MINUTES

OF

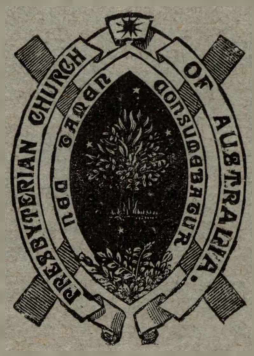
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Australia.



HELD IN SYDNEY—SEPTEMBER, 1906.

SESSION FIFTH.

Sydney:

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

1906.

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CONTENTS.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Right Rev. the Moderator:

THE REV. T. E. CLOUSTON, D.D., The Glebe, Sydney.

Clerk of Assembly:

REV. GEORGE TAIT, M.A., South Yarra, Melbourne.

The Procurator:

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

The Law Agents:

MESSRS. DAVIES & CAMPBELL, Melbourne.

Treasurers:

THE TREASURERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES CHURCH, 23 York Street, Sydney.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

THE THEOLOGICAL HALLS.

ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Professor of Christian Philosophy and Apologetics and New Testament Greek Exegesis—Rev. J. Laurence Rentoul, D.D.

Professor of Church History and Systematic Theology—

Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis—Rev. Alexander Skene, M.A.

"Wilson" Lecturer on Elocution—Rev. Edward Rorke, B.A.

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.

Lecturer in Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure—John Garland, Esq., M.A., LL.B.

EXAMINERS.

FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Scripture and Catechism—Revs. J. F. Macrae and A. Stuart McCook, B.A

English—Revs. A. R. Osborn, M.A., and W. J. Holt, M.A.

Hebrew—Revs. J. V. McNair and David Smith, M.A.

Greek—Revs. D. Paton, D.D., and D. M. Barnet, B.A.

History—Revs. G. Davidson, M.A., and D. Macrae Stewart.

Logic and Philosophy—Revs. John Gray, B.D., and F. E. Oxer, B.D.

FOR EXIT EXAMINATION.

Theology—Revs. P. J. Murdoch, M.A., and J. Auld, M.A.

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

New Testament Greek—Revs. J. Gillies, B.D., and R. E. Davies, M.A.

Hebrew—Revs. J. Cosh, B.D., and Hugh M. Burns, B.D.

Apologetics—Revs. W. G. Maconochie, M.A., and R. G. Macintyre, B.D.

With Revs. E. N. Merrington, M.A., Ph.D., and T. S. Crawford, M.A.

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.

PLACE and **DATE** of Meeting of next Assembly: At ADELAIDE, on WEDNESDAY, the 18TH SEPTEMBER, 1907, at 7 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS, &c.—

REMITS—

To STATE ASSEMBLIES and PRESBYTERIES.

To STATE ASSEMBLIES.

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

MINUTES

OF THE

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

SESSION FIFTH.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Wednesday the 26th day of September, 1906, at 7 p m.

1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened. Public worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Retiring Moderator (P. J. Murdoch), who preached from Romans I : 16. After sermon, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Opening of Assembly.

2. THE ROLL of Assembly, as printed in the White Book with changes reported since the printing of the book, was laid on the table, declared of interim authority, and ordered to be finally adjusted after the confirmation of the Minutes to-morrow morning. Roll

Election of Moderator.

3. THE MODERATOR, having intimated that the Moderator and the ex-Moderators of the General Assembly, and the Moderators of the State Assemblies had agreed to nominate for the Moderator's Chair the Rev. T. E. Clouston, D.D., minister at the Glebe, Sydney, the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn moved:—That Dr. Clouston's nomination be sustained, and that he be elected Moderator of this Assembly. The motion was seconded by the Rev. George Ewan, and carried on the voices.

Dr. Clouston was conducted to the chair, and delivered a suitable address.

Thanks to Ex-Moderator.

4. ON the motion of the Rev. Dr. Harper, seconded by Colonel Goodlet, the Assembly resolved:—That cordial thanks be given to the ex-Moderator for the thoughtful and appropriate sermon preached by him at the opening of the Assembly, and also for his valuable services to the Church during his term of office.

Hours of Meeting.

5. IT WAS AGREED to meet to-morrow at 10.a.m. for the observance of the Lord's Supper, and at 11 a.m. and at 7 p.m. for ordinary business.

Business Committee.

6. THE FOLLOWING were appointed the Business Committee for the Session, with instructions to meet each day at the close of the morning Sederunt:—Rev. R. G. Macintyre (Convener), the Clerk, Rev. John Burgess, Dr. McInnes, R. Steel, P. J. Murdoch, A. Stewart, Hume Robertson, Peter Robertson, Wm. Gray, F. E. Oxer, H. W. Burridge, and Messrs. Wm. Wood, W. Affleck, J. M. Campbell, George Hall, W. J. Hill, George Kerr, J. M. Ferguson, and Hon. J. Balfour.

Selection Committees.

7. THE FOLLOWING were appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Assembly representatives on the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and the Standing Committees:—Rev. John Walker (Convener), Revs. J. K. Bruce, Dr. Meiklejohn, J. Mathew, George Ewan, F. H. Bardwell, J. D. Brown, C. P. D. Taylor,, with Messrs. J. Kirkland, Dr. MacFarland, James Allan, W. L. Ligertwood, M. McKenzie, and R. W. Main.

The Committee of Selection was instructed to meet to-morrow (Thursday) at 9 a.m., and to give in the names proposed by noon.

8. IT was agreed that additional nominations may be received up to the close of Thursday evening's Sederunt, and that a ballot (if required) be taken on Friday at 2 p.m. The following were appointed Scrutineers of the ballot, with instructions to prepare the voting papers :—Rev. James Cosh (Convener), and Rev. R. M. Fergus, with Messrs. J. H. Balfour and M. McGillivray. Scrutineers.

9. THE REV. GEO. TAIT and Rev. J. Burgess were appointed a Committee to draw up a memorial minute of the late Rev. Dr. Laing, the Senior Clerk, with instructions to present the minute at the opening of to-morrow's business. Rev. Dr. Laing.

10. THE petitions of Messrs. James Haynes, Alexander Macdonald, Wm. Ferries, A. D. Robertson, Joseph A. Lee, and John Frederic Sims were remitted to the College Committee, with instruction to report on same on Friday morning. Petitions.

11. THE petitions of Rev. A. H. Tolhurst, Rev. John Adamson, Rev. J. H. Dawe, Rev. G. A. Hill, Rev. R. M. Frazer, and Rev. W. A. Hobson were remitted to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers, with instructions to report on Friday morning.

12. THE PRESBYTERY of the Hawkesbury asked leave to meet to-morrow morning at 9.30.

The leave was granted.

13. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m. for the observance of the Lord's Supper, and 11 a.m. for the transaction of business, which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer Adjournment.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Thursday, the 27th day of September, 1906, at 10 a.m.

14. THE MEMBERS of the Assembly united in a Communion Service, conducted by the Moderator, assisted by the Revs. P. J. Murdoch, Professor Skene, A. Gillison and F. H. L. Paton. The Communion.

Constitution.

15. AT the conclusion of the Service the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

Minutes confirmed.

16. THE minutes of the First Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Roll.

17. The Roll was finally adjusted and sustained as follows:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

Rev. Jas. Hendry, M.A.	Mr. John McCall
Joseph McDowell	Donald Ross
W. G Sharpe, BA.	James Simmons

PRESBYTERY OF THE CLARENCE.

Rev. David Allan	Mr. A. H. Garven
M. Kirkpatrick, B.A.	James Jolly

PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN.

Rev. Charles Crane, B.A.	Mr. Walter G. Crane

PRESBYTERY OF THE HASTINGS.

Rev. W. Tassie	Mr. Geo. Alex. Andrews

PRESBYTERY OF THE HAWKESBURY.

Rev. Alex. Dandie	Mr. Albert Baker
George A. Gordon, B.A.	C. J. Ferguson
Wilfred J. Holt, M.A.	Clifford C. Kennett

PRESBYTERY OF THE HUNTER.

Rev. T. S. Crawford, M.A.	Mr. John McDonald
Philip Norman	John McLachlan
Alex. Smith	W. T. Seaward, B.A.

PRESBYTERY OF ILLAWARRA.

Rev. Robert Inglis, M.A.	Mr. William Tomlins

PRESBYTERY OF THE LACHLAN.

Rev. W. F. Brown	Mr. G. F. Giles

PRESBYTERY OF MONARO.

Rev. J. L. Forbes, B.D.	Mr. J. C. Ryrie

PRESBYTERY OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE.

Rev. Wm. C. Moulton	Mr. Wm. E. Ross

PRESBYTERY OF NEW ENGLAND.

Rev. A. P. Cameron, B.A.	Mr. A. K. Cameron
F. W. Gresham	J. Patterson

PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY.

Rev. David Bruce, D.D.	Mr. J. A. Aitken
John Burgess, M.A.	W. G. Geikie
T. E. Clouston, B.A., D.D.	Colonel Goodlet
John Ferguson	Mr. J. B. Holdsworth
A. Harper, M.A., D.D.	A. McCredie
John Kinross, B.A., D.D.	J. Marden, M.A., LL.D.
George MacInnes, M.A., D.D.	J. Mars
R. G. McIntyre, M.A., B.D.	A. J. Polson
W. M. Dill Macky, D.D.	W. Wood

PRESBYTERY OF WAGGA WAGGA.

Rev. John Dunlop Landels	Mr. John Ross

PRESBYTERY OF YOUNG

Rev. Henry A. Hutchinson, B.Sc.	Mr. David McConaghy

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. W. H. Ash	Mr. W. Affleck
J. K. Bruce	J. Angus
Jas. Cosh, B.D.	J. H. Balfour
J. Kingborn	J. B. Brown
A. McKinlay	John Cameron
R. Steel, M.A.	S. J. Carruthers, F.C.A.A.
John Walker	J. Kirkland
R. H. Waugh, M.A.	J. Knox
C. A. White, B.A.	E. J. Loxton, M.A.

VICTORIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT.

Rev. C. Cameron	Mr. S. Jamieson
R. McGowan	H. F. Sleeman
C. Robinson, B.A.	J. Draffin

PRESBYTERY OF BEECHWORTH.

Rev. J. H. Angus	Mr. William Cumming
W. H. Steele, M.A.	J. J. Munro

PRESBYTERY OF BENDIGO.

Rev. James Crookston	———
Hume Robertson, B.A.	———

PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG.

Rev. Smith MacBain	Mr. J. G. Johnston
J. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.	J. Pettitte
R. Macleod	D. Reddie

PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND.

Rev. F. G. H. Brady	Mr. A. Hamilton
J. G. Wilson	H. Hopkins

PRESBYTERY OF THE GOULBURN VALLEY.

Rev. G. M. Baird	———
H. A. Erskine	———
F. Robinson	———

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Rev. R. A. Green, B.A.	Mr. Peter Brown
J. S. Jaffray	A. Turnbull

PRESBYTERY OF MACEDON.

Rev. R. W. McLean, M.A.	Mr. J. A. Beattie

PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. C. Jones	———
F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D.	———

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH.

Rev. John Gray, M.A., B.D.	Mr. Robert Henry
W. L. Grierson	John McCallum
Jas. Gibson	A. McIntosh
Andrew Hardie	J. McKinnon
Hugh Jones, M.A.	Dr. Andrew Shields
Robert Murray, M.A., B.D.	T. J. Watt
James Spittal	

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH.

Rev. J. S. Buntine
H. M. Burns, M.A., B.D.
D. A. Cameron, M.A.
W. H. Cooper, M.A., B.D.
R. M. Fergus, M.A.
Rev. J. M. James, B.D.
Mr. M. E. Kernot
D. McNeil
Rev. T. B. Ronald, M.H.R.
Mr. A. Stewart

PRESBYTERY OF MORTLAKE.

Rev. J. G. Miller
T. J. Riddle
Mr. G. S. Mackay
W. H. McMahon

PRESBYTERY OF PENOLA.

Rev. C. Neville
Mr. S. T. Stuckey

PRESBYTERY OF WIMMERA.

Rev. H. T. Hull

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Right Rev. T. R. Cairns, D.D.
Rev. A. Davidson
J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.
J. Meiklejohn, M.A., D.D.
Right Rev. P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
Rev. J. G. Paton, D.D.
W. S. Rolland
Professor Skene, M.A.
Alex. Stewart, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.
Alex. Yule, M.A.
A. J. Wade
Hon. J. Balfour
Mr. R. Gillespie
T. J. Finlay
A. Byers
F. Stocks
W. M. Walker
J. MacIndoe
J. M. Campbell, LL.M.
J. M. Knight
Dr. MacFarland
Mr. H. M. Kemp
M. McGillivray

QUEENSLAND.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE.

Rev. George Ewan
W. Sweyn Macquee
Peter Robertson
Mr. T. Bennet
George Hall
A. S. Lang

PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. J. I. Knipe, D.D.
Mr. A. McKellar

PRESBYTERY OF ROCKHAMPTON.

Rev. T. W. Smythe	Mr. G. Milliken

PRESBYTERY OF TOOWOOMBA.

Rev. J. Lundie, B.A. D. McLennan	Mr. J. De Conlay J. T. Provan

PRESBYTERY OF TOWNSVILLE.

Rev. R. Kerr	Mr. T. Whatley

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. A. Gillison, M.A. James McQueen	Mr. James Allan Alex McIntosh

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF ADELAIDE.

Rev. D. Paton, D.D. R. Thomson	Mr. T. W. Fleming W. J. Hill

PRESBYTERY OF BELALIE.

Rev. William Gray	Mr. James Cram

PRESBYTERY OF ONKAPARINGA.

Rev. B. C. Matthews	Mr. W. J. Weller

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Right Rev. F. H. Bardwell, M.A.	Mr. W. L. Ligertwood

TASMANIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF HOBART.

Rev. J. D. Brown	Mr. William Woodside

PRESBYTERY OF LAUNCESTON.

Rev. W. Beck	Rev. W. H. Bowe
G. Martin	Mr. M. McKenzie

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDLANDS.

Rev. R. C. Sands	Mr. James Weeding

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. F. E. Oxer, M.A., B.D.	Mr. Geo. Kerr

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF FREMANTLE.

Rev. Angus King	Mr. J. M. Ferguson

PRESBYTERY OF THE GOLDFIELDS.

	Mr. R. W. Main

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

Rev. C. P. D. Taylor	Mr. J. Longmore

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. Robert Hanlon	
H. W. Burridge, M.A.	

18. THE following Memorial Minute relative to the death of the Rev. J. S. Laing, D. D., was, on the motion of the Rev. George Tait, seconded by the Rev. Jno. Burgess approved :—The Assembly has heard, with deep regret, of the death of its Senior Clerk, Rev. James Samuel Laing, D.D., and would place on record its deep sense of gratitude to God for the many services Dr. Laing was enabled to perform in the interests of Presbyterianism in Australia. In particular, the Assembly gratefully remembers his earnest and constant labours in the cause of Union of the Presbyterian Churches in Australia. He rendered special and valuable services as Clerk—first of the Federal Assembly, and

Memorial Minute Rev. Dr. Laing.

then of the General Assembly. In the discharge of his official duties his accuracy, fidelity, and brotherliness were outstanding qualities. Whilst he was well versed in ecclesiastical law and procedure, he was at the same time a faithful and diligent pastor, and was zealous for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the whole Commonwealth.

The Assembly tenders its sincere sympathy to Mr. J. S. Laing and the other members of the family, and instructs the Clerk to forward a copy of this minute to Mr. Laing.

Election of Clerk.

19. ACCORDING TO NOTICE, the Rev. R. G. Macintyre moved :—That the Rev. George Tait be appointed Clerk of Assembly, and that it be remitted to the Finance Committee to bring up a recommendation as to the remuneration to the Clerk.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Jno. Ferguson, and approved.

"Record" Committee.

20. THE Report of the "Record" Committee was submitted by the Rev. W. S. Rolland, who moved : That the Assembly receive and approve of the Report, express regret that the "Record" is not so largely circulated as it might be in some of our States, and commend it again to all our ministers, superintendents, and teachers throughout the Commonwealth.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. P. Robertson, and approved.

Selection Committee.

21. THE REPORT of the Selection Committee was received, and ordered to be placed in a prominent place or places.

Finance.

22. THE REPORT of the Board of Finance was submitted by Mr. Wm. Wood, who moved :—

Receive the Report.

Authorise the payment of expenses of Assembly on the same basis as formerly, namely :

That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1906, have the following percentage of their travelling expenses (calculated upon the basis of second-class return railway 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 following basis, namely—New South Wales, £50; Victoria, £50; Queensland, £16 13s. 4d.; South Australia, £16 13s. 4d.; Tasmania, £16 13s. 4d.; Western Australia, £12 10s. per annum.

Resolve to forward the sum of £25 received from the Presbyterian Church of England as follows:—£12 10s. to the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, and £12 10s. to the Presbyterian Church in Queensland for Bush Work, and that the thanks of the Assembly be accorded to the Presbyterian Church in England for their donation.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre, and approved.

23. THE REPORT of the Home Mission Committee and the overture relative to a Board of Home Missions were submitted by the Rev. John Ferguson. Home Mission Committee

The following deliverance was moved by the Rev. J. Gray, and seconded by Dr. MacFarland:—

1. Receive the Report.

2. Express gratitude to God for the vigorous enterprise of the Home Mission Committees in the several States, in promoting the extension of the Church of Christ, and for the encouraging manifestation of Divine co-operation.

3. Recognise with hearty appreciation the soundness of the policy which has brought about the appointment of a Director of Home Missions in Victoria; of a General Agent in South Australia; of a General Superintendent of Home Missions and Church Extension in Western Australia; and the proposed appointment of a Superintendent for the north-western districts of New South Wales. Congratulate Mr. Cameron, Mr. Gray, and Mr. Crow; also wish them abundant success in their new and highly responsible offices.

4. Express satisfaction that so large a number of lay agents are studying under the Assembly's scheme of training. Instruct all

State Assemblies to use every endeavour to induce lay agents who cannot work for the regular University course to begin their studies under the Assembly's scheme, without delay.

5. Commend to the earnest consideration and practical interest of all the State Assemblies, the deplorable religious condition of the mixed and scattered populations of the Northern Territory of Australia and the North-Western Territory of Western Australia.

6. Encourage the Queensland Assembly to settle a suitable agent in Thursday Island, should the people there be willing to provide at least half the cost of maintenance, and on the understanding that the Victorian and New South Wales Assemblies will assist Queensland in providing the balance, with such assistance as may be offered by the London Missionary Society.

7. Call the attention of the Church, as a whole, through State Assemblies, Presbyteries, and Theological Faculties, to the overwhelming need there is for young men to come forward and prepare themselves for the work of the ministry, in order to meet the clamant appeals from every part of the Commonwealth for additional workers in the Master's cause ; and particularly, through this Assembly make a direct and urgent call upon parents and their sons to give due and prayerful consideration to the claim of Christ upon our young men for His service.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. George Ewan and seconded by the Rev. Jas. McQueen :—

That all the words of paragraph 6 be omitted with the view of inserting other words.

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

Board of Home Missions.

24. THE REVS. DR HARPER and H. W. Burridge were heard in support of the overture relative to a Board of Home Missions.

It was moved by the Rev. John Ferguson, and seconded by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre :—

That the overture be remitted to the Home Mission Committee, with the addition of Revs. W. H. Cooper and R. Steel, and Messrs. W. M. Walker and Wm. Wood, with instructions to draft and pre-

sent to this Assembly the amendments which the adoption of this overture would necessitate, and to draw up draft regulations defining the status of the Board and the sphere of its operations ; and further, instruct the Home Mission Committee to issue at once an urgent appeal on behalf of the more necessitous Home Missions of the Commonwealth.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. A. Stewart, and seconded by the Rev. George Tait :—

That the word " this " before the word " Assembly " be omitted, with the view of inserting the word " next."

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

25. THE Assembly adjourned to meet at 7 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Thursday the 27th day of September, 1906, at 7 p.m.

26. THE Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer. Assembly constituted.

27. THE REPORT of the Business Committee was submitted and approved. Business Committee.

28. A LETTER from the Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia and Tasmania, conveying to the Assembly the greetings and good wishes of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney was received ; and the Right Rev. the Moderator, with the Revs. R. G. Macintyre and John Ferguson were appointed to send a suitable reply. Letter from Archbishop of Sydney.

Directory of Public Worship.

29. THE OVERTURE on the Directory of Public Worship was introduced by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre, who moved :—

That the Overture be adopted and sent to a Committee to be nominated by the Moderator, with instructions to the Committee to report to next Assembly.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. Steel and approved.

Card System.

30. THE OVERTURE on the card system of enrolling families, members and adherents of the Church was introduced by the Rev. J. Gray.

It was agreed to send the overture to the Committee on Statistics, with instructions to report to a future Sederunt.

Alliance of Reformed Churches.

31. THE COMMUNICATION from the Alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system was received.

Sabbath Schools, etc.

32. THE REPORT of the Committee on Sabbath Schools and Religion and Morals was submitted by the Rev. W. S. Rolland, who moved :—

That the Report be received.

That in connection with the Report on Sabbath Schools the Assembly express its gratification with the movements now in progress in several States for the more efficient training of our Teachers.

That a circular letter be prepared by the Moderator in conjunction with the Business Committee, and sent to all our Superintendents and Teachers, thanking them for their splendid service to our young people, and encouraging them in their self-denying labours of love.

That the Assembly rejoice at the awakening of the public conscience regarding the vice of gambling, and at the introduction of legislation in several State Parliaments with a view to its limitation ; that the Assembly sincerely trust that legislation of this character will be passed in all the States, and that the Commonwealth will speedily initiate similar enactments ; and that the Assembly earnestly exhort its faithful people to give their prayer and influence in support of all such Parliamentary action.

Further that the Assembly recommend its people throughout the Commonwealth to refrain from use on the Lord's Day unless under compulsion of absolute necessity of all forms of public service which entail work on that day.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. F. E. Oxer, and approved.

33. THE REPORT on a Sunday School Hymnal was submitted by the Rev. W. H. Ash, who moved :— Sunday School Hymnal.

1. Receive the Report.

2. Continue the Committee and refer the whole matter of the Hymnal to it again, with instructions to make enquiries as to the feasibility of compiling and issuing :—

(a) A Hymn Book for the use of all the Sunday Schools of the Protestant Churches in Australia.

(b) A Hymn Book for use in our own Sunday Schools, and to report to next Assembly.

3. Add the following to the Committee :—Revs. W. S. Rolland, R. M. Fergus, C. Crane, James Steele, Messrs. G. A. Steel, and E. H. Hume.

4. Appoint the Rev. W. H. Ash, Convener, in the place of the Rev. D. M. Stewart.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Hume Robertson and approved.

34. THE REPORT of the Committee of Moderators upon the title of the Moderator was submitted. The report recommended that no change be made in the title of the Moderator. Title of Moderator.

The Report was approved.

35. THE REFERENCE from Western Australia relative to Home Mission Agents and the Sacrament of Baptism was sent to the Home Mission Committee, with instructions to report to a future Sederunt. Home Mission Agents and Baptism.

36. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

FOURTH SEDERUNT

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Friday the 28th day of September, 1906, at 10 a.m.

Assembly constituted.

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

Minutes confirmed.

38. THE MINUTES of the Second and Third Sederunts were confirmed.

Reception of Ministers.

39. THE REPORT of the Committee on Reception of Ministers was submitted by Dr. MacInnes.

Rev. R. M. Frazer.

(1) The Report recommended that the Petition of the Rev. R. M. Frazer be granted. The recommendation was approved and Mr. Frazer declared a Minister of the Church eligible for a call.

Rev. G. A. Hill.

(2) The Report recommended that the Petition of the Rev. G. A. Hill be granted, and Mr. Hill declared a Minister of the Church eligible for a call.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Burgess :—That inasmuch as the Rules relative to the Reception of Ministers have not been complied with in this case the Assembly proceed to the next Petition.

The motion was rejected.

It was moved by the Rev. Chas. Robinson and seconded by the Rev. A. Davidson :—That this Petition not having been forwarded through the Presbytery within the time appointed by the Rules, the Assembly appoint a Commission with Assembly powers to deal with the case—the Commission to consist of the members of the Committee on the Reception of Ministers, the Convener of the Committee to act as Chairman.

The motion was approved.

Rev. A. H. Tolhurst.

(3) The Report recommended that the Petition of the Rev. A. H. Tolhurst be granted and Mr. Tolhurst received as a Licentiate of the Church, eligible for a call after twelve months.

The Report was approved.

Rev. John Adamson.

(4) The Report recommended that the Petition of the Rev. John Adamson be granted, and Mr. Adamson received as a Licentiate of the Church, eligible for a call after twelve months.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. MacInnes and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Knipe :—That the recommendation be approved.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. J. Knox and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Harper :—That the words after word "the" be omitted, with a view of inserting the words "Petition be referred to next General Assembly".

The amendment was approved and the proposed words were inserted in the motion.

The Rev. Hume Robertson moved :—That the following words be added to the motion—"And the Maryborough Presbytery instructed to report on the Petition of Mr. Adamson to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers."

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

The motion is as follows :—That the Petition be referred to next General Assembly, and the Maryborough Presbytery instructed to report on the Petition of Mr. Adamson to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers.

(5) The Report recommended that the Petition of the Rev. W. A. Hobson be referred to next Assembly, and that meantime Mr. Hobson be recommended for employment by any of the Home Mission Committees of the State Assemblies. Rev. W. A Hobson.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. MacInnes and seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell :—That the recommendation be approved.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. J. Burgess and seconded by the Rev. W. Beck :—That all the words after the word "Assembly" in the recommendation be omitted.

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

The motion is as follows :—That the Petition of the Rev. W. A. Hobson be referred to next Assembly.

The further consideration of the Report was postponed.

40. THE House proceeded to the ballot. The Rev. J. S. Jaffray was appointed a Scrutineer in the room of Mr. J. H. Balfour. Ballot.

41. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned to meet at 7 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Friday the 28th day of September, 1906, at 7 p.m.

Assembly constituted.

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

Business Committee.

43. THE REPORT of the Business Committee was received.

Boundaries of Border Charges.

44. THE SUGGESTION of the State Assembly of Victoria relative to the boundaries of border Charges was considered.

It was moved by the Rev. W. H. Steele and seconded by the Rev. J. G. Wilson :—

That the Assembly agree to the suggestion of the General Assembly of Victoria and appiont a Committee representative of the States to take into consideration the question of the boundaries of the charges upon the borders of such States, and to adopt such measures as may be thought desirable to satisfactorily adjust the same. The Committee to meet and report to a future Sederunt.

The Committee to consist of Revs. W. C. Moulton, John Walker, J. Burgess, C. A. White and R. Steel, and Messrs. W. Crane, E. F. Giles, W. Wood, W. G. Geikie, J. Cameron, S. J. Carruthers, representing New South Wales ; and Revs. F. Paton, H. Robertson, G. Baird, D. Cameron, W. H. Cooper, W. H. Steele, and Messrs. W. M. Walker, W. Cumming, A. Byers, M. McGillivray, Jas. Balfour and J. M. Campbell, representing Victoria ; and Rev. W. Gray representing South Australia.

The motion was approved.

Conference on Home Mission Work.

45. A CONFERENCE upon the Home Mission Work of the Commonwealth was held ; and the Rev. F. E. Oxer of Tasmania, the Rev. H. W. Burridge of Western Australia, the Rev. R. Thomson of South Australia, the Rev. Geo. Ewan of Queensland, the Rev. D. A. Cameron of Victoria, and the Rev. Principal Harper of New South Wales, delivered addresses.

46. THE MODERATOR conveyed to the speakers an assurance of the interest of the Church in the work of which they had spoken,

and sent through them a message of sympathy and encouragement to the Home Mission workers in their respective States.

47. IT was moved by the Hon. Jas. Balfour and seconded by the Rev. J. Walker :—

That the Assembly accord a cordial vote of thanks to the speakers for their very effective addresses.

The motion was approved.

48. THE 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. The Returns from the State Assemblies were also received. Report of Scrutineers.

49. THE PRESBYTERY of Hamilton applied for authority to meet on Tuesday at 1.45 p.m. Presbytery Meeting.

The authority was granted.

50. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned to meet on Monday at 11 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Monday the 1st day of October, 1906, at 11 a.m.

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

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

53. THE REPORT of the Code Committee was received. Code Committeee.

54. THE REPORT of the Judicial Commission was received. Judicial Commission.

55. THE REPORT of the Board of Missions was submitted by the Rev. A. Stewart. Board of Missions.

It was moved by the Rev. Peter Robertson, and seconded by the Rev. Jas. Cosh :—

That the Assembly receive the Report and place on record its deep gratitude to Almighty God for the share given to the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the work of winning heathendom for Christ.

Thank the Board, the Melbourne and Queensland Executives with their Conveners, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. L. Pryde, and the Hon. Auditor, Mr. W. L. Mollison, for their diligence and care in their several departments.

Defer the request of the Moravian Board of Missions that the Rev. N. Hey be appointed Superintendent of the North Queensland Missions, and meantime instruct the Board of Missions, through its Queensland Executive, to investigate the proposal and make a recommendation to next Assembly.

Approve the action of the Board in postponing arrangements for educational allowances to the children of Missionaries.

Direct the several Treasurers of the State Churches to pay all amounts received for Mr. Brown's furlough in response to the Board's appeal to the Board's Treasurer to be paid to Mr. Brown as a furlough allowance, and further, to prepare and report to next Assembly a scheme to ensure periodic furloughs to the Missionaries.

Express regret that Miss Schick has been compelled to resign by reasons of health, and thank her for her services to the Mission.

Recommend to the General Assembly of New South Wales—(a) That a sum of £60 per annum be allowed towards the salary of an assistant in the North Queensland Mission, till such time as the scheme of assessment for the whole of the expenses of the Mission be remodelled. (b) Also that it undertake to meet the arrears of £120 for the salary for the past two years.

Request the Foreign Missions Committee of Queensland to continue the support of the boat "J. G. Ward," until the present debts of the Board are paid and readjustment of assessment for working expenses is determined.

Cordially approve the scheme submitted by the church of Western Australia for the establishment in that State of an Aboriginal Mission, and while accepting no financial responsibility for

this, instruct the Board of Missions to issue an appeal for assistance in this work and to co-operate in every possible way with the Foreign Missions Committee of Western Australia in the proposed work.

Direct that special representations be made to the Commonwealth Government to secure restrictions of the quantity of intoxicants imported into the New Hebrides.

Direct that the assessment of the by-gone year be increased pro rata to provide an additional sum of £65 18s 2d, so that the entire indebtedness of the Assembly on overdraft and to the Moravian Board may be paid off by 30th September, 1907.

Instruct the Assembly Clerks of State Churches to supply to the Board the latest statistics of membership available in the respective churches.

Approve the remittance of £100 to the Moravian Board on account.

And instruct the Board to keep in view the appointment of a Missions Agent and report on it to next Assembly.

The motion was approved.

56. THE CONSIDERATION of the Report of the Committee on the Reception of Ministers was resumed. Reception of Ministers.

The Report set forth that the Queensland Home Mission Committee had under Section A of the Rules, received the Rev. J. T. J. Whyte, bearing a Commission from the United Free Church of Scotland. Rev. J. T. J. Whyte.

The Report recommended that the Petition of the Rev. J. H. Dawe be not granted. Rev. J. H. Dawe.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. MacInnes and seconded by the Rev. W. H. Cooper :—That the recommendation be approved.

The motion was approved.

57. THE COMMITTEES were appointed in accordance with the Report of the Scrutineers of the Ballot, and the Returns from the State Assemblies. Committees.

58. DR. MEIKLEJOHN having intimated his inability to accept the Convenership of the Board of Missions, the Victorian Members Convenership of the Board of Missions.

of the Assembly were authorised to meet and suggest a Convener, the Moderator of the Victorian Assembly to be Convener of the meeting.

Joint Convener of Code Committee.

59. MR. J. M. CAMPBELL was appointed Joint Convener of the Code Committee.

Convenership of Board of Missions.

60. THE REPORT of the Victorian members of Assembly relative to the Convenership of the Board of Missions was received.

The Report set forth that the Rev. A. Stewart had been unanimously nominated as Convener.

The Report was approved and Mr. Stewart appointed Convener of the Board of Missions.

College Committee.

61. THE REPORT of the College Committee was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn, who moved :—

That the Assembly receive the Report ; approve of the action of the Committee in asking the Examiners for Entrance to examine in the H. M. Training Scheme, and heartily thank them for their work, and also the Rev. H. M. Burns the Honorary Secretary, and agree to remit the formulation of the syllabus of 1907 H. M. Examination to the Committee.

Approve of the recommendation that the Extramural Course be identical with that of the Hall in History, Theology, and Apologetics, a special course being set in the other subjects.

Agree to remit the drawing up of the syllabus for Exit Examination, 1907, to the Executive in consultation with the Professors and Lecturers, and also of the Entrance Examination for 1909.

Approve of the proposal to require a minimum of 35 per cent in English as absolutely essential for a pass at Entrance Examination to the Hall, and of the proposed scale of honours for Exit Examination, viz., 85 per cent. and over for first-class honours ; 75 per cent. and over for second-class honours.

Accept the recommendation of the Committee to exempt Mr. J. A. Lee from Entrance Examination, and to recognise Mr. J. L. Cope as a regular student of Ormond College Theological Hall, and agree also that Mr. Postle be allowed to proceed with his course in Theology, and that authority be granted to Mr. G. M.

Wilson to sit for the Entrance Examination, on condition of his passing First Year Arts' Examination in Greek before sitting for his Exit Examination.

Agree that there be two Entrance Examinations, one in February, one in April, set simultaneously in both States, the questions for both Examinations to be prepared at the same time by the Examiners.

Re-appoint the Examiners for Exit and Entrance Examinations, with the addition of Rev. E. N. Merrington, M.A., Ph.D., and Rev. T. S. Crawford, M.A.

Express satisfaction with the steps that have been taken in connection with the granting of Divinity Degrees in the Commonwealth.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Jno. Ferguson.

