

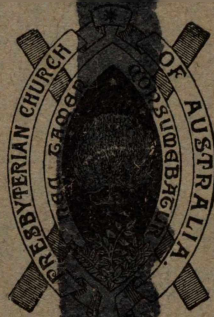
2289

MINUTES

PROCEEDINGS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Presbyterian Church of Australia.



HELD IN MELBOURNE SEPTEMBER, 1909.

SESSION SEVENTH.

MELBOURNE:
BROWN & CO., PRINTERS, QUEEN STREET.

The ...
of ...
...
...
...
...

BLY

ralia.

NEW STANDING ORDER.

The following words have been added to Standing Order 104 :—

“ In appeals the expense of printing shall in the first instance be borne by the appellant or appellants, and by the party losing when the case is finally decided, unless remitted or distributed by the Assembly.”

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES IV. AND X.

Article IV. of the Deed of Union has been amended by omitting “and” after the word “Ministry,” and adding thereto the words “and Home Missions so far as hereinafter provided.”

Article X. has been amended by adding thereto the words “and to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to raise money and otherwise assist the Home Mission operations of the Church.”

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



HELD IN MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1909.
SESSION SEVENTH.

MELBOURNE:
BROWN, PRIOR & CO., PRINTERS, QUEEN STREET.

1909.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Officials of the General Assembly	3
Professors and Lecturers of the Theological Halls ...	4
Notanda	5
Minutes of General Assembly	7
List of Committees	54
Address	ii.
Appeal	iii.
Overtures	v.
Petitions	xi.
Reports	xvi.
Returns	xciii.
Communication	xcv.
Financial Statement	xcvi.
Index	xcix.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Right Rev. the Moderator:

THE REV. JOHN FERGUSON, 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—REV. DAVID STOW ADAM, M.A., B.D.

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 of Systematic Theology and Apologetics—REV. R. G. MACINTYRE, M.A., B.D.

Professor of Exegetical Theology of the New Testament and Historical Theology—REV. THOMAS E. CLOUSTON, D.D.

“Steel” Lecturer in Pastoral Theology—REV. R. SCOTT WEST.

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 G. R. S. REID, M.A.

Hebrew—REVS. J. V. MCNAIR and R. E. DAVIES, M.A.

Greek—REVS. R. NAIRN, M.A., and J. H. ROBERTSON, M.A.

History—REVS. G. DAVIDSON, M.A., and D. MACRAE STEWART.

Moral Philosophy—REVS. KARL FÖRSTER, M.A., and JOHN EDWARDS, B.A.

Mental Philosophy—REVS. H. KELLY, M.A., and J. KINGHORN.

FOR EXIT EXAMINATION,

Theology—REVS. D. SMITH, M.A., and W. H. COOPER, B.D.

Church History—REVS. J. KEMP BRUCE and S. FRASER, M.A.

New Testament Greek—REVS. JAMES MALCOLM, B.D., and J. GELLIES, B.D.

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

Apologetics—REVS. E. N. MERRINGTON, M.A., Ph.D., and W. G. MACONOCHE, M.A.

FOR HOME MISSION EXAMINATION.

Logic—REVS. WM. TAIT, M.A., and T. S. CRAWFORD, M.A.

Greek—REVS. H. C. MATTHEW, M.A., and JOHN AULD, JNR., M.A.

History—REVS. ÆNEAS MACDONALD, M.A., and J. J. GILMORE, B.A.

English—REVS. A. GILLISON, M.A., and G. A. GORDON, B.A.

Scripture and Catechism—REVS. ALEXANDER McDONALD, M.A., and A. P. CAMERON, B.A.

Mental Philosophy—REVS. SMITH MCBAIN, B.A. and JOHN PATERSON, M.A.

Moral Philosophy—REV. A. J. DAVIDSON, M.A.

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

Entrance Examinations, Melbourne and Sydney, begin 8th February, 1910, and 5th April, 1910.

Home Mission Examination begins 5th July, 1910.

Exit Examination begins 5th September, 1910.

NOTANDA.

Special attention is directed to the following matters.

PLACE and **DATE** of Meeting of next Assembly: At Sydney on the 28th day of September, 1910, at 7 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS, &c.—

Ministers	...	...	Minute 37 (6)
Clerks of Kirk Sessions	...	...	Minute 84
Presbyteries	...	...	Minute 84
State Assemblies	...	...	Minutes 16 (6), 55, 60, 84
State Assemblies of N.S.W. and Vic.	...	...	Minute 46 (4) and (10)
State Assembly of Queensland	...	...	Minute 71
Congregations	...	...	Minute 28 (5)

Committees—

Home Mission Committees of State Assemblies	...	...	Minute 46 (6)
Board of Missions	...	...	Minute 16 (11)
Home Missions	...	...	Minute 48
Finance	...	...	Minute 87
College	...	...	Minutes 60, 75

REMITTS—

To State Assemblies and Presbyteries.

Article III.	...	...	Minute 54
Training Home Mission Agents	...	...	Minute 57
New Standing Order	...	...	Minute 38
Amendment of Articles IV. and X.	...	...	Minute 51



Presbyterian Church of Australia.

MINUTES

OF THE

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

SESSION SEVENTH.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Wednesday, the
22nd day of September, 1909, at 7 p.m.*

1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia Opening. convened. Public worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Retiring Moderator (Mr. Peter Robertson), who preached from Colossians I : 28. After sermon, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

2. The Roll of Assembly, as printed in the White Book with Roll. 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.

Moderator.

3. The Moderator, having intimated that the Moderator and ex-Moderators of the General Assembly, and the Moderators of the State Assemblies, had agreed to nominate for the Moderator's chair the Rev. John Ferguson, Minister of St. Stephen's, Sydney, the nomination was approved by acclamation, and Mr. Ferguson declared the Moderator of the Assembly.

Mr. Ferguson was conducted to the chair, and delivered a suitable address.

Ex-Moderator.

4. On the motion of the Rev. J. C. Macdonald, seconded by Mr. T. W. Fleming, the Assembly resolved:—"That the cordial thanks of the Assembly be given to the ex-Moderator for the earnest sermon preached by him at the opening of the Assembly, and also for his valuable services to the Church during his term of office."

Hon. G. W.
Fuller.

5. The Hon. G. W. Fuller, Minister of Home Affairs, being present, was introduced by the Rev. Jno. Burgess to the Moderator, and was welcomed by him.

Business
Committee.

6. The Report of the Business Committee was submitted by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre, who moved:—

"That the Report be approved; the evening of Thursday, 23rd September, set apart for the celebration of the quarter-centenary of the birth of John Calvin; and the requests of the Laymen's Missionary Movement and of the Evangelistic Committee of the Victorian Church, to address the House through representatives from these organizations, agreed to."

The motion was approved.

Spiritual
Independence.

7. The Rev. George Tait gave notice of his intention, at a future Sederunt, to draw the attention of the Assembly to the recent Judgment of the High Court of Australia in the Queensland Church case, and to move:—

"That the General Assembly of Australia, having had its attention directed to a recent Judgment of the High Court of Australia, based on the implied doctrine that The Presbyterian Church of Australia is nothing

more than a voluntary association, and (1) that all its powers are derived from, and bounded by an agreement or consensual compact formulated by its members and sanctioned by the State; (2) that the Civil Court has power to interpret the terms of this agreement and to declare 'illegal and null and void' decisions of the Church in spiritual matters which carry any civil effect, and which seems to it beyond the powers conferred by the compact, or to have been reached by a process not expressly provided in the compact, or by a process which in some particular or particulars has departed from a process provided in the compact."

" Resolve :—

(1) "That while this Church has always repudiated the Papal claim of the temporal supremacy of the Church, and has, in particular, always acknowledged and affirmed (1) that the Church's authority is purely spiritual, and extends only to her own members; (2) that the Church and its members are subject to the Civil Magistrate in all civil matters; (3) that the Church and her members have the right to appeal to the Civil Courts to determine the civil effects of her spiritual sentences; (4) that the Civil Magistrate has the right to judge whether the Church, under colour and pretence of spiritual action for spiritual ends, has maliciously injured any man's property or good name; yet this Church cannot, by silence, acquiesce in the doctrine of the Church implied as the basis of the judgment above referred to, that doctrine being directly contrary to the teaching of her subordinate standard that the Church is not a human institution the creation of man, and ordered by human discretion, for temporal ends, but a divine institution the creation of the Spirit of God working in the mind, the heart, the conscience of men, and ordered in all things by the mind and will of Christ as revealed in His Word and interpreted by His own promised 'presence and spirit,' for spiritual ends.

