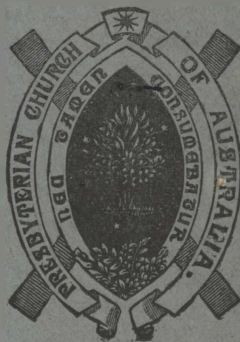


2272

MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.



HELD IN SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1903.

SESSION THIRD.

Sydney :

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

1903.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Officials of the General Assembly ...	3
Professors and Lecturers of the Theological Halls	4
Notanda	5
Minutes of General Assembly	7
List of Committees	45
Communications	52
Overtures	57
Petitions	59
Reports	70
Returns	119
Financial Statement	125
Index	127

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Right Rev. the Moderator:

REV. DAVID BRUCE, D.D., North St. Leonards, Sydney.

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, LL.B., M.L.A., 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.

THE THEOLOGICAL HALLS.

ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

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

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 E. CLOUSTON, D.D.

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

“Steel” Lecturer in Pastoral Theology—REV. ROBERT KAY, M.A. (1904).

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

EXAMINERS :

FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Scripture and Catechism—REVS. R. MURRAY, M.A., and J. B. RUSSELL, B.D.

Hebrew—REVS. D. SMITH, M.A., and J. V. McNAIR.

Greek—REVS. D. PATON, D.D., and D. M. BARNET, B.A.

Logic and Philosophy—REVS. J. MATHEW, B.D., and F. E. OXER, B.D.

FOR EXIT EXAMINATION.

Theology—REVS. A. SKENE, M.A., and J. AULD, M.A.

Church History—REVS. S. FRASER, M.A., and R. SCOTT WEST.

New Testament Greek—REVS. R. STEEL, M.A., and J. GILLES, B.D.

Hebrew—REVS. J. COSH, B.D., and HUGH M. BURNS, B.D.

Apologetics—REVS. W. G. MACNOCHIE, M.A., and J. K. BRUCE.

The Examination Board consists of the Examiners and the College Committee, with the Professors and Lecturers, members *ex officio*.

NOTANDA.

Special attention is directed to the following matters:—

DATE of Meeting of next General Assembly—At Melbourne, on
Wednesday, 20th September, 1905, at 7 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS—

Centenary B. & F. Bible Society, 6th March, 1904	Minute 35
Claims of Israel, the Sabbath before Easter, 1904...	Minute 61
Claims of Ministry on Young Men... ..	Minute 78
Day of Thanksgiving for Rain	Minute 111
Foreign Missions	Minute 47
Ministers Unattached	Minute 107
<i>The Record</i>	Minute 33
Schedule of Statistics	Minute 114 p. 118
Temperance Sabbath... ..	Minute 59
<i>Year Book</i>	Minute 32

REMITTS—

To STATE ASSEMBLIES AND PRESBYTERIES.

Home Mission Scheme	Minute 63 p. 97
Procedure in Discipline	Minute 99
Reception of Ministers, Rules	Minute 67

To PRESBYTERIES

Overture on <i>ex officio</i> Members	Minute 110 p. 59
--	------------------

To HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

Overture on Minister-Evangelists	Minute 63 p. 57
--	-----------------

To CODE COMMITTEE.

Overture on Position and Rights of Adherents ...	Minute 109
--	------------

To LAW OFFICERS.

The Designation of Assemblies	Minute 67
--------------------------------------	-----------

To PUBLIC QUESTIONS COMMITTEE.

Celebration of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of John Knox	Minute 115
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A HISTORY OF

THE CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT

BY

JOHN H. COLEMAN

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

AT THE CORNER OF CORNHILL AND NASSAU STREETS

1857

PRINTED BY

W. B. ALLEN, 100 NASSAU ST.

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Presbyterian Church of Australia.

MINUTES

OF THE

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

SESSION THIRD.

*At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip-street, on Wednesday, the
23rd day of September, 1903, at 7 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. Hay) who preached from Judges xii. 6. After sermon, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Opening of Assembly.

2. THERE was laid on the table the Roll of the General Assembly printed in the White Book. The Roll was received, and its adjustment postponed to to-morrow morning's Sederunt. Roll tabled.

Election of Moderator.

3. THE MODERATOR having intimated that of the seven Ministers nominated for the Moderator's Chair, the Rev. David Bruce, Doctor of Divinity, Senior Minister of North St. Leonards, Sydney, had received a majority of Presbyterian votes, Dr. Clouston moved:—That Dr. Bruce's nomination be sustained, and that he be elected Moderator of this Assembly. The motion was seconded by Hon. W. Anderson, and carried on the voices. Dr. Bruce was conducted to the Chair, and delivered a suitable address.

Report: Business Committee.

4. THE SENIOR CLERK submitted the Report of the Business Committee. On his motion, duly seconded, the Report was received, and the following recommendations approved:—

Hours of Meeting.

That the hours of meeting, after Thursday, for this Session be—Morning Sederunt, 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., with an interval of an hour from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; Evening Sederunt, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Business Committee.

That the following be the Business Committee for the Session with instructions to meet each day at the close of the morning sederunt (4.30 p.m.) viz.: Revs. The Clerks, Dr. MacInnes, J. Burgess, P. J. Murdoch, Professor A. C. Smith, Dr. Nisbet, W. C. Radcliffe, R. Thomson, J. Russell, and J. J. Gilmore, *Ministers*; Messrs. W. Wood, T. W. Fleming, J. Holdsworth, G. Hall, and Hon. J. Balfour, *Elders*; The Junior Clerk, *Convener*.

The Order of Business for to-morrow was reported and approved.

Committee of Selection.

5. THE SENIOR CLERK also submitted the names proposed by the Clerks of State Assemblies as a Committee of Selection of Assembly Representatives on the Standing Committees, as follows:—Revs. J. C. Macdonald, D. Smith, P. J. Murdoch, Dr. E. Gray, Dr. Hay, W. C. Radcliffe, J. Lamont, J. Russell, A. Sangster, *Ministers*; Messrs. W. Affleck, A. S. Lang, and Hon. W. Anderson, *Elders*; Rev. P. J. Murdoch, *Convener*.

The Clerk also recommended that the Committee of Selection be instructed to meet to-morrow (Thursday) at 9.30 a.m., and to give in the names proposed by noon, so that nominations (if any) may be received up to the close of Thursday evening's Sederunt, the ballot to be taken on Friday at 2 p.m., and that the following be Scrutineers of the Ballot, with instructions to prepare the voting papers, viz., Messrs. W. Affleck, W. T. Seaward, Revs. W. A. Smith and Dr. Gray.

Scrutineers.

On the motion of the Clerk, the Report was received and the recommendations approved.

Rev. R. A. Redmond associated.

6. On the motion of Rev. J. Ferguson, Rev. R. A. Redmond, B.A., Minister of First Presbyterian Church, Broughshane, Ireland, was welcomed by the Moderator and associated.

7. REV. A. HARDIE gave notice of a motion to set apart a day on which the claims of Israel might be brought before Congregations. Notices of Motion: Rev. A. Hardie.

8. REV. A. HARDIE gave notice of a motion relative to the Centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

9. PROFESSOR RENTOUL gave notice of a motion relative to a Book of Family Prayers Notice of Motion: Professor Rentoul.

10. REV. ALEX. STEWART gave notice of a motion *re* the Missions' Agent having a seat in the Assembly. Notice of Motion: Rev. A. Stewart.

11. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 9.15 p.m., to meet again to-morrow at 10 a.m., for the observance of the Lord's Supper; and at 11 a.m. for the transaction of business, whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip-street, on Thursday the 24th day of September, 1903, at 10 a.m.

12. THE MEMBERS of the Assembly united in a Communion Service, conducted by the Moderator, assisted by Revs. Dr. Hay, J. Russell, A. Sangster, M.A., B.D., A. Yule, M.A. The Lord's Supper observed.

11 a.m.

13. AT the conclusion of the Solemn Service, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Assembly constituted.

14. THE MINUTES of the First Sederunt were read and confirmed. Minutes confirmed.

15. AT the suggestion of Junior Clerk, it was agreed to suspend the application of the Rules of Debate—Rules 39-42. Rules of Debate.

16. THE ROLL was then adjusted, the names of the Procurator and Law Agent being added, as *ex officio* members, and Rev. Alex. Stewart moved pursuant to notice:—That the Missions' Agent be given a seat and vote in this Assembly *ad interim*. The motion was seconded and carried, and Mr. F. H. L. Paton's name added to the Roll as a member *ex officio*, and the Roll, as thus adjusted, was sustained:— Roll adjusted. Ex officio members.

Roll

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

Rev. Samuel G. Crawford, M.A.	|	Mr. Thomas Gordon
A. S. McCook, B.A.	|	A. T. Kerr
John C. McDonald, M.A.	|	James Simmons

PRESBYTERY OF THE CLARENCE.

Rev. George Chalmers	|	Mr. Charles Cameron
James Grey		W. Leeson

PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN.

Rev. James Barr		Mr. William Affleck, M.L.A.
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PRESBYTERY OF THE HASTINGS.

Rev. John Taylor		Mr. William Thomson
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PRESBYTERY OF THE HAWKESBURY.

Rev. George A. Gordon, B.A.		Mr. D. Sheridan
John Paterson		James Simmons
James Steele	|	J. B. Brown

PRESBYTERY OF THE HUNTER.

Rev. A. Thain Anderson, M.A.	|	Mr. Donald McMichael
James S. Laing, D.D.	|	William Paterson
Alexander Smith		W. T. Seaward

PRESBYTERY OF ILLAWARRA.

Rev. Donald McLennan		Mr. John McArthur
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PRESBYTERY OF THE LACHLAN.

Rev. George Paul		Mr. Thomas Brown, M.P.
------------------	--	------------------------

PRESBYTERY OF MONARO.

Rev. J. D. Murray		Mr. J. C. Ryrie
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PRESBYTERY OF THE MURCUMBIDGEE.

Rev. Richard Jennings		Mr. R. Gibson
		John Kelly

PRESBYTERY OF NEW ENGLAND.

Rev. A. P. Cameron, B.A.		Mr. Thomas Crawford
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PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY.

Rev. J. Fender Blair	Mr. John A. Aitken
David Bruce, D.D.	Dr. George Armstrong
T. E. Clouston, D.D.	Mr. John Cameron
James Cosh, B.A., B.D.	John Candler
John Ferguson	Colonel Goodlet
Professor Harper, D.D.	Mr. John Kirkland
George MacInnes, D.D.	Andrew McCredie
Charles H. Talbot	Alexander Martin
R. Scott West	William Wood

PRESBYTERY OF WAGGA.

Rev. Thomas Steele, M.A.	Mr. Neil McCallum
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PRESBYTERY OF YOUNG.

Rev. W. Anson Smith	Mr. Robert Burges
---------------------	-------------------

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. J. Kemp Bruce	Mr. J. H. Balfour
John Burgess, M.A.	Walter G. Crane
J. Lawson Forbes, M.A., B.D.	Dr. J. A. Dick
John Kinross, D.D.	Storie Dixson
James T. Main, M.A.	Mr. Stewart A. Dougan
Alexander McKinlay	Walter G. Geikie
W. M. Dill Macky, D.D.	John Marden, LL.D.
David Smith, M.A.	John Ross
John Walker	

VICTORIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT.

Rev. J. A. Barber, B.A.	Mr. J. Draffin
Charles Cameron	D. McKenzie
J. A. Crockett	D. Milliken
Elder Gray, D.D.	A. Scott

PRESBYTERY OF BEECHWORTH.

Rev. J. Hall Angus	Mr. Alexander Husband
W. Huey Steele, M.A.	J. S. Key

PRESBYTERY OF BENDIGO.

Rev. C. J. Legate, B.A.	Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C.
D. Telfer	Mr. John Mackiehan

PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG.

Rev. A. Davidson	|	_____
J. Gillies, M.A., B.D.	|	_____
S. McBain, B.A.	|	_____

PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND.

Rev. F. G. H. Brady	|	Mr. S. Williamson
R. Mitchell, M.A.	|	_____

PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN VALLEY.

Rev. G. R. Jones	|	Mr. D. M. McLennan
J. H. Hewitt, B.A.	|	_____
R. J. Houston, B.A.	|	_____

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Rev. Archibald McNeilage	|	Mr. W. Armstrong
Thomas Shanks, M.A., B.D.		D. Laidlaw

PRESBYTERY OF MACEDON.

Rev. J. M. Smith		Mr. J. B. Thomson
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PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. H. T. Hull		_____
R. McGowan		_____
J. G. Sterling		_____

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander	|	Mr. A. Byers
George Carson, M.A.	|	John McCallum
James Gibson, M.A.	|	A. MacIntosh
J. G. Paton, D.D.	|	Robert Milne
Alexander Stewart, M.A.	|	_____
Robert Thomson, M.A.	|	_____
Alexander Yule, M.A.	|	_____

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH.

Rev. J. Barnaby, M.A.	|	Mr. A. Anderson
J. A. Burns	|	W. Brunton
W. H. Cooper, M.A., B.D.	|	R. Gillespie
J. G. Davies, M.A.	|	L. S. Robertson
F. A. Hagenauer, M.A.	|	F. Stocks
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	|	W. M. Walker
George Tait, M.A.	|	_____

PRESBYTERY OF MORTLAKE.

Rev. T. Brown, M.A.	|	Mr. W. Anderson
W. L. Fenton	|	N. W. Black

PRESBYTERY OF PENOLA.

Rev. R. A. Caldwell

Mr. John Watson

PRESBYTERY OF WIMMERA.

Rev. W. Jones

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. D. A. Cameron, M.A.

S. Fraser, M.A.

W. Fraser, B.A.

Andrew Hardie

James Jackson

Professor Macdonald, D.D.

John Meiklejohn, D.D.

R. Murray, M.A., B.D.

Professor Rentoul, D.D.

Hume Robertson, B.A.

C. Robinson

Alexander Skene, M.A.

Professor Campbell Smith, M.A.

Mr. J. M. Campbell

J. G. Elder

T. J. Finlay

D. Fletcher

H. Hopkins

G. Howat

H. H. Kemp

G. S. Mackay

W. McMeekin

W. Warrick

J. Wighton

QUEENSLAND.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE.

Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D.

W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.

J. B. Russell, B.D.

Mr. Alexander S. Lang

J. H. Shaw

Alexander Stewart

PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. J. I. Knipe, D.D.

Mr. Alexander Mackellar

PRESBYTERY OF ROCKHAMPTON.

Rev. Andrew Wilson, B.A.

Mr. R. Anderson

PRESBYTERY OF TOOWOOMBA.

Rev. J. Lundie, B.A.

James Stewart

Mr. J. De Conlay

R. Savage

PRESBYTERY OF TOWNSVILLE.

Rev. Alexander Clark

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. George Ewan

Alexander Hay, D.D.

Mr. George Hall

W. A. Smith

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF ADELAIDE.

Rev. Matthew Johnston	||	Mr. A. H. Bryson
A. C. Sutherland, M.A., B.D.		T. W. Fleming

PRESBYTERY OF BELALIE.

Rev. James Lamont		Mr. J. Holdsworth
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PRESBYTERY OF ONKAPARINGA.

Rev. B. C. Matthews		Mr. John Murray
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. R. Thomson		Mr. H. J. Congreve
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TASMANIA.

ELECTED BY THE PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF HOBART.

Rev. J. S. Buntine		Mr. T. L. Hood
W. R. Cunningham		Hon. J. Murdoch, M.L.C.

PRESBYTERY OF LAUNCESTON.

Rev. A. R. Osborn, M.A.		Mr. James Wright
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PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDLANDS.

Rev. C. Jones		Mr. F. Burbury
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. John Russell		Mr. David Storrer
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF FREMANTLE.

Rev. Douglas B. Smith, M.A.		Mr. F. McDonald, M.L.A.
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PRESBYTERY OF THE GOLDFIELDS

Rev. J. A. Rodger		_____
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PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

Rev. J. J. Gilmore

| Mr. J. Hesketh

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY

Rev. A. Sangster, M.A., B.D.

MEMBERS *EX OFFICIO* :

The Procurator—Mr. John Garland, M.A., LL.B., M.L.A., Sydney.

The Law Agent—Mr. J. M. Campbell, Melbourne.

The Missions' Agent—Rev. F. H. J. Paton, M.A., B.D.

17. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Revs. A. Wilson and D. A. Cameron, Messrs. T. Gordon and R. Gillespie. Apologies.

18. A COMMUNICATION was read from the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney conveying the fraternal greetings of the Synod to the General Assembly. The letter was cordially received, and remitted to the following Committee to draw up a suitable reply, viz., Revs. Dr. Clouston, Dr. Hay, A. Yule, Hon. W. Anderson, Messrs. J. Kirkland and W. Wood. Dr. Clouston, *Convener*. Letter from
Synod of Sydney.

19. A LETTER was read from the President of the General Conference conveying the fraternal greetings of the Methodist Church. The letter was remitted to the same Committee, and also a Telegram conveying greetings from the Presbyterian Church of South Africa. Letter from
Methodist
Conference.

Telegram.

20. A LETTER was read from the General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association offering the Association's Rooms to members during their stay in Sydney. The offer was thankfully received and accepted. Letter from
Y.M.C.A.

21. A REQUEST was received from the New South Wales Alliance for a deputation to be heard. The letter was received and remitted to the Business Committee. Letter from
N.S.W. Alliance.

22. A LETTER was read and received from the Managers of St. Andrew's, Launceston, stating that Mr. D. Storrer would represent them in regard to their petition. Letter from
Managers St.
Andrew's, Laun-
ceston.

23. REV. J. C. MACDONALD submitted the names proposed by the Committee of Selection, of Representatives of the Assembly to the Standing Committees, together with certain recommendations. Rev. P. J. Murdoch Motion:
Assembly
Representatives.

moved (1) that the Report be received and the nominations approved ; the motion was seconded and agreed to.

(2) That the recommendation to supply omissions be approved, which was seconded.

Amendment. Rev. A. Stewart moved an amendment:—That in the cases where there has been defective representation to the Committees of this Assembly by the State Assemblies, the representatives of the State Church concerned shall be directed by the House to meet and suggest names to the House to fill the vacancies.

The amendment was put and negatived, and the motion carried.

Dissent. From this decision Rev. A. Stewart asked leave to dissent, which was granted.

Resolution. On the motion of Rev. G. Tait, duly seconded, it was agreed—The Assembly instruct the Victorian members of this Assembly to meet and correct the numbers nominated for the College Committee and the Committee on Reception of Ministers and report to-morrow morning.

**Overture :
Mode of Electing
Moderator.** 24. THE ASSEMBLY called for Overture on the Mode of Election of Moderator.

The Overture was read by the Junior Clerk.

Dr. Laing was heard in support of the Overture, and moved :—Receive the Overture, and remit the same to the Code Committee to draw up a set of Regulations and report at a future Sederunt. The motion was seconded, and after discussion, carried.

**Petition :
Precedence.** 25. THE PETITION from the General Purposes Committee of New South Wales on Ecclesiastical Precedence was read.

Rev. Dr. Clouston moved that the petition be received, which was seconded, and approved.

Amendment. Mr. Affleck moved :—That the General Assembly of Australia despatch a Memorial to His Majesty the King asking that the said Order of Precedence may be reconsidered with the object of providing that no rule or regulation as to precedence for any Church or denomination be established in the Commonwealth of Australia, seeing that at present no State or National Church exists in the said Commonwealth, nor is any such desired.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Resolution. Rev. G. Tait moved :—That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Memorial to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth on the question of

Ecclesiastical Precedence, and submit it to a future Sederunt, and also to arrange to further press the matter on the Prime Minister by a deputation.

The amendment was seconded and carried, and the following Committee appointed:—Revs. J. T. Main, P. J. Murdoch, Dr. Nisbet, G. Tait, J. Walker. Rev. G. Tait, *Convener*.

26. THE ASSEMBLY called for Petitions from Students, viz : From Messrs. W. Ride, J. F. Stavelly, J. T. Dudley, W. Tulloch, E. O. Keays, and D. Bruce.

The petitions were received, and Mr. Tait moved:—That the petitions from students be remitted to the College Committee for consideration and report.

That the Presbytery of Sydney be appointed to meet at a time and place to be appointed by the Moderator of the Presbytery with instructions to report to the College Committee on the petition of Mr. J. T. Dudley.

The motion was seconded and carried.

27. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Report of the Board of Foreign Missions, which was submitted by Rev. Alex. Stewart, *Acting Convener*.

After discussion, the Report was amended and received, and the following Clauses of the deliverance were moved, seconded, and agreed to:—

Receive the Report, and instruct the Board to convey the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. A. L. Pryde, the Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and Mr. W. L. Mollison, the Honorary Auditor, for the efficiency and care with which the accounts have been kept and examined.

Accept with special thanks the offer from the Rev. W. Gray, of South Australia, of his valuable collection of New Hebrides curiosities, as the nucleus of a Mission Museum for the Church, and direct the Board to arrange for the temporary housing of the same till permanent arrangements can be made.

Thereafter, the discussion was adjourned.

28. MR. J. KIRKLAND gave notice of the following motion:—

Notice of Motion:
Mr. Kirkland.

That the Overdraft incurred by last or previous Assemblies be voluntarily discharged by the various State Assemblies proportionately according to membership, and that for the future such overdraft shall not exceed the sum of £200.

29. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 4.30 p.m., to meet again this evening at 7 p.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip-street, on Thursday, the 24th day of September, 1903, at 7 p.m.

Assembly constituted.

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

Report :
Business
Committee.

31. THE REPORT of the Business Committee, with the order of business for Friday was submitted by the Senior Clerk, and approved.

Report :
Year Book.

32. REV. J. JACKSON, *Convener*, read the Report of the Committee on the *Year Book*, and moved :—

Receive the Report.

Thank Messrs. Arbuckle, Waddell, and Fawckner for the service they have rendered the Church as publishers.

Instruct all Ministers and Office-bearers to do their utmost to increase the circulation during the coming year.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

Report : *Record.*

33. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Report of the Committee on the *Record*, which was submitted for the Convener by Rev. J. Walker.

Mr. Walker moved the following deliverance, which was seconded and carried on the voices :—

Receive the Report.

Gratefully acknowledge the ability and zeal of the Editor, the Rev. W. S. Rolland.

Express gratification at the increased circulation of the *Record*, and afresh commend it to the Ministers, S.S. Superintendents and Teachers of the Church in all the States.

Re-appoint the Committee.

Official Service.

34. IT was agreed that an Official Service should be held in St. Stephen's Church on Sabbath, 27th inst. Rev. Dr. Nisbet to preach.

Motion : B. & F.
Bible Society.

35. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Communication from Rev. H. A. Raynes, Home Superintendent and Delegate to Australia of the B. and F. Bible Society, and the motion of which Rev. A. Hardie had given notice.

In the absence of Mr. Hardie, Dr. Jaing moved :—

The General Assembly cordially welcome the letter from the Home Superintendent of the Bible Society.

The General Assembly, in view of the approaching Centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, record their gratitude to God for the world-wide work accomplished by the Society in translating, publishing and distributing the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Covenants during the past hundred years. Rejoice in the continued and still increasing usefulness of its workers.

And, grateful for the ready help which the Society has ever extended to their own, as well as to other Missionaries, by publishing their translations of Scripture, by giving Bibles for gratuitous circulation, and by appointing agents to assist in their distribution, the Assembly recommend the Congregations and Mission Stations of the Church to join with all other communions in celebrating the Society's Centenary by special services on Sabbath, 6th March, 1904, and by giving to its interests their prayerful and generous support.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

36. THE following were appointed Scrutineers in room of those formerly appointed, viz. :—Revs. R. Steel, J. Cosh, W. A. Smith, and Mr. W. T. Seaward ; Rev. R. Steel, *Convener*.

37. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Report of the Committee on the Federation of the Protestant Churches, which was submitted by Dr. Clouston, *Convener*.

Report :
Federation of
Protestant
Churches.

The Report was taken as read, and the deliverance was considered Clause by Clause.

Dr. Clouston moved that the Report be received, which was seconded.

After discussion, the debate was adjourned on the motion of Rev. A. Yule.

Debate
adjourned.

38. THE GENERAL 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 Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip street, on Friday, the 25th day of September, 1903, at 11 a.m.

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

Assembly
constituted.

- Minutes confirmed. 40. THE MINUTES of the Second Sederunt were read and confirmed.
- Notice of Motion: Mr. De Conlay. 41. MR. DE CONLAY gave notice of a motion of sympathy with the Evangelical Free Churches in England relative to the Education Act.
- Deputation. 42. IT was agreed to receive a deputation from the Methodist Church at 4 p.m. this day.
- Report: Committee on Communications 43. DR. CLOUSTON submitted the Report of the Special Committee on Communications, which recommended that the following replies be sent to the Archbishop of Sydney and to the President of the Methodist Conference, and that a cablegram be sent to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa now in Session in Grahamstown :—

St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street,
Sydney, Sept. 25, 1903.

To Synod of Sydney. His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Sydney.
Most Reverend and Dear Sir,

I had the honour of laying before the General Assembly the resolution unanimously passed at the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, sending the fraternal greetings of the clergy and laity of the Church of England to the Assembly. The communication was cordially received, and the following resolution was passed :—

The Assembly heartily reciprocate the fraternal greetings of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney. They recognise the noble and effective service rendered to the cause of the common Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, by the great Church of England in this and other lands, and assure the Synod of their deep interest in all its efforts put forth in the preaching of the Gospel, and in promoting the moral and spiritual welfare of the community, and their prayer that the blessing of God may continue to rest upon its work.

I am,

My Lord Archbishop,
Yours in the common faith,

Moderator of the Assembly.

St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street,
Sydney, Sept. 25, 1903.

To Methodist Conference. To the Rev. George Lane, D.D.,
President of the General Conference of the Methodist Church
of Australasia.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

Your communication conveying the fraternal greetings of the Methodist Church of Australasia to the General Assembly was submitted by me to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity. It was cordially received, and the following resolution was unanimously passed :—

Reciprocate the fraternal greetings of the Methodist Church of Anstraliasia conveyed in the letter of its honoured President, the Reverend George Lane, D.D. They recognise the valuable services rendered to the cause of Christ by that Church as one of the forces making for the moral and religious welfare of the Commonwealth, and trust that whether, in the Providence of God, closer relations may be found possible or not, the spirit that shall actuate both shall continue to be of the most friendly and sympathetic character. They assure the Conference of the deep interest they feel in the prosperity of the Methodist Church, and pray that the Divine blessing may continue to rest upon its efforts to promote the spiritual elevation of the community.

I am,

Reverend and Dear Sir,

Yours in the common faith,

Moderator of the General Assembly.

44. THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS was permitted to meet during this Sederunt. Committee on Statistics.

45. RESUMED consideration of the Report of the Board of Foreign Missions, which was submitted by Rev. Alex. Stewart, *Acting Convener*. Report Resumed: Foreign Missions

The following Clauses were moved, seconded and agreed to:—

Express satisfaction with the work done in the North Queensland Mission. Deliverance.

Welcome the Rev. Arthur Richter and Mrs. Richter as an accession of strength to the Staff.

Instruct the Queensland Executive to proceed with the settlement of Mr. and Mrs. Richter at the Archer River after the return of the Rev. N. Hey from his furlough, and to arrange, if practicable, for the Convener of said Executive and the Assembly's Agent (Rev. F. Paton) to assist at the inauguration of the new Station.

Express Appreciation of the practical sympathy shown by the Queensland Government in the past, and specially of their recent action in connection with the Mission Reserve and the contemplated Archer River Settlement.

Resolve that the increased expenditure involved be distributed proportionally between the various States on the basis of the present arrangement.

Request the Treasurer to forward to the Treasurer of each State Church quarterly an account for the amount due by each State three months before the close of the financial year, a statement showing the indebtedness—if any—of such State; to supply the Convener of the Queensland Executive with a quarterly statement of accounts, and to pay no accounts in connection with the Aboriginal Mission without a voucher from the said Convener.

Finally, request the Finance Board of the Victorian Church to take charge of the Aboriginal Mission Account.

Committee of the Whole: Mission Finances. At 12 noon the House resolved into Committee of the Whole to consider the Finances. Rev. P. J. Murdoch, Chairman.

Ballot taken. 46. At 2 p.m. the Committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again, and the House resumed, and at 2.10 p.m. proceeded to the Ballot.

Committee of the Whole: Mission Finances. 47. THEREAFTER, the Assembly resumed consideration of the Report on Foreign Missions.

Report. At 2.30 p.m. the House resolved into Committee of the Whole to further consider the finances of Foreign Missions Board. Rev. P. J. Murdoch, Chairman.

At 2.45 p.m. the House resumed, and the Clerk reported that the following resolutions had been passed:—

That the Assembly's Foreign Mission Account continue to be administered under the direction of the Board of Missions, in conjunction with the Finance Board of the Victorian Church.

That after payment by the various State Assemblies of the balances due by them on account of the General Assembly's Missions Schemes, including the Agent's salary, to the end of the last financial year, the amount of any remaining overdraft be divided and paid by the State Assemblies in proportion to membership, and that for the future such overdraft shall not exceed the sum of £300.

The Report was received and the resolutions adopted.

The further Clauses of the deliverance were then agreed to as follows:—

Acknowledge with gratitude to God the forward movement of the Church in Western Australia, shown in the formation of its Foreign Missions Committee, and the energy and liberality with which the cause of Missions is being fostered; and direct the Board to encourage the Western Australian Committee in undertaking a Mission station for the Aborigines on the same plan as at Napoon and Weipa in Queensland; and to secure for the same, should it be begun within the year, with suitable prospects of maintenance and Government help, a duly-qualified Missionary, and commend this new effort to the special liberality of the Larger Churches.

Thank the various Churches for the cordial reception given to the Rev. F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D., as Missions Agent within their bounds, and record the Assembly's sense of the zeal, ability, and success with which his tour through the Commonwealth has been conducted; and instruct the Board

to consider and carry out so far as practicable his suggestions (A) regarding the organisation of Mission appeals to Sabbath-schools, the Assembly instructing Conveners of States Missions Committees to co-operate; (B) regarding courses of missionary lectures in the Theological Halls; (C) regarding the circulation of Mission news in some way more effective than at present; (D) regarding the recommendation of set times for prayer and appeals for Missions, and the institution of a Prayer Cycle.

This Assembly views with alarm the continued aggression of the French in the New Hebrides; regrets the delay in the appointment of a Joint Land Commission to deal with the vexed question of titles to land; and instructs the Board of Missions to draw up a Memorial upon the subject to be presented to the Prime Minister for transmission through the Governor-General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Approve of the Agent's visiting the unvisited Presbyteries of the Church in Victoria during the remainder of the present year, and instruct the Board to allocate his services thereafter as shall seem most advisable in the interests of the work. Recommend the Church in Victoria to give Mr. Paton a seat in the Presbytery of the bounds within which his home is situated.

Resolve that for the three years of the Agent's engagement the Minute of the Board anent his salary be given effect to, viz. :—"That the salary and travelling expenses of the Agent be levied on the basis of the membership of the several State Churches, and that the financial result of meetings be passed to the Heathen Mission Fund of the State in which the meetings are held," and that intimation of this resolution be given to the State Assemblies.

Congratulate the State Churches on the progress recorded in their several Reports and Statements of Accounts, and on the manifest blessing of God on Missionary enterprise; request them to increase their contributions to the Assembly's Aborigines Mission, in view of the contemplated extensions in North Queensland and Western Australia; allocate the travelling lantern and printing expenses of the Agent's work, which amount to £16 16s. 4d. more than the subscriptions privately given for his work, on the same rating as his stipend, as follows :—

New South Wales	...	£4 15 11
Victoria	... ..	8 12 5
Queensland	... ..	1 17 0
South Australia	... ..	0 11 9
Tasmania	... ..	0 11 9
Western Australia	... ..	0 7 6

In conclusion, urge upon the whole body of our people in Australia the need for increased liberality for the extension of Christ's Kingdom at home and abroad.

The whole deliverance, as above, was then adopted.

Deputation from
the Methodist
Church.

48. ACCORDING to appointment, the General Assembly received a Deputation from the Methodist Conference, consisting of Rev. R. Bavin and Rev. W. H. Rogers, who were warmly welcomed by the Moderator, and addressed the House.

On the motion of Dr. Clouston, the Assembly cordially passed the following resolution, which was conveyed to the deputation in suitable terms by the Moderator :—

Resolution.

Receive cordially the fraternal greetings tendered on behalf of the Methodist Church of New South Wales by the Rev. Rainsford Bavin, President of the Conference, and Rev. W. Hulse Rogers, Secretary, and assure them of the continued interest of the Assembly in the vigorous and successful efforts made by the Conference in the extension of the Kingdom of Christ, and pray that the blessing of God may rest upon the labours of the brethren of the Methodist Church through the future as it has done in the past.

Rev. W. Watt
associated.

49. REV. W. WATT, Missionary at Tanna, New Hebrides being present, was introduced, welcomed by the Moderator and associated.

Report : Finance
Committee.

50. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Report of the Finance Committee, which was submitted by Colonel Goodlet, *Chairman*. The Report was taken as read.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed :—

Deliverance.

Receive the Report.

Instruct the Treasurers to communicate with the Trustees of the Hymnary, authorising the sending of only one cheque for the royalty due to the Churches within the Commonwealth, and advise State Assemblies that this has been done.

Authorise the transfer of £41 16s. from the Special Travelling Account to the Ordinary Travelling Expenses Account.

Authorise the payment of expenses to Members of Assembly on the same basis as last year—namely,

“That Members attending the General Assembly in September, 1903, have the following percentage of their travelling expenses (calculated upon the basis of second-class return fares) paid by the Church—namely, (a) Those paying less than £1, nothing. (b) Those paying from £1 to £4, to receive half. (c) Those paying £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."

Authorise the Assessments for the General Assembly Expenses Fund on the same basis as formerly--namely,

New South Wales, £40; Victoria, £40; Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, each £13 6s. 8d.; and Western Australia, £10.

Resolve to forward the £20 received from Presbyterian Church of England as follows:--£10 to the Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, and £10 to the Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, for Bush work, and that the thanks of the Assembly be accorded to the Presbyterian Church in England for their liberal donation.

51. REV. A. YULE, *Convener*, submitted the College Committee's Report on the Applications of Students, as follows:--

Report :
Petitions from
Students.

Mr. J. T. Dudley:--The Committee recommended that the petition be granted. The recommendation was adopted.

Messrs. D. Bruce and E. O. Keays:--The Committee recommended that these petitions be granted, on condition that the applicants pass the Entrance Examination and that their petitions receive the sanction of the State Assembly of Victoria. The recommendation was adopted.

Mr. William Tulloch:--The Committee recommended that the petition be granted. An amendment was moved that the petition be not granted. On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried, and the petition was not granted.

From this decision Revs. J. S. Buntine and Messrs. W. Brunton and T. L. Hood asked leave to dissent, which was granted.

Messrs. W. Ride and A. F. Stavely:--The Committee recommended that the petitions be not granted. The recommendation was approved.

52. REV. J. COSH gave in the Report of the Scrutineers of the Ballot for the election of Assembly Representatives to the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions and the Standing Committees. There were also received the Returns from the State Assemblies, and the Committees were declared duly appointed in accordance therewith.

Report of
Scrutineers.

Standing Com-
mittees
appointed.

[For List of Standing Committees, Judicial Commission, Board of Missions and Special Committees, see pages 45-49.]

Rev. Alex. Stewart was appointed Acting Convener of the Board of Missions till the return of the Convener.

Notices of
Motion : Rev. J.
Burgess.

53. REV. J. BURGESS gave notice of a motion for the appointment of Delegates to the Eighth General Council of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches.

Notice of
Motion : Dr.
Clouston.

54. DR. CLOUSTON gave notice of a motion relative to the Liquor traffic in New Guinea.

Adjournment.

55. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 5 p.m. to meet again this evening at 7 o'clock p.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Friday, the 25th day of September, 1903, at 7 o'clock p.m.

Assembly
constituted.

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

Minutes
confirmed.

57. THE MINUTES of the Third Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Report : Business
Committee.

58. THE REPORT of the Business Committee, with the arrangement of business for Saturday and Monday, was submitted by the Convener and approved.

Temperance
Sabbath.

59. IN response to a request from the W.C.T. Union, Pittsburg, U.S.A., the Assembly resolved on the motion of Rev. J. Walker, to appoint the fourth Sabbath of November as a Temperance Sabbath on which Ministers shall deal with the religious aspect of the Temperance Question.

N.S.W. Alliance.

60. THE request from New South Wales Alliance for the Assembly to receive a deputation was, owing to pressure of business, declined.

Resolution :
Claims of Israel.

61. REV. A. HARDIE, according to notice, moved :—The Assembly recommend to all Ministers within its jurisdiction the setting apart of the Sabbath before Easter, 1904, or any other suitable Sabbath, as a day on which the claims of Israel might be brought before Congregations, and special prayers be offered for God's guidance and blessing in this work.

The resolution was seconded, and carried on the voices.

Memorial to
Soldiers in
South Africa

62. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Communication from the Rev. James Gray, Minister of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa, at Pretoria,

craving assistance in the erection of a Church in Pretoria, in memory of the Presbyterian soldiers who fell in the war in South Africa.

Rev. J. Ferguson moved :—That the communication be received, which ^{Motion} _(Adopted.) was seconded.

