presbyterians throughout the States to endeavour to have Scripture lessons introduced where they are not now in use. At the same time declare their determination to resist the giving of a separate grant to any one denomination.

The amendment was seconded, and on being put to the vote by a show of hands, was carried by a large majority, and became the deliverance of the Assembly.

From this finding Dr. Rentoul craved leave to dissent, which was granted. Dissent.

72. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 5 p.m. to meet again this evening at 7.30 p.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

### NINTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Tuesday, the  
23rd day of September, 1902, at 7.30 p.m.*

73. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator. Assembly  
constituted

74. THE CONVENER of the Business Committee submitted the Report with the order of business proposed for to-morrow, which was approved. Report :  
Business  
Committee

75. COLONEL GOODLET, Convener of the Finance Committee, submitted the Report, and moved:— Report :  
Finance  
Committee.

Receive the Report.

Deliverance.

Adopt the recommendations as follows :—

1. That all the royalties from the Hymnary be handed over to this Committee to be held at the disposal of the General Assembly.
2. That members attending the General Assembly have the following percentage of their travelling expenses (calculated upon the basis of second-class return fares) paid by the Church, viz. : (a) Those paying less than £1, nothing. (b) Those paying from £1 to £4 to receive half. (c) Those paying from £4 upwards to receive three quarters, provided that no one in class (b) shall pay less than £1 himself, and no one in class (c) less than £2."
3. That this Committee be instructed to assess the States Assemblies for General Assembly expenses at same amounts as last year, to wit :—New South Wales, £40 ; Victoria, £40 ; Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, each £13 6s. 8d. ; and Western Australia, £10.
4. That these recommendations be sent down to State Assemblies.

The motion was seconded and carried on the voices.

Report :  
Time of next  
Assembly.

76. PROFESSOR MACDONALD, *Convener*, submitted the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the time and place of next Assembly as follows :—

Resolution :  
Next Meeting of  
General  
Assembly.

The Committee are unanimous in recommending that the next General Assembly meet on the fourth Wednesday of September (23rd), 1903, in St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, at 7 p.m., and that in view of the fact that this is deemed the most suitable time for the usual meeting of the General Assembly, State Assemblies and Presbyteries be advised to that effect.

Dr. Meiklejohn moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded and carried, and the Assembly resolved in terms thereof.

Foreign Missions:  
Report.

77. THE ASSEMBLY proceeded to consider the Clause in the deliverance on the Foreign Missions Report with reference to the appointment of an Organising Agent, postponed at the Second Sederunt.

Resolution.

The Convener (Rev. T. R. Cairns) having addressed the House, moved the following resolution :—

Resolve that for the more effective carrying out of the Foreign Mission work of the Church, the Assembly appoint a Missions Agent for a term of three years, at a salary of £400 per annum and travelling expenses.

The motion was seconded and carried on the voices.

Missions Agent  
appointed.

Mr. Cairns also moved :—The Assembly appoint the Rev. Frank Paton as Agent of the Board of Missions for three years. The resolution was seconded and carried unanimously.

It was agreed that Mr. Paton should receive his appointment at to-morrow evening's Sederunt at 8 o'clock.

78. RESUMED consideration of the deliverance on the Report of the Home Missions Committee. Report resumed  
Home Missions.

Rev. J. Ferguson moved as follows :— Deliverance.

1. Direct the Committee to prepare and submit to next General Assembly
  - (a) a scheme for unifying the Home Mission operations of the Churches of Australia.
  - (b) For creating a Commonwealth Home Mission Fund for the evangelisation of the remote and sparsely-peopled country areas, to be administered by this Assembly.

2. Instruct State Assemblies to advise Conveners of Home Mission Committees to forward to the Home Mission Committee of Australia, annually, each a brief statement of the work done under their direction and new causes in contemplation, said statements to be in the hands of the Convener before the first week of August.

3. Request State Assemblies to instruct Metropolitan Presbyteries to encourage the establishment of permanent Evangelistic and Social Missions in congested City areas ; also to consider without delay what better provision can be made for the spiritual wants of our seafaring and waterside population.

The resolutions were seconded and carried, and the deliverance approved.

79. REV. J. WALKER gave notice of a motion providing for Special Meetings half-yearly of certain Standing Committees. Notice of  
Motion :  
Rev. J. Walker

80. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 10 p.m., to meet again to-morrow at 10 a.m., whereof public intimation having been given the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

### TENTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on Wednesday, the 24th day of September, 1902, at 10 a.m.*

81. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator. Assembly  
constituted.

82. THE MINUTES of the Eighth and Ninth Sederunts were read and confirmed. Minutes  
confirmed.

Theological  
Hall :  
Supplementary  
Report.

83. DR. MEIKLEJOHN, *Convener*, submitted a Supplementary Report of the Theological Hall Committee (College) containing nominations to the Board of Examination, and a List of Examiners for the Entrance and Exit Examination.

Board of  
Examination  
appointed.

The Report was received and adopted, the Board of Examination elected, and the List of Examiners approved as follows :—

FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Scripture and Catechism	...	Rev. A. Stewart, M.A., Rev. J. B. Russell, B.D.
Hebrew	...	Rev. D. Smith, M.A., Rev. J. V. McNair.
Greek	...	Rev. D. Paton, D.D., Rev. D. M. Barnet, B.A.
Logic and Philosophy	...	Rev. J. Mathew, B.D., Rev. F. E. Ozer, B.D.

FOR EXIT EXAMINATION.

Theology	...	Rev. A. Skene, M.A., Rev. J. Auld, M.A.
Church History	...	Rev. S. Fraser, M.A., Rev. R. Scott West.
New Testament Greek	...	Rev. R. Steel, M.A., Rev. J. Gillies, B.D.
Hebrew	...	Rev. J. Cosh, B.D., Rev. Hugh M. Burns, B.D.
Apologetic	...	Rev. W. G. Maconochie, M.A., Rev. J. K. Bruce.

Report : Code  
Committee  
on Article III.

84. REV. G. TAIT, Joint-Convener of the Code Committee, reported on the proposed change in Article III. remitted to the Committee at a previous Sederunt, and recommended that the Article read as follows :—

Article III.

Article III.—The General Assembly shall be representative, and shall consist of an equal number of Ministers and Elders ; each State Assembly shall be represented by a number equal to one-fourth of its members elected from those actually on its Roll or eligible for its membership, three-fourths by the Presbyteries, and one-fourth by the State Assembly itself.

Remit.

The Report was received, the recommendation adopted and remitted to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for consideration and report to next General Assembly.

Committee on  
*Record*  
appointed.

85. REV. W. S. ROLLAND moved that the following be the Committee on the *Record*, which was seconded and carried, and the Committee appointed, viz.:—Revs. J. S. Buntine, G. Davidson, G. C. Love, A. McCarlie, J. G. Millar, Dr. Nisbet, P. Robertson, W. S. Rolland, D. M. Stewart, R. H. Waugh, C. A. White, *Ministers* ; and Messrs. T. W. Fleming, H. H. Kemp, W. McKenzie, F. A. Moseley, and W. A. Smith, *Elders* ; Rev. W. S. Rolland, *Convener*.

Code  
Committee :  
Draft Standing  
Orders.

86. RESUMED consideration of the Code Committee's draft Standing Orders.

Committee of  
the Whole.

At 10.40 a m. the House resolved into Committee of the Whole. Dr. Bruce in the Chair.

Deliverance.

At 3.15 p.m. the House resumed, and the Clerks reported the Standing Orders amended and passed, and that the Committee recommended the

Assembly to approve the Report, and to declare the Standing Orders of *interim* authority in the General Assembly ; and further, to send them to State Assemblies and Presbyteries with the expression of an opinion that it is desirable that the same Standing Orders should be adopted by all the Courts of the Church, and with an invitation to send suggestions to the Code Committee and instruct the Code Committee to consider any suggestions received and report to next Assembly.

The Report was approved and the recommendations adopted.

87. THE COMMITTEE on Social Questions was reappointed as follows :—  
 Revs. the Moderator, the Clerks, the Moderators and Clerks of the State Assemblies ; the Procurator and Law Agent, together with Revs. Dr. Bruce, J. S. Buntine, J. Burgess, J. Ferguson, Professor Harper, Professor Macdonald, Dr. D. Paton, J. S. Pollock, A. Yule, *Ministers* ; and Hon. J. Balfour, Colonel Goodlet, and Mr. P. H. Speedie, *Elders* ; the Moderator, *Convener*.

Committee on Social Questions appointed.

88. REV. J. JACKSON, *Convener*, submitted the Report of the Committee on the *Year Book*.

Report : Year Book.

The Report was taken as read, and Mr. Jackson moved the following deliverance, which was seconded and carried :—

Receive the Report.

Confirm the action of the Committee in accepting Messrs. Arbuckle, Waddell and Fawckner's offer, and enjoin all Ministers and Elders of the Church to use their best endeavours to secure for the *Year Book* a greatly-increased circulation.

Deliverance.

89. PROFESSOR HARPER moved the following resolution :—That the Assembly take into consideration the Federal Divorce Bill introduced into the House of Representatives by Mr. Dobson, and come to some decision regarding it, which may inform Parliament and guide the Ministers and members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, which was seconded and carried.

The Divorce Bill.

Resolution.

Thereafter a further motion on Divorce was introduced by Dr. Harper and an amendment by Rev. J. Burgess indicated, and the discussion showing considerable divergence of opinion, the following were appointed a Committee to draft a resolution with reference to the proposed Divorce Bill, viz. :—Professor Harper (*Convener*), Revs. J. Burgess, Dr. MacInnes, S. G. Maclaren, Dr. Nisbet, Dr. Rentoul, A. Stewart, and A. Yule.

Committee.

90. DR. MEIKLEJOHN moved :—In view of a prevailing feeling of dissatisfaction among the members of Assembly with regard to the present mode of electing Committees, agree to appoint a Committee to consider the

Mode of electing Committees : Resolution.

question, with the view of devising a scheme for the benefit of next Assembly, to report to this Assembly. The motion was seconded and carried.

Committee. The following Committee was appointed, viz. :—Revs. J. Burgess, T. R. Cairns, Dr. MacInnes, Dr. Nisbet, Dr. D. Paton, Dr. Scott, A. Stewart, G. Tait, and A. Yule; Dr. Scott, *Convener*.

Adjournment. 91. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 5 p.m., to meet again this evening at 7.30 p.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

### ELEVENTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins street, on Wednesday,  
the 24th day of September, 1902, at 7.30 p.m*

Assembly constituted. 92. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator.

Report: Business Committee. 93. THE CONVENER of the Business Committee submitted the arrangement of business for to-morrow, which was approved.

Alliance of Reformed Churches Resolution. 94. DR. LAING submitted the Report of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches with Communications from the Secretary, and moved:—The Assembly rejoice at the success and usefulness of the Alliance, and resolve that the representation in the Council of the Alliance be that of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and not of the Churches of the States separately.

Instruct the Clerks to send an Extract Minute of this Resolution to Dr. Mathews, Secretary of the Alliance.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. F. Paton welcomed as Missions Agent. 95. AT 8 o'clock p.m., according to arrangement, Rev. Frank Paton, appointed by the Assembly Agent of the Board of Missions, was introduced by Rev. T. R. Cairns, Chairman of the Board, and welcomed by the Moderator.

Special Prayer. The Moderator intimated to Mr. Paton his appointment as Missions Agent, of which Mr. Paton signified his acceptance, and thereafter, at the request of the Moderator, Mr. Cairns led the Assembly in prayer.

Report: Federation Protestant Churches. 96. DR. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener of the Special Committee on the Federation of the Protestant Churches, submitted the Report and moved the deliverance, of which the following Clauses were carried :—



Receive the Report.

Congratulate the Methodist Church on their recently-accomplished Union.

It was moved and seconded :—Approve generally of the Articles contained in the Report on Doctrine and the Church as fairly setting forth the mind of the Church on the matters with which they deal, and as fitted to form a basis of negotiation for union with other Churches. Motion.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Articles on Doctrine, together with Rev. A. Stewart's amendments. Article I. was amended by prefixing the following words—"That the supreme and full revelation of God to men is the Lord Jesus Christ." Amendment (Adopted.)

After much debate, Rev. S. G. Maclaren moved the following amendment on the deliverance :—Without taking the Articles in the Report into detailed consideration, or expressing final approval of them at this stage, agree to forward the same to the other Churches for their consideration and as affording a basis for further discussion.

The amendment was seconded and carried and the Assembly resolved accordingly.

From this deliverance Rev. A. Stewart craved leave to dissent which was granted. Dissent.

It was moved, seconded and carried :—Agree to appoint Revs. Dr. Clouston, G. Davidson, R. Gillespie, W. Gray, J. Gray, Professor Harper, A. McCarlie, Dr. MacInnes, J. G. Millar, P. J. Murdoch, Dr. D. Paton, W. C. Radcliffe, P. Robertson Dr. Scott, A. Stewart, G. Tait, and J. Walker representatives to meet any who may be appointed by other Churches to represent them, in considering the question of a closer union of Christian Churches. Representatives.

Reappoint the Committee consisting of the above Representatives, Dr. Clouston *Convener*. Committee

Instruct the Committee to report to next Assembly.

97. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 10.30 p.m., to meet again to-morrow at 10 a.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment

## TWELFTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, on  
Thursday, the 25th day of September, 1902, at 10 a.m.*

Assembly  
constituted.

98. THE ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer by the Moderator.

Minutes  
confirmed.

99. THE MINUTES of the Tenth and Eleventh Sederunts were read and confirmed.

Rev. A. Stewart's  
Reasons of  
Dissent rejected.

100. REV. A. STEWART gave in Reasons of Dissent from the finding of the Assembly in the Federation of Protestant Churches, which were read.

On the motion of Rev. J. McIntosh, duly seconded, it was resolved:—That Mr. Stewart's Reasons being discourteous to the House be sent back to him for emendation.

Dissents.

From this resolution Revs. Dr. Rentoul and A. Stewart craved leave to dissent which was granted.

Rev. A. Stewart intimated his resignation of his membership of the Assembly's Committees.

Commissions:  
Resolution.

101. DR. SCOTT moved:—That the Moderator and Clerks be instructed to give to the Revs. Dr. Meiklejohn, Dr. D. Paton, and J. Mathew, who are about to visit Great Britain, Ireland, and Canada, Commissions authorising them to represent the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the Courts of the Presbyterian Churches of those lands.

The resolution was seconded and carried on the voices.

Committee on  
Sites in Federal  
Capital  
reappointed.

102. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE on Sites in the Federal Capital was reappointed as follows:—Hon. W. Anderson, Hon. J. Balfour, Colonel Goodlet, Messrs. Alexander Martin, and W. Wood; Mr. W. Wood, *Convener*.