(2) "That for the Civil Magistrate to regard and treat the Church as nothing more than a voluntary Association, drawing all its powers in the first instance from a compact, or consensual agreement, and ultimately from the Civil Magistrate, as supreme interpreter of that compact, is to ignore the essential fact that, while connection with the Association may be based on consent, the Association itself, according to its own Confession of Faith, to which every one who accepts office in

it assents, is not based on consent but upon conscience and the express ordinance of God.

(3) "That as according to Lord Mansfield 'the eternal principles of natural religion are part of the common law,' and 'the essential principles of revealed religion are part of the common law,' and both natural religion and revealed religion teach the distinction between 'things that are Cæsar's' and 'things that are God's,' and between obedience to men and obedience to God, the doctrine that the law can make no distinction between societies, the creation of man and ordered by human discretion, and a society the creation of the Spirit of God, and ordered according to God's will, is a doctrine the Church cannot in loyalty to Jesus Christ, the only Head of His Church, accept.

(4) "That this Church is the less ready to accept this doctrine as final, seeing that in the United States of America where, as in Australia, there is no Established Church, the State Courts and the Supreme Court of the United States have, dealing with the same fundamental principles of common law as are operative in British communities, built up a coherent system of the legal relation between Civil and Ecclesiastical Courts, the leading principle of which is 'that it is of the essence of religious unions, and of their right, to establish tribunals for the decision of questions arising among themselves, that those decisions should be binding in all cases of ecclesiastical cognisance, subject only to such appeals as the organism itself provides for' (Watson v. Jones, 1872, Wallace's Supreme Court Reports, Vol. XIII., page 679).

(5) "That the right of individuals in obedience to Christ to form themselves, under the guidance of Christ's Word and Spirit, into an organised Society, whose members and office-bearers shall be subject in matters of doctrine, worship and discipline, to chosen office-bearers and tribunals recognised as appointed by Christ to exercise government in the Society without direction or control by any outside power, is a necessary corollary from that liberty of conscience, and right of private judgment, which the law recognises as the inalienable right of man as a moral and religious being.

(6) "That the doctrine implied in the judgment referred to, viz:— that the Church is nothing more than a voluntary association founded

upon a compact sanctioned and interpreted by the Civil Magistrate; opens wide the door to that supremacy of the Civil Magistrate in Ecclesiastical affairs, against which the Presbyterian Church fought through long years of persecution, and which was finally relinquished by the State in 1690, by an Act of the First Parliament of William and Mary, afterwards ratified by the Act of Security in the Treaty of Union with England in 1707, and declared to be unalterable and an essential condition of the Union, which Act of 1690 rescinded the Act of Charles II., which asserted the 'Royal supremacy over all persons and in all causes ecclesiastical,' and ratified the Westminster Confession of Faith which maintains in the following passages, in language that cannot be misunderstood, the supremacy of Christ and of the Church under Him in Spiritual matters: 'The Lord Jesus, as King and Head of His Church, hath therein appointed a government in the hand of Church officers, distinct from Civil Magistrate. To these officers the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven are committed' (Chapter XXX., Sections 1 and 2). 'It belongs to Synods and Councils ministerially to determine controversies of faith, and cases of conscience; to set down rules and directions for the better ordering of the publick worship of God and government of His Church; to receive complaints in cases of maladministration, and authoritively to determine the same' (Chapter XXXI., Section 3).

(7) "That this Church, in her Declaratory Statement, Section 6, has expressly repudiated interpretations of the doctrine of the Civil Magistrate, as that doctrine is set forth in Chapter XXIII. of her Confession of Faith, which have by some been held to condition and overturn the doctrines of Chapters XXX. and XXXI., as quoted above, and to authorise the intrusion of the Civil Magistrate into the Spiritual Sphere for the purpose of reviewing or annulling the Spiritual Sentences of the Church, and the intrusion of the Church into the Civil Sphere for the purpose of using the Civil Power to enforce her Spiritual Sentences by Civil Penalties, and declared both these intrusions to be 'inconsistent with the liberty of conscience and the right of private judgment,' which she claims for her members acting in their capacity as office-bearers, to whom Christ has entrusted the government of His Church, or submitting for conscience sake to that government, and for all men, and as issuing in persecution.

(8) "That this Church believes that it was the intention of the various State Parliaments, in recognising the Westminster Confession

of Faith, which read in the light of Section 6 of the Declaratory Statement, so clearly asserts the Supremacy of Christ, and under Him of the Church, in spiritual matters, as the basis of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to recognise the authority of the Church, to exercise all the functions, and perform all the duties proper to a Church as defined in this Constitution.

(9) "That this Church will take, and if need be invite other Churches to join them in taking, all competent steps to get the essential characteristic of the Churches of our land, as religious societies founded on the conscientious belief of their members, and entitled to hold and act on their belief in the management of their Spiritual affairs, recognised as in harmony with the fundamental principles of British law, or if need be to get legislative recognition of the right of Churches recognised and tolerated by the State to govern themselves according to their interpretation of the mind and will of Christ, the only Head of the Church."

29

Business
Committee.

8. The following were appointed the Business Committee of the Session:—Revs. G. Tait, Prof. Macintyre, Principal Harper, John Burgess, P. J. Murdoch, Alex. Stewart, Prof. Adam, Dr. Meiklejohn, S. Martin, W. C. Radcliffe, Wm. Gray, J. Russell, A McCarlie; Messrs. W. G. Geikie, Wm. Wood, W. S. Littlejohn, Dr. MacFarland, A. S. Lang, W. J. Hill, D. Storrer, J. F. Christie; Prof. Macintyre, Convener.

Selection
Committee.

9. The following were appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Assembly representatives on the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and the Standing Committees, with instructions to meet to-morrow (Thursday), at 9 a.m., and to give the names proposed:—Revs. John Walker (convener), J. Barnaby, R. M. Fergus, D. M. Barnet, J. C. Macdonald, George Ewan, S. Martin, William Gray, J. Heyer, A. Crow, David Walker, John Kirkland, G. S. Mackay, John Mackinnon, Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, T. W. Fleming, G. Kerr, R. Bracks.

Scrutineers.

10. It was agreed that additional nominations may be received up to the close of Thursday morning'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 voting papers:—Revs. C. A. White (convener), Hume Robertson, T. W. Smythe, J. M. Campbell.

11. The petitions of Mr. W. Bennett, Mr. W. Evans, Mr. W. Ride, Mr. H. O'Sullivan were remitted to the College Committee, with instructions to report to a future Sederunt.

The Presbytery of Adelaide applied for authority to meet on Friday at 11 a.m.

The authority was granted.

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

SECOND SEDERUNT.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., on Thursday, 23rd day of September, 1909, at 10 a.m.

12. The members of the Assembly united in a Communion Service, ^{The} conducted by the Moderator; assisted by the Rev. A. Crow, the Rev. W. ^{Communion.} H. Steele, the Rev. T. W. Smythe, and the Rev. Professor Macintyre. At the conclusion of the service, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

13. The minutes of the First Sederunt were confirmed, and the ^{Roll.} Roll was finally adjusted and sustained as follows:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

Rev. W. H. Ash
 Alex. Clark
 B. D. Morris
 W. G. Sharpe, B.A.

Doctor Kirkland
 Mr. J. Simmons
 J. L. Brown

PRESBYTERY OF THE CLARENCE.

Rev. Andrew Chapman, M.A.	|	Mr. William John Irwin
<u>J. C. Johnstone, M.A.</u>	|	William J. Leeson
		A. Cameron

PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN.

Rev. Alexander J. Doig, B.A.	|	Mr. William Affleck
------------------------------	--	---------------------

PRESBYTERY OF THE HASTINGS.

Rev. George Montgomery Torbett, M.A.	|	Mr. William Thomson
--------------------------------------	--	---------------------

PRESBYTERY OF THE HAWKESBURY.

Rev. G. A. Gordon, B.A.	|	Mr. Brinsley Hall, M.L.A.
W. R. Milne	|	A. Baker
R. Steel, M.A.	|	<u> </u>

PRESBYTERY OF THE HUNTER.

Rev. J. H. G. Auld, B.A.	|	Mr. John Breckenridge
A. S. McCook, B.A.	|	J. H. Jones
		John McDonald

PRESBYTERY OF ILLAWARRA.

Rev. J. H. Robertson, M.A.	|	Mr. Percy A. Robb
----------------------------	--	-------------------

PRESBYTERY OF THE LACHLAN.

Rev. W. F. Brown	|	Mr. Thos. Brown, M.H.R.
------------------	--	-------------------------

PRESBYTERY OF MONARO.

Rev. R. Cordiner, M.A.	|	Mr. J. C. Ryrie, J.P.
------------------------	--	-----------------------

PRESBYTERY OF MOREE.