The consideration of the Report was postponed.

62. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned to meet at 7 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Monday the 1st day of October, 1906, at 7 p.m.

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

64. THE REPORT of the Business Committee was approved. Business Committee.

65. THE RETURNS on the Remit relative to the appointment of a Missions Agent submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee. Remit on Missions Agent.

A majority of State Assemblies having disapproved the Remit, it was discharged.

Remit on Article VIII.

66. THE Returns on the Remit relative to Article VIII. were submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

As a number of Presbyteries had not reported on the Remit it was agreed to again send the Remit to State Assemblies and Presbyteries.

Remit on ex-officio Members.

67. THE Returns on the Remit relative to ex-officio members were submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

As a majority of Presbyteries had disapproved the Remit it was discharged.

Conference on Foreign Missions.

68. A CONFERENCE on the Foreign Mission work of the Church was held, and the Rev. Dr. J. G. Paton of Victoria, the Rev. W. Gray of South Australia, the Rev. J. D. Brown of Tasmania, the Rev. Peter Robertson of Queensland, the Rev. F. H. L. Paton of Victoria, the Rev. James Cosh of New South Wales, and the Rev. Dr. Cairns of Victoria, delivered addresses.

It was moved by the Rev. W. H. Ash and seconded by the Rev. J. S. Jaffray :—

That the cordial thanks of the Assembly be given to the speakers for their interesting addresses.

The motion was approved.

Adjournment.

69. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Tuesday the 2nd day of October, 1906, at 10 a.m.

Assembly constituted.

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

Minutes confirmed.

71. THE MINUTES of the Sixth and Seventh Sederunts were confirmed.

72. THE SPECIAL REPORT of the Finance Committee was received. Finance Committee: Special Report.

The Report recommended that an Honorarium of £30 for each Assembly be allowed to the Clerk of Assembly ; and that an Honorarium of £30 for each Assembly be allowed to the Right Rev. the Moderator : with travelling expenses in each case.

The Report was approved.

73. THE REPORT on Statistics was submitted by the Rev. C. A. Whyte, who moved :— Statistics.

Receive the Report. Regret the defective returns supplied by some States. Urge State Assemblies to use every endeavour to secure complete Statistical Returns from each congregation. With the view of securing an enumeration of Presbyterians in every parish, suggest that State Assemblies consider the advisability of such lists of Presbyterians being presented at the Annual Presbyterial Visitation of Records.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Hume Robertson and approved.

74. THE PETITION of members of the Presbytery of Brisbane was submitted, and the Rev. A. Gillison heard in support of it. Petition of Presbyters of Brisbane.

The Petition asked the Assembly to empower the Commission of Assembly appointed to deal finally with the Petition of the Rev. G. A. Hill, to deal finally also with the Petition of the Rev. G. Stevens.

It was moved by the Rev. A. Gillison and seconded by Mr. George Hall :—

That the prayer of the Petition be granted.

The motion was approved.

75. THE REPORT of the College Committee on Applications for License was submitted. College Committee.

The Report recommended that the Petition of Mr. Jas. Haynes be not granted. Mr. Jas. Haynes.

It was moved by Dr. Meiklejohn, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. MacInnes.

That the recommendation be approved.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. J. Burgess and seconded by the Hon. Jas. Balfour :—

That the following words be added to the motion :—" so far as the remission of the course of study is concerned, and that, in respect of the second prayer of the Petition, although the action of the Goldfields Presbytery in 1903 in ordaining Mr. James Haynes was irregular, the Assembly resolve in view of all the circumstances to recognize the ordination of Mr. Haynes, and to declare him eligible for a call on condition that he pass an examination set by the College Committee and serve the church in Western Australia for five years after passing his examination."

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

The further consideration of the Report was postponed.

Federation of Churches.

76. THE REPORT on the Federation of Churches was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Clouston, who moved :—

Receive the Report.

Express satisfaction with the diligence of the Committee in prosecuting negotiations with the Congregational and Methodist Churches. Regret that the basis of Docrine has not yet been accepted by all the Committees that have had it under consideration. Instruct the committee to proceed with all diligence to its completion, and also to elaborate the scheme of Polity, and use its best endeavour to have both the Basis of Doctrine and Scheme of Polity fully prepared for the next Assembly.

Reappoint the Committee with the following additions :—

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Dr. Cairns and seconded by Mr. G. S. MacKay :—

That all the words after the word " Report " be omitted, with the view of inserting the words :—" And thank the Committee for its diligence, but in view of the strong and pronounced attachment of many of our ministers, office-bearers, and members to the Pesbyterian Church as at present existing, and the fact that there

seem to be insuperable difficulties in the way of several of the Protestant Churches coming into the proposed Union, and also in view of the difficulty of framing a creed and polity, which the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches would be likely to accept, the Assembly resolves to proceed no further in the meantime in the direction of Union, but instructs the Committee to continue its efforts for the cultivation of friendly relations with all the Evangelical Churches, and if possible to formulate some plan by which they could co-operate more effectively in their work, and so obviate the overlapping and rivalry which are so much to be deplored."

The amendment was approved.

It was moved as a further amendment by Dr. Cairns and seconded by Mr. G. S. MacKay :—

That the words recorded above be inserted in the motion.

The amendment was rejected.

It was moved as a further amendment by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Clouston :—

That the following words be inserted in the motion :—" Thank the Committee and especially the Convener for their diligence in prosecuting negotiations towards union with other Protestant Churches. Instruct the Committee to proceed with the consideration of a basis of doctrine and a scheme of polity, and to report to next General Assembly."

It was moved as an amendment on the amendment by the Rev. Hume Robertson and seconded by the Rev. A. J. Wade :—

That the following words be inserted before the word " Instruct " :—" And while not pledging itself to any Scheme of Union."

The amendment was rejected.

The amendment of Mr. Macintyre was approved.

It was moved as a further amendment by the Rev. J. Burgess and seconded by the Rev. R. Murray.

That the following words be added to the motion :— " Further, instruct the Committee to consider what can be done in the meantime for the prevention of overlapping, for co-operation with the other Churches in general Christian work, and for common training of students for the ministry."

The amendment was rejected.

The motion as amended was unanimously approved.

The motion is as follows :—

Receive the Report.

Thank the Committee and especially the Convener for their diligence in prosecuting negotiations towards union with other Protestant Churches.

Instruct the Committee to proceed with the consideration of a basis of doctrine and a scheme of polity, and report to next General Assembly.

Committee reappointed.

77. It was agreed to re-appoint the Committee with the following additions :—

New South Wales :—Revs. Jas. Cosh, John Edwards, Robert Steel, Mr. Wm. Affleck.

Queensland :—Revs. R. H. Roberts, Jas. McQueen, W. S. MacQueen, W. C. Radcliffe, S. Martin, Andrew Gillison ; Messrs. Jas. Allan, Geo. Hall, A. S. Lang.

Adjournment

78. The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Tuesday the 2nd day of October, 1906, at 7 p.m.

Assembly constituted.

79. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer.

Business Committee.

80. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

81. THE REPORT of the Committee on Statistics relative to the Card System was submitted by the Rev. C. A. White, who moved :— Card System.

Receive the Report.

Approve generally of the Card System of recording families, and remit the matter to State Assemblies, with the recommendation that they adopt and publish a card similar to the specimen submitted.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. J. S. Buntine and approved.

82. THE REPORT on Public Questions was submitted by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch the Convener. Public Questions.

It was moved by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch and seconded by the Rev. R. G. McIntyre :—

That the Assembly adopt the recommendations of the Report, reappoint the Committee and direct it to carry them into effect.

The motion was approved.

83. THE REPORT of the Home Mission Committee relative to Home Mission Agents and the Sacrament of Baptism was submitted by the Rev. John Ferguson. H.M. Agents and Baptism.

It was moved by the Rev. Jno. Mathew and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Harper :—

That the question of granting power to Home Mission Agents to dispense the Sacraments be remitted to the Home Mission Committee, with instructions to report on the whole subject to next Assembly.

The motion was approved.

84. THE REPORT of the Home Mission Committee on the overture relative to the overture anent a Board of Home Missions was submitted by the Rev. John Ferguson. Board of Home Missions.

It was moved by the Rev. Principal Harper and seconded by the Rev. J. Gray :—

That the following amendments in the Articles of Agreement be approved and remitted to State Assemblies and Presbyteries, with instructions to report to next Assembly :—

1. In Article IV. the words "Home Missions" shall be inserted between the words "Church" and "the Missions."

2. In Article VII. the words "Mission" and "Missions" shall mean "Mission" or "Missions to the Heathen."

3. The following new Article shall be added, namely, VIIa.

The General Assembly shall at each ordinary meeting appoint a Board for the management and administration of Home Missions, which shall be called the Board of Home Missions :—

1. The Board of Home Missions shall consist of twenty-four Members. Ministers and Elders—sixteen of whom shall be appointed on the nomination of the State Assemblies. Four by Victoria, four by New South Wales, two each by Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia, and eight by the General Assembly itself. Should a State Assembly fail to nominate, the General Assembly shall appoint in its stead.

2. Committees shall be appointed as at present by the State Assemblies, for the purpose of stimulating interest in Home Missions, originating and actively directing the work in each State, controlling their own Agents, and collecting money, and these Committees shall report to the General Assembly through the Board of Home Missions, as well as to their State Assemblies.

3. The money raised by the State Assemblies for the support of their Home Missions shall be held by their respective Treasurers on behalf of the State Assemblies, and the responsibility for supporting such Home Missions shall rest with the State Assemblies respectively concerned therewith. The Board of Home Missions may, with the consent of the State Assembly, raise money in any State for the general support of Home Missions, and shall administer such funds on behalf of the General Assembly.

4. The General Assembly shall have power, with the consent of the State Assembly concerned, to take over any special territory or mission, and to work it in conjunction with the State Assembly.

5. The Board of Home Missions shall appoint two executive Committees, one of which shall sit in Melbourne and the other in Sydney, unless the matter be otherwise ordered by the General Assembly.

4. In Article X. the following words shall be struck out :— "Home Missions" and "the General Assembly shall further be free, in conjunction with the State Assemblies to originate new Home Mission Schemes."

The motion was approved.

Adjournment.

85. THE ASSEMBLY adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Wednesday, the 3rd day of October, 1906, at 10 a.m.

86. THE ASSEMBLY met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer. Assembly constituted.

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

88. THE Clerk reported that the Presbytery of Geelong asked the Assembly to condone the irregularity of a meeting of the Presbytery held during the sittings of the General Assembly. Presbytery of Geelong.

The irregularity was condoned.

89. THE REPORT of the Business Committee, relative to the next General Assembly, was submitted. Next Assembly.

The Report recommended that the Assembly meet at Adelaide, in Flinders Street Church, on the 18th day of September, 1907, at 7 p.m.

The recommendation was approved.

Boundaries of Charges.

90. THE REPORT of the Committee on the Reference from the State Assembly of Victoria, relative to boundaries of charges, was submitted by the Rev. W. H. Steele, who moved :—

Receive the Report.

While recognising the General principle that the Church of each State should attend to the spiritual interests of the Presbyterians within such State, the Committee recommend that when districts or townships on the border of any State may be more conveniently ministered to by the minister of another State and the neighbouring ministers are agreeable to such temporary arrangement, the State boundary be not taken as an absolute boundary of Church work.

Request the Registrar-Generals of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland to give permission to the ministers upon the borders to solemnise marriages when asked to do so by the Moderators of the respective State Assemblies.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. John Walker, and approved.

College Committee.

91. THE consideration of the Report of the College Committee on Applications for License was resumed.

The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of Mr. Alex. Macdonald be granted.

The validity of the recommendation was challenged by the Rev. Dr. MacInnes, on the ground that the Articles of Agreement require that all candidates for license shall be students who have been regularly trained at some Theological Hall.

It was agreed to remit to the Procurator and the Law Agent, the question of the relation of the Church to its Constitution, and especially to the 'nobile officium' which the Church has always claimed and exercised, and to request them to report to a future Sederunt.

Baptism.

92. THE REPORT on the Rightful Subjects of Baptism was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn, who moved :—

That the Report be approved.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Harper, and approved.

93. It was further agreed to instruct the Convener of the Committee to send a copy of the Report to every minister of the Church.

94. According to notice the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn moved :— *Year Book.*

That in view of the disadvantages arising from the cessation of the publication of the Year Book, the following Committee be appointed to take the necessary steps to supply the need :—Rev. F. E. Oxer, B.D., Rev. Wm. Gray, Rev. H. W. Burridge, M.A., Rev. James McQueen, Rev. R. G. MacIntyre, B.D., Wm. Wood, Rev. A. J. Wade, Mr. Malcolm McGillivray, Rev. Hume Robertson ; Rev. H. Robertson, Convener.

The motion was seconded by the Hon. Jas. Balfour.

The motion was disapproved.

95. According to notice the Rev. J. Mathew moved :—

That as the circumstances of the church of Victoria do not require that the Home Missionaries in that State should be exempted from passing in Greek and Hebrew at the Entrance Examination to the Theological Hall, the Assembly resolves that the regulation passed at last Session allowing Home Missionaries to sit for Entrance Examination without taking these subjects shall not apply to the Home Missionaries employed by the church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. W. H. Cooper.

The motion was disapproved.

From this decision the Revs. A. Stewart and J. Mathew dissented.

96. According to notice, the Rev. Jno. Ferguson moved :—

That New Testament Greek be prescribed as a subject of study in the Assembly's scheme for Home Mission Training for all agents entering upon their training in 1908 and thereafter.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Chas. Robinson, and approved.

Remit relative to Article VIII.

97. It was agreed to send the following remit to State Assemblies and Presbyteries, with instructions to report to next Assembly:—

Whereas proposals for a special course for Home Mission Agents have been approved by the Church that the following addition be made to Article VIII : After the word qualification in line 3, "provided that the General Assembly may from time to time prescribe such system of training and standard of qualification as it may think fit for the Home Mission Agents of the Church."

Opinion of Procurator.

98. The following opinion upon the question submitted to them was received from the Procurator and Law Agent :—

Where the Constitution expressly deals with a particular matter the Assembly is bound by that express provision. The 'nobile officium' cannot be invoked to contravene an express provision of the Constitution.

JOHN GARLAND, Procurator.
J. M. CAMPBELL, Law Agent.

College Committee.

99. The consideration of the Report of the College Committee was resumed.

Mr. Macdonald.

The Moderator ruled that the Recommendation of the Report relative to Mr. Alex. Macdonald's Petition was out of order.

It was agreed that Mr. Macdonald be received as a third year student in the Hall.

Mr. W. Ferries.

100. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of Mr. Wm. Ferries be granted with the proviso that he remain in the service of the New South Wales Church for 10 years.

It was agreed that Mr. Ferries be received as a third year student in the Hall.

Mr. A. D. Robertson.

(2) The Report on the Petition of Mr. A. D. Robertson recommended that Mr. Robertson be received as a second year student in the Hall.

The recommendation was approved.

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

(3) The Report recommended that the Petition of Mr. H. E. A. O'Sullivan be not granted.

The recommendation was approved.

(4) The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of Mr. J. F. Sims be granted. Mr. J. F. Sims.

The recommendation was approved.

(5) The Report recommended that the Petition asking that Mr. Welling be admitted to the Hall without examination be not granted. Mr. Welling.

The recommendation was approved.

101. THE consideration of the Deliverance on the Report of the College Committee was resumed. Deliverance.

It was agreed to omit paragraph 2, and to add the following words :—

Reappoint the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn and the Rev. J. Mathew, B.D., as Conveners ; the Rev. H. M. Burns, B.D., as Secretary ; and the Rev. J. Kemp Bruce as Chairman of the New South Wales Section of the Committee.

The Deliverance, with these amendments, was approved.

The Deliverance is as follow :—

That the Assembly receive the Report ; approve of the action of the Committee in asking the Examiners for Entrance to examine in the H. M. Training Scheme, and heartily thank them for their work, and also the Rev. H. M. Burns, the Honorary Secretary, and agree to remit the formulation of the syllabus of 1907 H. M. Examination to the Committee.

Agree to remit the drawing up of the syllabus for Exit Examination, 1907, to the Executive in consultation with the Professors and Lecturers, and also of the Entrance Examination for 1909.

Approve of the proposal to require a minimum of 35 per cent. in English as absolutely essential for a pass at Entrance Examination to the Hall, and of the proposed scale of honours for Exit Examination, viz., 85 per cent. and over for first-class honours ; 75 per cent. and over for second-class honours.

Accept the recommendation of the Committee to exempt Mr. J. A. Lee from Entrance Examination, and to recognise Mr. J. L. Cope as a regular student of Ormond College Theological Hall, and agree also that Mr. Postle be allowed to proceed with his course in Theology, on condition of his passing First Year Arts

Examination in Greek before sitting for his Exit Examination, and that authority be granted to Mr. G. M. Wilson to sit for the Entrance Examination.

Agree that there be two Entrance Examinations, one in February, one in April, set simultaneously in both States, the questions for both Examinations to be prepared at the same time by the Examiners.

Re-appoint the Examiners for Exit and Entrance Examinations, with the addition of Rev. E. N. Merrington, M.A., Ph.D., and Rev. T. S. Crawford, M.A.

Express satisfaction with the steps that have been taken in connection with the granting of Divinity Degrees in the Commonwealth.

Reappoint the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn and the Rev. J. Mathew, B.D., as Conveners; the Rev. H. M. Burns, B.D., as Secretary; and the Rev. J. Kemp Bruce as Chairman of the New South Wales Section of the Committee.

Lengthening Session.

102. THE Reference from the General Assembly of Victoria relative to the lengthening of the Session was not approved, in view of the circumstances of the Hall in Victoria.

Mr. W. Bett.

103. THE Reference from the General Assembly of Victoria relative to Mr. William Bett, was approved.

104. THE REV. R. HANLIN was appointed a member of the Judicial Commission.

Sabbath Schools, &c., Committee.

105. ACCORDING to notice the Rev. W. S. Rolland moved:—

That the Assembly rescind the resolution of last Assembly, appointing the Committee on Sabbath Schools and State of Religion, a Standing Committee, and resolve that the Sabbath Schools and State of Religion Committee be continued with the same Convener and that the Committee consist of the Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees, and of the State of Religion and Morals' Committee in all the State Churches.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. T. Burgess and approved.

"Record" Committee.

106. IT was agreed that the "Record" Committee consist of the Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees, of all the State Assemblies; and that the Rev W. S. Rolland be Convener.

107. THE following addition was made to the Report of the College Committee :— Exit Examination.

EXIT EXAMINATION, 1907.

I. CHURCH HISTORY.

Modern period from the close of the Reformation movement to the present.

Text Books :—Fisher's "History of the Christian Church" [pp. 484-664 (omitting ch. 6)]. Walker's "Scottish Church History." Ogilvie's "The Presbyterian Churches."

II. THEOLOGY.

a. Davidson's Old Testament Theology—The Doctrine of Redemption—chaps. VIII, IX, X (117 pages).

b. Stevens—New Testament Theology—Synoptics, Part I., chaps. 1-12 (omitting 4 and 5). (150 pages).

c. Orr—The Christian View of God and the World.

Lecture III.—The Theistic Postulate.

Lecture IV.—The Incarnation of Human Destiny.

III. APOLOGETICS.

Butler's Analogy—Introduction, part I., chaps. 3, 4, 5 ; part II, chaps. 3, 4, 5.

Bruce's Apologetics—Part III.

IV. NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY AND EXEGESIS.

1. Translation, Grammar, and Syntax : Gospel of John, 1-12.

2. Introduction : Gospel of John.

Text Book, Plummer..

3. Exegesis : Gospel of John, 1-12.

Text Book, Plummer.

4. Theology of John.

Text Book, Stevens—Theology of the New Testament, parts II. and VII.

5. Textual Criticism.

Text Book, Warfield, chaps. I and II.

V. HEBREW.

a. 2 Samuel, chaps. 12-18 inclusive. For Exegesis, Kirkpatrick's Samuel, vol. II ; Introduction and notes on chaps. 12-18.

b. Isaiah II., chaps. 54-59 inclusive.

For Exegesis : Skinner's Isaiah. Introduction and Notes on chaps. 54-59.

c. Psalms 8, 45, 72.

For Exegesis: Kirkpatrick's Psalms on these Psalms.
Robertson's Early Religion of Israel, part II.
Burney's Old Testament Theology.
Davidson's Grammar—Syntax, part I.

Business Committee.

108. THE following were appointed the Business Committee to arrange for business necessary to be done previous to the meeting of next Assembly:—Rev. R. G. Macintyre (Convener), the Clerk, the Law Agent, Rev. John Burgess, Dr. Harper, Dr. MacInnes, Rev. Wm. Grey, and Mr. Wm. Wood.

Committee on Directory of Public Worship.

109. THE following were appointed a Committee on a Directory of Public Worship:—Rev. J. Kinghorn (Convener), Rev. John Ferguson, Rev. R. Steel, Rev. J. K. Bruce, Mr. W. G. Geikie, Mr. J. Marden, LL.D., and Mr. S. J. Carruthers.

Dr. Kinross.

110. THE Rev Professor Kinross, D.D., was added to the Committee on the Federation of the Churches.

Thanks for Hospitality.

111. THE cordial thanks of the General Assembly were given to the Hospitality Committee of the Church of New South Wales, the subscribers to the Hospitality Fund, the ladies of the Women's Missionary Association for their generous hospitality, the ladies and gentlemen who have given private hospitality to members of Assembly, and the Minister and Office-bearers of St. Stephen's Church.

Minutes.

112. THE Minutes of the Tenth Sederunt were confirmed.

Assembly closed

113. THE business of the General Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator delivered a brief closing address.

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 Flinders Street Church, Adelaide, the 18th day of September, 1907, at 7 p.m., the Session was closed with the Benediction.

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

T. E. CLOUSTON, D.D., Moderator.
GEORGE TAIT, M.A., Clerk.

APPENDIX.

COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

I.—JUDICIAL COMMISSION.

Rev. Dr. Bruce
J. Burgess, M.A.
Dr. Clouston
Dr. Cairns
A. Gillison, M.A.
W. Gray
R. Hanlin
Dr. Harper
Dr. Hay
J. Heyer, M.A.
Dr. Knipe
J. Kinghorn.
Dr. MacInnes,
R. G. Macintyre, B.D.
W. S. Macqueen
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
F. E. Oxer, B.D.
Dr. D. Paton
R. H. Roberts
Rev. Peter Robertson
C. Robinson, B.A.
J. Russell
Professor Skene, M.A.
D. Smith
A Stewart, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.
A Yule, M.A.
Mr. William Affleck
J. A. Aitken
Hon. Jas. Balfour
Mr. J. M. Campbell
T. W. Fleming
R. Gillespie
Colonel Goodlet
J. McIndoe
Dr. MacFarland
Mr. F. A. Moseley
Hon. J. Murdoch

THE RIGHT REV. THE MODERATOR, Chairman.

II.—BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Rev. T. S. Buntine
Dr. Cairns
J. Cosh, B.D.
Dr. Clouston
A Hardie
J. Heyer, M.A.
W. Fraser
J. Lamont, F.L.S.
H. C. Mathews, M.A.
J. MacQueen
Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn
Dr. D. Paton
Dr. J. G. Paton
F. H. L. Paton, B.D.
Peter Robertson
A. Stewart, M.A.
C. H. Talbot
Mr. H. Byers
Colonel Goodlet
Mr. W. Wood

REV. ALEXANDER STEWART, Convener.

III.—THE CODE.

Rev. J. Burgess, M.A.
R. Kerr
J. H. Fordyce, M.A.
Dr. MacInnes
Dr. Meiklejohn
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
F. E. Oxer, B.D.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Hume Robertson, B.A.
J. Russell
Rev. Robert Steele, M.A.
W. H. Steele, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.
R. Thompson
C. A. White, B.A.
Mr. J. A. Aitken
J. M. Campbell
T. W. Fleming
J. Garland
George Hall

THE CLERK and MR. J. M. CAMPBELL, Joint-Conveners.

IV.—THE COLLEGE.

Rev. J. Kemp Bruce
J. Burgess, M.A.
H. M. Burns, B.D.
J. Cosh, B.D.
G. Davidson, M.A.
J. Ferguson
J. H. Fordyce, M.A.
J. Gibson, M.A.
J. Lundie, B.A.
J. Mathew, B.D.
Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn
F. E. Oxer, B.D.
R. Steel, M.A.
A. Stewart, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.
R. H. Waugh, M.A.
Hon. Jas. Balfour
Dr. MacFarland
Mr. W. L. Ligertwood

Together with the Professors and Lecturers, members *ex officio*.
REVS. DR. MEIKLEJOHN and J. MATHEW, Joint-Conveners.
REV. H. M. BURNS Secretary.
REV. J. KEMP BRUCE, Convener, New South Wales Section.

V.—HOME MISSION.

Rev. G. H. Balfour, B.D.
J. Barnaby M.A.
Dr. Bruce
D. A. Cameron, M.A.
Dr. Clouston
W. H. Cooper, B.D.
J. Cosh, B.D.
George Ewan
J. Ferguson
Dr. Harper
Rev. H. C. Mathew, M.A.
W. S. Macqueen
P. J. Murdoch M.A.
R. Murray, B.D.
F. E. Oxer, B.D.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
R. Thomson
J. Walker
Hon. Jas. Balfour
Mr. W. Wood.

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

VI.—FINANCE.

Rev. John Walker
Hon. Jas. Balfour
Mr. Jno. Cameron
J. G. Cramond
Hon. J. M. Davies
Mr. J. De Conlay
T. J. Finlay
R. Gillespie
Colonel Goodlet
George Kerr
Mr. John Kirkland
A. S. Lang
W. L. Ligertwood
Dr. MacFarland
Mr. Jno. Mackiehan
F. A. Moseley
Hon. J. Murdoch
Dr. J. M. R. Robertson
Senator Hon. J. T. Walker
Mr. W. Wood

COLONEL GOODLET, Convener

VII.—RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. W. Beck
Dr. Bruce
Dr. Clouston
Dr. W. M. Dill-Macky
J. Ferguson
R. M. Fergus
I. Gray, B.D.
Dr. Harper
Dr. Hay
R. Hanlin
Rev. Dr. MacInnes
Dr. Meiklejohn
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Dr. Rentoul
A. Stewart, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.
R. Thomson
J. Walker
A. S. Lang

REV. DR. MACINNES, Convener.

VIII.—STATISTICS.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander
J. D. Brown
A. Crow
Wm. Gray
R. Kerr
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
A. F. M. Robb, B.A.
Hume Robertson, B.A.
J. T. Robertson, M.A.
R. Steel, M.A.
Rev. W. H. Steele, M.A.
C. A. White, B.A.
Mr. W. Affleck
A. Byers
Jno. Cameron
S. J. Carruthers
Jno. Kirkland
A. S. Lang
W. L. Ligertwood
J. Smith

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

I.—FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

Rev. John Auld, M.A.
J. Kemp Bruce
Dr. T. E. Clouston
Jas. Cosh, B.D.
R. E. Davies, M.A.
John Edwards
Principal Harper
James Kinghorn
James Lamont, F.L.S.
Dr. MacInnes
Dr. Kinross

Rev. Dr. Cairns
W. Fraser
W. G. Maconochie, M.A.
J. Mathew, B.D.
Dr. Meiklejohn
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
A. R. Osborn, M.A.
J. T. Robertson

Rev. Dr. Hay
A. Gillison, M.A.
D. McLennan
W. S. Macqueen
Jas. McQueen
S. Martin
W. C. Radcliffe B.A.
R. H. Roberts
Peter Robertson

Rev. G. Davidson, B.D.
Dr. D. Paton
R. Thomson

Rev. W. Beck
C. Jones
F. E. Oxer
John Russell
Mr. F. Banbury

Rev. A. Crow
J. H. Fordyce M.A.
H. C. Mathew, M.A.
Alex. McCarlie

Rev. Robert Steele, M.A.
Robert H. Waugh, M.A.
R. Scott West
Charles A. White, B.A.
Mr. William Affleck
Walter G. Geikie
Colonel Goodlet
Mr. John Kirkland
William Wood

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

Rev. J. Sinclair
Mr. Jas. Allen
D. Ewart
George Hall
A. S. Lang
A. McKellar
W. A. Smith
George Stupart

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

Mr. D. McKinnon
Hon. J. Murdoch
Mr. J. K. Reid
F. Williams
J. Wright

Dr. S. Macaulay
Mr. F. McDonald
F. A. Moseley
R. Robertson

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

DR. CLOUSTON, Convener.

II.—PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Right Rev. the Moderator
Rev. Dr. Bruce
J. Burgess, M.A.
John Ferguson
Principal Harper
Dr. D. Paton
Dr. Rentoul

Rev. C. H. Talbot
A. Yule, M.A.
Hon. Jas. Balfour
Mr. Jno. Cameron
T. W. Fleming
Colonel Goodlet

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

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

THE MODERATOR, Convener.

III.—SABBATH SCHOOL HYMNAL.

Rev. W. H. Ash
C. Crane
R. E. Davies, B.A.
R. M. Fergus
J. Heyer, M.A.
Joseph Lundie, B.A.
W. S. Macqueen
J. Mathew
Robt. Mitchell (S.A.)
F. E. Oxer, B.D.
W. S. Rolland
Hume Robertson, B.A.
J. T. Robertson, M.A.
Jas. Steele
Rev. D. Macrae Stewart
T. J. Smith
John Walker
Mr. Neil Black
M. F. Culliford
Lachlan Fraser
W. F. Greenwoood
E. H. Hume
I. Macintyre
P. D. McCormick
Robert Robertson
G. A. Steel
W. Wishart

REV. W. H. ASH, Convener.

IV.—SABBATH SCHOOLS AND STATE OF RELIGION.

The Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees, and of the State of Religion Committees of the State Assemblies .

REV. W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

V.—" RECORD."

The Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees of the State Assemblies.

REV. W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

VI.—DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Rev. J. Kinghorn
John Ferguson
R. Steele, M.A.
J. K. Bruce
Mr. W. G. Geikie
J. Marden, LL.D.
S. J. Carruthers

REV. J. KINGHORN, Convener.

VII.—SITES IN FEDERAL CAPITAL.

Hon. Wm. Anderson
Jas. Balfour
Colonel Goodlet
Mr. William Wood

MR. WILLIAM WOOD, Convener.

VIII.—BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

The Clerk
The Law Agent
Rev. Jno. Burgess
Dr. Harper
Rev. Dr. MacInnes
R. G. Macintyre
W. Gray
Mr. W. Wood

REV. R. G. MACINTYRE, Convener.

IX.—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, 1906.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I.

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

Annual Report to the Churches of the Eastern Section, 1905-6.

The Executive Commission of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, Eastern Section, begs respectfully to present to your Venerable Court, the following brief narrative as to matters of interest to our Churches, which have come under its consideration during the past twelve months.

I. The Section must refer in the first place to the action of the French Government in repealing its Concordat, made in 1801, with the Authorities of the Papal Church at Rome. This action severed the tie which had hitherto connected the Reformed Churches of France with the Civil Power, and led to the cessation of that subsidy which, during the past century, these Churches have been annually receiving from the State. This change in their position has resulted in a severe financial strain which may for some time seriously cripple their work at home and abroad, entitling them to our deep sympathy, and to our constant remembrance of them in prayer before God. It has also resulted in a rending of the Church itself into independent sections because of the grave doctrinal differences which for many years have practically divided its congregations. These latter have now formed themselvse into three distinct organisations, one of which proclaims its evangelical position by enacting that in future no one shall be eligible for its ministry, unless he accepts the "Declaration of Faith" as expressing his personal sentiments and beliefs, while the two other sections refuse to require any statement as to doctrinal beliefs from those entering their ministry.

For France the existence of these doctrinal divergencies is a great calamity, and we deeply deplore any division of Protestant Christianity in a land where Romanism and Indifferentism are so general; yet so far as the Alliance is concerned, this division will render it possible for the Evangelical Church, with its Declaration of Faith and its Presbyterian organisation, to enter into formal membership with the Alliance, when we shall assuredly welcome these brethren amongst us.

II. Another important event is the action of the Reformed Church of Hungary in seeking to be admitted into membership with the Alliance. Since the first Council of the Alliance in 1877, this great Church has been associated with it, and few Councils have been held at which it was not unofficially represented by one or more of its distinguished leaders, whose presence has been ever welcome and regarded with deep interest. Situated on the Eastern border of the European Continent, and amid a population largely Roman Catholic yet in many districts Unitarian, this Church has suffered much through its isolation from sister Churches, and has shared but little in the quickened life of those in the West. It now officially seeks membership in the Alliance, that it may be brought into closer ecclesiastical relations with sister Reformed Churches all the world over. These will most cordially welcome it to their fellowship, and while by such an addition the Alliance will receive a great increase of numerical strength, for the Church of Hungary has over two thousand congregations, that Church itself will, we trust, gain some spiritual impulse.

III. As the aim of the Alliance has ever been to promote close fraternal relations between the different Churches of the Presbyterian System, the Section has much pleasure in stating that arrangements have been made

for holding during the present year, a Conference in Bohemia. The meeting, which will resemble generally our regular Councils, will be held in Prague in the first week of next July. It promises to be one of the most remarkable meetings ever held in Eastern Europe, and it is earnestly desired that our English-speaking Churches may be fully represented.

IV. This Report cannot close without mention of two impressive movements in progress in the territory assigned to the Western Section. One of these, taking place in Canada, contemplates an organic union between the Presbyterian, the Wesleyan and the Congregational Churches of that country. For some time past large Committees, appointed by their respective Churches, have sought to formulate a Basis for union, a Polity and a confession of faith, which would be acceptable to the three Churches. The tentative results have lately been published, and thus far a general willingness has been shown to accept the conclusions of the Joint Committees. Whatever may be the issue of this Movement, one cannot but be impressed by its novel and far reaching character and by the possibilities of Church Unity which it suggests. Already it has furnished us with a Polity and a Confession of Doctrine which it is believed Churches hitherto historically and practically far apart on these subjects can accept. For so doing it deserves our profoundest sympathy and gratitude. We of the Eastern Section will carefully note the developments which may result.