Official visit of  
Moderator to  
Acting  
Governor-  
General.

103. AT 10.50 a.m., by appointment, the Moderator retired together with the Moderators of the New South Wales and South Australian Assemblies, to wait upon His Excellency the Acting Governor-General.

The ex-Moderator took the Chair.

Collection for  
Foreign  
Missions.  
Motion.

104. REV. A. STEWART moved:—The Assembly accord leave to the Board of Missions to ask a Christmas offering towards the new arrangements into which the Board has entered. The motion was seconded.

Amendment  
(Adopted.)

Rev. A. Yule moved an amendment:—The Assembly recommend the Board in the employment of their new Agent, to use the collections in connection with his services and meetings towards the object desired.

The amendment was seconded and carried.

105. PROFESSOR HARPER submitted the following deliverance on the Divorce Bill prepared by the Committee appointed, and moved its adoption, which was seconded and carried :—

Deliverance on  
Divorce Bill.

1. The Assembly protest against any legislation which would tend to loosen the life-long character of the marriage tie, or which would lead men and women lightly to contract marriage, and lightly to break from it again, thus affecting disastrously the children of such unions, and degrading the moral feeling of this young nation, embarrassing social life, and doing injury to the sacredness of the marriage bond.

2. That the Assembly declare that before proceeding further with a Divorce Bill affecting the whole of Australia, the Parliament should by Royal Commission enquire into the working of the Divorce Laws of the various States, especially those in which new legislation has recently been introduced, and in which the Judges in Divorce have been constantly protesting against the results of the law they administer.

3. That the Assembly approve the placing of wife and husband upon an equal footing, so that infidelity to the marriage bond in the case of either should be sufficient ground for divorce. They also approve of affording to the wedded poor cheaper modes of legal process in actions for divorce on the grounds hereafter named, and of empowering the Court to make such order as to costs as seems fit.

4. That the Assembly should recognise, in accordance with the Confession of Faith, that the grounds for divorce stated in Scripture are adultery and such wilful and continued desertion as cannot be remedied, and that this should extend over a period of at least five years before relief be granted.

5. That the Assembly should protest in the strongest way against that clause in Mr. Dobson's Bill which provides for interference with the Churches in the exercise of discipline on their Ministers in connection with the celebration of marriages.

6. That the Assembly should instruct its Social Questions Committee to watch the present Divorce Bill in its various stages, and to safeguard the principles of Christian morality, as by taking action whenever and in whatever way it deems such action to be advisable.

106. REV. G. TAIT, Joint-Convener of the Code Committee, submitted the Draft Rules of Procedure in Discipline, and moved :—

Draft Rules on  
Discipline.

The General Assembly approve the Draft of Procedure in regard to Discipline, submitted by the Code Committee.

Deliverance.

Declare it of *interim* authority, and send it to State Assemblies and Presbyteries with instructions to report to next Assembly.

Remit.

107. CALLED for Overture from the General Assembly of South Australia on the Beneficiary Funds of the State Assemblies.

Overture on  
Beneficiary  
Funds.

The Overture was read by the Senior Clerk and supported by Mr. J. Congreve, who moved :—

That the question raised by the Overture be considered by a Special Committee appointed to inquire into the whole question raised by the Overture, and report to next Assembly on the propriety and feasibility of unifying the Beneficiary Funds of the several State Assemblies. The motion was seconded.

Motion.

Amendment.  
(Adopted)  
Remit.

An amendment was moved by Rev. G. Tait and seconded :—Receive the Overture and send it to the State Assemblies with the request that they will consider the questions raised in it, and report their view to next Assembly.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried, and the Assembly resolved accordingly.

Report:  
Method of  
electing  
Standing  
Committees.

108. DR. SCOTT, Convener of the Committee appointed to consider the method of electing the Standing Committees, reported as follows :—

The Committee agree to recommend—

That the Clerks of the State Assemblies be appointed to nominate a Selection Committee of 12 members, to be submitted for approval at the first Sederunt of the next General Assembly.

That the Selection Committee on being appointed by the General Assembly, at once proceed to nominate seven members for each of the Standing Committees of the Assembly.

That the names of members so nominated together with the States they represent, be exhibited in some conspicuous place.

That in the event of any additional names being nominated the General Assembly thereupon proceed to election by ballot.

Dr. Scott moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded and carried, and its recommendations approved.

Motion.

Dr. Nisbet moved the following addition :—That it be an instruction to the Committee to arrange matters that all members of the House may take part in the ballot. The motion was seconded and negatived.

Motion  
(Adopted.)

Rev. R. M. Fergus moved :—That the Business Committee be requested to prepare and submit at the beginning of next Assembly an improved method of working the Ballot in the election of Standing Committees. The motion was seconded and carried.

Moderator  
resumes the  
Chair.

109. 12 NOON. The Moderator resumed the Chair and informed the House that he had been courteously received by His Excellency the Acting Governor-General, who expressed his high appreciation of Assembly's courtesy and his regret that he had been unable to attend the Home and Foreign Missions Demonstration.

Business  
& committee.

110. THE following Business Committee was appointed to act till next Assembly, viz. :—Revs the Clerks, J. Burgess, T. R. Cairns, J. Ferguson, W. Gray, J. Jackson, Dr. MacInnes, Dr. Meiklejohn, P. J. Murdoch, W. S. Radcliffe, P. Robertson, Dr. Scott, A. Skene, C. A. White, *Ministers*; Hon. W. Anderson, Colonel Goodlet, Messrs. T. W. Fleming and W. Wood; the Clerks, *Joint-Conveners*.

111. THE following were appointed Assessors—Revs. Dr. Elder Gray, Assessors appointed.  
W. C. Radcliffe, R. Scott West, and Mr. Alexander Martin.

112. THE SENIOR CLERK laid on the table the Questions at Ordination, Questions at Ordination &c.  
&c., printed by order of last Assembly, and moved :—That the authority for their use be continued. The motion was seconded and carried.

113. REV. J. WALKER moved :—That the College Committee, the Board of Foreign Missions, the Home Mission Committee, and the Committee on the Reception of Ministers be empowered to select a fourth of their number to attend special meetings of said Committees in, say, the month of March ; and that the proportion of the travelling expenses of such delegates of Committees be met from the same source and in the same manner as the expenses of the delegates to the General Assembly. Special Meetings of certain Standing Committees : Resolution.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

114. THE following resolution, moved by Rev. J. Walker for Mr. D. Fletcher, was seconded and carried :—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia beg to congratulate the Presbyterian Churches of South Africa, including the Reformed Dutch Church, on the establishment of peace in their land, and trust that, with the help and blessing of God, the two races so lately at war will now and henceforth live in peace and harmony, striving unitedly to extend the Kingdom of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Congratulations to Presbyterian Churches of South Africa.

115. IT was moved, seconded and agreed :—Thank the Committee on Thanks  
Arrangements, especially the Convener, for organising the Demonstration on Home and Foreign Missions in the Town Hall on Monday evening last, and also accord hearty thanks to the Speakers for their admirable addresses—t Revs. J. Walker, W. S. Macqueen, J. Ferguson, F. Paton and R. Mitchell ; also the Organist and Choir for their valuable services.

Specially thank Rev. J. F. Macrae for his work in connection with the Hospitality Committee, and also the ladies and gentlemen who extended hospitality to the members of Assembly.

Thank the Press for their reports.

6. THE BUSINESS of the General Assembly being now concluded, the Closing address,  
Moderator delivered a brief closing Address.

117. THE MINUTES of this, the Twelfth Sederunt were read and Minutes confirmed.  
confirmed.

Assembly closed.

118. THE ASSEMBLY joined in singing the last three verses of the 122nd Psalm, after which the Moderator, having intimated that in pursuance of the General Assembly's appointment, the next General Assembly of Australia will be holden in St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 1903, at 7 p.m., the Session was closed with prayer and the benediction.

Signed in name and by authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

ALEXANDER HAY, D.D., Moderator.

JAMES S. LAING, D.D., Senior Clerk.



❖ APPENDIX. ❖

## COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

### JUDICIAL COMMISSION.

<p>Rev. John Auld, M.A. David Bruce, D.D. John Burgess, M.A. T. E. Clouston, D.D.</p> <p>Rev. T. R. Cairns J. Meiklejohn, D.D. Alexander Skene, M.A. Alexander Stewart, M.A.</p> <p>Rev. Alexander Hay, D.D. W. Sweyn Macqueen</p> <p>Rev. David Paton, D.D.</p> <p>Rev. James Scott, D.D.</p> <p>Rev. Alexander McCarlie</p> <p>Rev. J. Kemp Bruce James Gibson, M.A. Alexander Hardie Professor Harper, D.D. Alexander McCarlie John C. McDonald, M.A.</p>	<p>Rev. James S. Laing, D.D. George MacInnes, D.D. Mr. John A. Aitken Colonel Goodlet.</p> <p>Rev. George Tait, M.A. Hon. W. Anderson J. Balfour J. M. Davies</p> <p>Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D. Peter Robertson</p> <p>Mr. T. W. Fleming.</p> <p>Rev. John Russell</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p>Rev. David Smith, M.A. John Walker Mr. William Affleck, M.L.A. John Cameron John Candlish Walter G. Crane</p>
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THE MODERATOR, Chairman.

### ASSESSORS.

<p>Rev. Elder Gray, D.D. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.</p>	<p>Rev. R. Scott West Mr. Alexander Martin</p>
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### BOARD OF MISSIONS.

<p>Rev. Joseph Copeland James Lamont, F.L.S.</p> <p>Rev. T. R. Cairns William Fraser, B.A. Andrew Hardie</p> <p>Rev. W. Sweyn Macqueen</p> <p>Rev. W. Gray.</p> <p>Rev. Alexander Hardie.</p> <p>Rev. Alexander McCarlie</p> <p>Rev. T. E. Clouston, D.D. James Cosh, M.A., B.D. Professor Harper, D.D.</p>	<p>Rev. John Walker Colonel Goodlet</p> <p>Rev. Alexander Stewart, M.A. Mr. A. Byers H. H. Kemp</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p>Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D. Mr. T. W. Fleming John Kirkland</p>
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REV. T. R. CAIRNS, Convener.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

## I.—THE CODE,

Rev. David Bruce, D.D. John Burgess, M.A. Thomas E. Clouston, D.D. Elder Gray, D.D. Professor Harper, D.D. Alexander Hay, D.D. Richard Kerr James S. Laing, D.D. Alexander McCarlie George MacInnes, D.D.	Rev. J. K. Macmillan, B.A. John Meiklejohn, D.D. P. J. Murdoch, M.A. David Paton, D.D. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A. John Russell. George Tait, M.A. Hon. James Balfour Mr. T. W. Fleming The Procurator
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THE CLERKS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Joint-Conveners.

## II.—THE COLLEGE.

Rev. John Auld, M.A. John Burgess, M.A. Thomas R. Cairns John Ferguson Alexander Hay, D.D. J. Lundie, B.A. Alexander McCarlie J. Mathew, M.A., B.D. John Meiklejohn, D.D. P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D. F. E. Ozer, M.A., B.D. David Paton, D.D. Alexander Stewart, M.A. George Tait, M.A. John Walker R. Scott West Hon. James Balfour Mr. T. W. Fleming Dr. MacFarland
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Together with the Professors and Lecturers, members *ex-officio*.

DR. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

## III.—HOME MISSION.

Rev. David Bruce, D.D. John Burgess, M.A. D. A. Cameron, M.A. Thomas E. Clouston, D.D. John Ferguson Professor Harper, D.D. H. Jones, M.A. Alexander McCarlie J. K. Macmillan W. Sweyn Macqueen	Rev. John Meiklejohn, D.D. Thomas Nisbet, D.D. David Paton, D.D. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A. Peter Robertson Alexander Skene, M.A. John Walker Hon. W. Anderson James Balfour Mr. T. W. Fleming
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REV. JOHN FERGUSON, Convener.

## IV.—FINANCE.

Rev. Alexander McCarlie J. Meiklejohn, D.D. Thomas Nisbet, D.D. David Paton, D.D. Alexander Stewart, M.A. George Tait, M.A. John Walker Mr. William Affleck, M.L.A. Hon. William Anderson James Balfour	Mr. John Cameron Alexander Dean J. De Conlay T. J. Finlay Colonel Goodlet Mr. T. W. Fleming R. Gillespie A. S. Lang James Murdoch William Wood
--	---

COLONEL GOODLET, Convener.



## V.—STATISTICS.

Rev. John Burgess, M.A.  
 Elder Gray, D.D.  
 Richard Kerr  
 James S. Laing, D.D.  
 James Lamont, F.L.S.  
 Alexander McCarlie  
 George MacInnes, D.D.  
 John McIntosh, M.A.  
 J. K. Macmillan, B.A.  
 David Paton, D.D.

Rev. Hume Robertson, B.A.  
 George Tait, M.A.  
 John Walker  
 Charles A. White, B.A.  
 Mr. William Affleck, M.L.A.  
 John Cameron  
 T. W. Fleming  
 George Hall  
 Alexander Martin  
 J. K. Reid

REV. C. A. WHITE, Convener.

## VI.—RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. David Bruce, D.D.  
 Thomas E. Clouston, D.D.  
 W. R. Cunningham  
 George Davidson, M.A.  
 Robert Hanlin  
 Alexander S. Houston  
 George MacInnes, D.D.  
 W. Sweyn Macqucen  
 P. J. Murdoch, M.A.  
 Thomas Nisbet, D.D.  
 David Paton, D.D.

Rev. W. S. Radcliffe, B.A.  
 John Russell  
 Alexander Skene, M.A.  
 Professor A. C. Smith, M.A.  
 John Walker  
 Alexander Yule, M.A.  
 Hon. James Balfour  
 Mr. T. W. Fleming  
 Colonel Goodlet  
 Mr. Thomas Kennedy

THE EXECUTIVE: Members residing in the same State with the Convener.

REV. ALEXANDER SKENE, Convener.

## VII.—THE YEAR BOOK

Rev. John Burgess, M.A.  
 George Davidson, M.A.  
 John Ferguson  
 Robert Hanlin  
 James Jackson  
 Richard Kerr

Rev. Hume Robertson, B.A.  
 John Russell  
 Mr. A. Byers  
 T. W. Fleming  
 George Hall  
 William Wood

REV. JAMES JACKSON, Convener.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

## I.—THE RECORD.

Rev. J. S. Buntine  
 George Davidson, M.A.  
 George C. Love, M.A., B.D.  
 Alexander McCarlie  
 J. Galbraith Millar  
 Thomas Nisbet, D.D.  
 Peter Robertson  
 W. S. Rolland

Rev. D. Macrae Stewart  
 Robert H. Waugh, M.A.  
 Charles A. White, B.A.  
 Mr. T. W. Fleming  
 H. H. Kemp  
 William McKenzie  
 F. A. Moseley  
 W. A. Smith

REV. W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

## II.—FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

Rev. Thomas E. Clouston, D.D.  
 George Davidson, M.A.  
 William Gray  
 John Gray, M.A., B.D.  
 Professor Harper  
 R. Gillespie  
 Alexander McCarlie  
 George MacInnes, D.D.  
 J. Galbraith Millar

Rev. P. J. Murdoch, M.A.  
 David Paton, D.D.  
 W. S. Radcliffe, B.A.  
 Peter Robertson  
 James Scott, D.D.  
 Alexander Stewart, M.A.  
 George Tait, M.A.  
 John Walker

DR. CLOUSTON, Convener.