Dr. Hay moved an amendment, which was seconded :—That the Letter ^{Amendment.} be received and the object recommended to the favour and consideration of the Church throughout Australia, in the hope that the thought of the deeds of the Sons of Australia in South Africa, may bring a liberal response.

The amendment was put and negatived, and the motion carried.

63. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Report of the Committee on ^{Report: Home} Home Missions and the Overture from the State Assembly of Queensland on ^{Missions.} the appointment of Minister-Evangelists were submitted by Rev. J. Ferguson, *Convener*.

The Report and Overture were taken as read.

Rev. J. Ferguson moved the deliverance, which was seconded, and carried, as follows :—

Receive the Report.

Deliverance.

Express gratification with the highly encouraging returns from the several States ; rejoice in the courage animating the Home Mission Agents as a whole throughout the Commonwealth, and cordially bid them God-speed in their arduous labours ; acknowledge the goodness of God evidenced in the steady development of Church extension and the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

With a view to unifying the training of Home Mission Agents ; ^{Remit.} approve of the preparation of a scheme having as its consummation full status in the Ministry ; send down the Scheme, set forth in the Report, to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for consideration and report, with instructions to make their returns to the Home Mission Committee of Australia before June 30th, 1904.

Request the Right Reverend the Moderator to give a large part of his official year to Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia.

The Overture was remitted to the Home Mission Committee to be taken into consideration in framing of a Scheme for the training of Home Mission Agents.

Rev. P. J. Murdoch was appointed Joint-Convener of this Committee.

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

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

*At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Saturday,
the 26th day of September, 1903, at 10 a m.*

Assembly
constituted.

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

Minutes
confirmed.

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

Returns to
Remits.

67. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for Returns to Remits. The Returns were submitted by the Junior Clerk.

Article III.

1. Returns to Remit on Article III. The Returns from State Assemblies and Presbyteries being unanimously in favour of the Remit, it was moved, seconded, and agreed :—Sustain the Returns, and enact that Article III. shall now read :—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.

Designation of
Assemblies.

2. Returns to Remit on the Designation of Assemblies. On the motion of Rev. J. Burgess, it was agreed :—

Receive the Returns and remit the same to the Law Officers of the Assembly, with instructions to report at a future Sederunt.

Article IX.

3. The Returns to Remit on Article IX. were submitted by Rev. A. Skene, Convener of the Committee on Reception of Ministers. The Returns were received. Rev. A. Skene moved :—

(1.) The Assembly adopt the amendment of the Church of New South Wales on Section A of the Rules for the Reception of Ministers, to wit, that there be added in line 2, after word "Church," "a Committee in Great Britain and Ireland, appointed by any of the State Assemblies for the selection of Ministers."

(2.) That the following addition be made to Section B as (6)—"Should the interval between the arrival of a Minister or a Licentiate and the meeting of the General Assembly exceed twelve months, the Committee is empowered, after due enquiry, to receive an applicant as a Minister or a Licentiate of the Church eligible for a call, on the completion of a probation of twelve months."

(3.) That Rule 7 be made Section D, as suggested by the Queensland Assembly, and that the following words be inserted at the close of the second sentence, viz., "Presbyteries are instructed to make special enquiry, and to satisfy themselves on the following points:—(1.) The unanimity or otherwise of the Congregation desiring admission; (2.) The resources of such Congregations available for the maintenance of ordinances; and (3.) The real and other property (if any) of such Congregations, and the legal claims (if any) against it."

The motion was seconded and carried, and the Rules as thus amended were sent to Presbyteries for consideration and report to next Assembly.

The Committee was instructed to prepare Rules for the Calling of Ministers from other Countries, and send them down to Presbyteries, and Presbyteries were instructed to consider and report on the same.

4. Replies from State Assemblies on the questions raised in the Over-
ture from the South Australian Assembly on Beneficiary Funds. The replies were submitted by the Junior Clerk.

It was moved by Rev. G. Tait, and seconded:—Receive the Report.

An amendment was moved by Rev. J. H. Angus, and seconded:—Appoint a Special Committee to consider the question of the Beneficiary Funds, with the object of devising some means whereby Ministers removing from one State to another, and already in connection with the Funds in the State which they are leaving, may be relieved of the necessity for joining the Funds of the Church in the State to which they may remove.

The amendment was carried, and the following Committee appointed:—
Revs. J. Hall Angus, J. Burgess, W. Gray, P. J. Murdoch, R. S. Paterson, A. Stewart, C. H. Talbot, A. J. Wade, J. Walker, *Ministers*; Hon. J. Balfour and Colonel Goodlet, *Elders*. Rev. J. Hall Angus, *Convener*.

68. PROFESSOR RENTOUL gave notice of a motion on Turkish Misrule in Macedonia.

Notice of Motion:
Professor
Rentoul.

69. PROFESSOR A. C. SMITH gave notice of the following motion:—

That until the Presbyterian Church of Australia has arranged otherwise, the Victorian Church be authorised to continue its present practice of admitting to the Entrance Examination of the Theological Hall those Home Missionaries who have passed four years of a training course.

Notice of Motion:
Professor Smith.

70. REV. J. WALKER gave notice of a motion on the deportation of South Sea Islanders.

Notice of Motion:
Rev. J. Walker

Adjournment.

71. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 12.30 p.m., to meet again on Monday at 11 a.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Monday, the 28th day of September, 1903, at 11 a.m.

Assembly constituted.

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

Minutes confirmed.

73. THE MINUTES of the Sixth Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Moderator's Official Visits.

74. IT was agreed that the Moderator pay an official visit to their Excellencies the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, the Governor of this State, and to the Lord Mayor.

In the Moderator's absence Rev. P. J. Murdoch took the Chair.

Petition: St. Andrew's, Launceston.

75. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Petition from the Managers of St. Andrew's, Launceston.

The Petition and relative documents were taken as read. A letter from Dr. Scott, of Hobart, was read, and a letter from Mr. W. H. Lamb, Hon. Secretary, Managers, St. Andrew's, Launceston, excusing the absence of any of the petitioners.

The Moderator having been called upon to rule, gave his ruling that the Case having been called for and no parties appearing, the House should proceed to the next business. The House proceeded to the next business.

Committee of the Whole: Standing Orders, Rules on Discipline.

76. AT 12.10 P.M. the House resolved into Committee of the Whole to consider the Standing Orders and Rules of Discipline. Rev. P. J. Murdoch *Chairman.*

At 1 p.m. the House resumed, and the Clerk reported the changes made, and moved that the Report be approved. The Report was approved.

Communication and Ecclesiastical Precedence.

77. REV. G. TAIT, Convener of the Committee appointed to draw up a communication to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth on Ecclesiastical Precedence, submitted the following letter:—

Presbyterian Church Offices,

Sydney, 28th September, 1903.

To the Honourable Alfred Deakin,

Prime Minister of the Commonwealth.

Sir,—We are instructed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in Session assembled, to bring before you their views on the question of Ecclesiastical Precedence.

We hold it to be important that the mutual helpfulness of Church and State should find public recognition in the presence at State functions of the Heads of the leading Churches. As Presbyterians, we have had handed down to us a catholic and national view of the responsibilities and duties of a Church, and earnestly deprecate anything that has even the appearance of cutting off the life of the Nation from that of the Church. We recognise that neither we, nor any other Church, can claim recognition on the ground upon which it is accorded to the Church of our fathers in the Old Land. In Scotland, the Moderator—as was exemplified at the Luncheon at Holyrood Palace on the occasion of the recent visit of the King to Edinburgh—takes the place which the Archbishop of Canterbury takes in England. But, though neither we, nor any other Church, can claim recognition as State Churches, we think that, in strict harmony with the policy of the Commonwealth towards the Churches, the State can recognise the Churches in a way that will honor and strengthen both Church and State. The Churches serve the State in proportion to the number of people they bring and keep under the power of religion, which is the great State-building principle. We submit, therefore, that the numerical principle—a principle which takes no account of peculiarities of doctrine or polity in the various Churches—applied to this question will solve it in a way in harmony with our principles of government, and which will give satisfaction to an overwhelming majority of the people. We may point out that this principle has already been acted on both at Home and within the Commonwealth. On the occasion of the King's recent visit to Ireland, the representatives of the various Churches were granted Precedence in accordance with it. The same method was also followed in determining the Precedence of the Lord Mayors of Sydney and Melbourne. Any other order would necessarily conflict with the democratic constitution under which we are governed.

We trust, therefore, that the leading Churches will receive recognition at State functions, and that the Order of the Precedence of their representatives will be fixed according to the number of the people adhering to them as shown by the Government Census.

We have the honor to be,

Your obedient servants,

Moderator.

Clerks.

The letter was approved, and the Moderator was also authorised, if found necessary, to send the same to His Majesty the King.

78. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Report of the College Committee, which was submitted by Rev. A. Yule, *Convener*. The Report was taken as read. Report: College Committee.

Mr. Yule moved the following deliverence, which was seconded and carried:—

Deliverance.

The General Assembly receive and approve generally of the Report printed in the White Book, and of the Supplementary Report.

Adopt the proposed Kalendar for conducting the Entrance and Exit Examinations, also the Syllabus for the Exit of 1904, and the Syllabus for the Entrance of 1905. With regard to the matter raised by the Overture from St. Andrew's College Theological Faculty, the Assembly resolve, that for the coming year the Students be required to sit for the Exit Examinations in Hebrew, Church History, and Apologetics on the completion of their respective courses in these subjects in each Hall; and to sit for all other subjects at the close of their third year. The Assembly authorise the College Committee to appoint, as an Executive Committee, the members in the State where the Convener resides.

Resolve further, that Examinations be prepared and conducted by an Examination Board, consisting of the Examiners and the College Committee. They instruct the Board to frame Rules for conducting the examinations, and to act upon them *ad interim*, reporting to next General Assembly; and they authorise them for the more rapid transaction of the work of passing the examination papers to divide the Board into suitable sections.

Finally, the General Assembly express their thankfulness to God that so many young men are under training for the Holy Ministry and the Mission Field, and they instruct all Ministers frequently to bring the claims of the Ministry before the minds of the younger men in the Church, and constantly to pray that the Lord of the Harvest may send forth labourers into His harvest.

Examiners

Re-appoint the Examiners, as follows:—

FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Scripture and Catechism ...	Revs. R. Murray, M.A., and J. B. Russell, B.D.
Hebrew	Revs. D. Smith, M.A., and J. V. McNair.
Greek	Revs. D. Paton, D.D., and D. M. Barnet, B.A.
Logic and Philosophy ...	Revs. J. Matthew, B.D., and F. E. Ozer, B.D.

FOR EXIT EXAMINATION.

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

Convenership.

79. It was moved, seconded, and agreed, that Professor A. Campbell Smith's resignation of membership of the Committee on Reception of Ministers be accepted, and Rev. A. Skene appointed Convener.

80. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY took up consideration of the Code Committee's Report on Rule 7, of Procedure in regard to Discipline, recommending the omission of lines 6, 7, and 8.

Report: Code Committee, Rules of Discipline.

Dr. MacInnes moved that the Report be approved, which was seconded.

Rev. A. Yule moved an amendment:—That the words "and also, if required, to commit their views on such points to writing" be added to the foregoing.

The amendment was put and carried.

Rev. A. Yule moved further:—That these words be added, "No appeal shall lie against the enforcement of this obligation, and any refusal to comply with it may be held as contumacious, and dealt with accordingly."

The motion was seconded.

Rev. G. Tait moved, as an amendment:—That last sentence of the Rule read as follows—"Any refusal to submit all manuscripts or to commit to writing their views on points involved in the accusation, may be held as contumacious."

The amendment was seconded and carried.

Rule 36. Rev. G. Tait recommended that No. 36 stand as in the print.

The motion was seconded and carried.

81. THE MODERATOR resumed the Chair.

Moderator returns.

82. DR. CAMERON being present, was welcomed by the Moderator and associated.

Dr. Cameron associated.

83. DR. RENTOUL moved the resolution, of which he had given notice, anent a Book of Family Prayers:—

Book of Family Prayers.

That a Committee be appointed to report upon the Book of Family Prayers prepared by a Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in Victoria, and to report to a future Sederunt, viz.:—

Revs. Dr. Nisbet, Dr. Knipe, and W. C. Radcliffe (Queensland), Drs. MacInnes and Clouston, and the Rev. John Walker (N.S.W.), Revs. J. Russell and J. S. Buntine (Tasmania), Revs. J. A. Rodger and J. J. Gilmore (W.A.), and the members of the Victorian Committee present at this Assembly—viz., Dr. Rentoul, Hume Robertson, A. Skene, R. Murray, A. Davidson, A. Stewart, and Professor A. C. Smith. Dr. Rentoul, *Convener*.

Committee

The motion was seconded and carried.

84. THE PRESBYTERY OF THE HAWKESBURY obtained leave to meet at Parramatta on Wednesday, 30th instant, at 9.30 a.m.

Presbytery Meeting.

Resolution :
Missionary
Training Course

85. PROFESSOR A. C. SMITH moved, according to notice :—

That the Victorian Church be empowered to admit to the Entrance Examination of the Theological Hall all students who have completed their Missionary Training Course of four years, on condition that they enter upon this course not later than 1904.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution :
Delegates to
Alliance.

86. REV. J. BURGESS moved, according to notice :—The General Assembly welcome the communication from the Secretary of the Alliance.

Appoint Revs. A. Marshall, D.D., Alexander Yule, M.A., and John Ferguson, Delegates from this Assembly to the Eighth General Council of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches to be held at Liverpool, England, in June, 1904.

The Assembly also resolve to give Commissions to the Home Churches to these brethren.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

Adjournment.

87. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned at 5 p.m., to meet again this evening at 7 p.m., whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Monday, the 28th day of September, 1903, at 7 p.m.

Assembly
constituted.

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

Report : Business
Committee.

89. THE JUNIOR CLERK submitted the Report of the Business Committee with the order of business for to-morrow, and the following recommendations—that the speakers in the debate on the Federation of the Protestant Churches be limited to fifteen minutes each, and that the vote be taken not later than 3 p.m. The Report was approved and the recommendations adopted.

Committee to
fix date of next
Assembly.

90. REV. G. TAIT moved :—That a Committee be appointed to consider the time and place for the next meeting of the General Assembly, viz. : The Moderator, the Conveners of the Standing Committees, with Revs.

Professors Harper and Rentoul, J. Burgess, J. Russell, and Hon. W. Anderson, and Mr. W. Affleck. The Moderator, *Convener*. The Committee to meet at 1 o'clock p.m. to-morrow. The motion was seconded and carried.

91. ACCORDING to notice, Mr. De Conlay moved:—That the General Assembly express profound sympathy with the Evangelical Free Churches in England, on whom an Education Act has been imposed, and which provides for denominational religious instruction, supported by compulsory rates.

Motion: English Education Act

The motion was seconded, and carried on the voices.

92. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for the Report of the Committee on the Hymn Book for Sabbath Schools, which was taken as read and received.

Report: Hymn Book for Sabbath Schools.

Rev. J. Walker moved:—That the Report be referred back to the Committee for further consideration; also that the Committee enquire from the publishers of the *Hymnary* as to whether a musical edition of the *School Hymnary* cannot be published; and whether a short selection of Psalms and further hymns cannot be added. Also, that the Committee enquire as to whether a royalty can be got from the publishers of the *Home and School Hymnary*.

The resolution was seconded, and carried on the voices.

93. 8 P.M. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proceeded to the Order of the Day—Addresses on Home and Foreign Missions.

A large and interested audience was present, who were addressed by Revs. Professor Harper, Dr. J. G. Paton, John Walker, Dr. Nisbet, A. Sangster, and F. H. L. Paton.

Home Mission Demonstration.

94. 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.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

*At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Tuesday,
the 29th day of September, 1902, at 10 a.m.*

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

Assembly constituted.

Minutes
confirmed.

96. THE MINUTES of the Seventh and Eighth Sederunts were read and confirmed.

Resignation :
Rev. R. Steel.

97. A LETTER was read and received from Rev. Robert Steel, tendering the resignation of his position as Examiner in Greek Testament—Exit Examination.

On the motion of Rev. J. Ferguson, duly seconded, it was agreed to request Mr. Steel to withdraw his resignation and carry on the work committed to him.

Report on
Federation of
Presbyterian
Churches
resumed.

98. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY resumed consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Federation of the Protestant Churches.

The Report was received.

The following Clauses were approved :—

Acknowledge the courteous replies of the Churches of other denominations throughout the Commonwealth to the circular sent out by the Committee.

Approve of the action of the members of the Committee in various States of the Commonwealth in carrying on local conferences with the representatives of other Churches.

Express satisfaction at the fraternal feeling prevailing throughout the Protestant Churches, and especially at the results of the conferences held in the various States with the Congregationalists and Methodists.

The following Clause was moved and seconded :—

Motion.

Rejoice that the reports received establish their belief in the great desirableness of union with the Congregational and Methodist Churches with whom conferences have been held, and therefore re-appoint the Committee, with instructions to proceed, in concert with other Churches, to the formulation of a basis of union.

Amendment.

Dr. Rentoul moved an amendment as follows :—

The Assembly resolve that at this juncture the Committee's Report and proposals be sent down to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for consideration and report. The amendment was seconded, and after long discussion, was negatived by a large majority.

Amendment.

Rev. A. Yule moved a further amendment :—

Re-appoint the Committee and instruct them in their further procedure to consider :—

1. The original proposal of Federation instead of the remoter prospect of Organic Union.

2 The facing of the practical difficulties in the way of proposals for their solution : more particularly

(1) The possibility of maintaining a discipline for Ministers at once effective and fair.

(2) Some method of combining in the Church an itinerant ministry with a fixed pastorate.

(3) The maintenance of a high standard of ministerial education.

(4) The combination for the Presbyterian Church of Australia of a distinct connection with other Presbyterian Churches.

(5) The desirableness and possibility of including other Evangelical Protestants in the Federation.

The amendment was seconded and negatived by a large majority.

Rev. David Smith moved the following amendment :—

Amendment.

For the first two lines substitute the words :—Rejoice that the reports received so far disclose no insuperable barrier to union with the Congregational and Methodist Churches.

The amendment was seconded and negatived. By consent of the House the deliverance was amended and the following Clause carried on the voices :—

The General Assembly rejoice that the reports received establish their belief in the great desirableness of Union with the Congregational and Methodist Churches with whom conferences have been held, and the result of the conferences not being yet ripe for submission to the State Assemblies and Presbyteries, the General Assembly re-appoint the Committee with instructions to proceed, in concert with other Churches, to the formation of a basis of Union. Further, authorise the Committee to prosecute negotiations with the Anglican, Baptist, and other Churches who may appoint representatives for the purpose.

Deliverance

It was moved and seconded :—

Appoint the members of the Committee in each State local executives for carrying on negotiations with the Churches of the State.

Rev. J. Burgess moved the following addition, which was seconded and negatived :— With instructions to report to the respective State Assemblies. The motion was carried.

Amendment.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed :—

Appoint the following Committee :—

Committee.

New South Wales.—Revs. Dr. Clouston, J. Kemp Bruce, Professor Harper, J. Lamont, Dr. MacInnes, Dr. Macky, J. Walker, R. Scott West,

Ministers; Messrs. J. Cameron, W. G. Geikie, J. H. Goodlet, J. Kirkland, A. Martin, W. Wood, *Elders*.

Victoria.—Revs. W. Fraser, W. G. Maconochie, J. Mathew, Dr. Meiklejohn, P. J. Murdoch, Professor Rentoul, A. Stewart, A. Yule, *Ministers*; Hons. W. Anderson, J. Balfour, Messrs. T. J. Finlay, R. Gillespie, W. F. Greenwood, D. Love, *Elders*.

Queensland.—Revs. Dr. Hay, Dr. Nisbet, W. C. Radeliffe, R. H. Roberts, P. Robertson, J. B. Russell, *Ministers*; Messrs. D. Ewart, G. Hall, A. S. Lang, A. Mackellar, W. A. Smith, G. Stupart, *Elders*.

South Australia.—Revs. G. Davidson, Dr. D. Paton, A. C. Sutherland, *Ministers*; Messrs. A. H. Bryson, T. W. Fleming, J. Murray, *Elders*.

Tasmania.—Revs. J. S. Buntine, C. Jones, A. Hardie, F. E. Oxer, J. Russell, Dr. Scott, *Ministers*; Messrs. F. Burbury, D. McKinnon, J. Murdoch, J. K. Reid, F. Williams, J. Wright, *Elders*.

Western Australia.—Revs. A. Crow, J. Gray, A. McCarlie, A. Sangster, *Ministers*; Messrs. S. Macaulay, F. McDonald, F. A. Moseley, R. Robertson, *Elders*

With the Moderator, Clerks, and Law Officers as *ex officio* members.

Dr. Clouston, *Convener*.

The whole deliverance was approved.

Report of Code
Committee
resumed.

99. RESUMED consideration of the Code Committee's Report on Rules 38-42 of Standing Orders, on the conduct of debate.

Motion
(Adopted.)

Rev. G. Tait moved—That the Rules be approved. The motion was seconded.

Dr. MacInnes moved an amendment:—Omit Rules 38, 40, 41, 42.

Amendment.

Insert as Rule 38:—"When a motion consists of more clauses than one, the clauses shall be debated and put to the House *seriatim*."

Insert at end of Rule 39:—"And until such amendment is disposed of, no other amendment shall be proposed."

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negatived and the motion carried.

Deliverance.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed, as the deliverance on the Report:—

The General Assembly approve the Report; declare the Standing Orders to be the Standing Orders of the General Assembly of Australia.

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.

Approve generally the Rules of Procedure in regard to Discipline submitted by the Code Committee.

Declare them of *interim* authority; and send them to the State Assemblies and Presbyteries, with instructions to report to next General Assembly. Remit.

100. THE MODERATOR intimated to the House that the Lord Mayor had courteously returned his official visit.

101. The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m., to meet again this evening at 7 o'clock, whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Tuesday, the 29th day of September, 1903, at 7 p.m.

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

103. THE MINUTES of the Ninth Sederunt were read and confirmed. Minutes confirmed.

104. HON. J. BALFOUR gave notice of a motion on the mode of nominating the Moderator. Notice of Motion: Hon. J. Balfour.

105. COLONEL GOODLET gave notice of a motion on the appointment of a day of thanksgiving for rain. Notice of Motion: Colonel Goodlet.

106. ON the motion of Rev. J. Ferguson, duly seconded:—The Moderator and the Clerks were instructed to frame a suitable Address to the coming Governor-General of Australia, and an Address to Lord Tennyson on his departure. Resolution: Addresses to Governor-General.

107. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on the Reception of Ministers, which was submitted by Rev. A. Skene, *Convener*. Report: Reception of Ministers.

The Report was taken as read, and having been amended was received.

The deliverance was considered Clause by Clause, and the following were agreed to:— Deliverance.

Confirm the action of the Committee in receiving the Rev. Donald Martin and the Rev. John Scott; and of the Church of New South Wales in receiving Revs. Moses Henry, John Muir, F. W. Graham, J. D. Brown, R. E. Davies, and J. C. W. McNeil.

Admission of
Ministers.

Grant the prayer of the Petitions of the Rev. Frederick Stubbs and Rev. William S. Whiteside, B.A., Presbyterian Ministers, to be received as Ministers in full standing.

Grant the prayer of the Petitions of Rev. Henry G. Nicholls and Rev. William H. Bradley, Congregational Ministers, and in view of their long period of ministerial work and experience, declare them eligible at once for a call to a charge.

Rev. Hugh Jones, M.A., Congregational Minister. The Committee recommended that Mr. Jones be received as a Minister of the Church.

Rev. R. Murray moved as an amendment, which was seconded:—That in the case of the Rev. Hugh Jones, on account of his educational attainments and his experience in the practical work of the ministry, declare him eligible at once for a call. The amendment was carried, and Mr. Jones admitted on these terms.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed:—

Adopt the recommendation of the Committee in the case of Rev. R. H. Chapple, Methodist Minister, that during or at the close of his term of probation he pass an examination in Hebrew prescribed by the Examination Board.

Decline the Petition of the Rev. George Preston.

Rev. D. Brown
and Congrega-
tion.

The Assembly, having taken into consideration the Petition of the Rev. David Brown, Minister of the Congregational Church, Devonport, and one hundred and twenty members and adherents of the Congregation, remit the petition to the Reception of Ministers Committee, with full powers to deal with the case.

Ministers
unattached:
Resolution.

The attention of the Assembly having been called to the fact that the method of receiving unattached Ministers of the Church varies in different States, the Assembly recognise the desirability of uniformity in this matter and declare that unattached Ministers removing from one State to another are eligible, without any period of probation, for a call to a Congregation in the State Church to which they have removed, on the presentation to the proper authorities of that Church of a certificate of Presbyterial standing in the Church from which they have come.

The whole deliverance was approved.

Report:
Committee on
Mode of
Nominating the
Moderator.

108. REV. G. TAIT submitted the Report of the Code Committee on Rules for the nomination of the Moderator under the resolution of the Assembly of 1902 (Min. 37), and moved that they be adopted, as follows:—

Proposed Rules.

1. Notices of nomination shall be given in each Presbytery at a meeting to be held before the end of the April preceding the meeting of the General Assembly.

2. That Clerks of Presbyteries shall forward the Notices of Nomination to the Clerk of Assembly within seven days after they have been given.

3. That the Clerk of Assembly shall publish the Notices of Nomination in the local Church papers not later than the first of June.

4. That the nominations of Presbyteries, from the names of which notices have been given, shall be made before the end of June, and forwarded within seven days to the Clerk of the General Assembly.

5. Presbyteries of four or less settled Charges shall have one vote, and Presbyteries of more than four settled Charges shall have one additional vote for every four additional Charges, but no Presbytery shall have more than five votes. The motion was seconded.

Hon. James Balfour moved an amendment :—

That the nomination of the Moderator of the General Assembly be made by a Committee consisting of the Moderator and Ex-Moderators of the General Assembly and the Moderators of the several State Assemblies who are in office ; such nomination to be made, published, and communicated to the Minister nominated, three clear months before the date of the meeting of the Assembly. The Moderator, *Convener*.

Amendment
(Adopted)
Committee.

The amendment was seconded and carried, and the Assembly resolved in terms thereof.

Dr. MacInnes moved :—That the proposed Regulations and the Resolution be sent down to Presbyteries to report to next Assembly.

Motion :
Dr. MacInnes.

The motion was seconded and negatived.

109. REV. G. TAIT submitted the Report of the Code Committee relative to the definition, etc., of Adherents to the effect that the Committee recommend that the matter be deferred and considered in connection with the preparation of uniform Rules and forms for the various Churches of the United Church.

Report :
Code Committee
Adherents.

The recommendation was adopted.

110. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called for Overture from Dr. MacInnes on the appointment of *ex officio* members of Assembly.

Overture :
Ex officio
Members of
Assembly.

The Overture was read by the Clerk.

On the motion of Rev. C. H. Talbot, duly seconded, the Overture was approved so far as sending it down to Presbyteries for consideration and report.

Remit.

111. COLONEL GOODLET moved :—That the General Assembly appoint a Sabbath, to be a day of special thanksgiving for the abundant rains which

Motion :
Day of Thanks-
giving for Rain.

have fallen in the various States throughout the Commonwealth, and authorise the Moderator to fix the date.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Motion :
Book of Family
Prayers.

112. PROFESSOR RENTOUL submitted the Report of the Committee on a Book of Family Prayers, and moved :—That the General Assembly approve the publication of the Book of Prayers proposed to be issued by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and sanction it as to be published by the authority of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Assembly approve of the Victorian Church taking the responsibility of its publication.

The resolution was seconded.

Amendment.

An amendment was moved by Dr. Macky and seconded :—That the Book be remitted to a Committee of the Assembly. The amendment was seconded and negatived, and the motion carried.

Petition of
Mr. H. A. E.
O'Sullivan.

113. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY received and considered the Petition of Mr. H. A. E. O'Sullivan, praying to be received as a Theological Student of the second year.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed to grant the prayer of Mr. O'Sullivan's petition, on condition of his passing the Entrance Examination.

Report :
Statistics.

114. CALLED for the Report of the Committee on Statistics, which was submitted by Rev. C. A. White, *Convener*. The Report was taken as read. Mr. White moved the deliverance, which was seconded and carried as follows :—

Receive the Report.

Deliverance.

Approve the Schedule of Questions submitted, and recommend its adoption by the various State Assemblies.

Include the papers on Centesimal Increase of Denominations and Proportion of Denominations to the General Population in the Blue Book.

Appoint Rev. Hume Robertson Joint-Convener of the Committee.

Report :
Committee on
date of next
Assembly.

115. REV. G. TAIT submitted the Report of the Special Committee appointed to make a recommendation as to the time and place of next meeting of the General Assembly, as follows :—

Recommendations :

The Committee recommend that the General Assembly meet on the Wednesday (at 7 p.m.) of the third week in September, 1905, in Melbourne, and further recommend—That the Board of Missions be empowered, if necessary, to arrange for the establish-

ment of an Aboriginal Mission in Western Australia, and the continuance of the Agent's engagement for a year. Board of Missions.

That the Home Mission Committee be directed, on completing its scheme of training, to send it down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies, to be reported on to the Committee in June, 1905. Home Mission Committee.

That the College Committee be empowered—(1) to deal with reports from the Board of Examination re students who have passed Exit Examination, and to recommend State Assemblies to authorise Presbyteries to take them on trial for licence; (2) to deal with petitions from students referring to Examinations and the Theological Course, similar to those dealt with by the present Assembly. College Committee.

That a Public Questions Committee be appointed, with power to deal with questions which seem to them to demand some expression of the mind of the Church; that the Public Questions Committee be instructed to make all necessary preparation for the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Knox. Public Questions Committee.

Authorise the Finance Committee to pay the expenses of the members of Standing Committees coming to meetings to be held not oftener than once in six months, on the scale set forth in the regulations relative to the expenses of members of Assembly, and to levy the assessment for the General Assembly Fund *annually* on the same basis as set forth in the finding of the Assembly regarding the report of the said Board. Finance Committee

The Report, with its various recommendations, was received and adopted.

The Public Questions Committee was appointed as follows:—The Moderator, Revs. J. Burgess, Dr. Clouston, J. Ferguson, Professor Harper, P. J. Murdoch, Dr. Nisbet, Dr. D. Paton, Professor Rentoul, C. H. Talbot, A. Yule, *Ministers*; Hon. J. Balfour, Messrs. J. Cameron, T. W. Fleming, and J. H. Goodlet, with the Clerks and the Moderators and Clerks of the State Assemblies. The Moderator, *Convener*. Public Questions Committee.

The Executive to consist of the members from the State to which the Moderator belongs.

116. THE FOLLOWING Committees were re-appointed:—The Committee on Hymn Book for Sabbath Schools and the Committee on Sites in Federal Capital. Committees re-appointed.

117. ACCORDING to notice, Dr. Clouston moved:—That this General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, taking into consideration the high moral duty of Christian people to protect the native races under their care, and the disastrous effects of the liquor traffic upon the native races of the South Sea Islands and elsewhere, petition the Commonwealth Government to proceed with legislation for the prohibition of the liquor traffic in New Guinea. Motion: Liquor Traffic in New Guinea.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

118. REV. J. WALKER moved—That a Memorial be sent from this Assembly to the Premier of the Federal Government, protesting against the deportation Motion: Deportation of Kanakas.

of New Hebrideans and other South Sea Islanders, who have, before the passing of the Act dealing with this matter, obtained homes, purchased properties, or otherwise taken steps to permanently settle in Australia, some of these having married and reared families here, their children being educated in our State Schools, when such earnestly wish to continue as Colonists in Australia, and protest against being deported to the Islands.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Motion :
Turkish Misrule
in Macedonia.

119. DR. RENTOUL moved as follows :—The Assembly expresses its horror at the cruelty, outrage, and massacre which marks Turkish misrule in Macedonia, and at the inhuman methods adopted to crush the Christian population, for whose protection England has weighty responsibility ; and the Assembly earnestly urges the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to exert its influence upon the British Government for the protection of the Christian peoples throughout the Turkish lands.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Thanks :
Hospitality.

120. MR. J. M. CAMPBELL moved :—That the thanks of the General Assembly be given to the Hospitality Committee of the New South Wales Church, and to the ladies of the W. M. Association for their liberal provision for the wants of the members, and to the ladies and gentlemen who extended hospitality to the members of the Assembly ; to the Ministers and office-bearers of St. Stephen's, who have placed their church at the Assembly's disposal ; and to the Press for their reports.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Minutes
confirmed.

121. THE MINUTES of this the Tenth Sederunt were read and confirmed.

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

Assembly closed.

123. 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 the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the twentieth day of September, 1905, at 7 p.m., the Session was closed with the Benediction.

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

DAVID BRUCE, D.D., Moderator.

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

✻ APPENDIX. ✻

COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

I.—JUDICIAL COMMISSION.

Rev. John Auld, M.A.
David Bruce, D.D.
John Burgess, M.A.
T. E. Clouston, D.D.
Elder Gray, D.D.
John Gray
Alexander Hardie
Professor Harper, D.D.
Alexander Hay, D.D.
James S. Laing, D.D.
John C. McDonald, M.A.
George MacInnes, D.D.
S. G. Maclaren, M.A.
W. S. Macqueen
John Meiklejohn, D.D.
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
David Paton, D.D.
Professor Rentoul, D.D.

Rev. Peter Robertson
J. A. Rodger
John Russell
James Scott, D.D.
Alexander Stewart, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.
Robert Thomson (S.A.)
Alexander Yule, M.A.
Mr. John A. Aitken
Hon. William Anderson
James Balfour, M.L.C.
Mr. John Cameron
J. M. Campbell
T. W. Fleming
Robert Gillespie
Colonel Goodlet
Mr. J. Hesketh
Alexander S. Lang
John McKiehan

THE MODERATOR, Chairman.

ASSESSORS.

Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
R. Scott West

Mr. Alexander Martin

II.—BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Rev. T. E. Clouston, D.D.
Joseph Copeland
W. Fraser
J. J. Gilmore, B.A.
W. Gray
Andrew Hardie
Alexander Hardie
James Lamont, F.L.S.
Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
J. G. Paton, D.D.

Rev. C. Robinson
J. B. Russell, B.D.
Alexander Stewart, M.A.
C. H. Talbot
R. Scott West
Mr. A. Byers
Robert Gillespie
Colonel Goodlet
Mr. H. H. Kemp
F. A. Moseley, M.L.A.

REV. T. R. CAIRNS, Convener.

REV. ALEXANDER STEWART, Acting-Convener.

III.—THE CODE.

Rev. John Auld, M.A.
 John Burgess, M.A.
 W. H. Cooper, B.D.
 S. Fraser
 J. J. Gilmore, B.A.
 Elder Gray, D.D.
 Alexander Hay, D.D.
 Richard Kerr
 James S. Laing, D.D.
 George MacInnes, D.D.

Rev. P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
 W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
 John Russell
 James Scott, D.D.
 George Tait, M.A.
 Robert Thomson (S.A.)
 Mr. John A. Aitken
 J. M. Campbell
 The Procurator

THE CLERKS, Joint-Conveners.

IV.—THE COLLEGE.

Rev. J. Kemp Bruce
 John Burgess, M.A.
 John Ferguson
 Alexander Hay, D.D.
 J. Lundie, B.A.
 J. Mathew, B.D.
 J. Meiklejohn, D.D.
 Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
 A. R. Osborn, M.A.
 F. E. Oxer, B.D.

Rev. J. B. Russell, B.D.
 Alexander Skene, M.A.
 Robert Steel, M.A.
 Alexander Stewart, M.A.
 George Tait, M.A.
 Robert Thomson (S.A.)
 R. Scott West
 Alexander Yule, M.A.
 Mr. John Marden, LL.D.

DR. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

V.—HOME MISSION.

Rev. David Bruce, D.D.
 J. S. Buntine
 D. A. Cameron, M.A.
 T. E. Clouston, D.D.
 George Ewan
 John Ferguson
 Professor Harper, D.D.
 John Meiklejohn, D.D.
 R. Murray, B.D.
 W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.

Rev. Peter Robertson
 A. Sangster, B.D.
 Professor A. C. Smith, M.A.
 Douglas B. Smith, M.A.
 Robert Thomson (S.A.)
 John Walker
 Hon. W. Anderson
 James Balfour, M.L.C.
 Mr. T. W. Fleming
 John Kirkland

REVS. JOHN FERGUSON and P. J. MURDOCH, Joint-Conveners.

VI.—FINANCE.

Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
 J. A. Rodger
 Robert Thomson (S.A.)
 John Walker
 Mr. William Affleck, M.L.A.
 Hon. William Anderson
 James Balfour, M.L.C.
 Mr. J. G. Cramond
 Walter G. Crane
 J. De Conlay

Mr. T. J. Finlay
 Robert Gillespie
 Colonel Goodlet
 Mr. Alexander S. Lang
 Alexander Martin
 F. A. Moseley, M.L.A.
 Hon. James Murdoch, M.L.C.
 Senator J. T. Walker
 Mr. W. M. Walker
 William Wood

COLONEL GOODLET, Convener.

VII.—RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. John Auld, M.A.
 T. Cunningham
 T. E. Clonston, D.D.
 George Davidson, B.D.
 George Ewan
 John Gray
 James S. Laing, D.D.
 Alexander McCarlie
 George MacInnes, D.D.
 J. T. Main, M.A.

Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
 W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
 Alexander Skene, M.A.
 David Smith, M.A.
 Alexander Stewart, M.A.
 Robert Thomson (S.A.)
 Alexander Yule, M.A.
 Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C.
 Colonel Goodlet
 Mr. Alexander S. Lang

REV. ALEXANDER SKENE, Convener.

VIII.—STATISTICS.

Rev. Elder Gray, D.D.
 James Jackson
 Richard Kerr
 Alexander McCarlie
 J. K. Macmillan
 Hume Robertson
 Peter Robertson
 John Russell
 Robert Thomson (S.A.)
 Robert H. Waugh, M.A.

Rev. C. A. White, B.A.
 Mr. William Affleck, M.L.A.
 Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C.
 Mr. A. Byers
 John Cameron
 Colonel Goodlet
 Mr. George Hall
 Stephen Mailer
 J. K. Reid
 W. A. Smith

REVS. C. A. WHITE and HUME ROBERTSON, Joint-Conveners.

IX.—THE YEAR BOOK.

Rev. J. Copeland
 James Cosh, B.D.
 Professor Harper, D.D.
 James Jackson
 Richard Kerr
 Alexander McCarlie
 S. G. Maclaren, M.A.
 Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
 Hume Robertson, B.A.
 W. S. Rolland

Rev. John Russell
 Robert Steel, M.A.
 D. Macrae Stewart
 C. H. Talbot
 Robert Thomson (S.A.)
 A. J. Wade
 John Walker
 Mr. A. Byers
 George Hall
 William Wood

REV. JAMES JACKSON, Convener.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

I.—THE RECORD.

Rev. J. S. Buntine
 George Davidson, B.D.
 George C. Love, 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. Moscley, M.L.A.
 W. A. Smith

REV. W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

II.—FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

Rev. J. Kemp Bruce
T. E. Clouston, D.D.
Professor Harper, D.D.
James Lamont, F.L.S.
George MacInnes, D.D.
W. M. Dill Macky, D.D.
John Walker

Rev. W. Fraser
W. G. Maconochie, M.A.
J. Mathew, B.D.
John Meiklejohn, D.D.
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
Professor Rentoul, D.D.
Alexander Stewart, M.A.

Rev. Alexander Hay, D.D.
Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
R. H. Roberts
Peter Robertson
J. B. Russell, B.D.

Rev. G. Davidson, B.D.
David Paton, D.D.
A. C. Sutherland, B.D.

Rev. J. S. Buntine
C. Jones
Alexander Hardie
F. E. Oxe, B.D.
John Russell
James Scott, D.D.

Rev. Alexander Crow
James Gray, B.D.
Alexander McCarlie
A. Sangster, B.D.

Rev. R. Scott West
Mr. John Cameron
Walter G. Geikie
Colonel Goodlet
Mr. John Kirkland
Alexander Martin
William Wood

Rev. Alexander Yule, M.A.
Hon. William Anderson
James Balfour, M.L.C.
Mr. T. J. Finlay
Robert Gillespie
W. F. Greenwood
D. Love

Mr. D. Ewart
George Hall
Alexander S. Lang
A. Mackellar
W. A. Smith
George Stupart

Mr. A. H. Bryson
T. W. Fleming
J. Murray

Mr. F. Burbury
D. McKinnon
Hon. J. Murdoch, M.L.C.
Mr. J. K. Reid
F. Williams
J. Wright

Dr. S. Macaulay
Mr. F. McDonald
F. A. Moseley, M.L.A.
R. Robertson

The Moderator, Clerks and Law Officers, members *ex officio*.

DR. CLOUSTON, Convener.

III.—PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Rev. The Moderator
John Burgess, M.A.
T. E. Clouston, D.D.
John Ferguson
Professor Harper, D.D.
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
Thomas Nisbet, D.D.
David Paton, D.D.

Rev. Professor Rentoul, D.D.
C. H. Talbot
Alexander Yule, M.A.
Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C.
Mr. John Cameron
T. W. Fleming
Colonel Goodlet

With the Clerks and the Moderators and Clerks of the State Assemblies.

The Executive to consist of the members from the State to which the Moderator belongs.

THE MODERATOR, Convener.

IV.—HYMN BOOK FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

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

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

REV. D. MACRAE STEWART, Convener.

V.—SITES IN FEDERAL CAPITAL.

Hon. William Anderson
James Balfour, M.L.C.
Colonel Goodlet

Mr. Alexander Martin
William Wood

VI.—BENEFICIARY FUNDS.

Rev. J. Hall Angus
John Burgess, M.A.
William Gray
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
R. S. Paterson
Alexander Stewart, M.A.

Rev. C. H. Talbot
A. J. Wade
John Walker
Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C.
Colonel Goodlet

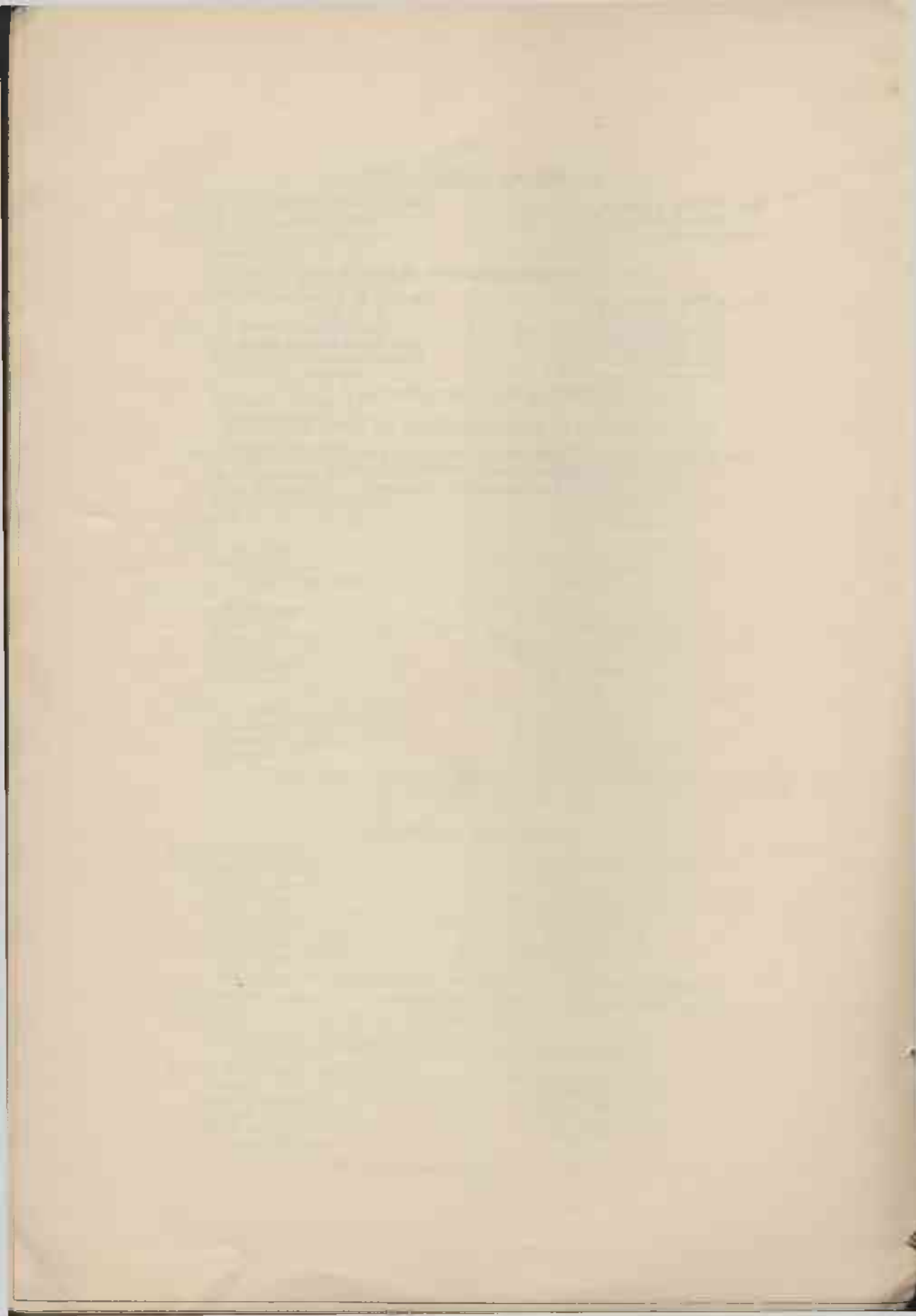
REV. J. HALL ANGUS, Convener.

VII.—TO NOMINATE THE MODERATOR OF NEXT ASSEMBLY.

The Moderator and the Ex-Moderators of the General Assembly, and the Moderators
of the State Assemblies who are in office.

THE MODERATOR, Convener.



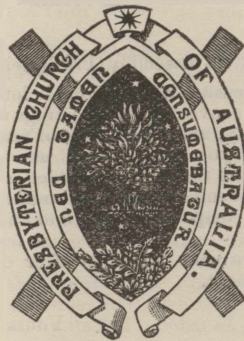


REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AND OTHER PAPERS

PRESENTED TO THE

General Assembly of Australia.



SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1903.

SESSION THIRD.

1.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(1.) LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO LADY SARGOOD.

The Manse, Rockhampton, January 20th, 1903.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia desires to present his respects to Lady Sargood, and on behalf of the Assembly to express deep sorrow on account of the sudden and lamented death of the Hon. Sir Frederick T. Sargood, K.C.M.G., and sincere sympathy with her Ladyship in her great bereavement.

The removal of one so closely and so honourably associated with the public life of Victoria and Australia is an event to be deeply deplored. The warm interest taken by Sir Frederick Sargood in every movement for the promotion of the social and moral welfare and the religious life of the community shewed that his sympathies were of no narrow or sectarian character. The signal proof of his broad catholic and generous spirit which he gave in connection with the General Assembly held in Melbourne, last September, will be ever kept in grateful remembrance by the Presbyterian Church.

It is the earnest hope and prayer of every member of Assembly that Lady Sargood and all the circle more immediately affected by her bereavement will be sustained under their great sorrow and trial with the consolations of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which the faith and life of the departed enable them so abundantly to appropriate.

(2.) FROM THE CLERK OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Durban, March 4th, 1903.

Rev. Dr. Laing, Clerk of General Assembly, Presbyterian Church of Australia.

DEAR SIR,—I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you, sent to Cape Town and thence forwarded to me, conveying the greetings of your Church on the termination of the war, &c. Unfortunately, amid the bustle of removal from Addington, your letter has gone a-missing. Would you kindly send me another copy of your Assembly's resolution that I may have it read and recorded at our next General Assembly in September. I truly regret the miscarriage, but amid domestic worries (through the long continued illness of my wife) compelling me to find another field of labour the letter has been lost.

I hope to be able to return your greetings after our General Assembly meeting at Port Elizabeth in September next.

With kind regards.

Yours very truly,
JOHN LAING.

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

ANNUAL REPORT, 1902-3.

The Executive Commission, Eastern Section, beg respectfully to present to your Venerable Court the following brief statement respecting matters that have occupied its attention during the past year.

The specific object of the Alliance is to promote the manifestation of that spiritual unity which links together all the Reformed and Presbyterian Churches of the world. Such manifestation may take the form either of Church co-operation or of fraternal relations, such as we see existing in Great Britain and on the European Continent. On the Foreign Mission field, however, where this same unity exists, so far as the Churches and their Missions of our Faith and Order are concerned, it is taking the form of Organic Union, and this on a scale on which we had hardly dreamt. Thus, by the union of the Reformed and Presbyterian Missions in Japan and in Manchuria, our Denominational separations in both countries have ceased, and the underlying unity of our Churches has been shown by the formation of Native Presbyterian Churches. In other lands also, Mission work has prospered and with the increase in the number of converts and the organisation of Christian congregations, the question—not only of *Church*, but of *Denominational* union, has become very pressing. Hence, there are to-day in many

lands, momentous Forward Movements in favour of the formation of Native Presbyterian Churches; and from the missionaries in the same lands, appeals to the Assemblies of their different Home Churches in support of those movements. In Corea, for instance, there are missionaries from the Australian and the Canadian Presbyterian Churches, and from the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches of the United States. Connected with these Missions there are between six and ten thousand Church members, and now the missionaries in charge ask their Home Churches for liberty to organise this influential body of converts into a self-governing Korean Presbyterian Church. In Eastern China, the missionaries of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches of the United States, and those of the Reformed (Dutch) Church of America, those of the Church of Scotland, of the English Presbyterian and the Canadian Presbyterian Churches have already taken what steps were possible for them, on behalf of a Native Chinese Presbyterian Church. They now ask the Home Churches to give all encouragement to a movement that is the natural yet gracious outcome of the spiritual life existent among their people. So is it in India, where there are missionaries of well nigh every Presbyterian Church in the world. From these also, there come appeals to the Home Churches for liberty to unite their numerous converts into a Native Presbyterian Church—if not for the whole, at least for a part of India. The Home Churches are thus being called on this year to sanction the formation of sister Presbyterian Churches in what were lately, and still are, Mission lands. Should there be hesitation on the part of any to grant the request thus made, we know well it will be from prudential reasons alone; for the ultimate mission of a Mission is to call into existence, and to organise independent Native Churches.

By counselling and encouraging those seeking to form Native Churches, the Alliance is rendering a service to our common Christianity and our common Presbyterianism. It may be true that it is every one's business to give help in such matters, but it is also true that, generally speaking, what is every one's business is nobody's work, but it is with the doing of these very things that the Alliance has been specially charged. Having, however, but an advisory position, it can act only in a most unobtrusive manner, yet that such action has not been unfruitful will, it is believed, be seen from the report now presented.

For all these Movements so full of promise the Alliance asks the earnest prayers of the Home Churches, that the guidance of the Holy Spirit may be vouchsafed, and nothing said or done which might hinder the manifestation of that unity which is the fruit of the Master's redemptive work.

In view of this crisis on the Foreign Mission field, the Section respectfully asks your Court to renew the recommendation given in former years in favour of the observance of a Week of Prayer, commencing on Tuesday, November, 24th, with special reference to the Workers on the fields, their work and its results, and on behalf of those at home, the Mission Boards, and Committees with their different Officers, that all may be guided by the Spirit of Wisdom Himself, in dealing with the important matters now mentioned.

The Section would remind this Court that the Eighth General Council of the Alliance will meet in Liverpool in June, 1904, when it is hoped this Church will be represented, as on former occasions, by its full number of Delegates.

JOHN ROBSON, Chairman.
G. D. MATHEWS, General Secretary.

25 Christchurch Avenue, Broadesbury, London, N.W.
March 27th, 1903.

Rev. Dr. Laing, Clerk Presbyterian Church of Australia.

DEAR BROTHER,—The Eighth General Council of the "Alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian System," will meet in Liverpool, England, on June 21st, 1904.

At the London Council of 1888 it was agreed, "That the representation in the Council shall be:—For each hundred congregations or less, two delegates up to 1000 congregations; above 1000 congregations, one delegate for each additional 100 up to 2000 congregations; above 2000 congregations, one delegate for each additional 250 congregations.

"In the case of union of Churches represented in the Alliance, it is recommended that the number of delegates remain as previous to union till the following meeting of Council, when, on the union being reported to the Council, the future number of delegates shall be determined." (Vol. of Proceed., 1888, p. 308.)

At the Toronto Council of 1892 it was further agreed:—"That in order to advance the interests in co-operation in Mission Field, each of the churches represented in this Alliance be invited to send to the meetings of Council a representative of its Foreign

Mission Board or Committee, and such representative shall be entitled to act as a corresponding member." (Vol. of Proceed., 1892, p. 280.)

Will you have the goodness to communicate this letter to the Supreme Court of your Church at its approaching meeting, and secure the appointment of delegates to the Council. It will be of great service to the Liverpool Local Committee if you send me the names and addresses of the delegates as soon as these have been appointed by your Church.

I also enclose a copy of the Annual Report, prepared by the Eastern Section of the Executive Commission, requesting you, on behalf of the Section, to lay it before your Supreme Court.

Yours fraternally,

G. D. MATHEWS, General Secretary.

(4.) FROM THE CONVENER OF THE CHURCH LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE OF NEW SOUTH WALES ASSEMBLY.

Sydney, July 15th, 1903.

To the Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

DEAR SIR,—At the meeting of the General Assembly of this State, held in May last, it was agreed "to urge upon the General Assembly of Australia to issue Baptismal Certificates and First Communion Cards without loss of time." The resolution referred to will be found in our Blue Book, minute 122, and is part of the Assembly's Deliverance on the Church Life and Work Committee's Report.

Yours very truly,

W. H. ASH, Convener of Committee.

(5.) FROM THE W.C.T.U. PITTS., PA., U.S.A.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia is most earnestly requested to recommend the observance of the fourth Sabbath in November as the "World's Temperance Day."

ANNA P. MAHOOD, S.S. Dept., W.C.T.U.

Breckenridge Ave., Pitts., Pa.

(6.) FROM THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

DEAR DR. LAING,

Tamworth, August 21, 1903.

The British and Foreign Bible Society celebrates the conclusion of 100 years of successful and incessant labour on March 6th, next year, and enters on March 7th on its 101st year. The goodness of God has been so manifest in the operations of the Society, as was His inspiration in the idea from which it has sprung, that the Committee in London are desirous that all branches of the Christian Church shall join with them in a worthy celebration of the Centenary. The two notes are Thanksgiving and Advance. In connection with the first, in London, a Children's Meeting is to be held on March 5, and a public demonstration on March 7, both in the Albert Hall. The feature, perhaps, will be the observance of March 6, as Universal Bible Sunday. This movement has received the cordial approval of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England in England, and already of several in Australasia. The Presbyterian Church of England in their Assembly have passed a formal resolution of congratulation, and other representative bodies have done or are doing, the same.

I shall be very grateful if you will bring the Society's Centenary, and especially Bible Sunday, to the notice of your Church's Assembly, to be held next month; and beg the favour, in the name of the Committee, of its favourable consideration. A recommendation to your constituent Congregations as to the observance of that Sunday would be most welcome news. The features proposed for that Sunday are—

- (1) Thankfulness for the gift of the Bible.
- (2) Gratitude for the work of the Bible Society which has done so much to make the Scriptures accessible to men.
- (3) A share in the raising of the Centenary Fund of 250,000 guineas, in order to take up new work, which is earnestly claiming the Committee's attention in all parts of the world.

Literature upon this subject, and envelopes for thank-offerings on Bible Sunday can be obtained on application to London, if the Depot in Pitt-street, Sydney, is not able to supply it. Thanking you in anticipation, believe me,

Yours very faithfully,

H. A. RAYNES,

Home Superintendent and Delegate to Australia.

P.S.—If any resolution be passed, they would be glad in London to have a copy of it.

(7.) FROM THE REV. J. GRAY, MINISTER AT PRETORIA OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Stork Villa, Peebles, Scotland, 23rd July, 1903.

The Right Rev. the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

DEAR SIR,—It has probably come to your notice that a movement has been inaugurated for the purpose of erecting a Memorial Church in Pretoria to the memory of the Presbyterian soldiers who fell during the late war. The circular which I enclose will put you in possession of the main points in connection with the undertaking, and show the countenance it has received from reliable men. I have sent out one of these circulars to every Minister, and one to the Session Clerk or Clerk of the Deacons' Court of every Presbyterian Congregation in the United Kingdom, and although I have just finished this very heavy task I have already had a large number of encouraging replies from them. It will be some months before the collections are reported in any numbers.

I may also say that, in the hope of being in time for the General Assembly of Canada, I wrote the Moderator, asking him to bring the project before the Court, and asking him to send me the names of all the Congregations and Ministers, that I might send them circulars. This week I received a reply from the General Agent and Treasurer of the Church saying that my letter arrived too late, but speaking very favourably of the scheme. He is to send me the names of Congregations and Ministers when the Assembly Minutes are issued. But he suggests that if we are not to begin our building for twelve months, the movement would be more liberally supported if, instead of my sending out the circulars, the matter was left over to next Assembly and a Deliverance of the Court given upon it. There is but one objection to that, as I pointed out to him, that it is not well to delay where the appeal is to a sentiment that may weaken. So I have left it to the Moderator and him to decide.

Now, Sir, the movement, we hope, will be as wide as the Church of the Empire for the reasons given in the circular. The Presbyterian Churches of Australia and New Zealand sent many of their children to the front. It was my pleasure to know a good many of them in the field. It was my duty to visit many of them in hospital, and to attend some on their death-bed and to bury them. And I was but one of a large number of Chaplains who had the same work to do. But, as you know, all who fell have not had the memorial that they had earned erected to their memory: for some fell in far remote places, some were buried, unidentified, by the Boers, and some were reported missing and never found. The very bravest and most chivalrous are the most likely to be buried in unknown graves. Now, it is to raise a monument to all our own children that this effort is being made, and I hope the Australian Churches will bear a noble share in it. I enclose my circular. Would it be too much to ask you to get a committee of Presbyterians to take the matter up for Australia, use and modify the circular as they think best, and send it out soon to the various Congregations? It would, perhaps, be a mistake to point out that, if each Congregation subscribed £5, the amount raised would be very considerable, and would raise a worthy memorial—a mistake, because Congregations that could do more might consider that their limit, while, as a matter-of-fact, some could not do nearly as much, and the average should be at least £5. I reckon that £3 from each Congregation here will yield about £12,000, but I also have to fear that many will not do anything, or very little. I hope to get a goodly number of individual subscriptions. But if I am loyally helped by the Ministers, I see no reason why we should not build a Church worthy of our brave men and worthy of our great Church without the burden falling very heavily on individuals. Threepence a piece per member in Britain would raise £12,000. My own Session Clerk thinks that South Africa would be good for £5,000 perhaps, and he's not a naturally sanguine man. And, if throughout the Empire we could raise £20,000, we could build a monument to last very many generations, and durability is a good thing in a monument.

So I lay this matter before you, and will be glad to hear from you soon as to what can be done in Australia. I will write also (this mail) to New Zealand. I would be glad also if you could find the names of wealthy Presbyterians who would give their personal support to the movement, so that either your committee or I might communicate with them. If you decide to act at once, you would cause what printing required to be done to be executed in Australia, and charge it to the Fund. If you think it worth while to wait and give your views as to any modification of the circular for Australia, I can have the circulars printed here and sent out ready for posting. In that case I would require a list of the names of all Ministers and Churches to whom I might appeal.

Now, Sir, I have written as if I required your individual attention to this matter, and perhaps, as a very busy man, you naturally resent my throwing any more work upon you. But, of course, you know that I only address you because it is easier to address one individual than some hypothetical group who may require the information

herein contained. If you can get some committee, or even an individual, to take over the work and give them your cordial good will, you will have done almost all I can expect of you. Only one thing more I would ask, and that is, that you tell me as soon as possible what has been done, so that I may know where I am. You will observe that I am only to be in Scotland till the end of October, then I return to South Africa.

Trusting to have your cordial co-operation,

I am, yours faithfully,

JAMES GRAY.

[CIRCULAR.]

MEMORIAL CHURCH, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA.

In response to a widely-expressed desire, it is proposed to erect a Church in Pretoria to be a Memorial to the Presbyterian Soldiers who fell during the late War in South Africa. Monuments have in many cases been erected by individuals, regiments, or localities, to those whom they specially wished to commemorate, but it will be understood that large numbers have had no such recognition. Now, it is intended that this shall be the memorial of the Presbyterian Church to all its own children, whether officers or men or nurses, of regular or irregular corps, buried in places known or unknown, who died of wounds or sickness during hostilities—a monument to those who gave their life in the execution of their duty, at the call of Queen and country. All parts of the Empire stood together in the conflict, and from all of them came Presbyterians, many to find in the land a soldier's grave. The Presbyterian Churches of the Empire, within and beyond the seas, are asked to unite in a tribute to their memory, which shall be noble both in form and purpose.

That Pretoria is the appropriate place for this Memorial was expressed by resolution of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in its Deliverance on the report of the Colonial Mission, cordially endorsed the proposal. The scheme was laid before the Supreme Courts of the other Presbyterian Churches in Scotland, England, and Ireland, and evoked a hearty sympathy. Pretoria is peculiarly associated with the War. Situated within the chief area of military activity, it is in the midst of the graves that are scattered over the whole country, and as the capital of the Transvaal it has the outlook of permanence in a special degree.

The Congregation of Pretoria for the same reason occupies an influential position. But though its future is one of importance, and its members are working nobly to fulfil the functions of a Church in exacting circumstances, it is not wealthy. Having hitherto worshipped in a hall (its own property), its great need at present is a Church edifice, and this Memorial, while it would help the local Congregation, should be worthy at once of the denomination that builds it, of the purposes it is to serve, and of its opportunity for influence.

As this is not to be a political memorial, but a Church's tribute to its own children, and as most families of the Church had some relative, near or remote, in the War, it is hoped that every Presbyterian Congregation throughout the Empire will bear a hand in its erection. Though each Congregation must decide for itself in what form its aid will be given, it would be satisfactory if, besides the individual donations which the prosperous and well-to-do would like to give, some means were taken whereby the poor, who, indeed, are largely interested, may also send their proportionate gift. A Sabbath's collections would appear to meet the case best. But where this means is impossible, or where, through the occurrence of bad weather, it fails, collectors might be found willing to help, or the Church Guild might make the cause its own.

It only needs to be added that it is proposed that the names of those commemorated shall be inscribed in some suitable place in the Church.

Mr. Alexander Yellowlees, General Treasurer, Church of Scotland, 22 Queen Street, Edinburgh, and Mr. A. Ellison Ross, General Treasurer, United Free Church, 15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh, have kindly consented to act as Treasurers to the Fund, to either of whom collections or personal contributions may be sent. Contributions may also be sent to me at Stork Villa, Pebbles, up till the end of October; after that they should be sent to me at The Manse, Visagie Street, Pretoria. To avoid confusion with other funds, they should be distinctly remitted as for "The Pretoria Memorial Church Fund."

JAMES GRAY,

Minister of Pretoria, and sometime Acting-Chaplain to the Forces.

Pebbles, 10th July, 1903.

(8.) FROM THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

The Chapter House, Bathurst-street West.

22nd September, 1903.

MY DEAR MR. MODERATOR,

I have much pleasure in sending you the following resolution, which was unanimously passed at the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, viz. :—

That the Most Reverend the President be requested, on behalf of the clergy and laity of the Church of England now assembled in Synod, to send fraternal greetings to the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and to wish them God-speed in all their efforts to maintain our common faith, and to spread amongst the people the high and noble ideas of Christian conduct set forth in the Gospel of Christ.

Yours sincerely,

WM. SZ. SYDNEY.

The Right Rev. the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly.

(9.) FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF AUSTRALASIA.

Emmett Street, North Sydney,

September 22nd, 1903.

The Rev. D. BRUCE, D.D.,

Moderator of the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—

Permit me to offer my congratulations to you upon your election to the high office of Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and to express the hope that your term of office may be one of blessing to yourself and prosperity to the great Church over which you have been called to preside.

I desire also to convey to the General Assembly, through you, the fraternal greetings of the Methodist Church of Australasia, and to assure you of its deep interest in the success of your work for the religious welfare of the people of Australia, in the building up and extension of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in this Commonwealth.

Praying that the Holy Spirit may guide the Assembly in its deliberations, and that the presence of the Great Head of the Church may be realised in all its Sessions,

I am, Reverend and Dear Sir,

Yours in the faith and service of our Common Lord,

GEORGE LANE.

President of the General Conference.

(10.) TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Grahamstown, 23/9/03.

Presbyterian Assembly, Sydney.

Greeting from Presbyterian Church of South Africa ; wish prosperity.

Moderator.

II.

OVERTURES.

(1.) ON APPOINTMENT OF MISSIONARY-EVANGELISTS.

From the State Assembly of Queensland.

Whereas the supply of Ministers is insufficient for the needs of the Church, and so few students for the Ministry are offering themselves that the present dearth may be expected to continue for years, while the needs of the Church are urgent ; Whereas there is employed at present a large number of Home Missionaries, many of whom are acceptable preachers and efficient workers ; And whereas amongst these are some who

have been partially trained, but deterred from entering the Ministry owing to the requirements of the ordinary curriculum : It is, therefore, hereby humbly overtured to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, indicted to meet in Sydney on the 23rd day of September, 1903, to take these premises into consideration with the view of instituting a special class of church workers, to be known as "Minister-Evangelists;" and to declare :—

1. That candidates for this status shall be subject to a course of study and training extending over four years, under the supervision of the Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly.

2. That the course shall be open to Home Missionaries (a) Who have served a Home Mission Committee in any State with acceptance for at least two years, or (b) Who have given efficient service to a Home Mission Committee for one year, and have taken the full course at any Training Institute whose curriculum is recognised for this purpose by the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee, provided that such course of training shall be considered to be equivalent to one year's study in the course now proposed.

3. That candidates shall be subject to an entrance examination and to an examination in each of the four years of the course. All examinations to be conducted by the General Assembly's Examination Board.

4. That the course of study shall include the English Language and Literature, Logic, Scripture, New Testament Greek or a Science, Theology, Church History, and Practical Training.

5. That those who complete successfully this course of training shall be ordained in order to do the full work required of a Minister; and, if appointed to a Charge for a two years' term, shall have seats in the Presbytery of the bounds, but such evangelists shall be eligible for appointments by a Home Mission Committee only, and not for a call to a congregation.

6. That, in the event of a Minister-Evangelist (after four years' service following on his ordination) approving himself to the Home Mission Committee and the Presbytery in connection with which he labours, as able to do efficiently the full work of the Ministry, it shall be competent for the Presbytery, with the concurrence of the Home Mission Committee, to apply to the General Assembly to grant him the full status of a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; or to deal otherwise with the premises as to your Venerable Court may seem fit.

Revs. Dr. Nisbet and W. C. Radcliffe were appointed to support the Overture.

RICHARD KERR, Clerk.

(2.) OVERTURE ON THE ELECTION OF MODERATOR.

Whereas the General Assembly of 1902 resolved that the nomination of a suitable Minister to be elected by the General Assembly as their Moderator should be by Presbyteries—one Presbytery, one vote: and whereas some Regulations are required for the guidance of Presbyteries in the matter: It is humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, by the undersigned, to enact the following rules or such other regulations as the Assembly may in their wisdom determine, viz. :—

1. The Minister nominated for the Chair must have an absolute majority of the votes of the Presbyteries of the whole Church.

2. Moderators shall be nominated from the Churches of the States, as far as possible, in the order in which the Churches are named in the Deed of Union.

3. Presbyterial nominations shall be in the hands of the Clerks of the General Assembly not later than three months prior to the date of meeting of the General Assembly; nominations or re-nominations made or received after that time shall not be counted in the vote.

4. Clerks of Presbyteries shall immediately after the nomination forward to the Senior Clerk of Assembly an Extract Minute of the Presbytery's nomination.

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

(3.) OVERTURE ON THE EXIT EXAMINATION OF STUDENTS IN THEOLOGY.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, It is humbly overtured by the Theological Faculty of New South Wales, St. Andrew's College, Sydney, this 21st day of August, 1903, as follows :—

Whereas it is expedient that the Exit Examination of the Students in Theology should be held in two divisions, and

I. That the first division of the Exit Examination be held at the close of the second session of the curriculum in these subjects :—

- (1) Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament.
- (2) Church History.
- (3) Christian Ethics, and

II. That the second division of the Exit Examination be held at the close of the third session of the curriculum in these subjects :—

- (1) Exegetical Theology of the New Testament.
- (2) Systematical and Biblical Theology.
- (3) Apologetics.

That the Venerable the General Assembly enact the foregoing, or deal otherwise in the premises as to its wisdom may seem fit.

Certified by me,

G. MACINNES, Secretary.

(4.) OVERTURE ON EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

It is hereby humbly overtured by the undersigned : That the General Assembly, with the consent of a majority of the Presbyteries of the whole Church and a majority of the State Assemblies, enact as follows :—The Officers of the General Assembly, namely, the Senior Clerk, the Junior Clerk, the Procurator, the Law Agent, and the Missions' Agent, shall have *ex officio* seats in the General Assembly.

That the foregoing be sent down to State Assemblies and to Presbyteries, and be meanwhile passed into an *interim* Act.

G. MACINNES.

III.

PETITIONS.

(1.) PETITION FROM THE MANAGERS OF ST. ANDREW'S, LAUNCESTON.

The Petition of the undersigned, Managers of St. Andrew's, Launceston, to the General Assembly of Australia, convened to meet in St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, on the 23rd of September, 1903, humbly sheweth :—

1st. That your Petitioners were elected to office in January, 1903, and the validity of their election, though challenged, and up to the date of this Petition, not announced from the pulpit, has been upheld by the Presbytery of Launceston, the State Assembly of Tasmania, and the Commission of that Assembly, hereinafter mentioned.

2nd. That a Commission of the State Assembly of Tasmania, clothed with Assembly powers,--appointed to deal with difficulties that had arisen between Mr. J. S. Anderson, a member of the Session of St. Andrew's, and the Minister of St. Andrew's ; and also with difficulties between your Petitioners and the Minister of St. Andrew's, arising out of the difficulties between Mr. Anderson and the the Minister—directed your Petitioners to resign their offices as Managers with a view to a new election, basing their direction on the view that such resignations would be in the interests of the peace of the congregation.

3rd. That your Petitioners being of the opinion that the Commission, not being the Supreme Court in this matter, had no authority to direct them to resign ; and that their resignation would not be, as the Commission considered, in the interests of the peace of congregation, respectfully intimated to the Commission their inability to comply with their direction, and the grounds on which they rested their refusal.

4th. That the Commission, notwithstanding your Petitioners' refusal to resign, ordered, made arrangements for, and carried out an election of Managers—thus practically declaring vacant the places of Managers they had declared duly elected, and who had not resigned.

5th. That, as soon as possible, after your Petitioners heard, by notice from the pulpit, of the resolve of the Commission to proceed to new election, they handed to the officiating minister a protest against the election, and nine days before the day of election, intimating of their intention to appeal to the General Assembly of Australia ; and in due course forwarded their appeal, with reasons assigned, to the Clerk of the Commission.

6th. That the Commission refused to allow this appeal, and proceeded with the election, on the ground that they, as a Commission of the State Assembly of Tasmania, clothed with Assembly powers, were the Supreme Court in this case.

7th. That your Petitioners hold that, if not the directing your Petitioners to resign, yet the practical declaration that their seats were vacant, though they had refused to resign, implied in the ordering a new election was an act of discipline—was a removal of them from office—a removal of them from office by a body which had declared their election valid; and further, your Petitioners hold that this act of discipline was not made less an act of discipline or less severe, by the declaration which accompanied the announcement of the new election, that the Commission cast no reflection on them, and that they were eligible for re-election; and further, your Petitioners hold that the fact that the first step in the proceedings, of which this practical removal from office was the last, was a charge made against the Board of Management generally, and against Mr. Walden, one of their number, in particular, by the Session, to the Presbytery of Launceston; and by them sent to the State Assembly, and by them to the Commission, clearly proves that their case is a case of discipline.

8th. That your Petitioners hold:—(a) That, under Article IV. of the Articles of Agreement between the Churches of Australia and Tasmania, the General Assembly of Australia is the Supreme Court in cases of discipline. It was under this belief that your Petitioners refused to obey the direction of the Commission to resign their offices, and that they appealed to the General Assembly of Australia against the resolve of the Commission to hold a new election. (b) That Article V. of the said Articles of Agreement relied upon by the Commission to prove that they are the Supreme Court in this case, and to justify their refusal to allow your Petitioners' appeal, does not remove the act of discipline against them from the jurisdiction of the General Assembly of Australia, but merely sets forth certain stages at which a certain class of cases of discipline may be appealed or referred directly to the General Assembly's Judicial Commission. In all other cases, and at all other stages, not mentioned in this Article, appeals and references go to the General Assembly. Your Petitioners' appeal, therefore, was distinctly competent.

9th. That the Commission, after the illegal new election was concluded, declared your Petitioners managers, though they had not been elected at this new election. Thus adding to the claim of power to remove, without fault proved managers duly elected, the claim of power to declare managers those not elected at all.

10th. That the Commission also declared the two gentlemen who, at this illegal election, received the highest number of votes. Though not necessary to their case, your Petitioners mention, as indicating the state of opinion in the congregation, that the number of votes recorded for those two gentlemen were not as numerous as those recorded for your Petitioners at the regular election. Your Petitioners are of opinion that these gentlemen have not been duly elected, and they protested against their taking part in the business of the Board.

Your Petitioners therefore beg your Venerable Court to take these premises into consideration; to give your Petitioners protection against the high-handed proceedings of the Commission of the State Assembly of Tasmania; to put into due order the management of the secular affairs of the congregation of St. Andrew's, which have been thrown into confusion; and, further, if in your wisdom you see fit, to take steps to examine into the proceedings out of which the unhappy state of matters now existing in St. Andrew's has arisen.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

JAS. WALDEN
THOS. BOYD
JNO. PATON
A. H. E. BOWDEN
GEO. FRENCH
W. H. LAMB.

CASE OF ST. ANDREW'S, LAUNCESTON.

The Manse, Evandale, Tasmania.

August 29th, 1903.