Rev. J. Keith Miller	|	Mr. Hugh Currie
<u> </u>	|	D. W. Swan

PRESBYTERY OF MURRUMBIDGEE.

Rev. Geo. R. S. Reid, M.A.	|	Mr. R. H. Millington
W. D. Fairbairn, M.A.	|	Alexander Erskine

PRESBYTERY OF NEW ENGLAND.

Rev. W. H. Bradley
H. S. Buntine

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH SYDNEY.

Rev. J. J. Gilmore, B.A.
Alex. McKinlay
James Steele

Mr. A. J. Arnot
J. H. Beatson
E. H. Palmer

PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY.

Rev. E. N. Merrington, M.A.,
Ph. D.
John Ferguson
R. E. Davies, M.A.
W. M. Dill-Macky, D.D.
John Edwards, M.A.
Principal Harper, M.A.,
D.D.
C. W. Willis

Mr. W. G. Geikie
D. Elphinstone
P. D. McCormick
Dr. Marden
Mr. Stephen Mailer
Dr. T. Graham Campbell
Mr. J. A. McIntyre
Neil Livingstone

PRESBYTERY OF WAGGA WAGGA.

Rev. J. J. Jennings
J. McAndrew, M.A.

Mr. W. G. Balfour

PRESBYTERY OF YOUNG.

Rev. H. A. Hutchison, B.Sc.

Mr. Donald McDonald

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. John Burgess, M.A.
T. E. Clouston, B.A., D.D.
Professor Macintyre, M.A.,
B.D.
George Keith, M.A.
J. C. McDonald, M.A.
C. A. White, B.A.
D. M. Barnet, B.A.
James Cosh, B.A., B.D.
Richard Millar, B.A.
J. Kemp Bruce
David Bruce, D.D.
R. Scott West

Mr. J. H. Balfour
John Cameron
John Candlish
J. H. Goodlet
John Kirkland
William Wood
Hon. T. Brown, M.H.R.
Mr. Robert Craig
W. G. Crane
W. S. Park
David Walker
J. H. Beatson

VICTORIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT.

Rev. Chas. Robinson, B.A.	Mr. W. Rain
Chas. Cameron	W. Hogg
Robert Robertson, M.A.	J. Draffin

PRESBYTERY OF BEECHWORTH.

Rev. E. A. Forbes	Mr. Stephen J. McLean
Robert Jones	Mathew Smith

PRESBYTERY OF BENDIGO.

Rev. A. O. Hardie, M.A.	Rev. Dr. McKay
H. Carroll, B.A.	Mr. A. D. Fraser
F. A. Hagenauer, M.A.	

PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG.

Rev. H. C. Mathew, M.A.	Mr. W. Robertson
S. H. McGowan	J. Pettitt
J. McIntosh, M.A.	T. J. Finlay

PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND.

Rev. W. H. Steele, M.A.	Mr. James Hosack
W. Gray	

PRESBYTERY OF THE GOULBURN VALLEY.

Rev. J. Weir, B.A.	Mr. Geo. Hossack
C. J. Legate, M.A.	F. Parris
E. H. Chapple	Thos. Dixon

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Rev. R. J. Houston, M.A.	Mr. A. Turnbull
B. Williams	J. Smith

PRESBYTERY OF MACEDON.

Rev. D. G. Baillie, B.A.	Mr. J. Beattie
--------------------------	----------------

PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. G. S. Brodie	Mr. G. F. Flett
H. Swan	S. W. Williams

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH.

Rev. Professor Adam, M.A., B.D.	Mr. Alexander Byers
W. M. M. Alexander	John Galbraith
George Carson	Robert Henry
James Gibson	Andrew MacIntosh
S. G. McLaren, M.A.	John Mackinnon
Alexander Marshall, M.A., D.D.	W. P. M. Taylor
Professor Rentoul, M.A., D.D.	William Warrick
Alexander Stewart, M.A.	

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH.

Rev. D. Macrae Stewart	Mr. L. K. McNab
T. J. Smith, M.A.	T. J. Cunningham
J. Barnaby, M.A.	R. S. Turnbull
W. S. Rolland	J. Binnie
J. H. Mackay	A. G. Proudfoot
J. B. Galloway	W. Brunton
D. Millar	J. C. Howatt
J. Sinclair, B.A.	

PRESBYTERY OF MORTLAKE.

Rev. W. Thomson	Mr. G. S. McKay
A. R. Osborn, M.A.	C. J. Horn

PRESBYTERY OF PENOLA.

Rev. G. Martin	Mr. John Watson
----------------	-----------------

PRESBYTERY OF WIMMERA.

Rev. G. B. Murphy, B.A.	
-------------------------	--

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. J. Meiklejohn, M.A., D.D.	Dr. J. H. MacFarland
R. M. Fergus, M.A.	Mr. H. Hopkins
J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.	Hon. Jas. Balfour, M.L.C.
Hume Robertson, B.A.	Mr. J. M. Campbell
A. Gillison, M.A.	J. S. Walker
W. Fraser, B.A.	W. S. Littlejohn, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.	H. R. Reid
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	R. K. Gillespie
J. Walker	H. H. Kemp
Right Rev. Professor Skene, M.A.	R. Gillespie
Rev. D. A. Cameron, M.A.	N. Lyle
J. Crookston, M.A.	G. S. Mackay
F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D.	J. F. Parkinson

QUEENSLAND.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE.

Rev. Peter Robertson	|	Mr. Wm. Fitzgerald
James Gibson, M.A.		T. W. Wilson
S. Martin, M.A.		A. S. Lang

PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. J. I. Knipe, D.D.	|	Mr. George Stupart
------------------------	--	--------------------

PRESBYTERY OF ROCKHAMPTON.

Rev. T. W. Smythe	|	Mr. George R. Milleken
-------------------	--	------------------------

PRESBYTERY OF TOOWOOMBA.

Rev. J. Lundie, B.A.	|	Mr. W. Chisholm
D. McLennan		James Dougall

PRESBYTERY OF TOWNSVILLE.

Rev. Andrew Dunn, B.A.	|	Mr. John Philp
------------------------	--	----------------

ELECTED BY STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. George Ewan	|	Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Richard Kerr		Mr. T. Whalley

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF ADELAIDE.

Right Rev. Thomson Macmillan,	|	Mr. John Gordon
M.A.		W. J. Hill
William Gray		

PRESBYTERY OF BELALIE.

Rev. J. A. McLellan	|	Mr. J. Cram
---------------------	--	-------------

PRESBYTERY OF ONKAPARINGA.

Rev. A. MacLennan, M.A. | Mr. Robert Watt

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. A. J. Wade | Mr. T. W. Fleming

TASMANIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF HOBART.

Rev. Johannes Heyer, M.A. | Mr. William Woodside

PRESBYTERY OF LAUNCESTON.

Rev. J. Russell | Mr. D. Storrer, M.H.R.
T. Cunningham | S. Beattie

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDLANDS.

Rev. Wm. Tulloch | Mr. F. Burbury

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. Jas. Barr | Mr. Geo. Kerr

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF FREMANTLE.

Rev. A. McCarlie | Mr. R. Bracks

PRESBYTERY OF THE GOLDFIELDS.

Mr. R. W. Main | Mr. Chas. Crump

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

Rev. C. D. P. Taylor | _____
A. Crow | _____

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. A. S. C. James | Mr. T. F. Christie

Training of
Missionaries.

14. The Rev. T. J. Smith gave notice of his intention, when the question of the Training of Missionaries is before the House, to move:—

(1) That it be regarded as an essential in a Home Missionary's Training, that he pass at least one year in a Training Institute.

(2) That, in consequence, Training Institutes (on the analogy of our Deaconesses Institutes) be organised in the several capital cities—and especially in Sydney and Melbourne to begin with.

(3) That the Training Institutes be residential, and provide at least one year's practical instruction in preaching and pastoral work, together with as much knowledge of Scripture and the Confession as can be covered in the time.

(4) That the charge of such residence and training be not more than 20/- weekly; and length of session be not more than 40 weeks; special provision to be made for those who cannot pay this amount.

Wine at
Communion.

15. The Rev. Jas. Steele gave notice of his intention, at a future Sederunt, to move:—“That this Assembly affirms the expediency of the use of unintoxicating wine at the observance of the Lord's Supper, and direct that for the future such wine be used at the Communion in connection with the meetings of the General Assembly of Australia.”

Board of
Missions.

16. The Report of the Board of Missions was submitted by the Rev. A. Stewart.

It was moved by Mr. W. S. Park, and seconded by the Rev. F. H. L. Paton:—

(1) That the Assembly receive the Report.

(2) Express its profound and humble gratitude to God for His care and furtherance of the various foreign and heathen missionary enterprises of the Church in all its branches.