V. The other Movement to which we must advert is the recent formation in the United States of a Federation of all Protestant Evangelical Churches with a view to co-operation in work—evangelical and social. This Movement does not come so distinctly within the range of the Alliance as does the Canadian Church Union, yet its own importance and the position taken in it by well nigh all the Churches of the United States which are in connection with the Alliance allow of our calling attention to it. We do so with deep gratification, regarding it as an evidence that in these latter days, the Head of the Church is leading His people to walk together so far as they are agreed.

VI. The Section would in conclusion respectfully remind your Venerable Court of the Week of Prayer on behalf of Foreign Missions, which will commence this year on Tuesday, November 27th, and asks that its observance be recommended to the congregations under your oversight.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. OSWALD DYKES, President
G. D. MATHEWS, General Secretary.

London, 8th March, 1906.

(2) FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY.

The Diocesan Registry, Bathurst Street, Sydney.
September 26, 1906.

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

Right Reverend and Dear Sir,—At the Session of Synod held to-day, I, was requested to forward you a copy of the following Resolution which was unanimously agreed to:—

"That this Synod conveys its hearty greetings to the Presbyterian "General Assembly now about to commence its sittings in Sydney, and "expresses the hope that its deliberations and work may be abundantly "blessed for the good of their Church and the welfare of Australia."

Permit me to add that it gives me great pleasure to send you this Resolution, and I pray God that the Holy Spirit may give to your Assembly a right judgment in all things, that your labour may be crowned with His blessing, and help forward the establishment and extension of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,

WM. SAUMAREZ, SYDNEY, Archbishop,
Primate of Australia and Tasmania.

II.

OVERTURES.

(1.) OVERTURE ANENT DIRECTORY FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Transmitted from the Committee on Religion and Public Morals (New South Wales).

Whereas the Directory for public worship prepared by a Committee of which the late Rev. Dr. Steel was Convener, and approved by the Federal Assembly in 1891 is now out of print; and whereas such a Directory has been found most useful in the Church. It is hereby humbly overtured by the Committee on Religion and Public Morals (N.S. Wales) on instruction from the State General Assembly of New South Wales, to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to authorise a re-issue of the present Directory after such revision as may be found necessary, or otherwise to deal with the matter as the Assembly may deem best.

In name of the Committee,
RONALD G. MACINTYRE, Convener.

(2.) OVERTURE ON THE CARD SYSTEM OF ENROLLING FAMILIES, MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THE CHURCH.

From the Presbytery of Melbourne North.

Whereas the migrations of Presbyterian families, Members and Adherents, from one place to another and from one State to another frequently result in a loss of Church connection; and whereas much of this lapse of membership can be prevented by the use of the "CARD SYSTEM" of Registration in which the information concerning every family is recorded on a suitable card, and similar provision is made for individual Members and Adherents, male and female.

The General Assembly of Australia is humbly overtured to take this important matter into consideration with a view of having the system adopted in each of the State Churches, to the common advantage of all.

To be supported by Rev. John Gray, M.A. B.D. and Rev. Alexander Hardie.

W. M. M. ALEXANDER.,
Presbytery Clerk.

(3.) OVERTURE FROM THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE RE THE APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

Committee Room No. 2, Church Offices, Sydney, 25th September, 1906, which day the Home Mission Committee of Australia met and was duly constituted. Sederunt Right Rev. the Moderator, and Rev. John Ferguson, Convener, also Dr. A. Harper, Dr. Meiklejohn, etc., etc.,

Inter alia :—It was unanimously resolved to transmit the following overture to the General Assembly—Whereas the need of Church Extension is especially urgent in certain States of the Commonwealth; and whereas the burden of such work in the supply of men and money should not be left, by the Church of Australia, to lie wholly upon the churches in such States, it is hereby humbly overtured by the Home Mission Committee to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration with a view to make such necessary alterations in the Constitution of the Church as will permit of a Board of Home Missions being formed in order to advance Church Extension work in such States and give needful guidance and help; or otherwise as the Assembly, in its judgment, may see fit.

Closed with prayer.

JOHN FERGUSON, Convener.

III.

PETITIONS.

(1.) PETITION OF MR. JAMES HAYNES FOR RECOGNITION OF LICENSE, AND REMIT THERE ANENT FROM THE STATE ASSEMBLY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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

It is hereby certified in the name and of the authority of the General Assembly in Western Australia, that on the 16th day of November, 1905, the said Assembly resolved to remit the following petition to the General Assembly of Australia:—

The Petition of Mr. James Haynes, Minister in charge of Kookynie humbly sheweth:—

1. That your petitioner was a Home Mission Agent under the Victorian Church and took part of the course of instruction prescribed for such Agents.

2. That he proceeded to the State of Western Australia and entered the service of the Presbyterian Church there on the understanding that he would be licensed to preach.

3. That he was licensed by the Presbytery of Western Australia, having given an undertaking to pursue a further course of study.

4. That for two years or thereby he was without information as to the aforesaid course of study.

5. That he was ordained by the Goldfields Presbytery in 1903.

6. That the question of his ordination was raised in the Assembly of April, 1903, and that the following motion was carried: "Inasmuch as certain conditions passed by the Presbytery of Western Australia in reference to Mr. J. Haynes being licensed have not been fulfilled, and inasmuch as the Goldfields Presbytery has proceeded to ordain Mr. Haynes without enquiring into the fulfilment of the conditions, the Assembly requires that before Mr. Haynes can be inducted to a regular charge in Western Australia the conditions must be fulfilled."

7. That the course of study and the appointment of examiners were remitted to the Moderator's Committee with full powers.

8. That a course of study was prescribed by the Moderator's Committee, and that your petitioner entered on the course of studies with the full intention of going forward to the examinations.

9. That the exigencies of his work on the goldfields have prevented his giving that time and concentration of mind to study which are requisite.

A. Your petitioner respectfully requests your Venerable Court to take into consideration his long service in the Church, and the conditions under which ministerial work is carried on "out back," and to remit the course of study imposed by a former Assembly.

B. Your petitioner likewise respectfully requests that a statement of the circumstances of his case be forwarded to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia with a view to his receiving the full status of a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

J. HAYNES.

And further:—

That the Assembly granted the prayer of the petition, marked A.

Resolved to recommend to the General Assembly of Australia that the prayer B of the petition be granted; and instructed the Clerk of Assembly to forward a full statement of the circumstances of Mr. Haynes' case to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Certified this 11th day of July, 1906, by me,

ALEXANDER McCARLIE,
Assembly Clerk.

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

I am instructed to furnish a statement of the circumstances of Mr. Haynes' case. The particulars thereof are very fully set forth in the petition presented to our Assembly, a copy of which is embodied in the remit now before the Court.

Mr. James Haynes came to Western Australia in January or February, 1901, to be employed as Missionary Assistant to Rev. A. Crow, Minister of Kalgoorlie. On January 9th, 1901, a motion was carried in the then Presbytery of Western Australia that upon his arrival in this State Mr. Haynes be licensed as a preacher and that he be bound to work for two years under the control of the General Assembly (about to be constituted).

It was also agreed that Mr. Haynes should continue to study on the lines laid down by the Victorian Church for Home Mission Agents, and that Professor Rentoul should be asked to prescribe a course of study.

In March, 1901, a Commission of Presbytery met at Kalgoorlie, and having sustained his "trials" proceeded to LICENSE Mr. Haynes as a Preacher. In accordance with the resolution of Presbytery, Professor Rentoul was requested to set a course of studies for Mr. Haynes, but nothing came of it. This was unfortunate, as the period of his stay at Kalgoorlie was more favourable for study than any thereafter. His work at Kalgoorlie allowed some considerable leisure for study, and Mr. Crow's help would have been available.

In 1903 the Goldfields Presbytery ORDAINED Mr Haynes, and in the Assembly of that year the right of the Presbytery to do so was challenged. The decision of the Assembly was that though the "ordination" could not be recalled, Mr. Haynes was not to be eligible for a "call" until the conditions about study had been fulfilled.

Studies were prescribed; but Mr. Haynes was now "out back" among the mining camps. Anyone who knows about a minister's life there understands that there is scant opportunity for special studies. If a man prepares faithfully for his Sabbath work he has neither time nor strength for more. And that was how Mr. Haynes was situated. He began to read but he did not face the examinations.

At last Assembly he made request to have the course of studies remitted and this request was granted. The Assembly felt that the question of his eligibility to receive a "call" 'was one that could be settled only by the General Assembly of Australia.

Mr. Haynes has laboured faithfully and with acceptance as Missionary Assistant at Kalgoorlie, as Minister-in Charge at Menzies and Kookynie. And he is at present in charge of Albany during Mr. Brewster's absence on twelve months' leave. On two different occasions Mr. Haynes would have been "called" but for the Assembly's prohibition.

Our Assembly agreed to forward Mr. Haynes' petition to the General Assembly, with a recommendation that his request to receive full ministerial status be granted.

ALEX. McCARLIE,
Assembly Clerk.

(2.) PETITION OF MR. ALEXANDER MACDONALD FOR LICENSE.

To the Right Reverend the Moderator and Members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to meet in Sydney, in September, 1906.

The Petition of the undersigned Alexander Macdonald, respectfully sheweth:—

1. Your petitioner prays that he may be licensed and ordained as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, believing that he will exert a greater influence, and be more serviceable than in his present sphere.

2. That he is a native of Inverness-shire, Scotland; that his birth was not registered, but that he believes he is at least 50 years of age. That he is married, and has one child.

3. That the petitioner is a member in full standing of the Presbyterian Church,and has a Presbyterian ancestry dating back to Reformation times.

4. That he completed his education in the High School, and Royal Academy, Inverness, the two best schools in the town.

5. That for twenty years he was employed as an apprentice and law clerk in Inverness, Edinburgh, and Dalkeith.

6. That he attended three sessions in the University of Glasgow as a law student, and that in January, 1889, he passed his final legal examination in Edinburgh, as per certificates.

7. That on the advice of friends the petitioner came to Victoria in April. 1890. and that he had letters of introduction to the following gentlemen of standing and position in Melbourne to show his respectability and family connection, viz.—Sir James MacBain, the Honorable James Balfour, the Rev. D. S. McEacharn, and others.

8. That he left his secular employment and in June, 1891, became a Home Mission Agent, and thus for fifteen years has laboured in some of the most important stations in Victoria, viz.—Nhill, Dromana, Garvoc, Woodend, and other districts.

9. That he attended the classes for Home Mission Agents at Ormond College, Melbourne, for the requisite period, and passed the final examination in February, 1901.

10. That the petitioner's personal character and work in the Church are well known to the following brethren, viz.—the Rev John Mathew, M.A., B.D.: the Rev. G. H. Balfour, M.A., B.D.; the Rev. J. F. Macrae; the Rev. Professor Skene, M.A.: the Director of the Home Mission Committee (the Rev. D. A. Cameron, M.A.); the Rev. W. S. Rolland; the Rev. S. G. Maclaren, M.A.; the Rev. E. Rorke, B.A.; all of Melbourne, as well as the Rev. S. Fraser. M.A.. Terang (who knew the petitioner's father and relatives); the Rev. Thomas Gray, Horsham, late Clerk of the Wimmera Presbytery, and others.

The documents in support of this petition are as follows:—

University of Glasgow (Law of Scotland).

Mr. Alexander Macdonald attended the Class of Scotch Law from November 4th, 1874, to May 1st, 1875.

(Signed) ROBERT BERRY, Professor of Law.

Mr. Alexander Macdonald attended the Class with perfect regularity and took part in the examinations.

(Initialled) R.B.

University of Glasgow (Law of Scotland).

Mr. Alexander Macdonald attended the Class of Scotch Law from November 3rd, 1875, to May 1st, 1876.

(Signed) ROBERT BERRY, Professor of Law.

Mr. Alexander Macdonald attended the Class with perfect regularity. He also took part in the examinations .

(Initialled) R.B.

University of Glasgow (Conveyancing).

Session 1877-78.

Mr. Alexander Macdonald entered 7th November 1877.

(Signed) JAMES ROBERTSON, P.

Glasgow, 26th April, 1878.

I certify that Mr. Alexander Macdonald attended the Class with great regularity; and that he took part in all the examinations, both written and oral.

(Signed) JAMES ROBERTSON, P.

Dalkeith, Scotland, 10th January, 1890.

This is to certify that Mr. Alexander Macdonald has passed the examination for a Law Agent.

(Signed) GRAY AND HANDYSIDE.

Edinburgh, 2nd January, 1890.

Alexander Macdonald, Dalkeith, has passed his final examination in Law.

(Signed) J. F. JAMIESON, Clerk to the Examiners.

The petitioner could add a good deal more, but he believes there is virtue in brevity.

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

The Manse, ALEXANDER MACDONALD.
Woodend, Victoria

Further documents accompanying petition:—Commendatory letters from Major MacLeod, Dalkeith, and Rev. N. D. MacLachlan, B.D., Dalkeith, Scotland.

At Lancefield, the 6th day of April, 1906, the Presbytery of Macedon met and was duly constituted. Present, with the Rev. E. H. Chapple, Moderator; Revs. I. M. Smith, W. J. Murray, R. W. McLean, and L. Tait, Ministers; and Messrs. Lawrence and Mitchell, Elders.

Inter alia: Received a letter from Mr. A. Macdonald, Missionary at Woodend, forwarding a petition from himself to the General Assembly, making application for license and ordination, a step which, the petitioner explained, he has taken at the suggestion of several ministerial friends in our Church who have urged him to present this petition.

On the petition being read, it was moved by the Rev. R. W. McLean: "That the Presbytery transmit the petition to the General Assembly accompanied with a statement of the service rendered by Mr. Macdonald, while labouring at Woodend."

The motion was seconded by the Rev. L. Tait and agreed to.

The following statement prepared by the Clerk and the Rev. W. J. Murray, who had been deputed to draw it up, was unanimously adopted:—

"The Presbytery, in transmitting Mr. Macdonald's petition to the General Assembly deem it right to refer to the valuable service he has rendered to our Church while labouring at Woodend. Mr. Macdonald was appointed to supply there just after a serious split had taken place, which threatened the extinction of the Presbyterian cause in that district, that through his great tact and unusual prudence not only was this much-dreaded calamity averted, but the weak congregations gradually revived till they are now in as healthy a state as they have been since they have been a mission charge. After Mr. Macdonald had fulfilled his two years' appointment at Woodend he was continued a third and then a fourth year, at the request of the people, and, on the recommendation of the Presbytery; and steps would have been taken to retain him amongst them had they been equal to the financial responsibility that his settlement as their minister would involve."

Extracted from the minutes of Presbytery by

JOHN MEEK, Clerk.

(3.) PETITION OF MR. WILLIAM FERRIES TO BE TAKEN ON TRIAL FOR LICENSE.

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

The humble Petition of William Ferries, of Bellingen, in the State of New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your petitioner is and has been for over five years engaged as an agent on behalf of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in the State of New South Wales, and is at present in charge of the Home Mission parish of Bellingen.

2. That before leaving Scotland he laboured for fifteen years in United Free St. George's Church, Glasgow, and during that period had full charge of the Mission Church there.

3. That after coming to New South Wales he acted as Assistant to the Rev. Dr. White, Singleton, for eighteen months, and afterwards was appointed to Bellingen parish, where he still continues to labour. The result of his work is shown in letters from secretaries of the combined charge of Bellingen and Orara, which are attached.

4. That owing to a break-down in health the Congregation of United Free St. George's Church, Glasgow gave him eight months' leave of absence, with the option of remaining in New South Wales.

5. That he has received a good education, and was a student of Glasgow University, and attended Classes in the following subjects:—English Literature (Senior), Moral Philosophy (Senior), Logic and Rhetoric (Senior), Hebrew, one session at the Divinity Hall, Glasgow, under Professor George Adam Smith.

6. That he has certificates of Class attendance, also testimonials from Rev. R. S. Duff, D.D., Glasgow; Rev. William Milne, M.A., Glasgow; Rev. James White, M. A., L.L.D., Singleton.

7. That he desires to enter the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Your petitioner therefore prays that he may be admitted and ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, either with or without further examination.

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

WILLIAM FERRIES.

Dated 20th July, 1906.

Documents accompanying petition:—Commendatory letters from Jessie Ross Cochrane, Karangi; Rev. Dr. Duff, Glasgow; St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Singleton; Rev. William Milne, Glasgow; Presbyterian Church, Bellingen; Mr. J. C. Robertson, Glasgow; Rev. Dr. White, Singleton.

(4.) PETITION OF MR. A. D. ROBERTSON FOR LICENSE.

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

The humble Petition of Alexander Dunnett Robertson, Rylstone, in the State of New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:—

That your petitioner was born in Leith, Scotland, in the year 1871 is married, and has three children.

He has been a communicant of the Church for sixteen years.

He was ordained an elder at Botany in the year 1889.

While following his trade as an engraver, he was repeatedly advised by several ministers to make application to be appointed in the Church.

He thereupon received an appointment as Assistant to the Rev. Thos. Johnstone, D.D., of Armidale, in the year 1895.

After three and a half years' work there he reluctantly resigned his position owing to his wife's delicate health. He then received an appointment to Botany, where he laboured under the direction of the Home Mission Committee for fifteen months, during which a large sum of money was raised to clear the debt on the Manse. He was then transferred to West Monaro, and during his ministry there, which extended for two years and four months, he was instrumental in clearing off the debts on two churches, and in repairing same. In the year 1901 he was sent to re-organise the Rylstone-Capertee charge. At the end of the first year, a substantial stone church was erected and opened free of debt. The church ground of two acres has been fenced in. At present steps are being taken for the erection of a Manse at Rylstone, and a church at Portland. God has so blessed his

labours in the increase of membership, finance, and spiritual blessings that the charge is now ready to proceed with giving your petitioner a call if the prayer of this petition is granted. In not being ordained, your petitioner labours under many disadvantages, both to himself and to his Congregation. On this account he has twice been debarred from accepting a call. Your petitioner begs to present letters of recommendation, and he wishes to state that the movement in connection with this matter was initiated by the Home Mission Committee under whom your petitioner has been labouring for the past eleven and a third years. Your petitioner is prepared to serve the Church for any length of time, in any sphere to which he may be appointed.

After these years of arduous, faithful, and successful services, I pray your Venerable Court that it may be pleased to grant my petition, and that it may authorise the Bathurst Presbytery to grant your petitioner a license with a view to his ordination and induction.

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

Rylstone, May 2nd, 1906. ALEX. D. ROBERTSON.

This is to certify in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Bathurst that the petition of Mr. A. D. Robertson for admission to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church was sustained by the Presbytery and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia with the strong recommendation that the prayer of the petition be granted.

Certified this 10th May, 1906.

S. G. CRAWFORD. Clerk of Presbytery.

Documents accompanying the petition:—Recommendatory letters from Rev. W. A. S. Anderson, Liverpool; Rev. T. D. Evans, Mudgee; Rev. T. Johnstone, D.D., Armidale; Rev. R. H. Waugh, Neutral Bay; Mr. M. E. Jamison, Rylstone; Rev. John Walker.

(5.) PETITION OF MR. J. F. SIMS.

To the Venerable Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia meeting in Sydney, September, 1906.

The Petition of John Frederic Sims humbly sheweth:—

1. That he has been employed by the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria since March, 1900, in the Presbyteries of Gippsland, Maryborough, and Wimmera.

2. That previously he spent two years at Rev .W. L. Morton's Training Home in Adelaide, where he studied various branches of Theology, Church History, Homiletics, etc., and besides received a practical training in Christian work.

3. That he has twice presented himself at the Matriculation Examination of University of Melbourne, procuring passes as follows (in 1905):—Greek, Arithmetic, and English; in 1906): Greek, Algebra, History, and English—honours.

Since honours counts two passes, 5 were secured in the second sitting, exclusive of Arithmetic, which he has previously passed in. In all six subjects.

4. That he prepared also Latin and Geometry, and in all probability would have done better but that he had the misfortune to have his leg broken when the examination was approaching.

5. That he now, having virtually matriculated, asks your Venerable Court to admit him to Entrance Examination of Theological Hall, Melbourne, in February, 1907.

6. That his age is nearly 28.

7. That the Home Mission Committee, having observed him for nearly 7 years, have seen their way clear to cordially recommend to you that his petition be granted.

And your petitioner will ever pray, etc.

(Signed) JOHN FREDERIC SIMS.

Swan Hill, Victoria, September 20, 1906.

(6.) PETITION OF REV. A. H. TOLHURST 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 respectfully sheweth:—That your petitioner was born in Melbourne, Victoria, and is 43 years of age, that he was brought up and educated in England, and that he subsequently spent about nine years in the service of two banking institutions in London and Melbourne. That your petitioner, who is a Baptist minister in full standing, studied for the ministry, and passed through a four years' course at Rawdon Baptist College in Yorkshire, 1890-1894, taking the usual curriculum, which included Greek, Latin, Hebrew, English language, English literature, Theology, Bible Introduction, Exegesis, Homiletics, Church History, Church Polity, Apologetics, Theism, Greek Philosophy, Logic, deductive and inductive, and related subjects. On leaving college he was appointed, in 1894, to take charge of Church Extension Work in Leicester, where he was enabled to gather a congregation for whose accommodation a church was erected, seating 900 persons, and a Sabbath School for 700 children. These buildings were opened by Dr. Clifford in December 1897, and cost £6,000. During the ensuing five years 250 names were added to the church roll; the Sabbath School roll included some 640 children in attendance. In March, 1903, your petitioner was called to take charge of the Baptist Central Mission in Bradford. During a year of happy but exacting and arduous labour in Bradford he received two invitations to return to Australia, the first from the Albert Street Church in Melbourne, and the second from the Burton Street Tabernacle in Sydney. He accepted the last named. Notwithstanding a certain measure of success he offered to release this heavily-burdened church of its obligations to him in April last year; the offer was thankfully accepted, but with regret, and he came to Bathurst where he has ministered until now.

For a number of years past your petitioner has found himself much more in sympathy with the Presbyterian Church polity than with Congregationalism with its conspicuous lack of unity and church government, and he has also pleaded consistently during his ministry for open church membership on the ground that those who are members of Christ's Body should be welcomed into His visible Church; and as joint editor of the Denominational Paper in New South Wales he advocated this position, representing that the question of immersion was one for the conscience of the individual. He is now in complete accord with the Presbyterian position and doctrine, and feels led to seek admission into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church and undertakes, if received, to honour and faithfully serve its interests and its authority.

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

Bathurst, March 8th, 1906. A. H. TOLHURST.

Documents accompanying petition:—Certificate from Baptist Union of New South Wales; Calendars of Rawdon College; Certificates from Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, Rev. S. Pearce Carey, Rev. F. Hibberd; Letters from Rev. R. G. McIntyre, Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, Rev. R. H. Roberts, Rev. E. Price, Rev. R. Nall, Rev. S. Pearce Carey, Rev. J. Brash.

It is hereby certified in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Bathurst that the Presbytery having carefully considered a petition of the Rev. A. H. Tolhurst, Baptist minister, for admission into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, with relevant documents, cordially agreed to sustain the petition and forward it to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, with the strong recommendation of the Presbytery that the prayer of the petition be granted.

S. G. CRAWFORD,

30th March, 1906. Clerk of Presbytery.

(7.) PETITION OF REV. JOHN ADAMSON TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

To the Right Reverend the Moderator and members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned John Adamson respectfully sheweth:—

1. That the petitioner was a minister in full standing in the Methodist Church of Australasia until January 13th, 1904.

2. That he voluntarily resigned from that Church and that there was no charge or complaint against him. The cause of the resignation was the intense dissatisfaction felt by your petitioner at the manner in which Methodist Union was working out in Queensland.

3. That the petitioner was born at Tudhoe, Durham, England, on February 18th, 1857; and that he is consequently just over forty-nine (49) years of age.

4. That the educational attainments of your petitioner are as follow, and they were attained in the manner hereby stated:—

(a) He had only a public school education as a boy in England, and had to go to work when very young.

(b) That he was converted and became a follower of Jesus Christ when about nineteen years of age. Your petitioner became a Sunday School teacher, and afterwards a Lay Preacher in the Primitive Methodist Church in England, passing the examinations necessary to obtain that position. He studied hard, with the view of entering the Primitive Methodist ministry, under the following ministers on the Spenny Moor Circuit:—Rev. John Watson, D.D.; Rev. H. B. Kendall, B.A.; and the Rev. E. Phillipson. The subjects studied were Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, Logic, Rhetoric, Homiletics, and Ecclesiastical History. Owing to the claims of his home he was not able to proceed to the Primitive Methodist Theological Institution at Sunderland, England, to continue his studies.

(c) In the year 1884 your petitioner arrived in Queensland, and at once took his place on the Local Preachers plan in the Ipswich Circuit. He was at once seized upon as a suitable man for the ministry of the Primitive Methodist Church in Queensland. He was stationed on the Toowoomba Circuit and he was considered a successful worker on that station. Your petitioner successfully passed all the probationers' examinations obtaining of 92 per cent., or 368 of a possible 400 in the four years of his probation. The subjects studied were Theology, Moral Philosophy, Logic, History, Old Testament introduction and Exegesis, New Testament Introduction and Exegesis and Church History. Having passed the necessary examinations and having honourably fulfilled the terms of his probation your petitioner was duly and orderly ordained and became a minister in full standing in the Primitive Methodist Church in Queensland, and afterwards, on the consummation of union, in the Methodist Church of Australasia.

(d) When stationed in Rockhampton your petitioner attended the Greek and Latin class, conducted by Rev. Alexander Hay, D.D., Presbyterian minister in that city. The exigencies of the Methodist circuit system made it impossible for him to obtain proper and continuous tuition, and also prevented him attaining any great proficiency in the languages—they were therefore abandoned for other, and what your petitioner then believed, more useful studies for the work which he had to do, or was likely to have to do.

(e) Your petitioner, however, by reading carefully and widely has sought to make up for the educational disadvantages of his life, and he has become fairly well acquainted with the best thought of many of the best writers in the British and American Churches. He has only a passing knowledge of German and French theological writers, and of these only through translations.

5. During the twenty years your petitioner was in the ministry of the Methodist Church he did in the early years a good deal of pioneer work; but he has also travelled on some of the best circuits in Queensland. The following are the circuits on which he travelled:—Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Mount Morgan, Georgetown, Townsville, Cooktown, Barcaldine, Maryborough, Ipswich, and Fassifern. His manner of life and the work he has done in seeking to extend the "Kingdom of God" are well known in all the different churches in Queensland.

6. During the two years which have elapsed since your petitioner left the Methodist Church he has very frequently supplied the pulpits of the Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, and Methodist Churches in the cities of Ipswich, Maryborough, and other places in Queensland.

7. Your petitioner is moved to make this application for admission into the Presbyterian Church, because of his desire to assist in extending the "Kingdom of God" in the world; and because many of the leading ministers and members of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland have urged him to make the application, they being of opinion that the petitioner is able to render good service to the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

8. Your petitioner believes the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church to be Scriptural, and its polity to be democratic. He is therefore of the opinion he would find a congenial sphere in which to work in seeking to extend the "Kingdom of God."

9. That in the event of his admission to the Presbyetrian Church the petitioner hereby pledges himself to obey the Church's authority and to promote its interests to the best of his ability.

10. That the documents in support of this petition are as follow:—

(a) A letter from the Rev. Joseph Bowes, Ex-President of the Methodist Church in Queensland.

(b) A letter from the Rev. Alexander Hay, D.D., of the Presbyterian Church Rockhampton, Queensland.

(c) A letter from the Rev. William Powell, Ex-President of the Methodist Church, Queensland.

(d) A letter from James Thompson, Esq., M.A., Headmaster of the Boys' Grammar School, Maryborough, Queensland.

(e) A letter from the Rev. G. J. Martin (now) President of the Methodist Church of Queensland.

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

Maryborough,
May 4th, 1906.

JOHN ADAMSON.

At St. Andrew's, Brisbane, 3rd May, 1906 the Presbytery of Maryborough agreed to transmit the petition, with all relevant documents, of the Rev. J. Adamson, Methodist minister, for admission into the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to Rev. Dr. George MacInnes, Convener of "Reception of Ministers" Committee.

Closed with prayer.

JOHN VANCE, Clerk.

(8.) PETITION OF THE REV. J. H. DAWE TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Unto the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
The Petition of Joseph Henry Dawe sheweth:—

1. That the petitioner was born at Ballarat, Victoria, in 1858, and is now 47 years; he is married and has two children, the youngest being eighteen years.

2. That he was an ordained minister of the United Free Methodist Church of Australia; he was received into the ministry of that Church in the year 1878, and voluntarily retired after ten years' service.

3. That prior to his ordination he was examined, and obtained credit passes in each of the following subjects:—

(a) Theology: Field's Handbook, and Watson's Institutes (4 vols.).

(b) Apologetics: Butler's Analogy, Paley's Evidences, and Horea Paulinea.

(c) Historical Criticism: Angus' Bible Handbook.

(c) Church History: Neanders Church History (sections only), and the History of the Planting.

(e) Logic: Whately's and Jevon's Logic; Rhetoric: Whately's.

(f) Homiletics: Broadus' The Preparation of a Sermon.

(g) Your petitioner was assisted through elementary Greek by the Rev. Dr. Fitchett, and the Rev. T. E. Ick, M.A. Since then he has acquired a fair degree of proficiency in New Testament Greek. In addition, he has tried to keep himself abreast of the best literature, theological, and philosophical thought.

4. That for two years he edited the connexional paper of the U.F.M.C., and while a minister of that Church he was stationed at Windsor, Box Hill, Brunswick, and Brisbane.

(5) That after leaving the U.F.M.C. your petitioner rendered two years' temporary service to the Primitive Methodist Church at Hobart. That he then entered business at Zeehan, Tasmania, joined the Presbyterian Church, was ordained an elder, and remained a member of the session till he was appointed to his present position as missionary at Navarre Mission in January, 1894.

6. That your petitioner has carefully studied the doctrines and polity of the Presbyterian Church and believes them to be essentially Scriptural, and should the prayer of his petition be granted, he pledges himself to obey the authority of her courts, and to do all that lies in his power to promote her interests.

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

Landsborough, Victoria, 9th October, 1905.

J. H. DAWE.

Documents accompanying petition:—Petition from Navarre Mission (174 names); testimonials from Queenstown Church, Tasmania; Zeehan Session, Tasmania; Rev. J. S. Buntine; Rev. D. Smith; Rev. J. Barton; Rev. W. O. Lilley; communication from A. L. Pryde, Secretary of Victorian Home Mission Executive.

From Presbytery of Maryborough.

Extract from Presbytery's minutes of Maryborough Presbytery, held at Donald on 10th October, 1905.

A petition was presented by Rev. Mr. Dawe and supported by Rev. Mr. Jones (St. Arnaud) that he be admitted to the ministerial standing by the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Presbytery agreed to transmit all documents connected therewith, with the Presbytery's recommendation to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

JOHN NICOL, Clerk.

From H. M. Executive of Victoria.

Mr. J. H. Dawe was received as a Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria on 18th November, 1903, and sent to the Navarre Mission on 1st January, 1904. The only meaning, so far as the Home Mission Committee can see, that can attach to the expression "Admitting one who will bring with him a new Congregation to this Presbytery," is, that if he be received as a Minister the people of the Mission may call him and thus add a charge to the roll of the Presbytery in place of a Mission Station. The Committee doubts the ability of the Station to call under any circumstances for some

considerable time. As the opinion of the Committee is asked for, they have no hesitation in saying that they cannot recommend the application of Mr. Dawe to be received as a fully ordained Minister. They have a number of Missionaries who have given much longer service to the Church and who in every way are in the opinion of the Committee more entitled to such consideration, and yet it is extremely doubtful whether the Committee would recommend any of them to be admitted to the ministry except through the regular channels.

Home Mission Executive Committee of Victoria, Melbourne,
18th July, 1906.

(9.) PETITION OF REV. G. A. HILL, M.A., 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 humbly sheweth:—

1. That the petitioner George Arthur Hill was born at Nundle, New South Wales, in 1874, and is now 32 years of age; that he is married and has one child.

2. That the petitioner was born into a Presbyterian family, and that his father, while head master of the public school at Tamworth was studying with a view to entering the Presbyterian ministry when he died in the year 1879. That petitioner's mother, with her family thereupon removed to Eccleston, where, there being no religious services except those of the Church of England and the Congregational Church, they joined the latter Church.

3. That the petitioner holds the M.A. degree of Sydney University, having taken his B.A. degree in four subjects, viz.:—Greek, Philosophy, English, and History. That he took the full Theological course at Camden College, extending over four years and including:—Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, Textual Criticism, Exegesis, Church History, and Hebrew.

4. That he was publicly ordained to the work of the ministry by the laying on of hands, by the Congregational Union of South Australia at Kadina, in the year 1899. That after ministering to the church at Kadina for two years he accepted a call to the church at Port Pirie, where he laboured for three years, when he was reluctantly compelled to resign owing to a physical breakdown, brought on by the trying nature of the climate and the severe demands of the work (there being three out-stations in addition to the large central church); that in consequence of his breakdown he returned to New South Wales, where, after a complete rest of three months, and occasional supply work for six months, his health being completely restored, he was called to the pastorate of the Arncliffe and Bellevue Congregational churches in May, 1905, which pastorate he now voluntarily relinquishes.

5. That the petitioner considers the doctrine and polity of the Presbyterian Church to be in harmony with the Scriptures, and is convinced that the better organisation and more homogeneous methods of that Church are more conducive to effective work than the methods of the denomination with which he is at present associated, and therefore he desires to return to the church home of his fathers.

Your petitioner acordingly prays your Venerable Court to admit him into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

GEORGE A. HILL.

August, 1906.

Documents accompanying petition:—Certificate of ordination; Certificate from Secretary of Congregational Union of New South Wales; letter from Rev. D. D. Davies; Diploma (M.A.) from Sydney University.