Rev. J. S. Laing, D.D.,
Clerk of Assembly.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter re petition from certain Managers of St. Andrew's, Launceston. I am sending you Extract Minute showing the history of the case which led up to this petition. In an ordinary case, I would have sent you the Extract Minute of August 13th only, but the fear that our Church may not be well represented, owing

to quarantine regulations, has induced me to send a history of the case. I leave it to you whether all should be printed or not. If you think the Minute of 13th August sufficient, the other Minute could be held for information. If all can be printed, so much the better.

In Clause 1 of the petition there are two misstatements. Neither the Presbytery of Launceston or the State Assembly ever upheld the election.

In Clause 2 the Anderson case was settled before the Commission was appointed, and was never touched by it.

In Clause 7 the charge made against the Board of Management in general, and Mr. Walden in particular, never came before the State Assembly or the Commission, but was finally dealt with by the Presbytery of Launceston before the Assembly met.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN RUSSELL.

EXTRACT MINUTE, ETC., IN REGARD TO THE CASE OF ST. ANDREW'S, LAUNCESTON.

At Launceston, and within St. Andrew's School-room, on Thursday, 26th March, 1903, at 3 p.m., the Commission of Assembly, with full Assembly power to deal finally with the report of the Assembly's Committee on the Reference from the Presbytery of Launceston and the whole case of St. Andrew's, Launceston, met, and was duly constituted by the ex-Moderator, in the Chair.

Inter alia: On the motion of Rev. A. Hardie, seconded by Rev. Dr. Scott, the whole report was adopted.

Extracted from the Minutes of Commission by

JOHN RUSSELL, Clerk.

(Report referred to.)

I. Having examined the papers submitted to us, and having fully heard parties in connection therewith, your Committee beg to report that the position of Messrs. French, Lamb, Walden and Bowden as Managers of St. Andrew's cannot, in our opinion, be challenged on the point of legality of procedure. We do not consider the reasons advanced by the Session of St. Andrew's in support of their petition to the Presbytery for assistance in dealing with the voting papers are such as to justify us in recommending that the Presbytery should review the action of the said Session presided over by Rev. A. R. Osborn, at which the above-named gentlemen were declared duly elected.

II. (Not bearing on this case.)

III. With reference to letters from six members and adherents of St. Andrew's, who are also members of the Board of Management, addressed to Rev. H. Jones, suggesting his resignation, &c., we emphatically condemn their action as utterly irregular (whatever motives may have prompted it) and subversive of the rights of Minister and Congregation.

IV. (Not bearing on this case.)

(NOTE.—All parties acquiesced in the above report.—J.R.)

At Launceston, at 7 o'clock p.m., the Commission met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted by the ex-Moderator.

The Board of Management of St. Andrew's being called in, the finding of the Commission was read to them, and the ex-Moderator called on the Rev. Dr. Scott to make a statement to the Managers in regard to future arrangements. It was suggested that a chairman having the confidence of the Minister, the Session and the Board of Management should preside at the meetings of the Board of Management, and that the Rev. H. Jones keep to his special sphere of work, and the Managers look after the financial affairs of the Congregation. This was laid before the Board of Management and very fully discussed, but the Board could not accept the proposed arrangement, and handed the following formal decision to the Commission:—"We, the Board of Management, have been deeply moved by the kindly words expressed by the Commission, but cannot see our way clear, in the future interests of our Church, to comply with their recommendation, as we have no confidence in the Rev. H. Jones as our Minister."

Extracted from the Minutes of Commission by

JOHN RUSSELL, Clerk.

(NOTE.—Forenoon sitting on 27th spent in discussing the difficult situation, but no resolution.—J.R.)

At Launceston, on 27th March, the Commission met at 2.15 p.m., and was constituted by the ex-Moderator.

On the motion of Rev. Dr. Scott, seconded by Mr. F. Burbury, it was unanimously agreed:—"That while upholding the validity of the late election of Managers, the Assembly's Commission find that under existing circumstances no basis of harmonious settlement can be reached owing to the refusal of both Managers and Session to adopt the suggestion submitted for their consideration by the said Commission. The Commission therefore direct the four members of the Board of Management recently elected to resign their office, and that a fresh election be held under the supervision of the Commission."

"It was directed that the adherents' roll be completed by the Session, the Revs. A. Hardie and J. Russell to be assessors associated with the Session, Mr. Russell Moderator of Session, for that purpose; that the present roll of adherents, drawn out in alphabetical order, with spaces under each letter, be exhibited on two Sundays—April 5th and 12th—at the Church door, with the qualification of an adherent written on the roll, and those claiming to be adherents, whose names are not on the roll, send their names to the Rev. J. Russell, c/o Mr. Crooks, Session Clerk, on or before 14th April; that the Session, as above constituted, be instructed to carry out the election of Managers by ballot papers, and in accordance with the laws of the Church."

Extracted from the Minutes of Commission by

JOHN RUSSELL, Clerk.

NOTE I.—The above resolution, with the following addition approved by the Commission, was read as an announcement from St. Andrew's pulpit on April 5th:—"By asking the four Managers recently elected to resign, the Commission casts no reflection on them, and they are eligible for re-election, or any other member or adherent may be voted for. The object of the Commission is to ascertain the mind of the Congregation, and by appealing to the larger constituency of members and adherents which elect the Managers, it will be better ascertained than by appealing to the smaller constituency of members only, which elect the Session. It is practically a referendum to the Congregation, and any obstacle put in the way of carrying out this will, no doubt, be regarded by the Commission as an attempt to prevent the mind of the Congregation from being ascertained," &c.—J.R.

NOTE II.—The four members of the Board of Management refused to resign, but their refusal was ignored, and the election took place on the 27th April. Acting on advice given, the supporters of the four Managers abstained from voting.—J.R.

At Oatlands, on Tuesday, 28th April, 1903, at 3 p.m., the Commission of the Assembly appointed to deal with the case of St. Andrew's, Launceston, met.
The meeting was opened with prayer.

Inter alia: It was resolved—"That the Commission, having carefully scrutinised the voting papers in the election of Managers which has just taken place in St. Andrew's Church, and having compared the numbers taking part in the said election with the numbers on the Congregational rolls entitled to vote, find that only a minority of the whole have indicated any desire for the removal of any of the present Managers. As the Commission had chiefly in view, in fixing the recent election, the ascertaining of the mind of the Congregation, they therefore resolve to allow the existing Board to retain office. They further resolve, with the view of all parties being duly represented, to add the names of the two who stand highest—who may be willing to act—in the election which has just taken place to the present Board. (The Commission add only two names, making eight in all, that being the full number allowed by our laws.) The Commission express the earnest hope that future harmony will prevail in St. Andrew's, and to this end exhort all parties to cultivate the things that make for peace."

Extracted from the Minutes of the Commission by

JOHN RUSSELL, Clerk.

At Hobart, and within St. Andrew's Vestry, on 13th day of August, 1903, the Commission met at 10 a.m. The meeting was opened with prayer.

A Petition to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, from certain members of the Board of Management of St. Andrew's, Launceston, complaining that the Commission had ordered and carried out an illegal election of Managers in the said Congregation, and praying the General Assembly to interfere, was laid on the table.

After discussion, the Commission unanimously resolved—"That the petition is practically a repetition of an appeal formerly made to the General Assembly by certain Managers of St. Andrew's, Launceston, against the election of Managers in that Congregation directed by the Commission, which appeal the Commission refused to transmit, on the ground that the General Assembly had no jurisdiction in the case; that the Commission decline to surrender rights secured to all State Assemblies both by Act of Parliament and the Articles of Agreement; that the General Assembly is supreme only

in cases of 'Doctrine, worship, and discipline' (Article IV.), but in cases of 'Government' the State Assemblies are supreme; that the election complained of in the petition, as shown by relative documents, was not disciplinary or punitive in any sense, but was directed solely to prevent a deadlock in the Congregation after all other means had failed: the Commission therefore refuse to transmit the petition."

Extracted from the Minutes of the Commission by

JOHN RUSSELL, Clerk.

Evandale, Tasmania,
August 29th, 1903.

(2.) PETITION *re* ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
The Petition of the undersigned, being members of the General Purposes Committee of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:—

That an order of precedence at State functions of the Commonwealth of Australia was recently published in the newspaper press in which the name of the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was omitted from a place in State functions.

We therefore petition the General Assembly of Australia to despatch a memorial to His Majesty the King, asking that the said Order of Precedence may be reconsidered, with the object of providing such place for the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as we deem he has the right to expect as representing one of the great Churches established by law within the United Kingdom.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

J. T. MAIN, M.A., Moderator of Assembly.

T. E. CLOUSTON, D.D.

JOHN BURGESS, M.A.

(3.) PETITION OF REV. FREDERICK STUBBS TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned Frederick Stubbs, being a duly ordained Minister lately in charge of the parish of Cust, within the Presbytery of Christchurch, N.Z., respectfully sheweth:—

That your petitioner was born in London on the 15th July, 1855.

That he received his education, first at Private Schools in London, then at a Boarding School near Louth, and subsequently at Regent's Park College (a Theological Institution of the highest standing), and one of the Colleges affiliated to the University of London.

That his education embraced the studies common to most theological students, including Greek and Hebrew, Pastoral and Systematic Theology, Mental and Moral Philosophy, Church History, Apologetics, etc.

That your petitioner was ordained at Studley in the year 1881, and subsequently held pastorates at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Dudley, England.

That after nearly six years as Minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dudley, he removed, under medical advice on account of his wife's state of health, to New Zealand, where he has been Minister of Feilding for two-and-a-half years, and of Cust for nearly four years, each Charge he has held growing under his ministry.

He may add that on coming to the colonies in 1895, he was furnished with a commission from the Free Church of Scotland, to whose Committee he was known, as well as with credentials from the Presbyterian Church of England.

That his own health having broken down through overwork, and the climate of Canterbury plainly disagreeing with him, he felt it his duty to resign the Charge of Cust in July, 1902, since which time he has been under medical treatment for laryngitis: that he came to New South Wales three months ago, in order to escape the New Zealand winter: and that he is so favourably impressed with the suitability of the climate as regards the affection he has suffered from, that he has formed a desire to remove from Christchurch to this country.

That during the last three months he has, in addition to a considerable amount of literary work, engaged in almost every kind of ministerial work in New South Wales, and has reason to hope that his labours have been acceptable to the people and of service to the Church. As to this, the Secretary of the Church, and those whom he has served, are of course the best judges, and would doubtless be willing to testify.

That in support of his petition he forwards the following papers in evidence—

(a) Documents showing that he was regarded by his Congregation, Presbytery, and Church in England as a competent scholar, and as a faithful and efficient Minister of the Gospel, and that his relations with his Congregation, Presbytery, and Church were of the happiest description.

(b) Documents exhibiting similar facts in relation to his late Congregation, Presbytery, and Church in New Zealand.

(c) Letters from the Secretary of the Ministers' Association of Christchurch indicating the regard in which the petitioner has the good fortune to be held by the Ministers of various denominations in that city.

(d) Documents showing, as regards his intellectual fitness and attainments, that the petitioner is well and honourably known throughout New Zealand as a public writer; that he is at present commissioned by a large and influential journal to write a long series of articles on Australian affairs; that in furtherance of his mission the Government of N.Z. kindly furnished him with letters of commendation to the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria; and that these and other letters of introduction show that in his adopted country he bears an honourable reputation for character and ability.

The petitioner desires to add that his chief object in engaging in literary work has been to further the interests of Christ's Kingdom, and he humbly hopes that his writings, reaching as they have many thousands of people, have contributed to that high end.

(e) Your petitioner begs to assure the Assembly that in making this request for admission to the Church, he is not influenced by any financial stress, nor does he desire to be connected as a Beneficiary with any of the Church's Funds. He conceived it to be his duty before he left England to make suitable provision for his family and for himself should infirmity overtake him, and on this account the Presbyterian Church of N.Z. excused him from connecting himself with its funds, and he trusts the same position would be assumed by the Church of Australia.

(f) It was not until the present month of September that the petitioner knew of this meeting of the Assembly, or had been in a position to come to a conclusion as to the suitability of the climate for him, otherwise he would have submitted still further evidence. He trusts, however, that the documents he happened to have by him will be deemed sufficient for the purpose in view, and that the Assembly will not reject him on the ground of any unimportant informality.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc.,

FREDERICK STUBBS.

(4.) PETITION OF THE REV. W. S. WHITESIDE TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

To the Right Reverend the Moderator and the remanent members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to meet in Sydney Sept. 23rd, 1903.

The Petition of the Reverend William Sherlock Whiteside, B.A., respectfully sheweth:—

1. That petitioner is a Minister of the Presbyterian Church, and brings with him credentials of full standing from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland (see letter from Professor Hamill, Convener of Colonial Committee), the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. North (see Presbyterial certificate from Presbytery of Santa Barbara), and from the Presbyterian Church of South African (see Presbyterial certificate from Presbytery of Cape Town).

2. That petitioner was born at Dundrod, County Antrim, Ulster; was educated at the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast, and afterwards went through the University Course in Queen's College, Belfast, and the Queen's University, of which he is a graduate (see Degree Parchment), and thereafter took the full Theological Curriculum in the Assembly's College, Belfast, becoming a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in 1885 under the care of the Presbytery of Templepatrick.

3. That in 1886 petitioner was ordained to the pastoral charge of the parish of Derryvalley, County Monaghan, the ministry of which he fulfilled for seven years.

4. That he was thereafter, for reasons of health, Minister of Ione, Fort Bragg, and Santa Maria (California), of which latter parish he has been Minister for six years, and during the last year was Commissioner of Santa Barbara Presbytery to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. North.

5. That on returning to Ulster to visit his sick father, he was induced to visit South Africa, and there was immediately invited by the Presbytery of Cape Town to occupy the pulpit of Stellenbosch until the arrival of the Minister-elect. (Respecting petitioner's work there, see letter of Session Clerk and letter of Moderator of Cape Town Presbytery). Petitioner found living in South Africa exceedingly expensive, and came to Victoria.

6. Petitioner encloses other testimonials and documents, and will be glad to answer any questions regarding them that may be put to him.

The petitioner prays the General Assembly to receive him as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and pledges himself to serve it with full loyalty and to the utmost of his energy and power.

And as in duty bound,

WILLIAM SHERLOCK WHITESIDE.

Melbourne, Aug. 4th, 1903.

(5.) PETITION OF THE REV. HENRY G. NICHOLLS TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, appointed to meet in Sydney, Sept. 23, 1903.

This Petition of Henry George Nicholls sheweth:—

1. That your petitioner was duly ordained by the imposition of hands in England, March 27, 1877, at the Dedham Congregational Church.

2. That in one and the same Church, for the space of 14 years, he exercised his ministry with manifest tokens of God's blessing.

3. That being engaged in both pedagogic and pastoral duties, he suffered a nervous break-down; obtained six months' leave of absence; arrived in Melbourne Xmas, 1890; assumed the pastorate of one of the principal Churches of Adelaide, retaining the pastorate aforesaid for more than 12 years, and which he now voluntarily relinquishes.

4. That he begs to submit in support of this petition—

(1) His own personal plea.

(2) Letters of commendation from England.

(3) Local testimony as to character and work.

(Documents attached herewith, and album of letters.)

5. That in compliance with your regulations, he submits the following particulars:—

6. Born in Essex, England, June 13, 1851; attended the ministry of the Rev. J. Cyndyllyn Jones at Offord Road, Barnsbury; was admitted into Church fellowship under the same Pastor at Bedford Chapel, Camden Town; became engaged in religious work, such as house-to-house visitation, cottage services, and the conduct of a singing class for the young.

7. Became a student at Finsbury Commercial College for 12 months, under Dr. Cane, 1872; was admitted to Hackney College, passed through its four years' curriculum, taking the Homes' Jubilee Prize in 1876. The curriculum embraced:—Course of studies completed by your petitioner at his *alma mater*, Hackney College: *Mathematics*—Todhunter's Algebra; Euclid. *Languages*—(1) Havet's French Grand; (2) Latin, 4 years; (3) Greek, 4 years; (4) Hebrew, 2 years. *Science*—Lectures on Geology, Zoology, Physiology. *Philosophy*—Ethics: Sir William Hamilton's "Metaphysics" (2 vols.); "Will and Desire," G. Lyon Turner, M.A.; "Will," Whedon; "Mind and Body," Alex. Bain. *Theology*—Oral Lectures, Prl. McAll; Angus's B.H. Book. Paley, Butler; Fairbairn's "Hermeneutics," Westcott's "Introduction," Shedd's "Homiletics" and "History of Christian Doctrine," Hagenbach's "German Rationalism," Fisher's "Supernatural Origin of Christianity," McCosh's "Positivism," Mansel's "Limits of Religious Thought." Elocution Lessons and Shorthand, extra muros.

Your petitioner would further intimate to this reverend Court that he has conducted a class in Moral Philosophy and examined in Apologetics for the S.A. Congregational College Committee. The students whom he instructed now occupy pastorates.

8. That your petitioner is married, having four sons and one daughter, the youngest being 19. The second son, a candidate for admission to Ormonde, is working under the auspices of your Victorian Home Mission at South Ecklin. The eldest son is a solicitor practising in Adelaide.

9. That the considerations which induce your petitioner to approach you are, *inter alia*—(1) A dissatisfaction, long latent, with the Congregational polity. He has publicly advocated a recognition of the ~~superiority~~ of the New Testament as a safer, saner, smoother and sweeter polity than the so-called "Congregational." He has found that in practice this becomes oligarchical, whilst the hegemony of the Pastor is surrendered, or, if maintained, is maintained at great cost to himself. Hence your petitioner recommended his son to offer his services to the Presbyterian Church rather than the Congregational. (2) That your petitioner is already in doctrinal accord with this august Assembly. One of the first documents ever studied by him was the Westminster Assembly's Catechism, and next, in view of appearing before the Committee of Hackney College, he carefully went through Hodge's "Outlines of Theology."

10. That your petitioner will gladly furnish further particulars or additional evidence if desired so to do.

11. That your petitioner, whilst not possessing the ample proportions conferred by Nature upon some of his "brethren after the flesh," is nevertheless sound in wind and limb, as certified by three (3) physicians in England and Australia.

12. Finally, while solemnly pledging himself to serve the Church which you represent as faithfully as he served the one he now leaves, at the same time he respectfully but earnestly begs your Venerable Assembly, in view of his 26 years' service, his experience and his credentials, to graciously exercise an indulgent clemency with reference to the term of his probationary service.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

HENRY G. NICHOLLS.

Melbourne, June, 1903.

(6.) PETITION OF THE REV. W. H. BRADLEY TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned, being a Minister in full standing of the Congregational Union of New South Wales, respectfully sheweth :—

That your Petitioner was born in Sydney, N.S.W., in the year 1872; was educated at the Fort-street Model Public and the Sydney High Schools; was for two years a Clerk in the Bank of North Queensland, which position he resigned in order to study for the Entrance Examination to Camden College (the Theological Seminary of the Congregational Union of N.S.W.); was received as a student in 1893, and completed successfully in four years the course of study prescribed, embracing the English, Latin and Greek languages, and Literature, Mathematics, Mental and Moral Philosophy and Logic, Hebrew, Greek Testament Criticism, Systematic Theology, Homiletics, the Evidence of Christianity in Relation to Modern Biblical Research, Church History, and the History of Doctrine; was called to the work of the Ministry in 1897, and was publicly ordained by the laying on of hands. Dr. Fraser, M.A., Principal of Camden College, delivered the Charge; was for two years Minister of the Congregational Church at Rockdale, when, owing to his health breaking down, tendered his resignation, which was not accepted, the Church generously granting twelve months' leave of absence on full stipend. When he found he would not be able to resume work on the coast, he again tendered his resignation; acted as *locum tenens* at Coonabarabran, N.S.W., during the greater part of the year the Pastor, the Rev. G. C. McDonald, M.A., occupied the Moderator's Chair in the State Assembly. He there had the opportunity of studying both the doctrine and polity of the Presbyterian Church; the doctrine he held as a Minister of the Congregational Church, the polity he regards as Scriptural. He also assisted for a time the Rev. G. T. Main, M.A., of Dubbo; was Pastor in charge of the Congregational Church at Orange for eighteen months.

Your Petitioner seeks admission into the Presbyterian Church because, having been advised by his Medical Attendant to live permanently in the country, his past experience has persuaded him that Presbyterianism, owing to its closer organisation, is more fitted to the needs of the country than Congregationalism, and offers the country Minister superior facilities for work.

Your Petitioner's health is now quite restored, and he is able to take upon himself the full responsibilities of Ministerial work.

Your Petitioner therefore prays your Venerable Court to receive him into the Presbyterian Church of Australia as a Minister in full standing.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WILLIAM HENDERSON BRADLEY.

Wentworth Falls,
12th August, 1903.

(7.) PETITION OF THE REV. HUGH JONES TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

To the Right Reverend the Moderator and the Remanent Members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned, Hugh Jones, M.A., respectfully sheweth :—

1. That the petitioner is a Congregational Minister in full standing, having, until recently, been Minister for eight years of the Wharf-street Congregational Church, Brisbane, and, prior to that pastorate, Minister for two years of the Congregational Church at Oakleigh, Victoria.

2. That the petitioner was born at Williamstown, Victoria, in 1864, and is now thirty-eight years of age.

3. That the petitioner was a student and a graduate of the University of Melbourne, of which he holds the degrees of B.A. and M.A.; that he was a student for over four years of the Congregational College of Victoria, and thereafter, after spending some months in Germany, he was for one session a student of Mansfield College, Oxford, where he attended all Principal Fairbairn's classes, together with several other classes at the College, and also certain classes in the University.

4. That, on the completion of his course, the petitioner returned, according to agreement, to his native State, Victoria, and was appointed to his first pastorate at Oakleigh, as mentioned above.

5. That the petitioner's experience has led him to see the necessity for an organised system of Church Government combining, as Presbyterianism does, the freedom of Congregational life and action with the unity of the Christian brotherhood and its collective voice; and even as a student felt strongly drawn towards Presbyterianism.

6. That the petitioner's life and work in Australia are well known to many of the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church, who can testify as to his character.

7. That the petitioner prays the General Assembly to receive this petition, presented through the Presbytery of Melbourne North, within whose bounds petitioner's native place is; and to admit him into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; and the petitioner pledges himself to loyally obey that Church's authority, and to serve her interests to the utmost of his power.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

HUGH JONES.

8 Ferguson Street, Williamstown, Victoria, 29th June, 1903.

(8.) PETITION OF REV. E. H. CHAPPLE TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. - 17

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, appointed to meet in Sydney on September 23rd, 1903.

The Petition of Edward Henry Chapple humbly sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner was for nine years an ordained Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and of the Methodist Church of Australasia.

2. That in February, 1903, he severed his connection with the Methodist Church with a view to making application to your Venerable Assembly to be received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

3. That your Petitioner begs to furnish, in support of the Petition, the accompanying documentary evidence, which he has divided into two groups.

(a) Those from Ministers and Laymen occupying official positions in the Methodist Church, with whom he has laboured in various circuits.

(b) Those from Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church, to most of whom he is personally known, and most of whom have heard him preach. (See documents.)

4. That, in compliance with the Rules relating to the Reception of Ministers from Other Denominations, he desires respectfully to submit the following particulars:—

5. That he was born at Hamilton, in the State of Victoria, on June 21st, 1866, and became a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at the age of fourteen (14) years.

6. That he was received as a candidate for the Wesleyan Ministry by the Victoria and Tasmania Conference of 1888, and studied as a Theological Student at Queen's College, Melbourne, for the three years (1888, '89, '90). The Theological course consisting of the following subjects, in which your Petitioner passed the usual examinations:—

(a) Systematic Theology (Banks' Text Book), with Lectures from the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc., extending over two years.

(b) Greek Testament and Exegesis. Portions of St. Matthew and St. John; the Epistles to the Galatians and to the Colossians (Lightfoot's Commentaries). Lecturer: the Rev. E. H. Sugden.

(c) Biblical Criticism (Old and New Test). Lecturer: the Rev. E. H. Sugden. (Two years' course.)

(d) Church History. Lectures by the Rev. J. C. Symons.

7. That in addition to the above, the Students were required to preach before the Theological Tutors, the sermon being afterwards subjected to criticism in the class. The criticisms had regard to the matter of the sermon, method of treatment, style, voice, gesture, etc. Also discussions in homiletics generally.

8. That during the year 1890, your Petitioner passed the Melbourne Matriculation Examinations, and also the First Year of the Arts course.

9. That he studied the following subjects for Matriculation, and passed in the first six—English, Arithmetic, Geometry, Physics, Human Physiology, English and Roman History, Algebra, Latin, Greek.

10. That he took up the work of the First Year of the Arts course after the May Matriculation Examination, and passed on the following subjects:—Natural Philosophy, English Language and Literature, Logic, History.

11. That he was appointed to a circuit by the Conference of 1891, and served three years as a Probationer. (Your Petitioner was allowed a year off the usual term of probation on account of having been three years at the College.)

12. That he passed examinations during his probation in the following subjects prescribed by the Conference. (See tabulated list.)

13. That your Petitioner was ordained a Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in March, 1894, since which time he has been regularly employed in circuit work, with the exception of one year (1899), during which he paid a visit to England and the Continent.

14. That the first four years of his ministry were spent in Tasmania, and the remaining portion in Victoria. Boort being his last circuit.

15. That he is married, and has one child.

16. That the feeling which led your Petitioner to sever his connection with the Methodist Church, and to make this application, is not of recent development, but is the result of long and earnest thought. For years his sympathies have been with the principles and polity of the Presbyterian Church, and his ideas and methods have been in accord with the genius of that system.

17. That his main reason is the desire for a settled Charge on account of the greater facilities it offers for consolidating his work, and for the element of continuity which it contains. He greatly enjoys the pulpit work, and much prefers labouring among people with whom he has become thoroughly acquainted.

18. That, as to doctrine, he acknowledges the sovereignty of God on the one hand and the free will of man on the other, but does not pretend to a complete reconciliation of the two. He finds both taught in the Scriptures, and has been in the habit of teaching both. Yet it would appear to your Petitioner that God is always beforehand with man, and that it is most fitting to approach the study of theological truth from the standpoint of God's sovereignty.

19. That he has read the Standards of the Presbyterian Church, including the Confession of Faith, and the Declaratory Statement, with all of which he is in accord. He has also read the Rev. John Macpherson's Hand-book on the Confession of Faith.

20. That, inasmuch as the Presbyterian system as a whole has long commended itself to his judgment, he feels that he would experience no difficulty in working in harmony therewith. Should your Venerable Court accord him a place in the ranks of its Ministry, it will be his earnest endeavour to loyally and faithfully discharge the solemn responsibilities of that sacred office as God may give him grace and strength.

21. That should any further particulars be needed in order to comply with the requirements of the Petition, your Petitioner will be very willing to furnish them as far as he may be able. In conclusion, he desires to affirm that the foregoing is a truthful and conscientious statement concerning the matters contained therein.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

E. H. CHAPPLE.

Romsey, March 17th, 1903.

(9.) PETITION OF THE REV. DAVID BROWN, MINISTER, AND 120 MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, DEVONPORT, TO BE RECEIVED INTO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, convened to meet in St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, on the 23rd day of September, 1903.

The Petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

That your petitioners are the Minister, Members and Adherents of the Congregational Church, Devonport, in the State of Tasmania: that we are desirous of being connected with the Presbyterian Church of Australia; that at a duly convened, and well-attended, meeting of the Congregation, held on the 5th July, 1903, it was unanimously resolved, in accordance with "Articles of Agreement" IX., Rule C. 7, to apply, and we (Minister and Congregation) hereby do apply to be admitted into the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and become a Minister and Congregation of the Tasmanian State Assembly.

Your petitioners trust your Venerable Court will give the premises your favourable consideration, and grant their petition.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

DAVID BROWN, Minister,

And 120 Members and Adherents.

(10.) APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO ORDAIN MR. WILLIAM TULLOCH.

From the Presbytery of Hobart.

In St. Andrew's Presbytery, Hobart, on Friday, 4th September, 1903, at 11 o'clock.

At which time and place the Presbytery met, and was duly constituted.

On the motion of the Rev. J. S. Buntine, seconded by Mr. James Robb, it was resolved,—That whereas the Presbyterian Church in Tasmania has experienced much difficulty in effectively carrying on its work in the Mining Fields of the West Coast; and whereas a very suitable representative has been found in the person of Mr. William Tulloch, formerly Missionary in Victoria; and whereas the members and adherents of the Queenstown Presbyterian Church have unanimously requested that Mr. Tulloch should be ordained and inducted into the charge; and whereas Mr. Tulloch has successfully passed all the Home Mission examinations in Victoria, and has also done exceptionally successful work under the Church Extension Committee there for the past thirteen years; and whereas the Presbytery of Hobart is convinced that the course proposed would be in the best interests of the Presbyterian Church, it is respectfully requested that the Venerable the General Assembly take the above premises into favourable consideration, and authorise the Presbytery of Hobart to license and ordain and induct Mr. Tulloch, on his undertaking to remain five years in the Queenstown charge.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Presbytery of Hobart by

J. K. REID, Clerk.

(11.) PETITION OF MR. J. T. DUDLEY TO BE ADMITTED A THEOLOGICAL STUDENT OF THE 2ND YEAR.

Unto the Reverend the General Assembly of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned, Joseph Thomas Dudley, respectfully sheweth:—

That he was unanimously admitted by the Presbytery of Sydney on the 10th March, 1903, to the status of a Student preparing for the Ministry, and that he is desirous of entering the Theological Hall in St. Andrew's next March.

That he is a B.A. of the Sydney University, and is employed as Tutor in Greek Testament at the Newington Theological Institution.

That he has had experience as a lay preacher for a number of years, and has devoted much time to Biblical and Theological studies.

That he will be 40 years of age on September 18th, 1903; is married; and has four young children.

That your petitioner accordingly prays your Reverend Court to allow him to enter St. Andrew's Theological Hall as a 2nd Year Student, provided he passes the 1st Year Examination before entering the Theological Hall next March.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

J. T. DUDLEY.

30 Scouller Street, Marrackville,
August 31st, 1903.

(12.) PETITION OF MR. H. A. E. O'SULLIVAN.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia, now sitting in Sydney, New South Wales.

Rev. Fathers,—I, Horatio E. A. O'Sullivan, of Drouin, Victoria, do hereby pray and petition that the session I have attended at Ormond College Theological Hall be counted as my first year. The reason of my entering as a private student was: I was taken suddenly ill at the Entrance Examination in February last, and was forced to absent myself one day. The Senatus has consented to my taking the subjects I did not do, next February. Trusting you will grant my request,

I remain, yours obediently,

H. O'SULLIVAN.

(13.) PETITION OF MR. WILLIAM RIDE FOR ADMISSION TO THE MINISTRY.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned, William Ride, Presbyterian Missionary of the Wedderburn Charge, in the State of Victoria, humbly sheweth—

That your petitioner is (44) forty-four years of age, a married man, with wife and (4) four children, ages respectively 16, 15, 8 and 4.

That your petitioner has occupied the position of a Missionary in your Church in this State for nearly (15) fifteen years.

That you petitioner was the first Missionary placed in charge of the Gooram Mission Station, where he succeeded in establishing (4) four Congregations, and after (4) four years and (3) months of arduous labour was, consequent upon rheumatic troubles brought on by so much riding and exposure, transferred to the Violet Town Mission Station.

That your petitioner spent (2) two years and (7) seven months at Violet Town. During your petitioner's time the Manse was erected, and it can be rightly claimed that in each department the work was successful.

That your petitioner spent (5) five years and (9) months at Newstead Charge, and enjoyed considerable prosperity. During this period a petition was sent for ordination to the General Assembly of Victoria, with recommendation from the Presbytery of Maryborough.

That your petitioner has been (2) two years at Wedderburn, and God is graciously blessing his labours.

That your petitioner begs leave to present letters of recommendation.

Your petitioner wishes to state that the movement in connection with this matter did not commence at his suggestion, and it is only after much thought and prayer that he sends forth this petition, praying that your Venerable Court will be graciously pleased to raise him to the full status of the Ministry.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

WILLIAM RIDE.

(14.) PETITION OF MR. J. FRASER STAVELY FOR ADMISSION TO THE MINISTRY.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Fathers and Brethren,—I humbly, respectfully and urgently petition your Venerable House to ordain me to the full status of the Ministry.

This my petition sheweth that I am 41 years of age. I am a married man, with four children.

I have been doing Home Mission work in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for seven (7) years and eight (8) months—in Cobden, Garvoc, Fitzroy, and Golden Square Charges respectively.

I have taken the Home Mission Course prescribed by the Victorian Church for Missionaries.

I went to Fitzroy on account of a request sent from a Committee appointed by the Melbourne North Presbytery to arrange *re* Fitzroy Charge. After five months' work at Fitzroy my health gave way seriously—hemorrhage of the lungs, brought on by over-work, doing the work of a city charge and at the same time preparing for the Hall. I broke down in July, and could not do anything for three months, and then for a few weeks took only one service a Sunday.

In December I passed the first part of the Entrance Examination, and shortly after had to give up the study for the remainder, as I was not able to do the Church work and study too. I would very much rather have given up the Church work for a while, so that I might have finished my studies, but this I could not *afford* to do. It was a great disappointment to me to give up entering the Hall as I had worked up to it, without allowing any Charge I was in, to suffer.

Taking all these premises into consideration, I pray that your Venerable House may be pleased to grant this my petition, for the glory of God and the salvation of human souls.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

Signed this thirteenth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and three.

J. FRASER STAVELY.

Golden Square, 13/4/03.

IV. REPORTS.

I.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS, 1903.

The Board of Missions submits to the Assembly its own Report and Statement of Accounts duly audited with similar Reports and Statements from the several State Churches. These Reports cover a wide area of aggressive work for the extension of Christ's kingdom, and call for devout and earnest thanksgiving to Almighty God for the

guidance of His Spirit in the work, the maintenance of the people's interest and zeal for Missions, and a considerable measure of success in evangelizing the heathen. They are also a call to increased prayer, liberality, and effort.

During the greater part of the year the Convener has been absent on holiday in Europe. This has weakened the effectiveness of the Executive sitting in Victoria; but on the other hand the tour of the Missions' Agent through the States has been an added bond of Union among the Churches. To the Agent the Rev. W. Gray, of South Australia, has offered a valuable collection of New Hebrides curios as the nucleus of a Missions Museum for the whole Church. The Board recommends the acceptance of the offer with thanks to the donor.

NORTH QUEENSLAND MISSION.

The arrival of the Rev. Arthur Richter and his wife at Mapoon has at last enabled Mr. and Mrs. Hey to leave on their too long delayed furlough. They are at present in Europe.

The annual report from Mapoon, prepared by Mr. Richter, and that from Weipa, by Mr. Brown, the Missionary, are satisfactory records of work and progress during the year. (1.) The average number of natives settled at Mapoon has been 150; at Weipa, 80. Large numbers of natives visit both stations at irregular times. (2.) The spiritual fruits of the Mission ripen slowly. Of thirty-seven in all baptised at Mapoon since it was begun, twelve have died. The twenty-five survivors continue steadfast, and are a nucleus of growing influence among the heathen. This year two men were baptised at Mapoon and two women at Weipa. At both centres there are a good many catechumens, candidates for baptism, of whom the Missionaries are hopeful. (3.) The elementary school education of both children and adults is undertaken by the Missionaries, and especially their lady assistants. The average attendance at the day school at Mapoon is 70, at Weipa 43. Many of those can now read the New Testament, and some of them write a little. At Weipa new ground was broken by putting 25 into copy books some months ago. (4.) Mr. Brown notes with pleasure that his medical work has taken some hold, and that he has been able to provide a dispensary and some other conveniences which will help on this department. A virulent form of influenza visited both stations. It caused many deaths, and for a time hampered the work. The Missionaries note that around them the death rate is very high, and urge this as a reason why the Archer River Settlement should be hastened. The Gospel cannot be brought too soon to a dying race. (5.) Much manual labour has been got through to good purpose. A delighted visitor from New Guinea thought Mapoon quite a town with its straight street of thirty-two snug houses, facing a coming avenue of coconut palms. Felling timber, fencing, carpentering, farming, gardening, herding and milking cattle and goats go on continuously, with occasional boring of wells and endeavours at irrigation thrown in for variety. The Lay Assistants help in this kind of training for the natives, but the supervision and anxiety of the various undertakings remain at each station on the Missionary, whose own hands are always full of every kind of work. (6.) The Queensland Government continue their provision of rations for the natives and of help towards secular education. The Mission Boat has done good service in maintaining regular communication between the stations and the civilised world. The Missionaries own with grateful thanks the receipt by the boat of Christmas and other boxes from congregations, by which they have been greatly encouraged and assisted in their work.

LAST ASSEMBLY'S DELIVERANCE.

1. The Archer River site for a station granted by the Queensland Government has been visited by the Missionaries from Mapoon and Weipa. Nothing further can be done till Mr. Hey returns from his furlough, but in view of the early settlement of Mr. and Mrs. Richter thereafter at the new station, greatly increased liberality must be shown towards the whole North Queensland Mission if its adequate maintenance is to be secured.

2. Through the Missions Committee of New South Wales the Board has been advised that an anticipated opening for new work in the German Solomon Islands is not available. No inquiries have been made about other fields in which the General Assembly might start a mission to celebrate the Union of the Churches. The present financial burden seems more than equal to our resources.