(3) Thank the Board and the different Committees, with their Executives and Conveners, for their conduct of the work.

(4) Record its satisfaction with the work in the North Queensland Mission, and while refraining from expressing any opinion of the

recent charge, which is still *sub judice*, affirm its continued confidence in the character and work of the Rev. N. Hey.

(5) Welcome the recently appointed assistants, Mr. R. H. Wilson and Mr. R. Hall, with their wives, to the service of the Assembly, at Aurukun and Weipa respectively, and instruct the College Committee to make arrangements for the examination of Messrs. Wilson and Hall under the Home Mission Scheme of preparation for the Ministry.

(6) Request the different State Churches supporting assistants on the North Queensland Field to assume the burden of providing them with necessary house accommodation, and meantime empower the Board to borrow for the provision of this accommodation, pending the compliance of the State Churches with the request, or the adoption of some other means.

7. Express the hope that the Western Australian Government will give to the proposed Aboriginal Mission the same financial help accorded to similar missions in connection with other Churches in Western Australia, and encourage the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia to take the necessary steps to secure a change in this direction.

(8) Direct the Board to forward in its name a message of sympathy to the Moravian Church in the present financial restriction of its Missions, and approve and ratify the terms of the revised Agreement between this Church and the Moravian Church for the working of this Mission in North Queensland, submitted in the Report.

(9) Approve the consideration by the forthcoming World's Missionary Conference in Edinburgh of the questions involved in the One-World Missionary Movement; appoint as delegates to the Conference the Rev. Alexander Stewart, M.A., Rev. David Ross, M.A., and Mr. W. S. Park; give the Board power to appoint substitutes for any of those who may be unable to accept the appointment, and grant to the delegates who accept commissions to represent this Church in the Supreme Courts of all sister Churches within whose bounds they may travel.

(10) Rejoice in the formation of the Laymen's Missionary Movement; accord it the hearty recognition of the Assembly, and commend it to the Laymen of the Church.

(11) Instruct the Board to prepare a new scheme of assessment for the North Queensland Mission to date from 1st October, 1910, and request the Clerks of the different State Assemblies to supply it with the necessary statistics of membership in May, 1910, and in the event of the General Assembly not meeting a year hence, empower the Board to collect on the system of the new scheme until it has been considered at next meeting of the Assembly.

(12) Allocate in accordance with the Report the sum of £79 13s. 11d. received for teaching in North Queensland to the deficit caused by the appointment of assistants, and authorise the balance of such deficit to be paid from the assessment for general expenses, requesting that in future the Churches supporting assistants shall hold themselves liable for their necessary travelling expenses.

(13) Regret that it is unable to allow the claim of the Rev. E. Brown for extra travelling, but remit to the Board to consider and deal with the case as one special in its circumstances.

(14) Authorise the Board to receive the deposit £172 9s. from the Australian Deposit and Mortgage Bank, and place the sum to credit of the General Account for contingencies.

(15) Approve the recommendation of the Board, that when a lady missionary or missionary's wife travels alone, her expenses be paid, but not oftener than once in three years.

The motion was approved

Thanks of
Assembly.

17. The thanks of the Assembly, through the Moderator, were given to Mr. W. S. Park, for his valuable services to the Missions; and to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. L. Pryde; the Hon. Auditor, Mr. W. L. Mollison; and the Acting Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Thompson, for the continuous and efficient help they have given the Church in its accounts.

Rev. N. Hey.

18. It was agreed to send, through the Moderator, the following telegram to the Rev. N. Hey:—"Assembly expresses continued confidence and heartfelt sympathy."

19. Mr. Robt. Gillespie, as a representative of the Laymen's ^{Laymen's} Missionary Movement, addressed the Assembly, and the thanks of the ^{Missionary} Assembly for his address were conveyed to him by the Moderator. ^{Movement.}

20. The Report of the Selection Committee was received, and ^{Selection} ordered to be posted in the Vestibule. ^{Committee.}

21. The Report of the Committee on a Sunday School Hymnal was ^{S.S.} submitted by the Rev. W. H. Ash, who moved:—"That the Assembly ^{Hymnal.} receive the Report; re-appoint the Committee; and authorise it to carry on, and if practicable conclude negotiations with the publishers and owners of the *Hymnary for the Young* for the issue of an enlarged edition of that book suitable for use in Australia."

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

22. The Report of the Committee on the Reception of Ministers ^{Reception of} was submitted by the Rev. A. McKinlay. ^{Minister.}

The Report was received.

In terms of the Report it was agreed:—

(1) To include the Calvinistic, Methodist, or Presbyterian Church of Wales in the designation of the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain and Ireland under Section A of the Regulations.

(2) To approve the action of the Committee relative to the reception of the Rev. E. Fox as an ordained minister eligible for a call.

(3) To pass from the Petition of the Rev. W. A. Hobson.

(4) To grant the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. Thomas J. Curtis.

(5) To grant the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. Wm. Watt.

(6) To record the emphatic disapproval of the Assembly of the action of the Presbytery of Launceston in irregularly ordaining Mr. J. B. Weir to the Ministry, but in the circumstances to condone the

irregularity to sustain the ordination of Mr. Weir, and to declare him a Minister of this Church, but not eligible for a call elsewhere than in the New Hebrides without the consent of the General Assembly, and to transmit a copy of this finding to the Presbytery of Launceston for insertion in its Records.

(7) To approve the action of the Committee in granting the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. John Lelean Cope.

(8) To grant the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. James Mills Stoops, and to declare him eligible for a call forthwith.

(9) To grant the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. John Smith, and to declare him eligible for a call forthwith.

(10) That the Petition of the Rev. W. F. Turton was irregular and could not be considered.

(11) Not to grant the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. John R. Thrum.

Dr. Chapman. 23. The Rev. C. A. White gave notice of his intention, at a future Sederunt, to move :—

(1) This Assembly resolves to place on record its gratitude to the King and Head of the Church for the Spiritual impetus and uplift which has come to many of our Congregations through the Chapman-Alexander Mission, and its high appreciation of the work of the Missioners

(2) The Assembly cordially joins with other religious bodies, in extending an invitation to Dr. Chapman and Mr. Charles M. Alexander to return to Australia, for an extended Evangelistic Campaign, at such time in the near future as may be possible.

(3) That, inasmuch as Dr. Chapman is an honoured minister and agent of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, this Assembly sends its cordial greetings to that Church, and earnestly asks that Dr. Chapman be granted the necessary leave of absence to enable him to accept the invitation from Australia.

(4) Appoint a Representative Committee to co-operate with other religious bodies in carrying out the work should the invitation be accepted.

24. The Rev. Hume Robertson gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Statistics is before the House, to move:—"That the Assembly receive the Report; ask the several State Assemblies concerned to take such steps as may seem advisable to obtain returns from all Charges and Mission Stations; recommend the use of Baptismal Certificates: urge Kirk Sessions to compile and keep a list of Presbyterians within the parish, giving names and ages of children; suggest, that where practicable, a Special Officer, to be called a Registrar, be appointed to attend to the registration of Presbyterians, and to collect and furnish statistical information."

25. The Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn gave notice of his intention at a future Sederunt to move:—"That in the event of the Rev. W. F. Turton submitting to the Committee for the Reception of Ministers a certificate of disjunction from the Congregational Union of New South Wales, the Committee be empowered to deal with and issue the case." Rev. W. F. Turton.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in the Scots Church at 7.45 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

At Melbourne, and within Scots Church on Thursday, the 23rd day of September, 1909, at 7.45 p.m.

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

26. By arrangement, addresses were delivered by the Moderator; Calvin by the Rev. A. McCarlie, of Western Australia, on "Calvin as Man and

Reformer;" by Professor Macintyre, of St. Andrew's College, Sydney, on "Calvin as Theologian;" by Professor Adam, of Ormond College, Melbourne, on "Calvin as Ecclesiastic;" by Professor Rentoul, on "Calvin as Pioneer of Civil and Religious Liberty;" and the Praise was led by the Organist and Choir of Scots Church.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in the Assembly Hall to-morrow at 10 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on
Friday, the 24th day of September, 1909, at 10 a.m.*

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

The Minutes of the Second and Third Sederunts were confirmed.

Mr. M.
McGillivray.

27. It was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Neil Livingstone, to send, through the Moderator, a letter of sympathy to Mr. Malcolm McGillivray.

Finance.

28. The Report of the Finance Committee was submitted by Colonel Goodlet, who moved:—

(1) That the Assembly receive the Report.

(2) Authorise that payment of expenses of members of the Assembly be on the same basis as formerly, namely — That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1909, 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 £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.