This is to certify in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Sydney to the General Assembly of Australia:—

That on the 14th August, 1906, the Presbytery transmitted to the General Assembly the petition of Rev. G. A. Hill, M.A., and cordially recommended it to the favourable consideration of the General Assembly and that he be admitted as an ordained minister, eligible for a call at once.

Certified this 22nd August, 1906, by me,

G. MACINNES,
Clerk of the Presbytery of Sydney.

(10.) PETITION OF REV. R. M. FRAZER TO BE RECEIVED AS A MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

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

Your petitioner undersigned humbly prays that your Venerable Court may be pleased to restore him to his former status within the Presbyterian Church of Australia. I am at present 55 years of age, and was ordained in Tasmania in 1882.. Thereafter I served the Presbyterian Church of that State as her missionary in the New Hebrides until I was forced to retire from the mission field early in 1905, owing to the breakdown of my own and my wife's health. By the Tasmanian Assembly of that year I was commended to the Home Mission Committee for appointment, with a view to settlement in a charge there. No suitable opening offering in Tasmania, and the winter climate there being very trying after so long a residence in the tropics, I proceeded to New Zealand to seek an opening in the North Island. After supplying a short time in two charges I was received into that Church by its General Assembly. While in Tasmania for the purpose of removing my family to Auckland, communication was opened up with me by Rev. R. Mitchell as to work in South Australia. I accordingly came over here in the beginning of March, and since that time have been at work within the bounds of the Presbytery of Belalie. Finding the climate of this State very congenial, and the need for ministers great. I would fain remain in South Australia, but am at present debarred from accepting a call owing to my certificate being from the New Zealand Church.

My petition now is that the General Assembly may be pleased to re-admit me to the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Certificate from Clerk of Assembly, Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, and statement by Clerk of Assembly, Presbyterian Church in Tasmania will accompany this petition.

And your petitioner will ever pray, etc.

Clare, S.A. 4th June, 1906. ROBERT M. FRASER.

At Port Pirie, the 6th June, 1906, Mr. Gray laid on the table a petition from Rev. R. M. Fraser, at present supplying the pulpits of the Clare Charge, to the General Assembly to be re-admitted as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

It was agreed to forward the petition to General Assembly's Committee for the Reception of Ministers, with the recommendation that the prayer of petition be granted.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Belalie, S.A. this 8th June, 1906,

W. GRAY,
Acting Clerk of Presbytery.

Napier, 1st March, 1906.

It is hereby certified that Rev. Robert M. Fraser was received into the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand without probation on the 16th day of November, 1905.

DAVID SIDEY, Clerk of General Assembly.

Presbyterian Church of Tasmania.

This is to certify that the Rev. R. M. Fraser was employed by the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania as missionary on the island of Epi, New Hebrides, for 23 years, where he did excellent work and was greatly blessed in his labours; that influenced by consideration of personal health, and that of his family for so many years in an uncongenial climate he sent in his resignation, which was, with much regret, accepted by our Assembly in March, 1905. He was commended to the Home Mission Committee for appointment with a view to settlement in a charge, but as our openings are few one of a suitable character did not present itself, and Mr. Fraser resolved to proceed to New Zealand, where openings are more numerous, and the climate of the North Island less severe. In September, 1905, he was granted a disjunction certificate signed by the Moderator of Assembly and myself, and commended to the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. He was duly received by that Church and laboured with acceptance for a few months in her service. Towards the end of the year he returned to Tasmania with the intention of removing his family to New Zealand, but the state of his wife's health prevented this. Meanwhile he heard of an opening in South Australia and has proceeded there. While his formal official certificate will be sent from New Zealand we very cordially commend Mr. Fraser to the Church of South Australia, and trust he may be long spared to labour in her service.

JOHN RUSSELL,
Clerk of Assembly.

Evandale, Tasmania,
17th March, 1906.

(11.) PETITION OF REV. WALTER A. HOBSON 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 Walter Alfred Hobson respectfully sheweth :—

1. That the petitioner is a Congregational minister in full standing, having been trained for the ministry at the Congregational Theological College, Nottingham, England, publicly ordained for the ministry of the Gospel at Crouch End Congregational Church, London, May 28th, 1902 and set aside for the work in Queensland; and unto January, 1905, minister of the Congregational Church, Rockhampton, Queensland, and was President of the Rockhampton Ministers' Union.

2. That the petitioner was born at Birmingham, England, is 36 years of age, and is an unmarried man.

3. That the Petitioner was educated at the King Edward Grammar School, Birmingham, for which he obtained a scholarship by competition, afterwards completing his studies for the ministry by passing the Entrance Examination and taking the regular ministerial course of study at the Congregational College, Nottingham, England, the curriculum of which includes :—Languages—Hebrew, New Testament Greek, and Exegesis; Philosophy—Logic, Apologetics, Metaphysics; Psychology—Social and Political Economy; Theology—Dogmatic and Pastoral; New Testament—Exegesis and Introduction; Sermon Making and Preaching. Duration of course,—three to four years.

4. That the petitioner, previous to entering College, was employed nearly four years as City Missionary, New Brighton, England, during which time he gained invaluable experience as a preacher and pastor.

5. That the petitioner is in full accord with the standard of the Presbyterian Church, including Declaratory Statement.

6. That the petitioner feels drawn towards the Presbyterian Church by its freedom of congregational life and action, and by its organised system of government, and leaves Congregationalism owing to its lack of organised unity.

7. That the Petitioner is at present working in connection with the Presbyterian Home Mission of Queensland, at Greenmount, Darling Downs, Queensland, and forwards this petition for presentation by the Toowoomba Presbytery, and prays the General Assembly to receive the same.

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

Greenmount, Darling Downs, Queensland, March 20, 1906. (Signed) WALTER A. HOBSON.

24th April, 1906.

At Toowoomba, and within St. Stephen's Church there, 4th April, 1906, the Presbytery of Toowoomba being duly constituted.

Inter alia: Took up consideration of the petition of Rev. Walter Alfred Hobson, Congregational minister, to the Presbyterian Church of Australia to be received as a Presbyterian minister.

It was unanimously resolved to forward the petition to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers with a recommendation that it be granted; and further, that, as Mr. Hobson has already served the Presbyterian Church as minister supplying the charge at Greenmount, within this Presbytery, for a period of twelve months, the Committee be asked to recommend him as at once eligible for a call.

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Toowoomba, by me,

RICHARD KERR, Acting Clerk.

Documents accompanying petition:—Resolution of Rockhampton Ministers' Association, Greenmount Congregation, and Congregational Union, Letter from Secretary of Congregational Union, Certificates of Nottingham Institute and Congregational Colonial Missionary Society.

The Manse Toowoomba,
Queensland, 31st July, 1906.

To the Convener
Committee on Reception of Ministers.

Dear Sir,—The Toowoomba Presbytery, at its meeting at Killarney on 27th July, decided to withdraw its recommedation of the Rev. W. A. Hobson's petition to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church on account of his correspondence with the Congregational Union, which I forwarded to you.

Yours sincerely,
J. LUNDIE, Clerk.

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

I, Horatio E. A. O'Sullivan, Student, do herewith pray and petition the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to permit my being licensed without further examination.

Reasons for so petitioning :—

1. The Theological Hall Committee last September recommended me for License.

2. I have been suffering from Neurasthenia and heart trouble for the last five years, and which caused me to take a long sea voyage last year. By this illness I am never able to study hard two days following.

3. I have been preaching for 23 years, the last 11 years in connection with the Victorian Church. I have attended the Theological Hall part of the 1902 Session, and have certificates for 1903 and 1904 for 1st and 2nd years.

Trusting you will grant my petition,

I remain your humble Servant,
H. O'SULLIVAN.

(13.) PETITION OF MEMBERS OF THE BRISBANE PRESBYTERY.

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

The Petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth :—

1. That on the Second day of July, 1906, the Presbytery of Brisbane did, in accordance with the General Assembly's regulations refuse to transmit the Petition of the Rev. G. Stevens, minister of the Gospel, to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, inasmuch as such Petition is required to be in the hands of the Convener of the Committee on the Reception of Ministers three months before the sitting of the General Assembly.

2. That the undersigned members of the Presbytery of Brisbane being members of the General Assembly of Australia now in Session, taking notice of the fact that a Commission of Assembly has been appointed to dispose of the Petition of the Rev. G. A. Hill, M.A., humbly pray that the General Assembly will empower the Commission similarly to dispose of the Petition above referred to.

And your Petitioners will ever pray,

GEORGE HALL, Clerk of Presbytery.
GEO. EWAN.
ANDREW GILLISON.
JAMES McQUEEN.
THOS. BENNET.

(14.)PETITION FROM THE PRESBYTERIANS OF MORNINGTON, ETC.

To the Moderator and members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

From Presbyterians and residents generally throughout that portion of the Mornington Peninsula, comprising Dromana, Flinders, Bonco, Red Hill, Balnarring, etc.

Our humble respects and greeting.

We residents aforesaid desire to take this opportunity of placing upon record our appreciation of the services and ministrations of our esteemed missionary, Mr. George Welling. In the time that he has lived and worked amongst us, Mr. Welling has not only earned our respect as a man of God, but has endeared himself as a man and a brother to all with whom he has come in contact.

Mr. Welling is, in our opinion peculiarly fitted for the ministry, and as at this late stage, situated as he is with wife and family it would be impossible for him to follow out the prescribed University preparation, we earnestly and respectfully request that in view of his ability and experience, our Church Assembly will take steps to facilitate his direct entry to the Theological Hall.

We have no desire to see lowered the high educational standard which has been fixed for our ministers, but we would point out that Mr. Welling's attainments in that direction are not inconsiderable and we believe his ordainment would redound to the glory of God and to the honour of our Church.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

IV.

REFERENCES.

(1.) FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

A Report to the Vererable the General Assembly from the Moderator's Committee of certain proceedings of the State Assembly of Western Australia, namely. a decision to give to Home Missionaries the right to perform the Sacrament of Baptism within their own districts.

(a) Proceedings in State Assembly:—Within St. Andrew's, Perth, on Thursday, the sixteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and five years, at 11 o'clock a.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was duly constituted.

The Right Rev. H. C. Matthew, M.A., Moderator.

Inter alia: The overture from the Goldfields Presbytery was called for.

By leave of the House the Overture was altered to read—"That in special circumstances Home Missionaries be given the right to perform the Sacrament of Baptism within their own districts."

The Overture was supported by Revs. A. Crow and J. H. Fordyce .

The hour for adjournment having come, the Assembly adjourned to meet again at three o'clock p.m., which having been publicly intimated the Sederunt closed with the Benediction.

Consideration of the Goldfields Overture was resumed. After discussion the Assembly resolved to sustain the Overture.

The Clerk, for himself and those who adhered to him, dissented on the ground that what was sought to be done was in direct opposition to the express statements of the Confession of Faith on the Sacraments of the Church.

For the better regulation of the conditions under which the right shall be exercised, the Rev. J. H. Fordyce moved:—

(1.) Such Agents shall be recognised Agents of our Church.

This was seconded and carried.

(2.) All such Agents shall be first ordained as Elders of the Church.

This was seconded by the Rev. H. W. Burridge .

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. R. Robertson, that all the words after "Agents" be omitted for the purpose of inserting other words.

This was seconded by Mr. F. A. Moseley *pro forma*.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. W. G. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Hope: "That the words 'as Elders of the Church' be omitted."

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried, and being put as a substantive motion was carried.

(3.) Where such Agents are under the jurisdiction of the Home Mission Committee, the concurrence of the Committee shall be secured. Carried.

(4.) Such power shall be exercised only in the disrtcit where the Agent is at work, and during the time he is in that district—the district to be defined by the Presbytery. Agreed.

The Rev. R. Hanlin entered his dissent.

The Assembly adjourned to meet again at seven o'clock p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt closed with the Benediction.

Certified to be correct Minutes of Assembly,

ALEXANDER M'CARLIE, Assembly Clerk.

(b) Action by the Moderator's Committee: St. Andrew's, Perth, 27th December, 1905. Which time and place the Moderator's Committee met, and was duly constituted by the Moderator, who presided.

Inter alia: The Moderator reported that he had received a communication from the Right Rev. P. J. Murdoch, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, dealing with the decision of the Assembly of Western Australia to ordain Home Mission Agents for the special purpose of baptising.

Extract from Letter of the Moderator:—"I can understand that the difficulty is urgent, but I venture to press on the W. A. Church through you that you should defer acting on this decision and bring the matter up in some way before the Assembly in September. It will certainly be brought under the attention of the Assembly, and it is far best your Church should bring it up, and at the same time be able to say your decision has not been acted on."

It was agreed (1) To communicate with Clerks of Presbyteries and advise that the decision of Assembly anent the ordination of Home Mission Agents should be in abeyance. (2) To bring the matter up before the General Assembly in September. (3) To acknowledge Mr. Murdoch's letter thank him for his counsel, and inform him of the steps taken by the Moderator's Committee to act on his advice.

Extracted from the Minutes of Moderator's Committee by Alexander M'Carlie, Vice-Convener.

The decision of the State Assembly has not been acted on.

All which is reported to your Assembly with a respectful request that the question raised by the communication may be considered.

In name and on behalf of the Moderator's Committee,

ALEXANDER M'CARLIE, Vice-Convener.

(2.) FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA RELATIVE TO LENGTHENING THE THEOLOGICAL SESSION.

Assembly Hall, Collins-street, May 17th, 1906.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was duly constituted.

Inter alia: The Report on the visitation of the Theological Hall, at the request of the Moderator, was submitted by the Rev. J. Mathew.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Mathew and seconded by Dr. MacFarland, "That the proposal of the students for lengthening the session be approved and transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia."

The motion was approved.

Extracted from the Minutes of Assembly by

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

VISITATION OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

V. Conference with Students.

2. Mr. Foster was heard in favour of extending the length of the session by six weeks. An additional vacation of two weeks to be given at the time of the University second vacation, allowing four weeks additional for lectures and study. The examination to be held towards the end of October. Mr Ross stated as a difficulty that the expenditure of the students would be increased, and that a considerable minority were not in favour of the change."

(3.) FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA RELATIVE TO MR. WILLIAM BETT'S APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO HALL.

Assembly Hall, Collins-street, May 17th, 1906.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment at 10 a.m., and was duly constituted.

Inter alia: The Report of the Theological Hall Committee relative to the Petition of Mr. William Bett was submitted by the Rev. J. Mathew, who moved: "That Mr. William Bett's application be approved in accordance with provision (a) in the rules for admission to the Theological Hall governing exceptional cases, and that intimation of this approval be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia."

The motion was seconded by the Rev. W. M. R. Alexander, and approved.

Extracted from the Minutes of Assembly by

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

V.

REPORTS.

I.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

(PROGRESS REPORT.)

Since the meeting of the General Assembly last year, one meeting of the full Committee, and eleven meetings of the Executive have been held.

Under the New Home Mission Scheme 50 names have been enrolled. These include 10 in New South Wales, 8 in Queensland, 20 in Victoria, 5 in Western Australia, 2 in South Australia, 5 in Tasmania. The average age of the candidates is slightly over 30 years. Of these, 3 have entered for the preliminary course, viz., matriculation on secondary Public Examination and 4 University Classes; 47 have entered for special course, under the College Committee. These have been graded as follows:—11 for the first year; 12 for the second year; 18 for the third year; and six for the fourth year. Those who begin at the first, second, or third year have been notified that special excellence in the examination results may secure exemption of a year in the course of training. One student has been enrolled for the special extramural course, on the ground of the work he has already done, and in view of the fact that he resides in a State (Tasmania) where there is no Theological Hall.

At a meeting of the General Committee held in Sydney it was agreed that candidates for the extramural course should be required to pass in the subjects set down in the syllabus for the Entrance Examination to the Halls —languages excepted. The Executive agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that Mr. Lee, of Tasmania, be exempted from this examination as he had previously passed it (excluding languages) with an average of 43 marks; and that further, he should be asked to sit next February for examination in the work prescribed for first year's students at the Hall—languages excluded. Postponement of examination in the cases of Messrs. Norman and Lusted (W.A.) was asked for by the Rev. N. C. Matthew. It was agreed in the case of the former that on account of illness he be exempted from examination this year, and that success in the examination in 1907 would form a ground for recommending to the General Assembly

that his preliminary course be regarded as complete. In the case of the latter it was agreed to recommend that he be asked to sit at next examination, when his special circumstances would be taken into account.

The Committee requested the present examiners for the Entrance Examination to act in connection with the H.M. Scheme. They agreed to do so, and the Assembly is asked for its approval.

Complaints were brought before the Committee with regard to the books on Philosophy set down in the syllabus, both as to the difficulty of obtaining them and their unsuitability. The matter is still before the Committee.

I. L. Cope, formerly a minister of the Methodist Church, applied to be received as a student in Ormond College. The application was accompanied by a recommendation from the Presbytery of Ballarat. Warm testimony was borne to Mr. Cope's character and efficiency. It was agreed to admit him to the Theological Hall on condition that he passed the Entrance Examination in the subjects of Scripture, Hebrew, Mental and Moral Philosophy; and to recommend to the General Assembly his acceptance as a regular student of the Church. It was agreed also to admit A. H. T. Postle to the Entrance Examination, and to recommend that he be also received as a regular student, provided the results of his examination justify it.

For the Entrance Examination to the Theological Halls, fifteen candidates presented themselves—fourteen in Victoria, and one in New South Wales. The following passed in all the subjects:—T. J. Riddle, B.A.; J. M. Stewart, B.A.; J. F. Colquhoun, B.A.; A. N. Fletcher; J. T. Kelly; H. T. Postle; J. O. Charlton; J. N. McKie, B.A.

Three students failed. I. L. Cope failed in Hebrew and A. McLeod in Mental and Moral Philosophy. In the supplementary examination Mr. Cope passed and Mr. McLeod failed. C. R. Houston passed his supplementary examination in Greek.

It was agreed to recommend to the Theological Hall Committee of Victoria that J. C. Balcke, who had an aggregate average of over 40 marks and not less than 25 in any one subject should be admitted as a private student. A. D. Walker, B.A., of Sydney having been wrongly informed as to the time of the Entrance Examination was recommended to the Faculty of St. Andrew's College as a private student, and on the understanding that his session should be sustained if he passed the Entrance Examination when opportunity was provided.

At a meeting of the General Committee the question of altering the date of the Entrance Examination was considered. The matter was referred to a Committee of the Professors and Lecturers of the two Halls, with Dr. Clouston as Convener.

Dr. Clouston, Professor Harper, Professor Skene, and Dr. Meiklejohn were appointed a Committee to consider the extent of the difference in the standards in the Sydney and Melbourne Matriculation Examinations, and also the bearing of the raising of the standard upon the question of the supply of candidates for the ministry.

The following books were proposed for the special course in lieu of the Hall course.

THEOLOGY: Orr's Christian View of God and the World; Denny's Death of Christ; McPherson's Handbook on the Confession; W. N. Clarke's Outlines of Theology (approved sections).

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY: Steven's New Testament Theology; Davidson's Old Testament Theology.

HISTORY: Paterson Smyth's How we got our Bible; Lindsay's Early Church, and Reformation; Ogilvie's Presbyterianism (Guild Series); Walker's Scottish Church History (T. T. Clark.)

APOLOGETICS: Bruce's Apologetics; Flint's Theism.

EXEGESIS: Skinner's Isaiah, Vol. II; Moule Philippians (Cambridge Bible); Philippian Studies.

It was agreed that in future a minimum of 35 per cent. in English be absolutely required at the Entrance Examination.

With the view of making the honours in the Exit and Final Examinations in the Halls more real the following scale was adopted. First-class honours, 85 per cent. and over; second-class honours, 75 per cent. to 84 per cent. Further, it was agreed that a certificate specially printed and signed by the Moderator and one of the Conveners of the College Committee be issued to students gaining honours.

A resolution passed unanimously by the Theological Hall Society of Ormond College and sent to your Committee recommends that in future the Exit Examinations be on subjects rather than on the details of prescribed books.

J. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

P.S.—Since the foregoing was written word has been received that Mr. Norman has died.

ADDITIONAL REPORT OF COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

Since the above Progress Report was drawn up, your College Committee has met, and submits the following further report:—

For the Exit Examination the following third year men passed, the names in order of merit:—

From St. Andrew's College, in New Testament Greek, Apologetics, and Theology: John Hislop Robertson, M.A., 75 per cent. second-class honours), Joseph Thomas Dudley, B.A., 73; George Cranston, and William Scott Lawrie, 67.

From Ormond College, in New Testament Greek, Hebrew, Church History and Theology: Karl Forster, B.A., 78 (second-class honours); R. C. Foyster, B.A., 75 (second-class honours); E. G. Petherick, 73; J. C. McPhee, 72; J. P. McDougall, B.A., 68; A. O. Hardie, B.A., 61; S. D. Hood, 55.

The following second year men passed, the names in order of merit:—

From St. Andrew's College, in Hebrew and Church History: John Paterson, B.A., 76 (second-class honours); Victor Clark Duff, B.A., 67; Joseph C. Gibson, 60.

From Ormond College, in Apologetics: E. E. Baldwin, M.A., 89 (first-class honours); A. S. Houston, B.A., 84 (second-class honours); F. C. Vickerman, 80 (second-class honours); F. Chisholm, Wm. Chapman, and A. E. Goller, B.A., 79 (second-class honours); H. E. Hunt, 77 (second-class honours); Arch. Ross, 72; T. V. Charlton, 56; A. C. Sanderson, 48.

With regard to the recent Examination of Home Missionaries, the Committee agreed that the full Report as presented by the Secretary should be printed. The Report is appended.

The following resolution was carried, regarding the Extramural Course for Home Missionaries who cannot attend either of the Theological Halls:—That in Church History, Theology, and Apologetics, the Extramural Course be identical with that of the Hall, a special course being set in the other subjects, as these students are exempted by resolution of the Assembly from the study of languages.

The sub-Committee's Report as to the alteration of the date of the Entrance Examination having been submittted, it was agreed to recommend to the Assembly—That there be two Entrance Examinations—one in February, one in April—set simultaneously in both States, the questions for both examinations to be prepared together by the Examiners for the sake of uniformity of standard.

A petition from the Home Missionaries Association of Victoria was presented, asking that the Entrance Examination might be taken in two parts, in October and February. It was agreed that in view of the foregoing resolution regarding two Entrance Examinations, the request be not complied with.

A resolution from the Theological Society of Ormond College, asking that subjects should be prescribed for the Exit Examination in place of books was considered.

It was resolved that while the Committee approve of the general principle of setting subjects rather than books, they agree to postpone the application of the principle meantime.

The action of the Executive with regard to Messrs. Joseph A. Lee, J. L. Cope, and H. T. Postle, was considered.

In view of facts stated in the Committee it was agreed to recommend Mr. Lee for exemption from the Entrance Examination. Mr. Cope was recommended for acceptance as a regular student of the Church. With regard to Mr. Postle, who had failed to pass his first year Arts Examination, it was agreed that while he be allowed to proceeed with his course in Theology, he must pass Greek in first year Arts, before sitting for his Exit Examination.

A proposal from the State Assembly of Victoria was considered, to lengthen the Hall Session. It was agreed that in view of the circumstances of the New South Wales Church, the Committee could not recommend its adoption.

The Committee resolved to recommend to the Assembly that a minimum of 35 in English should be absolutely essential for a pass in Entrance Examination, and that the scale of honours in Exit Examination should be, first-class honours, 85 per cent. and over; second-class honours, 75 per cent and over.

Dr Meiklejohn gave in a Report regarding the steps being taken in connection with the granting of Divinity Degrees in the Commonwealth. The Report showed that good progress was being made.

J. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

REPORT OF FIRST HOME MISSION EXAMINATION, AUGUST, 1906.

As this was the first Examination under the new scheme, some time was lost in getting things in order. Some of the text-books could not be procured by the more distant men in time. For this reason, some of those who were enrolled did not present themselves at all, and some sat after but brief time for preparation in certain subjects. The Examination cannot, therefore, be regarded as an altogether accurate test. But it has at least shown us more clearly how we stand with regard to our Home Missionaries, and it should prove a valuable guide for future action.

The Examination was held in the various States, August 1st to 3rd.

40 candidates presented themselves; 19 from Victoria, 7 in each case from New South Wales and Queensland, 3 in each case from Western Australia and Tasmania, 1 from South Australia.

As mentioned above, all did not sit for all six subjects. For Mental Philosophy and Moral Philosophy, 29 entered; for Logic, 34; for English and History, 39; for Bible (including S. Catechism) 40.

Failure to sit was in most cases due to difficulty in procuring the text-books.

Of the 40, 23 passed unconditionally, 2 in the first year, 6 in the second, 10 in the third, 5 in the fourth; 5 of these securing a general average of 75 or over passed with honours, this, according to the decision of the Executive entitling them to exemption from one year of the course.

These 5 are (in second year):—Daniel Ross (Vic.), average 79 per cent.; August J. Jessop (Tas.), average 77 per cent.; G. H. Parsons (N.S.W.), average 75 per cent.

(In third year):—G. V. M. James (Vic.), average 80 per cent.; J. Flynn (Vic.), average 75 per cent.

Of the 23 who passed unconditionally, there were 12 from Victoria, 5 from New South Wales, 4 from Queensland, 2 from Tasmania.

Of the remaining 17, 9 passed subject to a supplementary Examination in English, 1 in first year, 2 in second, 6 in third; and 8 failed, 3 in first year, 3 in second, 1 in third, 1 in fourth.

The percentage reached by all candidates in all subjects taken was approximately 54, and by each State—Tasmania, 64; Victoria, 59; Queensland, 54; New South Wales, 53; South Australia, 52; West Australia, 46.

The percentages in the different years were:—First year, 42; second year, 57; third year, 59; fourth year, 60. And in the different subjects:—Moral Philosophy, 69; Logic, 68; Mental Philosophy, 63; History 61; Bible and Shorter Catechism, 55; English, 35.

The Examiners were those appointed to examine for Entrance to the Hall. They deserve the cordial thanks of the Assembly for the work readily undertaken, especially the Rev. John Gray, M.A., B.D., who himself examined 97 papers.

The most disquieting fact revealed by the Examination is the comparative failure in English. 19 out of the 39 examined in this subject failed to reach the minimum of 35.

The paper was a fairly stiff one, and in some cases there was a difficulty in procuring the text-books. But with due allowance made for such causes of defect, the results are not encouraging.

HUGH M. BURNS, Hon. Sec., C.C.

THEOLOGICAL HALL, ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Report of Senatus, 1906.

It is with deep sorrow that the Senatus have to report the death of Dr. Macdonald, Professor of Systematic Theology and Church History in the Theological Hall, which took place on the 25th January last. In common with the whole Church the Senatus feel the immense loss they have sustained in this event. While all the Church's activities are the weaker because of Dr. Macdonald's removal. The work entrusted to the Senatus will feel it most of all. Since 1881, when the studies of the Theological Hall were settled on their present foundation, and he was appointed one of our Professors, Dr. Macdonald devoted himself to the work of his chair with an energy that never tired, and a watchfulness that cared for every material detail. The Church found in him a ready and efficient helper in all departments of her work, but his first thoughts and most strenuous efforts were given to the College in which she appointed him Professor, and to the students of whose training she had given him charge. He took a leading part in the negotiations and the work that resulted in the formation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and one of the motives that made him so desirous for the union was that thereby the training for the

Ministry and the cause of sacred learning would be put on a satisfactory foundation. He carried in his heart and mind so intimately and constantly the interests of the Hall of which he was Professor; he was so heedful of its honour and so anxious for its good; his long experience of its working made him so wise in counsel; his love of study and his sympathy with students made him so helpful in all circles of student life, that we who were more closely associated with him as his colleagues feel ourselves left very much poorer for his loss. Death came to him when he was busily engaged preparing work for another session, to be entered on in a few weeks, and which he meant to be his last, and took him by one swift step to the reward of a higher service.

The forty-first session of the Hall was opened on the 7th March. The inaugural lecture was delivered by the President, Professor Rentoul, D.D., his subject being: "The Fact, the Faith, and the Creed."

Twenty-seven students were enrolled for the session, the same number as last year, which was the largest on record since the foundation of the Hall. Of these ten are graduates, and of the remainder most are University men. One is a "private student."

One of the students, Mr. Alexander McLeod, of the second year, had a very serious illness about the middle of the session, and was unable to attend the classes during the second term. The Senatus note with gratification the kindness of Mr. McLeod's fellow students in supplying his place as far as they were able in the work of the Mission Station of which he had charge.

With that exception the health of the students has been good, and their attendance and diligence entirely satisfactory.

All the students of the third year having completed their three years' course in the Hall, and having performed all the exercises and tests demanded of them, are authorised to proceed to the Exit examination.

Ten students of the second year, having also completed their course in Apologetic and Christian Philosophy, are authorised to sit at the Exit examination in that subject.

The usual Missionary work of the students has been carried on during the year. The Missionary Society supports an Industrial Native Assistant at Mapoon, North Queensland, and a Native Teacher at Tanna, New Hebrides. The sum needed for this work, £66 per annum, is raised by the members of the Society preaching in the pulpits that are opened to them.

The Theological Society has held weekly meetings for prayer and for addresses on different aspects of Ministerial work, and the members have supplied religious instruction in two of the State Schools. They have also taken part in the work of the Theological Students' Union of Victoria.

At the request of the students and with the hearty concurrence of the Senatus a Communion Service for the students was held at the close of the Lecture Session.

The Theological Hall Committee appointed the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn, D.D. and the Rev. Alexander Stewart, M.A., to take the work of the chair made vacant by the death of Dr. Macdonald, the former to lecture on Systematic Theology and the latter on Church History.

Professor Rentoul having been granted leave of absence for part of the Session did the work of his chair up till the end of March. During his absence the Rev. Robert Murray, B.D., took the class of Senior New Testament Greek and Exegesis, the Rev. Alexander Yule, M.A., Junr., the class of Junior New Testament Greek and Exegesis, and the Rev. John Mathew, B.D., the class of Christian Philosophy and Apologetic.

The "George Wilson Lecturer on Elocution," the Rev. E. Rorke, B.A., reports a satisfactory Session's work. The "George Wilson Elocution Prize" has been awarded, after competition, to Mr. F. Chisholm and Mr. J. C. McPhee, who were equal.

Mr. E. E. Baldwin, B.A. the "John Thomson" Hebrew Tutor reports, that six undergraduates have attended the Hebrew Tutorial Class.

The usual mid-session recess took place in May during the sittings of the General Assembly. There was also a break in the work of the classes during the week of the University Jubilee Celebrations. In one of the functions of the celebrations, the presentation of the Greek play, several of our students took part.

At the request of the Senatus the General Assembly in November appointed a Commission to "visit" the College, and they made their visitation shortly after the beginning of the Session. On the report of the Commission the Assembly in May passed several resolutions bearing on the work of the Hall. One of these, that the time table should be so arranged that attendance should be required at only three lectures per day was at once given effect to by the Senatus. Other proposals are still under consideration, and still others have to be dealt with by the General Assembly of the Church of Australia.

During the year, a number of books have been added to the library, and Dr. Macdonald's library of some 3000 volumes, will be handed over to the College during the course of the year.

It has long been felt by those who have to make use of the library that there ought to be a scientifically arranged catalogue of the 9,000 volumes of which the library consists. That such a catalogue should be provided was one of the recommendations of the commission of visitation. The recommendation was approved by the General Assembly which resolved to set apart the sum of £100 from the Assembly Expenses Fund for the purpose if such a sum were available. As the Board of Finance intimated that the sum required was not available, the Librarian, Professor Skene, with the concurrence of the Convener of the Theological Hall Committee made appeal for contributions to some who were likely to appreciate the value of an adequate catalogue as a necessary part of the equipment of a library. The response has been gratifying. More than £100 has been received, and the Senatus hope that the work of making the catalogue will be put in hands at once, so that the catalogue may be ready for the use of the Students by the beginning of next Session.

The Session was closed on the 17th August by a public meeting at which an address to the Students on preaching was given by the Right Rev. T. R. Cairns, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Victoria.

ALEXANDER SKENE,
Secretary of Senatus.

REPORT OF THEOLOGICAL FACULTY, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1906.

The Session of the Theological Hall for 1906 began Tuesday, March 13th. The opening lecture was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Dill Macky in the presence of a large number of ministers and other friends of the Hall. His subject was "Biblical Criticism ; its Effect upon Religious Life." The classes began on the following day, and were continued with the exception of the usual recess of two weeks in the month of June till Friday, August 17th, when the closing lecture was delivered by the Right Rev. the Moderator, Rev. J. Kemp Bruce, on "The Propagation of the Gospel by Testimony." During the Session, all the Professors and Lecturers were in regular attendance. Principal Harper, D.D., lectured on the Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament, including the Hebrew language and literature. Dr. MacInnes conducted the class in the Exegetical Theology of the New Testament. Dr. Clouston lectured in Historical Theology. Dr. Dill-Macky conducted the class in Systematic and Biblical Theology. Professor Kinross, D.D., lectured on Apologetics and Christian Ethics and English Theological Literature. The Rev. John Walker, the Steel Lecturer for the year on Pastoral Theology met the students once a week in the second term. The Rev. J. Anderson

Gardiner, B.A., again gave them valuable instruction in Sacred Rhetoric Mr. John Garland, M.A., LL.B., held a class on Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure.

The students during the Session numbered twelve, namely, Third Year, George Cranston, J. T. Dudley, B.A., W. S. Laurie, J. H. Robertson, M.A., and J. Craig; Second Year, V. Clark Duff, B.A., J. C. Gibson, and John Paterson, B.A.; First Year, H. R. Grassich, E. N. McKie, B.A., F. L. A. Schloeffel, and A. D. Walker, B.A. In addition to attendance on lectures, each student was required to prepare special exercises for the Lecturers. The students of the First Year delivered a popular lecture before Dr. Clouston; the students of the Second Year prepared a Hebrew Exegesis for Dr. Harper, and an essay for Dr. Kinross; and the students of the Third Year, a Greek Exegesis for Dr. MacInnes, and a popular sermon for Dr. Dill-Macky.