## III.—SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

Revs. The Moderator, the Clerks ; the Moderators and Clerks of the State Assemblies ;  
 the Procurator and Law Agent, together with

Rev. David Bruce, D.D.  
 J. S. Buntine  
 John Burgess, M.A.  
 John Ferguson  
 Professor Harper, D.D.  
 Professor Macdonald, D.D.

Rev. David Paton, D.D.  
 John S. Pollock  
 Alexander Yule, M.A.  
 Hon. James Balfour  
 Colonel Goodlet  
 Mr. P. H. Speedie

THE MODERATOR, Convener.

## IV.—HYMN BOOK FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Rev. Thomas E. Clouston, D.D.  
 Joseph Fulton  
 Andrew Hardie  
 Richard Miller, B.A.  
 W. S. Rolland  
 D. Macrae Stewart

Mr. Archibald Jackson  
 William McKenzie  
 Andrew Mercer  
 P. H. Speedie  
 William Wishart

REV. D. M. STEWART, Convener.

## V.—SITES IN FEDERAL CAPITAL.

Hon. William Anderson  
 James Balfour  
 Colonel Goodlet

Mr. Alexander Martin  
 William Wood

MR W. WOOD, Convener.

## VI.—BUSINESS.

Rev. The Clerks  
 John Burgess, M.A.  
 T. R. Cairns  
 John Ferguson  
 William Gray  
 James Jackson  
 George MacInnes, D.D.  
 John Meiklejohn, D.D.  
 P. J. Murdoch, M.A.

Rev. W. S. Radcliffe, B.A.  
 P. Robertson  
 James Scott, D.D.  
 Alexander Skene, M.A.  
 Charles A. White, B.A.  
 Hon. W. Anderson  
 Mr. T. W. Fleming  
 Colonel Goodlet  
 Mr. William Wood

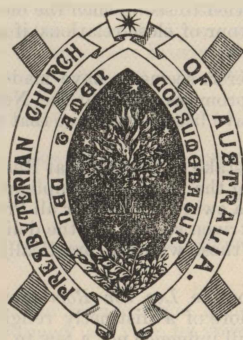
THE CLERKS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Joint-Conveners.

# REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AND OTHER PAPERS

PRESENTED TO THE

General Assembly of Australia.



MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1902.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

(1.) FROM THE ALLIANCE OF THE REFORMED CHURCHES HOLDING THE PRESBYTERIAN SYSTEM.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1901-2.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, meeting in Melbourne, 17th September, 1902.

The Executive Commission, Eastern Section, beg respectfully to present to your Venerable Court, the following brief narrative in reference to movements affecting our Churches that have taken place during the last twelve months.

That Church Union should be sought for on the lines of least resistance has been the teaching of the Alliance since its formation. Many years have passed since this was first proclaimed, but during 1901 it has borne fruit in a remarkable manner. The long talked of union between the Presbyterian Churches in Australia took place last July, so that in place of five independent Churches on that Island Continent, there is now but one, "THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA." In October a similar union was effected between the Churches in New Zealand, each Island having previously had its own independent Church. Now there is no longer North or South, and but one "PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND." In no portion of the Empire, therefore, does the British flag now fly over a divided Presbyterianism, except in the British Isles themselves, and one can only pray that here also the divisions of Zion may soon be healed, and the dispersed gathered into one.

A similar wave of Church Unionism has swept over India. The Native Churches in Southern and in Northern India, under the guidance and encouragement of the mission agents of different branches of our common Presbyterian Church, have formed themselves into a Southern and a Northern Presbyterian Church respectively, proclaiming to the world that they all form one body in Christ. In all this, we Presbyterians may well rejoice, while the Alliance is entitled to see in such the outcome of that impulse which it has been permitted to give in favour of close relations, if not union, between our kindred Churches.

The Russian advance into Persia seems to have made but little progress since our last report. None of the many promises made to the Nestorians as an inducement to abandon their hereditary faith have been fulfilled, so that a deep sense of disappointment is very prevalent.

Yet it would be a serious mistake to assume that Russia will do nothing more. The probability is, that Russia finding the people so compliant will take her own time for any further action. Meanwhile a sword hangs over all Protestant Missions in that land, and the Missionaries who have striven so long for the deliverance of its people from evil ways, entreat of us to remember those who are practically in bonds, as suffering with them.

On the Continent of Europe the *Los von Rom* movement continues to advance, possessing in its main current, more of a distinctly religious character than it had at first. Political considerations still influence not a few to break with Rome, and such for the most part, join the Old Catholic Church, their political resentments being thus gratified while their religious beliefs are not disturbed. The situation is one that every follower of Christ should regard with deep and prayerful interest, seeking that more and more Gospel light may shine and Gospel life abound.

The eighth General Council of the Alliance will meet in Liverpool in June, 1904, when it is hoped that this Church will be represented by its full number of delegates according to the proportion agreed on in 1888. The Section would respectfully suggest that steps might be taken even now, looking to the appointment of these delegates at your next ordinary meeting.

In view of the still unsettled condition of China, of the recent awakening in Japan, of the clouds of plague, famine and war affecting so many countries, the Section would ask this court to renew to the congregations under its care, the recommendation it has given on former occasions to the effect that the *last week in November, commencing on Tuesday, the 25th*, be observed as a week of united prayer, and that the attention of the congregations be specially called to this subject.

G. D. MATHEWS, General Secretary.

LETTERS FROM REV. G. D. MATHEWS, D.D.

25 Christchurch Avenue, Brondesbury, London, N.W

March 31, 1902

MY DEAR DR. LAING,

I have great pleasure in enclosing to you a copy of the report of the Presbyterian Alliance to our Churches, and will be much obliged by your presenting it to the Assembly at your meeting next September.

I am at a loss on what you may think a very simple matter. I have not noticed any statement anywhere as to the exact position of the different Presbyterian Churches in your several provinces. Do these Churches retain their separate existence, and transact their own business; or, have they gone out of existence as independent Churches, having merged themselves in the Presbyterian Church of Australia? Do they still exist only now as Provincial Churches, just as we have Provincial Synods, which yet have no separate jurisdiction, being Synods of a central body; or, are they still as separate and independent as previously to the recent union, only now, having surrendered to a central body, the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the control of certain specified branches of Church work? You all in Australia understand this matter perfectly, but I confess I have not come across any distinct statement on this point. I have gone through your little and very serviceable *Year Book*, but it says nothing on this point.

Hitherto we have recognised each of the Colonial Churches as separate and independent Churches, and I have sent to each separate supreme court a copy of our Annual Report, and asked each one to send its own delegates to the meetings of the Presbyterian Council.

Well now, where do we all stand to-day? Am I to continue sending to the Provincial Churches copies of our Annual Report, and receiving from each of these, delegates, according to the rule; or, am I to send only to the General Assembly, and receiving delegates only from this central body?

It seems to me that this latter is the logical course, in which case I must ask you to get your Assembly to send me a resolution intimating its wish to be accepted as the General Assembly of the Australian Church, and all will be straight. Our rule as to delegates, in case of a union of Churches, is that the United Church shall send as many delegates as the several Churches had sent separately beforehand, so that your Assembly would be entitled to send as many as your several Churches had been entitled to send, only this Union must be notified to me to allow the Council to take the proper action. Pray do not let this matter drop out of your memory.

I should also like to know whether your Provincial Assemblies will continue to meet annually, or only in the years on which there is no General Assembly. I shall be glad to have a note from you on these points.

Trusting that the Union of last year may prove a great blessing to all the Church and to Australia.

With all personal regards, believe me, yours sincerely,

G. D. MATHEWS.

25 Christchurch Avenue, Brondesbury, London, N.W.,

4th August, 1902.

DEAR DR. LAING,—

I am much obliged by your kind letter of June 3rd, explaining to me the real nature of the Union that was formed last year by your Provincial—or, as you now call them, *State*—Churches. It is indeed as you say, much more of a Federation than of an Organic union, but, in the nature of the case, such an arrangement cannot stop where it is at present, and the continuous working together will soon lead to a closer union than might be practicable at present. I confess myself not to be an ardent lover of huge ecclesiastical bodies, believing that comparatively small bodies do more proportionally than the large ones, and that there is a much closer fellowship among the members of such than in Churches of eight or ten thousand congregations. You, of course, are not exposed to such difficulties as yet, but I trust the time will come when you will see that the little one has become a great Nation.

It does seem awkward that you should have a *State* General Assembly and a General Assembly for the Commonwealth. Why not distinguish them by calling the State Assemblies the State General Assembly, and the Federal Assembly "The *National* General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Australia?" This is what that Federal Assembly really is, and the distinction would thus be brought about.

I have always felt the difficulty about our Annual Report. Our West Indian friends want to receive it in the early part of January! Our British and Continental Churches want it in May! And you want it—when?

If it is only the "National General Assembly" that will in future appoint the Delegates, then it should be sent only to that body, and as apparently this will meet in the autumn, it is all right; but if it is to be sent to the *State Assemblies* as at present, and these continue to meet in early summer, some plan must be adopted to meet your wishes.

I am very desirous that our British Churches should collectively take up the subject of providing the Colonies with men. One great difficulty we shall have in any concerted plan is the scarcity of good men for our Home congregations, for I, for one, will never consent to send only the leavings to you; in fact, you should look askance on a man who had been five or six years on the preachers' list at Home, and then, during the last three months of his Home work, suddenly discovered that he had a call to go to the Colonies. However, I will see what the brethren here think of the subject, and, if I can come to any arrangement or understanding, will let you know.

With kindest personal regards, believe me, yours sincerely,

G. D. MATTHEWS.

(2.) FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

At Toronto, and within Bloor Street Church, there, the nineteenth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and two years, which day the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada being met and constituted.

*Inter alia*: Dr. Robert Murray moved as follows, seconded by Principal Caven:—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada offers its cordial congratulations to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Commonwealth of Australia, upon the recent union happily effected within the bounds of that Commonwealth.

The General Assembly recalls with pleasure the co-operation of the Australian Churches with our own Church in carrying forward for many years the Mission work in the New Hebrides. Our brethren in Australia will rejoice to learn that the union of the Presbyterian Churches in Canada, consummated twenty-seven years ago, has proved, by the blessing of God, conspicuously successful; and the General Assembly prays the Great Head of the Church to crown the union in Australia with even more abundant blessing.

This resolution to be communicated to the Moderator of the Australian General Assembly.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada by

ROBERT CAMBELL,

Clerk of the General Assembly.

## II.

### OVERTURES.

(1.) OVERTURE ANENT THE THIRD ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT IN THE DEED OF UNION.

*From the General Assembly of New South Wales.*

Whereas the Third Article of Agreement in the Deed of Union seems to limit State Assemblies and Presbyteries in their choice of elders for the General Assembly of Australia to such elders as may be members of the State Assemblies for the time being; and whereas it is desirable that all *bona fide* acting elders should be eligible for election: It is, therefore, humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Illawarra to the Venerable the General Assembly of New South Wales to overture the General Assembly of Australia to declare that no such limitation is meant in said Article, or if necessary, to amend the said Article so that any *bona fide* acting elder within a Presbytery may be eligible for election by that Presbytery, and any *bona fide* acting elder within a State be eligible for

election by the Assembly of that State, or to deal otherwise with the premises as to your Venerable Court may seem fit.

The Assembly appoint Mr. Burgess to support the Overture in the General Assembly.

JAMES S. LAING, D.D., Clerk of Assembly.

(2.) OVERTURE ANENT BENEFICIARY FUNDS.

*From the South Australian Assembly.*

It is hereby humbly overtured to the General Assembly that it take into consideration the subject of the Beneficiary Funds of the several Presbyterian Churches in Australia, and overture the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and urge upon the said General Assembly the imperative necessity of formulating or adopting some scheme whereby the Beneficiary Funds of the several Churches comprising the United Church may be organised as to permit Ministers who have served the Church in one State, and are members of the Beneficiary Funds in that State, to be transferred to another State without surrendering their yearly increment: or be compelled to join a similar fund by such translation.

W. GRAY, Clerk of Assembly.

(3.) OVERTURE ON THE POSITION AND RIGHTS OF ADHERENTS.

*From the General Assembly of Western Australia.*

Whereas Rule 5, Part II., Chapter v., Section 1, of Rules and Forms of Procedure of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (which Rules have been adopted by the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia) is of doubtful interpretation, and whereas adherents have the right to vote on the call to a Minister (Part III., Chapter i., par. 5), and whereas the right of electing Elders belongs to the Communicants of a Congregation (Part III., Chapter iv., par. 1): It is therefore humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Perth to the Commission of Assembly to overture the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration, and to define (a) What constitutes an adherent, and (b) The respective rights and privileges of members and adherents in all Congregational matters that involve a vote being taken, or to deal otherwise with the premises as to the Venerable Court may seem fit.

Dr. Meiklejohn and the Rev. Alexander McCarlie were appointed to support the overture in the General Assembly of Australia.

ALEXANDER McCARLIE, Clerk.

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### III.

## REPORTS.

(1.) REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS.

As in other years, most gratifying reports have reached us of the admirable work being done by our Agents in North Queensland. A special report has been prepared this year by the Rev. Jas. B. Russell, who was deputed by the Queensland Executive to make a full and searching inspection of the whole work being carried on at Mapoon and Weipa. The terms of the commission were wide-reaching, and the Commissioner has given a most favourable report covering the work of the Missionaries and Teachers, and dealing with the results both religious and educational. Owing to the remote situation of the Mission, and the consequent expenses involved in a visit, it is impossible to send such a commission frequently but an occasional visit is an absolute necessity. Our Agents need some practical manifestation of the Church's interest and sympathy,

especially as the work is hard and the position lonely; and the Church, if its interest is to be maintained and increased, must have from time to time some outside opinion regarding the manner in which the work is being done.

A few sentences from the report of the Commissioner will enable the Assembly to see for itself what Mr. Russell thinks of the work being done at Mapoon and Weipa. Regarding the educational work among the children, he says: "At Mapoon we have in Mrs. Ward a lady exceptionally well fitted for the work she has to discharge; and I am happy to report of this school in the highest possible terms. The attendance numbers fully sixty, of whom more than fifty are housed in dormitories and are therefore under completest supervision. . . . Their knowledge of religious elements is precise, and of Scripture history is considerably in advance of that possessed by many white children. Their behaviour is faultless, and their appearance uniformly happy and cheerful."