3. The Overdraft authorised by the Assembly for the payment of Agents has been obtained from the Colonial Bank, Melbourne. On August 14th it stood at £314 3s. 8d. As the rate of interest paid is 6 per cent. prompt payment should be made by the Churches to the Board's account. Where this cannot be done the Church taking accommodation from the overdraft should add the interest to its remittances.

4. The Board has no recommendation at present to submit regarding the employment of Lay Agents in the Mission fields, and their qualifications. In the report of last year

the employment of such agents in the New Hebrides was cited in favor of the scheme. Since then the New Hebrides Synod has passed a resolution apparently adverse to the continuance of such appointments. At the request of the State Assembly in Victoria the Board set subjects of trial for licence to Mr. William Anderson, an assistant Missionary at Lenakel, Tanna, whose exceptional fitness and services have recommended him to his Church as worthy of special recognition.

MISSIONS AGENT.

The Rev. F. H. L. Paton, B.D., who was appointed Missions' Agent of the Assembly last September, has been able to carry through the visitation of the States entrusted to him with vigour and success. He travelled in October and November through New South Wales. From December to February, including a short holiday, he wrought the charges in Victoria. Then he went to Tasmania, making a break in the continuity of his work there to attend the Mission Convention of University men in Melbourne at Easter, where his presence and addresses greatly stimulated missionary interest among the students. In May and June he was at work in Queensland. Up to the 4th August he was busy thereafter in South Australia. He is now engaged in visiting all Presbyterian charges throughout Western Australia, from which he hopes to return in time for the General Assembly. The Conveners of the various Churches Mr. Paton has visited have borne witness with great cordiality to the effective nature and beneficial influence of his work. The Board has obtained reports from him from time to time, and his summary for the year is given below, including suggestions to which the Board directs attention.

MISSIONS AGENT'S REPORT.—1902-1903.

The Rev. F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D., reports as follows:—

"Acting under instructions from the Board of Missions, I visited 118 separate Charges in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, and South Australia. The State Conveners made all the necessary arrangements, and these were cordially carried out by the Ministers concerned. The reception accorded to me as Missions' Agent was hearty and kindly in the Churches, manses, and homes of the people.

"The meetings were well attended, and great interest was manifested in the Missionary work of our Church. The financial response, as evidenced by the collections, was only fair, but the main object of the lectures and addresses was to spread information and arouse interest, with a view to permanent and regular giving on the part of the people. In four of the States visited the Women's Missionary Union is doing splendid work, and in the fifth a Union was started last year from which great things are expected.

"But while there is much deep interest and no little self denial in prayer and giving to report, there is also much ignorance and indifference to report and some opposition to the Missionary aims of the Church. This opposition was found to be based largely on ignorance.

"In visiting the various States I was deeply impressed with the vastness of the problem which faces the Church in Australia. But I was as deeply impressed with the vast resources at the command of the Church—far more than sufficient to cope with all the needs of the work at home and abroad, if only the Church throughout her membership were fully alive to the responsibilities which God has laid upon her.

"It seemed to me that much more might be done in arousing and maintaining the interest of the Sabbath scholars in the Foreign Missionary work of our Church. For example, a Corresponding Secretary might be appointed in connection with each school, with a central Corresponding Secretary in the capital of each State. The latter might obtain an interesting children's letter once a month or so direct from the field. This letter could then be duplicated and copies sent to each of the local secretaries to be read in the Sabbath Schools. The children would then understand better the object for which their pennies were given, and interest would be aroused that would last through life. Besides reading the monthly Missionary letter, the Superintendent might give notes on Missions now and again, exposing the hollowness of objections and giving the children facts on which to feed their interest.

"A Missionary book might be given each year in every school for the best essay on the Church's Missions, and in this connection great care should be expended in building up a good Missionary Library in each school. This would encourage the children to give Young People's Mission Bands for the study of Missions. Once the interest was thoroughly aroused and each child made to feel a personal share and a personal responsibility in the work, many different ways would discover themselves by which this interest would be directed into practical channels.

"The children should also be encouraged to form the habit of regular and systematic giving. This will not only result in future revenue, but also in very large sums for

present use. Too great importance cannot possibly be attached to this work of arousing and maintaining the interest of the young in the Foreign Mission work of our Church.

"Attention should also be directed to the Colleges and Theological Halls of our Church. In each of these a series of lectures might be given on the rise and progress of the great Missionary movement. It is important that those whose future work will lie in the Church at home should be thoroughly well up in the history of Missions that they may take an intelligent share in guiding this Movement. Students, on the other hand, might render the Church great service by pleading the Missionary Cause throughout the congregations and Sabbath Schools during the long vacation.

"Turning to the Church as a whole, something more is required in the way of disseminating Missionary ideas and Missionary news through the Press. The Church paper has done something in this direction, and no praise is too high for the work done by the *Missionary Record* for the children. But if the Church as a whole is to be aroused to a sense of its duty, much more will have to be done in the way of systematic education. A great Missionary campaign requires a great Missionary organ. But while something should certainly be done in this direction, the most effective way of arousing and educating the Church is through the pulpit. If the minister is on fire with the great Missionary Movement the congregation will soon catch some of the warmth and glow. Nothing can so stimulate the faith and zeal of any Church as to be kept in close touch with the wonderful victories and progress of the Kingdom in all lands. We are far from having reached the ideal yet, as there are many people in our Churches who are out of touch, and in consequence out of sympathy, with the Church's Mission work.

"Alongside of this need for a more systematic education of the Church on the Missionary question, there is a corresponding need for more regular, definite and intelligent prayer. If the supreme business of the Church is to extend the Kingdom of Christ throughout the whole earth, then very special prayer must be made by the whole Church to obtain power for so great a work. Special times should be observed by individuals—preferably the "Morning Watch"—for private prayer and intercession on behalf of world-wide Missions. Special and regular times should also be set apart by the Church as a whole for prayer on this subject. Such private and public prayer, backed up by a surrendered life, would bring an enormous inflow of power into the Church throughout her whole membership for all her work both at home and abroad. In this work of prayer and intercession a prayer-cycle might be found useful as a help.

"Another great need is that of systematic regular giving, based on a recognition of Christian Stewardship. To become general this principle must be inculcated from the pulpit. It is the only way of solving the great financial problem which is now the last difficulty known to lie in the way of the world-wide proclamation of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. When one considers that a penny a week from each Presbyterian in the Commonwealth would result in the large sum of £19,000 in a year, one begins to realise the possibilities that open out before the Church once this principle is generally accepted. That our givings only reached one fifteenth of a penny a week per head last year reveals the crying need of immediate reform in this direction.

"Such are some of the needs borne in upon me during my visitation of the Churches. It is for us Ministers to lead in prayer and self-denial, and the Church will follow. Already there are signs of a growing recognition of these responsibilities, and the outlook is brightening with hope."

SALARY OF THE AGENT.

The Board, in a minute dated 22nd September, 1902, having agreed to recommend the appointment of an Agent, resolved that "The salary of the Agent shall be £400 per annum with travelling expenses," and that "the salary and travelling expenses of the Agent be levied on the basis of the membership of the several State Churches," and "that the financial result of meetings be passed to the Heathen Mission Fund of the State in which the meetings are held." The whole of this resolution was submitted to the Assembly by the Convener, and no exception was taken to its proposal; but, by an unfortunate oversight on the part of the Convener, only the first clause was included in the Assembly's record. In spite of this omission of the machinery clauses for levying the salary, five of the six State Churches have loyally answered the requisition of the Board, and have paid pro rata for the year as follows, towards the salary:—

Churches.	Members.	Amount.
Victoria	23,417	£205
Queensland	5,053	44
South Australia	1,570	14
Tasmania	1,672	14
West Australia	1,000	9

The Church of New South Wales, having 13,071 members (thus making the total membership of the Church 45,783), was rated £114 for the year. The General Assembly

of New South Wales took another course, and in May passed this resolution, "In the absence of instructions from the General Assembly regarding the method to be adopted to provide funds for the payment of the salary of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Agent, the Assembly resolves that the collections evolved in connection with Rev. Mr. Paton's visit, less expenses, be forwarded to the Board of Missions in terms of the finding of the General Assembly of Australia, Min. 104 (2) B. B. 1902." The Clerk of Assembly and the Foreign Missions Convener recorded their dissent from this finding. In accordance with it the Treasurer of the New South Wales Church has forwarded £16 8s. 2d. to the Board instead of the £57 expected for the six months ending on March 31st. As rating by membership appears equitable, and collections are not available from all of the Agent's services, the Assembly is asked to give explicit instructions which will prevent confusion and disappointment in the finances by conserving the effectiveness of the Board's recommendation.

Each State Church pays travelling expenses within its own bounds. Travelling between the capitals to commence work has caused some expense which has yet to be adjusted on the same basis as the salary.

FINANCE.

On August 14th the books were closed and audited. The audit was made by Mr. Mollison, Accountant of the Australian Deposit and Mortgage Bank. His services were rendered without fee, and the Board requests the Assembly to thank him for them. Detailed accounts, with his certificate, are appended.

From the summary of balances it appears that the gross indebtedness of the Assembly in connection with the Board of Missions is £411 2s. 7d. Against this two assets may be taken into account, viz., (1) Deposit receipt, £172 9s. 9d., and (2) the amounts due from the different Churches on August 14th for the Agent's salary—New South Wales, £83 6s. 10d.; Victoria, £76 17s. 6d.; South Australia, £5 5s.; Tasmania, £5 5s.; in all, £170 14s. 4d. Taking these assets as good, the net indebtedness of the Assembly appears as £67 18s. 6d. on the date mentioned.

ALEX. STEWART, Acting-Convener.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE amounts contributed by the several Churches to Rev. N. HEY's furlough are as follows:—

New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	£100	0	0
Queensland (per Rev. W. S. Macqueen)	...	...	...	...	...	80	0	0
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	47	19	11
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	22	14	0
						<u>£250</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

This will be a source of strength, as well as a guide to the Missionary. The want of such a Committee has been felt for some time.

The Committee has much pleasure in being able to report that the valuable freehold property purchased some years ago by a Committee of the Presbytery of the Hunter, for the use of our Mission in Newcastle, is now free from debt, and has been transferred to the General Trustees of the Church. This happy result is greatly due to the Rev. Wm. Bain, who, from the very commencement of the work in Newcastle has been zealous in his efforts for the good of the Chinese in that district. The property was purchased for £600. Several improvements have since been made upon it. The district has been steadily improving, and the property increasing in value year by year.

THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

Missionaries.—At Sholinghur, India: Miss McLean, Miss McNeil, M.P.S., and Miss Symonds, B.A.

Those devoted ladies are doing a great service to Christ, and to India, in which we all rejoice. A condensed report of the work of the Association is given upon another page.

Miss Forbes, the Organising Secretary, has visited during the year a number of Congregations in the Presbytery of Wagga Wagga. Ten new Associations have been formed. The importance of this work cannot be overestimated, as it creates an intelligent and prayerful interest in the cause of Missions, and affects the source of revenue throughout the whole Church.

Ministering Women, the quarterly paper of the Association, ably edited by Mrs. Kirkland, gives the latest intelligence of our Missions, and ought to be in the homes of all our people.

THE MISSIONS AGENT.

At the meeting of the General Assembly of Australia, held in Melbourne last September, the Rev. Frank H. L. Paton, B.A., B.D. was appointed Missions Agent for the Presbyterian Church of Australia. He commenced his work in this State under the guidance of your Committee, and continued with us during the months of October and November. While here he conducted 18 Sabbath Services, in as many different Churches, addressed several Sabbath Schools, and spoke at about 20 week evening meetings in the Presbyteries of Sydney, Illawarra, and the Hawkesbury. Mr. Paton was well received, and made a good impression wherever he went, and the Committee hopes that the cause of Missions in our Church has been greatly strengthened by his visit to us. The Board of Missions has fixed the amount to be contributed by this Church towards his salary at £114 per annum, but the Committee desires the instruction of the Assembly upon the subject.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The position and prospects financially were very gloomy and disappointing during the greater part of the year, and were a source of much anxiety to the Committee. Just before the books were closed, however, a substantial increase came to hand so that the account for the year balanced with a deficit of about £92. While it is to be regretted that there should be any deficiency, it is a matter for much thankfulness that the sum is not greater. The gratifying feature of it is that the revenue is steadily increasing, and about 20 more Congregations have contributed to the Funds than did last year. This is mainly due to the admirable work of the Women's Missionary Association, and especially to the untiring efforts of the Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss Forbes. The large debit balance of £1300 which had been accumulating for some years, has now been discharged by the Centenary Thanksgiving Fund, and it is confidently hoped that with the larger number of contributing Congregations the revenue will henceforth meet the necessary expenditure.

But, while the Committee is hopeful for the future, it is certain that these hopes can be realised only by all our Congregations faithfully doing their part. Those who have hitherto been contributing are expected to continue, and if at all possible to increase their contributions, and those who have previously been remiss are urged to begin at once to do their duty. Only thus can we expect the blessing of God to rest upon any part of our work, and only thus can we take our proper place among the Churches of Christendom.

In the name of the Committee,

JAMES LAMONT, Convener.

WEIPA BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Balance in hand, 12/8/02	£25 4 6	Balance in hand, 14/8/03	£25 4 6
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MAPOON RATION ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Balance in hand, 12/8/02		2	6	11	Rations, Rev. N. Hey	199	13	0
Government Grant	200	0	0		Exchanges on Drafts and Cheques	3	7	5
Transferred from General Account, being amount charged last year to this account for Freights, etc.		21	14	0	Balance in hand, 14/8/03	21	0	6
	£224	0	11			£224	0	11

REV. N. HEY'S FURLOUGH ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 12/8/02	120	3	9	Rev. N. Hey	200	0	0
Contributions	130	10	2	Balance in hand, 14/8/03	50	13	11
	£250	13	11		£250	13	11

BOAT MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 12/8/02	36	16	4	Boatman's Salary—12 months, to 24/7/03	60	0	0
Freights received per "J. G. Ward"	23	2	0	Paints, etc., for boat	15	15	6
Queensland Church	15	17	2		£75	15	6
	£75	15	6		£75	15	6

SUMMARY OF BALANCES.

CREDITS.				DEBITS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rev. N. Hey's Furlough Account	50	13	11	General Account	226	14	1
Weipa Building Account	25	4	6	Agent's Salary and Expenses Account	164	4	10
Mapoon Ration Account	21	0	6	Weipa Ration Account	20	3	8
Colonial Bank—Overdraft	314	3	8		£411	2	7
	£411	2	7		£411	2	7
ASSETS.							
	£	s.	d.				
Deposit in A. D. and M. Bank, due 13/9/10, in the name of the Federal Assembly's F.M. Committee	172	9	9				

A. L. PRYDE, Treasurer, 15/8/03.

I certify that I have audited the accounts of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Fund from the 20th July, 1901, and that the above statement of accounts, taken in conjunction with the statement to 11th August, 1902, is in my opinion correct.

Melbourne, 21st August, 1903.

WM. L. MOLLISON, Hon. Auditor.

APPENDIX.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 1902.

In looking over the work of the Committee for the past year there is much cause for thankfulness to God. The health of our Missionaries has been good, the success granted them has been encouraging, the financial outlook is more cheering than for some time past, while the difficulties that have arisen are such as we trust soon to be able to overcome.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

Missionaries.—On the Island of Malo: Mr. D. L. Paterson and Mrs. Paterson.

There has been much blessing upon the work here, and our Missionaries have been greatly encouraged. Among other accessions to the worshipping party is an old chief, who has broken caste, and come to live in the Mission settlement. This is the first instance of an old chief on Malo giving up his former life and accepting the Gospel, though several young chiefs have done so, such as Autas and his brother, and some other youths of high rank.

It is believed that old Moh Batu's break with heathenism will have a great effect upon many. Heathenism is evidently crumbling to pieces on Malo, and the glorious light of the Gospel is dispelling the darkness. The success of our Missionaries so soon after their settlement shows not only their own earnestness and zeal for the Master, but also the faithful work of their predecessors, the Rev. J. D. and Mrs. Landels. Much precious seed has been sown on Malo, and now the sowers and the reapers alike rejoice.

Owing to the extra duties devolving upon him in commencing his work, and the time required for the study of the language, Mr Paterson has not yet been able to prepare himself for further examination in the subjects prescribed last year.

The Maritime Service.—The Committee sympathises with Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company in the loss sustained by the wreck of their new steamer *Mambare* in August last. The steamship *Tambo* has taken the place of the *Mambare*, and with the *Tuus*, which takes the alternate month, there is now a regular monthly service to the Islands. The company deserve the very highest credit for the efficient manner in which they carry on the service. It is hoped that with the increased number of settlers now making their homes on the Islands the trade will develop more and more, and the comfort and convenience of the Missionaries will be still better secured.

AMONG THE CHINESE.

Missionaries.—In Sydney: Rev. John Young Wai, and Mr. Mark Gee Hing, Student. In Newcastle: Mr. James F. Kem Yee.

Some changes were made in the work at the end of the year. Mr. Mark Gee Hing, who had successfully completed his course of study under the Rev. J. Young Wai was sent to Newcastle, to take the place of Mr. J. F. Kem Yee, who has gone to China for six months on furlough. Mr. Kem Yee had been granted leave of absence by the Committee more than two years ago, but the Boxer Insurrection made it undesirable for him to visit China at that time. Letters received from him inform us that he has arrived safely in Hong Kong.

Sydney.—The Rev. J. Young Wai and Mr. Mark Gee Hing have been zealously at work among their countrymen during the year. The services at Foster-street and at Waterloo continue to be encouraging. The Rev. J. Young Wai, with the assistance of Chinese Christians, will in future maintain the regular services at Foster-street and Waterloo without the aid of an Evangelist. The Night School at Foster-street has enjoyed a year of exceptional prosperity, the numbers receiving instruction being considerably larger than formerly. The best thanks of the Church are due to those teachers who give their valuable time to this good, but most unselfish work.

Miss Thomson continues her much appreciated visits among the Chinese women. Mrs. Wai gives her valuable services as interpreter. The monthly Prayer Meetings are well attended, and so are the meetings for sewing. Miss Kidd, and Miss Anderson assist in this good work.

Newcastle.—The reports to hand show that the work among the Chinese in Newcastle and district has been vigorously carried on by Mr. Kem Yee during the past year. At the suggestion of your Committee the Presbytery of the Hunter has appointed a Committee consisting of some of its members who are residents in Newcastle and suburbs, with the Rev. Wm. Bain as convener, to supervise the work of the Mission.

VICTORIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

NEW HEBRIDES BRANCH.

The year has been specially marked by new beginnings. Former work has, on the whole, held its own, borne good fruit and made some progress. But interest and expectation, not without some anxiety, gather round the new men and movements. The new scheme of British Colonization—more frequent steamship service and postal facilities—has been strengthened and developed by the aid of a substantial Government subsidy and the advent of not a few Australians as settlers and traders in the Islands. What may be the ultimate issue to our Mission and its people we must wait to see. Meanwhile it has enlarged the demand for native labour, enhanced the cost of such labour, and given our native teachers a claim to increased salaries. The establishment of the British Residency is now an accomplished fact, and the fairness and firmness, and energy and suavity of His Majesty's representative, Captain Rason, give reason for thankfulness and hope. The great desideratum—a joint Commission to settle the validity or otherwise of all professed titles to land, and to ensure justice to settlers and natives alike—is still wanting and ought to be sought and obtained with all earnestness.

The John G. Paton Committee and our own Church has each sent forth two new labourers into this field. Unfortunately, Dr. Nicholson only takes the place of the esteemed agent for the Board of Foreign Missions, Rev. F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D., and the Rev. Chas. E. Yates replaces Dr. Sandilands, who has been constrained to retire from a splendid and successful work on account of his wife's ill-health. Dr. McCausland has been placed as *locum tenens* in the hospital on Ambrim, subject to the payment of his salary by the New Zealand Church, that the hospital might remain of service to the Mission during Dr. Bowie's absence on furlough. Only the Rev. George Fleming breaks new ground at Port Vato, Ambrim. Another new and important movement is the prohibition by the French authorities of the sale of strong drink or firearms to the natives.

Dr. J. G. Paton has twice during the year visited the Islands. He has revised the dictionary and translations of the Scriptures for the Aniwas, given impulse and enthusiasm to the cause by his apostolic fervour, and still retains a wonderful measure of energy and enterprise. The press has been busy with the new books of other Missionaries also, who labour to let every man not only hear but read God's Word in his own tongue.

The Synod has accepted the resignation of the Dayspring Board, and appointed a Committee to make new arrangements for the Maritime Service. That this new departure may secure economy, harmony and efficient management, is the fervent hope of all concerned.

The British Resident has asked the aid of all the Missionaries in finding out, with a view to overcome, the causes of the present rapid decrease in the native population. This laudable effort deserves the prayerful and earnest co-operation of all, though some of the well-known causes will require a new creation to effect their destruction.

ANDREW HARDIE.

CHINESE.

The work among the Chinese during the past year has been most encouraging. Since last report there have been 17 baptisms—11 at Ballarat, 5 at Beechworth, 1 at Talbot. The attendance at the Sabbath services has been well maintained, and the classes held during the week have in some places increased.

There is a greater interest shown, too, by the local Presbyterian Churches in the work that is being carried on in their midst. At Beechworth the Mission house has been renovated at a cost of £54, and of this sum £34 were contributed by the Chinese.

Improvements have also been effected at Little Bendigo, and others are contemplated in connection with the Mission property at Golden Point. The property at Brunswick has been cleared of debt and formally handed over to the Assembly.

The year has seen some changes in the personnel of the staff. James Quong Chong, of Beechworth, has returned to China, whence reports have been received conveying news of his having been appointed to a charge in his native village by the American Presbyterian Mission. Paul Chan Marn, last year's student, has gone to Beechworth, and is doing good work there. Arrangements are being made for starting work in Rutherglen, Wahgunyah and Wangaratta, where there is a considerable Chinese population.

The Rev. James Clue, who has for the last 25 years been in the service of the Church, sent in his resignation at the beginning of the year, as he, too, wished to return to China, the resignation to take effect at the end of September. In consideration of his long and valuable services, the Committee decided to grant him a year's salary.

The school for Chinese children in Melbourne is still under the charge of Miss Pye, who with her lady volunteer assistants, is doing a splendid work.

ABORIGINES.

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer continues the supervision of the Mission at Ramahyuck, and during the year has regularly forwarded reports which have been of a most interesting character. The day school is carried on by Mrs. Stephens, who herself was trained at the Mission, and gives every evidence of being well qualified for the work. The services, both Sabbath and week-day, have been well attended, and the spiritual results have been very gratifying. A most interesting case of conversion was that of an old woman who had lived at the station for several years, and who had seemed impervious to the Gospel. At the age of eighty-five (85) she became a Christian, and bore beautiful testimony to the love of her Saviour until her death.

The Rev. J. Heyer attends to the spiritual wants of the blacks at Coranderrk.

KOREA.

Mission work in the "Hermit land" has progressed very much during the past year. From the various branches of our Mission the most encouraging reports have been received. Including the wives of the Missionaries, we have ten agents in the field, besides native assistants, teachers, colporteurs, and bible-women. A large number of baptisms has been recorded. Many journeys into the interior have been taken, and the Word has been preached far and wide. New preaching places have been opened up. A new home has been built for the female agents of the Women's Missionary Union. The medical department has proved a great boon to both European and Korean. Very excellent reports have been forwarded by Dr. Currell. Our staff has been instructed to co-operate with the other Missions in the field in the formation of a United Native Church. Much has already been done towards the accomplishing of this object. Altogether the prospects are good. But we could do with a large increase of our funds.

VICTORIAN CHURCH.

THE FOREIGN MISSION FUNDS FOR THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.										
				£	s.	d.								
Amount Contributed for the	New Hebrides, Chinese, and													
Aborigines Funds	...	...	...	1779	3	4	£2375	1	5					
A. G. Russell Fund	...	...	...	199	10	0	781	7	11					
Native Teachers' Fund	...	...	...	272	13	1	270	19	0					
Dayspring Maintenance Fund	...	...	...	684	15	1				3427	8	4		
Korean Mission Fund	...	...	...	288	0	10				327	0	8		
Deficiency	...	...	...	2141	3	9				267	16	6		
										890	2	5		
										348	5	6		
										104	12	8		
				<u>£5365</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>				<u>£5365</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>		

20

QUEENSLAND.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEATHEN MISSIONS.

In reporting upon the work of the past year, your Committee have to state that while nothing of singular importance has taken place, the work both in our Mission to the Kanakas at Mackay and in the General Assembly's Mission to the Aborigines at Mapoon and Weipa has been carried on steadily, and the reports which the Missionaries have forwarded to the Committee from time to time have been full of interest and encouragement. Your Committee are also pleased to be able to state that they have finished the year with a credit balance on all the accounts.

The work at Mackay is naturally of special interest to us, not only because it is our own Mission through which for many years we have brought the influence of the Gospel to bear upon many of the South Sea Islanders who have come to live in our country for a time, but also because, as a result of Federal legislation, we are confronted already with the beginning of its end. Mr. Walker, our Missionary at Mclere, has resigned his position because of the scarcity of "boys" in his district, and the Committee have been forced regretfully to accept his resignation and close the work in that particular part of the field. The work at Walkerston, carried on under the fostering care of Rev. J. McL. McIntyre, while it is still actively and successfully pursued, must shortly come to an end, and with it will close an interesting side of our Church life and history. The balance-sheet shows the condition of the Kanaka Mission Fund, which as already stated, is satisfactory.

As is usual and as is fitting, your Committee acknowledge with gratitude the services rendered by the Rev. James Gibson, M.A., and the consultative Committee at Mackay, and desire to thank E. M. Long, Esq., of Habana, and F. J. Stevens, Esq., of Colton Vale, for kind interest and helpfulness in the work.

The work among the Aborigines at Mapoon, under the Rev. N. Hey, and at Weipa, under the Rev. E. Brown, which is under the supervision of your Committee acting as the Executive of the General Assembly's Board of Missions, has been earnestly pursued during the year; and at both stations there are evidences that the Gospel message, as proclaimed and lived by the Mission staff, is having its own influence upon the people among whom they labour.

During the sitting of last Assembly the Rev. J. B. Russell was absent visiting both stations, and his report upon the various aspects of the work is one which is not only of deep interest, but will be of great service to the Committee in guiding the affairs of the Mission.

The Rev. N. Hey is at present on furlough, and his place at Mapoon is being filled by the Rev. Mr. Richter, who has come to us from the Moravian Board, and who, it is hoped, will be appointed to a new station on the Archer River on the return of Mr. Hey to Mapoon. The Committee earnestly hope that Mr. Hey and his family may come back from Europe thoroughly refreshed and ready for another term of service.

The work at Weipa, under Mr. Brown, makes steady progress, and in his letters he writes of one and another giving him ground for hope that "upon them bath the light shined."

The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union continues its helpful work, and the report of its operations is upon the table of the Assembly.

Again your Committee have to thank the Hon. J. G. F. Foxton for his hearty co-operation, and to the Hon. John Douglas and Dr. Roth they would express their gratitude for services most heartily given.

At last meeting of General Assembly, held in Melbourne, the Board of Missions brought forward a recommendation that the Church should have a General Agent in connection with its Heathen Mission Work, for the purpose of awakening and stimulating and directing interest in the work throughout the various States. The Assembly heartily agreed to the proposal, and the Rev. Frank H. L. Paton, B.D., was appointed to the position. The appointment of Mr. Paton, who has been so closely connected with our Missions, both personally and relatively, cannot fail to result in much benefit to the work.

W. SWEYN MACQUEEN, Convener.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

NORTH QUEENSLAND.

Your Committee has no direct information to give this year as to the work in this important sphere. The Queensland Executive, however, deputed the Rev. James B. Russel to make a full and searching investigation of the whole work at Mapoon and Weipa, and his report is most favourable.

NEW HEBRIDES.

Our Missionary, Mr. Macmillan, is hard at work at White Sands, Weasisi, and Lenakel, on Tanna. In his letters he tells of a catechumen's class attended by the natives, including three chiefs who are men of considerable influence. The recently appointed French Resident has forbidden French traders to supply arms, ammunition, dynamite, and intoxicating liquors to the natives. This prohibition, along with the firmness of the British Resident in the same direction, should remove some of the obstacles in the way of Christian work. The 500 hymn books printed and sent to Mr. Macmillan by your Committee last year have been eagerly taken up; and what is peculiarly gratifying is that they have been paid for by the natives themselves. A good deal of manual labour has fallen to Mr. Macmillan of late, and as there is so much to do in other ways, your Committee has sanctioned the employment for a few months of an artisan as an assistant in the person of Mr. Carruthers, whose help for a nominal sum has been greatly appreciated. Your Committee is also pleased to report that Mrs. Macmillan's health, which for a time was rather poor, is practically restored. Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan are looking forward to their furlough, which is due about the end of the year—a very necessary episode in a Missionary's life, if his work is to be properly done. Altogether the work is steadily progressing, although the discouragements are many.

The enterprise of Christian Mission work in heathen lands is not to be narrowly scrutinised from the point of view of commercial profit and loss. It calls for generous dealing and large-heartedness on the part of Christian people, and the work on Tanna is no exception. In this connection your Committee desires to place on record a sense of the loss sustained by the death of Mrs. Lyall. Her enthusiasm in the cause is too well known to be dwelt on in this report. She was truly a woman of mighty faith, and counted not her life dear to herself if by any means she might extend and deepen the interest in Foreign Mission Work.

In the matter of the appointment of the Rev. F. H. L. Paton as Missionary Agent for the United Church of Australia, the Mission Board of the United Church has intimated to your Committee that the proportion of his salary of £400 to be paid by the Church in South Australia amounts to £14. Your Committee is pleased to report that Mr. Paton intends to visit the congregations in South Australia in the month of July. He will devote six weeks to the work, giving addresses and exhibiting limelight views of Island scenes. Your Committee would bespeak for Mr. Paton an enthusiastic welcome on the occasion of his visit.

In conclusion, your Committee has to report that, as the result of a deputation from the P. W. M. Union, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Assembly that the relation of the P. W. M. U. to the Assembly be clearly defined.

By authority of the Committee,

GEORGE DAVIDSON *p. o.* JAMES LYALL, Convener.



TASMANIA.

NEW HEBRIDES REPORT.

Your Committee have much pleasure in presenting their report to the General Assembly. There are visible tokens of a gradual rise in Missionary interest throughout the whole Church, as seen by accompanying Balance Sheet. Some of our Churches have more than doubled their contributions to the Mission Fund, and others with a very substantial increase. One reason of this increase is no doubt accounted for by the visitation of the Churches by the Convener and then by the Rev. R. M. Fraser, our Missionary, who was lately home on furlough, and last but not the least, the Agent, Rev. F. H. L. Paton, B.D.

We were all very pleased with the result of our Agent's visitation to our Churches. In the very short time allowed by the Board for him to remain here, he crowded a remarkable amount of work in the short time, so that we are able to report that he visited all the Churches and Mission charges, save those on the West Coast. If he could give Tasmania two months every alternate year, your Committee here would be satisfied.

At our last meeting of the State Assembly it was decided, in order to further develop the interest in Mission work, that a Women's Missionary Union be started, with branches in all the Churches. We expect through this Union to bring together into conjoint organisation the many admirable agencies in women's work which are already existent in some of our Churches, as well as individual workers connected with Congregations who share in various forms of Church work, and on the other hand, to overtake many types of Christian work, besides Foreign Mission work, for which women are specially suited, and which are not systematically undertaken by the Church at present. The Committee suggested that the Union should have an annual meeting of the members and all ladies in sympathy with the work, with a conference on and comparison of methods and operations, which would be full of suggestiveness, and inevitably enlarge the scope of operations in many directions. What can be done would be learned from what is being done.

We are hopeful our Ministers and Missionary and Elders will take up this work more heartily. As our Missionary has only recently returned to the Islands, he has nothing yet to report.

ALEX. HARDIE, Convener.



CHURCH OF TASMANIA.

Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements for last Financial Year.

NEW HEBRIDES ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.					£	s.	d.	DISBURSEMENTS.					£	s.	d.			
Balance brought forward	23	11	0	Salaries and Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	237	7	3
Contributions, &c.	251	5	2	Balance in hand	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	8	11
					<u>£276 16 2</u>								<u>£276 16 2</u>					

NATIVE TEACHERS' FUND.

Balance brought forward	...	...	...	...	...	17	10	0	Teachers' Salaries and Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	0	3
Contributions	...	...	...	...	...	31	2	7	Balance in hand	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	12	4
					<u>£48 12 7</u>								<u>£48 12 7</u>					

CHURCH IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 1902-3.

At its meeting in January, 1902, our Assembly appointed a Foreign Missions Committee, but without defining its functions. During the course of 1902 we endeavoured to stimulate an interest in Foreign Missions by monthly articles in the *Presbyterian*. In December, 1902, we made our first attempt at raising funds by means of retiring collections in the various Churches. Only half our Churches responded, and less than £20 was contributed. Of this sum we sent forward £17 13s. 3d., requesting that it should be divided equally between the New Hebrides, the Korean and the North Queensland Missions.

At the last meeting of our Assembly, in April, 1903, the Foreign Mission scheme was put upon a more satisfactory basis. Collections were appointed to be taken on a fixed date in the Churches and Sabbath Schools, and the scheme commended to the generous support of the Church. Ministers were also requested to exchange pulpits and to preach missionary sermons at least once a year. As a result of the collections made in May of this year, over £25 was contributed, besides a sum of £29 from St. Andrew's Missionary Association, Perth. Of this amount we have sent forward £49. We wish £9 to go towards the payment of Rev. Frank Paton's salary, and £40 towards the support of the various Missions, as indicated to the General Treasurer (Mr. A. L. Pryde). We are looking forward with interest to the visit of the Foreign Missions' Agent, and have made preparations for what we hope will prove to be a successful tour of our Churches. We trust the visit of Mr. Paton will be much blessed and owned of God. As a result of his labours we hope to be able to send a further sum towards the support of the good work in some needy Mission field.

When it is borne in mind that the Church in this State is a Missionary Church and is itself receiving support from the outside, it cannot but be a subject of thankfulness to God that we have been able to send forward, within the year, a sum of over £66. We trust the amount contributed to Foreign Missions will be largely increased as time goes on, and that our Church will realise that it is indeed "more blessed to give than to receive."

In the name of the Committee,

JOHN J. GILMORE, B.A., Convener.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

Receipts.		Disbursements.	
Contributions..	£19 7 2	Missions	£19 7 2

II.

REPORT OF COLLEGE COMMITTEE, 1903.

Immediately after last General Assembly in Melbourne, a meeting of the College Committee was held, and as the Convener, Dr. Meiklejohn, expected soon to leave Australia on a visit to Scotland, the Rev. Alexander Yule, Convener of the Theological Hall Committee and Examination Board of the Victorian Church, was appointed to act as *Interim* Convener during Dr. Meiklejohn's absence. Before going away Dr. Meiklejohn sent a letter asking attention to some things requiring to be considered. (1.) An inaccuracy which had crept into one of the published statements of the Entrance Examination Syllabus for 1904. (2.) The desirableness of uniformity in the intermediate examinations of the two Halls between entrance and exit. (3.) The necessity of preparing a Time Table or Calendar for the two examinations of Entrance and Exit, which are under the charge of the College Committee.

On the 17th March a meeting of all the members of the College Committee residing in Victoria was convened, and five members were present. The correction of the Entrance Syllabus for 1904, as published in the Blue Book of 1902, was agreed to. The proposal of drawing up a Time Table for the Entrance and Exit Examinations of 1904 was approved and Dr. M. Macdonald was appointed to prepare a draft of such a plan for conducting the Exit Examination, and the *Interim* Convener to prepare a similar plan for the Entrance. It was agreed to correspond with members of the College Committee in New South Wales through the Theological Faculty of St. Andrew's College, mentioning the matters that had been discussed and asking their opinion.

At a subsequent meeting in Melbourne on June 16th a letter from Dr. MacInnes, of Sydney, was read, stating that the beforementioned matters had been submitted to the Theological Faculty, that they approved of the correction of the Syllabus and of the proposal to have a Time Table sanctioned for conducting the Entrance and Exit Examinations, that they thought all the uniformity desirable in the intermediate examinations would be secured by the Exit Examinations. They drew attention to the circumstance that it would be needful that the Professors and Lecturers should come to an agreement as to the books to be used in teaching and examined upon at the Exit. The Committee found that efforts in this direction were being made, which they hope will soon result in an arrangement so that a Syllabus may be prepared and issued by the Assembly and the necessary books procured by the students.

A Conference was also held by the Victorian section of the College Committee with the Theological Hall Committee of the Victorian Church, and the Conference were of opinion that the matter of intermediate examinations should be left entirely in the hands of the local authorities. They recommended also that part of the money arising from royalties on the Hymnary should be allocated to the purpose of helping students in their preliminary studies for the University.

The subjoined draft of Time Tables was subsequently considered and revised, and is now submitted.

The present Report is only a Progress one. The full Committee will meet on Wednesday, 23rd September, at 2.30 in the Church Offices, Sydney, to consider and issue a final Report.

ALEXANDER YULE, *Interim Convener.*

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

At a meeting of the full Committee, held at Sydney on 23rd Sept., a general approval was given to the Progress Report printed in the White Book. The Kalendar for Entrance and Exit Examinations, 1904, was amended and ordered to be printed in the Blue Book as follows:—

ENTRANCE AND EXIT EXAMINATIONS FOR 1904.