Examinations in all the classes were held at the close of the Session.

The library has been enriched by the addition of some of the most recent Theological literature, and has proved of considerable service. The Faculty trust that through the generosity of the friends of the Hall, they may be enabled to continue to put on the shelves all the most valuable books that appear from time to time, and will gladly receive donations for the purpose.

The Faculty note, with pleasure, the continuance of the Theological Students' Union, in which the students of the Hall meet for discussion and devotion with the students of other Churches.

During the course of the Session, an official visitation of the Hall was conducted by the Committee of the New South Wales General Assembly, appointed for the purpose, and on their recommendation, various changes were made in the constitution of the Faculty, among which the most important was that in the tenure of the office of the lecturers, namely, for five years in place of at the pleasure of each Assembly. The Faculty are persuaded that the efficiency of the Hall requires that all the subjects should be taught by professors whose whole time is given to the work, and are pleased to know that the Assembly is taking steps towards this desirable end.

T. E. CLOUSTON, D.D., President.
GEORGE MACINNES, D.D., Secretary.

II.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE, 1906.

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting audited balance-sheets and report.

The General Assembly Expenses Fund Account indicates that the expenditure is in excess of the revenue and unless there is a diminution in the former an increase in the assessment will be necessary and your Committee has reluctantly been compelled to recommend the increase this year. All the State Churches have paid up their proportion of the former assessment, and the amount at credit has decreased from £105 8s. 5d. to £62 0s. 2d., the present credit balance.

The amount received for Church Hymnary Royalty for the year ending 31st March, 1906, was £93 10s. 2d., and this with £20 6s. 11d. of interest forms the revenue in this account. The credit balance as reported at last Assembly was £618 7s. 5d., making a total of £732 4s. 6d.

The amount paid for travelling expenses in connection with last Assembly, held in Melbourne, was £179 19s. 3d., leaving the present credit at £552 5s. 3d. In this account it will be observed that there is also a

shortage of revenue as compared with the expenditure, but as the expenses of the different Assemblies vary slightly, your Committe would express the hope that the revenue for the current year may balance the expenditure.

The travelling expenses account is set forth in balance sheet form in the usual way, the total amount paid out of account of expenses of representatives of the various States to the General Assembly, Officials and Conveners showing a total of £186 12s. 6d., as against £201 15s. 9d. for the previous year.

Your Committee recommends that the expenses for this Assembly be paid on the same lines and in the same proportion as for last Assembly, namely:—"That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1906, have the following percentages of their travelling expenses (calculated upon the basis of second-class railway 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."

It is further recommended that instruction be given to assess the State Assemblies for the General Assembly's expenses on the same lines as formerly, to wit, New South Wales £50, Victoria £50, Queensland £16 13s. 4d., South Australia £16 13s. 4d., Tasmania £16 13s. 4d, Western Australia £12 10s per annum.

Your Committee would also ask directions regarding the sum of £25 received from the Presbyterian Church of England for bush work in Australia, the amount being at present held in suspense.

In the Home Mission Account the credit is £8 10s. 6d., no payment having been made out of the account since last Assembly.

On behalf of the Commtitee,

JOHN H. GOODLET, Chairman.

III.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN.

The Board of Missions has the honour to submit to the General Assembly, along with its own Report and Statement of Accounts and the individual Reports of the North Queensland Missionaries, similar Reports and Statements from several State Churches, which are appended in the following order:—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia. The contents of these documents are evidence that the Presbyterian Church of the Commonwealth is doing considerable and comendable work over a wide area for the furtherance of the kingdom of God on the earth. The interest, prayers, energy, and liberality of our people in this work betoken the influence of true religion in their hearts. For the power of the Holy Ghost thus come upon us within our own borders, and for the fruits of our missionary activity among the heathen, with which God has honoured us, the Board of Missions desires to express deepest thankfulness, and prays that the Church may continue and increase in Grace.

DELIVERANCE OF 1905.

As directed by last Assembly the Board waited, by deputation, on the Commonwealth Government regarding the New Hebrides interests, and received the most satisfactory assurances possible from the Prime Minister that the Australian claim to the group and the benefit of its British residents, both trading and missionary, would be kept steadily in view and furthered as opportunities occur. With regard to the employment of a Missions Agent, the returns to the remit from the State Assemblies when reported will enable the Assembly to see how far the several Churches are willing

to empower the Board to employ an Agent. Pending this discovery no steps have been taken. The Board, indeed, had it in mind to formulate a scheme of work and maintenance for an Agent, but the Executive to whom this was remitted found that the assessment for ordinary expenses, the overdraft, and the Moravian Board debt was already so high that the proposal of additional burdens would probably discourage the weaker Churches, and decided to wait. The advantages to be hoped from an Agent's appeals and organising activity are so great that the Assembly should keep this matter before it, and arrange as early as possible for its attainment. The assessment for the various burdens of the Board has been accepted by the Churches calculated on a basis that may be slightly varied from time to time as the facts emerge in working. It is worthy of special note that after a severe struggle with depressed circumstances the Church of Tasmania has cleared off its old liabilities and is now contributing its full share to the Board's expenditure.

NORTH QUEENSLAND MISSION.

All transactions of the Board with the North Queensland stations have been conducted through the Queensland Executive, which is now in full control of the field. The three missionaries have been at their posts throughout the year. Their individual Reports hereto appended show what lights and shadows have fallen on their work in its course. The Board wishes cordially to own their ability and fidelity and the measure of success with which God has crowned their efforts. And in commending them anew to Divine care and guidance it trusts that Mr. and Mrs. Richter will have better health this year at Aurukun, that Mr. and Mrs. Brown may benefit by their contemplated furlough, and that Mr. and Mrs. Hey, with all the other workers on the field may continue in full vigour. Some general matters require the Assembly's attention.

1. The Moravian Board suggest and desire the concurrence of the General Assembly in their appointment of Mr. Hey as Superintendent of the whole mission. If carried out on the Moravian plan such superintendence would give Mr. Hey priority in the mission conferences on the field and power to allocate the stations of the other missionaries. It would also make him the correspondent of the mission with the Moravian Board.

The Foreign Missions Committee of New South Wales recommend that at least £25 per annum should be added to the stipend of the Rev. N. Hey as a children's allowance. The Board's Executive judged it prudent not to increase the burdens to be borne while a considerable debt remains to be cleared off, and wishes the recommendation reported simpliciter to the Assembly.

2. Mr. Brown has not yet left for his furlough which is overdue. Victoria and Queensland have reported about £71 together, towards his furlough expenses—a special contribution. No other Church has so far promised anything in response to the Board's appeal. The Assembly should at once consider and fix times and provision for such furloughs, as they are essential to the health of and effectiveness of our agents. In reply to enquiries, the Moravian Mission Board, through Mr. La Trobe, thus outlines its scheme of furloughs for its missionaries.

"The ordinary duration of furlough in Europe is a year, or at most a year and a quarter, unless expressly extended for health or other considerations. The long journey from Australia would be outside that period.

During this furlough we continue the normal salary, but no local additions necessitated by the conditions of the field. We have, however, several "Pilgrim Houses," where a visiting missionary can, if he chooses, find very reasonable lodgings.

Just to make this more concrete, let me suppose that the Browns received leave to come home on furlough in 1907, and did so in full accordance with our furlough regulations. I take it only as an illustrative case.

On leaving Weipa Mr. Brown would cease to draw salary in the field. He would be so to say, on journey account, and his salary on the home

basis would begin on arrival at the place where he intends to reside. He went out in 1895 and would then have been twelve years in the service. So his normal salary without the local addition for Australia would be £112 10s. per annum.

He would not receive an outfit for the homeward journey, but would charge on his travelling account 15/- for himself and 15/- for his wife for clothing allowance during the journey. For each child with the parents during a furlough a grant is given of £3. If the older children enter school, they come under a different set of regulations.

Before the expiry of the furlough, he would send in a report of health to the Board, and come to an understanding as to the return journey. If illness cause exceptional expense, he could send in a well grounded request to the Board.

I hope the above information will give some idea of our practice, as requested."

3. Miss Schick, the Government teacher at Weipa, has resigned, and will leave for Europe with Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The Queensland Executive strongly urges that a married assistant whose wife could take the duties and the salary of the place vacated by Miss Schick should at once be appointed at Weipa. By such an arrangement security would be gained for both work and station in Mr. Brown's absence. Similar arrangements are desirable at Aurukun. To meet the expense the Queensland Executive suggests that as Victoria maintains an assistant at Mapoon, and Queensland at Weipa, the like should be done by New South Wales at Aurukun. The Board asks the General Assembly to recommend this suggestion to the Church of New South Wales, and forthwith empower the Queensland Executive to appoint a married assistant at Weipa.

FINANCE.

The total amount expended on missions to the heathen by all the State Churches taken together as now reported to the Assembly appears to be £12,961 15s. 10d. This expenditure, though reported twelve months after the last report to the Assembly, is not to be regarded as a year's disbursements, since one Church reports for eighteen months and another for only nine; but when these modifications are allowed for, the present annual charge of the General Assembly's Missions cannot be estimated at less than £9,000.

As directed by the Assembly the Board of Missions assesses each of the State Churches on the basis of its membership for (1) Salaries and expenses in the North Queensland Mission; (2) The bank overdraft; and (3) the debt to the Moravian Board according to the following table:—

	(1) Salaries, &c.	(2) Overdraft.	(3) Moravian Board.	Total.
Victoria	£337 0 0	£62 10 0	£50 0 0	£449 10 0
New South Wales..	194 0 0	37 10 0	30 0 0	261 10 0
Queensland ...	70 0 0	13 10 0	10 15 0	94 5 0
South Australia ...	18 0 0	3 10 0	3 0 0	24 10 0
Tasmania	18 0 0	3 10 0	2 15 0	24 5 0
Western Australia	13 0 0	2 3 4	2 10 0	17 13 4

It will help the Board in future assessments if the Assembly requests Clerks of State Assemblies to furnish it from year to year with the latest statistics of their church membership.

According to the Treasurer the overdraft on the North Queensland Mission which was taken as £246 15s. 9d. in the deliverance of last Assembly should have been set down as £313 13s. 3d. This misreading of the accounts made the assessment for the overdraft smaller this year than it should have been. The simplest way to adjust the matter will be to collect the remainder of the overdraft shown now in the accounts presented, viz:— £170 17s. 8d., instead of £123 7s. 10d. in the coming year. The small increase of assessment necessary will not press hardly on the contributing Churches, and September, 1907, will see us free of debt.

Enquiry during the year elicited that the exact claim of the Moravian Board amounts not to £200 as was supposed, but £216 8s. 4d. This will also slightly increase the assessment next year. When the Assembly is in session the Board will have sufficient money in hand to remit £100 as a first instalment to Herrnhut.

In the Victorian Church Offices the acounts of the Board have been kept under the direction of Mr. A. L. Pryde, the Hon. Treasurer, in a thoroughly efficient manner, and they have again been audited by Mr. William Mollison, Manager of the Australian Deposit and Mortgage Bank, Melbourne. . The cordial thanks of the Assembly are due to these gentlemen for their unpaid services.

ALEX. STEWART, Convener.

Mapoon, July 1st, 1906.

To the Convener,
Heathen Missions Committee, Brisbane,

Sir,—Time has again brought us to the close of another year, and we desire to review the past twelve months with gratitude to God for the manifest tokens of His great favour.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSION WORK CARRIED ON AT MAPOON DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1906.

I. General Remarks.—We have again experienced the Divine protection against the climatic evils of this tropical part of Australia. Illness there has been, for fever must ever be reckoned with, but on the whole we have enjoyed better health than our co-workers at the other stations.

It is said that the average of European life in the Tropics is seven years, and the present staff at Mapoon is now nearly fourteen years in the field, still enjoying comparatively good health, which is certainly a matter for great thankfulness to the Giver of all good gifts.

II. Qualifications.—It must be remembered that "mission work among the Aboriginals of this country taxes the patience and endurance of the workers to their utmost limits." It is not sufficient to proclaim the Saviour's message to those who will listen, which, of course, is of first importance and without which all other means will utterly fail, but we must give the people, both by precept and example, a new conception of life worth living. We must also be willing to learn from the natives in return. An accurate and intimate knowlegde of native life is essential. Their habits, social customs, and physical environment must be carefully considered. It is by no means lost time to study the myths and legends and to gather other ethnological information.

Some of the many minor qualities a worker here needs are:— To be able to exercise a diplomatic control over all; to understand native character and to adapt oneself to their moods and deficiencies. To obtain these necessary qualifications has been our daily endeavour, but I fear that we have sometimes overlooked the need of them.

III. Shadows.—Although great changes have taken place during the last fourteen years among the natives in our immediate neighbourhood, yet we are constantly very forcibly reminded that we have to deal with a people who have not reached even a tribal stage of development with a chief as autocratic ruler. The tribal social community without any recognised head is the only power among them. They have no religion to speak of; neither idols nor images are worshipped. Although in terror of evil spirits, they have no idea of propitiating them by prayer or sacrifice. The immortality of the soul is believed in, but the soul's condition and abode is very vague and a subject for constant speculation.

No native feels secure when crossing the narrow boundaries of his tribe and home. Spears are always handy and ready for use. The constant state of fear in which they live of one another, even of their own relatives, is pitiful to behold. As soon as darkness sets in this state of terror is intensified. They believe in witchcraft, where human powers as well as the

powers of darkness unite for their destruction and deadly work. All without exception live under the daily tyranny of superstition. The love of men, much less the love of the Great Spirit, is a thing entirely unknown. Truly savage life is not what many writers would have us believe. Yet we have sure proofs that these superstitious conditions have to yield before the entrance of "The Light of the World."

IV. Lights.—As already mentioned, great changes have taken place among the Aboriginals at and near the Mission Station, and the work during the past year has been not without gratifying results.

Divine services have been held every Lord's Day, as well as Sunday school for the children and Bible reading for the young men in their own quarters. Whenever possible, open-air services have been held, at which a number of advanced Christians related some of their experiences in fighting the good fight. These free services have proved very helpful to the natives and a great stimulant to the workers. Judging from the general behaviour and attention paid to the Gospel message, one would be correct in saying that nothing better could be expected But we know our people too well to be satisfied with what has been achieved, and still greater efforts on our part have to be put forth.

We also realised the need of giving our young Christians an interest outside themselves in order to keep their spiritual life free from stagnation. Therefore missionary instincts were awakened by impressing upon them the crying need of the heathen around us as well as those in other lands, yet living in darkness and strangers to the Evangel of peace. The various collections during the year for Foreign Missions were a little over £4.

We tried further to foster a spirit of unselfishness by acquainting our people with the temporal needs of others, which has been an eye-opener to their own improved condition.

One Sunday I made an appeal for help to assist the blacks of the Church of England Mission at Yarrabah, near Cairns, which station was almost destroyed by a cyclone. It was quite a surprise to us all to see the willingness of our people to help. All our collections consist mostly of curios and native implements, and I received a motley collection realising £2. This amount was forwarded to the Yarrabah station, and was received by the natives there with shouts of delight.

Another marked improvement amongst the Mapoon natives is the absence of weapons of war on public occasions outside the Church. In fact, it was only at the last funeral, some weeks ago, that I noticed, for the first time, that not one of the large number of men assembeld had a spear or weapon with him—a custom which has given a great deal of trouble in the past, and all our efforts and persuasion to discontinue it were ineffective with a certain number. As it was the first time this, our desire, was happily achieved, I expressed my pleasure openly and praised their conduct—a proceeding which, as a rule, yields better harvest than finding fault with them.

The number of those who have been baptised during the existence of the mission is 59, 41 of whom are still living, including eight children.

V. Opening of New Church—The greatest event of the year was undoubtedly the completion and opening of our church. The old one, which was put up in the early enthusiasm after Mr. Ward's death, was found to be inadequate and out of repair. Since the memorable June 2nd, we have worshipped in our new and substantial edifice. The building was put up entirely by the natives, under the supervision of our assistant and myself. It tells of much hard manual labour, and testifies to the ingenuity with which our assistant, with the aid of the natives, overcame various mechanical difficulties. We opened the building free of debt, without any outside help, and we trust and pray that in the new building many souls may be born again. As there is an article in the Thursday Island paper descriptive of the building I need not enter here into details.

VI. A Christian Wedding—Another red-letter day was the marriage of a young Christian couple, and their wedding created quite a public interest on account of the bridegroom's singularly beautiful character and the bride being an inmate of the Girl's Dormitory. Over 80 guests assembled in the Mission compound and partook of a liberal and substantial feast. The speeches were interspersed with music from the Girl's Band.

VII School Work—The influence of the school and training of the young have been very beneficially apparent both in connection with the family life of the people and with the work of the mission generally. Discipline has been maintained without difficulty, and the rules and regulations obeyed as a matter of course. There is a great contrast between our boarders and such as have had little or no training. From the experience gained here at Mapoon, we find that the educational part of the mission should be pushed on at any cost on all three stations, otherwise the efficiency of the mission will become doubtful. The average attendance at school was 70—46 girls and 24 boys. As the enrolment was only 83 such a high average was very gratifying to us. The boarding system has proved a valuable auxiliary and one of the most effective portions of our work. We desire, therefore to tender our sincere gratitude to the many friends throughout the Commonwealth who have shown a sympathetic and practical interest in the welfare of the neglected orphan children entrusted to our care. Victoria supports 22, one more than last year. The other States hold themselves responsible for the same number as last year, viz.:—Queensland, 8; New South Wales, 5; and South Australia, 5. The Government still supports 22. The problem, how to settle the half-caste children after their education is completed, is not yet solved.

We also beg to be permitted to place on record the unselfish devotion, kindness, and liberality of the numerous branches of Christian workers and other individuals who have gladdened our hearts by their bright and cheerful correspondence and the many useful gifts contained in the large Christmas boxes. May our Heavenly Father's choicest blessing rest upon them all.

VIII. State of health of the people—The health of our people has been, on the whole, very satisfactory, and our returns show that eleven (11) deaths have taken place, which includes three children who died from poisoning by eating the flesh of a tortoise without being properly prepared. Against this loss, we had only five births to record among over 400 people, a clear indication of the rapid disappearance of the race. It is no doubt a wholesome truth for the blacks to learn that neither nations nor individuals can after all claim ownership, and that if they are not willing to improve and mend they will have to move and make room for others.

It is difficult to realise the enormous amount of pain which can be relieved, among such a primitive people, with very little medical knowledge and the use of simple remedies. Left to themselves, the sick are either neglected or tortured, in ways indescribable, by ignorant, superstitious persons, so-called medicine men.

IX. Out-stations.—The out-station, referred to in my last year's report, four miles from here, is now reckoned as a "Plantation Outpost." One married couple has permanently settled there for some time, and the house for a second couple is almost completed. This step was essential to avoid crowding out at the head station and to foster self reliance, energy, and self-help. We also hope that this outpost will in time become a preaching station and a centre of Christian influence.

X. Industries—Owing to the poor sandy soil we have to contend with, and the severe winds sweeping continually over the narrow strip of land where Mapoon is situated, we have to confine our main industries to cattle rearing, fishing, and a cocoanut plantation, the latter perhaps developing in the course of a few years into the manufacture of copra. The 85 head of cattle belonging to the station gave suitable employment to a number of people, and we attribute the healthy condition of our 64 boarders partly to the continual supply of milk derived from our cows. The meat obtained

from our own stock, together with the results from garden and the Government grant, enabled us to satisfy the healthy appetites of those dependent upon us.

XI. Mapoon Fleet.—The Mission boat, "J. G. Ward.," a lugger of eight tons carrying capacity, was kept busy throughout the year ploughing the sea between the three stations and Thursday Island, no less than ten times. As we depend entirely on these periodical visits for mails and stores, the arrival of the boat at the respective stations has always been hailed with delight.

The "Minnie," a cutter of four tons, is entirely managed by our young men under my supervision and does not involve any expense whatever on the Mission. This boat is mostly used as a cargo vessel for our neighbours at the inland telegraph and cattle stations. This enables us to control the whole Mission Reserve, a coastline of over 100 miles, and acts as a preventive in keeping unprincipled persons away from the Mission stations. At the same time the income derived from this source is a great help to our people, as it provides a living for a considerable number of them.

The "Mapoon," a cutter of two tons, a present from a friend at Thursday Island to the natives, is exclusively in their hands, under my supervision, being used for turtle fishing and for carrying wood for building purposes, etc. But in a case of need, all three boats are pressed into the service of the Mission, without involving extra expense. Both the "Minnie" and "Mapoon" were greatly used for carrying timber for the erection of our new church, and during the last rainy season the "Mapoon" visited both Weipa and Aurukun, bringing needed stores, during which time we would not venture to send out a more valuable boat.

Although temporal matters seem some times to overwhelm us, yet we strive earnestly not to pay attention to these to the neglect or detriment of the spiritual, but ever keep the latter in the forefront.

XII. Industrial Assistant.—We have great pleasure to report to your Committee, that Mr. Baltzer, from Germany joined, last month, the small staff of workers as lay assistant. The time has arrived when a South Sea Islander is no longer competent for the work at Mapoon. A number of our young men having had the advantages of the Mission school are now superior, both in knowledge and intellect, to most of the Islanders, and in consequence a superior assistant was needed. As we have defrayed the cost of Mr. Baltzer's journey ourselves, no extra burden rests upon your Committee. Having now a competent helper, who is willing to be "all things to all men," I shall be able occasionally to visit other stations, and in case of any of the staff here needing a furlough on account of a break-down in health, the work could be carried on without any additional help, which is of great importance.

XIII. Missionary Conference.—"Missionary conferences are an indispensable portion of the organisation of every Mission province." So says one who knows, and I fully concur with him.

From June 3rd till June 8th, a general missionary conference was convened at Mapoon, all the workers of the three stations participating. The sessions were only held in the evenings to make it possible for the ladies to attend, who had to perform during the day Martha's services. Many, if not all, of the Mission problems discussed were calculated to arouse a lively and keen debate, yet a delightful spirit of harmony of views was finally reached in all important essentials. The conference having agreed to forward to your Committee a copy of the proceedings, I need not enter here upon the problems, ethical, social, and religious, which were discussed.

On June 10th the Lord's Supper was celebrated for the first time in the new church, attended by most of the Weipa and Mapoon Christians as well as all the members of the mission staff. It was a time to be remembered for the rest of our lives.

XIV. Official Visitation.—Last but not least, mention should be made of your visit to the three stations. Your keen and sympathetic insight and knowledge of Mission work among Aboriginals has been a great stimulant to us and a delight to our people. Your appointment as Convener therefore justifies us in looking forward with great expectancy to an added interest among the Churches toward the North Queensland Mission.

In conclusion, I would like to impress upon your Committee that the work is not yet done; there is much land to be possessed. Yea, the field is white unto harvest. Who is to be the reaper? Is it to be the Lord of the harvest, or him who has been sowing tares ever since the world began? Let each of us do our utmost to see that it shall be the Lord of the harvest.

In the name of the Mapoon Mission Band,

(Signed) N. HEY, Superintendent.

REPORT OF WEIPA MISSION STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1906.

I. Population—There is not much change to report under this head, as the numbers of those who have more or less settled and those still nomadic, remain about the same. The total number has not changed much either, there having been six births and eight deaths. The birth rate seems small when the number of women is taken into account, as there must be 100 or more women. Unless Christianity and civilisation works a change amongst them, it will be but a few years before the race becomes extinct.

II. Spiritual—Though pressed with manifold other duties, which we endeavour to make serve the spiritual, the directly spiritual part of our work, has, we trust, not been neglected. Not only has it been kept in the forefront, but we have constantly reminded ourselves and our people that our chief work is not to serve tables. Though for the nature of our work, the serving of tables absorbs a deal of time and energy that we would otherwise employ. And I also fear that when the body is played out with manual labour one cannot do full justice to study and preaching. When the writer has been unable to keep the daily and Sunday services, the lady members of the staff have stepped into the breach as usual. The Rev. P. Robertson kindly took all the services, including a funeral, on August 20th. Such services are specially appreciated by us, as not only have we the pleasure of hearing a new voice, with all that that means, but they shew our people that their missionary is not alone in preaching Christ Jesus unto them. The general Church festivals were observed in due course, by the children repeating appropriate passags of Scripture and singing special hymns and anthems, being joined in some of the latter by some of the young men. On Easter Sunday three young women and one young man made public confession of their faith in God by baptism.

III. Medical—As with the spiritual, so here. Not nearly as much is done as the writer would like, owing to the pressure of many duties. Things have to be left alone or done superficially which one would like to devote much time to and do thoroughly. Still not many days pass without some attendances at the dispensary. The dentist's instruments have been occasionally called into use for the blacks as well as for some white neighbours. One of the latter felt so much relieved that he sent the sum of 10/- to be spent for the children. We have had three or four slight epidemics of influenza. In February it assumed the form of gastric influenza, all the members of the staff suffering, as well as many of the people. The writer was especially low with it for some days. For him this has been the most broken year, with one thing and another, that he has ever experienced.

IV. Educational—Beyond mentioning that the school work has been maintained without interruption, except during parts of May and June, when we were journeying with the girls to and from Mapoon, it is scarcely worth while to say much thereon this year, as no doubt the Rev. P. Robertson will have reported thereon It may not be out of place to mention here, as an indication of the kind of teaching given and the influence exerted by the teacher, that the four who were baptised were Miss Schick's pupils, as also was one who was baptised on a previous occasion, and another boy, too young yet for the ordinance, has asked for baptism. The understanding shewn by those last baptised in their preparatory classes was surprising even to the writer, who knows to some extent the large place Christian teaching occupies in Miss Schick's curriculum.

V. Manual Labour—Buildings on the settlement have been kept in repair and a few new ones built by some of the men who are now getting very handy for this. Others did the ploughing, etc., with the horses, in the gardens this year. A large quantity of bricks were made and burned, and some of them used in building the till-then-unfinished gable of the church. The gardens take a large portion of the few men whom we are able to employ. Acting on the advice of the Rev. P. Robertson, in September I discharged my white assistant, and was for a time without one. Then I engaged a Kanaka, but him, after some months' trial, I was obliged to send away, as not only was he unreliable himself, but was, I found, teaching the men to be deceitful, some of them whom I could trust before having told me lies at his instigation. Thus, at the time of writing I am without an assistant.

VI. Visitors—Visitors do not come much our way, but in August we had the pleasure of extending a welcome to your representative, the Rev. P. Robertson, whose visit, we trust, will be of great benefit in the future. Other visitors were the Rev. N. Hey, who accompanied Mr. Robertson; Dr. Roth, who paid a very brief visit; and senior sergeant Whiteford, of Coen, who visited us twice when on patrol.

VII. Gifts—Christmas again was made a very happy season for us and our people through the kindness of friends in several Congregations in the south. But what is of more value that the festive articles is the splendid supply of clothing which accompanies them. Having such a large family to decently clothe, we are specially grateful to all the kind friends who make it possible. To them we wish here to give our most hearty thanks, as also to those in several Congregations who have "pegged out a claim" at Weipa by adopting one of our children. But for this timely assistance we would have been obliged to suspend operations for some months in the year.

In October I made a short trip to Thursday Island partly for health's sake and partly to get into telegraphic touch with your representative, Mr. Robertson.

In May we took our schoolgirls and several of the men overland to Mapoon to join our fellow-workers there in their church opening. Although a large caravan of fifty, we did both journeys, making the road as we went, without an accident, experiencing thus, as we have all through the year, that the Lord is rich in mercy toward them that fear Him. Gladly, therefore, do we pen this report as a testimony to His faithfulness and care.

EDWIN BROWN.

Weipa, July 11th, 1906.

AURUKUN MISSION STATION.

The year passed was a remarkable one for our Station, remarkable both in joy and sorrow. We have learnt better, as in the year before, what heathenism is, and that we are surrounded by utter darkness. Yea, it

seems as if an antipathy arose among certain ones against the influence of Christianity. Nevertheless the hands of the Lord have not been shortened to help, and we know that He will also revive His work here again.

I. A Sketch of the History of our School shows some of the difficulties we had to fight with. It was soon after our return from the Weipa Church opening, that the first girl was offered to us by her brothers to stay with us. It seemed rather early, for the Station was not yet advanced enough to take children in. But we saw here the Lord's hand working, and so we ventured the step, turning the School into a girls' dormitory. With little trouble we got more girls into our care, thus in March, 1906, we had six inmates, two of them being of the wild tribes south of the Station. The number of day scholars increased also. In September we had 52 children almost regularly attending school for a month. The boys were waiting impatiently for the opening of their dormitory, which would, however, not take place before February. In March we had ten boys as inmates. The total number of school children during the year was 82—55 boys and 27 girls. Some are, of course, only a few times marked on the roll, some came for a month or more. The number of our more regular attendants was 21—13 boys and 8 girls. In April, after the rainy season had passed, when our people, according to their habit, left the Station, the boys and girls went away also one after the other. The two wild girls were taken away again by their fathers because of home-sickness and longing for the bush life. We are hardly able to realise in the full extent the feelings of these children of freedom, therefore we did not force them to stay. In May we only had four girls with us. The boys' house was empty. But we could not even keep the four. Their relations took them away ,and it is too early to do anything against it. The whole thing is at the same time an act of defence of the heathenism against Christianity. The children should also take part in the great corrobberies for the dead. Some even had special duties. Also they feared that we might interfere with their marriage laws, because I had several times spoken against the children's marriages, polygamy, selling small girls to very old men as wives, etc. We learn that some of the girls we had in the house are married now to old men, and others will soon be married. Since the beginning of May, we have not kept any school, as there were no children here all the time. So the School seems less flourishing at the end of the year than at the beginning of it. Still we trust that the work among these children, especially the former dormitory inmates, has not been in vain. Also we think to have more influence over them than if they had not been here at all. We are so thankful that our sickness fell in the time after their going away. So we are sure we have not neglected them.

II. The Manual Work still takes the first place in our daily life. It is in the eyes of the natives the chief branch of the Mission work, and for the Missionaries it is the best chance of dealing with them. Discipline and punishments can also be best practised in connection with our practical work. They like to come for work, whilst the majority does not care much for church or night classes. Therefore the short morning prayers before work every day seem to have become the most important of all our services. My assistant, who is not much of a carpenter, but a very willing and faithful man, was occupied in building the boys' dormitory, which we opened on February 5th. It is a large substantial house, which, we hope, will keep for many years. We had been much in need of a large building for School and Church, as the former proved too small, especially when the wild tribes came to visit us. At last the new Church was started in March, but we could not continue for want of workers. Since April, we have not had many people living here at the Station. They seem to be travelling about as the year before. At the Mission House the verandah flooring was made, and the back verandah is going to be turned into a dining room. The place underneath the main building, which we used as a store, had to be walled in with iron, to keep the temptation away from the people, as well as to protect everything from the destructive

termites. The garden was prepared with more care and trouble than the year before, and the result was not discouraging. Unfortunately, we could not finish the fences. The digging out of stumps and roots takes a good deal of time.

III. Spiritual Work.—The life of our blacks is so full of sin and shame, wickedness and cruelty that the Spirit of God has hard work. Yet they do not see their sin in the proper light, and cannot understand therefore the need of a Saviour. They may see the necessity of a change in the lives of several "bad fellows," but on the whole there is also darkness and blindness on this point. However, we will quietly wait till His time has come, for His word is like a hammer, constantly beating, and one day the stones will break. At present we keep, besides the mentioned morning prayers, only two services on Sunday, explaining Bible pictures. The night services on work days will be re-opened, when we have more people again. The life in the bush is out of our control, especially when they camp beyond the Ward River. Here they are fully subject to their lusts and temptations. All fightings are settled, all ceremonies are kept here, which are not permitted at the Station.

IV. The Medical Work is not less important. It does not appear to the natives as a work of love and self-denial, and therefore it will not, as among other nations, prepare the hearts for the word of God and point to the "Good Samaritan." It is simply to save their lives, in order to keep that dying out race a little longer on the earth, so that the good tidings might reach many a heart before our blacks are vanished. It is a fact that almost all persons who came for medical treatment to us have recovered again, while many who went into the bush when sick, or who were caught with a sickness when living away from here, died. We have this year again lost a few hopeful young men and a child (perhaps more), who died in the bush. The number of patients was not so high as last year; this is one good sign. We earnestly wish that our people soon might learn to call upon the Great Physician in all their little troubles.

V. Diverse.—This year we had the pleasure of seeing the Revs. P. P. Robertson and N. Hey here with us, paying an official visit to the Station. On this occasion the Station received the name Aurukun, proper name of the large lagoon, 250 yards north of the Station. Also, Dr. Roth, Chief Protector of Aborigines, paid us a hurried visit. The Xmas festival brought much joy to young and old. This we owe, next to our God, to our dear friends, who so kindly present their loving gifts, and I take the liberty to express once more our heartiest thanks for them. We were glad to have again some real wild blacks with us on that occasion. A special Xmas gathering for our dormitory inmates was held in our sitting room. The girls who were singing all the hymns they knew, enjoyed it as well as we did.

The rainy season set in very late, and we were in great need of water. But our great God helped us at the very last moment.

In March I had a survey around the Station to look for the Archer River, and the result of it I showed on a sketch, which I forwarded soon afterwards.

After the rainy season we had much fever, especially dengue fever. Unfortunately, this is the time when most of the people leave the Station. The mentioned death of some young men, who died of this fever, caused great trouble, because the natives never believe in a natural death, so revenge had to be taken on some one.

The friendly relations between the tribes, which was a consequence of the Mission work, are broken again, and none of the blacks at any time is safe in the bush by himself, as he can be suddenly attacked by enemies.

In one night was spoiled again, what by the Lord's help we counted a success of two years' labour. Nevertheless, the work is the Lord's.

In May we also took sick of the dengue fever and malaria together, and both of us were laid up at the same time; and Mrs. Richter, after having been already low before, broke down entirely. Now we had to fight with the fever for about five weeks, sometimes laid up in turn, sometimes even together. We were fortunate enough that four weeks of our sickness we could spend at Mapoon, where the Missionaries really did all that was in their power to make us recover again, whilst here at our Station nobody could help us. Thanks be to God that we are so well at present, that we are able to carry on the work again here. Of course everything is done with less energy and strength, because very often we are laid up again, and seldom free from pain.