At Weipa, the visit was made under unfavourable circumstances, owing chiefly to an epidemic of influenza. Only a few children, out of an attendance of sixty, were present. The Commissioner closes this part of his report with the words: "A pleasant feature is the affectionate relations which subsist between Miss Schick, the teacher, and her pupils."

Regarding the directly religious state of the work, Mr. Russell speaking of Mapoon says, "Nothing could be more encouraging than the aspect of things at Mapoon. To speak of the 'directly religious side' of the work here, is simply to take in at one view, the entire life of the place; for the religious influence exerted on the lives of the permanent residents, is many-sided and pervasive. . . . Since the Mission was started ten years ago, 29 have been baptized of whom four were infants; 13 of these, it is gratifying to notice (12 adults and one infant), were baptized during the current year." The report of the work at Weipa is not so encouraging but the Assembly will remember that it was commenced some five years later than at Mapoon.

Regarding the Mission-boat, "J. G. Ward," Mr. Russell says, "I am happy to state this is a very strong boat built under the owner's eye four years ago. It has good carrying capacity, sails comfortably, and is well-suited to the requirements of this mission."

Your Board is of opinion that something more ought to be attempted, and through the generosity of the Queensland Government a site has been secured on the Archer River where it is proposed to form a third station. This will be carried out on the return of Mr. Hey after his furlough. Some, perhaps, have thought that the Mission was scarcely worthy of the Federal Assembly but we need to remember that that Assembly had very little power. The Church demanded some manifestation of the movement toward union, and it was felt that that was sufficient for the time being. It was in Australia and it was work that needed to be done.

#### THE FUTURE.

It will be in the recollection of Members of Assembly, that when our Union was consummated in July, 1901, the Board of Missions was created, and it was naturally expected that a distinct step forward should be taken in Foreign Mission work. Other Churches have provided us with excellent precedents and already appeals have come both from India and China, either to open a new station or to assist those already in the

In the opinion of your Board neither of these suggestions should be adopted at present. We have not sufficient revenue to open a new station, and it would not be satisfactory to become a mere auxiliary of another Church. It is agreed generally, however, that something ought to be attempted and two suggestions have been made. The Committee of the New South Wales Church recommends that a new Mission be established in one of the South Sea Islands that are the most necessitous, and where it would not interfere with any other Protestant Mission; while the Victorian members of the Assembly, so far as their knowledge goes at present, would favour the taking over and extending the work in Korea being carried on by the Church of Victoria; that Church pledging itself not to withdraw but, if possible, to increase its interest in, and present support of this Mission. There is an almost limitless sphere, and the people belong to a live race where mission-work would be certain to tell. At present three married missionaries and three ladies are engaged, and there is every prospect of the Mission accomplishing extensive work. The population of Korea is about 12,000,000, and the only Protestant Missions, so far as we are aware, are those of the Churches of America and Victoria. Should the Assembly agree to extend the work at Fusan, this could be done without having to encounter the initial difficulties and expenses of a new station.



## LAY AGENTS.

Another question which ought to engage the attention of the Assembly is: Has the time not come when Lay Agents might be more largely employed in Foreign Mission work? This has been done already on a limited scale in the New Hebrides; and the question is prompted by the fact that a great many young men of the Church, deeply interested in Foreign Missions, have responded to the appeals of other organisations working in India and China, and their appointment has given these societies a strong claim on our people. It is generally known that these men would have much preferred to work under their own Church, but as there were virtually no openings they went elsewhere. Your Board is of opinion that the Church has in this way suffered a distinct loss in the past, and would suggest that the very serious attention of the Assembly should be given to the matter, with the hope that some arrangement may be made by which such men may be retained in the service of the Church.

## INCOME.

If a forward step of this kind is to be taken, there will naturally be a demand for a greater revenue, and some people may suppose that the Assembly is not in a position to undertake a larger liability. If such people will only look at the amounts being contributed to this work by some of the State Churches they will see how very little is being done. Your Board recognises the pressure of other claims, but it cannot remain indifferent to the command of the Master—"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel unto every creature."

As a Church we have received much at the hand of God, and it is fitting that we should show our gratitude by seeking to fulfil this command. If the experience of the past proves anything, it proves that a liberal support of Foreign Missions has never lessened in any appreciable way the generosity of the Church to local claims. On the contrary, the congregations that have been most anxious to do work for God among the heathen in foreign lands have been also the most solicitous about work at home. Still a forward movement cannot be undertaken without increased revenue, and the Board would suggest that the Assembly should urge increased liberality on the whole membership of the Church.

The Board has given careful attention to the instructions of the Assembly regarding the appointment of a Foreign Mission Organising Secretary, and hopes to be able, after its final meeting which will be held immediately before the meeting of the Assembly, to make some definite proposal on the subject.

The Treasurer's statement for the present year is appended.

T. R. CAIRNS, Convener.

*Handwritten signature*

FOREIGN MISSIONS FUND IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

DR. Statement of Receipts and Expenditure from 20th July, 1901, to August 11th, 1902. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Collections and Contributions, viz. :-				By Balance from July 20th, 1901			
Victoria			297 16 10	Rev. N. Hey's Salary to 30/6/02	200	0	0
Queensland			105 0 0	" E. Brown	200	0	0
New South Wales			80 10 0	" N. Hey's Assistant	60	0	0
South Australia			21 12 7	" E. Brown's Assistant, half-year	30	0	0
Net Interest			2 3 4	Delegates' Expenses to Sydney	13	3	0
*Weipa Ration Account	£130	11	10	Freight Charges, etc., to Mapoon	11	0	8
*Mapoon Ration Account	123	4	0	Stationery and Postages	2	17	6
*Boat Maintenance Fund	81	16	4	Exchanges on Drafts, Cheques, etc.	3	2	10
*Weipa Building Fund	25	4	6	Rev. J. Russell's Expenses, Inspecting Weipa and			
*Rev. N. Hey's Furlough Fund	120	3	9	Mapoon Stations	20	0	0
			481 0 5	Convener's Expenses	5	3	0
				Colonial Bank Charge for Keeping Account	0	10	0
				†Weipa Ration A/c., Goods, etc. sent to			
				Rev. E. Brown	£107	10	3
				†Mapoon Ration A/c., Goods, etc., sent			
				to Rev. N. Hey	120	17	1
				†Boat Maintenance Account—Salary of			
				Rev. N. Hey's Boatman	45	0	0
				Balance Cash in Colonial Bank			
					273	7	4
					84	10	5
					£988	3	2
* Total of these Amounts	£481	0	5	ASSETS.			
† Expended	273	7	4	Deposit in A. and M. Bank, £172 9s. 9d. ; due 13/9/1910.			
			£207 13 1				
Amount in hand	£84	19	5				
Due from Gen. A/c.	122	13	8				
			£207 13 1				

NO

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT, 1901.

In presenting the Report for another year the Committee would gratefully acknowledge the good hand of God in the measure of health and strength enjoyed by our Missionaries, their preservation from danger, and the encouraging measure of success that has attended their labours.

## THE NEW HEBRIDES.

Missionaries :—

On the Island of Malo—Rev. J. D. Landels and Mrs. Landels.

The work on Malo and the adjoining small island of Tutuba has been most encouraging during the past year. Numerous accessions to the Church have been recorded. Some of those who once were the most hostile have now become the friends of the Mission, and the outlook is most hopeful. The converts are showing a most noble spirit of liberality, and the system of monthly collections at the Services is being carried out with good results. A large quantity of arrowroot has also been made this year and sent to Sydney for sale, and may be obtained of Messrs. W. S. Park and Son. The Committee would draw the attention of the Church to this fact, so that the generous firm who have undertaken to dispose of it free of cost to us may have the satisfaction of seeing that their efforts to aid the Mission in this way are appreciated by the Church. The quality is excellent, and the price moderate, and the Committee hopes that this reminder will stimulate the sale, so that the Mission may reap the benefit as soon as possible.

It is with much regret that the Committee has to report the retirement of our much beloved and faithful Missionary, the Rev. J. D. Landels. The health of Mrs. Landels and the education of their family have constrained Mr. Landels with much reluctance to take this step. The Committee, in accepting the resignation of Mr. Landels, has placed on record its appreciation of his faithful service during the 15 years that he has been doing the work of the Church, gratefully acknowledging the large measure of success which has attended his labours in the establishment of Christianity upon the island of Malo, and in translating a large portion of the Scriptures into the language of the people. Mrs. Landels also has been instrumental in doing much good among the women of Malo. Mr. Landels is not severing his connection with our Church, but hopes to obtain a suitable sphere of labour in the State.

The Committee lost no time in endeavouring to obtain a suitable successor to Mr. Landels, and is now able to report that Mr. David Livingstone Paterson, who has been for some years employed in Mission work in connection with the John G. Paton Committee, has been engaged as Missionary of this Church, subject to the approval of the Assembly, and has already, with Mrs. Paterson, proceeded to the Islands to take up the work on Malo. Mr. Paterson has not received the usual Ministerial training, but was ordained to the Eldership in Glasgow. He comes to us with the very highest recommendations from those Missionaries with whom he has been associated, and who have had the best opportunity of judging of his fitness for the work. He has passed two examinations in the course of study, prescribed by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, for Home Mission Workers, and the Committee recommends that he should continue a similar course of study, under the direction of the Theological Faculty of this Church, with a view to his ordination to the ministry at some future time. The Committee now asks the Assembly to confirm Mr. Paterson's appointment, believing that he will be an earnest and faithful servant of Christ and of our Church. Mrs. Paterson is a valuable helpmeet and a most devoted Missionary, her training in Medical Institutions in the home country giving her a special fitness for the work in the Islands.

*The Maritime Service.*—The steamship service of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co. continues to give satisfaction, notwithstanding the adverse circumstances under which it has been carried on for some time past by reason of the French opposition in so many forms. It is confidently hoped that a more satisfactory state of things may soon obtain in the New Hebrides. The Committee has lost no opportunity of bringing and keeping the subject before the proper authorities in the State and Commonwealth. It is believed that the settlement of a British Commissioner in the Islands in the near future will secure the safety of our Missions and a guarantee of justice to the natives. The recent establishment of a more frequent means of communication will be an additional comfort and convenience to the Missionaries.

## WORK AMONG THE CHINESE.

## Missionaries:—

In Sydney—Rev John Young Wai, and Mr. Mark Gee Hing, Student.

In Newcastle—Mr. James F. Kem Yee.

*Sydney.*—The Missionaries have had a considerable amount of encouragement in their labours in Foster Street and at Waterloo, and several additions have been made to the membership at both places. The Week Evening School at Foster Street has been carried on by members of the Fellowship Union during the year, with varying success. This work is beset by many difficulties, and is a source of some concern to the Committee.

Miss Thomson, of the Women's Missionary Association, has continued her visits among the Chinese women, accompanied by Mrs. Young Wai as interpreter. Their visits are much appreciated, and the Committee believes that much good is being quietly done.

*Newcastle.*—Mr. Kem Yee continues his work in Newcastle and suburbs, and in East and West Maitland. The constant and laborious work which falls to the lot of the bulk of the Chinese in these places seems to crush out of the minds of many of them all desire for higher things. Notwithstanding this the attendance at the Services is encouraging, and considerable interest in the Gospel is being evinced. Mrs. Kem Yee is able in many ways to give much assistance in the work of the Mission. The debt on the Mission buildings is being gradually reduced, and the sum now owing is very small. For this satisfactory state of affairs much praise is due to the local Committee under the convenership of the Rev. William Bain, of Newcastle.

## THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

## Missionaries:—

At Sholinghur, India—Miss McLean, Miss McNiell, M.P.S., and Miss Symonds, B.A.

The letters of the Missionaries are full of enthusiasm, and tell of much earnest work for Christ, and for India. Interesting accounts of the work of these ladies, and of the other Mission work of our Church, appear in the paper, *Ministering Women*, published quarterly by the Association. Miss Symonds, who entered upon her work during the past year, received an enthusiastic welcome. The Committee notes with much pleasure that the Branch of the Women's Missionary Association in Newtown Congregation (the Rev. T. W. Dunn, Minister) makes itself responsible for the salary of Miss Symonds.

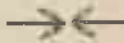
The earnest and self-denying efforts of the Hon Organising Secretary, Miss Forbes, have been crowned with success, and a goodly number of new Branches have been formed. One of the greatest needs of the Church is thus being supplied. The Missionary spirit of our people is not only aroused, but also fixed, and made to yield results that will be lasting.

## CHINA.

Miss Coleman, the representative of the Woollahra Congregation (the Rev. John Walker, Minister), has returned to China. May she and her fellow-Missionaries in that great Empire be mercifully preserved from all dangers in the future, and their labour abundantly blessed.

In name of the Committee,

JAMES LAMONT, Convener.



## NEW SOUTH WALES CHURCH.

### FOREIGN MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.									
				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
General Missions	...	...	...	554	2	11	New Hebrides Mission	...	...	...	420	5	6
New Hebrides Mission	...	...	...	151	13	3	Chinese	...	...	...	508	17	5
Chinese	...	...	...	185	19	8	Aborigines	...	...	...	79	10	0
Aborigines	...	...	...	48	0	0	Zenana	...	...	...	227	9	6
Zenana	...	...	...	175	4	1	Sundry Missions	...	...	...	4	18	5
Sundry Missions	...	...	...	4	18	5	Sundry Expenses	...	...	...	146	6	6
				£1119	18	4					£1387	7	4

## VICTORIA.

REPORT, 1902.

NEW HEBRIDES BRANCH.

The work of the Mission has continued to develop steadily and satisfactorily amid many trials. The loss of trained men by "recruiting," by accident, disease and death, is discouraging. For two years Queensland can still avail herself of Kanaka labour, By the sinking of a new boat off Malekula, Aulua lost ten of her best workers. But by God's blessing, both Missionaries and people have thrown themselves into yet greater enthusiasm in the work of up-building and extending God's Kingdom. Dr. S. R. McCausland, of Ireland, and Rev. J. C. Neill, of Scotland, have been secured for our staff, and leave London for Melbourne, January, 1903. Dr. Paton has returned to Aniwa, and has greatly benefited by the change and been warmly welcomed. He is willing to resign his agency and accept the status of Missionary only.

## J. G. PATON FUND COMMITTEE.

The heroic efforts made by Rev. Frank Paton to resume his work on Tanna brought on still more serious illness, and he had to return to Victoria. His Committee keep his resignation *in retentis* till they see what a year's rest on furlough allowance will do for his health. Meanwhile he is busy with translations and publishing books for Tanna.