(3) Resolve that the honorarium to the Moderator and the Clerk of Assembly be the same as formerly, namely, £30 each; and that to future Moderators the honorarium be £50.

(4) Authorise the assessment for General Assembly's expenses 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.

(5) Recommend congregations to adopt the Church Hymnary where practicable.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Neil Livingstone, and approved.

29. The Rev. George Tait, according to notice, moved the resolutions recorded in Minute 7. Spiritual
Independence.

The motion was seconded by Mr. John Cameron.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer, and seconded by the Rev. T. J. Smith:—"That all the words after the word 'That' be omitted, with the view of inserting the words 'In as much as the High Court of Australia refused to grant the right to appeal against the decision of the Full Court in Queensland, which ruled that the injunction seeking to restrain the Presbytery of Brisbane from carrying on its work was incompetent because no civil right had been infringed, and as this decision henceforth becomes law to the effect that civil courts of justice have no jurisdiction over acts that are purely spiritual, or if carrying civil effects do not infringe civil rights, the Assembly rejoices that the spiritual independence of the Church has been declared and thereby assured by so high a tribunal.'"

At this stage the motion was adjourned until to-morrow at 10 a.m.

34 35

30. The ballot was taken.

Ballot.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in the Scots Church at 7.45 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Scots Church, on Friday, 24th September, 1909,
at 7.45 p.m.*

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

Home Mission
Demonstration.

31. By arrangement, addresses on various aspects of Home Mission work were delivered by the Rev. A. Crow, of Western Australia; the Rev. George Ewan, of Queensland; the Rev. J. C. Macdonald, of New South Wales; and Professor Darnley Naylor, of Adelaide University, as representing South Australia, and the Praise was led by the Organist and Choir of St. George's, East St. Kilda.

On the motion of the Rev. Principal Harper, the thanks of the Assembly were given to the speakers.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in the Assembly Hall at 10 a.m. to-morrow, which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Saturday
25th September, 1909, at 10 a.m.*

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

The minute of the Fourth Sederunt was confirmed.

Scrutineers.

32. The Report of the Scrutineers and the Returns from State Assemblies were received, and the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and the Standing Committees appointed in terms thereof.

33. Professor Darnley Naylor, of the Adelaide University, being present, was welcomed by the Moderator.

Professor
Darnley
Naylor.

34. The discussion on the resolutions relative to Spiritual Independence was resumed, again postponed, and made an Order of the Day for 11 a.m. on Monday.

Spiritual
Independence.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in the Assembly Hall, on Monday at 10 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Monday,
27th September, 1909, at 10 a.m.*

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

The minutes of the Fifth and Sixth Sederunts were confirmed.

35. The Rev. P. J. Murdoch gave notice of his intention, at a future Sederunt, to move:—"That inasmuch as the General Assembly is informed that the State Assembly of Queensland has recalled its sentence of suspension passed on the Rev. W. S. Frackelton; and inasmuch as such action may be regarded as involving a surrender of the independent jurisdiction of the Church in Spiritual things; but, further, inasmuch as the General Assembly cannot obtain a report regarding this action from the State Assembly of Queensland during this Session, that the General Assembly refrain from judging the action of the State Assembly of Queensland meanwhile, but direct it to present a full report, not only regarding the action now referred to, but also regarding any further action which may be taken by it or by the Courts under it, in connection with this matter, to the General Assembly at its next meeting."

Queensland
State
Assembly.

39, 171.

Ministers and
Parliament.

36. The Rev. W. M. M. Alexander gave notice of his intention, at a future Sederunt, to move:—"That, in the opinion of the Assembly, a Minister of this Church who announces his candidature for Legislative honours should demit his ministerial status."

Public
Questions.

37. The Report on Public Questions was submitted by the ex-Moderator, the Rev. Peter Robertson, who moved:

(1) That the Assembly receive the Report.

(2) Approve of the action of the ex-Moderator in receiving, on behalf of the Assembly, the portrait of the Rev. John Meiklejohn, D.D., the first Moderator of the Assembly; thank the members of the Congregation of Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, for their handsome gift, a fitting memento of the Union of the Presbyterian Churches of Australia, and a faithful representation of one who, even for his work's sake, the Church delights to honour, and request the Church in the State of Victoria to give it a place in their Assembly Hall until such time as the General Assembly may have a hall of its own; and, further, appoint the unveiling of the portrait an order of the day for 11 a.m. to-morrow.

(3) Approve of the action of the ex-Moderator in having prepared and presented to the Governor-General an Address of Welcome on his arrival in Australia.

(4) Approve of the action of the ex-Moderator in issuing a circular to the Church in Queensland on the Bible in State Schools question; commend the Churches in the States in which the law permits to make full use of their opportunities for giving Bible instruction to our children in the State Schools; and urge the Ministers and people in Victoria and Queensland to aid to the full measure of their influence the securing of a like boon in their States.

(5) Recommend the Committee to have prepared, or to secure a simple manual of Presbyterianism for use by the young people of the Church at as early a date as possible.

(6) Re-affirm its protest against the use of patent medicines, and other means adopted by many to sap and destroy the best interests of our national life; and resolve to issue the pastoral letter now prepared and laid upon the table of the Assembly, to be read

in all our Churches; and urge upon Ministers and Office-bearers the duty of using every favourable opportunity of impressing upon the minds of those under their care a due sense of the value of pure family life, in the interests of national life as well as the spiritual life of the individual and well being of the Church of Christ.

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

38. The Overture anent expense of printing papers in Appeal cases was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee, who moved:—“That the Overture be sustained, and the following words added to Standing Order, 104—‘In appeals the expense of printing shall, in the first instance, be borne by the appellant or appellants; and by the party losing when the case is finally decided, unless remitted or distributed by the Assembly.’” Appeal
Cases.

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

39. The consideration of the Resolution on Spiritual Independence was resumed. Spiritual
Independence.

The amendment of the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer was rejected.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Professor Adam, and seconded by the Rev. Jno. Burgess:—“That the following words be inserted in the motion after the words ‘High Court of Australia’—‘while expressing satisfaction that the High Court has affirmed the principle that the Civil Court will not entertain any plea to restrain or interfere with the actions or procedure of a Church Court where no actual infringement of a civil right can be pleaded, at the same time, express its conviction that the principles and constitution of this Church have been misunderstood and misinterpreted by judges who in interpreting the conditions under which a minister holds office in this Church, have affirmed that it is no offence against the constitution of this Church, and no breach of his ordination vow for a minister to appeal to a Civil Court to interfere with the discipline and order of ecclesiastical polity and jurisdiction, and appoint a special committee to prepare a statement in regard to the Church’s claim to spiritual independence and jurisdiction, and report to next Assembly.’”

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Dr. McCay, and

seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul:—"That the following words be inserted instead of those proposed by Professor Adam—"Resolve that, as the judgment of the High Court has made no change in the relationship of 'Spiritual' and 'Civil' powers, as affirmed in well known judgments, this Assembly does not deem it necessary or advisable to make new declarations or legislation on the subject.'"

The amendment was rejected.

It was moved as an amendment by Professor Macintyre, and seconded by Rev. John Walker:—"That all the words in Professor Adam's amendment between the words 'at the same time' and the words 'and appoint' be omitted, with the view of inserting other words."

The amendment was rejected.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch, and seconded by Rev. Professor Macintyre:—"That the words 'in spiritual matters' be inserted in the amendment after the words 'polity and jurisdiction.'"

The amendment was approved.

The amendment, as thus amended, was approved and inserted in the motion.

The motion as thus amended was approved, and the following Committee appointed to nominate a Committee in terms thereof:—Revs. Professor Adam, P. J. Murdoch, John Walker, Principal Harper, Hume Robertson, A. McKinley, R. Steel, and Messrs. A. G. Proudfoot and A. S. Lang; the Rev. John Walker, Convener.

The motion is as follows:—"That the General Assembly of Australia, having had its attention directed to a recent judgment of the High Court of Australia, while expressing satisfaction that the High Court has affirmed the principle that the Civil Court will not entertain any plea to restrain or interfere with the actions or procedure of a Church Court where no actual infringement of a civil right can be pleaded, at the same time, express its conviction that the principles and constitution of this Church have been misunderstood and misinterpreted by judges who, in interpreting the conditions under which a minister holds office in

this Church, have affirmed that it is no offence against the constitution of this Church, and no breach of his ordination vow for a minister to appeal to a Civil Court to interfere with the discipline and order of ecclesiastical polity and jurisdiction in spiritual matters, and appoint a special committee to prepare a statement in regard to the Church's claim to spiritual independence and jurisdiction and report to next Assembly."