KALENDAR AND ORDER OF WORK.

NOTE:—Two Examiners for each subject, not in the same State. The Examiners to draw up the Paper alternately—*e.g.*, Examiner A in 1904, and Examiner B in 1905.

ENTRANCE.

The Examination is fixed by last General Assembly to begin on 2nd Tuesday of February (9th February), 1904.

1903.

SEPT. 24.—The places of examination distant from Sydney and Melbourne to be fixed at the time of the General Assembly, and all applications for such distant examinations to be in by that time. Special cases to be left to the Convener to arrange.

1903.

DEC. 31.—Convener to remind Examiners to prepare Papers. Names of all Candidates, with necessary papers and certificates, to be in hands of Convener before this date. In the case of Students who must pass a University deferred examination in March, a Special Entrance Examination shall be set, after the results of the deferred examinations have been declared.

1904.

JAN. 5.—Examiner setting Paper to forward draft to Colleague, to be returned within a week, and forwarded by the Examiner setting it in time for meeting of Board to pass.

20.—Meeting of Board of Examination to pass Papers and appoint members to superintend examinations.

FER. 9)

10) Examination held. Each day's papers to be sent as ready to Examiners, and
11) to be reported not later than 25th February.
12)

25.—Board or Committee of Board, meet to ascertain results and announce who have passed.

1904.

EXIT.

- JULY 25.—Convener to remind Examiners to prepare papers.
 AUG. 10.—Examiner setting Paper sends draft to his Colleague.
 22.—Examiner setting Paper sends draft to Professors and Lecturers—
 “for consultation.”
 29.—Meeting of Examination Board to pass Papers submitted and appoint
 members to conduct examination.
- SEPT. 5 {
 6 { Examination held. Answers despatched by each day's mail to Examiner A
 7 { (say in Victoria), who examines and despatches them to Examiner B
 8 { (say in New South Wales) *not later than* 14th September.
 9 }
- 27.—Reports of both Examiners to be in the hands of Convener of Board by this
 date.
 28.—General Assembly meets.
 29.—Board to meet: Ascertain results and draw up Report.
 30.—Report to the General Assembly.

The question raised by the Overture from the Theological Faculty of St. Andrew's College, Sydney, as to making a two years' course in each subject sufficient for all the students, was discussed, and the following resolution was adopted with respect to the coming year, viz. :—“That the students be required to sit for the Exit Examinations in Hebrew, Church History, and Apologetics at the completion of their respective courses in these subjects in each Hall, and on all other subjects at the close of the third year.”

A syllabus of subjects for the Exit Examination of 1904 was arranged as follows :—

I. Theology :—

Subject : Application of Redemption. Text Books : Dr. J. S. Candlish's “Christian Salvation,” pp. 54 to 204; Dr. J. S. Candlish's “Work of the Holy Spirit”; Dr. Orr's “Christian View of God and the World,” Appendix to Lecture V. and Lecture IX. Books recommended for reading : John Owen's *Dctrine of the Holy Spirit*; Charles' *Eschatology* (Jowett Lecture).

II. Church History :—

Subjects : (A) History of the Scottish Church and kindred Churches, from John Knox to the present day. (B) History of Religion in England since the Reformation, especially—(a) The Puritan Struggle; (b) The Methodist Revival; (c) The Oxford Movement. Text Books : Zeno's *Compendium*, pp. 287-334; Ogilvie's “Presbyterian Churches”; Walker's “Scottish Church History”; Hamilton's “Irish Presbyterian Church”; Drysdale's “English Presbyterians.” Books recommended for reading : MacPherson's *History of the Church in Scotland*; Cunningham's *Church History of Scotland*; Mitchell's *Westminster Assembly*; Killen's *Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, II.*; Overton's *The Church of England, II.*; Stoughton's *Church of the Georgian Era*; Lecky's *History of England in the Eighteenth Century, Chapter VIII.*; Southey's *Life of Wesley*; Telford's *Popular History of Methodism.*

III. New Testament, (Greek, and Exegesis :—

Text : Philippians and Ephesians (Westcott and Hort's Text). Exegesis : Philippians, Lightfoot. Introduction : Bacon's *Introduction to New Testament*, “The Pauline Epistles,” pp. 55-126.

IV. Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis :—

Hebrew—Isaiah, Chapters I. to XII. inclusive. Text Book for Exegesis, Skinner. 2 Samuel I. to VII. inclusive. Text Book for Exegesis, Kirkpatrick.
 First half of Robertson's *Early Religion of Israel*. Introduction to Isaiah I. in Skinner and to 2 Samuel in Kirkpatrick. Davidson's *Syntax, First Division*, and all references in the *Syntax* to texts set.

V. Christian Philosophy and Apologetics :—

- (1) Theism—Text Book, Flint's *Theism*. [Excepting part of Lecture IX., viz., pp. 276, at foot (“I pass from it,” &c.), to end of Lecture IX.; and excepting also the Appendices, pp. 322 to end of book.]
- (2) Revelation and Its Records—Bruce's *The Chief End of Revelation*, Chapter II., viz., “The Chief Design of Revelation”; and Chapter IV., viz., “The Function of Miracle in Revelation.”

SYLLABUS FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 1905.

The Entrance Examination common to the Theological Halls in Melbourne and Sydney will be held on Tuesday, February 7th, 1905, and will be on the following Syllabus:—

FOR GRADUATES.

Scripture History—Genesis, Exodus, the Acts of the Apostles.
The Shorter Catechism—(Salmond's Handbook).
Hebrew—Davidson's Grammar, Sections 1-2) (matter in small print excepted).
Exercises 12-20.

CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOT GRADUATES

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

Greek—Anabasis, Book I. (Bell's Classics); the Gospel of Luke I. to IX.
Latin—Virgil, Æneid, Book VI. (Bell's Classics). Caesar, De Bello Gallico, Book I. (Bell's Classics).
Moral Philosophy—Ethical Principles, by James Seth.
Mental Philosophy—Scottish Philosophy, by Andrew Seth.
History—Green's Short History, Ch. I. to VIII. Student's Gibbon, Chapters I. to XVI.
English—Meiklejohn's English Language and Literature, Parts I. and III. Shakespeare, "Julius Cæsar" (Clarendon Press), and Essay.

THEOLOGICAL HALL, ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.—REPORT OF SENATUS, 1903.

The Session of 1903, the thirty-eighth in our history, was opened and closed a week earlier than formerly, to admit of the Exit results being reported to the General Assembly of Australia. The day of opening was 4th March, and the Session closed on 21st August. There were short vacations (of one week each) in May and in July. The inaugural address was given by Professor Rentoul, his subject being: "The Latest Swing of Criticism as to Christ and the New Testament"; at the closing meeting an address, entitled "The Master's Call," was given by the Right Rev. the Moderator (Rev. A. Hardie).

Twenty-five Students were enrolled, being the largest number in the history of the Hall. Of these, three were private Students of our own Church, while three gentlemen of other denominations attended lectures by permission of the Senatus. Of the regular Students, seven were of the first year, five of the second year, and seven of the third.

The health of the Students has been good, and the Professors have pleasure in testifying to the excellence of their conduct, which has been in every way worthy of men preparing for the Christian Ministry. The average attendance has been satisfactory, and the preparation of prescribed class-work has indicated regular and careful study.

A Course of Lectures on "Practical Training for the Ministry," divided between the Professors, was given this year, in addition to the usual courses. Professor Macdonald dealt with "The Devotional Service," Professor Rentoul with "The Sermon," and Professor Campbell Smith with "Pastoral Work."

The Elocution Class has been carried on by Rev. Thos. Tait, M.A., B.D. (George Wilson Lecturer on Elocution), who reports: "Year after year, I have been able to report almost perfect attendance at the class of elocution; and I am happy to say that the Session just closed is no exception. The conduct of the Students has been most exemplary, and their practical interest in the work of the class has been real and sustained. By means of lectures, tests, exercises, etc., the fundamental principles of public speaking have been carefully set forth and applied. As far as time permitted, attention was given to the special needs of the individual. Satisfactory results have already appeared; and still more will ensue when more time is given to practice."

As to the Library, the Librarian (Professor Macdonald) reports that 217 volumes have been added to the library during the year; of these, 28 were purchased; 176 were presented by friends in Scotland whom Principal Harper, of St. Andrew's College, Sydney, had interested in the library; eight by Mr. M. L. Hutchinson; three by the Librarian; and one by Mrs. John McNeil. Of the books gifted through Professor Harper 98 are in German, among them the most recent Commentaries on Old and New Testament books. The Senatus tender their best thanks to Dr. Harper and his friends, and to the other donors. The borrowings from the Library have been large as compared with those of last year—306 books were lent to 22 Students, an average of 14.

The Theological Christian Union, which includes all the Students attending the Hall, has met weekly throughout the Session. One half of the meetings have been devotional, while at the alternate meetings missionary problems have been discussed. The Report of the Union states that interest in mission-work, both at home and abroad, has been greatly stimulated through the Student Missionary Conference, held in Ormond College early in the Session. During the Session, members of the Union have given regular religious instruction in a neighbouring State-school. The Ormond College Missionary Society undertakes the support of an Industrial Assistant Teacher among the Aborigines at Mapoon, North Queensland, and of a Native Teacher on Tanna, New Hebrides. This involves the Society in an outlay of £66, which is raised chiefly by appeals to Congregations made by Students when taking services in such pulpits as may be open to them.

Professor Campbell Smith will be President of Senatus for the year 1904, and Professor Rentoul, Secretary.

The Session for 1904 will be opened on Wednesday, 2nd March, when the Inaugural Lecture will be given by Professor Macdonald.

A. CAMPBELL SMITH, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL FACULTY, ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, 1903.

The opening lecture of the Session was delivered by the President on March 17, 1903 at a meeting which was presided over by the Moderator (Right Rev. John Walkøer), and attended by many ministers and other friends of the Hall. The class lectures began on the following day in the several departments: under Professor Harper in the Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament and Hebrew; under Professor Kinross in Apologetics and Christian Ethics; under Dr. MacInnes in the Exegetical Theology of the New Testament; under Dr. Clouston in Historical Theology; under Dr. Macky in Systematic and Biblical Theology. Mr. John Garland, M.A., LL.B., M.L.A., the Procurator of the Church, delivered lectures on Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure; and the Steel Lecturer for the year, the Rev. David Smith, M.A., of Albury, gave a short course on Pastoral Theology. In addition, at the invitation of the Faculty, the Rev. J. Anderson Gardiner, B.A., of Manly, gave valuable instruction to the students in Sacred Rhetoric and Pulpit Oratory. The number of students enrolled was nine. In the third year, Mr. James B. Rentoul. In the second year, Mr. F. W. Gresham, Mr. E. S. Henderson, Mr. W. H. McCook, B.A., Mr. J. H. M. Nolan, M.A., and Mr. P. A. Smith. In the first year, Mr. P. Hope, B.A., Mr. George Logan, B.A., and Mr. J. N. McGee.

After careful deliberation, the Faculty decided that it was inexpedient that the students should be required to attend every year the lectures in all the subjects embraced in the curriculum. It would be for their advantage to concentrate their attention on a smaller number of subjects, and accordingly it was arranged that the students of the first year should attend lectures in Old Testament Exegesis, Systematic Theology, Church History, and Christian Ethics; for the second year, in Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Church History and Apologetics; and for the third year in New Testament Exegesis, Systematic Theology, and Apologetics. The Faculty believes that this arrangement will conduce to the efficiency of the Hall.

The library has been enriched by the purchase and gifts of a number of the latest theological books in every department. This has been made possible by the generosity of a number of friends, some of whom have promised annual contributions to a fund for that purpose; and from the amount obtained from the proceeds of a course of lectures, delivered by Professor Harper, on "Prophecy," amounting to about £20, which was divided between the Theological Hall library and the library of St. Andrew's College.

As in former years, the attendance and diligence of the students have been satisfactory, except in the case of one student. All, however, have been commended to the Board of Examiners.

It was gratifying to note that four out of the five students, who finished their course last session, were settled in charges within a few months, and that the fifth, Rev. E. N. Merrington, M.A., has been awarded a travelling scholarship by the University of Sydney, and has gone to prosecute his studies for two years further in Scotland and America.

T. E. CLOUSTON, D.D., President.
G. MACINNES, Secretary.

III.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

Your Committee reports :—

(1) That the synopses of operations in the Home Mission field, present and projected, furnished by the State Committees are highly encouraging, and give evidence of a brave and hopeful spirit.

(2) That the need of agents, with ministerial qualifications, suitable for pioneering work in settlements and pastoral and mining areas remote from the larger centres of population, cannot be over-emphasised.

(3) That the training of lay agents with a view to ministerial status is an urgent claim upon the Cause which your Committee serves and which the whole Church of Australia has at heart. In order to realize how common the needs are and how divergent the methods proposed for meeting the same, it will suffice to compare the Home Mission Training Schemes of Victoria with the Lay Pastor Ordinance of Western Australia. It falls to this Assembly to provide a plan of training which in its broad features will be adaptable to the several States.

(4) That Queensland, South Australian and Western Australian State Assemblies earnestly call for Commissioners from the General Assembly to visit their respective States in the interests of Church extension in the territories away back. This appeal has the warm sympathy of your Committee.

(5) Synopses.

(a) NEW SOUTH WALES.

In view of the distress caused by the prolonged drought, the work of the Home Mission has, by God's blessing, made satisfactory progress.

The contributions to the Fund received from the appointed collections and the Women's Missionary Association amounted to £542 14s. 8d., showing an increase on the income of the previous year of £53 10s. 3d.

During the year seven Ministers have been received from Great Britain and Ireland, a result largely due to the diligence of Mr. W. Wood, our Financial Secretary, in concert with our Agents of the Home Churches, on his visit to the old lands. Five of our Students have been licensed and ordained, and two Ministers from other State Churches have been received. All these have been at the service of the Committee.

Of the Districts under the Committee's care, four have been erected into sanctioned Charges by the Presbyteries within whose boundaries they lay, while several new Districts have been occupied and supplied with religious services.

A donation of £500 has been promised by a liberal member of the Church for the purpose of defraying the passages of suitable Ministers from the Home Countries, the half of which has been paid and transmitted for that purpose to the Church's Home Agents.

In response to an appeal from our Church in Western Australia to aid her in meeting the demands for service caused by the rapid influx of population, the passage of a Minister to that State has, according to the instructions of the preceding Assembly, been paid out of the Church's ordinary passage fund.

From the Logan Bequest Fund for aiding to initiate new Parishes in Country Districts, 20 Charges were assisted on a scale fixed by the Assembly.

In the course of the year visits were made to the Districts under the Committee's care by the Commissioner of Assembly and by the Convener, as any emergency or the work of organisation rendered necessary.

(b) VICTORIA.

The work of our Home Mission Committee may thus be summed up :—

84 Mission Agents—a few of these are Ministers.

300 Preaching Places.

15,000 people attending these services.

Home Mission Agents : Ordained, 190 ; Students, 11 ; Missionaries, 59.

FINANCE.—Amount required to meet estimated expenditure, £2,400. This is specially large owing to the drought. We may have to overdraw this year.

Fresh ground was broken in different parts of the State during the year.

There is one thing we wish specially to bring before you. We have in Victoria a four years' Mission training course which leads up to the Entrance Exam. at the Hall. At the consummation of the Union this, we suppose, is considered to be abolished as an entrance to the Hall. But we think that this should be continued until the General Assembly legislate expressly about the matter. A number of our Mission Agents are in a state of suspense, and we are very anxious to give them some definite information which they have a right to get. If the Assembly is not prepared to formulate a scheme at once, we hope it will allow our scheme until this is done.

The Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria having taken into consideration their course of training for Home Missionaries in relation to entrance to the Theological Hall, beg to recommend as follows to the General Assembly of Australia :—“ That Home Missionaries who entered upon their training course subsequent to the Union in 1901 shall be entitled, after completing a four years' training course and passing an examination at its close, to enter the Theological Hall on condition that they pass (1) the Matriculation Examination in Melbourne or Sydney (including Greek and Latin), and (2) the Entrance Examination for the Theological Hall, it being understood that the Victorian Missionaries who commenced their course prior to July, 1901, be entitled to enter the Victorian Theological Hall upon the old rules of the Victorian General Assembly.”

The need of some preliminary training for candidates for Home Mission work has long been felt. A sub-committee, with the Rev. P. J. Murdoch, M.A., Convener, submitted the following scheme :—

1. That six months' training be required before appointment to Missionary work.
2. That applicants for training be members of the Presbyterian Church, and bring the recommendation of their Minister and of the H.M. Committee.
3. That the six months' training be provided in connection with the Deaconesses Institute.
4. That, in order to meet the expenses of the candidates during their training, the Committee find Ministers willing to employ them as Church workers during the six months, these Ministers either to pay them £1 per week or find them board and lodging.
5. That the candidates who pass through this training to the satisfaction of the H.M. Committee be guaranteed immediate employment at the rate of £100 per annum.

The Rev. J. Jackson's scheme of Missionary training is also forwarded :—“ Instead of six months' preliminary training, which is too short for the purpose, I would give twelve, or two sessions, say, of five months each. The two main objects of the course should be, as in the Moody Bible Institute, to give the Students a good working knowledge of the Bible, and to teach and train them to do personal work, while something might be necessary in the way of instruction in English composition. I would propose to follow up this work (with its examinations) by setting a course of home study extending over three years, including an examination at the close of each year. The course to be as follows :—1st year, Bible and Christian Ethics ; 2nd year, Bible and Christian Evidences ; 3rd year, Bible and Church History, particularly the Reformation period. The Missionary who completes the course to be ordained as an Elder of the Church, and to be empowered where necessary to celebrate marriages, to dispense the sacraments, and to have the privilege of going up for the Entrance Examination to the Theological Hall.”

(c.) QUEENSLAND.

In the Presbytery of Brisbane, five Home Mission fields are occupied at present—in Toowoomba Presbytery, two ; in Maryborough Presbytery, three ; in Townsville Presbytery (embracing the whole northern province of the State), two ; while in the Rockhampton Presbytery only one place is under our care.

Roughly speaking, there are under the care of the Committee 20 Church buildings and 51 preaching stations. About 950 families are represented at services conducted by Home Mission Agents. There are 420 communicants in H.M. Charges. Last year their income reached £2,000, of which over one-half was given for stipend purposes and the balance for building and other special objects.

You will notice that our work touches very little of the interior of the State. With the exception of Clermont (nominally occupied at present), Charleville, Westbrook, and Gowrie, all our work lies within a hundred miles of the coast. We have been turning our eyes specially to the central districts—i.e., to the portion of the State lying west of Rockhampton, where there is a field magnificent in its magnitude. We are at present considering a proposal to work that territory from Emerald as a centre. By its railway conveniences it would be a splendid headquarters for working north, south, east, and west. Our idea is to locate a number of men there, and let them work, on the the community principle, as far out as they can reach.

Here we might refer to the desirability of beginning work in the St. George district (between Roma and New South Wales border), also in the North Coast district between Brisbane and Gympie, and at Thursday Island, where there appears to be a very good opening at present. These do not, of course, exhaust the necessitous districts; they only represent the more claimant ones. Were it known that the Committee was in a position to undertake extensive work, applications would pour in upon us from all parts of the State; but, alas! we are not in such a position.

We may take this opportunity to remark on the benefit which would accrue to our work if we had a suitable man to visit our fields to stimulate, advise, and help in organisation. The prospect of possessing such a man savours to much of luxury for us, in our present condition, to contemplate, but feel it more every year that some such agent as this is absolutely necessary. What visitation we can do ourselves is profitable, but it is very little we can do.

This report would be very defective if it did not take special notice, not only of the visit of Mr. Andrew Stewart to Queensland, but also of the efforts he has put forth in Scotland on behalf of this work, by stirring up interest in it, and by procuring suitable men as Missionaries. All those men added during the year to the ranks of your Committee's workers have come through Mr. Stewart's agency. Hitherto these agents have been sent out free of all expense.

(d.) SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A cause for congratulation is the arrival amongst us of a Minister commissioned to the Church in this State by the United Free Church of Scotland. On the other hand, one Minister has left the State, and another has demitted his charge through stress of age.

There are six vacant Charges: among these Port Augusta, the most independent of all our Congregations, receiving as it does the least financial aid from the Home Mission Fund, and the one which amid many discouragements is holding its own, reducing its debt, and showing conclusively that the long-continued and most praiseworthy efforts of an Elder are not only appreciated, but producing results which are the admiration of all who are interested in the Congregation there and at Wianowie. Another forward movement, under the supervision of the Adelaide Presbytery, substantially helped by the General Assembly, is the establishment of a Mission charge at Hawthorn, which takes in parts of the suburbs Malvern and Mitcham. Services have been held with encouraging results for upwards of a year, and at a *pro re nata* meeting of the Assembly, the Committee was authorised to expend £500 by way of loan, in the purchase of a site and the erection of a building. The Committee sincerely trusts that this and the Murray Bridge charge are but the earnest of a persistent forward movement in this State in the great Home Mission cause, which must be a prominent feature of the lately Federated Church, if it is to hold its own, or make the progress it should throughout the Commonwealth.

Smith of Danesk Mission:—By the good hand of God upon us, prospects are now cheerier, and the work committed to our care is going on with many proofs of success. The Rev. J. Bently Reid has now been ten months in the field. The record of his travels is unique. Despite drought and all other handicaps, he has covered a surprising amount of country. He has thoroughly identified himself with the people and the work, and finds hearty welcome wherever he goes.

During the year eight of the stations (sheep) usually visited have been temporarily closed. This is owing to the absence of rain and the consequent feedless condition of the runs. The managers of these stations are travelling their flocks wherever a patch of feed is to be found. Such a state of things makes it hard for all concerned, and reduces the residents to be visited within the Mission area.

Mr. Reid is a man who does not stop to bewail the misery abounding, but bestirs himself and carries in his right hand the Gospel of hope. He has in this way brought fresh courage to many a desponding heart.

Mr. Reid's journal is full of interest, as showing his travels, his bush experiences, his opportunities for doing service to his fellows, and some of the strange incidents that have come before him. Space forbids a reference to these. So far as medical assistance is concerned, the Missionary is kept as busy as ever, and his efforts are as greatly blessed and appreciated as ever. The last supply of medicines was kindly sent by Chalmers Church.

The following is the tally of work and travel during the 10 months:—Distance by rail, 1964 miles; horse or trap, 3056 miles; total, 4962 miles. Baptisms, 15; marriage, 1.

(e.) TASMANIA.

This Church has 11 Home Mission centres with a group of stations round each. The grievous lack of ordained Ministerial agents is deplored. Lay ministrations bulk largely in the Home Mission Work. Says the Convener:—"We could do excellent work over here, but have no funds. More funds would secure not better, but better trained men, and the work would greatly gain."

There are some cheerful notes in a not too inspiring report. It is true in Tasmania, as elsewhere, that men of vigorous faith and common sense find their labours to be not in vain in the Lord.

(f.) WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Since the Assembly in April, Rev. D. B. Smith, M.A., Minister of East Fremantle, has been loosed from his charge and has taken up work in the Geraldton and Murdoch District as Superintendent of Home Missions in that sphere. He is to be inducted to Geraldton next week. This in accordance with the H. M. Scheme.

Then we are now in communication with H. Buntine, student at Ormond College, *re* taking up work on the South Western Railway Line. He may do this for five months, when we hope to have someone else ready by that time to take his place.

We are busy, too, in raising a Bursary to help any deserving Student with a view to the Ministry.

The Committee has sent home for two Licentiates and four Lay Missionaries to open out Home Missions along the Railway Lines and in large Agricultural Districts.

It would be a great boon to our Church if you could persuade two or three of your Committee to visit the West—say along with the Moderator. They should stay three weeks and address meetings, etc. We want to familiarise our folk with the idea of one Church and one great work. Our difficulties are your difficulties magnified ten times. We feel that our own resources are not developed, and such a visit should both interest and stimulate our people. Come!

N.B.—Don't think of sending one; we need three at least.

THE HOME MISSION SCHEME.

That instead of one Home Mission Agent, local Superintendents be appointed, each of these being an ordained Minister in charge.

That as soon as practicable, four such Superintendents be appointed.

That each Superintendent should have the help of a Lay Missionary or Missionaries, and should take the oversight of all Home Mission work in his district.

That the Home Mission Committee be empowered to make these appointments in co-operation with the respective Presbyteries and consent of congregations where such exist.

That the Lay Missionaries be designated Pastors.

That in the event of such Pastors being brought from the Old Country, the engagement be for three years.

That no such Pastor labour for more than two years in one station.

That in engaging such Pastors the Home Mission Committee come under no pledge to ordain them until they comply with the Rules relating to the training of Ministers.

- That the Assembly offer some inducement to these and other young men desirous of studying for the Ministry.
 That the Superintendents should be members of the Home Mission Committee *ex officio*, and report to the Committee at regular intervals.
 That the Pastors be licensed to perform the ceremony of marriage.

It was remitted to your Committee by last General Assembly to formulate a scheme anent the training of Home Mission Agents. Earnest attention has been given to this important and urgent question. Three courses were closely considered. (1.) The Assembly might resolve to recognise an order of Catechists or Lay Pastors, whose sphere shall be in pioneer work, and whose training for their work shall be under such special regulations as their respective State Assemblies may determine, subject to the approval of the General Assembly of Australia. These Lay Agents might on certificate of competency from their respective Assemblies (or H.M. Committees) be registered on the books of the Home Mission Committee of Australia, and thereafter be open to accept translation from State to State. (2.) The Assembly might determine to create a second order in the Ministry, consisting of men suited by natural gifts and experience, to evangelistic and pioneering work, who, after a satisfactory probation, shall be ordained to the Ministry and set apart to serve exclusively under the immediate direction of their Home Mission Committees. Here again the course of study would be peculiar to each State and, subject to the approval of the General Assembly of Australia, registration and transference as in first course. (3.) The Assembly might recognise neither a permanent order of Catechists nor a second grade in the Ministry, but open up to every approved Lay Worker a fair and honourable course of study and service in the Home Mission field, which shall lead him to the full Ministry of the Church if he be industrious and faithful.

Your Committee strongly recommends the last noted course, and would lay before the Assembly the following rough-hewn scheme, sufficiently liberal to admit of being adapted to the needs of the several States :—

Lay Agents, over twenty-five (25) years of age, approved of as to attainments, gifts, and Christian consistency by the State Assembly having proper jurisdiction, shall be entitled to apply for ordination to the Holy Ministry on fulfilment of the conditions here stated : (1) That every such candidate shall have bound himself to serve the Home Mission Committee of his State for ten years ; (2) that during the first five years he shall have passed (a) the matriculation examination of a recognised University, or (b) the Senior University examination (Sydney), or (c) a special matriculation examination set by the College Committee of Australia ; and also four University classes or (in the case of a State without a University) a course of study and examination under the direction of the College Committee of Australia ; (3) that during the second five years he shall have passed the Entrance examination of a recognised Hall, or such an examination as the College Committee of Australia may appoint ; have attended the classes of three full sessions, or in a State where no Hall exists, have pursued such course of Theological study and passed such examinations as said College Committee may direct ; and have passed the regulation Exit examination, or such special test as the Committee aforesaid may appoint.

JOHN FERGUSON, Convener.

IV.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION OF MINISTERS, 1903.

This Committee was instructed and authorised to deal with applications for reception into the Ministry of the Church from the following classes of applicants :— Presbyterian Ministers with Commissions ; Presbyterian Ministers without Commissions ; Ministers of other Denominations ; and Ministers and Congregations of other Denominations. Petitions from applicants in almost all these classes have been received by us during the year, and dealt with according to the regulations bearing on the respective cases.

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES WITH COMMISSIONS.

The Rev. Donald Martin, a Licentiate of the United Free Church of Scotland, came to Queensland on the invitation and by arrangement with John Knox Congregation, Rockhampton, having been chosen for that congregation by the Rev. Lewis Davidson, Edinburgh, and the Rev. Professor Martin, Edinburgh. He brought a certificate from the Presbytery of Auchterarder, in the United Free Church of Scotland, of date May

5th, 1902, granted in view of this appointment, and also references of a high order from well-known men, certifying to his character, preaching ability, and fitness to carry out the duties of a Minister of the Gospel. Your Committee considered these documents as equivalent to a Commission, and sanctioned Mr. Martin's reception.

The Rev. John Scott came to Tasmania with a Commission from the Colonial Committee of the United Free Church of Scotland, of date 25th February, 1902, to the Church in Tasmania. Circumstances beyond his control prevented Mr. Scott from presenting his Commission to the Tasmanian Church, and he asked that your Committee should receive him as a Minister of the Church of Australia on his Commission to the Church of Tasmania. Although not strictly in accordance with the letter of the regulation bearing on such a case, your Committee were of opinion that the spirit of it would not be violated if Mr. Scott's application were granted; and Mr. Scott was received accordingly.

The Home Mission Committee of the Church of New South Wales have notified your Committee to the effect that the Revs. Moses Henry, M.A., from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, John Muir, F. W. Graham, J. D. Brown, and J. C. W. McNeil, M.A., from the United Free Church of Scotland, being commissioned to the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales, and R. E. Davies, B.A., from the Presbyterian Church of Wales, were duly received by the General Assembly of that Church at its meeting in May last.

MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

The Rev. S. H. Chapple, formerly a Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, made application to be received as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church. The petition was transmitted by the Presbytery of Macedon, in the Church of Victoria, by whom the case had been carefully investigated, and was supported by documents setting forth the petitioner's previous history, his literary and theological training, and his reasons for desiring admission into the Presbyterian Church. The transmitting Presbytery recommended that the petition be granted. Your Committee resolved to send the petition to the Assembly with a recommendation that Mr. Chapple be received as a Minister of this Church, and that, in the course of or at the close of his year's probation, he pass an examination in Hebrew.

The Presbytery of Melbourne South, in the Church of Victoria, transmitted a petition from the Rev. Henry George Nicholls, Minister of the Congregational Church at Clayton, Adelaide, with documents setting forth his age, previous history, literary and theological training, and personal and ministerial character. The Presbytery recommended the granting of the petition, "provided that the Committee for the reception of Ministers sees no difficulty in the fact that the applicant is 52 years of age," which might be a bar to his settlement in a charge. Your Committee did not consider that Mr. Nicholls' age should prevent the granting of this petition, and we recommend that he be received, and that in view of his long period of work and experience he be at once eligible for a Call.

The Presbytery of Melbourne North, in the Church of Victoria, forwarded to your Committee the petition of the Rev. Henry Jones, M.A., formerly Minister of the Wharf Street Congregational Church, Brisbane, with the hearty recommendation that the petition be granted. After consideration of the petition and the accompanying documents testifying to the scholarship, ability, and character of Mr. Jones, your Committee recommend his reception.

The attention of your Committee has been directed to the somewhat anomalous and unsatisfactory position occupied by unattached Ministers in any one of the State Churches in relation to the Churches of the other States. At present such Ministers, if they remove from one State to another, are in some, if not all, of the Churches, made to pass through a longer or shorter term of probation, before they are eligible for a call to a Congregation in the Church of the State into which they have removed. It were well if the mode of translation were made uniform, and as far as possible simplified. If the Union of the Churches into one Church means anything, it ought to mean as much as that.

The recommendations and rules framed for the reception of Ministers, and declared by last General Assembly of *interim* authority, were sent down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies for consideration, with instructions to report to this Assembly. It was also an instruction that the returns to this remit should be sent to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers. Returns have been received from the State Assemblies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia. In the New South Wales Church, 11 have made returns out of 14 Presbyteries; 12 in Victoria out of 14; 3 in Queensland out of 5; 3 in Tasmania; 3 in Western Australia; and 3 in South Australia. Most of the Returns are a simple approval; but some contain recommendations that are worthy of serious consideration. The details of the Returns are given elsewhere, and should be taken as part of this Report.

ALEXANDER SKENE, Convener.

ADDITIONAL REPORT.

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS WITHOUT COMMISSION.

The Presbytery of Melbourne North, Victoria, transmitted a Petition from the Rev. William Sherlock Whiteside, B.A., to be received as a Minister of the Church. Mr. Whiteside held a charge in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland for seven years, and was afterwards Minister for six years in the Presbytery of Santa Barbara, California. He afterwards had temporary charge of a Congregation in the Presbytery of Cape Town, South Africa. Mr. Whiteside presents documents, official and private, testifying to his scholarship, ability, and work. The transmitting Presbytery strongly recommend his reception; and your Committee recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be granted.

The Rev. Frederick Stubbs petitions through the Presbytery of Sydney, N. S. Wales, to be received as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Anstralia. Mr. Stubbs was for several years a Minister in the Presbyterian Church of England, holding several pastorates in that Church. He has been a Minister in the New Zealand Presbyterian Church for nearly seven years. His testimonials are entirely satisfactory as a record of his standing and work. The Presbytery of Sydney recommend that his petition be granted; and your Committee endorse the recommendation.

MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

The Rev. George Preston, Congregational Minister, N. S. Wales, sends a Petition through the Presbytery of Young, praying to be received as a Minister of the Church. The transmitting Presbytery do not recommend that Mr. Preston's petition be granted; and your Committee recommend that Mr. Preston be not received as a Minister of the Church.

The Presbytery of Bathurst, New South Wales, transmitted a Petition from the Rev. William Henderson Bradley, Minister of the Congregational Union of New South Wales, to be received as a Minister of the Church, and recommended that the prayer of the petition be granted. Mr. Bradley's petition is supported by documents setting forth his theological training and the character of his work, and his reasons for seeking admission into the Presbyterian Church. Your Committee recommend the Assembly to grant the prayer of the petition.

MINISTER AND CONGREGATION BELONGING TO ANOTHER DENOMINATION.

The Presbytery of Launceston, Tasmania, transmitted a Petition from the Rev. David Brown, Minister of the Congregational Church, Devonport, Tasmania, and one hundred and twenty members and adherents of that Congregation, asking to be received as a Minister and Congregation of the Presbyterian Church. The Congregation is almost absolutely unanimous in making the request. The Presbytery of Launceston, who have conducted the negotiations with the petitioning Minister and Congregation, heartily recommend the granting of the petition. The Congregational Union of Tasmania, however, while admitting the right of this Congregation to take the step it has done, "suggests that the petition be not approved" by the Assembly, for reasons given. Your Committee, having carefully considered the case, and having had the help of consultation with the Rev. A. R. Osborn, Convener of the Church Extension Committee for N. Tasmania, recommend the Assembly to remit the matter to their Committee on the Reception of Ministers, with full powers to deal with the petition.

ALEXANDER SKENE, Convener.

V.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES, 1903.

At its last meeting, the Assembly resolved to communicate with the other Churches of the Commonwealth with a view to holding conferences on the matter of a closer union. The Convener accordingly sent a circular to the following:—

The Archbishop of Sydney and the Bishops of all the dioceses of the Anglican Church.

The President of the Methodist General Conference.

The Chairmen of the Congregational Unions in each State.

The Presidents of the Baptist Unions in each State.

The Presidents of the Conferences of the Church of Christ in each State.

From nearly all of these cordial and sympathetic replies have been received. But owing to the wide areas covered by these Churches, it was not possible to arrange for any general Conference. Under these circumstances, the members of the Committee, resident in New South Wales, met and resolved to request the members of the Committee in each State to act as a Sub-Committee in their own State, to carry on such local negotiations as might be found desirable, and to add to their number other brethren whose assistance would be of value in these conferences.

In New South Wales, the local members of the Committee called to their assistance the following brethren:—Rev. Dr. Cameron, Rev. Dr. Bruce, Rev. Dr. Dill Macky, Rev. J. T. Main, Rev. John Ferguson, Rev. J. Lamont, Rev. C. A. White, and Mr. W. Wood and Mr. J. Garland.

These met in conference with a Committee appointed by the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, and the result of the deliberation was (1) a series of resolutions, affirming the desirability of union, which are herewith submitted for the consideration of the Assembly, and (2) a statement of the points of agreement and differences between the Churches, on matters of doctrine, forms of worship and Church polity, also appended.

These conferences have been numerous and lengthy, and have been characterised by a brotherly feeling and enthusiasm that augurs well for the future of the movement.

Negotiations were also held with a Committee appointed by the Congregational Union. These conferences have also been most hopeful, and resulted in the drawing up of a document in which were set side by side a Doctrinal Statement which appears in the Act of Incorporation of the Congregational Union of New South Wales, containing eleven short articles, and the Articles of Faith adopted by the General Assembly of the American Church in 1902. The Joint Committee agreed to the following resolutions:—
“With reference to creed subscription, the Committee is of opinion that in the event of a doctrinal statement being agreed upon, there should be no rigidity in its administration, and that either a Declaration or Subscription should be accepted as a working compromise in view of the traditions of both Churches.”

The Administration and Discipline of both Churches were compared, and the following suggestions were made of what is immediately possible in the way of demonstrating the practical union that exists between the two communions:—

- (1) The recognition of one Church fellowship. Certificates of membership or of transfer to be current in either communion.
- (2) The recognition of one Ministry. Ministers to be eligible for service in either communion.
- (3) Co-operation of the Colleges. St. Andrew's College and Camden College can render valuable assistance to each other, and it should not be difficult to arrange for their co-operation.

T. E. CLOUSTON.

(A.) REPORT ON THE UNION OF PRESBYTERIAN AND METHODIST CHURCHES.