The Synod has been requested to sanction the exchange of Assistants, so that Mr. and Mrs. Anderson may take up the work at Lenakel, Tanna, and Mr. McKenzie be with his brother, Dr. Ewen McKenzie. Dr. Crombie has been settled on Wala, a small Island near Uripiv, with good prospects. The site cost £50. Rev. M. Frater has added a portion of S.E. Ambrim to his charge on Paama, and has had good success in both districts.

Mr. Paterson, who took charge of the training home on Tongoa during Dr. Annand's absence has been accepted by New South Wales as their missionary for Malo, where Mr. Landels left a well-established cause.

## GENERAL.

The Home Government have appointed Captain Rawson, formerly of the *Royalist*, to be British Resident in the New Hebrides. He is well known, trusted, and welcomed by all. A goodly company of colonists have gone from Sydney to land belonging to Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co., and a monthly steam service is again established for the Islands. The Rev. Alex. Stewart, M.A., attended the Synod as delegate from Victoria in connection with the renewal of contract for maritime service and other business.

ANDREW HARDIE, Conventer.

## CHINESE.

Our Church works in seven centres of population, the Chinese numbering upwards of one thousand. We have eight Catechists and one Student who is under the tuition of the Rev. James Chue, the superintendent. About 250 attend worship. Of these 50 are Church members. During the year there were two baptisms. At present seven are under instruction, and intend presenting themselves for baptism in the beginning of September. Our Superintendent, by permission of the Committee, visited Perth (West Australia) during the year, spending five months in work carried on by St. Andrew's Church there. The Committee have under consideration the request of Perth to supply a Catechist, for whom an adequate salary and house are promised.

In Melbourne, Miss Pye carries on with much success a school for Chinese girls. This work belongs to P.W.M.U. department.

## ABORIGINES.

The work at Ramahyuck still goes on under the supervision of the Rev. Hagenauer. The number of blacks at the station, however, steadily decreases. The quarterly reports reveal a healthy spiritual condition. A good many have confessed Christ and been added to the Church. At Healesville, the blacks are under the care of the Rev. J. Heyer.

## KOREA.

Since last report the Church has taken a forward step in the appointment of Dr. Currell as medical Missionary. His salary has been guaranteed by the Fellowship Society and a number of our Church members. News has recently been received of the Doctor's safe arrival and happy and welcome commencement of his work amongst the natives. Reports received during the year from all the members of the staff in the field have been most encouraging, and give promise of great blessing and further success in the near future. One of the Agents, Miss Brown, has been at home on furlough, and has done good work in the formation of new branches of the Women's Missionary Union, and in stimulating interest in the old branches.

## VICTORIAN CHURCH.

### THE FOREIGN MISSION FUNDS FOR THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.								
				£	s.	d.						
							£	s.	d.			
Amount Contributed for the	New Hebrides, Chinese, and											
Aborigines Funds	...	...	...	1882	1	5	2192	13	2			
A. G. Russell Fund	...	...	...	199	10	0	769	1	7			
Native Teachers Fund	...	...	...	267	5	3	275	13	6	3237	8	3
Dayspring Maintenance Fund	...	...	...	881	7	10				302	15	0
Korean Mission Fund	...	...	...	297	9	9				400	1	0
Interest from Investments	...	...	...	35	0	0				685	7	3
Deficiency	...	...	...	1633	10	8				374	2	11
										116	10	6
				<u>£5116</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>				<u>£5116</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>

## QUEENSLAND.

## REPORT, 1902.

Your Committee are in the happy position of being able to present a Balance-sheet which shows a credit on both accounts, and while this result has come about more through unexpected windfalls than through the increased liberality of the Church, it deserves none the less to be noted.

The work among the Kanakas at Mackay has been carried on steadily during the year, and while there has been no occurrence of extraordinary interest to note there is no doubt that much good has been done. A work of this kind must not be judged by the results reached in one year as compared with another, but by the general influence upon the moral and spiritual character of those who are under instruction for considerable periods. The influence of our work upon those who attend our schools and services, both at Walkerston and Mielere, are happily summed up in the following paragraph from Mr. Walker's interesting and elaborate report, and what Mr. Walker says about those under his charge is equally true of those under Mr. MacIntyre's care at Walkerston. Mr. Walker says: "There is no doubt that the week-night and Sunday schools, combined with the Sunday services, have a considerable influence on the character of all concerned, especially upon those who are most regular, most thoughtful, and most earnest. As time flies, one sees those who continue from year to year, and who therefore are the only fair illustrations of what is to be raised, growing more intelligent, more trustworthy, and more devoted." There is no question of it, that under the steady impact of Gospel teaching, along with the secular instruction of the Mission schools, the mental and moral condition of the boys has been immensely affected, while in not a few instances there are evidences of a living faith in the Saviour of men.

The year with which this report deals has been one of considerable anxiety to your Committee in more than one connection, but they have to state with gratitude that their fears have not been realised, and that at the end of the year, after meeting all expenses besides meeting the debit balance of £76 with which last year closed, they find themselves a few shillings to the good. This happy condition of affairs has been brought about largely by the decision of the Chief Secretary—that the Government Grant, which has hitherto been paid to our committee at Mackay for the maintenance of the schools, hampered with such restrictions as made it a somewhat qualified benefit, shall now be paid to your Committee and the objectionable limitations withdrawn. A sum of about £113 came in this way into the possession of your Committee, and this is, to a large extent, the explanation of our excellent financial position.

In the report for 1900-1, it was stated that the Committee had reluctantly resolved to dispense with the services of Mr. Walker, owing to the strained conditions of the finances. They have, however, been able to continue Mr. Walker at his post, very largely through the liberality of E. M. Long, Esq., of Habana, who, when he learned of the difficulty, offered to pay £50 a year for two years towards Mr. Walker's support. Your Committee felt that so liberal an offer should be met by an endeavour to continue Mr. Walker in his position, and believe that their action will be endorsed by the Assembly.

A reference to the Balance-sheet will show that the "boys" have done better this year in the matter of support, which may be taken as some indication of the estimation in which they hold the work of our Missionaries, a sum of £61 7s. 2d. having been raised by the Walkerston "boys," and £70 5s. 6d. by those at Mielere, as compared with £50 14s. 11d. and £31 18s. respectively in the previous year.

Your Committee acknowledge with gratitude the services which have been rendered to them during the year by the Rev. James Gibson, of Mackay, whose ready helpfulness has been of great service; to E. M. Long, Esq., of Habana, who has always been a warm friend, but who has this year given a very tangible proof of his belief in the work that is being done; to Mr. F. J. Stevens, of Gatton Vale, for carrying on a work among the "boys" in his neighbourhood, and to the members of the consultative Committee at Mackay.

As members of the Assembly are well aware, it will be necessary to bring this work to a close within a measurable time, as a result of legislation in connection with the Kanaka traffic, but your Committee believe that for this year, at any rate, there will be a sufficient number of "boys" in both districts to warrant the carrying on of our work on its present basis, and request the Assembly's permission to do so.

The work of the General Assembly among the Aborigines at Mapoon and Weipa, in which the Church has all along taken a deep interest, may be expected to engross our attention even more completely in the future, owing to the decision of the Assembly that the affairs of the Mission are to be administered through us. The old arrangement, by which certain things were done by us in Queensland, and certain other things by a



Committee meeting in Melbourne, was more exasperating than helpful, as it led to no end of confusion, and your Committee feel certain that the new arrangement cannot fail to work out in the best interests of the work.

The work at both stations has been very faithfully carried on, and both at Mapoon and Weipa there has been evidence in a number of cases of a desire for higher things. The work at these stations must of necessity be slow, but there is reason to believe that already it is beginning to tell.

Your Committee had hoped that ere now Mr. and Mrs. Hey would have been enjoying their well-deserved and much needed furlough, but while every effort has been exerted to get a suitable Missionary from the Moravian Board to take their place, so far the efforts of your Committee have been unsuccessful. This is much to be regretted. In a letter received from the Secretary to the Moravian Board, it is stated that it is not likely that they will be able to send the man we want before March, 1903. Mr. Hey is aware of the difficulty, and writes as follows: "I do not deny that it was a disappointment at the first, everything having been in readiness for a long journey; but I beg your Committee not to worry on my account in this matter, as I am quite prepared to stay another year if required; at the same time I recognise God's hand in everything, and it is apparently not His will that we should take our furlough just now, and that is quite sufficient for me." The Assembly may rest assured that the Committee will spare no effort to enable Mr. Hey to get away as soon as possible.

The boat for the use of the Mission, to which reference has been made in several reports, was purchased by Mr. Hey on our account, and has proved to be of great service. She is now the property of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

It has long been felt desirable, both by the Missionaries and the Committee, that an official inspection of the work being done at Mapoon and Weipa should be undertaken. Your Committee have much pleasure in reporting that the Rev. J. B. Russell, of South Brisbane, is now engaged in carrying out that work, and his report is looked forward to with much interest.

Your Committee have again to thank the Hon. J. F. G. Foxton, Home Secretary, for his hearty co-operation; the Hon. John Douglas, Government Resident at Thursday Island, for his helpfulness; and the Northern Protector of Aborigines (Dr. Roth) for his readiness to assist in the furtherance of the work.

Your Committee beg leave to impress upon members of Assembly, and especially Ministers, the necessity of setting before our congregations the need for a more open-handed liberality in support of our Missions, in order that we may not only be able to meet our present liabilities but reach out to "regions beyond."

W. SWEYN MACQUEEN, Convener.

#### REPORT OF WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

In looking backward over the work, as we are prone to do, at the opening of the New Year, we find so much to be thankful for. Surely "My cup runneth over" should be the language of our hearts when we recall the many blessings on the way, and how we have been kept and guided by the unerring hand of our Father.

Death has removed one of the first workers in the Union, Mrs. D. Ewart. We miss her sweet face and loving greetings, and pray that we, too, may be ready as she was, when the summons comes from the Master, saying: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord."

An appeal from the Union to the Federal Assembly on behalf of furlough for the Rev. N. Hey, Mapoon, was made at the end of 1900, with the satisfactory reply that furlough for twelve months was granted at the beginning of this year. We pray that Mr. Hey may enjoy the needed rest, and be restored to that measure of health that will enable him to return to his beloved work with renewed energy and zeal.

General progress is reported from Mapoon. The school attendance is very good, with an average of 50 daily, the majority being boarders. There are several candidates wishing to be baptised; five of them belong to the girls' dormitory.

The Mission boat, "J. G. Ward," has proved a blessing to both Stations.

Encouraging letters have been received from Mrs. Brown (Weipa). Miss Schick has, on an average, 28 in her school; the number on roll is over a hundred but the attendance of some is very erratic.

The Christmas-boxes to the Mission Stations at Mapoon and Weipa far excelled any sent before. Two large cases were packed with gifts from the following Branches and Guilds:—Mowbraytown, Park, Thompson Estate, Ann Street, Valley, Toowong, and Warwick. Two boxes were sent from Ipswich, Toowoomba, and Enoggera Terrace. Wickham Terrace Guild sent two large cases, one bedstead and bedding; St. Paul's Guild also sent two huge cases and one package; and two boxes of chinaware were sent

by the Sabbath School and Christian Endeavour of St. Andrew's Church, Rockhampton, for which all donors are heartily thanked by the Missionaries.

To each of the Missionaries at Walkerston and Mackay, a box has been sent; also a box from Wickham Terrace Guild. Letters of acknowledgment from Mrs. Walker (Mackay), and Mrs. McIntyre (Walkerston), also interesting accounts of the annual tea meeting of the "boys" at both Stations, have been received.

The thanks of the Union are due to the A.U.S.N. Co., Howard Smith and Sons, Burns, Philp and Co., and Bryce and Co., for free carriage for all Christmas-boxes.

The Annual Meeting, which was held on the 19th May in Ann-street Church, had a larger attendance than on any previous year.

In May the members of General Assembly were the guests of the Union at tea in the Temperance Hall. A very pleasant evening was spent, and most stimulating addresses were given by Ministers. We were specially honoured by being addressed by the Rev. Dr. Theodore Marshall (Edinburgh), and Dr. Whitelaw (Kilmarnock), delegates to the General Assembly of Australia, in August; also by Dr. Meiklejohn (Melbourne), the Moderator.

A Special Meeting was called for 19th August to meet Mrs. Davidson, wife of Rev. Lewis Davidson (Edinburgh), also a delegate to the General Assembly, who delivered a bright and cheery address, giving information generally in connection with the Missionary Association of the Free and U.P. Churches of Scotland.

Quarterly Meetings have been well attended, the presence of our Ministers and the addresses given being much appreciated. We have made a new departure in regard to these meetings, by having them in the evening, and in the different city and suburban churches. The first was held in February in Ann-street Church, which proved a decided success.

The attendance at the Committee Meetings has improved considerably. No doubt the 'new rules' have awakened us to a sense of our responsibility.

The Committee regretted their inability to send a representative to the Women's Conference, held in July, during the General Assembly in Sydney. We are pleased to know that the admirable paper written by Mrs. Stitt, and read by Miss Forbes, Secretary of the New South Wales Association, was highly appreciated.

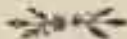
The Annual Sale of Work, which took place in August, was opened by Mrs. D. C. M'Connell, and was the most successful sale yet recorded.

The number of competitors from the Sabbath Schools for the Cakes and Sweets (from recipes in the W.M.U. Cookery Book), has increased, and the interest taken was very keen.

The special thanks of the Committee are due to the Editor of "The Austral Star," and the Press for publishing the reports of our meetings; to the office-bearers of the Ann-street Church for the use of the Church and Committee room; and to the Auditors for auditing the accounts.

In closing, may the failures of the past be forgiven, and for whatever success we have had we truly thank God who has crowned our efforts. May we not rest satisfied with present attainments, but press on with deepening interest in our good work.

MARGARET GEHRMANN, Hon. Secretary.