Commending us and our work to the care of our dear Master, and trusting that He will grant us the needed strength and wisdom to do the work here for His pleasure.

I am, Yours very faithfully,

ARTHUR RICHTER.

The Treasurer in Account with the General Assembly's Foreign Missions Board.

From 1st July, 1905, to 18th July, 1906.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.
To Ordinary Contributions—			
Victoria to 30/6/'06 (including £90 from the Ormond College Missionary Society)	442	12	8
New South Wales to 30/6/'06	201	15	0
Queensland to 30/6/'06	174	7	6
South Australia to 30/9/'06	18	0	0
Tasmania to 30/9/'06	18	0	0
Western Australia to 30/9/'06	13	0	0
,, Special Contributions in Reduction of Overdraft—			
Victoria	46	17	6
New South Wales	28	2	6
Queensland	10	2	6
South Australia...	3	10	0
Tasmania	3	10	0
Western Australia	2	3	4
,, Interest on Deferred Deposit Receipt	6	0	4
,, ,, on Bequest of late Mrs. S. L. Comrie (2 years)	6	5	8
,, Sale of Native Weapons	2	7	0
,, Balance	170	17	8
	£1,147	11	8

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By Balance from last year	313	13	3
,, Salaries—			
Rev. A. Richter, from 12/6/'05 to 30/6/'06	210	0	0
,, N. Hey, to 30/6/'06...	200	0	0
,, E. Brown ,, ...	200	0	0
,, N. Hey's Assistant, to 30/6/'06	60	0	0
,, E. Brown's Assistant, ,, ...	60	0	0
,, Rev. N. Hey—Balance Collected for Furlough ...	51	18	11
,, Rev. P. Robertson—Expenses of Visiting Stations ...	29	12	0
,, Interest on Overdraft	11	14	0
,, Cost of Drafts, &c.	10	3	6
,, Bank Charge for keeping Account	0	10	0
	£1,147	11	8

MORAVIAN BOARD'S DEBT ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
To Contributions from—			
Victoria	37	10	0
New South Wales	22	10	0
Queensland	8	1	3
South Australia	3	0	0
Tasmania	2	15	0
Western Australia	2	10	0
	£76	6	3

	£	s.	d.
By Balance in hand	76	6	3
	£76	6	3

REV. E. BROWN'S FURLOUGH ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Contributions from Victorian Church	41 13 6	By Balance in hand	41 13 6

WEIPA BUILDING ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance from last year	30 15 0	By Rev. E. Brown—Balance *re* Weipa Church	5 10 6
		,, Paints, &c., for Mission House	8 0 0
		,, Balance in hand	17 4 6
	£30 15 0		£30 15 0

BOAT MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

To Queensland Church	£71 3 1	By Wages of Boatman to 30/6/'06	£71 3 1

AGENTS' SALARY AND EXPENSES ACCOUNT.

To Tasmanian Church	£11 11 9	By Balance from last year	£11 11 9

ASSETS.

Deposit in A. D. and M. Bank, due 13/9/'10, in the name of the Federal Assembly's F.M. Board... ... ... £172 9 9

A. L. PRYDE, Treasurer, 19/7/'06

I certify that I have audited the accounts of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Fund, and that the above statement of accounts is, in my opinion correct.

26th July, 1906.

WM. L. MOLLISON, A.I.A.V., Hon. Auditor.

APPENDIX.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

During the year the missionary operations of the Church have been quietly carried on, and with fairly satisfactory results.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

Malo and Tutuba—Rev. D. L. Paterson.—Ten new names were added to the communicants' roll, making the total membership seventy-three; whilst nine are awaiting baptism prior to joining the full communion of the Church. Ten adults and three children were baptised; and seven couples were united in marriage. Fourteen Maloese are working throughout the islands as native teachers. On Malo the natives have prepared 800 lbs of arrowroot, and contributed £16 5s. 0d. to our Foreign Missions Funds.

At Asavaessa six have been admitted to the communion, and there is talk among the heathen here of breaking caste in a body and throwing in their lot with the Mission party.

At Tutuba, the work, although not so promising at present, is nevertheless, not fruitless. The sewing and English classes have been well attended; and at the last communion a large number of the heathen were interested spectators.

A new edition of the Maloese Primer and Hymn Book has been published, together with certain portions of the Maloese Scriptures.

THE CHINESE MISSIONS.

Sydney—Rev. John Young Wai.—The attendances at the Sabbath services are much about the same as last year. In the Sabbath school there there are 30 scholars, and at the night school 24, with 14 teachers. Valuable assistance is rendered by Miss Thompson, Miss Campbell, and others in visiting in the homes; also by Mr. Cox and his band of workers.

At Waterloo the work is not so progressive owing to the lack of helpers; but it is pleasing to report that, by the efforts of the Women's Missionary Association, the debt on the church building has been reduced by £106 2s. 2d.

The Rev. John Young Wai and his people have taken a very active part in the anti-opium crusade. Mr Young Wai has also visited the Presbytery of Wagga, in the interests of the Chinese Mission, and with good results.

Newcastle—Mr. James Kem Yee.—The work here has been attended with such good results that the building has had to be enlarged at a cost of over £90. Mr. Kem Yee visits Maitland, where also his labours are proving fruitful.

THE SHOLINGHUR MISSION.

The Missionaries here are Miss McLean, Miss McNeill, M.P.S., and Miss Daisy Symonds, B.A. During the year a new school has been opened, making the fifth. The total enrolment is 290, with an average attendance of 218. The Sholinghur school is for caste girls, of whom seventy-four were enrolled during the year. They acquitted themselves well at the Government inspection, obtaining the best report on record. The Inspector complimented the headmaster, and noted the fact that eight of the girls had attained the fourth standard. The Scripture examinations also are most satisfactory.

Ramakrishnapet has 72 scholars. Thirteen out of fourteen, who appeared for the primary examination, passed, three being Brahman girls. The moral tone is also very high, due no doubt to the sterling Christian character of Balasundram, the first assistant.

At Somasundram, the low caste village attached to Sholinghur, a new school has been opened with 47 pupils. Already signs of progress are manifest. At Punoor and Kodaikal, respectively, there are 40 and 57 pupils. In the Zenanas at Sholinghur and Kodaikal there are four teachers working daily, three in the one, and one in the other.

Miss McNeill reports the total number of sick treated at the Hospital and Dispensary as 9,113; minor operations 144; maternity cases 15; visits paid to Zenanas 221; in-patients 64; in November a qualified hospital assistant was engaged.

This Indian Mission is the particular charge of the Women's Missionary Association, to which body the Committee is deeply indebted for its generous financial assistance.

The Committee desires to express its thanks to the friends of the Foreign Missions, but especially to the Women's Missionary Association the Trustees of the estates of the late Mr. John Gillespie, and Mrs. S. L. Comrie, and to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Sir H. H. Rawson, K.C.M.G., and Miss Rawson.

JAMES COSH, Convener.

NEW SOUTH WALES CHURCH.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1905.

RECEIPTS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Missions —		
Church Collections... ...	224 13 1	
Sabbath Schools Collections ...	200 19 1	
Per Missionary Association ...	139 14 11	
Donations, etc.	164 8 11	
		729 16 0
New Hebrides Missions		143 9 8
Aborigines Missions		80 15 2
Chinese Missions		200 10 3
Zenana Mission		386 16 9
Sundry Local Missions		10 0 0
		£1,551 7 10

PAYMENTS.

	£ s. d.
Debit Balance, January 1st, 1905	129 9 1
New Hebrides Missions	310 9 10
Aborigines Missions	165 7 10
Chinese Missions	530 12 4
Zenana Mission	299 13 3
Sundry Local Missions	10 0 0
Sundry Expenses	100 13 6
Credit Balance, December 31st, 1905	5 2 0
	£1.551 7 10

VICTORIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

NEW HEBRIDES BRANCH.

Since last meeting of Assembly the Church of Victoria has sustained a severe loss in the enforced resignation of Rev. Daniel MacDonald, D.D. who for more than thirty years had rendered earnest and effective service to the Mission. Dr. MacDonald had been a careful observer of the movements of the French in the New Hebrides, and had done much to restrain that spirit of aggression which has been so characteristic of them in the Pacific. He had also been a diligent student of the languages of the people, but, above everything else, he had been a faithful, devoted, and successful Missionary. It was with very sincere regret that the Assembly accepted his resignation, which had been rendered imperative by continuous attacks of serious illness. His health has improved very much since his return to Victoria, and it is hoped that he may yet render valuable service to the Church. In the meantime Dr. Mackenzie has kindly undertaken the over sight of his station.

Several of the other Missionaries have been on furlough during the year, but at present they are all at their stations and the Convener is in regular receipt of very encouraging reports from each of them.

The venerable Dr. J. G. Paton continuing to plead with very marked success for our mission, and notwithstanding his great age and corresponding infirmity he has visited several of the Presbyteries of the Victorian Assembly, and has also spent a considerable time in Tasmania. He has met with very marked liberality in every district visited by him.

A notable event of the year has been the success which has attended the efforts of the Women's Missionary Union to raise a memorial of the late Mrs. J. G. Paton. One result of this will be the erection, during the current year, of a church at Havannah Harbour, the money for which is already in hand. In this connection it should be stated that the Assembly has empowered the Committee to appoint a medical missionary to work at Havannah Harbour. The Committee is at present in correspondence with Dr. James Paton of Glasgow, on the subject, and the latest information received by the Convener is to the effect that Dr. Paton is at present in communication with a young medical man, who, it is hoped, may soon be appointed.

T. R. CAIRNS, Convener.

CHINESE AND KOREA.

Our work among the Chinese in the State continues the even tenor of its way. We cannot speak of extension, for our field is being steadily limited by recent legislative enactment. At Wahgunyah a church was opened in February, and the cost of it defrayed by the Chinese. Baptisms are reported from several centres. Excellent results have been obtained in the school for children, managed by the Women's Missionary Union.

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer, of Ramayuck, who is retiring from his post in connection with the Aborigines Protection Board, intends now to devote the whole of his time to the mission station in Gippsland.

In Korea operations have been advanced considerably. The P.W.M.U. staff at Fusan has been increased by the addition of two trained lady agents. For the rapidly growing attendance of scholars a new school is being erected. It is with sorrow that we report the death of Mrs. Engel, wife of the Superintendent of the P.W.M.U. branch of our Mission. Mr. Adamson reports splendid attendances, and the gift of a building at Masampo. The Foreign Missions Committee has agreed to the appointment of a native teacher for that station.

At Chinju Dr. Currell has settled down to work in his new house. The P.W.M.U. has raised and presented to the committee the sum of £825. which is to be expended on the erection of a hospital in Chinju, in memory of the late Mrs. J. G. Paton. Efforts are being made to augment this sum before deciding on plans and proceeding with the erection.

All through Korea the outlook is bright. The door is wide open. Would that we had the means to more fully occupy!

VICTORIAN CHURCH.

For Eighteen Months, to 31st March, 1906.

RECEIPTS.	£	s	d.
New Hebrides Branch—including New Hebrides, Amy Gertrude Russell, Dayspring Maintenance, and Native Teachers' Funds	3,316	10	0
Chinese Branch—including Chinese, Aborigines, Korean, Korean Medical, North Queensland, and Caroline Kay Funds	3,179	15	5
Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union Fund	1,688	15	11
Deficiency	2,133	9	6
	£10,318	10	10

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
New Hebrides Branch	4,357	15	7
Chinese Branch	3,732	16	9
Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union Fund	2,227	18	6
	£10,318	10	10

QUEENSLAND.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEATHEN MISSIONS.

The Report of your Committee on Heathen Missions for the past year must partake, on this occasion, more of the nature of a forecast than of a narrative. There is little of outstanding interest to catch the eye; the year has been a level year; a year of steady and constant work along lines already laid down.

ABORIGINAL MISSION.—Although it does not fall directly to us to report to this Assembly on the Mission to the Aborigines, there are yet some things that must be said. The Financial Statement may need a little explanation. Last year, we showed at the end of March, a credit balance of £41 2s. 3d., while this year we report a debit balance of £106 11s. 10d. This seems an extraordinary falling off. In reality, however, there is not the difference that appears. Last year, when the balance was struck, there were owing sums amounting to a total of £110 9s. 8d., which transforms the apparent credit balance into an actual debit balance of £69 7s. 5d. This year there is an amount of £29 12s. 0d. to be refunded in connection with expenses of Mr. Robertson's visit to the mission field, which, if paid in reduces the apparent debit balance from £106 to £76 19s. 10d.

A somewhat similar statement has to be made in reference to the Boat Maintenance Account. This Account, last year, showed a credit of £147 4s. 1d., but, over against that, were unpaid boatman's wages amounting to £101 3s. 1d., which, when paid, reduced the credit balance to £46. The credit balance this year is £20 19s. 2d.

In connection with the work at large, it is only necessary to say here that while the work has been extending, there is no departure from the methods and traditions which made Mapoon a name significant of efficiency and blessing.

POLYNESIAN MISSION.—With regard to our Mission to the Pacific Islanders at Walkerston, we are confronted with this, that, by Act of Parliament, with the close of the year, all these Islanders must leave our shores. With this impending, it would not have been matter for wonder if our Mission had begun to show signs of languor and weakness, but there are no such signs. Mr. MacIntyre has never reported more hopefully than he has done this year; never, apparently, was the Word allowed freer course. If our Mission must expire we have the satisfaction of knowing that it expires by no slow process of decline; "its sun has gone down while it is yet day." Apparently the numbers in connection with our mission, and the interest displayed by those attending, were never greater than during the year gone by.

The approaching deportation of the Islanders raises questions which the Assembly must face. There is the question of the future of these deported Islanders themselves. Without entering at all into the general question, the Committee is of opinion that there is a class, who, by long residence in Queensland, and by reason of marriage and settlement, demand separate treatment. We believe that the Government will carry out the Act with as little harshness as possible; but it will be well for the Assembly to consult to the last for the good of those who have been under its care; and urge the justice of the claim of the class indicated, to be allowed to remain in the land where their homes are, and where their children have been born.

Then there arises the question of the future of the mission itself. With the departure of the great majority of the Islanders, the necessity for the Mission will have ceased, and the Committee recommends, therefore, that steps be taken to close the mission at the end of the current year, and that intimation of this intention be at once given to Mr. MacIntyre. Mr. and Mrs. MacIntyre have spent 18 years in that district in this labour amongst the Pacific Islanders, and the result of their work in the conversion and enlightenment of souls, only the revealing day will declare. They have deserved well of the Church. Nor should we forget in this connection those who have been associated with them in this work; we refer particularly to the native teachers. Year after year these men have been instrumental in keeping many of the schools at work, and without recognition and without thanks have been striving to bring their fellow-country-

men to a knowledge of the Gospel and our Lord. We desire also to express hearty appreciation of the work carried on by Mr. F. J. Stevens, of Colton Vale, at Sandiford; and also to thank the Minister and Kirk Session of Walkerston for their continued interest and supervision.

There remains for our decision the question of the property of the Mission in the Mackay district, and of the deficit in the Mission funds. With regard to the property it may be possible to arrange for the disposal of it locally, so that it may be still useful for our Church work in the district. With regard to the deficit on our funds, we express the hope that the Assembly will urge upon congregations to make a special effort to have it cleared off, so that, when the Mission is closed, there will be no memory of it left, save the memory of the good done, and the grace of God that has been manifested.

In conclusion, we desire to express our utmost cordial thanks to the P.W.M. Union for the unwearying efforts they put forth in behalf of our Mission work, and by means of which so much of what has been done was possible.

We trust also that, while on one side there appears a narrowing of our Missionary effort, there will be no narrowing of our Missionary zeal. Within the borders of our own State there is still abundant room for Mission effort of all kinds.

In the name of the Committee.

JAMES GIBSON, Convener.

CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND.

For Nine Months ended 31st December, 1905.

ABORIGINAL MISSION FUND—GENERAL ACCOUNT.

DISBURSEMENTS.

1905.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.—To G.A A.'s Board of Foreign Missions—						
,, Share, Exs. N. Queensland Missions	158	2	6			
,, Mission Agent's Expenses ...	1	14	8			
,, Board's Overdraft ...	3	7	6			
,, Debt to Moravian Board ...	2	13	9			
,, Salary of Mr. Brown's Assistant ...	60	0	0			
				225	18	5
,, Cost of Rev. P. Robertson's Visit ..				29	12	0
,, Mrs. Ward—Amount received for support of Children at Mapoon ...	5	10	0			
,, Rev. E. Brown do. do. at Weipa	10	0	0			
				15	10	0
,, Church Offices Account—						
Outlay for Postages & Telegrams	0	12	6			
Share of General Office Expenses	9	18	0			
				10	10	6
,, Share of Bank Interest, Exchange and Charges				0	10	6
				£282	1	5
1906.						
Jan. 1.—To Balance				£106	11	10

RECEIPTS

1905.	£	s.	d.
April 1.—By Balance	41	2	3
Dec. 31.—By Queensland P.W.M.U., Salary of Mr. Brown's Assistant	75	0	0
,, Amount Contributed by Sabbath Schools ...	6	2	0
,, ,, for support of Children at Mapoon	8	0	0
,, ,, ,, ,, Weipa	5	0	0
,, Sales of Post Cards	0	18	0
,, Share of Assembly Revenue Fund	21	11	5
,, Amount Charged to Assembly Expenses Fund, being proportion of *Austral Star* Debt and Bulimba Church Account...	17	15	11
,, Balance	106	11	10
	£281	1	5

ABORIGINAL MISSION FUND (BOAT MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT).

1905.	£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.—To Wages of Boatman from 24/7/03 till 31/12/05...	146	3	1
,, Share Bank Interest, Exchange and Charges...	0	1	10
,, Balance	20	19	2
	£167	4	1

1905.	£	s.	d
April 1.—By Balance	147	4	1
Dec. 31.—By Queensland P.W.M. Union Donation ...	20	0	0
	£167	4	1
1906.			
Jan. 1.—By Balance	20	19	2

ABORIGINAL MISSION FUND—NEW BOAT RESERVE ACCOUNT.

DISBURSEMENTS.	£	s.	d.
1905.			
Dec 31—To Balance	50	0	0

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
1905.			
April 1—By Balance from 1904-5	50	0	0
1906.			
Jan. 1—By Balance	£50	0	0

KANAKA MISSION FUND.

DISBURSEMENTS.	£	s.	d.
1905.			
April 1—To Balance	106	0	11
Dec. 31. ,, Salary for 9 months	150	0	0
,, Rent, Mission Hall...	0	10	0
,, Circulars	2	11	2
,, Church Offices Account—Outlay for Postage and Telegrams	0	6	3
,, Church Offices Account—Share of General Office Expenses	9	18	0
,, Share of Bank Interest, Exchange and Charges	0	12	6
	£269	18	10
1906.			
Jan. 1—To Balance	£104	8	8

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
1905.			
Dec. 31—By Contributions from Sabbath Schools... ...	27	11	8
,, Contributions from S.S. Islanders, Walkerston	28	0	0
,, Contributions Queensland P.W.M.U. ...	15	0	0
,, Ipswich C.E. Society	1	0	0
,, Share Govt. Grant for S.S. Islanders' Schools...	23	9	0
,, Share Assembly Revenue Fund	43	2	9
,, Amount charged to Assembly Expenses Fund, being proportion of *Austral Star* and Bulimba Church	26	13	11
,, Amount transferred from Heathen Mission ...	0	12	10
,, Balance	104	8	8
	£269	18	10

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

Since the last session of this Court, the Rev. Thomson Macmillan has come and gone. During his seven weeks' sojourn in this State (from May 25 to July 14) he put himself with much alacrity at the disposal of your Committee, so that the plan of visitation previously drawn up by them was carried out almost in its entirety. The interest of our congregations in foreign missions was revived and deepened. In justice to Mrs. Macmillan, mention must be made of the valuable services rendered by her in social intercourse in women's meetings and gatherings of the young. The only cause of regret was that Mr. Macmillans time here had to be curtailed. His presence on the station at Weasisi was urgently needed, owing to his unavoidable absence for some 20 months. Whilst he was sojourning with us here, your Committee took the opportunity of conferring with him about the general interests of the mission. It was agreed, e.g., that he should be authorised to secure new roofing for church and manse at Weasisi, and that he should be requested to prepare a quarterly letter about his work for the information of our congregations. Other things were talked over, but no decision regarding them arrived at. Since then the repairs have been executed at an expenditure of £30, an account which has not yet been paid, and does not appear in this year's balance sheet. Already several communications from him have appeared in the "Banner." Every member of this Church must be gratified at the cordiality of his welcome, the fidelity of the native Christians in his absence, and the brightness of the present prospects. Not the least of these last is the state of the native teachers' question. Mr. Macmillan, in his Christmas letter, says that at the first Communion service held after his return (December 24) an appeal for additional helpers was made. In response to that appeal "six young men offered themselves, fine young fellows of strong personality" and he adds that although there are six others in training already and provided for he is quite satisfied that "the same spirit that moved these young men to come forward will move other hearts to provide the six pounds per annum necessary for their support." The advantages of native assistance cannot be over estimated. Who among us is willing to undertake this piece of work for the Master?

Though your Committee have no exclusive information regarding the alleged agreement between Great Britain and France for the administration of affairs in the New Hebrides group, they are led to understand that precautions are being observed lest injury should befal either our own Presbyterian missions, English settlers there, or the natives themselves.

Though of much more recent origin than our stations in the Pacific, the Queensland Aboriginal Mission deserves, and to some extent secures, our sympathy and support. To the "little finger mission of Mapoon (so christened by the first agent there, the late Rev. G. Ward) have been added two others, viz., Weipa and Archer River, all of them situated on the western side of Cape York Peninsula, not far from the Gulf of Carpentaria. Considering the trying climate, the uncertain movements of the natives, the varieties of dialect, the inter-tribal hostilities, and the manifold strain on the missionaries, the progress made is just wonderful. The Lord has done great things. Reports submitted to the General Assembly, Melbourne, in September last, by Messrs. Hey, Brown, and Richter, speak among other things, of work spiritual, medical, educational, reformatory, industrial, and so on. To guard against any interruption on that field the General Assembly decided that each church in the Federation should be assessed pro rata. Ours is £24 10s., which has been met without any special effort. Your Committee venture to recommend that all the contributing churches should devote at least one-tenth of their F.M. subscriptions to this branch of the work. One of these devoted men is in need of rest and change—Rev. E. Brown ,of Weipa. The tropical conditions are most exhausting. The February number of the "Banner" contained an appeal for £200 to provide him a holiday, otherwise there is danger of his breaking down altogether. A contribution of £25 would stand for our share of that special expense. The Treasurer's statement shows an income of

£261 9s. 11d., and an expenditure of £327 13s. 10d. But the year was begun with a debit balance of £43 4s. 5d., chiefly for expense incurred for maritime services rendered to our mission for freight, etc., so that the finances are not so bad as they look. And this statement does not include £32 raised for Mapoon, and £12 (ear marked) for N.H. Native Teachers' Fund.

Your Committee have much gratification in reporting that a £24 donation from Flinders Street Church has been forwarded in aid of the Zenana Mission at Chingleput, Madras, where the Rev. A. Andrews still carries on his devoted work. It is only the barest justice to say that but for the activity and enterprise of the P.W.M.U., the condition of the funds generally, though by no means satisfactory, might have been very much worse. Among other aims that the Union has in view is the completion of the Helen Lyall Memorial Fund. There is a sum of nearly £120 in hand. The desire is to raise a capital of £250, the annual income from which might go to support a native teacher on the field. Since last year a new scheme has been inaugurated. It appeals to all the Presbyterian Churches of Australia and Tasmania as its constituency. It is called the "Maggie Whitecross Paton" Memorial Fund. It is remarkable that two sisters, the one leading a private and the other a public life, should both have so impressed those who knew them with the sense of their worth. It is proposed as readers of the "Banner" know, that Mrs. Paton's Memorial should take the form of a church at Malekula (N.H. group), and a hospital at Korea. The sum of £16 14s. has already been sent to Melbourne in aid of this movement.

By authority of the Committee.

DAVID PATON, Convener.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHURCH.

FUND FOR MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1906.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
March 31, 1906.				March 31, 1905.			
To Collection G.A. Meeting, May 4, 1905	2	11	3	By Balance...	43	4	5
,, Contributions from Congregations, &c.	259	8	8	March 31, 1906.			
,, Balance	65	13	11	By Rev. T. Macmillan, Stipend to June 1, 1906	200	0	0
				,, Ditto, Travelling Expenses	13	0	0
				,, New Hebrides Maritime Service	37	11	3
				,, Convener's Exs., including special vote of £5	6	4	9
				,, Printing and Advertising	3	2	0
				,, Burroughs Wellcome	2	17	11
				,, D. & W. Murray, Limited	1	9	9
				,, General Assembly of Australia	0	10	0
				,, Proportion of Printing Blue Book	3	19	4
				,, Assessment for Assembly Expenses	15	14	5
	£327	13	10		£327	13	10

NEW HEBRIDES NATIVE TEACHER'S FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
March 31, 1906.				March 31, 1906.			
To Anonymous Donations	12	0	0	By Balance	12	0	0

QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s	d.
March 31, 1905.				March 31, 1906.			
To Balance	7	9	7	By Remitted to Melbourne	31	10	0
March 31, 1906.				,, Remitted to Rev. Hey, Mapoon	5	0	0
,, Contributions from Congregations, &c.	27	16	4	,, Assessment for Assembly Exs. and Printing	2	6	10
,, Special Contributions to be sent direct Mapoon ...	5	0	0	,, Balance	1	9	1
	£40	5	11		£40	5	11

ZENANA MISSION.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
March 31, 1905.				March 31, 1906.			
To Balance	16	12	6	By Remitted to United Free Church of Scotland	24	0	0
March 31, 1906.				,, Balance	0	17	10
To Contributions from Flinders Street P.W.M.U. ...	8	5	4				
	£24	17	10		£24	17	10

TASMANIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

The Committee has met six times for formal meetings, and occasionally informally.

Mr. G. Kerr, whose name originally proposed, was by an oversight omitted in the records,, was asked to act with the Committee, and gave valuable assistance in many ways. Our work for the year may be reviewed under four heads:—

1. Care of our work on Epi.
2. Consideration for our retiring Missionary.
3. Negotiations for a new Missionary.
4. Providing the necessary funds.

1. Our work on Epi. We took the first opportunity of asking the New Hebrides Synod to place our Charge temporarily in the care of the Rev. T. E. Riddle, the New Zealand Missionary on the station adjoining. We did this on receipt of information that he would be willing to undertake this work. The Synod complied.

In order to keep up the efficiency of the work in the absence of a settled Missionary, the Foreign Missions Committee decided to have the staff of teachers well maintained, and in order to give definiteness to our undertakings, we guaranteed the appointment of native teachers up to £50 per annum. Since then we have heard that there is a resolution of the Assembly which nullifies such a guarantee. The Committee recommend that such previous resolution be rescinded, and that, in future negotiations, the estimate of at least £50 for native teachers be adhered to if considered necessary by the Missionary.

We take this opportunity of thanking the John G. Paton Committee for the grant of £67 for native teachers received again this year.

In this place the Committee desire to express the heartfelt thanks, which we all owe to the Rev. T. E. Riddle, for his supervision and reports, and for his zealous and sympathetic co-operation in furthering our work. Further reference will be made to his services in the proper place. It is fitting also to recognise the great kindness of Mr. H. Roxbugrh, of Voambi, in looking after the needs of the teachers, and generally acting for us in the absence of Mr. Riddle.

During the half-year there seems to have been a regrettable decline in the tone of many of the native Christians. Being closely in touch with traders, who lead them to drink, the result is not altogether surprising. But a change is expected very soon.

2. Our former Missionary. The Assembly at its last meeting voted a retiring allowance of six months' salary to the Rev. R. M. Fraser. During that time and afterwards he helped our cause by visiting several of the congregations and appealing for support. It is to be regretted that there was not a more general response. We cannot leave this matter without thanking Mr. Fraser very heartily, and likewise those ministers and all friends of the Mission who showed kindness to the Missionary, and helped the Convener in arranging the details of the tour. We desire also to bring under the notice of the Assembly the minute of the New Hebrides Synod touching the resignation of Mr. Fraser, a copy of which was ordered to be sent to the Tasmanian Church:—"It is with deep regret that we record the resignation of the Rev. R. M. Fraser from the station of Burumba, Epi. For nearly 23 years he did faithful and successful work in evangelising the natives and building them up in the Christian faith. Though of a modest and retiring disposition he ever upheld the rights of the natives, and was a most useful member of the Public Questions Committee. The strain of the arduous pioneering work told on his health so seriously that he has been compelled to resign, but we pray that he and Mrs. Fraser and his family may, in a more genial climate, be long spared to work for the Master."

Now that Mr. Fraser is in a charge in Clare, South Australia, it seems opportune to forward a letter of congratulation to him from the Assembly. Mr. Fraser applied for letters of certification from our Assembly, and we

regret that circumstances have been unfavourable to his obtaining a place of retirement in Tasmania. For reasons that will be explained to the Assembly, the Committee recommend that Mr. Fraser be allowed one month's extra salary (£25), and that in forwarding our congratulations and best wishes we assure him of our continued sympathy and interest in his welfare and success.

3. The new Missionary. By the direction of the Committee we opened negotiations with the J. G. Paton Committee in the United Kingdom which we were unable to carry through. We then approached the New Zealand Church with three alternative proposals.

These were duly considered by the New Zealand Committee, and the Rev. T. E. Riddle, at the invitation of our Committee, has come to deliberate with us in this matter. The Rev. Dr. Paton was also invited over for the same purpose.

There are three alternatives :—

1st. In the immediate interests of the natives to retire from our station and let some other agency take up the work at once.

2nd. To immediately employ a lay assistant to work with the Rev. T. E. Riddle in the supervision of our field.

3rd. To defer such appointment until the Church is in a position to appoint a new Missionary.

These alternatives were carefully considered at a meeting of the Committee held on March 20th, and it was decided, after mature consideration in conference with the Rev. Dr. Paton, and Rev. T. E. Riddle, to recommend the Assembly to ask the Rev. T. E. Riddle to accept the supervision of our work for another term, subject to the approval of the New Zealand Committee, the Tasmanian Church undertaking to provide a lay assistant for a term of 2½ years. This appointment shall be regarded as purely temporary, and shall be subject to careful arrangement of terms and conditions by the different authorities concerned.

4. Finance. By authority of the Assembly a special collection was asked for in all the Churches last September. The Rev. R. M. Fraser's tour also added to our income. But the arrears to our late Missionary were so heavy, that on the suggestion of the Northern Presbytery, it was decided to approach the Finance Committee for an advance of £150. The matter was submitted to the two other Presbyteries first, and approved by the Presbytery of Hobart. The Midlands Presbytery, however, disapproved. The conditions of the loan were such that no new responsibilities could be undertaken until the sum borrowed has been repaid. The Committee asked the Assembly to approve of the action of the two Committees concerned in this matter.

The amount owing has now been refunded with the exception of £29 18s. 11d. Including the receipts for the native teachers' fund, which shows a nominal credit balance of £33 8s., our Church has, during the last twelve months raised about £250. Our outstanding liabilities, including £35 16s. 9d. to the Board of Missions, now amount to £68 12s. 5d. In view of this last liability, which falls to us under the terms of the Union, the Committee recommend that for the future the New Hebrides Fund be named the Foreign Missions Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Tasmania.

In conclusion, we urge the whole Church in its different agencies to concentrate on the upbuilding of our General Fund. While thankful for all the extra gifts of the P.W.M.U.'s, Sabbath-schools, and private donors, which have helped the Mission independently of the Committee, we urge all friends of the Mission to combine and work through the proper channels, that our Church as a whole may be saved from reproach, and receive full credit before all for what is actually being done. We thank all collecting agencies and agents, also the Rev. Dr. Paton, and the Rev. T. E. Riddle, for their help in strengthening our financial position. To simplify the work of the Convener and Treasurer, we recommend that all collections and donations be forwarded to the Convener for acknowledgement. As we thus move forward striving for the blessing of the Master, in whose service this work is undertaken, we trust that the prayers of many people will soon be heard, and that our work in the New Hebrides will soon be in full swing again.

March 21st, 1906. J. HEYER, Convener.

ADDITIONAL REPORT (JULY 1906).

During the past year we have been concerned specially with the work of fostering missionary interest in our Church. A heavy deficit has been steadily growing, and it was decided to delay any new appointment in succession to the Rev. R. M. Fraser until our financial position had improved. Thanks to the work of the Rev. Dr. Paton, who addressed some of our charges in connection with his visit to our Assembly, there has been a more hearty interest ever since with the result that for this year our position is much improved. We have been able to meet our liabilities, some of which had been of long standing. We also sent out an assistant to the Rev. T. E. Riddle, the New Zealand missionary on Epi. By arrangement with the New Zealand Church Mr. Riddle will have oversight of our part of the field with our assistant to help him. We have also made ourselves responsible for £50 per annum for native teachers, exclusive of the grant for this purpose received from the J. G. Paton Committee. The arrangement of joint work with New Zealand is only a temporary one, but we are very thankful for the prospect that is now before us in this way, as in the present circumstances of our Church there is little encouragement to hope for a new missionary in full standing whom we could make our own. Our total income for the last year was £246, of which £47 was paid for native teachers, and the balance as salary to our late missionary, who received six months' furlough allowance on retiring; the last Assembly in March granting him one month more. Mr. Fraser is now settled in the charge of Clare, South Australia.

J. HEYER, Convener.

CHURCH OF TASMANIA.

Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements for last Financial Year.