This Joint Committee, consisting of duly appointed representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and of the Methodist Church of Australasia in the State of New South Wales, having conferred, hereby resolves:—

I. That, in the judgment of this Committee, the hand of God is to be distinctly and gratefully discerned in the providential upraising of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches as sections of the great universal Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the wonderful measure of blessing the great Head of the Church has been pleased to confer upon the world through the instrumentality of these Churches. The Committee is persuaded that the separate existence of these Churches up to the present time has been amply justified by the results that have accrued from their operations, by which the seal of God has been placed upon their testimony and work.

But the Committee is deeply convinced that the time has now fully come when the question of the closer union of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in the Commonwealth of Australia should be seriously considered with a view to their ultimate organic union, and assigns the following amongst other reasons why in its judgment this step should be taken:—

1. The general agreement of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches on all essential doctrines of Christian faith as revealed in Sacred Scripture and as taught by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
2. The similarity in their methods of Church government, both being Presbyterian as distinguished from Episcopalian, and recognising fully the rights of the Christian laity in the government and administration of the Church.

3. The fact that in Australia those local circumstances and historic conditions do not exist which in the United Kingdom have hitherto explained and justified the separate existence of the Churches concerned.

II. The Committee is not unaware of the fact that there is much to be said in favour of the continued separate existence and operation of the Churches, coincidently with the cultivation of a spirit of fraternal fellowship and with practical co-operation in good works. But the Committee believes that the interests of Christ's Kingdom in this new and growing Commonwealth will be more effectively promoted by the organic union of these Churches, and submits the following as amongst the advantages which will justify an earnest effort being made to bring about such an organic union:—

1. The powerful impression which such a union must necessarily make upon the community of the reality and effectiveness of true religion.
2. The multiplied resources of all kinds which the United Church will possess to be used in the promotion of all forms of Christian work.
3. The economy which will thus be practicable in avoiding the overlapping and undesirable competition which are inseparable from the existing condition of things.
4. The opportunity which will be afforded of unitedly undertaking those social and philanthropic enterprises which are a necessary part of modern Christian effort, and which can be more effectively carried out by a united Church strong in spiritual life and possessed of adequate material resources.
5. The creation of a strong national religious sentiment and force which, under the blessing of Almighty God, may be applied and directed to a comprehensive system of Home Missions—missions such as shall provide for the lapsed masses of our great cities, the lonely dwellers in the bush, and the new populations which from time to time spring up in the States of Australia.
6. The more adequate discharge of the great missionary obligation which rests upon the Christian Churches of Australasia in regard to the tribes and people of Polynesia and adjacent groups, and to India, China, and other non-Christian countries.
7. Lastly, the giving more practical and visible effect to the Saviour's prayer:—
"That they all may be one . . . that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

III. The Committee therefore suggests to the chief Courts of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Australia that those Churches should consider the matter with a view to a solemn, definite, and authoritative deliverance upon the desirability of organic union as between them. In the event of a deliverance in favour of union being carried on both sides by an adequate majority, the Committee further suggests the appointment of representatives to a joint Committee to prosecute its enquiries with a view to the formulation of a practicable basis on which to eventually consummate the union.

The Committee also recommends that in the meantime steps be taken to foster fraternal relations as between the Congregations of the respective Churches; to secure the joint use of Colleges for the training of Candidates for the Ministry; and to promote united public action on all matters affecting the social, moral, and religious welfare of the community.

(B.) REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE METHODIST AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES ON THE AGREEMENTS AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO CHURCHES.

I. On Matters of Doctrine.

(A.) The Statement of Doctrine, which received the general approval of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, was carefully considered, and accepted by the Methodist representatives with slight amendments, to which the Presbyterian representatives agreed.

DOCTRINE.

1. That the supreme and full revelation of God to men is the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Supreme Authority in Doctrine and in duty is the Holy Spirit speaking in the Old and New Testaments. [Approved.]
2. That God is personal, transcendent, and immanent. [Approved.]
3. That the Godhead is essentially Triune. [Approved.]
4. That Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh, and is truly God and truly man. [Approved.]
5. That God is love, and that His love is holy and sovereign. [Approved.]

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. [Amended to read thus—"That the Divine Fatherhood expresses an eternal relationship which has been revealed most clearly by Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, and through Him the children of men come into the possession of the Spirit, and receive the adoption of sons."]

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. [Approved.]

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. [Approved with the addition "and is manifested in good works."]

9. That the active and passive obedience in the life and death of Jesus Christ is vicarious and propitiatory. [Amended to read—"That the obedience of Jesus Christ unto death is vicarious and propitiatory."]

10. Two additional articles were added from the shorter doctrinal statement of the American Presbyterian Church, as follows:—"That in the life to come, the spirits of the just at death, made free from sin, enjoy immediate communion with God, and the vision of His glory; and we confidentially look for the general resurrection at the last day, when the bodies of those who sleep in Jesus shall be fashioned in the likeness of the glorious body of their Lord, with whom they shall live and reign forever.

11. That the Lord Jesus Christ will come again in glorious majesty to judge the world, and to make a final separation between the righteous and the wicked. The wicked shall receive the eternal award of their sins, and the Lord will manifest the glory of His mercy in the salvation of His people and their entrance upon the full enjoyment of eternal life."

THE CHURCH.

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

2. That Jesus Christ is the Supreme Head of the Church, and that He calls men to the ministry of teaching and ruling. [Amended to read—"That Jesus Christ is the Supreme Head of His Church, and calls men by His Holy Spirit 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. [Amended to read—"That His people, under the guidance of the Spirit of Christ, recognise and choose those whom He calls, and who are thereupon 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. [Approved, with the omission of the word "effectual."]

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. [Approved.]

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

(c.) The Catechisms—namely, the Shorter Catechism, and the Second Part of the Methodist Catechism—were then compared, and it was found that the differences between them were only such as are involved in five of the questions of the Stricter Catechism—namely,

No 7, on the Decrees of God
Nos. 20, 21, and 88 on Election
and, No. 36 on the Perseverance of the Saints.

In regard to these, the standpoint of the two Churches is different, and the theology taught by them varies accordingly. In one other question, it may be doubted whether the doctrine is the same, namely, in No. 92 of the Stricter Catechism, in which the ability perfectly to keep the commandments of God is denied.

II. On Forms of Worship.

In both Churches the forms of worship are mainly extempore, with considerable freedom left to the various ministers and congregations. The Sacraments are administered practically in the same manner in both.

III. On Polity.

1. Membership in each Church is entered upon by Profession of Faith, and with the approval of the Minister and the local Church Court.

2. Discipline. In each Church local Church Courts have jurisdiction, with the right of appeal to a higher court.

3. The Church Courts correspond largely in both.

The Presbyterian Courts are

- (1) The Session
- (2) The Presbytery
- (3) The State General Assembly
- (4) The General Assembly

The Methodist Courts are

- | | |
|---|--|
| } | (1) The Leaders' Meeting and Circuit Quarterly Meeting |
| | (2) The District Synod |
| | (3) The Annual Conference |
| | (4) The General Conference |

But in Presbyterianism, the Elders are ordained, and take part in the Ordination and Trial of Ministers, while in Methodism, the Ministers alone have power in the reception and disciplining of Ministers.

4. In the Methodist Churches the Local Preacher must be a member of the Church. He receives distinct and honorable recognition, for he is *ex officio* a member of the Leaders' Meeting and of the Quarterly Meeting. Moreover, from the ranks of the Local Preachers, candidates for the Ministry are, without exception, taken. The Local Preacher must undergo a probation of twelve months, at the end of which he must pass an examination in theology, and is then received upon the nomination of the Minister, and with the approval of the Local Preachers' Meeting of the Circuit. His appointments to pulpits are, in all cases, subject to the direction of the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, and for his official acts he is responsible to the Local Preachers' Meeting.

In the Presbyterian Church there is no official lay Preacher, but owing to the emergencies of the position in this country laymen are being increasingly employed in preaching work. The Presbyterian lay preacher must be a member of the Church, but he needs no other qualification. The office is purely voluntary, and may be discontinued or resumed at the will of the individual, but the appointments to pulpits are made by the Home Mission Committee and the Minister of the Charge, and provision is made for the better instruction of those who offer themselves.

5. In the Presbyterian Church the Ministry is based upon the conception of a fixed and permanent pastorate, and the Minister is called by the people. In the Methodist Church the system is that of itinerancy and annual appointments, with ultimate and supreme power of settlement in the hands of the State Conference. But there is in Presbyterian Churches a movement in the direction of breaking away from the fixity of appointments, while in Methodism there is a legal provision for an extension of the term of the pastorate.

(C.) REPORT OF CONFERENCE BETWEEN CONGREGATIONAL AND PRESBYTERIAN
MINISTERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The United Committee unanimously agreed upon the following report, which contains four divisions—Doctrinal, Administrative, Disciplinary, Practical.

I. DOCTRINAL.—The Committee present the statement of Doctrine contained in Schedule A of the Act of Incorporation of the Congregational Union and the Declaration of Faith adopted by the General Assembly of America at New York on May 16th, 1902. The clauses of these documents have been discussed in detail, but the Committee are of one mind in believing that they both cover the same ground and present a convenient basis for a statement of our common faith.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT IN THE ACT OF INCORPORATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL
UNION OF N. S. WALES.

Schedule A.

1. The existence of one only God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.
2. The fall of man from a sinless state into one of sin and death.
3. The incarnation of the Divine Word as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Son of God and Son of man, His sufferings and death as a propitiation for the sins of the world, and the Salvation by grace through faith of all who believe in Him.
4. The necessity of the influence of the Holy Spirit for the restoration of man to holiness and life.
5. The moral responsibility of man and the unlimited nature of the provisions and invitations of the Gospel.
6. The Divine inspiration of the Holy Scripture in the Old and New Testaments and its supreme authority as the rule of faith and practice.
7. The immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment with its eternal consequences.
8. The exclusive right of every church to manage its own affairs.

9. The baptism of infants and of adult believers who were not baptised in infancy.
10. The open confession of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the celebration of the Lord's Supper according to His command.
11. The apostolic institution in the churches of two offices for their spiritual oversight and the administration of their temporal affairs namely those of presbyters or bishops and that of deacons.

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN FAITH.

(This is printed at full length in the original report, but is omitted here.)

With reference to *creed subscription* the Committee are of opinion that in the event of a doctrinal statement being agreed upon there should be no rigidity in its administration, and the following statement had general assent, Declaration or Subscription to be accepted. This is a working compromise in view of the traditions of both Churches.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE.—The Committee then proceeded with the examination of the respective polities in detail, and the following statements were agreed upon :—

1. In both communions the ultimate authority rests with the church members.
2. Presbyterianism recognises the popular distinction between Church and Congregation, or Members and Adherents, but technically the local communion which in Congregationalism is called a church, in Presbyterianism is called a congregation.
3. *The condition of membership* is the same in both communions, viz., admission on a credible confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. *The form of admission* differs in this respect only. In the Presbyterian polity the Minister and Elders acting on behalf of the Congregation admit the new member. In Congregational polity the member is admitted on the suffrage of the church meeting after hearing the report of the Minister and Deacons.
5. *Office Bearers.* There are really only two orders in each communion. *Presbyterianism* recognises Presbyters or Elders and Deacons, Congregationalism recognises Ministers and Deacons. In Presbyterianism the Minister is the preaching Elder. The Deacons are concerned mainly with the financial matters, though all the Elders are *ex officio* members of the Deacons' Court. The Elders are responsible for the management of the spiritual affairs of the congregation.

It was stated that while it was the general custom to elect Elders for life, there was a growing idea in Presbyterianism to elect elders for a term of years only, after which they become eligible for re-election.

The meeting of the Elders is held monthly and is called a Session. The church members must meet at least once in the year.

In Congregational polity the Deacons perform the duties and fulfil the office assigned to Elders in Presbyterianism. (In some churches a Finance Committee is elected of which the Deacons with the Minister are *ex officio* members. The remaining members are usually elected from the body of adherents. The election of a Finance Committee is merely a matter of expediency, it has no part in the essential polity of Congregationalism.)

While the Deacons are the Executive body of the church, and are usually followed in their recommendations, it is the practice that the Deacons shall obtain the sanction of the church for the ratification of any proposed action of importance, whether spiritual or financial.

The Deacons meet monthly and prepare the business to be submitted to the church, which also meets monthly in the week before the Sunday on which the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is observed.

The chief difference in the powers of the office-bearers is due to the different prominence given to the church meeting. In Presbyterianism the church members delegate their executive functions to the Elders. In Congregationalism the position is practically the same, with the exception that the church is consulted monthly.

6. *Observance of the Lord's Supper.*

The Presbyterian custom is to observe this ordinance once in three months, although there is no rule as to frequency.

The Congregational custom is to observe this ordinance monthly. Neither in Presbyterianism nor in Congregationalism is there any law controlling the frequency of the observance of the Lord's Supper.

It was the mind of the Committee that freedom should be allowed in the observance of the Lord's Supper, and that it might be a useful compromise between the two polities if the church meeting for business were held once in three months.

III. DISCIPLINE.—United and uniform action in matters of discipline.

The Committee feel that something is immediately possible by way of demonstrating the practical union that exists between the two communions.

IV. PRACTICAL.—(1.) The recognition of one church fellowship. Certificates of membership or of transfer to be current in either communion, and members encouraged to use their privileges as church members.

(2.) The recognition of one ministry. Ministers to be eligible for service in either communion.

(3.) Co-operation of the Colleges. St. Andrew's College and Camden College can render valuable assistance to each other, and it should not be difficult to arrange for their co-operation.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNION BETWEEN THE PRESBYTERIAN AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

1. What do you regard as the obstacles to Union between the two Churches?

(Question for both parties.)

2. What modifications, if any, may be expected in regard to Creed-subscription?

3. As the Congregationalists have perfect autonomy in their individual congregations, and as Presbyterian Congregations are under the control of the Presbytery,—in view of a possible Union, what modifications would be necessary on each side?

4. *Re Church property.*

(1.) In what manner is Presbyterian Church property held—by the Church as a whole? or by the individual congregations?

(2.) In what manner is Congregational Church property held—by the Union? or by the individual Church?

(D.) REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON UNION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA) AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF VICTORIA.

The Conference held two meetings, and adopted the following report:—

I.

These Committees in Conference, on comparing the manifesto of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, issued simply as a basis for Conference (see Appendix A), and the doctrinal schedule in the Model Trust Deed of the Congregational Union (see Appendix B), find that these two documents are, in respect of doctrine, in substantial agreement, and that no serious differences exist between the Presbyterian Church and the Congregational Churches in this direction.

The Conference also finds that there is substantial agreement on the following principles, which have a prominent place in both denominations:—

1. That the members of Churches should be Christians.

2. That Church powers vest primarily in the membership, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

3. That the membership have a right to co-operate with their chosen leaders in government and discipline.

II.

The Conference finds the following differences existing in giving effect to these principles:—

1. A Presbyterian Church consists of all Church members in the Congregations, within certain definite geographical bounds, that have consented to act together in the capacity of a Church of Christ.

A Congregational Church consists of its enrolled Church members within the limits of a single Congregation.

2. A Presbyterian Church exercises its powers by representatives chosen by its members; but the necessity of keeping Church action in harmony with the Christian consciousness of its members is fully recognised by its representatives.

A Congregational Church exercises its powers by a direct reference to its entire membership.

3. A Presbyterian Church admits to membership by its Kirk Sessions.

A Congregational Church admits to membership by the vote of the members in Church meeting assembled, on the recommendation of its pastor and deacons.

4. A Presbyterian Church calls to the Ministry those who are recognised as eligible by its supreme authority—the General Assembly.

A Congregational Church is free to choose its Ministers from the ranks of those who, in its estimation, have the necessary qualifications for that office, but the Victorian Congregational Union can refuse to give denominational recognition to any Minister whose character and qualifications are by it deemed unsatisfactory.

5. In a Presbyterian Church there is a right of appeal from lower Courts to the General Assembly, whose decisions, as representative of the entire Church, are final.

A Congregational Church has no appeal, save to its entire membership.

III.

The Conference finds that these differences are not, in its opinion, insurmountable, and that they could be largely minimised, if not wholly removed, by the following adaptations:—

1. By the members of Congregations admitting to membership on the recommendation of their officers.

2. That the Call to the Ministry or Pastorate be from those declared qualified by the supreme representative authority of the Church.

3. That while allowing Congregations a large measure of freedom of action, a right of appeal be allowed in all matters affecting the status of the individual, or the interests of the united Church.

Appendix A.

VII. Such person or persons of the denomination aforesaid shall be permitted to occupy and enjoy the said parsonage and appurtenances, and to officiate as Minister or Pastor in the said chapel according to the usual order of Congregational or Independent Churches as shall have been duly elected, and not subsequently displaced by the Church members as aforesaid, and shall not have resigned the office of Minister or Pastor; and shall moreover hold, preach, teach, and maintain as general tenets the following doctrines, which are generally believed by the Congregationalists or Independents to be contained in the Holy Scriptures, that is to say—

- 1st. The Divine Inspiration of the Old and New Testaments, and their Supreme Authority in matters of Christian faith and practice.
- 2nd. The Unity, Personality, and Infinite Perfection of the Divine Being, with the essential Deity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The Incarnation of the Son in the person of Jesus Christ; His sacrificial death for the sins of mankind; His resurrection from the dead; and His intercession in heaven, whence He will come again to judge the world.
- 3rd. The freedom and responsibility of man; his fall and depravity; the necessity of repentance, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit in order to his restoration and eternal salvation.
- 4th. The existence of a Church wherever any number of believers in Christ associate for Divine Worship, and the regular observance of Christian ordinances; the right of each Church, in whose members supreme authority is vested, to elect its own officers, and manage its own internal affairs, subject only to the revealed will of Christ, the Head; and the obligation of the Lord's Supper and Baptism, including that of infants.

(K.) REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERIAN AND METHODIST REPRESENTATIVES IN VICTORIA ON UNION OF THE CHURCHES.

The Committee have the honour to report that two meetings have been held, which were presided over by the Rev. Geo. Tait, M.A.

The "Statement of Belief" submitted as a Basis of Union by the Federal Presbyterian Assembly was carefully considered, and with the following emendations and additions, unanimously agreed to:—

Part I. Art. 1.—The words "and fall" to be omitted. The initial letter in the words "Supreme," "Authority," "Doctrine," to be in small type.

Art. 6.—The words "expresses an eternal relationship which" to be omitted. The initial letter in the word "Spirit" to be in small type.

New Article to follow No. 7 (see below).

Revised Article to be substituted for No. 9 (see below).

Part II. Art. 3 to begin with the words "That His people" instead of "the people."

Art. 4.—The word "true" to be substituted for "effectual."

The "Statement" as accepted by the Committee reads as follows:—

PART I. DOCTRINE.

1. That the Supreme revelation of God to man is the Lord Jesus Christ. 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 trine.
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 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 there is an immortal life, and a resurrection of the dead, and that all men must appear before the judgment seat of Christ.
9. 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.
10. That Christ's whole life of obedience, enduring unto death, is representative and sacrificial, and that His death is propitiatory.

PART II. 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 His 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 Sacrament of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are true 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 Sacrament have no priestly function save that which is shared in by all believers.

A sub-committee was appointed to tabulate points of agreement and divergence in the two systems of Church government. Its report, as subjoined, was adopted, the Rev. Dr. Morley dissenting from the expression "generally parallel" in Part II., par. 3.

REPORT ON AGREEMENTS AND DIVERGENCES.

The Committee entrusted with the inquiry regarding the ecclesiastical systems of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches have instituted a careful comparison. They desire to set in the forefront of their report the conviction at which they have unanimously arrived—that the two systems are based on fundamental principles that are essentially the same. The result is that, while there are considerable divergencies in detail, these are only such as should readily be overcome by Christian wisdom and patience.

The Committee have looked into many details which they do not deal with in their report. They believe that it is our duty at present to confine ourselves to the main

features of the two systems, and to refuse to dwell on accidentally divergent details, which have grown up in connection with the separate history of the two Churches. It is manifest that if the systems can be harmonised in their broad outlines, the spirit of Christian unity will not be balked by unessential differences. It would be a mistake, therefore, to allow our minds to be occupied by these at present—a mistake that might easily result in a baseless prejudice. Important differences will be recorded in this report, but even these, the Committee desire again to say, they do not regard as involving essentials of ecclesiastical government.

I. Office-Holders.

(1) In both Churches, Trustees are the legal instrument by which the properties are held. In the Methodist Church, the Trustees are charged with more active functions than in the Presbyterian. They form a Board for managing the affairs of the Trust; whilst in the Presbyterian Church this duty is done by the Board of Management.

(2) The Managers in the Presbyterian Church correspond broadly with the Church and Society Stewards in the Methodist Church. These officers have charge of local financial affairs.

(3) The Class Leaders in the Methodist Church correspond closely with the Presbyterian Elders. Both assist the Minister in superintending the spiritual life of the members. There is a difference in the mode of appointment, the Leaders being nominated by the Minister and elected by the Leaders' Meeting, while the Elders are elected by the communicants of the Congregation. Both these methods, however, acknowledge the principle that the gifts required for service must be recognised by the Church. A further difference lies in the doctrinal test. Elders are called upon to accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, as explained by a declaratory statement; whilst as regards the Leaders they must not hold views opposed to the central doctrines of the Church. Underlying this difference is the acknowledgment by both Churches that their spiritual officers must be in fundamental accord with the belief of the Church.

(4) The Methodist Local Preachers are closely parallel to the Lay Preachers of the Presbyterian Church. These represent a common principle, that laymen may be employed to preach the Gospel.

(5) Ministers—With regard to the Ministers of the Gospel, both Churches recognise the following principles:—(a) The necessity of the Divine call, which is indicated by the bestowal of grace and special gifts; (b) the necessity of the recognition of their call by the people; (c) the right of those already Ministers to examine and test a candidate's fitness for the office and thereafter to set him aside to it; (d) the desirableness of the use of an impressive form in setting him apart to his work. The main differences in method are threefold: (a) As regards practical training, in the Methodist Church, this is essential, and continuous; in the Presbyterian Church, while it is regarded as essential, it is not equally continuous throughout the whole course. (b) As regards appointment, in the Methodist Church the Minister is appointed to his sphere of service by Conference, the invitations or calls of the circuits being received and respected; in the Presbyterian Church the Minister is called by the Congregation, and is thereupon appointed subject to the veto of the Presbytery. (c) As regards tenure, in the Methodist Church the Minister is appointed annually, and may remain up to a maximum term of five years; in the Presbyterian Church no provision is made for terminating the pastorate, but its average duration is probably not greatly in excess of this.

II. Courts.

(1) The Board of Management in the Presbyterian Church corresponds to the Trustee Meeting in the Methodist Church, both having charge of local external affairs.

(2) The Presbyterian Session corresponds to Methodist Leaders' Meeting. They are alike in the following main features: (a) They govern the roll of members; (b) they discipline members; (c) they govern the Sunday-school, in the Presbyterian Church completely, in the Methodist Church only partially; (d) they can bring matters that seem important to the Church's life before the Supreme Court; (e) in discipline, appeals from these Courts to the Supreme Courts are competent.

(3) The Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church is generally parallel to the Quarterly Circuit Meeting of the Methodist Church. Both superintend the spiritual work of the District, and initiate new enterprises. Both superintend the financial affairs of the District, the Quarterly Meeting administering as well as superintending. Both may hear appeals; the Quarterly Meeting only in certain special cases.

There is a certain amount of difference in the constitution of these Courts, the Methodist Church admitting men who hold offices not distinctively spiritual. The Presbytery consists of Ministers and Ministers *emeriti*, and one Elder from each Congregation. The Quarterly Meeting includes Ministers, Supernumeraries, Preachers on Trial, Leaders, Local Preachers, Trustees (being members), Sunday-school Superintendents, and Stewards.

(4) The Methodist District Synod, with its Financial District Synod, corresponds roughly to a Presbyterian Court which is unknown in Australia, called the Synod. Both deal with the business, both spiritual and external, of a wide district. Both are composed of Ministers and Laymen. The main constitutional difference lies in this, that in the Methodist District Synod the Ministers sit apart from the Laymen for ministerial discipline, and the examination of candidates for the Ministry.

(5) The State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church corresponds very closely to the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. Both are composed equally of Ministers and Laymen. Both are supreme for their own territory, except in so far as they have surrendered control to the Supreme Court of the Federated Church of the Continent.

There is a very considerable difference in this latter respect, the Methodist Church having relegated legislative functions almost entirely to the General Conference, leaving only administration to the Annual Conference; while the State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church retains large legislative powers.

The distinction also which appeared in connection with the Annual District Synod recurs here. In the State Assembly Ministers and Elders transact all business together in the Methodist Conference, the Ministers sit apart from the Laymen to deal with certain reserved questions connected with the ministerial office. This difference may rest on the fact that the Layman of the Presbyterian Court is an Elder, called and ordained to spiritual office; while the Layman of the Methodist Court, although a member of the Church, is not necessarily a spiritual officer.

(6) The Supreme Courts of the two Churches closely correspond. Both are elective. Both consist equally of Ministers and Laymen. Both are supreme.

The Methodist General Conference has had wider control vested in it than the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church possesses. On the other hand, the General Assembly can initiate, preside over, and complete, according to a fixed method, changes in the Constitution of the Church; while there are certain points in the Constitution of the Methodist Church which the General Conference cannot change without securing civil legislation.

The Committee recommends the Assembly and Conference to re-appoint their Committees, and direct them to proceed to more directly constructive work.

GEORGE TAIT, Chairman.
ROBT. KELLY, Secretary.

August 24th, 1903.

(F.) REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON CLOSER UNION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, HELD IN ST. ANDREW'S, PERTH, ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1903.

Finding: At a Conference of Representatives of the Churches, called by the Rev. A. McCarrie, Moderator of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia, as representing the Committee of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia on Closer Union with other Churches, it was unanimously resolved—

1. To express hearty appreciation of the initial action taken by the Assembly.
2. To express general concurrence with the object contemplated.
3. To call further Conferences with a view to more definite action.

On behalf of the Sub-Committee,

JOHN GRAY, Convener.

VI.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE, 1903.

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting the Audited Balance Sheets and the Report as follows:—

In connection with the General Assembly Expenses Fund Account, all the Churches in the various States have paid the amount assessed, and, after paying all expenses of last meeting, a balance of £23 11s. 1d. remains in hand. It must be noted in this connection, however, that the expenditure in connection with last Assembly's meeting exceeded the revenue, and if a like expenditure is incurred again the revenue, on the present basis, will not be sufficient. There are several items, however, in the last account which should

not be incurred again for a time, and this may be sufficient to equalise the revenue and expenditure; but your Committee would advise that the printing and advertising should be kept down to the lowest amount possible, and also that there be no charge in connection with the *Year Book*, which should be made self-sustaining.

In connection with the Church Hymnary Royalty account your Committee is pleased to be able to report that returns have been received from all the State General Assemblies approving of the scheme whereby the royalty accruing from the sale of the Church Hymnary to all the States should be pooled in one amount and made available for the payment of the expenses of Members of Assembly. The remittances have been received from the Churches of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia for the royalty up to March, 1903, and from Queensland and Tasmanian Churches up to March, 1902, the total amount received being £690 11s. 5d. The amount of travelling expenses paid in connection with the Assembly held in Melbourne, 1902, was £142 7s. 4d., leaving a balance in hand of £548 4s. 1d., with the royalty from Queensland and Tasmania for 1903 to be received.

In connection with the Travelling Expenses Account the details of the amounts paid to the various State Representatives is given in the Balance Sheet, showing a total, including postages, of £142 7s. 4d.

Your Committee holds on hand a sum of £41 16s., which was collected specially for expenses in 1901, and the Assembly will now be asked to authorise the transference of this amount to the credit of the Travelling Expenses Account, to be applied in connection with this year's expenses.

Your Committee would further recommend that the expenses for this Assembly be paid on the same lines and in the same proportion as last year's—namely, "That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1903, have the following percentages 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."

Your Committee further recommends that instruction be given to assess the State Assemblies for the General Assembly's expenses on the same lines as last year—to wit, New South Wales, £40; Victoria, £40; Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, each £13 6s. 8d.; and Western Australia, £10.

Your Committee would also ask directions regarding the sum of £20, which has been received from the Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church of England for Bush Mission work in Australia—the amount being at present held in suspense.

On behalf of the Committee,

JOHN H. GOODLET, Chairman.

VII.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HYMN BOOKS FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS, 1903.

Your Committee have examined a number of Hymn books which have been brought under their notice, and beg to present the Assembly with their conclusions in regard to same:—

1. **SCHOOL PRAISE.**—This book contains about 167 hymns, many of them being very well known and suitable for children. It has been in general use in several of the States, but has frequently been discarded on account of the selection being too limited and the music of an unsuitable type.

2. **THE CHURCH HYMNARY.**—This is an abridged addition for the young of the book now used in connection with our Churches. It embraces about 200 hymns culled from the Church Hymnary, and the book with words only, is printed in very cheap form. The objections to it appear to be the want of a separate tune book and the variety of hymns is not sufficient.

3. **THE VOICE OF PRAISE.**—This is a large selection, prepared by the Sunday School Union, containing 600 hymns including most of the favourite hymns for children. It is well indexed, and the only objection to it appears to be in regard to the music. The tune book is very bulky, and Choir-masters state that some of the music is not tuneful.

4. **GOLDEN BELLS.**—This book contains 628 hymns, all of a suitable kind. It has been prepared by the Children's Special Service Mission of London, and is now being largely used, and appears to give general satisfaction. Many of the tunes have a good

swing in them that young people like, and the subjects are well indexed. There are very few leading children's hymns missing from this selection.

5. THE HOME AND SCHOOL HYMNAL.—This book is prepared by a special committee of the Praise Committee of the late Free Church of Scotland. As its title denotes, it is intended for use in the home at family worship as well as in School and Mission services. Almost without exception the hymns have been admirably chosen, and, although containing more than a third fewer hymns than *Golden Bells*, there are sufficient to afford ample variety. It is prepared in very cheap form with clear type, and tune book revised by Sir Joseph Barnby, and it also has a capital index of subjects. While thinking very highly of Nos. 3 and 4, your Committee consider the *Home and School Hymnal* under the circumstances as perhaps the most suitable book for use in our Australian Presbyterian Sabbath Schools. The Committee recommend that negotiations be opened up with the publishers of the *Home and School Hymnal* with the view of securing that a special edition for Australia be issued without the existing preface and with a suitable fore-word for Australia.

D. MACRAE STEWART, Convener.

VIII.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE RECORD, 1903.

Your Committee are glad to report that the circulation of the *Record* is gradually, though slowly, increasing. Various improvements have been made by the Publishers in the appearance of the paper, and much satisfaction has been expressed with these. Our great aim is to interest our scholars in Mission Work, which appeals with special force to the young; and not only the Missions of our Branch of the Christian Church, but those of our other Branches also are brought before the notice of our readers.

But we also seek to make them think of "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report."

And by the aid of pictures we try to render the Magazine more attractive and more interesting to our young friends.

We should feel grateful to our Ministers, Superintendents, and Teachers if they would bring the Magazine to the notice of all the young people with whom they come into contact, so that it might have a wider scope and a more extensive influence.

The last Report on the Statistics of the Presbyterian Church of Australia showed that last year there were within the Commonwealth 71,364 Sabbath Scholars.

As our circulation only amounts to 8934, and that includes 417 copies taken by New Zealand Sabbath Schools, it will be seen that much territory yet remains to be possessed, and that to multitudes of our scholars the *Record* is unknown.

Is it too much to expect that some copies at least of a Magazine published under the auspices of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia may yet be found in every Sabbath School connected with our Church? We cannot but think that if Ministers everywhere bestirred themselves, such a state of things might exist, and surely, to mention nothing else, it would be a real help to a closer union of the Churches in the various States, that the young people connected with them should be bound together by the perusal of one Missionary Magazine of the United Church, month by month, and grow up in the atmosphere of common missionary interests.

The following table will show the circulation of the *Record* in the various States, and in New Zealand, in July, 1903, as compared with that of June, 1902:—

	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
Queensland	138	426	288	—
New South Wales	795	1002	207	—
Victoria	5807	6190	383	—
South Australia	432	442	10	—
Tasmania	186	183	—	3
Western Australia	272	274	2	—
New Zealand	477	417	—	60
	<u>8107</u>	<u>8934</u>	<u>890</u>	<u>63</u>

It will thus be seen that, deducting the decrease in New Zealand and Tasmania, the net increase over all the States is only \$27.

It is gratifying, however, to be able to report an increase though it is not so large as we might have desired and expected.

W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

IX.

REPORT OF THE YEAR BOOK COMMITTEE, 1903.

Your Committee are pleased to report that during last year a fairly large circulation was secured for the second issue of the *Year Book*. Most of the copies printed were put into circulation, although all were not sold. The publishers, Messrs. Arbuckle, Waddell and Fawckner, deserve every credit for their enterprise and generosity, but it will be impossible for them to continue to serve the Church in the same liberal spirit, unless greater activity is shown by *all* representatives of Congregations in securing an increased circulation. Some representatives have done well—a few exceedingly well; but others have done practically nothing. This is not only to be regretted, but deplored; for the indifference even of a minority kills many a good cause. If all will do their best for the *Year Book* during the coming year, there will be no difficulty in placing 5000 copies in the homes of our people. We urge representatives to take up this matter zealously, not because the publishers desire it, but in the best interests of the Church; for the more information we can give our people about the Church, the more interest they are likely to take in her activities.

It is proposed in the next issue to drop the daily engagement diary, and to substitute information of a more general and popular character. The price will remain at 6d. per copy, but postage, perhaps, may have to be charged in addition.

A prospectus giving full information, will be issued in due course and forwarded to all Ministers and Secretaries of Churches.

JAMES JACKSON, Convener.

X.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS.

In presenting a report upon the statistics of the Churches under the care of the General Assembly, the Committee desire to acknowledge their indebtedness to the Conveners and Statistics Committees of the various State Churches who have courteously supplied the material upon which this report is based.

Valuable as the material thus supplied undoubtedly is, it has been found impossible to base anything like a full report upon it, inasmuch as the practice of the various State Churches varies so widely in collecting and tabulating statistical matter. The Committee therefore invite the Assembly to consider the question of securing, in so far as the special circumstances of the various Churches will permit, uniform returns from all the Churches. In furtherance of this object the Committee submit a schedule of questions for the Assembly's consideration.

Another factor which helps to vitiate the soundness of any conclusions based upon the statistical tables, is the fact that the statistical year is not the same for all the States. The Committee would urge upon the Assembly the desirability of securing uniformity in this direction also.

The avowedly Presbyterian population in the six States under the jurisdiction of the Assembly at the last census was as follows—

Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	191,427
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	132,617
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	57,442
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	18,357
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	14,707
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	11,523

426,073

It is the business of our figures to tell us what we are doing or not doing to develop and use for Christ and humanity the tremendous possibilities latent in so great a multitude. Our forces are organised and officered as follows:—

State.	Charges. †	Preaching Centres.	Elders.	Deacons and Managers.	District Visitors.	Superintention Fund Collectors.	Women's Societies.	Ministers Settled.	Ministers Emeriti.	Professors, Ministers without Charges, etc.
Victoria ...	254	879	796	—	—	—	—	171	24	69
N. S. Wales ...	170	907	659	2113	107	842	134	139	11	43
Queensland ...	52	104	210	425	—	—	—	34	1	12
S. Australia ...	20	36	92	176	—	—	—	13	—	7*
W. Australia ...	19	*50	36	144	—	—	—	12	—	7*
Tasmania ...	24	65	63	—	—	—	—	13	—	10
	539	2041	1856	—	—	—	—	382	36	150

† Including Home Mission Charges.

This table is fairly complete in its most essential features. And it confirms the statement, with which we have become so familiar of late years, as to the total inadequacy of our resources in fully-equipped Agents to overtake the work. A little reflection will convince any one that our 539 Charges, with even upwards of 2,000 preaching centres, are not sufficient to overtake our sparsely-scattered population. But when we find that only 382 of these (or about 70 per cent.) are fully manned, while the remainder (30 per cent.) are vacant or Home Mission Charges, there is surely occasion for urgent remedies. It must be noted further, that to occupy the 150 vacant or Home Mission Charges, there are only 150 Agents. But these are not all nor always available, for included in the number are Professors, Gael Chaplains, and Students in all stages of their career. We cannot do wrong in placing this matter in the first place, for if the Church is hopelessly undermanned in its pastorate, what hope can it have of obeying in any way the injunction to "lengthen its cords and strengthen its stakes." In the Eldership we find that for the whole Church there is an average of 3.44 Elders to each Charge. Western Australia ranks lowest with an average of under two, while South Australia is highest with 4.6 per Charge. The returns concerning other organisations and office-bearers are inconclusive.

Only secondary to the living Agents are Church buildings and property generally. It is to be regretted that we cannot state the total value of our ecclesiastical properties, but an idea of what has been done in this direction may be gathered from the following table:—

State.	Church Buildings.	Sittings.	Seats Let or Allocated	Debt on Church and Manse.	Insurance on Church and Manse.
Victoria ...	484	82,301	—	£ 106,338	£ —
N. S. Wales ...	320	50,052	7261	53,835	185,652
Queensland ...	94	—	—	12,473	44,644
S. Australia ...	28	4510	—	7752	23,745
W. Australia ...	—	—	—	10,905	—
Tasmania ...	—	—	—	5917	—
				197,220	

* The numbers are taken from last year's Report.