## QUEENSLAND HEATHEN MISSION FUND.

### ABORIGINAL MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.									
				£	s.	d.							
Balance Forward	...	...	...	135	1	11	Missionaries' Salaries	...	...	...	165	0	0
Congregation Women's M. Union, &c.	...	...	...	268	16	5	Rev. E. Brown	...	...	...	26	3	3
							E. Brown's Assistant	...	...	...	66	10	0
							N. Hey's furlough	...	...	...	80	0	0
							Sundries	...	...	...	38	7	11
							Balance	...	...	...	27	17	2
				<u>£403</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>4</u>					<u>£403</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>4</u>

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### KANAKAS.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.									
				£	s.	d.							
Brisbane	...	...	...	26	7	8	Balance Forward	...	...	...	76	9	5
Other Congregations	...	...	...	11	9	5	Salaries, Exchange, &c.	...	...	...	350	15	0
"Boys," Walkerton	...	...	...	61	7	2	Sundries	...	...	...	4	0	0
"Boys," North-side Mackay	...	...	...	70	5	6	Balance	...	...	...	0	8	8
Other Sources	...	...	...	121	2	3							
Government Grant	...	...	...	91	1	1							
				<u>£431</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>					<u>£431</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

## REPORT, 1902.

For about 20 years the South Australian Church has maintained a Mission at East Tanna. It has been a work of exceptional difficulty owing to the superstitious and obstinate character of the people. Two stations are occupied—those of Weasisi and White Sands. After long and patient waiting, the light has begun to shine in the midst of the darkness. A small church has been formed, and its numbers are being gradually increased. By last accounts we are informed that even in the absence of our devoted Missionary, the Rev. Thomson Macmillan, several persons have begun to attend the Catechumen's class. The people of Weasisi, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan, attended a series of Special Services held at Christmas time at Lenukel, which were of a deeply interesting character, and which were concluded by the observance of the Lord's Supper, attended by 166 persons, who a very few years ago, were living in the darkness of heathenism. That of itself indicates what a salutary change has taken place in the condition of the people, and makes us hopeful as to the prospects of the Mission.

A Hymn Book and Catechism were printed last year. The Book has been warmly welcomed by the people who are singing the hymns with much delight; and we may hope it may be helpful in deepening, as well as brightening, their spiritual life.

For a good many years the Congregation of Flinders Street, Adelaide, have contributed to the support of 2 Bible women and 2 orphan children at the Mission Station at Chingleput, near Madras, in connection with the United Free Church of Scotland.

In addition, we have been in the habit of contributing to the Aboriginal Mission in North Queensland, and last year a special contribution was made towards the well-earned and much-needed furlough for the Rev. Mr. Hey.

The following is the state of the accounts for last year:—

For Tanna Mission ... ..	£300	10	3
„ Queensland Aboriginal ... ..	22	18	11
„ Zenana Mission ... ..	10	13	6
„ Rev. Mr. Hey's Furlough ... ..	22	14	0
	<u>£356</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

Leaving a balance of £87 19s. 9d. in favour of the General Fund.

JAMES LYALL, Convener.

## TASMANIA.

## REPORT, 1902.

Your Committee have satisfaction in presenting their report. There are hopeful signs in the Treasurer's statement that call for special thanksgiving. Your Convener, as instructed, wrote to the Rev. Dr. J. G. Paton, who was then in Scotland, expressing the difficulty the Committee had in maintaining the good services of Mr. Fraser on Epi.

Dr. Paton was much grieved at the indifference of the wealthy Presbyterian in Tasmania as to their duty to the heathen. He committed the whole matter to the Lord in prayer, and the next day received £40 specially for Mr. Fraser's work, and soon after he received £60 from another Christian lady. To the unknown donors and to Dr. Paton we desire to express deep thankfulness.

Through the kindness of the J. G. Paton Fund we received a set of lantern slides on the life of Dr. Paton. Your Convener visited nearly all the churches, and from the balance-sheet it will be noticed with a great measure of success. The following letter was sent to the Convener after the lecture from a member of the English Church:—  
 “With two young members of my household I had the pleasure of attending your lecture last night, and we all enjoyed it. It was indeed a grand object lesson to young and old. On entering I dropped a silver coin in the plate, but after the lecture I felt it was altogether too mean a contribution for such a ‘grand subject’—the Christianisation of the world by the simple process of the preaching of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you, therefore, kindly accept the enclosed £1 as a further contribution, but pray do

not mention my name. If this letter should help you in any way I shall feel amply repaid by a thousandfold." Your Convener was very much encouraged on receipt of the letter to go forward. We notice with pleasure an increase of donations. FINGAL stands first, having contributed £23, Chalmers Church, Hobart being second, £22, and Hagley and Longford nearly £19. There is in most cases an increase, but if we ourselves are to maintain a Missionary, some of our Churches must do more. We have found when there is no organised method of raising money the contributions are small. The Committee would urge Ministers and Missionaries to have lady collectors, and give every member at least an opportunity to give to foreign missions. Miss Scott, of St. Andrew's Church, deserves special praise for selling 250 lb. of arrowroot for the benefit of the Mission. Your Committee believe that a similar visitation of the Churches should be made on behalf of the Mission, and that the Convener be instructed to procure suitable lantern slides as an aid in kindling an interest in Foreign Mission work. This step has been taken by the United Free Church of Scotland with splendid results. The expense is not great, as can be seen by reference to the balance-sheet of the Convener's visit to the Churches.

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Rev. R. M. Fraser. Mr. Fraser was compelled, for the sake of his health, to ask the Committee's permission to take his furlough a year earlier, which was granted by the Committee.

ALEX. HARDIE, Convener.



# TASMANIAN CHURCH.

## NEW HEBRIDES MISSION—NATIVE TEACHERS' ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.								
1901.				1901.								
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Balance, 1st January, 1901	...	...	...	18	0	0	Remitted Rev. J. Cosh for Mr. Fraser	...	...	63	0	0
Mrs. McCarthy	...	...	£6; £6	12	0	0	Balance	...	...	17	10	0
Ebenezer Sunday School, Ballarat	...	...	£3; £3	6	0	0						
Messrs. Holder Bros., Fingal	...	...	...	6	0	0						
Late Dr. Turnbull's Family	...	...	...	6	0	0						
Campbell Town and Tunbridge	...	...	...	3	0	0						
Mr. and Mrs. George Kerr, Chalmers Church, Hobart	...	...	...	5	0	0						
Chalmers Church Christian Endeavour	...	...	...	6	0	0						
Mr. James Thompson, Glasgow	...	...	...	6	0	0						
Mr. J. T. Cramp, St. Mary's	...	...	...	12	0	0						
Sale Arrowroot per Mr. F. Williams	...	...	...	0	10	0						
				<u>£80</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>				<u>£80</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

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JAMES WRIGHT, TREASURER.

TASMANIAN CHURCH.  
NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

1901.	RECEIPTS.	£	s	d.	1901.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s	d.
Lady Friend, per Rev. Dr. Paton		10	0	0	Balance, 1st January, 1901		5	18	3
Lady Friend, per Dr. Paton		50	0	0	Rev. J. Cosh, for Rev. R. M. Fraser's Stipend		225	0	0
Lady Friend, per Rev. Dr. Paton		40	0	0	Launceston <i>Examiner</i> ...		0	10	0
Mrs. Rooke, Burnie		1	0	0	Bank Charge for Account		0	10	0
Stanley Sunday School		0	6	0	Wiseman and Lamb for Printing Reports		1	7	6
Evandale Presbyterian Church...		6	0	7	Convener's Expenses ...		10	0	0
"    Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		1	4	0	" <i>re</i> Lecturing		4	3	6
St. John's, Hobart		9	12	6	Bank Exchange on Cheques		0	3	3
"    Sunday School		1	14	3	Balance		2	11	0
"    Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		0	18	6					
St. Andrew's, Launceston, Sunday School—£2 2s. ; £3 3s.		5	5	0					
"    Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		1	17	5					
Miss Helen Bell, The Nook ... .. 12s. ; 14s.		1	6	0					
Scottsdale Presbyterian Church		3	11	11					
"    Sunday School		1	0	0					
"    Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		2	16	6					
Jetsonville Sunday School		1	0	0					
Springfield Presbyterian Church		0	7	0					
"    Amount collected by Miss Wright		2	2	3					
"    Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		0	17	1					
Chalmers Church, Launceston ...		10	1	1					
"    Women's Sewing Meeting		1	13	0					
"    Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		2	1	1					
Per Rev. B. Bannerman ... .. 4s 6d ; 5s 6d		0	10	0					
St. Andrew's, Campbell Town ...		10	14	0					
"    Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		1	0	0					
Lilydale Sunday School		1	15	0					
"    Collected by Mrs. Offer		0	12	0					
"    "    Mrs. F. F. Kowarzik		0	15	0					
"    "    Mrs. Wm. McGaughey		0	8	9					
Hagley and Longford... .. £9 1s 3d ; £7 4s 6d ; 14s		16	19	9					
Hagley Proceeds Sale Stamps ...		0	4	0					
Rev. A. Hardie		1	10	0					
Fingal Church		23	0	0					
Oatlands Presbyterian Church...		6	4	6					
Don Presbyterian Church		0	17	0					
"    Sunday School		0	15	2					
St. Andrew's, Hobart—£7 1s 6d, 1901 ; £7 8s, 1900 ; £3 6s 9d		17	16	3					
St. Andrew's Sunday School		2	13	0					
St. Andrew's, Rev. A. Hardie's Lecture		1	12	8					
Missionary Meeting, Chalmers, Launceston—Half-share ...		0	14	9					
Chalmers Church, Hobart		22	0	0					
West Tamar Church ...		0	17	6					
		£265	13	6			£265	13	6

## (2) REPORT OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

Your Committee are not able to present an adequate report through lack of definite all-round information. A full meeting of this Committee was held at the close of last General Assembly, at which Ministers were selected, one for each State, to represent the Committee and to gather information as to the prospects, difficulties, and needs of their respective States, in the matter of Church Extension. A set of queries was agreed upon, and the Convener instructed to send the same to the selected representatives with the object of making quite clear the kind of information wanted.

The Queries sent out were as follows :—

- What are the special needs of your State in respect of Home Mission enterprise ?
- What special difficulties has your Church met with in the extension of Gospel ordinances ?
- What provision has been made for the spiritual wants of the pastoral areas where population is very scanty and scattered ?
- With respect to better peopled areas, has your Church been able to keep pace with settlement in planting preaching centres ?
- Are there any peculiar or specially hopeful features of Christian work among the masses of labouring population in your large cities ?
- Has anything been done by your Church for sailors and other marine workers and wharf labourers in your seaports ?
- Are there any City Churches under your Assembly out of touch with the population, or even shut up ? If so, has any serious attempt been made by the superior courts to put them to profitable use ?
- How are the new centres of population in suburban areas being supplied ?
- How many Home Mission Agents has your Church—(1) Ordained ; (2) Students ; (3) Catechists ?
- How many Agents were introduced from the United Kingdom last year—(1) Ministers ; (2) Others ?

The urgent problem of the hour is, How to organise and carry out effective evangelisation in the remote regions of our continent. In the Western areas of New South Wales, in North and West Queensland, in the Northern Territory, and Western parts of South Australia, in all the vast territory outside the chief towns of Western Australia, the state of things can only be fairly described as spiritual destitution.

*Notes.*—1. The Dunesk Mission in South Australia is an object lesson of utmost value, well deserving of the close attention of the Church. Your Committee are indebted to the Rev. R. Mitchell, of Goodwood, for an interesting account of the Mission. The tedious journeyings, the cordial hospitality, the rude life, the strangely varied preaching engagements, the visitations, the marrying, baptising, doctoring, lawyering, domestic peacemaking, letter writing, and other incidents of unique ministerial office make a romantic and instructive tale.

2. Dr. D. Paton writes : “The entire population of this State is only 365,000. Not as many as 21,000 (about 18,000 or so) of these claim to be Presbyterians, and nearly one-fifth of that number—say in round numbers 4,000—are located in the south-east of this State, and belong to the Victorian Church. The half of that number live within a radius of 30 miles from the city. Five thousand are catered for by the provincial Charges, and the remainder, largely in units as one may say, are scattered over the great interior. For our Presbyterian population we have as many Charges as there are thousands. At the same time our aggressive efforts for the ingathering of the outsiders are at best feeble and fitful. The Church collectively, the Churches individually do not sufficiently realise the obligation that lies on them all to act as centres of Christian activity and fountains of redemptive influence.”
3. Dr. Bruce (New South Wales) says : “A scheme is *now* in contemplation for the employment of a Gospel Van in charge of an enterprising Missionary who could touch many points in such districts which could not be included in an ordinary workable pastorate ; and, who in addition to conducting services at various points, could in all his journeyings dispose of religious and healthy general literature at rates within the people's means.”
4. From Rev. W. C. Radcliffe : “The work of the Church in Queensland is chiefly of a Home Missionary character. This will be evident in view of the fact



that there are really only 48 Charges and Stations in connection with the Church, and that 14 of these are in Brisbane and its vicinity; the remaining 34 being distributed in various portions of the State. Of the latter, the great majority will be found within 150 miles of the coast, and none farther north than Cairns, nor further west than Charleville. There is a Church building at Cooktown but it has been practically unused for ten years. In some districts where formerly there were Charges, nothing now remains except the church building; while the new fields, since opened up do little more than counterbalance these losses. The whole country is more or less populated. Stations and homesteads, mining camps and villages are scattered all over the State. But the density of the population only amounts to 75 per square mile, while in New South Wales it is 4.37, and in Victoria 13.67. It scarcely needs the use of an imagination to impress one with the tremendous difficulties which lie in the way of a Church doing anything to build up Congregations and Charges where the population is so thin, and more especially where the nominal adherents amount to only about 11% of the population.

5. The condition of the Home Mission in Victoria is, your Committee suppose, very much akin to that of the Home Mission in New South Wales, save in this respect, that the latter has a much larger area to cover. All that Queensland can say of her grievous need, Western Australia can say and with sad emphasis. The loneliness of the workers there is painful beyond words. The difficulties in Tasmania are not so massive, but more than the brave little Church can fairly grapple with. What Dr. Scott says of one field is true of more: "The Outlook.—Speaking for the field, it is certainly not so bright as it might be, but we do not think that it is so dark as some pessimists see fit to paint it. Zeehan is not dead, but for the present she sleepeth, and there are many who wait patiently and confidently for her awakening. Meantime, amid dull times and slumbering souls, and much that tends to depress one, may we never be tempted to relax our efforts, but by prayerfulness, watchfulness, and diligence labour 'as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief.'"

The dearth of suitable agents for Church extension is remarkable. Young, vigorous, enthusiastic Ministers, with the rage of soul-hunger upon them, are wanted in every State, and can hardly be found in ones where they are wanted in tens. Zealous laymen are welcomed in some of the States, as agents, with cordiality and thankfulness. Where students are available they are over-burdened with preaching and pastoral work.

*Notes.*—1. Queensland speaks boldly: "As we do not raise our own Ministers we are dependent on those who are sent to us by the Home Churches, or on those who drift hither from the other States. Of the latter it might truly be said that we would be better without them; but when we have places lying unsupplied, the temptation to use them is too great to be resisted. Rarely, indeed, is the man who comes in this way worth having. Sometimes, it is true, worthy men who have broken down in health may be attracted by our genial and sunny climate, but if there is any place where men physically fit are required it is in Queensland. We cannot hope to extend here by the use of weaklings or waifs and strays. From the Home Churches, however, we have been receiving, especially in recent years, men who are well qualified for the work; but we do not get enough of them, and I suppose that the nature of the work in Queensland—the severe physical toil inseparable from a widely-extended parish—is not of a kind to attract men to us."