The Revs. Dr. Rentoul, Dr. Dill Macky, Dr. Knipe, Dr. McCay, James Gibson, and Mr. Wm. Brunton dissented from the motion, for the following reasons:—

Reasons of Dissent.

(1) Because the decision of the High Court has made no change in the relation of the "spiritual power" and the "civil power" as recognised in previous well-known judgments, but simply declares what is British law upon the subject. No ground of necessity for any new legislation or declaration on the question is therefore necessary.

(2) Because the Full Court and the High Court have declared in the most explicit way:—"The Court will not interfere with the administration of the domestic affairs of a voluntary association such as the Presbyterian Church of Australia, unless such a course becomes necessary for the protection of some civil right." (See Full Court decision, State Reports p. 90, endorsed by High Court.) The spiritual jurisdiction of the Churches and of their Courts is therefore not in the least touched, nor is their jurisdiction affected so long as they observe their own laws, and keep true to their own Rules and Forms.

(3) Because the right to appeal to the Civil Courts in respect to personal damage or hurt done to any minister or member of the Church by ecclesiastical decisions is fully admitted by the highest Presbyterian ecclesiastical authorities. Thus Sir Henry Moncrieff declares:—"The jurisdiction and government thus claimed regard only *spiritual* condition rights and privileges, they do not interfere with the jurisdiction of secular tribunals, whose determinations as to all temporalities, and as to all civil consequences attached to ecclesiastical decisions, the Church hath ever admitted and doth admit, to be exclusive and ultimate, as she has ever given and inculcates implicit obedience thereto." He also declares:—"Our doctrine does not involve a claim on the part of the Church authorities to be the sole judges of what is spiritual and what is civil" and he further confesses (as does Mr. Taylor Innes) that it is a question of great difficulty.

(4) That the effort made by Ecclesiastics and Ecclesiastical Courts

to belittle and limit the power and judgments of the Authority of the Civil Law in matters of Ecclesiastical decisions which may seriously affect the civic rights of ministers and other members of the Church, and which are necessarily bound up with their means of living, their good name, their status and their honour, is hurtful to the influence the Church should have upon human society as the highest exponent of mercy, equity and justice, it tends to weaken the confidence of the general public in the fairness and righteousness of the Church as claiming to represent the highest and most perfect law of Christian ethics, and in particular of brotherhood and love.

(5) Because the whole present trouble has arisen out of what the High Court has declared to have been on the part of the Ecclesiastical Courts in Queensland—a “summary proceeding” which “discharged all the provisions agreed to for the protection of accused” in the Church’s own Rules and Forms.

69,70,71
Dissents.

41. The Revs. A. Stewart, T. J. Smith and F. A. Hagenauer dissented from the motion.

The Presbytery of Maryborough applied for authority to meet to-morrow at 1 p.m.

The Congregation at Box Hill applied for authority to meet this evening at 8 p.m.

The Board of Management of the Camberwell Congregation applied for authority to meet this evening at 8 p.m.

The authority in each case was granted.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in the Scots Church at 7.45 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

At Melbourne, and within Scots Church, Collins Street, on Monday, 27th September, 1909, at 7.45 p.m.

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

42. By arrangement, addresses on various aspects of Foreign Missions were delivered by the Right Rev. Thomson Macmillan, the State Moderator of South Australia; by Mrs. Goodlet, of New South Wales; by Mr. W. S. Park, of New South Wales; by the Rev. A. Crow, of Western Australia; and by the Rev. F. H. L. Paton, of Victoria; and the Praise was led by the Choir of the Essendon Church.

Foreign
Missions
Demonstra-
tion.

On the motion of the Rev. A. Stewart, the thanks of the Assembly were conveyed to the speakers.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in the Assembly Hall at 10 a.m. to-morrow, which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Tuesday,
the 28th day of September, 1909, at 10 a.m.*

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

The minutes of the Seventh and Eighth Sederunts were confirmed.

43. The Moderator intimated the removal by death of Mr. John Gordon, one of the representatives of the Presbytery of Adelaide. The Rev. A. McCarlie led the Assembly in prayer. It was agreed to send a telegram of sympathy to Mrs. Gordon.

Mr. John
Gordon.

44. The Report on an Appendix to the Hymnary was submitted by the Rev. George Carson, who moved:—“That the Assembly receive and adopt the Report; instruct the Committee to arrange with Mr. Frowde for the printing of the Appendix which has been drawn up, and on the terms stated in his letter, leaving out the six tunes claimed by Novello; authorise the issue of as many copies of it as may be required in separate form, and its inclusion in all new books issued in the Australian editions at the prices suggested by the publisher.

Appendix to
Hymnary.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brachs, and approved.

Portrait
of Dr.
Meiklejohn.

45. By arrangement, the Moderator unveiled the portrait of the Rev. John Meiklejohn, D.D., presented to the Assembly by the members of the Congregation of Dorcas Street, South Melbourne; and addressed to Dr. Meiklejohn a few words expressing the Assembly's esteem and affection for him, and its gratitude to him for his many services to the Church; and Dr. Meiklejohn suitably replied.

The Right Rev. Professor Skene, on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, accepted the care of the portrait till such time as the General Assembly of Australia has a hall of its own in which to place it.

Home
Missions.

46. The Report on Home Missions was submitted, on behalf of the Convener, by the Rev. Principal Harper, who moved:—

(1) That the Assembly receive the Report.

(2) Express gratitude to God for the steady progress of Home Mission work throughout the Commonwealth.

(3) Applaud the courageous enterprise of the Home Mission Committee of Western Australia in establishing a central station for Gospel work in the North-West of Australia; particularly commend the devoted Superintendent to the grace of Jesus Christ, with earnest prayer that the presence of our Master shall be ever with him, and that in the power of the Holy Spirit his labours shall be crowned with success.

(4) Thank the State Assemblies of New South Wales and Victoria for their generous grants in aid of Western Australia and South Australia, and earnestly request them, through their Home Mission Committees, to give further assistance to the States named as their own urgent needs will permit.

(5) Appoint delegates to visit the Churches of Tasmania and South Australia, should these States desire it, to encourage Home Mission work and to strengthen the cause of our Church generally, and resolve that the collection taken at the Home Mission Demonstration in Melbourne be retained towards payment of the expenses of such delegates.

(6) Urge the Home Mission Committees of the several States to give diligent attention to the direction of the studies of the Home Mission Agents in their service.

(7) Recommend that as soon as possible every Home Mission Agent be a student in preparation for, or in connection with, a University, or under the Assembly's scheme of training.

(8) Thank the Presbyterian Church of England for their donation for Home Mission Work.

(9) Resolve to divide the sum of £45 15s., referred to in the Report, as follows:

To the Presbyterian Church of South Australia	£15	5	0
To the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia	15	5	0
To the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania ...	15	5	0

And direct these sums to be applied for Bush work.

(10) Recommend the State Assemblies of Victoria and New South Wales to give further consideration towards supplying the need of ministers in the other States of the Commonwealth, by bringing under the notice of students and licentiates the claims of the several fields.

The motion was seconded by Professor Macintyre, and approved.

47. The Returns on the Remit relative to Home Mission Agents and the Sacraments were submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee. H.M. Agents and the Sacraments.

A majority of the Presbyteries not having approved the Remit, it was discharged.

48. The Overtures from the Presbytery of Brisbane and the General Assembly of Queensland relative to Home Mission Agents and the Sacraments were submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee. Overture anent H.M. Agents and the Sacraments.

It was moved by the Rev. Professor Macintyre, and seconded by the Rev. G. S. Brodie:—"That the Assembly receive the Overture, and remit it to the Committee on Home Missions to carefully consider all the questions involved in the relation of Home Mission Agents to the administration of the Sacraments; to obtain information as to the conditions in the various States, and the practice in other Presbyterian Churches; and to include in their report, if thought advisable, an Overture and Regulations under which any such scheme should be carried out, with instructions to report to next Assembly."

The motion was approved.

Training of
H.M. Agents

49 The Rev. John Mathew gave notice of his intention, when the Overture on the Training of Home Missionaries is before the House, to move:—"That the Overture be approved, and the clause proposed to be added to the Articles of Agreement be sent down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies in terms of the constitution, and meanwhile be declared of *interim* authority."

Mr. Jas.
Cormack.

50. Mr. James Cormack, of Edinburgh, an elder of the United Free Church of Scotland, being present, was welcomed by the Moderator, and addressed the Assembly.

The Assembly adjourned to meet this evening at 7.30, which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Tuesday, the 28th day of September, 1909, at 7.30 p.m.

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

The Report of the Business Committee was received, and adopted.