Can we, from these figures, infer anything as to the total value of the properties involved? In the Returns we have two clues to help us. Queensland and Tasmania return the value of their properties as follows :—

	Value.	Debt.	Insurance.
Queensland	£110,000 ...	£12,473 ...	£44,644
Tasmania	43,945 ...	5,917 ...	—

In one case the total value is nine times the debt, in the other seven times. If we may use the average multiple 8, and apply it to the total debts of £197,220, we should find the enormous value of £1,577,760. Of greater importance, however, is the question as to the seating accommodation of our Churches. So far as the figures go, they tell us that in Victoria we have over 100,000 souls for whom we do not provide Church room, in New South Wales 80,000, and in South Australia 16,000.

We have now to enquire as to the services and means of grace supplied and the reception and use of them by our people. The information, in so far as it can be collected and tabulated, is as follows :—

State.	Sabbath Services.	Week-day Services.	Attendance.	Attendance at Prayer Meeting.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Deaths.
Victoria	—	—	68,162	—	2,566	1,132	1,083
N. S. Wales	21,982	6,078	32,834	1,846	2,563	1,280	856
Queensland	—	—	6,000	649	756	—	—
S. Australia	2,201	538	2,403	165	84	46	74
W. Australia	—	—	—	104	226	—	—
Tasmania	—	—	4,604	—	—	—	—

The principal conclusion to be drawn from these figures, is that the Church seating accommodation, while so lamentably short of the *needs*, is well ahead of the *demands* of our people.

The following table deals with "Members and Adherents" :—

State.	No. of Households.	Adherents over 16.	Adherents under 16.	Admitted 1st time.	Admitted by Certificate.	Removed by Certificate.	Lapsed or Dead.	Members on Roll.
Victoria	—	—	—	2,212	1,351	—	—	25,238
New South Wales	15,482	25,265	23,740	1,433	690	472	583	13,952
Queensland	—	—	—	445	234	—	—	5,776
South Australia...	—	252	1,511	132	42	33	26	1,623
West Australia...	—	—	—	106	98	100	27	1,002
Tasmania	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,719
Total... ..	—	—	—	4,328	—	—	—	49,310

Two things here deserve something more than a passing comment. The first is the fact that in one year no less than 4,328 joined the membership of our Church for the first time. Such a result must surely inspire our gratitude to Almighty God that He has been pleased thus signally to own our work. The second thing is the total membership of, say, 50,000 in relation to the Presbyterian population of about 420,000. It means

that something less than one in eight of the professedly Presbyterian population are Church members. In Victoria the percentage is higher, and this means that in the other States, notably the more sparsely-populated ones, it is considerably lower. It is a matter for thanksgiving that we have 50,000 members, and a matter for heart-searching that the number is not 150,000 at least.

The general finances of the Church scarcely come under the scope of this report, but two items are presented as an indication of the loyalty and liberality of our people in supporting the ordinances of grace.

State.	Total Revenue for Ordinary Purposes.	Stipend.
Victoria	106,279	59,553
N. S. Wales	53,459	37,429
Queensland	16,916	8,477
S. Australia	4,827	3,524
W. Australia	4,742	3,565
Tasmania	—	3,837
	£186,223	£116,383

We now come to a branch of our work which is at the same time the most important, the most interesting, and the most encouraging to which the Church is called to apply itself—the welfare of youth.

State.	Number of S. Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Scholars Enrolled.	Average Attendance.	F.A. & C.E. Societies.	Temperance Organisations.	Number attending Bible Class.	Volumes in S.S. Library.
Victoria	555	3780	40,008	—	—	—	—	—
N. S. Wales	307	2096	21,060	15,083	95	45	1781	23,992
Queensland	87	835	8634	6252	22	12	385	10,592
S. Australia	29	217	2082	1361	5	6	118	4121
W. Australia	26	179	1781	1177	8	—	205	—
Tasmania	42	218	2003	—	—	—	—	—
	1046	7325	75,568					

Such figures are more eloquent than anything which we can add to them. They indicate that the Church is being made the repository of its young people at the most susceptible age. The significance of this is unmistakable. The parents may forsake the Church themselves, but it is because they have lost faith in themselves and not in the Church. They believe in the Church, and ask it to care for their children. Herein lies our great hope for the future. If by any dulness or neglect we fail to hold the children, future statisticians will have to record and deplore a steadily-diminishing Church membership.

In this connection one other fact remains to be noted. New South Wales, alone of all the States, records any work done in the State schools. Under the New South Wales Act, Ministers or their deputies have the privilege of visiting the schools for the purpose of imparting religious instruction. According to the Returns, this privilege is

being used in 100 Charges, the total number of classes regularly held totalling 251. Public attention has recently been called to this matter by the criticisms of the Minister for Education, and it is well that the attention of the Assembly should also be directed to it, seeing that it is a matter of vital moment to the whole of Australia.

In the name of the Committee,

C. A. WHITE, B.A., Convener.

CENTESIMAL INCREASE OF DENOMINATIONS.

FROM 1891 TO 1901 (CENSUS).

	Vic.	N.S.W.	Queensland.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.
Church of England ...	5.59	23.87	29.79	19.85	205.45	10.13
Roman Catholic ...	8.20	21.04	50.07	10.63	225.58	17.50
Presbyterian ...	16.88	21.23	26.24	.83	636.45	18.12
Methodist ...	14.07	22.40	50.8	17.64	432.90	45.55
Congregational ...	22.46*	3.09	13.91	12.25	179.97	23.17
Baptists ...	17.74	26.74	19.46	22.61	929.68	43.55
Centesimal increase of population ...	5.34	20.54	26.12	13.16	269.86	19.51

*Decrease.

SUMMARY.

	Above General Increase in.			Below General Increase in.		
Church of England ...	Vic., N.S.W., Q'land, S.A.	W.A., Tas.				
Roman Catholic ...	Vic., N.S.W., Q'land.	S.A., W.A., Tas.				
Presbyterian ...	Vic., N.S.W., Q'land, W.A.	S.A., Tas.				
Methodist ...	All States					
Congregational ...	Tasmania	Vic., N.S.W., Q'land, S.A., W.A.				
Baptists ...	Vic., N.S.W., S.A., W.A., Tasmania.	Q'land				

	Vic.	N.S.W.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.
Per cent. of members— Presbyterian population ...	13.23	10.52	10.02	8.84	6.81	14.91
Per cent. of S.S. Scholars to Presbyterian population ...	20.97	15.88	14.74	11.34	12.10	17.38

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue for ordinary purposes per Presbyterian population ...	0 11 1	0 8 0	0 5 10	0 5 3	0 6 5	—
Revenue for ordinary purposes per Member ...	4 4 2	3 16 7	2 18 6	2 19 5	4 14 7	—
Debt per Member ...	4 4 0	3 17 0	2 3 0	4 15 0	10 16 0	3 8 0
Debt per Presbyterian population ...	0 11 1	0 7 4	0 4 3	0 8 5	0 14 9	0 10 3

PROPORTIONS OF DENOMINATIONS TO TOTAL OF POPULATION OF STATES—(COGHLAN).

	N.S.W. 1891-1901.		Vic. 1891-1901.		Q'land. 1891-1901.		S.A. 1891-1901.		W.A. 1891-1901.		Tas. 1891-1901.	
Church of England ...	44.8	46.6	35.2	35.8	56.2	37.5	27.9	30.2	49.7	42.0	49.9	49.6
Roman Catholic ...	25.5	26.0	21.8	22.3	23.6	24.6	14.7	14.8	25.3	23.4	17.6	17.9
Presbyterian ...	9.7	9.9	14.7	16.2	11.6	11.7	5.7	5.2	4.0	8.2	6.6	6.8
Methodist ...	9.8	10.3	13.0	15.2	7.8	9.5	19.0	25.5	9.2	13.6	11.7	14.8
Congregationalist ...	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.5	2.2	1.7	3.7	3.8	3.2	2.5	3.1	3.3
Baptist ...	1.2	1.2	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.6	5.5	6.2	0.6	1.7	2.2	2.8

COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS.

DRAFT SCHEDULE.

Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of.....

Statistical Returns for year ending.....19.....

.....Presbytery.

.....Charge.

Charge originated.....

Date of Minister's Ordination and Settlement

CHURCH BUILDINGS, &c.

1. No. of (a) Churches..... (b) Schools..... (c) Manse..... (d) Other property.....
2. Debt on (a) Churches..... (b) Schools..... (c) Manse (d) Any other debt.....
3. Insurance on (a) Churches..... (b) Schools (c) Manse..... (d) Other properties.....
4. Sitting accommodation of Churches..... Are sittings free? No. of sittings let.....or allocated without rent.....
5. What is the present value of (a) Church..... (b) School..... (c) Manse..... (d) Any other property.....

ORGANIZATION.

1. No. of Elders.....
2. No. of Deacons.....
3. No. of Managers.....
4. No. of District of Visitors.....
5. No. of Sustentation Fund Collectors.....
- *6. No. of Women's Societies..... Membership.....
7. Number of Temperance Societies..... Membership.....
8. Number of Literature and Debating Societies Membership.....
9. Number of Fellowship Associations..... Membership.....
10. Number of C.E. Societies..... Membership.....

RELIGIOUS ORDINANCES.

1. Number of centres where services are held--(a) Regularly (b) Occasionally.....
2. Number of services held during the year--(a) On Sundays..... (b) On Week-days.....
3. Number of Week-day Prayer Meetings.....
4. Average attendance at worship--(a) Morning..... (b) Evening.....
- (c) Aggregate average at Out-stations..... (d) at Prayer Meetings.....
5. Number of Baptisms.....
6. Number of Marriages.....
7. Number of Deaths.....

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, &c.

- † 1. Number of Households under your pastoral care..... How many souls do they comprise?
2. Number of members on the roll.....

3. Admissions—(a) First time..... (b) Certificate..... (c) Renewal of Membership without Certificate
4. Removals—(a) Certificate (b) Deaths..... (c) Defection or Removal without Certificate (d) Discipline.....
5. Non-members over 16 years..... Non-members under 16 years.....

WELFARE OF YOUTH.

1. Number of Sabbath Schools—(a) Ordinary..... (b) Mission.....
2. Number of Teachers—(a) Male..... (b) Female.....
3. Scholars enrolled—(a) Boys..... (b) Girls.....
4. Average attendance.....
5. Is there a Library? .. Number of volumes.....
6. How many attend (a) the Minister's Bible Class (b) any other Bible Class.....
7. What scheme of Lessons is used? ..
8. How many Public Schools are there within your parish? In how many of these do you give Religious Instruction?

FINANCIAL.

1. Total Ordinary Revenue for Congregational purposes.....from (a) Collections (b) Seat Rents..... (c) Sustentation Fund..... (d) Envelopes.. (e) any other source.....
2. Special Revenue for Congregational purposes.....
3. Stipend paid..... Other Salaries.....
- *4. Amount raised for Home Missions.....
- *5. Amount raised for Foreign Missions.....
6. Amount raised for Aged and Infirm Ministers
7. Amount raised for Widows and Orphans
8. Amount raised for Welfare of Youth
9. Amount of S. School Revenue.....
10. Amount raised for Charitable and Outside Objects.....
11. Total Revenue raised by Congregation from all sources and for all purposes

* Each State Assembly to fill in its own details.

† i.e., Houses in which there may be one or more members or adherents of the Church.

Attested by..... Minister.
 Secretary
 or Treasurer.

NOTE.—This Schedule should be filled in and returned to not later than.....

V.
 RETURNS.

(I.) RETURNS TO REMIT ON ARTICLE III. AS AMENDED :—

From Presbyteries.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve: Presbyteries of Bathurst, Goulburn, Hastings, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Illawarra, Murrumbidgee, New England, Sydney, Wagga Wagga, and Young.
 Disapproves: Monaro.

VICTORIA.—Approve: Ballarat, Bendigo, Gippsland, Hamilton, Macedon, Melbourne South, Mortlake, Penola and Wimmera.

QUEENSLAND.—Approve: Brisbane, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Toowoomba.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Adelaide, Belalie.

TASMANIA.—Approve: Launceston, Midlands.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Fremantle, Goldfields, Perth.

From State Assemblies.

NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, and WESTERN AUSTRALIA—Approve.

(2.) RETURNS TO REMIT ON DESIGNATION OF ASSEMBLIES.

From Presbyteries.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve generally: Presbyteries of Bathurst, Goulburn, Hastings, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Monaro, Murrumbidgee, New England, Sydney, Wagga Wagga, and Young.

Disapprove: Presbytery of Illawarra, with a view to securing uniformity, recommends the Assembly to obtain the advice of the Law Agent and Procurator as to the most suitable official designation of the State Assemblies.

VICTORIA.—Approve: Presbyteries of Ballarat, Beechworth, Bendigo, Gippsland, Hamilton, Macedon, Maryborough, Melbourne South, Mortlake, Penola and Wimmera. Melbourne North suggests—"The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria."

QUEENSLAND.—Approve: Brisbane, Maryborough, and Toowoomba. Presbytery of Rockhampton recommends "That each of the General Assemblies be designated the Assembly of the State to which it belongs."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approves: Belalie. Adelaide approves of the substitution of the word "Synod" for General Assembly.

TASMANIA.—Launceston approves of the following:—"That our own be called, 'The Tasmanian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.'"

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Goldfields and Perth. Fremantle: "Adopt the finding of the State Assembly—viz., That in all legal documents it is permissible and advisable to use the title, 'The Presbyterian Church of Australia,' with the sub-title 'Assembly of [name of State].'"

From State Assemblies.

NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, QUEENSLAND, and WESTERN AUSTRALIA—Approve.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA disapproves of the use of the word "State" for "Local," and proposes to substitute the use of "Synod."

TASMANIA recommends: "That the Assembly be called The Tasmanian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and that the Assemblies of other States be similarly designated."

(3.) RETURNS TO REMIT ON ARTICLE IX.

From Presbyteries.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve: Presbyteries of Bathurst, Goulburn, Hastings, Hunter, Illawarra, Monaro, New England, Wagga Wagga, and Young.

Clarence approves—"provided effective arrangements be made to procure meetings of Committee."

The Presbytery of Sydney approves with these amendments:

Section A, line (2.) After "Church" insert "or a Committee in Great Britain and Ireland, appointed by any of the State Churches for the selection of Ministers."

Section B, add (6.) "Should the interval between the arrival of a Minister and the meeting of the General Assembly exceed twelve months, the Committee is empowered, after due enquiry, to receive an applicant to the full standing of a Minister of the Church on the completion of a probation of twelve months."

VICTORIA.—Approve: Ballarat, Beechworth, Bendigo, Gippsland, Hamilton, Macedon, Maryborough, Mortlake, Penola and Wimmera.

Approve generally: Melbourne North. Melbourne South suggests that Regulations for the calling of Ministers from other countries should be added.

QUEENSLAND.—Approve: Brisbane and Toowoomba. Presbytery of Rockhampton approves, and recommends that the Regulations for the admission of congregations of other denominations which the Presbytery approves of be placed under a separate heading (D), and that Presbyteries be instructed to make special inquiry and to satisfy themselves on the following points:—(1.) The unanimity or otherwise of the congregation desiring admission. (2.) The resources of such congregations available for the maintenance of ordinances; and (3.) The real and other property of such congregations (if any), and the legal claims (if any) against it.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approve generally: Presbytery of Adelaide, Belalie and Onkaparinga.

TASMANIA.—Approve: Hobart and Launceston. Midlands approves with the suggestion that it is exceedingly undesirable that ministers of other denominations applying for entrance should be recognised in any way as authorised agents of the Church prior to the consideration of their claims by the Assembly's Committee.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Fremantle, Goldfields and Perth.

From State Assemblies.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve, with amendments suggested by the Presbytery of Sydney.

VICTORIA.—Approve, with the suggestion that regulations for the calling of Ministers from other Churches be added.

QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, and WESTERN AUSTRALIA—Approve.

(4.) RETURNS TO RECOMMENDATIONS ANENT HYMNARY ROYALTIES.

NEW SOUTH WALES ASSEMBLY.—Heartily approve of placing the royalty of the *Hymnary* along with that from the other States in a common Fund, towards paying the travelling expenses of delegates to the General Assembly of Australia.

VICTORIAN ASSEMBLY.—Direct that the sum received in royalties be handed over to the Finance Committee of the Church of Australia, to be held at the disposal of the General Assembly with the recommendation that the money be used for travelling expenses of members of the Assembly; and also to assist young men to pursue their studies for the ministry.

QUEENSLAND ASSEMBLY.—Approve, with the exception that in the arrangements for payment of the expenses of delegates, the expenses of delegates from this State should be calculated on the basis of first-class fares.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, and WESTERN AUSTRALIA approve.

(5.) RETURNS ON OVERTURE ANENT BENEFICIARY FUNDS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE ASSEMBLIES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Resolved to refer the proposal in the Overture to the Widows and Orphans' Association and the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund Committee to consider and report to next Assembly.

VICTORIAN ASSEMBLY.—That in the opinion of the Assembly the time is not opportune for the unification of the Beneficiary Funds of the United Church.

QUEENSLAND ASSEMBLY.—That as the Queensland Church had no Beneficiary Fund at present, the Assembly did not feel competent to express any opinion.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ASSEMBLY reaffirmed its former approval of the Overture.

TASMANIAN ASSEMBLY.—Approve.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ASSEMBLY approves of the South Australian Overture.

(6.) RETURNS ON REMIT RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE IN REGARD TO DISCIPLINE.

From Presbyteries.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve: Clarence, Goulburn, Hawkesbury, New England, Young.

Approve generally: Hunter, Illawarra.

Monaro: Approve, but point out that 35 seems to give a veto to State Assemblies.

Sydney: Approved, with the following amendments:—

Rule 5.—Delete "three days."

Rule 6 b.—Delete "or is gross peace of the Church."

Insert 6c.—“If the error does seriously affect vital points of religion, or if the conduct be such as tends to destroy the order, unity, or peace of the Church, the proceedings are to be conducted as hereinafter provided.”

Rule 7.—Delete “and to give . . . accordingly.”

Rule 29.—Delete “an” and substitute “any.”

Rule 31 *e*, Margin.—Delete “Sentence for contumacy, &c.” and substitute “Expulsion.”

Rule 31.—Transpose sections *f* and *g*.

Rule 35.—Delete “nor . . . by it,” and substitute “or by the Judicial Commission.”

Rule 36.—Delete (Carried by 18 votes to 6.)

Rule 38.—Delete “Provided . . . record.”

Wagga Wagga : Approve, with the following suggestions :—25, in second line insert “and” after “charge”; 4, in first line delete “and subscribed,” and in second line after “court” insert “and subscribed by the witness”; 34, substitute “a Minister” for “Ministers,” and make necessary alterations; delete “who having been” in first line and insert “who” after “Presbytery”; insert “but” before “due” in third last line, and substitute “must have been” for “having been” in second last line; 35, substitute “a Licentiate” for “Licentiates,” with necessary alterations; 36, omit “but” in second last line; schedule 2, substitute “has” for “having” in first and third lines, insert “whereas” after “and” in second line, delete “which” in fourth line and insert “and whereas said Presbytery”; schedule 3, substitute “has” for “having.”

VICTORIA.—Approve generally : Beechworth, Macedon, Melbourne North.

Approve : Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hamilton, Mortlake, Penola and Wimmera.

Gippsland : Approve, except 35, which think too severe.

Melbourne South : Approve, with following amendments :—4, omit “or an Elder” and the Elder shall be suspended from office”; 10, add “the Minutes of the preliminary inquiry shall be kept in a separate”; 13, add “against this resolution the accused or any member of the Court may appeal to the Judicial Commission of the General Assembly of Australia”; 16, after “writing” insert “and may also be heard in support of his objections”; 22, for “members” substitute “persons subject to this jurisdiction”; 25 (5), add “at this stage the case may be referred to the Judicial Commission of the General Assembly of Australia”; 31, omit (e) “expulsion”; 32, omit “expulsion”; 35, after “Australia” insert “or by the State Assembly under whose jurisdiction the sentence was pronounced,” and in the last line omit “and approved by it”; 38, omit “provided that.”

QUEENSLAND.—Approve : Maryborough, Toowoomba.

Brisbane : Approve, but suggests insertion of the words “and if” after the word “charge” in 25.

Rockhampton : Approve, with following amendments :—

2. Transpose “(1)” and “(2);” and add to “accuser or accusers” in (2) “having the right of access to such court.”

4. Add to “accusation” the words “involving a question of life or doctrine”; for “be suspended from office” substitute “*de facto* cease to discharge the duties of the eldership.”

5. For “three” say “seven”; after “notice” insert “in writing.”

6. After “doctrine, or” insert “of”; (a) after “conference should” insert “if considered expedient”; after “accused and” insert “such”; after “may be” insert “deemed advisable”; (b) after “error” substitute “be” for “is”; after “conduct” substitute “is” for “be.”

7. For “council” substitute “submit” or “present”; after “be held” substitute “to be” for “as”; for “and dealt” say “and be dealt.”

8. For “institute an inquiry” substitute “to inquire into the relevancy and gravity of the charge”; after “ten days” insert “after citation.”

11. For “is frivolous or unsupported” say “is irrelevant or frivolous”; after “accused is” in line four insert “*de facto*.”

12. Print “apparently” in italics; for “is” substitute “shall be”; delete from “either” to “presence” inclusive.

13. For “continues” say “continue”; between “charge” and “involves” omit “the case may be, if” and insert “and the Court having heard him in explanation decide that it”; after “revoke” insert “the case may.”

14. For “is forthwith” substitute “shall be forthwith.”

15. After “allegation” delete “of fact.”

18. For “time,” in line 2nd, substitute “period”; after “for the accused to” substitute “within which point the accused may”; for “further time” say “date.”

19. Delete from “either” to “or” in line 2nd.

20. For lines 3rd, 4th and 5th, substitute "accused person in writing in form, &c., on such day."

21. After "or by" insert "an officer of the Court."

22. Delete from "members" to "case."

25. After "charge" insert "and it has nevertheless"; after "relevant" insert "then."

26. Before "law," in line 10, insert "civil."

30. Add "and the accused is restored to office."

31. (c) To "privilege" add "and office"; after "has" add "has been guilty of open and heinous sin, and has thereby." (d) Delete "because embodied in" (e) as suggested above. (g) New order suggested. (f) To "privilege" add "and office." (e) After "expulsion" add "This sentence is pronounced on account of persistent contumacy."

32. To read as follows:—"None of the foregoing sentences shall be inflicted unless as the issue of a judicial process and in the case of deposition and excommunication only as the issue of such process with libel." "The sentence of expulsion may be inflicted summarily in cases of aggregated and persistent contumacy after full consideration by the Court."

33. Substitute "The dissolution of the pastoral tie does not follow the sentence of suspension from office, unless declared by a resolution of the Court."

34. Substitute "In cases in which the pastoral tie has not been dissolved, suspension from office can be removed only by the Presbytery that adjudicated in the case, or on appeal, by a superior Court." "In cases in which the dissolution of the pastoral tie has followed on suspension, the removal of the suspension and reponement are competent only for the Assembly of the State in which the Presbytery is situated, or on appeal for the General Assembly."

35. For "General Assembly of Australia, &c.," substitute "Assembly of the State in which the Presbytery is situated, and cannot be employed outside such State until the suspension is removed."

38. For "provided" to "public" substitute "but a request by the accused person that the matter be dealt with in public may be granted."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Onkaparinga.

Approve generally: Adelaide, Belalie.

TASMANIA.—Midlands: Approve, with suggestion of Rules in regard to adherents, specially those who are members of a Board of Management.

Approve: Launceston.

WEST AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Goldfields and Perth.

From State Assemblies.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve generally.

VICTORIA.—Approve, with the following amendments:—4, omit "or an Elder" and "the Elder shall be suspended from office"; 10, add "The minutes of the preliminary inquiry shall be kept in a separate record"; 13, add "against this resolution the accused or any member of the Court may appeal to the Judicial Commission of the General Assembly of Australia"; 16, after "writing" insert "and may also be heard in support of his objections"; 22, for "members" substitute "persons subject to the jurisdiction"; 25 (5) add "at this stage the case may be referred to the Judicial Commission of the General Assembly of Australia"; 32, omit "expulsion"; 35, after "Australia" insert "or by the State Assembly under whose jurisdiction the sentence was pronounced," and in the last line omit "and approved by it"; 38, omit "provided that."

QUEENSLAND.—Approve.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approve generally, with this reservation, that the representatives of this Assembly be authorised to endeavour to secure, when the matter is under consideration of the General Assembly, some alterations in these Rules, especially those bearing on tendering evidence.

TASMANIA and WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Approve.

(7.) RETURNS ON REMIT RELATIVE TO STANDING ORDERS.

From Presbyteries.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Clarence: Approve, with exception of conduct of debate. Approve: Goulburn, Hawkesbury, Hunter, New England, Young.

Illawarra: Approve generally, with exception of mode of making amendments and double vote for Conveners.

Monaro: Approve, with following suggestions:—12, omit "on entering or retiring from the House"; 46, suggest provisions for taking vote by ballot; 81, omit.

Sydney: Approve, with following amendments:—2, line 1, for "a" read "an immediately"; 3, lines 3, 6 and 9, after "whom" insert "at least"; 7, line 2, delete "and—others"; 12, line 3, delete "make their"; 13, line 2, after "first" insert "Sederunt"; 15, line 2, delete "so—do"; 19, line 1, after "aloud" insert "without remark"; 21, line 2, for "with the" read "by"; 23, line 1, after "by" insert "unanimous"; 28, line 3, delete "with—seconded"; 37, line 4, after "any" insert "judicial";

38h. Insert "When a motion consists of more clauses than one, they shall be debated and put to the House *seriatim*";

39. Line 2, "and until such amendment is disposed of no other amendment shall be proposed";

40-42 delete; 44, lines 14 and 15, delete "except—reply"; 54, place after 39; 56, line 5, add "or (5) to move the adjournment of the debate"; 74, lines 3 to 7, delete "but—carried"; 76, lines 3 to 6, delete "unless—discussion"; 79, line 3, for "House" read "Chair"; 81, delete; 87, line 1, after "Chairman" insert "and the Clerk"; 105, lines 2 and 3, delete "if—case"; 106, delete.

Wagga Wagga: Approve, with following amendments:—(6) Insert "Kirk" before "Session"; 33, transpose clauses to correspond with 56; 38, transpose (2) and (3); 46, in second last clause substitute "and" for first "or"; 113, in third line substitute "Assembly" for "Assemblies"; and in last line delete "General or State Assemblies"; 117, in first line insert "and" after "question."

VICTORIA.—Approve generally: Beechworth, Macedon, Melbourne North.

Approve: Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hamilton, Maryborough, Melbourne South, Mortlake, Penola, Wimmera.

Gippsland: Approve, but suggest the omission of 12 and of "nor can he move another amendment" from 36.

QUEENSLAND.—Brisbane: Approve, but suggest omission of "on" after "infringes" in 19, and of "and" after "speaker" in 79.

Approve: Maryborough, Toowoomba.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Adelaide, Belalie, Onkaparinga.

TASMANIA.—Launceston: Approve, but suggest amendment on 3, "If a quorum be not present at the hour for which a meeting has been called, the Moderator shall have power to adjourn until such a time as, in his opinion, a quorum can be secured."

WEST AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Goldfields, Perth.

REPLIES OF STATE ASSEMBLIES TO THE RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO STANDING ORDERS.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve, with the substitution of the amendments of the Presbytery of Sydney on Rules 38 to 42 and Rule 56.

VICTORIA.—Approve.

QUEENSLAND.—Approve.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, and WESTERN AUSTRALIA—Approve.

JAMES S. LAING, D.D.,

Senior Clerk.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA EXPENSES FUND ACCOUNT.

DR.

31ST JULY, 1903.

CR.

DISBURSEMENTS.	£ s. d.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.
<i>Meeting in Melbourne, September, 1902.</i>		By Balance	41 0 6
<i>To Expenses in Melbourne—</i>		„ <i>Proportion of Expenses from—</i>	
To Printing Standing Orders (Rae Bros.)... ..	£12 8 6	Victorian Church	£40 0 0
„ Officer and Assistant	4 0 0	New South Wales Church	40 0 0
„ Organist	3 3 0	South Australian Church	13 6 8
„ Printing (Rae Brothers)	7 9 6	Queensland Church	13 6 8
„ Advertising <i>Age</i> , £3 2s.; <i>Argus</i> , £2 19s. 6d....	6 1 6	Tasmanian Church... ..	13 6 8
„ Wine	0 6 0	West Australian Church	10 0 0
„ Stationery	0 5 0		130 0 0
„ Postages	3 8 6	„ Collection taken at Meeting in Melbourne, September 1902	8 7 1
„ Petties	1 8 0		
	38 10 0		
„ <i>Expenses Editing Year Book—</i>			
Rev. James Jackson	7 8 6		
„ <i>Expenses Convener Foreign Missions Board—</i>			
Rev. T. R. Cairns—Travelling	5 0 0		
Postages	0 19 6		
Cable to Moravian Board	0 19 4		
	6 18 10		
„ Printing Blue Book	38 14 6		
„ Printing Extract Report Congregational Union	1 15 0		
„ Carriage Clerk's Box	0 10 0		
„ Advertising, <i>Messenger</i>	0 12 0		
„ Telegram	0 2 11		
„ Postages	11 4 9		
„ Honorarium Clerk	30 0 0		
„ „ Assistant Clerk	20 0 0		
	50 0 0		
„ Balance	23 11 1		
	<u>£179 7 7</u>		<u>£179 7 7</u>
		By Balance	23 11 1

125

Examined and found correct,

Sydney, 1st August, 1903.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.S.I.A.,
Official Auditor, Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA, TRAVELLING EXPENSES ACCOUNT.

Dr.

31ST JULY, 1903.

Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.		£ s. d.	RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.
To Paid Travelling Expenses to Meeting in Melbourne, September, 1902—			By Amount received from Church Hymnary Royalty Account		142 7 4
Moderator (Right Rev. Dr. Hay) ...	£12 15 0				
Ex-Moderator (Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn) ...	12 0 0				
Clerk (Rev. Dr. Laing) ...	3 18 0				
Victorian Representatives ...	2 5 0				
New South Wales ..	44 13 0				
South Australian ..	9 10 6				
Queensland ..	37 15 6				
Tasmanian ..	9 11 11				
West Australian ..	9 11 3				
		142 0 2			
„ Postages ...		0 7 2			
		<u>£142 7 4</u>			<u>£142 7 4</u>

CHURCH HYMNARY ROYALTY ACCOUNT—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUST.

Dr.

31ST JULY, 1908.

Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.		£ s. d.	RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.
To Amount paid for Travelling Expenses to Meeting of General Assembly in Melbourne, September, 1902, as per separate account ...		142 7 4	By Royalties received per—		
„ Balance ...		548 4 1	Victorian Church, to March, 1903	448 19 6	
		<u>£690 11 5</u>	New South Wales Church ..	160 3 10	
			South Australian Church ..	19 1 10	
			Queensland Church, to March, 1902	60 18 3	
			Tasmanian Church ..	1 8 0	
				<u>£690 11 5</u>	
			By Balance ..	548 4 1	

ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA EXPENSES FUND ACCOUNT.

31ST JULY, 1903.

Cr.

| By Contributions, May—July, 1901 £41 16 0

SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

| March 31—Amount received from Presbyterian Church of England for Mission Work in Bush £20 0 0

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.S.I.A.,

Official Auditor Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

Sydney, 1st August, 1903.

INDEX.

	Minute.	Page
Addresses to Governors-General	106	
Alliance of Reformed Churches: Resolution	86	
Apologies Received	17	
Assembly, Date of next: Resolution	115	
Assembly Expenses Accounts		125
Ballot Taken	46	
Board of Examination	78	
Book of Family Prayers: Resolution	83, 112	
Bradley, Rev. W. H., Admitted	107	
Cameron, Rev. Dr., Associated	82	
Centenary of B. & F. Bible Society: Resolution	35	
Claims of Israel: Resolution	61	
Commissions Granted to Revs. Dr. Marshall, A. Yule, and J. Ferguson	86	
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—		
Foreign Missions' Finance	46	
Procedure in Discipline	76	
Standing Orders	76	
COMMITTEES APPOINTED—		
(Special Committees)		
Beneficiary Funds	67	
Federation of Protestant Churches	98	
Hymn Book for S. Schools	145	
Letter on Ecclesiastical Precedence	25, 77	
Public Questions	115	
<i>Record</i>	33	
Replies to Communications	18	
Selection Committee	5	
Sites in Federal Capital	116	
To Nominate Moderator of General Assembly	108	
To Fix Date of Next Assembly	90	
COMMUNICATIONS—		
Alliance of Reformed Churches	86	52
B. & F. Bible Society	35	54
Gray, Rev. J., of Pretoria	62	55
Methodist General Conference	19	57
N. S. Wales Alliance	21, 60	
Precedence: Letter to Premier of Commonwealth	77	
Presbytery of South Africa	43	52
St. Andrew's, Launceston	22	
Steel, Rev. Robert	97	
Synod of Diocese of Sydney	18	57
W.C.T.U.	59	54
Y.M.C. Association	20	
Communion Service	12	
Delegates to Alliance of Reformed Churches Appointed	86	
Demonstration: Home and Foreign Missions	93	
Deportation of South Sea Islanders: Resolution	118	
Deputation from Methodist Church	42, 48	
Discipline, Procedure in: Resolution	99	
Dissents	23, 51	
Ecclesiastical Precedence: Resolution	77	
Examiners, List of	4	
Free Churches and English Education Act: Resolution	91	
Hours of Meeting	4	

	Minute.	Page.
Jones, Rev. H., Admitted	107	
Liquor Traffic in New Guinea: Resolution	117	
Ministers Unattached: Resolution	107	
Moderator, Election of	3	
Nicholls, Rev. G., Admitted	107	
Nominating the Moderator, Mode of: Resolution	108	
Official Service: Resolution	34	
Official Visits, Moderator's: Resolution	74	
Officials of the General Assembly		3
 OVERTURES:		
Exit Examination of Students	78	58
<i>Ex officio</i> Members	110	59
Minister-Evangelists	63	37
Mode of Electing the Moderator	24	58
Paton, Rev. T. H. L., member <i>ex officio</i> : Resolution	16	
 PETITIONS—		
For Admission to the Church—		
Rev. D. Brown and Congregation	107	68
For Admission to the Ministry—		
Rev. W. H. Bradley	107	66
R. H. Chapple	107	67
H. Jones	107	66
H. G. Nicholls	107	65
G. Preston	107	
F. Stubbs	107	63
W. S. Whiteside... ..	107	64
From Students—		
Mr. D. Bruce	26, 51	
J. T. Dudley	26, 51	69
E. O. Keays	26, 51	
H. A. E. O'Sullivan	113	69
W. Ride	26, 51	69
J. F. Staveley	26, 51	70
From Presbytery of Hobart, <i>re</i> Mr. Tulloch	26, 51	69
<i>Re</i> Ecclesiastical Precedence	25	63
St. Andrew's, Launceston, Managers of	75	59
Professors and Lecturers of Theological Halls		4
Public Questions Committee Appointed	115	
Redmond, Rev. R. A., Associated	6	
 REMITTS—		
Home Mission Committee's Scheme	63	97
Overture on <i>Ex officio</i> Members	110	59
Procedure in Discipline	99	
Reception of Ministers, Rules, Article IX.	67	120
 REPORTS—		
(Standing Committees)		
Code	76, 80, 99, 108, 109	
College	51, 78	89
Finance	50	110
Foreign Missions	27, 45, 47	70
Home Missions	63	94
Reception of Ministers	107	98
Statistics	114	113
<i>Year Book</i>	32	113
(Special Committees)		
Assembly, Next Meeting of	115	
Book of Family Prayers	112	
Communications, Replies to	43	
Federation of Protestant Churches	37, 98	100
Hymn Book for Sabbath Schools	92	111
<i>Record</i>	33	112
Selection Committee	23	

	Minute.	Page.
RETURNS TO REMITS -		
Article III.	67	119
Article IX.	67	120
Beneficiary Funds	67	121
Designation of Assemblies	67	120
Hymnary Royalties	50	121
Procedure in Discipline	99	121
Standing Orders	99	123
Roll	16	
Scrutineers Appointed	5, 36	
Scrutineers, Report of	52	
Special Committees, List of	47	
Standing Committees, Election of	52	
Standing Committees, List of	45	
Standing Orders Approved: Resolution	99	
Students' Examination: Resolution	85	
Stubbs, Rev. F., Admitted	107	
Telegram from the Presbyterian Church of South Africa	19	
Telegram to the Presbyterian Church of South Africa	43	
Thanks, Resolution of	120	
Thanksgiving for Rain, Day of, Appointed	111	
Turkish Misrule in Macedonia: Resolution	119	
Watt, Rev. W., of Tanna, Associated	49	
Whiteside, Rev. W. S., Admitted	107	





Printed by SAM. E. LEES, Printer and Stationer, 21 Clarence Street, Sydney, and
published by the authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian
Church of Australia by JAMES SAMUEL LAING, D.D. Senior Clerk of the
General Assembly.