GENERAL FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d
Collections and Donations	165 0 11	Salaries and Expenses...	194 19 10
Debit Balance	29 18 11		
	£194 19 10		£194 19 10

NATIVE TEACHERS' FUND.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d
Contributions	81 6 0	Salaries and Expenses	47 18 0
		Balance in hand	33 8 0
	£81 6 0		£81 6 0

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

Your Committee regrets, owing to the departures from the State and elsewhere, having lost four members, and that during the year the Committee has been reduced to five members.

Much consideration has been given to the question of the inauguration of a United Free Church Mission to the Aborigines in the Nor'-West of this State. Your Committee entered into correspondence with the Executives of the Church Council and the various denominations of the Free Church and suggested the inauguration of such a mission.

The Church Council of W.A. has taken the matter in hand, and has been in communication with Mr. Andrew Lennox, of Port Darwin, to ascertain whether he would be willing to take charge of the mission, and on what conditions.

It has been suggested that a most suitable place would be Lacrosse Island in the Cambridge Gulf and the Government is willing to set apart the Island for this purpose. It is hoped that a definite start will soon be made.

Your Committee has promised to be responsible for £100 per annum towards the support of this mission, provided that it is started before the close of this year, and by reason of this promise no money has been allocated for Foreign Missions during this year.

Your Committee has received the 150 missionary boxes ordered, and a sample box was sent to each charge in Western Australia—total, 25—and the following Churches have since taken as follows:—St. Andrews, Perth, 50; Geraldton, 37; Subiaco, 12; Claremont, 12; Leederville, 12; Fremantle, 6; Bulong, 6; Northam, 2—making a total of 162 boxes. As these were only distributed in June last, your Committee cannot yet report what amount has been collected.

Your Committee reports that, after using the 150 boxes, it was necessary to obtain more, and these were supplied free of cost by Mr. Herbert Stone, of Duke Street. Twelve of these are in use, leaving twenty-eight in hand for further distribution.

Your Committee is gratified to know of the good work being done by St. Andrews (Perth) and Leederville Chinese missions, and would commend them to the interest and prayers of the Church.

Your Committee would draw the attention of Ministers and Sunday school superintendents to the existence of the "Record" as the recognised children's missionary paper in the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and would urge the adoption of it throughout the Church.

So soon as the United Mission to the Aborigines is started, the Committee hopes to have reports of the work published in the "Record" from time to time.

A financial statement is appended to the report.

BALANCE SHEET.

November 1st, 1904, to October 31st, 1905

Receipts.		£ s. d.	Expenditure.		£ s. d.
To Balance, 31st October, 1904		43 10 9	By Missionary Boxes and Freight	£6 1 7	
,, Assembly's Collections ...	£43 17 1		,, Printing ..	2 1 4	
,, Donations, &c....	20 12 11				8 2 11
		£4 10 0	,, Balance ...		99 17 10
		£108 0 9			£108 0 9

G. F. PITCHFORD, Convener.

IV.

HOME MISSION REPORT.

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE WORK DONE IN THE SEVERAL STATES.

New South Wales.

During the year 1905-6 the Committee has been occupied in its usual work of superintending the mission charges and vacant parishes of the Church. This has been rendered difficult by the inadequate number of suitable agents, and consequently many districts which have been indicated by Presbyteries and Sessions as suitable spheres for operations have not yet been occupied. The delay, however, is only temporary. A new feature of Church Extension work has been the large number of extensive country parishes which have obtained the services of students and laymen as assistants to their ministers, which may be regarded as a first step towards the division of these charges. There are at the present time twelve parishes having assistants to their ministers.

Towards the close of 1905 a new enterprise was launched, known as the Gospel Car Mission. In this the Women's Missionary Association and the Girls' Auxiliary co-operated. A suitable agent was secured in the Rev. P. A. Smith, who heartily responded to the invitation of the Committee to take up this important and arduous work. He left Bourke at the end of September, and made an extensive round in the back country as far as Milparinka and Tibooburra, and White Cliffs and Wilcannia, calling at the homesteads on the route, and holding services wherever practicable. By the end of December he had covered a distance of over 1000 miles, and administered Presbyterian ordinances where they had never been observed before, and in some cases held the first religious services of any kind in the district. During the heat of the summer it was deemed inadvisable to travel, but at the end of March he started on the second long journey, and is still engaged in the work.

The General Assembly has sanctioned the establishment of a mission district in the North-West. The scheme is a modification of that which has been adopted by the Canadian Church with so much success. It is proposed to place at Bourke a superintendent missionary, who shall be an ordained minister, and shall supervise the work of a number of mission agents itinerating throughout the district under his direction. It is expected that before the Assembly meets the North-West Mission District will be an accomplished fact.

The Committee has also established a Home Mission settlement at Woolloomooloo, one of the crowded areas of the metropolitan district. A lady superintendent has been appointed, and it is intended that a deaconess shall be her assistant. The Committee propose to rent a suitable house in the district, which shall be a home for girls employed in business, and which shall be the centre of various evangelistic activities.

Victoria.

For the period under review, the work has been diligently prosecuted; there have been no material changes in either stations or agents. The Committee has 90 mission districts under its care. Increased attention has been given to the improving of the organisation in the mission stations; and greater interest has been manifested by the regular charges. The special Committee appointed to consider the whole question of the Home Mission in its report, inter alia, recommended the appointment of a minister to organise this department of the Church's work, and the Assembly gave a unanimous call to the Rev. D. A. Cameron, M.A., to fill the new position. Mr. Cameron entered on his new sphere of labour in February, and already the Committee, through being brought into closer touch with the country districts have found the benefit of his work.

Festivals have been held in various centres and the results have been highly satisfactory.

Tasmania.

Stanley has been raised to the status of a sanctioned charge and the Rev. Wm. Tulloch ordained and inducted as its minister.

Work: Deloraine has been re-organised and there is every prospect of success. Work has been resumed in the Derby district, where mining has revived of late, and the station is already self-supporting.

Sorell, an old settled district, which was once a charge, shews signs of religious vitality. A young and energetic missionary has been settled, and there is a possibility of revival. Several stations are still in a very unsatisfactory condition.

One alteration introduced into the administration is the circulation each quarter of printed balance sheet forms. No quarterly grants are paid until the balance sheets are received. This enables the Committe to take the supervision of finances out of the hands of the missionary to a large extent, prevents abuses, and keeps the Executive in closer touch with the stations.

South Australia.

The consolidation and development of existing spheres, rather than the opening up of new ones, has occupied the attention of the Home Mission Committee of the Church in this State during the past year. The review of operations reveals several encouraging features. Vacant charges, which were a tax on the supply resources of the Committee, have been filled. The Rev. Alexander McLennan, M.A., late of Victoria, has been inducted into the Mount Pleasant and South Rhine charge. The recently established cause at Port Pirie and that at Port Adelaide have also addressed calls to ministers of the Church in Victoria.

New ground has been broken by the opening of the Iron Knob mission, with its offshoot at Hummock Hill, on the opposite side of the Gulf to Port Pirie. It is from Iron Knob and Hummock Hill that the flux used in the extensive smelting works at Port Pirie is chiefly obtained. When the Committee stationed an agent in that remote part of the State it was in, from the point of view of Christian work, virgin soil; but the results have abundantly justified the step taken.

A neat and commodious church has been built at Woodville, a suburb between Adelaide and Port Adelaide, where the agent of the Committee is meeting with much encouragement in his work. Largely through the assistance rendered in the supply of ordinances the Port Pirie congregation has been able to complete the purchase of a substantial church building formerly belonging to another body. New work has also been begun at Wasleys and the Gawler Blocks under the supervision of the Gawler Kirk Session.

The recently approved Sustentation Fund Regulations, which require that all collections and assessments enjoined by the General Assembly must be in the hands of the General Treasurer before cheques for the dividend are sent out to the ministers of aid-receiving congregation, have had a benencial effect on the finances of standing Committees and congregations. Last year the collections and fees from congregations for Home Mission purposes was £121, or just double that of the previous year; and income from investments £103. In view, however, of the enormous extent of sparsely peopled territory to be covered, the relatively small percentage of Presbyterians and our frequently shifting population, with all the problems that this element gives rise to, our resources, both in men and money, are pitifully inadequate. We hear the call of the wilds, new farming and grazing areas are opening out, other Churches, especially the Anglican and Methodist, are earnestly grappling with the needs thus created; but we can do little or nothing! The six home missionaries we

employ are being asked to do more than is within their power; we could find work almost immediately for twice as many if the needed financial assistance was forthcoming. However, the Church is beginning to realise more clearly, not only her duty, but the possibilities of the situation.

Amongst the advances made that are worthy of note, is the establishment of a Church office and the appointment of the Rev. Wm. Gray as general agent and financial secretary. Not only has this new development given to Presbyterianism in this State a visibility formerly lacking, but the re-organisation to which it has led has been most beneficial. Already we are wondering how we could have done without it so long.

During the year all our mission agents have been moved to other charges. This is done every two years. Married men get two-thirds of the cost of removal refunded and single men, one-half. We now supply each mission charge with a horse (only) for the use of the agent. The horse belongs to the Committee. With the view of securing the co-operation of agents in developing their spheres of work, one-half of the proceeds from undertakings commenced by them after their settlement, and approved by the Committee is added to the stipend; the other half goes directly to the Committee, and not to congregational funds.

Queensland.

Home Mission work has been steadily carried on during the past year, with very encouraging results in almost every district. Fuller organisation has been attained in most of the older stations, and the financial results have been better. In the newer stations, the erection of Church buildings has been zealously carried on, and in nearly every case these buildings are being opened free of debt. Wherever possible, the number of preaching centres in connection with stations is being increased, and we have learned that this is true of many regular charges also.

No change has been made in the method of working.

We hope to sensibly increase the extent of Home Mission work during the present year, and have made arrangements for securing an increase to the staff of agents.

The insufficient supply of ministers greatly retards our work, as it does not suffice for the needs of existing sanctioned charges. Under the circumstances, it is difficult to advance Home Mission districts to the sanctioned list. Since last report we received a minister from the United Free Church of Scotland. Nine charges are now vacant, with no prospect of an early settlement, except in perhaps two cases.

Western Australia.

I am glad to say that in all directions steady progress has been made since the beginning of the year.

The Home Mission Committe easked the Rev. A. Crow, of St. Andrew's Church, Kalgoorlie, to undertake the duties of a general superintendent of Home Mission and Church Extension work, and Mr. Crow accepted the position, and since the beginning of April has been acting in that capacity. We are confident that this appointment will do much to consolidate our Home Mission work. Already Mr. Crow has visited a large part of the Great Southern Railway district and discovered the possibilities for our Church. We have sent up one Home Mission agent who is working in districts hitherto unreached by our Church. His parish extends over 100 miles, from Beverley to Wagin. As soon as another man can be got, this district will be divided into two or more "parishes." We are anxious to be able to send to this district as many men as our superintendent asks for.

Another Home Mission agent has been stationed on the Eastern Goldfields. Mr. Thomas Gray came to us from Victoria and is doing excellent work at Leonora. At other centres on the Goldfields, services are more or less regularly held at outlying stations.

Also under the supervision of Mr. Crow, "Home Mission Boxes" have been distributed throughout the congregations. These have been taken up by the members of the Church very heartily, and we anticipate a large increase in our congregational contributions for Home Mission work.

	New Fields opened up.	Fields Abandoned.	Mission Districts erected into Sanctioned Charges and Settled.
New South Wales ..	Seven	None	Four
Victoria	One	None	None
Tasmania	Two	None	One
South Australia ...	Two	None	None
Queensland	Four	None	One
Western Australia...	Four	None	None
Totals ...	Twenty	None	Six

	Ordained Ministers Employed.	Divinity Students Employed.	Matriculated Arts Students Employed.
New South Wales ...	Twenty-one	Twelve	Nine
Victoria	Ten	Ten	Three
Tasmania	None	One	None
South Australia ...	None	None	None
Queensland... ...	Two	One	None
Western Australia...	Two	None	None
Totals ...	Thirty-five	Twenty-four	Twelve

	Lay Agents Employed. Studying under Assembly Scheme.	Not under Scheme.	Agents Retired.	Agents Added.
New South Wales ..	Fourteen	Sixteen	Four	Twelve
Victoria	Nineteen	Forty-six	Two	Five
Tasmania	Six	Three	One	Two
South Australia ...	Three	Three	None	One
Queensland	Twelve	Eight	None	Six
Western Australia...	Five	Three	One	Two
Totals ...	One Hundred and Thirty-eight		Eight	Twenty-eight

Thursday Island.

Nothing has been done by any of the State Assemblies for Thursday Island. The Queensland Convener says, "No definite action has been taken in regard to Thursday Island, chiefly owing to the trade conditions at present existing there. It is intended to take action at the first favourable opportunity.

Northern Territory.

The South Australia Convener writes:—"The Presbyterain element in the Northern Territory, according to the last census, is a little over 100. The Anglicans are numerically the strongest, then comes the Roman Catholics, then the Methodists, and then the Presbyterians. In Port Darwin there are Anglican and Methodist Churches, but the congregations are small. The total white population is limited and scattered over an immense area of country. Apart from aborigines, there are about 2500 Confucians, Buddhists, etc. in the Northern Territory. The religious condition is sad."

North-Western Territory.

The Western Australia Church reports:—

Rev. A Crow hopes soon to visit the North-Western Territory. From private correspondence we learn that the religious condition is very bad. By a great many residing there a minister of the Gospel is seen only once

in the six months—in some cases more rarely. We believe that the vast majority would welcome a Minister of any denomination who had a message for them, and had some measure of tact and courage. Many who have spent their lives in the North-west, when they come to more settled parts, and are approached as to Church-life, declare that they were left alone by the Church for twenty years and can still do without the Church now. A visit from our H.M. Superintendent would put us in a better position to speak on this subject.

JOHN FERGUSON, Convener.

V.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS, 1905.

The Committee regret that they are unable to report any substantial improvement in the collecting of the information asked for from the various Churches. The three larger Churches (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland) present fairly complete returns, but in the case of the remaining Churches the information is either altogether lacking or so defective, except under two or three headings, as to be of little or no value. The Committee would again strongly emphasise the value and importance of securing for permanent record the fullest and most accurate information regarding the work of the Church, and would ask the Assembly to specially direct the attention of its component Churches to this matter. In the following examination of the position it must be borne in mind that all conclusions while no doubt substantially correct must be received with the qualifications suggested by the first paragraph.

CHARGES AND AGENTS.

	Presbyteries.	Charges.	Ministers Settled in Parishes.	Ministers Emeriti.	Ministers* without Charges.	Students.	Other Agents.
N. S. Wales ...	14	183	137	11	24	21	30
Victoria	14	274	189	25	24	13	61
Queensland ...	5	55	32	1	1	—	—
South Australia	3	23	15	1	1	—	—
West Australia...	3	20	11	—	—	—	—
Tasmania ...	3	25	16	1	—	—	—
	42	580	400	39	50	34	91

* Including Professors, Principals, Chaplains, &c.

There is a gain of 19 charges and of 11 ministers settled in parishes. The increase of charges is distributed thus:—New South Wales 4, Victoria 3, Queensland 8, South Australia 2, Western Australia 1, Tasmania 1. Two features call for comment. In the first place 180 or 31 per cent. of the charges are without settled ministers. At first sight this seems a very disproportionate number, but it is not so in reality. An expansive Church in a young country should have a large number of mission fields, and the fact noted is a symptom of health, the only question being whether the number of H.M. Charges should not be much greater. A far more serious question is raised when we examine the figures relating to living agents. We find that there are only 450 active ministers, including professors, etc., to work 580 charges, a shortage of 130. In other words 22 per cent. of our charges have to be worked by students and laymen.

CHURCH BUILDINGS, &c.

	No. of Churches.	No. of Schools.	No. of Manses.	Debts on all Properties.	Insurance on all Properties.	Value of all Properties.	Sitting Accommodation.	Sittings Let.	Sittings Allocated without Rent.
N. S. Wales ...	349	85	116	£61,256	£198,541	£566,436	56,740	4,026	1409
Victoria ...	487	149	171	105,523	320,057	697,395	83,738	15,153	5125
Queensland ...	84	35	26	14,798	59,146	112,375	14,152	1,842	323
South Australia	29	—	14	2,225	—	20,165	6,093	—	—
West Australia	—	—	—	16,855	—	—	—	—	—
Tasmania ...	—	—	—	5,735	—	46,811	—	—	—
	—	—	—	£206,392	—	—	—	—	—

While it is only possible to complete a single column in this table it yet contains very valuable information. The value of Church properties is given by all the Churches with the exception of W.A., and totals nearly £1,500,000. In all of the States, however, the answers to this question are very incomplete, and the actual value amounts to very much more than that stated. As against this the encumbrance in the shape of debt is £206,392. Three States furnish complete information regarding Church sittings, from which it appears that out of 154,630 sittings only 21,021 or 13.6 per cent. are let and 6,857, or 4.4 per cent. are allocated without rent, we have therefore 126,752 sittings, or 82 per cent. unlet and unallocated.

ORGANISATION.

	Elders.	Deacons and Managers.	District Visitors.	Sustentation Fund Collectors.	Women's Societies.		Temperance Societies.		Fellowship Associations.		C.E. Societies.		Literary Societies.	
					No.	Membership.	No.	Membership.	No.	Membership.	No.	Membership.	No.	Membership.
New South Wales	715	2,335	120	971	160	3,792	52	3,719	71	1,999	41	1,124	33	986
Victoria	827	4,440	239	—	232	6,354	124	6,471	118	2,866	70	2,030	59	1,809
Queensland ...	243	565	42	123	46	761	21	1,151	6	147	42	1,253	3	95
South Australia..	79	132	36	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
West Australia...	48	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tasmania ...	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1977	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Eldership shows a slight increase (54), which is distributed among all the States, excepting S.A., which shows a decline of 2. The proportion of the Eldership to the Membership is 1 to 27 A glance at the numbers of the various societies will show that a large number of congregations still offer a field for extension.

RELIGIOUS ORDINANCES.

	Preaching Centres.	No of Sabbath Services.	No. of Weekly Services.	No. of Prayer Meetings.	Attendance.				Baptisms.	Marriages.	Deaths.
					Morning.	Evening.	Afternoons.	Prayer Meetings.			
New South Wales ...	1,113	24,531	3,358	3,089	15,271	20,320	11,280	1,462	2,717	1,203	793
Victoria	991	39,137	1,686	5,031	27,991	30,903	12,136	3,728	2,732	1,223	1,495
Queensland	243	5,912	1,148	31	4,314	5,298	1,133	544	803	286	161
South Australia ...	34	2,679	374	72	807	1,042	209	854	52	27	47
West Australia ...	—	—	—	146	—		—	—	165	—	—
Tasmania	64	633	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The preaching centres include places where services are only held occasionally to the following numbers:—New South Wales, 253; Victoria 64; Queensland, 68. In these States there is a considerable increase under this heading, viz., New South Wales, 56; Victoria, 85; and Queensland, 53; or 194 in all. S.A., however, has lost 3 and Tasmania 5; W.A. gives no information.

The total number of Sabbath services shows an increase in each State as follows:—New South Wales, 954; Victoria, 108; Queensland, 1171; South Australia, 317. Baptisms show increases in Victoria, 127; Queensland, 75, and decreases in New South Wales 142; South Australia, 6; Western Australia, 71. Marriages show increases in New South Wales, 15; Queensland, 88, and decreases of 25 in South Australia, and 191 in Victoria.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, &c.

	No. of Households.	Persons therein.	Communicants.	Admissions.			Removals.			Adherents.	
				First Time.	Certificate	Renewals.	Certificate.	Death.	Otherwise.	Over 16.	Under 16.
N. S. Wales ...	17,373	74,502	16,034	1176	685	170	462	188	543	27,709	25,080
Victoria ...	30,815	117,558	27,185	1115	1228	248	936	347	429	—	—
Queensland ...	3,903	10,771	5,807	370	207	18	185	69	149	1,103	1,375
South Australia	601	2,093	1,703	45	41	—	9	39*	—	—	—
West Australia...	—	—	1,098	92	147	—	46	148*	—	2,026	—
Tasmania ...	—	—	1,714	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	53,541	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Includes those otherwise removed than by death.

The increase in membership is 2073, not quite so great as last year's, but satisfactory, nevertheless. It is thus distributed:—New South Wales, 697; Victoria, 512; Queensland, 278; South Australia, 262; Western Australia, 106; Tasmania, 218.

WELFARE OF YOUTH.

	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	Scholars on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Vols. in Library.	No. attending Bible Classes
New South Wales ...	335	2161	21,706	15,000	25,307	1563
Victoria	585	4199	39,158	27,140	66,568	3781
Queensland	133	939	8,148	6,201	10,918	365
South Australia ...	34	156	1,160	780	3,097	163
West Australia ..	24	205	2,013	1,373		
Tasmania	39	189	1,684			
	1150	7849	73,869			

Included in the number of schools are some classified as "mission." These are New South Wales 34, and Queensland 30. The total shows an increase of 19, which is made up thus:—Increases, New South Wales, 19; Queensland, 24; South Australia, 6. Decreases, Victoria, 22; Western Australia, 1; Tasmania, 7.

Teachers have decreased by 8, accounted for thus:—Increases, Victoria, 103; Queensland, 18. Decreases, New South Wales 45; South Australia, 55; Western Australia, 16; Tasmania, 13.

Scholars have decreased 572, accounted for as follows:—Increases, New South Wales, 344; Western Australia, 276. Decreases, Victoria, 26; Queensland, 100; South Australia, 729; Tasmania, 337.

FINANCIAL.

	Revenue for Congregational Purposes.		Stipend.	Home Mission.	Foreign Mission.	Sabbath School Revenue.	Charitable.	Total Revenue of Congregations.
	Ordinary.	Special.						
New South Wales ...	£44,620	£24,485	£41,015	£732	£1290	£1191	£526	£ 77,562
Victoria	83,480	12,144	60,396	757	1115	2264	5659	115,939
Queensland	14,030	2,683	9,011	62	60	1511	171	18,628
South Australia ...	5,461	597	3,992	—	—	—	—	—
West Australia... ...	—	—	3,436	—	—	330	—	5,914
Tasmania	—	—	3,749	—	—	370	—	5,557
	—	—	£121,509	—	—	—	—	—

Victoria shows a decrease of £501 in its total Congregational revenue; the other States all show increases, viz., New South Wales, £13,699; Queensland, £409; Western Australia, £851, and Tasmania, £307. Stipend shows an increase in the aggregate of £3,057, made up as follows:—New South Wales, £996; Victoria, £757; Queensland, £312; South Australia, £378; Western Australia, £360; Tasmania, £254. The average contribution per Church member for stipend on this basis for the Commonwealth is £2 5s. 5d.

C. A WHITE, B.A., }
HUME ROBERTSON, B.A., } Joint-Conveners.

VI.

COMMITTEE ON FEDERATION WITH OTHER CHURCHES.

The General Assembly of 1903 expressed its belief in the great desirableness of union with the Congregational and Methodist Churches, with whose representatives conferences had been held by your Committee, and instructed your Committee to proceed in concert with other Churches to formulate a basis of union, and further, to prosecute negotiations with the Anglican, Baptist, and other Churches who might appoint representatives for the purpose. The members of the Committee in each State were appointed local executives for carrying on negotiations with the Churches of the State.

Accordingly the members of the Committee in New South Wales proceeded to confer with the representatives of the Congregational and Methodist Churches for the purpose of framing a possible basis of union to be submitted to the Supreme Courts of the various Churches for consideration. The joint Committees appointed four sub-Committees to elaborate (1) a basis of doctrine, (2) a system of polity, (3) a scheme for co-operation in the education of candidates for the ministry, and (4) to devise practical methods of immediate co-operation. Each of these sub-Committees met frequently. The sub-Committee on the basis of doctrine resolved on drawing up, not so much a creed for subscription, as a testimony to these points of the Christian faith, which are held in common by all the negotiating Churches. A large number of meetings were held and the progress was slow, as in many cases a whole evening was devoted to the discussion of a single clause, or even word. It may here be explained that the sub-Committee made use of the following documents:—(1) The articles of the Faith approved by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England, 1st

May, 1890; (2) Brief statement of the reformed Presbyterian Faith. America, May 16th, 1902; (3) Doctrinal statement in the Act of Incorporation of the Congregational Union of New South Wales; and (4) An Evangelical Free Church Catechism prepared by special Committees of the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches in England and Wales, December 1898. And very much of the phraseology adopted in the basis of doctrine has been taken from one or other of these documents, but the sub-Committee did not hesitate to employ, wherever it seemed desirable, its own wording, altogether different from that of any of the documents consulted. At last, a scheme was devised, but unfortunately not in time to be submitted to the General Assembly of 1905. The basis of doctrine was then submitted to the full New South Wales Committees, and every article and clause was again fully discussed. Several amendments were made, and it was ultimately adopted in the following form, which was accepted by all the representatives of the three negotiating Churches. It was then transmitted to all the corresponding Committees in other States.

PROPOSED BASIS OF DOCTRINE.

Article I.—Of God.

We believe in and adore the ever-living God, who is spirit, and the Father of our spirits; infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being and perfections; the Lord Almighty, most just in all His ways, most glorious in holiness, unsearchable in wisdom and plenteous in mercy, full of love and compassion, and abundant in goodness and truth. We worship Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons in one Godhead, and equal in power and glory. To Him be the glory for ever. Amen.

II.—Of Revelation.

We believe that God is revealed in nature in history, and in the heart of man; but that He has made gracious and clearer revelation of Himself to men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, and that this revelation, gradually advancing in clearness and grace, reached its fulness in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. We gratefully receive the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God, given by inspiration to be the faithful record of God's gracious revelations and the pure witness to Christ; and we reverently acknowledge the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures to be the Supreme Judge in questions of faith and duty.

III.—Of the Divine Purpose.

We believe that the eternal, wise, holy and loving purpose of God embraces all events, so that while the freedom of man is not taken away nor is God the author of sin, yet in His providence He makes all things work together for the fulfilment of His sovereign design and the manifestation of His glory; wherefore, humbly acknowledging the mystery of this truth, we trust in His protecting and guiding care and set our hearts to do His will.

IV.—Of the Creation.

We believe that God is the Creator, upholder and governor of all things; that He is above all His works and in them all; and that He made man in His own image, meet for fellowship with Him, free and able to choose between good and evil, and forever responsible to his Maker and Lord.

V.—Of the Sin of Man.

We believe that man, being tempted, chose evil and so fell away from God and came under the power of sin, the penalty of which is death; and

we confess that, by reason of this disobedience, we and all men are born with a sinful nature, that we have broken God's law, and that no man can be saved but by His grace.

VI.—Of the Grace of God.

We believe that God, out of His great love for the world, has given His only begotten Son to be the Saviour of sinners, and in the Gospel freely offers His all-sufficient salvation to all men; we believe that all who die in infancy, and all others given by the Father to the Son who are beyond the reach of the outward means of grace, are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit; we believe that all who have heard the Gospel and are come to years of discretion can receive this salvation only through repentance and faith. And we praise God for the unspeakable grace wherein He has provided a way of eternal life for all mankind.

VII.—Of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in and confess the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and man, who being the eternal Son of God, for us men and for our salvation became truly man, being conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary without sin; unto us He has revealed the Father and made known the perfect will of God; for us He fulfilled all righteousness, by His perfect sacrifice of Himself upon the Cross He satisfied alike the eternal justice and the eternal love of God, and took away the sin of the world; for us He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven; in us, united to Him by faith, He abides for ever; over us, and over all for us, He rules; wherefore, unto Him we render love, obedience and adoration, as our Prophet, Priest and King.

VIII.—Of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who moves everywhere upon the hearts of men, to restrain them from evil and to incite them unto good, and whom the Father is ever willing to give unto all who ask Him. We believe that He has spoken by Holy men of God in making known His truth to men for their salvation; that, through our exalted Saviour, He was sent forth in power to convict the world of sin, to enlighten men's minds in the knowledge of Christ, and to persuade and enable them to obey the call of the Gospel; and that He abides with the Church, dwelling in every believer as the spirit of truth and holiness, of comfort and love.

IX.—Of Repentance and Faith.

We believe that every one, who through the grace of the Holy Spirit repents and believes the Gospel, confessing and forsaking his sins, and humbly relying upon Christ alone for salvation, is freely pardoned and accepted as righteous in the sight of God, solely on the ground of Christ's perfect obedience and atoning sacrifice.

X.—Of the New Birth and the New Life.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the author and source of the new birth; we rejoice in the new life, wherein He is given unto us as the seal of sonship in Christ, and keeps loving fellowship with us, helps us in our infirmities, purges us from our faults, and ever continues His transforming work in us until we are perfected in the likeness of Christ, in the glory of the life to come.

XI.—Of the Resurrection and the Life to Come.

We believe that after death in the life to come the spirits of the just enjoy immediate communion with God and the vision of His glory; and that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust,

through the power of the Son of God; and that the bodies of all who are fallen asleep in Christ as well as of the faithful who are alive at His coming, shall be fashioned anew and conformed to the body of His glory.

XII.—Of the Law of God.

We believe and acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ has laid His people by His grace under new obligation to keep the perfect Law of God, and has by precept and example enlarged our knowledge of that Law, and illustrated the spirit of filial love in which the divine will is to be obeyed. We believe that God requires of every man to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God; and that only through this harmony with the will of God shall be fulfilled that brotherhood of man wherein the kingdom of God is to be made manifest.

XIII.—Of the Church.

We acknowledge one holy catholic Church, the innumerable company of saints of every age and nation, who, being united by the Holy Spirit to Christ their Head, are one body in Him, and have communion with their Lord and with one another; further, we receive it as the will of Christ that His Church on earth should exist in a visible and sacred brotherhood, consisting of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, together with their children, and organised for the confession of His name, the public worship of God, the upbuilding of the saints, and the proclamation of the Gospel; and we acknowledge, as a part, more or less pure, of this universal brotherhood, every particular Church throughout the world which professes this faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, as divine Lord and Saviour.

XIV.—Of the Sacraments.

We acknowledge Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the two Sacraments instituted by Christ, to be of perpetual obligation as means of grace; made effectual only by the Holy Spirit, and always to be used by Christians with prayer and praise to God.

XV.—Of the Last Judgment.

We believe that God will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, before Whom all men must appear, Who shall separate the righteous from the wicked, make manifest the secrets of the heart, and render to every man according to the deeds which he hath done in the body, whether good or evil, when the wicked shall go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

XVI.—Of Christian Service and the Final Triumph.

We believe that it is our duty, as servants and friends of Christ, to do good unto all men, to maintain the public and private worship of God, to hallow the Lord's Day, to preserve the sanctity of the family, to uphold the just authority of the State, and so to live in all honesty, purity, and charity, that our lives shall testify of Christ. We joyfully receive the word of Christ, bidding His people go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, and declare unto them that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and that He will have all men to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth. We believe that by His power and grace all His enemies shall be finally overcome, and that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

CHURCH POLITY.

The work of the sub-Committee on Polity proved more difficult, and occupied a longer time. The divirgence was great. In the Congregational Churches there is but one Church Court, that of the local congregation, from whose decisions there is no appeal to any larger body. The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches have each a gradation of Courts, which very closely correspond to each other. On the other hand the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches agree in asserting the right of each congregation to choose and call its own minister, whose appointment is "ad vitam aut culpam," whereas in the Methodist Churches the apointment of ministers is made by the Supreme Court in each State, and the term of office is for three, or in exceptional cases, for five years. Much adjustment, therefore, was necessary to elaborate a scheme of polity which should unite as far as possible the good points of each system. It was agreed to propose a system of Church Courts, and also to adopt the call in the case of self-sustaining parishes, that is, parishes which do not receive aid from any of the funds of the Church, and to limit the tenure of office to five years, subject, however, to the possibility of a renewed call on a two-thirds vote. It will be noted that the District Council, which corresponds to the Presbytery, is vested with the administration of all matters connected with the call, with the exception of the sustaining of the call, which is reserved for the Provincial Council. When the scheme had been elaborated by the sub-Committee, it was carefully reviewed and discussed by the full Committee. Slight changes were made, and it was ultimately adopted in the following form, and sent to the Committees in the other States for their consideration.

I.—Church Membership.

1. The conditions of full membership in the Church shall be confession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and participation in the Lord's Supper.

2. Persons shall be nominated to membership by the local Church Court, or by a meeting of the members of the Church worshipping in the Congregation concerned, on the nomination, or with the approval, of the minister.

3. All persons who have been admitted and enrolled in the full membership of the Church shall have a voice and vote in the control and direction of its affairs.

4. The discipline and government within each Parish shall be administered by the Parish Council, subject to appeal to the higher Courts of the Church.

II.—Church Courts.

The names of the various Church Courts shall be:—

(a) The Parish Council.
(b) The District Council.
(c) The Provincial Council.
(d) The General Council.

III.—The Ministry.

1. A candidate for the ministry must have been on trial as a preacher for a period of six months, and approved by the Parish Council, on the nomination of the minister.

2. He shall then be examined and approved by the District Council as to his religious experience, preaching ability and knowledge.

3. He shall then be examined by a Central Examining Board, appointed by the Provincial Council.

4. Having been received by the Provincial Council, he shall be sent for training to a Theological Institution.

5. Having passed the prescribed course at the Theological Institution, he may be received as a minister on probation, on the completion of which he shall be eligible for ordination.

6. Exceptional cases may be referred by the Provincial Council with recommendation to the General Council.

7. Fully-qualified ministers from other Churches may be admitted by the Provincial Council.

IV.—Constitution of Church Courts.

1. The Parish Council shall consist of :—
   (a) The minister or ministers of the Parish.
   (b) The office-bearers corresponding to the elders in the Presbyterian Church, the class Leaders and lay preachers in the Methodist Church, and the deacons in the Congregational Church.
   (c) Representatives elected by the members of the Church in each congregation.
   (d) Trustees of Parish property, such trustees having their Church membership in the parish.
   (e) The Superintendents of Sunday-schools in the parish, such Superintendents having their Church membership in the parish.

N.B.—A Secretary and Treasurer for the Parish shall be elected by the Parish Council from amongst its members.