2. Western Australia also has a word to say as to her needs: "Ordained men to send to special centres, and others to act in an itinerant way in order that they may follow up the continually-shifting population. The constant flux of population and the especially trying circumstances in which the men labour make it desirable that they should be appointed to special fields for only a limited time. Besides the moral difficulties, which are specially great in Western Australia, there are some which arise from the great distances that separate the centres of population, and the difficulty of bringing more than one charge under the same man."
3. Tasmania, too: "Our agents are men who, on the whole are doing the Church excellent service; but one is obliged to feel a strong desire for a better supply of systematically-trained men of Presbyterian antecedents. We have several places needing men, but we are unable to put a man anywhere unless he can raise enough by collections to keep himself. A Missionary's visit to many a place to hold service is not frequent enough to sustain continuity of Presbyterian local interest."

4. It would be in every way advantageous if the appeal to the old country for helpers were made in the name of the General Assembly of Australia, and the disposition of such men as might respond were in the hands of the Assembly's Committee. At the present time, Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales are making independent appeals, thus provoking quite unnecessary rivalry as to the more or less urgent needs, and the more or less likely prospects of the several States.

The problem of our great cities is hardly less urgent and certainly not less difficult. Here it is not physical distance that separates the people from the ordinances of religion, but moral; antipathy, indifference, contempt, distrust, debased personal habits, unhappy domestic conditions, chronic poverty, drunkenness, open traffic in sin, pursuit of luck. Of Churches there is a plenty, but of full Congregations a sad scarcity. The stated ministry—although our city ministers are able, devoted, earnest, and hardworking—is quite unequal to the evangelisation of the ever-shifting and ever-shifless workers living in our congested city areas and of those who prey upon them. Something, it need hardly be said, is being done in the way of regular missions, spasmodic revival enterprises, also in feeding, clothing, and sheltering the destitute, in provision for neglected children, and other philanthropic efforts, but a well-adapted systematic ministering of Christ has not yet been found.

*Note.*—Dr. Bruce, New South Wales, writes:—"My experience of all Mission efforts of a revival character is that they fail to reach the masses. The masses won't come to these gatherings any more than to the Churches. The Gospel ministrations must be taken to their doors if the compulsion of earnestness is ever expected to prevail with them. If anything is to be done successfully in this direction, it must proceed somewhat on lines similar to those pursued in Glasgow by the Free Church of Scotland.

Your Committee would draw the attention of the Assembly to the lack of spiritual provision for men o' warsmen, engineers, sailors, and other sea-going and longshore workers in our larger seaports. This mobile population is very considerable, and is fairly entitled to the generous care of the settled and well-appointed Churches. So far as the information before the Committee goes, there is not even one purely Presbyterian Marine Mission in the Commonwealth.

*Notes.*—1. St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, has voted an annual sum of £200 for the founding and maintaining of a Presbyterian Mission to Seamen as a Thanksgiving Memorial of the Union of the Presbyterian Churches of the Australian Commonwealth in July, 1901. To the Superintendent of this Mission will be committed the care of the Presbyterian lads on H. M. Naval Station, the engineers on the ocean-going steamers, the sailors, stewards and others. Unexpected difficulty has been found in getting a Superintendent of the right stamp. The money is ready, but the man has yet to be found.

2. There is a Sailors' Rest at Fremantle, in which the Minister and Congregation of Scots Church there take a special interest.

It is the wish of your Committee to place before the Assembly a complete classification of the agents employed by the State Home Mission Committees. This will be done as soon as practicable. And finally, your Committee would remind the Assembly that they have no funds at their disposal, nor authority to raise funds; yet it is very certain that the more sorely pressed State Assemblies expect help from, and are justified in appealing to the Church as a whole—to the General Assembly of Australia, for indulgent and steady assistance in the work of carrying the Gospel to the uttermost bounds of our Commonwealth.

JOHN FERGUSON, Convener.

### (3.) REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL HALL COMMITTEE.

The Committee have considered various matters bearing upon the Theological Halls and their work in relation to the interests of the Church, including those renitted to them by the General Assembly. Some of these have not yet been sufficiently discussed for any recommendation to be made with regard to them. The Committee will again meet, immediately before the General Assembly in September, when further consideration will be given to some of the questions which have been before them. The following statement accordingly is submitted as a progress report rather than as one which is complete and final.

In accordance with the Articles of Agreement, the Examination for entrance to the two Halls will be held simultaneously, and be on the same subjects and on the same papers. It is proposed that it take place at the beginning of March, and that the Syllabus be published in the Year Book. In view of the fact that it is not possible nor desirable, to get the Halls into exactly the same line with regard to the teaching given on the subjects prescribed for both, it is suggested that the Exit Examinations—which will also be on the same subjects and on the same papers—be confined to text books selected by the Theological Hall Committee, and approved of by the Assembly; and that the Examiners be chosen from outside the professional or teaching staff.

The resolution of the Assembly that "it be an instruction to the College Committee to consider the practicability of the Students taking one-half of the curriculum in Melbourne and the other in Sydney" was considered. But while they are of opinion that there would be certain advantages obtained by the amalgamation of the Halls, there are obvious difficulties in the way of carrying the scheme into effect, and they are not prepared accordingly to make any recommendation with regard to it.

Concerning the questions remitted to the Committee anent: "The obtaining of Agents for carrying on Home Mission work"; "of providing a uniform Scheme for training them"; and as to whether or not "the Scheme should contemplate some measure of preparation for the Theological Halls" they are not in a position at present to speak with any definiteness. The questions are of great importance and demand fuller and more careful consideration than they have been able to give them.

But they are agreed that while there will always be room and need for Lay Agents, and that it will remain the duty of the Church to do its best to have these Agents made as efficient as possible, it should be the aim of the Church to encourage men of promise to prepare themselves for the ordained ministry rather than for the Home Mission Agency; and further, that it is more desirable to have ordained Ministers as Home Mission Agents than unordained Missionaries. They are further of opinion that it is of the greatest importance for the welfare of the Church that efforts be made to provide a fund from which deserving men, to whom the Church might look with hope as its Ministers, placed in circumstances that render pecuniary aid needful, should be provided with means by which they could be helped both to prepare for the University classes, and to be maintained during their Arts and Theological curriculum.

Great good might result to the Church—by providing her with a large number of Ministers trained in her own Halls—if a system of bursaries were established to aid young men in attending Secondary schools with the view of entering the University and of helping University-trained men, who though worthy of the Church's support, may be unable to obtain one of her Scholarships, to attend the Theological Halls. Those men especially who have to go to Victoria or New South Wales from other States deserve in this respect the attention of the Church.

Another matter that has been before the Committee is the need of something being done to render it possible to secure degrees in Theology for colonially-trained Students. It is a defect in the educational system of the Commonwealth that while degrees can be obtained in Arts, in Medicine, in Law, there is no corporate body empowered to confer degrees in Theology.

There are various disadvantages to our Students from this state of things, not the least of which is the lack of that stimulus to prosecute Theological study which would be provided by a system which would make it possible to secure the B.D. degree. It has been suggested that a College, or an examining body could be formed of capable men belonging to the various Churches and appointed by them for this purpose. The Acting-Prime Minister, Mr. Deakin, was communicated with to see if he could do anything in the way of securing the requisite charter. He courteously replied to the effect, that as educational matters were under the State Parliaments his Government could not help us. The Minister of Education for Victoria has since been written to, but his reply has not yet been received.

J. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

The Committee met in Melbourne on the 16th September, and revised the foregoing Report. It was agreed to delete the paragraph dealing with the Entrance and Exit Examination, and to approve of the rest.

It was further agreed that the First Entrance Examination, common to both Halls, should be held on the second Tuesday of February, 1904, and that it should be on the Syllabus appended to this Report.

To prevent the inconvenience which would be caused by bringing candidates for Entrance to the Halls from great distances, to undergo examination in Melbourne or Sydney, it was agreed that "The examination may be held in such places, and under such superintendence, as may be approved of by the Board of Examiners."

It was arranged that the First Exit Examination, common to both Halls, should be held at the close of the Session 1904. The questions bearing on the subjects, and the mode of conducting this examination were considered at different meetings, held during the sittings of the Assembly.

The Committee recommended to the Assembly that the examination be on Lectures on prescribed subjects, and that the text-books and books for consultation be recommended by the Board of Examination. And further, that the examiners be the Professors and Lecturers, together with the co-examiners, appointed by the General Assembly.

After discussion, the Assembly agreed—"That the examination be set, and the papers marked by examiners outside the teaching Staff, who shall consult the teachers as to questions to be set, but that the responsibility of drawing up and valuing the papers shall rest with these examiners."

Following on this decision, it was agreed by the Committee that the Board of Examination should consist of the Professors and Lecturers, who are members of the Theological Faculty, together with 26 members, 12 of whom shall be in Victoria, 10 in New South Wales, and 4 in the other States.

The following were nominated:—Revs. S. Fraser, M.A.; G. Connor, M.A.; J. Gillies, B.D.; A. Skene, M.A.; W. G. Maconochie, M.A.; J. V. McNair; H. M. Burns, B.D.; J. F. Macrae; J. Mathew, B.D.; A. Yule, M.A.; A. Stewart, M.A.; J. Meiklejohn, D.D.; R. Scott West; J. K. Bruce; R. Steel, M.A.; D. M. Barnett, B.A.; J. Cosh, B.D.; J. Ferguson; J. Macanlay, M.A.; R. Kay, M.A.; David Smith, M.A.; J. Auld, M.A.; J. B. Russell, B.D.; F. E. Ozer, B.D.; J. Gray, B.D.; D. Paton, D.D.

From the above the following were nominated:—

As Examiners for Entrance:—

Scripture, and Catechism—Revs. A. Stewart, M.A.; J. B. Russell, B.D.

Hebrew—Revs. D. Smith, M.A.; J. V. McNair.

Greek—Revs. D. Paton, D.D.; D. M. Barnett, B.A.

Mental and Moral Philosophy—Revs. J. Mathew, B.D.; F. E. Ozer, B.D.

For Exit Examination:—

Theology—Revs. A. Skene, M.A.; J. Auld, M.A.

Church History—Revs. S. Fraser, M.A.; R. Scott West.

New Testament, Greek—Revs. R. Steel, M.A.; J. Gillies, B.D.

Hebrew—Revs. J. Cosh, B.D.; H. M. Burns, B.D.

Apologetics—Revs. W. G. Maconochie, M.A.; J. K. Bruce.

#### ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE—REPORT OF SENATUS FOR SESSION, 1902.

The Session for 1902 was opened on Wednesday, 12th March, when Rev. A. Campbell Smith, M.A. was inducted to the Chair of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis. Prof. Campbell Smith thereafter gave the Inaugural Lecture—Subject: "Can the New Testament dispense with the Old?"

On Wednesday, 3rd September, the closing meeting was held, when an address was given by the Right Rev. the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. J. C. Johnstone, M.A., his subject being—"Some Words on Presbyterianism."

Seventeen Students attended the classes during the Session, five in the first year, seven in the second, and five in the third. One gentleman attended during part of the Session as a private student.

The health of the Students has been good, except in the case of one student, who was unable, on account of illness, to go in for the first year's examination. This Student had done good work during term, and was granted an *opotal* pass.

The Professors have pleasure in testifying to the thorough work done by the Students, to the regularity of their attendance, and to the excellence of their conduct, which has been in every way consistent with their views towards the Christian ministry.

The Missionary Society has continued its work, and has raised £60 for the Mapoon Mission, and £6 for Native Teachers in the New Hebrides. The Students' Christian Union arranged for a series of lectures bearing on the work of the Ministry, which were kindly given by various ministers. The weekly prayer-meeting has been regularly held by the students, and they have also supplied one teacher per week for Prince's Hill State School, in connection with the work of religious instruction in State Schools.

Professor Macdonald, Librarian, reports that twenty-three volumes have been added to the library during the year. Of these, fifteen were purchased, seven were presented by Mr. M. L. Hutchinson, and one by the Librarian. One hundred and thirty-eight volumes have been borrowed by the Students during the year. A new catalogue is being prepared by the Librarian and Mr. H. W. Burrige, M.A.

The Elocution Class has been carried on by Rev. Thos. Tait, M.A., B.D., Lecturer on Elocution; eleven Students (four in their third, and seven in their second year) attended. The Lecturer states that the attendance has been regular, and that good

work has been done. He has, during this session, given special attention to training in pulpit style, the use of the College Church having been kindly granted for this purpose; he also states that what is chiefly required at present is more time for vocal drill in the class.

Professor Rentoul is President of Senatus for 1903, and Professor Campbell Smith, Secretary.

A. CAMPBELL SMITH,  
Secretary of Senatus.

#### ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, SYDNEY—SESSION 1902.

The Session opened on March 18th, 1902, with a lecture by Rev. Principal Harper, D.D., on "Modern Methods of Teaching the Old Testament."

The Session closed on 22nd August, 1902, with a lecture on "The Work of the Ministry," by the Right Rev. the Moderator of the State General Assembly (Rev. John Walker).

Ten Students were in attendance, four of the third year, one of the second year, and five of the first year. Five of these are graduates in Arts of the University of Sydney. The Students gave great attention to the work of the classes. Their attendance was very regular. Their progress in their studies was deemed satisfactory. Lectures were delivered on the following subjects:—

Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament, by Rev. Prof. Harper, D.D.

Exegetical Theology of the New Testament, by Rev. Dr. MacInnes.

Historical Theology, by Rev. Dr. Clouston.

Systematic and Biblical Theology, by Rev. Dr. Bill Macky.

Ethics and Apologetics, by Rev. Prof. Kinross, D.D.

Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure, by the Procurator, Mr. John Garland, M.A., LL.B.

Pastoral Theology, by the Steel Lecturer, Rev. R. H. Waugh, M.A.

At the request of the Faculty, Rev. J. A. Gardiner, B.A., lectured on Pulpit Rhetoric.

The Students' Union employed Mr. Duncan McDougall to teach Elocution and Voice Production.

Lectures were delivered on five days a week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The lectures on Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure, on Pastoral Theology, and on Pulpit Rhetoric were given in the afternoons, but did not cover the whole period of the Session.

After the Session had begun, the General Assembly appointed, and the Presbytery of Sydney inducted, Professors Kinross and Harper to their respective chairs.

One of the students, Mr. E. N. Merrington, B.A., who had been gold medallist in Philosophy in the University of Sydney, published a book on "Casuistry."

A number of valuable modern works were added to the Theological Library.

G. MACINNES, Secretary.

#### SYLLABUS FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, SESSION 1904.

##### FOR GRADUATES.

Scripture History—Genesis, Exodus, The Acts of the Apostles.

The Shorter Catechism (Salmond's Handbook).