51. The Returns on the Remit relative to Home Missions were submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

Article IV.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Barnaby, and seconded by the Rev. Principal Harper.—"That the Assembly adopt the Overture and amend Article IV. by omitting 'and' after the word 'Ministry,' and adding thereto the words 'and Home Missions in so far as is hereinafter provided'; and Article X. by adding thereto the words 'and to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to raise money and otherwise assist the Home Mission operations of the Church.'"

The motion was approved.

52. The Returns on the Remit relative to the Training and Licensing of Home Mission Agents was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

Remit anent
Training
H.M. Agents.

A majority of Presbyteries not having approved the Remit, it was discharged.

53. The Overture anent the Training of Home Mission Agents was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

Overture
anent H.M.
Agents.

The Rev. Professor Adam was heard in support of the Overture.

It was moved by the Rev. John Mathew, and seconded by the Rev. W. M. M. Alexander :—" That the Overture be approved, and the following words inserted in Article VIII., Section 6, of the Articles of Agreement, after the word 'subjects'—'and also Home Mission Agents who have passed through a regular course of preliminary training appointed by the General Assembly'; and this proposed amendment be sent down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies in terms of Article XIII."

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Professor Macintyre, and seconded by the Rev. W. Gray :—" That the following words be inserted in the motion after the word 'Assembly'—'and the following words added to the same section of the same article 'provided that Home Mission Students shall not be required to pass in Hebrew, nor take Hebrew as a language as a part of their Theological Course, nor for the exit examination.'"

At this stage the discussion was adjourned to 11 a.m. to-morrow.

2-57

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

ELEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Wednesday, the 29th September, 1909, at 10 a.m.

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

The minutes of the Ninth and Tenth Sederunts were confirmed.

Overture
anent
Article III.

54. The Overture anent Article III. was introduced by the Rev. Jno. Burgess.

It was moved by the Rev. Jno. Burgess, and seconded by the Rev. W. M. M. Alexander :—" That the Overture be sustained, and remitted to State Assemblies and Presbyteries in the following terms :—

" III. The General Assembly shall be representative, and shall consist of an equal number of Ministers and Elders, elected partly by the State Assemblies and partly by the Presbyteries. Each State Assembly shall be represented by a number equal to one-sixteenth of its membership; and each Presbytery shall be represented by one Minister and one Elder for the first five sanctioned Charges or under, and an additional Minister and Elder for every additional five Charges after the first five, any *bona fide* acting Elder within a State being eligible for election by the Assembly or any Presbytery of that State."

The motion was approved.

Training
Institute for
H.M. Agents.

55. The Rev. T. J. Smith submitted the motion of which he had given notice in the following form :—" That the General Assembly send the following recommendations to the State Assemblies with a request that they consider them and report upon them to next General Assembly :—

(1) That every Home Mission Agent be required, before he is appointed to a Home Mission Station, to pass at least one year in a Training Institute.

(2) That, in consequence, Training Institutes (on the analogy of our Deaconesses Institutes) be organised in the several capital cities—and especially in Sydney and Melbourne to begin with.

(3) That the Training Institutes be residential, and provide at least one year's practical instruction in preaching and pastoral work, together with as much knowledge of Scripture and the Confession as can be covered in the time.

(4) That the charge of such residence and training be not more than 20/- weekly; and length of session be not more than 40 weeks; special provision to be made for those who cannot pay this amount."

The motion was approved.

56. The following were appointed the Committee on the Church's ^{Spiritual} Claim to ^{Independence} Spiritual Independence:—
Committee.

Rev. John Burgess	New South Wales
„ Dr Clouston	„
„ J. C. McDonald	„
„ Prof. Macintyre	„
„ Principal Harper	„
„ C. A. White	„
„ R. Scott West	„
„ W. Sweyn Macqueen	„
„ Dr. Merrington	„
„ Robert Steel	„
Colonel Goodlet	„
Mr. John Garland	„
„ J. A. Aitken	„
„ John Kirkland	„
Rev. Prof. Adam	Victoria
• „ Dr. Meiklejohn	„
„ P. J. Murdoch	„
„ John Walker	„
„ A. Gillison	„
„ J. F. Macrae	„
„ A. Stewart	„
„ George Tait	„
„ Dr. McCay	„
„ J. Mathew	„
„ F. A. Hagenauer	„
Mr. J. M. Campbell	„
„ A. G. Proudfoot	„
Dr. McFarland	„
Hon. James Balfour	„
Mr. Robert Gillespie	„
Rev. Dr. Hay	Queensland
„ W. C. Radcliffe	„
„ R. Kerr	„
„ Peter Robertson	„
„ James Gibson (Brisbane)	„
„ John Russell	Tasmania
Mr. D. Storrer, M.H.R.	„
Rev. W. Gray	South Australia
Mr. T. W. Fleming	„
Rev. F. E. Ozer	Western Australia
The Rev P. J. Murdoch, Convener.	

Overture
amendment
H.M. Agents.

57. The consideration of the Overture anent the Training of Home Mission Agents was resumed.

The Rev. Professor Macintyre, by leave of the House, withdrew his amendment, and substituted the following:—"That the Assembly sustain the Overture, and send down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies the following proposals:—

(1) In Article VIII., Section 6, after the word 'Assembly' add 'also Home Mission Agents who have not qualified through attendance at a University, but who have passed through a regular course of preliminary training appointed by the Assembly, may be admitted to the Entrance Examination.'

(2) Also send down the further proposal to add at the close of the previous proposal the following words, 'provided that Home Mission Agents shall not be required to pass in Hebrew, nor to take Hebrew as a language as a part of their theological course.'

And, further, agree that these proposals be counted as separate remits."

The amendment was approved, and declared to be the finding of the House.

Dr. Wilbur
Chapman.

58. A letter from Dr. Wilbur Chapman was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

The letter was received, and ordered to be printed in the Appendix.

Dr. T. R.
Cairns.

59. The Rev. Dr. T. R. Cairns being present, was welcomed by the Moderator.

Religion and
Morals and
S. Schools.

60. The Report of the Committee relative to Religion and Morals and Sabbath Schools was submitted by the Rev. W. S. Rolland, who moved:—

"That the Assembly receive the report; express gratitude to Almighty God for the spiritual uplift which has come to the Commonwealth through the Chapman-Alexander Mission; place on record its hearty approval of the sound principles upon which the Mission was conducted; and trust that the effect of the Mission will be felt in raising the moral tone of the whole Commonwealth.

“ Rejoice to know that so large a number of our young people are in our Sabbath Schools, and would acknowledge with gratitude the splendid services rendered by our teachers week by week with such devotion and faithfulness.

“ Recommend that an annual ‘ Young People’s Day ’ be arranged for in each State, on the third Sabbath of October, on which a prescribed form of service might be used in all our Sabbath Schools.

“ Rejoice to note that the training of teachers is receiving more attention than it has done in the past, and hope that where training cannot be effected in important centres by lectures, text books for training of teachers may be used.

“ Instruct the College Committee to add the subject of Pedagogics to the curriculum in our Theological Halls ; recommend the appointment of an annual Decision Day, or the carrying out of some similar method of bringing scholars to decision ; enjoin upon all its Sabbath Schools to make systematic memorizing of suitable portions of Scripture a part of the school work ; and direct that the Committee as to Religion and Morals and Sabbath Schools consist of the Conveners of the State of Religion Committee in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, the Convener of the Committee on ‘ Life and Work ’ in South Australia, the Convener of the Moderator’s Committee in Western Australia, and the Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees of our Church in all the States ; the Rev. W. S. Rolland, Convener.”

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

61. The Report of the College Committee on the Petitions re-
mitted to it, was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn. Petitions
from
Students.

In terms of the Report it was agreed :—

(1) That the Petition of Mr. W. Bennett be refused ; but that he be admitted to the Entrance Examination, and that he take the course of instruction in the Theological Hall, and pass in all the subjects save Greek and Hebrew. h xi

(2) That the Petition of Mr. W. Evans be not granted.

(3) That the Petition of Mr. W. Ride be granted on condition that he attend the classes of the third year in the Theological Hall and receive a certificate from the Senate that he has attended the classes and given satisfactory attention to the work.

(4) That the Petition of Mr. H. O'Sullivan be granted.

College
Committee.

The Report of the College Committee was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn, who moved:—

“That the Assembly receive the Report; express gratification at the increased efficiency of St. Andrew's Hall through the appointment of two additional professors separated from a pastoral charge.

“Approve of the appointment of separate examiners for the H.M. Course.

“Remit to the Executive of the Committee the issuing of the H.M. Scheme as thus altered, and the syllabuses for the H.M. and Entrance Examinations, 1911 and 1912.

“Approve of the granting of the exit certificate to H. R. Grassick.

“Authorise the Presbytery of Sydney to take Mr. Wm. Ferris on trial for license.