2. A Parish may consist of one or more Churches having representatives in the Parish Council as the central governing body under the pastorate of one or more ministers.

3. The District Council shall consist of :—
   (a) All the ministers of the district, whether in pastoral charges or departments, or aged or supernumerary ministers.
   (b) Representatives elected by each Parish Council to an equal number with the ministers under Clause (a).

4. The Provincial Council shall consist of :—
   (a) All the ministers of the Province (as in the case of the District Council).
   (b) Representatives to an equal number with the ministers, to be elected by Parish Councils and by Committees of Departments and Institutions (such as Colleges, Home and Foreign Missions, etc.).

5. The General Council shall consist of an equal number of ministers and laymen elected by the Provincial Councils.

V.—Term and Method of Appointment of Ministers to Charges.

1. All ministerial appointments shall be made by the Provincial Council at its Annual Meeting, subject to the conditions hereinafter expressed.

2. Parishes that are self-sustaining may, at a duly appointed meeting, call a particular minister. When the call is made, it shall be considered by the District Council, which shall transmit it with a recommendation or otherwise to the Provincial Council. If this call be sustained by the Provincial Council, such minister shall be appointed for five years. After the appointment has been made it shall be the function of the District Council to induct the minister into his charge. At the end of the five years the call may be renewed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Parish, and it shall be dealt with as above provided except as regards induction. In special cases, pastorates may be extended beyond ten years by the Provincial Council, subject to the provision of a two-thirds vote of call by the Parish. The Provincial Council has the right of terminating the appointment at any time, if, in its judgment, the general good of the Church demands it.

3. Parishes that are not self-sustaining, and self-sustaining Parishes that have not forwarded a call, shall have appointments made for one year. These appointments may be renewed annually up to five years.

4. In case of a vacancy, through death or any other cause, during the year, an appointment shall be made for the remainder of the year by the District Council.

5. All existing rights between ministers and Churches at the date of the union shall be conserved during existing pastorates; but, at their termination, those ministers and Churches, and all ministers received and Churches established after consummation of union, shall be subject to the foregoing regulations.

Neither of the other sub-Committees has finished its work, and consequently no report can be made regarding the union of the Theological Halls, or as to practical steps to be taken to promote a spirit of union throughout the congregations.

With regard to the Anglican Church there have been two movements in the direction of union. One came from the diocese of Sydney, which appointed a Committee of Synod to confer with the other Protestant Churches as to the possibility of co-operation in certain matters. Your Committee in New South Wales responded cordially to the invitation to a conference, and a meeting was held in the Chapter House, Sydney, on August 14, 1905, attended by your representatives. The first meeting was preliminary, and the following topics were discussed generally:—(1) Devotional Meetings; (2) Temperance and Rescue work; (3) Open-air Missions; (4) Overlapping; (5) Religious Instruction in Public Schools; (6) Proselytising. The result of the conference was the appointment of a sub-Committee comprised of two representatives each from the Churches concerned, which should draw up a series of resolutions as to practical co-operation on the lines indicated in the discussion, to be submitted to a further conference at a later date. The proceedings were characterised by the utmost good feeling.

The General Synod of the Anglican Church, 1905, passed the following resolution:—

The Bishop of Gippsland moved, the Bishop of Grafton and Armidale seconded.

"That the Primate having communicated to this synod a letter from the Rev. T. E. Clouston, Convener of the Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia on federation with other Churches, which has been addressed to him and to other bishops of dioceses in Australia and Tasmania this synod determines to appoint representatives of the Church of England in Australia and Tasmania to discuss with the representatives appointed by the Presbyterian Church of Australia the possibility of a closer union, and to report to the Primate.

"That the following be the representatives, viz.:—The Archbishop of Melbourne, Bishop of Ballarat, the Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, the Bishop of Tasmania, the Bishop of Bendigo, the Bishop of Perth, the Bishop of Gippsland, and the Right Rev. the Dean of Newcastle, Archdeacon of Melbourne, Archdeacon Neild, the Ven. H. F. Le Fanu, the Rev. Canon Nash, the Rev. Canon Stephen, Canon Boyce, Canon Dodd, Canon Lefroy, Mr. W. E. Morris, Mr. Cumbrae-Stewart, Mr. Henry Henty, Mr. John Kent.

That the Most Reverend the Primate be requested to convey the foregoing resolution to the Convener of the Committee of the Presbyterian Church." Carried.

The Convener of your Committee has been in correspondence with the Archbishop of Melbourne, with the result that it is suggested that a joint meeting should be held in Melbourne on Tuesday, November 27, 1906. Your Committee has not yet considered the matter in view of the negotiations which have already proceeded so far with the Congregational and Methodist Churches, but it is hoped that the Assembly will cordially respond to the friendly overture of the Synod and appoint representatives to meet the Anglican Church in Melbourne on the date named.

The Victorian members of the Committee have also been at work, and their progress was far more rapid that that of the New South Wales members, inasmuch as they were prepared to submit a basis of Doctrine to the Assembly of 1905. They, however, worked on somewhat different

lines from New South Wales, and produced a brief summary of doctrine, comprising a creed for subscription, and therefore dealing only with points deemed essential to a common fellowship. The following progress report is therefore submitted.

Progress Report of the Victorian Committee.

The Committee has the honour to report that a number of meetings of the General Committee have been held during the year, at which careful and prolonged attention has been given to the subject by representatives from the Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Baptist Churches. Special sub-Committees have also sat to consider questions of doctrine, Church polity and co-operation in the training of candidates for the ministry, and these sub-Committees have reported to the General Committee from time to time.

The Committee has now to report:—

1. Articles of Belief.—The following ten Articles of Belief have been agreed upon, subject to any modification found advisable after consultation with the sections of the Committees in other States:

I. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain a progressive revelation of God, and of His purposes of mercy to mankind, and are of final authority in all matters of Christian faith and practice.

II. God is the Eternal Spirit, Light and Love—above all, through all, and in all—the Creator, the Upholder, and Lord of the Universe.

III. There are Three Persons in the Godhead,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God.

IV. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God Incarnate, truly God and truly man, is the supreme revelation of God.

V. The Universal Fatherhood of God to men has been fully revealed by Jesus Christ, and all who believe in Him are restored to the inward disposition and the higher privileges of Sonship.

VI. Sin is any want of conformity to, or transgression of the law of God. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and unless they repent and are forgiven, remain under Divine condemnation.

VII. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in His obedience, sufferings and death, is the only propitiation for the sins of the world.

VIII. Sinners who repent and believe the Gospel are, on the ground of the work and merits of Jesus Christ, freely pardoned and accepted as righteous in the sight of God.

IX. The Holy Spirit enlightens men in the knowledge of God and of His Son Jesus Christ convinces of sin, leads to repentance and faith, regenerates the soul, purifies the life, and carries on this work of sanctification to its completion.

X. The Lord Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Both just and unjust shall be raised from the dead, that all mankind may be judged by Christ, and receive according to their deeds.

Statement of Doctrine concerning the Church and its Polity has not yet been adopted. The General Committee adopts the following reports of its sub-Committees, viz:—

II. CHURCH POLITY.—The sub-Committee reports that it has given much consideration to the questions of (1) Church Office-bearers,((2) Training for and admission to the Ministry, (3) the appointment to and tenure of Ministerial Office, but as the decisions reached are not final, they wish this to be regarded as an interim report only.

III. CO-OPERATION IN THE TRAINING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.—The sub-Committee has met, and considers there is no real difficulty in carrying this out, but has at present formulated no method for its accomplishment.

In name of the Committee.

THOMAS E. CLOUSTON, Convener.

VII.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MODERATORS.

NOMINATION OF MODERATOR.

A meeting of the Committee of Moderators was held during the sittings of the Assembly in September, 1905, to consider who should be nominated to the Moderator's Chair. Moderators who were not present were afterwards consulted by letter. The result was the unanimous nomination of the Rev. T. E. Clouston, D.D., Minister of the Glebe, Sydney.

P. J. MURDOCH. Convener.

REPORT ON TITLE OF MODERATOR.

A circular letter was sent to Moderators, asking suggestions regarding the Title of the Moderator of the General Assembly. Only four replies were received, and only two of these suggest any change. It seems fair to infer that a change of Title does not commend itself to the Committee to which the matter was referred.

P. J. MURDOCH, Convener.

VIII.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE "RECORD."

Your Committee regret to state that there has been a slight decrease in the total circulation of the Magazine, as will be seen by the table appended below:—

	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
New South Wales	1248	1121	—	127
Victoria	6564	6513	—	51
Queensland	534	521	13	—
South Australia	465	559	94	—
Western Australia	400	467	67	—
Tasmania	282	254	—	28
New Zealand	341	350	9	—
Total	9834	9785	183	206
Total decrease	49.			

It will be seen from the table that in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and New Zealand the circulation shows a small increase, but in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania a decrease is reported.

Your Committee are not aware that there is any special reason for the decrease in circulation in these States, and as the Magazine is published under the auspices of this Assembly, and for the benefit of our Sabbath Schools throughout Australasia, they would appeal to all our ministers, superintendents and teachers to recommend the magazine heartily to the scholars, and they believe that if this were done, a very much larger circulation of the little paper might be effected. Loyal co-operation in this work is surely to be expected.

Your Committee are pleased to note that in the last Blue Book issued by the State Assembly of Western Australia, the following words occur in the Report of Youth Committee:—

"Your Committee would further remind Sabbath School workers that the 'Record' is the recognised children's missionary magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and would urge its general adoption in the Church."

We would suggest that this example be followed by conveners of such Committees in other States, who have hitherto made no recommendation of the kind. When it is remembered that the statistics reveal the presence of 74,441 scholars in our schools throughout the Commonwealth, a circulation of 9,785 copies of the magazine, including those taken by New Zealand, does not seem at all proportionate to the number of scholars, and it is plain that a very large percentage of our schools never see the magazine, and quite possibly they know nothing about it. Your Committee would gladly welcome any criticism of the paper which might lead to some improvements; but they feel that if the "Record" is to be regarded as the magazine for all our scholars throughout Australasia a greater enthusiasm for its circulation might be shown by many of our ministers, superintendents, and teachers.

Your Committee desire to thank those in all the States who have, during the past year, done yeoman service for the "Record," and increased the number of its readers. It will be the object of your Committee in future to make the magazine as attractive and instructive as possible to the young people of our Church.

W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

IX.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS COMMITTEE.

The Public Questions Committee have the honour to report that they have given attention to the Remit of the General Assembly regarding a Manual of Presbyterianism. They resolved to leave the matter in the hands of the Rev. R. G. MacIntyre and the Convener. These gentlemen examined several Manuals already in print, and agreed that it is desirable to issue at once a very small booklet similar to, and possibly a revised edition of, one recently issued under the Editorship of the Rev. James Jackson, and that steps should be taken to circulate this as widely as possible, the cost not to exceed 1d. But, further, they were of opinion that a completer Manual should be prepared at an early date.

The Committee received a communication signed by a number of passengers on one of the ships of the White Star Line, urging the appointment of Chaplains on oversea boats. It was resolved to recommend the General Assembly to communicate with the Free Church Council in England and the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland and Ireland requesting them to initiate action with a view to the spiritual advantage of emigrants by the great passenger ships to Australia;

and, further, that the Ministers of the great Australian ports arrange so that incoming passengers be interviewed with a view to their being brought into communication with the Churches to which they belong on arrival; and, further, that this Committee be directed to have a leaflet prepared giving information regarding Presbyterian Churches, this leaflet to be handed to all emigrants at the first port at which they touch, and also, if possible, at the port of embarkation.

P. J. MURDOCH, Convener.

X.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO SABBATH SCHOOLS AND RELIGION AND MORALS.

Your Committee were appointed in order that the Sababth School work of our Church, and the state of religion and morals throughout Australia should be brought under the notice of this Assembly.

1. The Sabbath Schools.

New South Wales.—The number of schools is 316, teachers 2206, scholars 21,362. An annual examination is held on Biblical Knowledge, a Historical Subject and the Catechism, and Essays are written. Gold and silver medals, prizes and certificates, are given to the best scholars. 1 649 papers were handed in last year, 171 prizes and 500 first-class and 592 second-class certificates were awarded. The quality of the work done showed improvement on the previous year, and was deemed highly satisfactory. Every candidate whose paper on any of the subjects gains 75 per cent. of marks is entitled to receive a first-class certificate, and those whose paper reaches 50 per cent. of marks receives a second-class certificate. Every candidate who gains ten second-class certificates is entitled to a book prize. One first-class certificate is equal to two second-class certificates.

Provision is made for the training of teachers by text-books being prescribed, and written examinations being held upon them. Where practicable, lectures and oral teaching accompany the study of the text-books.

A movement has been commenced towards the establishment of a Sabbath Schools Union of the Presbyterian Schools in the State.

A special Sabbath Day is set apart, called "Young People's Day," in which the interests of young people are specially brought before the congregation, and a collection taken up for the Committee's Funds.

An excellent work on the shorter Catechism has been prepared by the Rev. J. Burgess, M.A., which will probably be largely used by teachers and scholars.

Victoria.—Sabbath Schools 607, teachers 4096, scholars 39,184. Owing to a change in the date of the State Assembly there is little information to be found in the last report. It should be stated, however, that the Schools are much helped by the organising Secretary, Mr. W. Wishart, who visits them from time to time, and does much to deepen the interest of the teachers in their work. His salary is paid out of interest derived from a bequest of the late Mr. Allan, of Buninyong. This bequest also provides for bursaries to boys and girls. It also provides the cost of prizes under what is called the Higher Christian Education Scheme.

A movement has been started for the training of teachers by monthly lectures and model lessons in five centres, which, so far, has been most successful, and it is probable that this will lead to further developments.

Where the Allan Bequest Scheme is worked all the scholars who are not infants have a written examination on the lesson for the day, and on some question of the Catechism every Sabbath. Every six months an

examination is held for the bursaries, and these are determined by the results of four examinations. The course, in other words, covers a period of two years. The scholarships are tenable for two years, £25 a year for girls, and £50 a year for boys. For the last bursarial course 25 scholars competed, and six scholarships were awarded.

The Higher Christian Education Scheme was in operation before the Allan Bequest Scheme was introduced, and it is still worked by means of examinations on text-books and the Catechism, only instead of the cost of the prizes being defrayed by donations, it is met from the interest derived from the Allan Bequest.

At the last examination under this scheme 790 candidates presented themselves in three divisions.

Queensland.—Schools 133, including 30 "Mission" Schools, teachers 939, scholars 8,148. A scheme of lessons is printed for the use of the Schools. The schemes are sold to the scholars for 2s. 6d. per 100. The last report expresses regret that there is a decrease in the number of scholars presenting themselves for the annual examinations. 500 scholars were examined, as against 650 the previous year.

In addition to examinations for scholars there are examinations for teachers, Billington Memorial Competitions, Essays for Girls, and last year Essays were written in connection with the John Knox Quarter Centenary.

A Presbyterian Sabbath School Union renders good service to the Church.

South Australia.—Schools 28, teachers 211, scholars 1,889. There are annual examinations of scholars, the last held being entered into by 203, an increase of 115 on the previous year.

An essay competition on "John Knox" was held in December last, but not many papers were sent in.

Western Australia.—Schools 29, teachers 263, scholars 2,270.

A Presbyterian Sabbath School Union has been started, which promises to be of great advantage to the Sabbath Schools of the Church. It is proposed that a course of lectures for the instruction of teachers be commenced shortly. A "Young People's Day" has been arranged for.

The entries for the scholars' examinations this year are considerably ahead of those of 1905.

Tasmania.—Schools 46, teachers 202, scholars 2,021.

Annual examinations in connection with the Higher Christian Education Scheme are held. At the most recent 54 candidates presented themselves. The International Series of Lessons, the Shorter Catechism and Text-books form the material for study, and the scholars are also examined on memorised passages of Scripture.

A general survey of the work done by the Sabbath Schools of our Church in Australia leads us to the conviction that our superintendents and teachers are deserving of the highest praise and encouragement from the Church. In many places the work is carried on amid great difficulties, especially in sparsely peopled territories, where the homes are far from one another. In this connection it may be well to state that in some country districts where it is impossible to bring children to a centre, the lesson leaflets are sent to the parents, and arrangements made for examinations, and prizes awarded where deserved. From the statistics as prepared by the Rev. H. I. Robertson, there are throughout Australia 1,131 Sabbath Schools, 7,859 teachers, and 74,441 scholars connected with our Church.

There seems to be great difficulty in maintaining a high average of attendance, but imperfect data hardly allow us to judge of this properly.

The carelessness of parents and scholars, and possibly, in some cases, the lack of visiting by the teachers account for this to some extent.

The Convener of the Sabbath School Committee of our Church in Tasmania (the Rev. F. E. Oxer) suggests that some proper system of Scripture Lessons for Junior and Senior Classes is much needed, and he thinks that an illustrated Sabbath School paper, somewhat on the lines of the School

paper used in State Schools in some States should be published under the auspices of this Assembly, containing lessons for each Sabbath, and in which all the newest methods of Sabbath School teaching in America and Germany might be brought under the notice of the teachers, and which would be a bond of union for our Schools throughout the Commonwealth.

Your Committee pronounce no judgment on this suggestion, but present it for the consideration of the Assembly.

II. Religion and Morals.

New South Wales.—The Committee in charge of these matters reports that raffling as a means of raising funds for Church purposes is practically non-existent, that betting and gambling is a widely prevalent curse to the whole community, and that the conscience of the people is not sufficiently aroused against the evil, and hopes that by adequate legislation the temptations to gambling may be lessened. Efforts are to be made by the Church towards this consummation.

The Committee have published a Manual for young Communicants, a "Service Book" for the use of Elders and Laymen is in course of preparation, and they suggest that a re-issue of the "Directory for Public Worship" should be made under the auspices of this Assembly.

The Fellowship Union appears to be under the supervision of this Committee.

Conferences on subjects of special importance to the religious welfare of the Church are held during the Assembly meetings. At last Assembly the subject chosen was "The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Church."

Victoria.—Owing to the change in the date of the last Assembly the Report of this Committee is very brief, but from the previous Report of November last we learn that from the answers to questions submitted to our Churches, gambling is the most prevalent evil in the State, and the one most needing to be fought, especially in country districts.

The Committee report that considerable attention has been paid to the organisation of young people into Bible Classes (some of them are held with success after the Sabbath evening service) Fellowship Associations (Junior and Senior), Christian Endeavour Societies (Junior and Senior), Guilds, Clubs, Boys' Brigades, Gymnastic and Cricket Clubs. As to special services, a ten days' Mission, occasional services of praise and lantern services have been found helpful. As to the attendances at Church, the reports are very various, some of the most encouraging kind, others very much the reverse. Many deplore the low level of the average Christian, the lack of spirituality, the lack of enthusiasm, and the absence of the sense of personal responsibility. Others speak of religious life as rising, and the outlook very hopeful.

Queensland.—The last Report is exceedingly brief. The Committee approve of certain legislation which has tended to mitigate the perils of infant life, and also of the sale of opium being prohibited except for medicinal purposes.

South Australia.—There is no Committee on "Religion and Morals" but it is proposed that a "Life and Work" Committee should be launched.

Western Australia.—The Committee sent out last year anti-gambling pamphlets through the Sabbath Schools.

The Council of the Churches having been resuscitated, the Committee were able to take action along with other Churches for the securing of an island on which to establish an interdenominational aboriginal Mission, and also for opposing gambling, working for Sabbath observance, and guarding Protestant interests in the matter of State School history primers.

This Committee was at last Asesmbly merged in what is called the "Moderator's Committee."

Tasmania.—As the Convener of the Committee on the State of Religion has been absent from the State no Report was presented to the Assembly.

Your Committee notice the different titles given to the Committees in the various States. In New South Wales the title is "Religion and Morals," in Victoria "The State of Religion," in Queensland "Morals and Public Questions," in South Australia, if the proposal suggested be carried out, "Life and Work," in Western Australia "The Moderator's Committee," and in Tasmania "State of Religion."

As the varieties of titles indicate differences of function in certain cases, it might be well if some uniformity of title and function could be arrived at—now that we are a United Church. For instance, the Public Questions Committee in Victoria does a good deal of the work attempted by other Committees in other States.

If we are to have any clear idea of the State of religion and morals over the whole Commonwealth we would need to have reports on this subject from each State, and the need therefore is apparent if such a Committee having the special duty laid upon it of putting its hand upon the pulse of the moral and spiritual life of the Church and of the community in each State and letting us know in some measure its condition.

In the defective state of the reports supplied at present, it is impossible to make any general statement upon the important topic, but one thing may be said, and that is, that throughout Australia it is but too evident that gambling is the vice most prevalent, and which presents the most formidable opposition to the rise and progress of moral and spiritual life.

W.S. ROLLAND, Convener.

XI.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HYMNAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee resolved, at its first meeting, to begin work by seeking answers from the Superintendents of all our Australian Sunday Schools to the two following questions:—

(1.) What Hymn Book is at present in use in your Sunday School?

(2.) Can you name the 20 Hymns which you and your Teachers regard as indispensable in any Sunday School collection?

The replies to your Committee's circular have only recently come to hand. In some respects they are disappointing; the majority of our S.S. Superintendents have returned no answer to the queries addressed to them. Such returns as have been made, however, will enable the Assembly to form a fairly accurate estimate of the position of its Sunday Schools in relation to the subject of praise.

(A.) The replies to the first question give the following results:—

There are ten separate Hymn-books in use in our Sunday Schools, viz.:—"School Praise," "Sankey's Hymn Book," "The Church Hymnary," abridged for the young. "The Home and School Hymnal," "Church Praise," "Golden Bells," "Bateman's Hymn Book," "The Voice of Praise," "Gall and Inglis' Hymn Book," "Alexander's Hymns."

Of the books named only three may be said to be generally and widely used. Those three are:—"School Praise," Sankey's Hymn Book," "The Church Hymnary," abridged for the young.

(B.) The replies to your Committee's second query show that the lack of uniformity in the matter of Sunday School praise is more apparent than real. While there are ten different books in use, it is evident that the same Hymns are commonly sung in most of our Sunday Schools. The

20 Hymns generally regarded as indispensable are nearly all to be found in any Sunday School collection. Even when the next ten most widely voted upon are added, it will be found that any one of the three books in most general use contained more than three-fourths of the whole number. The results of the voting upon the 20 indispensable Hymns are given below. The Hymns are noted in the order in which they have been preferred — "Jesus Loves Me;" When He Cometh;" "When Mothers of Salem;" "Jesus is our Shepherd;" "Childhood's Years are passing o'er us;" "Lord a little band and lowly;" "We are but little children weak;" "What a friend we have in Jesus;" "Yield not to temptation;" "Gentle Jesus meek and mild;" "Around the throne of God in Heaven;" "There's a Friend for Little Children;" "There is a Happy Land;" "One is Kind Above all Others;" "I Love to Hear the Story;" "Safe in the Arms of Jesus;" "Here we Suffer Grief and Pain;" "I think when I Read that Sweet Story of Old;" "There's a Better World They Say;" "There is a Green Hill Far Away."

In view of the results to which their preliminary inquiries have led, as indicated above, your Committee invite the consideration of the General Assembly to three possible courses:—

I.—The Compilation of a new Hymn Book for use in our Sunday Schools.

There would be many advantages gained if the Presbyterian Church could arrange a satisfactory School Hymnal for its own children. But the Committee hesitates to advise the adoption of this course on several grounds. The work, if it were undertaken, would extend over several years. Many of the Hymns that ought to be included are copyrighted in Great Britain or America, and the owners of the copyrights would have to be communicated with before even that stage had been reached, all available collections of Hymns for Sunday School use would have to be carefully studied. Unless the new book could prove itself better than some of the older ones in common use it would never succeed in establishing itself, or even justifying its existence. By judicious distribution of labour and responsibility this part of the work could probably be arranged for adequately enough. The chief element of difficulty would present itself in connection with the music. It would be necessary for the Assembly to entrust some musical expert with the work of selecting and arranging the tunes. Mistakes in this department—as, for instance, the disjoining of well-known words from a melody to which they have long been wedded—might easily vitiate the whole work.

II.—The adoption for the time being of one or other of the Hymn Books at present in Sunday School use.

As indicated above, in one of the three books commonly used most of the Hymns drawn upon are to be found. But it would manifestly be of advantage if some *one* book became established in the Sunday Schools of our Church. In the event of this second course recommending itself to the General Assembly, the Committee have no hesitation in suggesting that the book to be adopted should be "The Church Hymnary," abridged for the young.

"The Church Hymnary" is our own book; it contains a really fine and varied collection of Hymns for the young; its general use would accustom our young people to the book which is associated with the public worship of their Church. Eighteen out of the twenty Hymns voted indispensable are found in the "Church Hymnary." The omissions are (a) "What a Friend we have in Jesus"—which is not properly a children's Hymn; and (b) "When Mothers of Salem"—which is a sweet nursery rhyme rather than a Hymn; its popularity is due not to intrinsic merit, but to the fact that it enshrines one of the tenderest incidents in the life of our Lord.

III.—The compilation, in co-operation with other Churches, of a common Hymn Book for use in the Protestant Sunday Schools of Australia.

The uited efforts of the Protestant Churches would be likely to result in the production of a better and more Catholic Hymn Book than any one Church could compile for itself. Much could be said in favour of this third suggestion. The Committee contents itself with bringing it under the notice of the General Assembly.

For valuable help in collating the statistics upon which this Report is based, the Committee is indebted to Mr. P. D. McCormick, N.S.W., Mr. A. J. Campbell, Victoria, Rev. J. Lundie, Queensland, and the Rev. I. Heyer, Tasmania.

D. MACRAE STEWART, Convener.

XII.

REPORT ON RIGHTFUL SUBJECTS OF BAPTISM.

At last General Assembly, attention was drawn to the following facts, viz., that a difference of view exists in the Church with respect to the children who should be regarded as rightful subjects of Christian Baptism, and a diversity of practice amongst those with whom lies the duty of administering this ordinance.

The Assembly regarded the matter as sufficiently important to appoint a Committee to draw out a short statement of the Church's doctrine on the subject, together with such instructions as might be helpful in guiding Ministers and Church Sessions.

The view of the Church with regard to the children to whom baptism should be administered is explicitly stated in the Confession of Faith and in the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

The Shorter Catechism says, "Infants of such as are Members of the Visible Church are to be baptised." The Larger Catechism says, "Infants descending from parents, either or both professing faith in Christ, are to be baptised." The Confession of Faith says, "Not only those that do actually profess Christ, but also the infants of one or both believing parents are to be baptised."

This view, which makes Christian faith on the part of at least one of the parents essential to the validity of the ordinance, is the only one which is in accordance with the nature of the ordinance as that is set before us in the Scriptures. As great spiritual truths are symbolised in this ordinance, and obligations of a special kind with regard to the training of the children are incurred by those who receive baptism for their children, to administer this sacrament to the children of such parents as are without Christian faith, degrades the ordinance to a meaningless form, and brings parents under responsibilities which they are unable to discharge.

The Assembly, therefore, would counsel Ministers and Sessions to take heed that the ordinance be administered only to the children of such parents as are one or both communicants of the Church, or, who being themselves baptised, make such a profession of faith as would entitle them to become full members of the Church and partakers of the Lord's

Supper. They would further suggest that the following questions, or questions of a similar kind be put to those who are not communicants of a Christian Church who are seeking to have their children baptised:—

1. Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world, who in His love gave His life for the world's redemption, and in the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier?

2. Do you believe in the Christian Church as an Institution founded by Christ, in which all who are regularly baptised have a place as members?

3. Do you engage to bring up your child (or children) as far as you are able in the knowledge of God and His holy will?

4. Do you agree so to order your lives as will set before your child (or children) an example of holy living?

J. MEIKLEJOHN, Convener.

VI.

RETURNS.

RETURNS FROM STATE ASSEMBLIES TO REMIT ON APPOINTMENT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS AGENT.

Approve: VICTORIA.

Disapprove: NEW SOUTH WALES, TASMANIA, QUEENSLAND.

RETURNS TO REMITS ON ADDITION TO ARTICLE VIII OF ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve: Presbyteries of Hastings, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Illawarra, Monaro, New England, Wagga Wagga, Young, Sydney, Clarence.

Disapprove: Presbytery of Murrumbidgee.

VICTORIA.—Approve: Presbyteries of Melbourne South, Melbourne North, Gippsland, Goulburn Valley.

QUEENSLAND.—Approve: Presbytery of Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Presbyteries of Adelaide, Belalie, Onkaparinka.

TASMANIA.—Approve: Presbyteries of Hobart, Launceston.

From State Assemblies.

Approve: NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, TASMANIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND.

RETURNS TO REMIT ON HOME AND FOREIGN MISSION AGENTS BEING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Approve: Presbyteries of Wagga Wagga, Young (cum nota being ordained minister).

Disapprove: Presbyteries of Bathurst, Hastings, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Illawarra, Monaro, New England, Sydney, Clarence.

VICTORIA.—Disapprove: Presbyteries of Melbourne South, Melbourne North, Gippsland.

Approve: Presbytery of Goulburn Valley.

QUEENSLAND.—Disapprove: Presbytery of Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Approve: Presbyteries of Adelaide (provided that such Home and Foreign Mission Agents be of ministerial standing), Belalie, Onkaparinka.

TASMANIA.—Approve: Presbyteries of Hobart, Launceston (in both cases only as regards Foreign Mission Agent).

From State Assemblies.

Approve: TASMANIA (as regards Foreign Mission Agent), SOUTH AUSTRALIA (on condition that such Agents be ministers in full standing).
Disapprove: NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, QUEENSLAND.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA EXPENSES FUND ACCOUNT.

Dr. 31st JULY, 1906. Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.				£	s.	d.
Meeting in Melbourne, September, 1905.						
To Church Officer	£4	0	0			
,, Organist ...	3	3	0			
,, Communion Wine ...	0	8	0			
,, Advertising—*Argus*, £2 12s. ; *Age*, £2 17s. 6d.	5	9	6			
				13	0	6
,, Printing Examination Papers—						
Arbuckle & Co.	3	10	0			
Brown, Prior & Co. ...	6	15	0			
				10	5	0
,, Printing Blue Book (S. E. Lees) ...				57	12	8
,, Printing—Brown, Prior & Co., Melbourne ...				15	11	6
,, Printing and Stationery ...				8	16	6
,, Telegrams ...				0	6	3
,, Postages ...				10	6	1
,, Postages, per Clerk ...				1	5	0
,, Freight and Wharfage, Melbourne...				0	10	3
,, Advertising *Messenger* ...				2	7	0
,, Convener of Statistics Committee, Expenses ...				0	5	10
,, Secretary of College Committee, Expenses ...				0	16	0
,, Treasurer of Union Committee, Account Printing				5	0	0
,, Honorarium, Clerk	£30	0	0			
,, ,, Assistant Clerk	20	0	0			
				50	0	0
,, Balance...				62	0	2
				£238	2	9

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.
By Balance, July 31st, 1905				105	8	5
,, Proportion of Expenses from—						
Victorian Church ...	£40	0	0			
New South Wales Church ...	40	0	0			
South Australian Church ...	13	6	8			
Queensland Church ...	13	6	8			
Tasmanian Church...	13	6	8			
West Australian Church ...	10	0	0			
				130	0	0
,, Interest to December 31st, 1905 ...				2	14	4
				£238	2	9
By Balance				£62	0	2

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.S.I.A.,
Official Auditor Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

Sydney, 9th August, 1906.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA, TRAVELLING EXPENSES ACCOUNT.

Dr. 31st July, 1906. Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.		£ s. d.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.
To Paid Travelling Expenses, Moderator (Rev. Dr. Bruce)...		13 10 0	By Amount Transferred from General Assembly of Australia Foreign Missions Account, per Instructions of Assembly	6 13 3
,, Paid Travelling Expenses to Meeting in Melbourne, September, 1905—			,, Amount received Church Hymnary Royalty Account ...	179 19 3
Victorian Representatives	0 6 8			
New South Wales Representatives ...	72 17 8			
South Australian Representatives ...	9 19 1			
Queensland Representatives	43 5 0			
Tasmanian Representatives	8 3 1			
West Australian Representatives ...	7 12 6			
Exchange on Cheques	0 8 6			
		142 12 6		
,, Paid Travelling Expenses to Meetings of Committees in Sydney, April, 1906, Victorian Representatives ...		30 0 0		
,, Printing Receipt Forms		0 10 0		
		£186 12 6		£186 12 6

CHURCH HYMNARY ROYALTY ACCOUNT—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

Dr. Cr.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Amount paid for Travelling Expenses, as per separate account	179 19 3	By Balance, July 31st, 1905	618 7 5
,, Balance in hand	552 5 3	,, Royalties received from Trustees in Edinburgh, to March 31st, 1906	93 10 2
		,, Interest to December 31st, 1905	20 6 11
	£732 4 6		£732 4 6
		By Balance	£552 5 3

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.S.I.A.,
Official Auditor Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

Sydney, 9th August, 1906.

MISSION WORK IN BUSH OF AUSTRALIA ACCOUNT.

Dr. 31st JULY, 1906. Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.
To Payments per Instructions of General Assembly of Australia—			By Balance, July 31st, 1905	53 17 5
To Presbyterian Church in Queensland	28 11 0		,, Interest, ...	1 4 7
,, ,, ,, in West Australia	28 11 0		,, Amount received from Presbyterian Church of England	25 0 0
		57 2 0		
,, Balance		25 0 0		
		£82 2 0		£82 2 0
			,, Balance	£25 0 0

Dr. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA HOME MISSION ACCOUNT. Cr.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance in hand	8 10 6	By Balance, July 31, 1905	8 4 3
		,, Interest to December 31, 1905	0 6 3
	£8 10 6		£8 10 6
		,, Balance	£8 10 6

Dr. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA FOREIGN MISSIONS ACCOUNT. Cr.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Amount Transferred to General Assembly Travelling Expenses Account, per Instructions of General Assembly	6 13 3	By Balance, July 31, 1905	6 13 3

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.S.I.A.,
Official Auditor Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

Sydney, 9th August, 1906.

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Sydney:

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