Hebrew—Davidson's Grammar, Sections 1-21 (small matter in print excepted).

Exercises 12-20.

##### CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOT GRADUATES

Will be examined in the above, and also in the following subjects:—

Greek, Anabasis, Bk. II (Bell's Classics).

Latin, Æneid, Bk. III (Bell's Classics).

Moral Philosophy—Seth's Ethical Principles.

Mental Philosophy—Seth's Scottish Philosophy.

History—Green's Short History, Chap. 8 to end.

Students' Gibbon, Chaps. 1-16.

English—Meiklejohn's English Language and Literature, Parts I. and III.

Shakespeare—Henry V. and Essay.

JOHN MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

## (4.) REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MODE OF ELECTING MODERATOR.

The following queries were sent by the Convener to the Members of Committee :—

1. How, in your opinion, should the Moderator of the next General Assembly be nominated ?

2. What mode should be made permanent in the Church ?

Nearly all the members replied. The majority were in favour of the next Moderator being nominated by Presbyteries ; and (2) that this mode should be made permanent. Other proposals were : (1) That the next Moderator be nominated by this Committee ; (2) That he be nominated by this Committee, acting together with the Conveners of the Standing and of the Special Committees ; (3) That the permanent mode be by a Committee appointed for the purpose, of which the Conveners of the various Committees should be members.

In accordance with the decision of the Committee the Clerks of the various Presbyteries were asked to get their Presbyteries to nominate the next Moderator of the General Assembly. By a large and absolute majority the Rev. Dr. Hay, Rockhampton, was selected. The Committee thereupon recommended the Assembly to have him appointed.

J. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

## (5.)—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE RECORD.

Your Committee had great hopes that when last year in Sydney the first General Assembly of the United Church in Sydney formally adopted the *Record* as the Sabbath School and Missionary Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, there would follow a large increase in its circulation, but these hopes have been doomed to disappointment, as the increase has been very slight indeed.

The publishers went to considerable expense and made many alterations with the view of adding to the attractiveness of the paper, and rendering it worthy of the United Church, and your Committee regret that their efforts have met with but scant encouragement, so far as the number of new subscribers is concerned.

Circulars were sent by your Committee to all the Ministers in all the States, and samples of the Magazine, but the responses to the circulars have been few.

The following table will show the position of things in June, 1901, as compared with that in June, 1902 :—

	Year 1901.	Year 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Queensland ... ..	197	138	—	59
New South Wales ... ..	571	795	224	—
Victoria ... ..	5766	5807	41	—
South Australia ... ..	411	432	21	—
Tasmania .. ..	149	186	37	—
Western Australia ... ..	95	272	177	—
New Zealand ... ..	452	477	25	—
Fiji ... ..	20	—	—	20
	7661	8107	525	79

The increase of circulation in all the States is just 446 copies, which cannot be considered very encouraging.

It will be for the Assembly to determine whether anything further can be done to bring the *Record* into more of our Sabbath Schools, and your Committee would be glad to receive any suggestions on this point.

At present Victoria takes 5807 copies, while the other States, along with New Zealand, have altogether only 2300 subscribers.

If the *Record* is to be considered the Sabbath School Magazine of the United Church, surely it should receive more support from the Churches embraced within the Commonwealth, outside of Victoria.

It is thought that if the Ministers and Superintendents in other States would bring the matter with urgency before the Sabbath Schools concerned, much might be done in the way of increasing the circulation, and your Committee can conceive of nothing which would be more likely to effect a closer union of our Churches in the future than that one Sabbath School Magazine should be placed *now* in the hands of all our young people, north and south, east and west.

Your Committee hope that the Assembly will make the matter a subject for earnest consideration, to be freely and frankly discussed in all its bearings.

W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

South Yarra, Melbourne, 30/7/02.

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#### (6.) REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERATION OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

Your Committee were appointed "to consider the Principles on which the Presbyterian Church of Australia is prepared to consider the question of a larger Union."

These words were interpreted to mean, that they should endeavour to set forth those views of Church doctrine and Church polity which our own Church regards as being fundamental, and of so much importance, that they could not, in any negotiations that might be entered into for Union with other churches, be surrendered without disloyalty to Him who is Head of the Church.

The articles in the following statement give the result of the Committee's labours. They are of opinion that they contain nothing at variance with the Standards of the Church, and express all contained in the subordinate Standard which the Assembly regard as essential to the Church as a Divine Institution, or as necessary as matters of belief, for those connected with it.

At the same time the articles are not put before the Assembly as a substitute for the "Declaratory Statement" contained in the Basis of Union; nor do the Committee wish them to be dealt with as with a document which expresses the truth they contain in its final form. They should be regarded as a declaration issued by the Church setting forth, for the information of other Churches, the position of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in relation to those matters which would need to have a first and chief place in any discussions to which negotiations for union might give rise, and which as doing so, would give some guidance to those who might be appointed to represent the Presbyterian Church in carrying on such negotiations.

The statement accordingly is not intended as a creed which other Churches, willing to enter into negotiations with our own, would be expected to accept as a Basis of Union. The Committee recognise the fact that a Basis of Union can be formed only by the negotiating parties and as the result of their united efforts.

But they are not without hope that the following statement may help to prepare the way for the formation of such a Basis, both by the evidence it affords of the desire on the part of the Presbyterian Church for a closer union with other churches, and by showing the lines on which our Church thinks such a Basis might be formed.

The Committee have further to say that they have observed with gratification the signs which have been afforded by various events which have occurred since the last meeting of our General Assembly of a prevailing desire for Union, and of a deepening interest in the movements tending towards it. They have noticed with interest, and with a feeling of thankfulness, the unity of spirit and of aim manifested by the members of the different Churches during, and in connection with, the "Simultaneous Mission" carried on in the various States. And they further feel, that it is only fitting and due to our brethren of the great Methodist Church, that the Assembly congratulate them on their Union, and express the hope that it will tend to make that Church an increasing power for good in the Commonwealth.

#### DOCTRINE.

1. That the Supreme Authority in Doctrine and in duty is the Holy Spirit speaking in the Old and New Testaments.
2. That God is personal, transcendent, and immanent.
3. That the Godhead is essentially triune.
4. That Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh, and is truly God and truly man.
5. That God is love, and that His love is holy and sovereign.

6. That the Divine Fatherhood expresses an eternal relationship, which has been revealed most clearly by Jesus Christ, through whom the children of men come into the possession of the Spirit and the privileges of sonship.

7. That sin is universal in the human race, and implies lawlessness and alienation from God, and unless repented of and forgiven, involves death eternal.

8. That Salvation is wholly of God, having the Father as its source, Jesus Christ as its Mediator, the Holy Ghost as its Agent, and is appropriated by faith.

9. That the active and passive obedience in the life and death of Jesus Christ is vicarious and propitiatory.

#### THE CHURCH.

1. That Christ instituted a Church upon the earth of which His people are the members.

2. That Jesus Christ is the Supreme Head of the Church, and that He calls men to the ministry of teaching and ruling.

3. That the people, under the guidance of the Spirit of Christ, recognise and choose those whom He calls and who are thereupon, in Churches already constituted, officially set apart by those in office.

4. That the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are effectual means of grace appointed by Christ, and should be regularly and orderly celebrated.

5. That the efficacy of the Sacraments does not proceed from any virtue in the mere administration of the elements, or in Him who administers them, but depends upon the Spiritual presence of Christ with believing participants.

6. That those who administer the Sacraments have no priestly function save that which is shared in by all believers.

J. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

#### (7.) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE IX.

The Committee appointed to frame the various Rules contemplated in Article IX. of Articles of Agreement beg leave to report that they met in St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, on Wednesday, 31st July, 1901—the day after the rising of the General Assembly—and unanimously resolved to recommend;—

I. 1. That the Committee be a Standing Committee of Assembly.

2. That its name be—The Committee on the Reception of Ministers.

3. That the Members residing in the same State with the Convener constitute the Executive, and that the Executive correspond with the members in the other States.

4. That the Committee prepare their Report and transmit the same to the Clerk of Assembly one month before the Meeting of the Assembly.

5. That Ministers and Preachers of other Denominations, and Ministers and Licentiates of other Presbyterian Churches, *not having Commissions*, be received by the General Assembly only.

II. The Executive met in the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, on 17th March, 1902, and considered Draft Rules submitted by the Convener, who reported that copies had been sent to all Members of Committee; that the majority had acknowledged receipt; and that the Rev. W. S. McQueen, the Rev. John Burgess, the Rev. George Davidson, the Hon. James Balfour, and T. W. Fleming, Esq., suggested slight emendations in form or phraseology. The emendations were considered, and the Convener was requested to send copies of the Amended Draft to the other Members of Committee, with intimation that the Rules should be submitted for approval at a Meeting of Executive to be held towards the end of June.

III. On June 30th the Executive met in the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, and resolved to recommend the General Assembly to adopt the following Rules:—

#### A.—PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS WITH COMMISSIONS.

A Minister or a Licentiate of one of the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain and Ireland directly commissioned by the Colonial Committee of any one Church shall be received at once by the Reception Committee of the General Assembly if his Commission is to the Church of Australia, or by the Home Mission Committee of the State Assembly if his Commission is to a State Church.



## B.—PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS WITHOUT COMMISSIONS.

(1) A Minister or Licentiate of a Presbyterian Church, not directly commissioned by the Colonial Committee of his Church, shall prepare a Petition to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, which petition must be presented through a Presbytery of the Church. The petition shall set forth the applicant's previous history, his place of birth, age, course and manner of education, and all particulars bearing upon his character and general eligibility. Documentary evidence in support of the petition must be produced to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, which must also be satisfied that, at the time of his quitting the Church with which he had been previously connected, the applicant was under no censure, or liability to censure, on any moral or doctrinal grounds.

(2) If the Presbytery is fully satisfied on all these points, the applicant may be recommended to the local Home Mission Committee for temporary employment, but he shall not be allowed to preach in any vacant Charge, nor shall his employment by the Home Mission Committee be held to commit the General Assembly to receive the applicant as a Minister or Licentiate of the Church.

(3) The Presbytery shall transmit the petition, with a recommendation favourable or otherwise, together with all relative documents to the General Assembly's Committee on the Reception of Ministers three months before the meeting of the General Assembly.

(4) The Committee, after investigating the case and conferring with the applicant, shall report in writing to the General Assembly, the Report to be in the hands of members at least twenty-four hours before being dealt with, and to be considered in private session.

(5) If the General Assembly grant the Petition, the applicant is received as a Minister or Licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, eligible for a call.

## C.—MINISTERS AND PREACHERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

(1) An applicant shall prepare a Petition to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, which petition must be presented through a Presbytery of the Church. The petition shall set forth the applicant's previous history, his place of birth, age, course and manner of education, previous employment of whatever kind, and all particulars bearing upon his character and general eligibility. Documentary evidence in support of the petition must be produced to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, which must likewise be satisfied that at the time of his quitting the Church or Denomination with which he had been previously connected the applicant was under no censure, or liability to censure, on any moral or doctrinal grounds.

(2) If the Presbytery is fully satisfied on all these points, the applicant may be recommended to the local Home Mission Committee for temporary employment, but he shall not be allowed to preach in any vacant Charge, nor shall his employment by the Home Mission Committee be held to commit the General Assembly to receive the applicant as a Minister or Licentiate of the Church.

(3) The Presbytery shall transmit the petition, with a recommendation favourable or otherwise, together with all relative documents to the General Assembly's Committee on the Reception of Ministers three months before the meeting of the General Assembly.

(4) The Committee, after investigating the case and conferring with the applicant, shall report in writing to the General Assembly, the Report to be considered in private session.

(5) If the General Assembly grant the petition, the applicant shall be received on probation for twelve months, during which time he shall serve as a Preacher without a fixed Charge under the direction of one of the Home Mission Committees, and without being eligible for a call.

(6) When the probation is completed, the Committee on the Reception of Ministers shall report thereon to the General Assembly, if the Assembly is then in session. If the Assembly is not in session, the Committee on the Reception of Ministers may admit in name of the General Assembly, reporting to next meeting of Assembly.

(7) A Minister and Congregation belonging to another Denomination may apply conjointly for admission to this Church. The application shall be made by Petition to the

General Assembly of Australia, through the Presbytery of the bounds which shall carefully investigate the facts of the case. The Presbytery shall transmit the petition, with a recommendation favourable or otherwise, together with all relative documents to the General Assembly's Committee on the Reception of Ministers, at least fifty days before the meeting of the Assembly—for consideration and report.

If the Assembly resolve to admit Minister and Congregation, the Minister shall not be subject to probation.

A Congregation of another Denomination without a Minister will proceed in a similar manner.

M. MACDONALD, Convener.

#### (8.) REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON A CHURCH PAPER.

The Committee on a Church Paper has held no meeting of all its members. When the Assembly passed the resolution appointing it, negotiations were already being carried on between the proprietors of the *Presbyterian* (Sydney) and the publishers of the *Messenger* (Melbourne). Until these were completed your Committee could do nothing, and when they were completed, as the result was the practical amalgamation of the *Presbyterian* and *Messenger*, they had no wish to do anything so far as that was concerned. With regard to Queensland, it is understood that the publishers of the *Messenger* (Melbourne) entered into communication with the Editor and Committee of the *Austral Star*, but the negotiations have so far been futile, the Queensland Committee not seeing their way to give up their separate paper on the terms proposed. The negotiations have, however, been renewed, and it is hoped that a satisfactory issue may be reached.

On the whole, satisfactory progress has been made towards the end the General Assembly had in view, inasmuch as three of the States represented in the Assembly will have practically the same paper from the middle of August—viz., New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania. Queensland is willing to come into line with these States if only satisfactory terms can be arranged. If these could be arranged, only South Australia and Western Australia would in this matter remain in isolation.

A. HARPER, Convener.

#### (9.) REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HYMN BOOK FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee report that an intimation has been received of the preparation of an edition of the Church Hymnary abridged for the young. The cost of this edition is very moderate, ranging upwards from 1d. net, or 2d. net (with music). Your Committee have, however, not seen anything but the specimen pages of the book, but understand it will soon be available. It is not certain that this edition will have a selection of Psalms and Paraphrases, such as is desired by many members of the Assembly.

Mr. William Wood, of the N. S. Wales Church, who is now on a visit to the old country, has undertaken to represent the Committee, and explain these views to the publishers, and ascertain the best arrangements for distributing the book.

T. E. CLOUSTON, Convener.

#### (10.) REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has met four times during the past year, and now begs to submit a duly-audited balance-sheet (see page 41 in White Book), showing £41 0s. 6d. sterling at credit.

Your Committee recommend that all the royalties from the Hymnary should be handed over to this Committee, to be held at the disposal of the General Assembly, and, anticipating such being done, passed the following resolution :