“Approve of the Committee's action in granting Messrs. R. H. Wilson and Robert Hall permission to take the H.M. Training Course, with a view to the ministry.

“Agree that the text of the English Bible be part of the Exit Examination, and that Latin be eliminated from the Entrance Examination.

“Thank the Examiners for their work, and agree to appoint the following to fill the vacancies in the list of Examiners:—Entrance—Rev. Karl Förster, M.A., Moral Philosophy; Rev. J. H. Robertson, M.A., Greek; Rev. John Edwards, M.A., Moral Philosophy; Rev. G. R. S. Reid, M.A., English. Exit—Rev. W. H. Cooper, B.D., Systematic Theology; Rev. J. Malcolm, B.D., Greek.

“Appoint the Rev. J. Kemp Bruce Chairman of the New South Wales section of the Committee; thank the Rev. H. M. Burns, B.D., for his faithful services as Hon. Sec., and also the Rev. R. M. Fergus, M.A., and agree to appoint Mr. Fergus to the position.

"Agree that an honorarium of not less than £20 per annum be granted to the Secretary of this Committee, and that the Theological Hall Committees of New South Wales and Victoria be recommended, through their State Assemblies, to provide the sum in equal proportions.

"Agree that an entrance fee of 5/- be charged in connection with all examinations under this Committee, except in the case of the Exit.

"Instruct the Executive to revise the Rules of the Home Mission Course and the Entrance Rules, with the view of bringing them into harmony with the decisions of the General Assembly."

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

62. The Rev. C. A. White, by leave of the House, submitted the motion of which he had given notice, and which is recorded in Minute 23, with the addition to clause 4 of the following words:—"and to correspond and co-operate with the Committees appointed by other Presbyterian Churches throughout the world to take part in a world wide Evangelistic movement under Presbyterian auspices." Dr. Chapman.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. A. Stewart, and approved; and the Moderator requested to nominate a Committee in consultation with the Revs. A. Crow, W. Gray, J. Russell, Peter Robertson, A. Stewart, C. A. White.

63. The Report on the *Record* was submitted by the Rev. W. S. Rolland, who moved:—"That the Assembly receive the Report, regret that the circulation of the *Record* is not more proportionate to the number of our Sabbath scholars throughout the Commonwealth, and cordially recommend its more general adoption as the Missionary Magazine of our Church, and appoint the Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees in all the States the Committee relative to the *Record*, with the Rev. W. S. Rolland as Convener." "Record."

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

64. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn:—"That the Assembly express its deep regret at the death of the Rev. R. S. Duff, D.D., formerly minister of Evandale, Tasmania, and for the last 25 years minister of St. George's United Free Church, Glasgow, who during his ministry took a deep interest in the welfare of the Presbyterian Church in Dr. R. S. Duff.

Australia, and rendered it important services, more particularly in connection with the securing of Agents to carry on the work of the Church; the Assembly further express its sympathy with his widow, and agree to send her a copy of this resolution."

The motion was seconded by Mr. T. F. Christie, and approved.

65. The Committee on an Appendix to the Hymnary was re-appointed, with Mr. A. S. Lang in place of the Rev. W. S. Macqueen.

The Presbytery of Ballarat applied for authority to meet to-morrow at 11 a.m.

The authority was granted.

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.30 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

TWELFTH SEDERUNT.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Wednesday, the 29th day of September, 1909, at 7.30 p.m.

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

The Report of the Business Committee was received and adopted.

Motion anent
Federation of
Churches.

66. The Rev. Principal Harper gave notice of his intention, at a future Sederunt, to move:—"That it be an instruction to the Committee on the Federation of the Churches that in negotiations to be carried on with any, or all, of the Churches, a frank acknowledgement of the validity of Presbyterian Orders be a condition precedent."

67. The appeal of the Rev. Thos. Shanks, from a decision of the State Assembly of South Australia, was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

The appellant being called for, and not appearing, the appeal was discharged from the Business Paper.

68. The Report on Statistics was received, and its further consideration was postponed.

69. The Overture from the Presbytery of Melbourne South anent ^{Overture} the Nobile Officium was submitted by the Convener of the Business ^{anent Nobile} Committee. ^{Officium.}

The Rev. George Tait was heard in support of the Overture.

It was moved by the Rev. Professor Macintyre, and seconded by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer :—" That the Assembly receive the Overture, and sustain it in so far as it raises the question of the Nobile Officium ; assert that a Nobile Officium belongs to the Supreme Courts of the Church ; remit the Overture to the Committee on Spiritual Independence, in order to describe the sphere of such Nobile Officium ; to prepare an Overture fittingly asserting this right, for transmission to Presbyteries and State Assemblies, and to report to next Assembly."

The motion was approved.

70. The Overture from the Presbytery of Melbourne South anent ^{Overture} Appeals to Civil Courts was submitted by the Convener of the Business ^{anent Appeals} Committee. ^{to Civil} ^{Courts.}

The Rev. George Tait and the Rev. A. Gillison were heard in support of the Overture.

It was moved by Mr. J. M. Campbell :—" That the Assembly receive the Overture, and sustain it in so far as it brings the matter of Appeals from Church Courts to the Civil Courts before the Assembly ; remit to the Committee on Spiritual Independence to consider and to report to next Assembly as to the manner in which the Spiritual Independence of the Church can be most carefully guarded, and also as to what modifications and additions ought to be made in the Deed of Union or the Procedure in regard to discipline, so as to strengthen and define the powers of the Church."

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

71. According to notice, the Rev. P. J. Murdoch moved :—" That ^{Queensland} inasmuch as the General Assembly is informed that the State Assembly ^{State} ^{Assembly.}

of Queensland has recalled its sentence of suspension passed on the Rev. W. S. Frackelton; and inasmuch as such action may be regarded as involving a surrender of the independent jurisdiction of the Church in Spiritual things; but, further, inasmuch as the General Assembly cannot obtain a report regarding this action from the State Assembly of Queensland during this Session, that the General Assembly refrain from judging the action of the State Assembly of Queensland meanwhile, but direct it to present a full report, not only regarding the action now referred to, but also regarding any further action which may be taken by it or by the Courts under it, in connection with this matter, to the General Assembly at its next meeting."

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Principal Harper.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul, and seconded by the Hon. Thomas Brown:—"That all the words after the words 'General Assembly' in the first line be omitted with the view of inserting other words."

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

From this decision the Rev. Dr. Rentoul dissented.

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

THIRTEENTH SEDERUNT.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, on Thursday, the 29th day of September, 1909, at 10 a.m.

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

The Minutes of the Eleventh and Twelfth Sederunts were confirmed.

72. The following were appointed the Evangelistic Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia :—Ministers—Revs. James Gibson (Q.), P. Robertson, G. Ewan, Angus King, R. J. H. McGowan, J. Lamont, James Kinghorn, Dr. Merrington, C. A. White, J. Crookston, J. F. Macrae, John Walker, W. S. Rolland, D. Ross, A. Stewart, J. Heyer, J. Russell, G. Davidson, A. J. Wade, A. MacCarlie, A. Crow, Dr. Macaulay. Elders—Hon. Jas. Balfour, Prof. Naylor, Prof. Rennie, Messrs. A. S. Lang, James Allan, Col. Goodlet, J. H. Beatson, W. Wood, R. Gillespie, D. Love, Geo. Kerr. F. Burbury, T. W. Fleming, R. Robertson. Revs. A. Stewart and C. A. White, Joint Conveners.

Evangelistic
Committee.

73. The Petition of the Rev. M. G. Hart was received, and remitted to the Presbytery of Ballarat, with instructions to report on it to this Sederunt.

Rev. M. G.
Hart.

74. The Hon. J. T. Walker and the Hon. John Macfarlane being present, were welcomed by the Moderator.

Senators
Walker and
Macfarlane.

75. The Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn moved the following additions to the Deliverance of the College Committee :—

College
Committee.

“That the Assembly authorise the Executive to validate the results of the Extra-Mural Examination, and publish them when the returns are complete.

“Authorise the Executive to validate the appointment of seven additional examiners for the Home Mission Course when the names are received from the Theological Faculty of New South Wales.

“Instruct the Executive to prepare and issue the syllabuses for the Entrance Examination, and the Home Mission Course of Training for 1911 and 1912.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. John Walker.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Professor Macintyre, and seconded by the Rev. Professor Adam :—“That the following words be added to the second clause of the motion—‘and instruct the Committee not to admit any further Home Mission Agents to an Extra-Mural Theological Course after the end of the year 1910.’”

The amendment was approved.

The motion, as amended, was approved.

Rev. W. F.
Turton.

76. According to notice, the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn moved :—“ That in the event of the Rev. W. F. Turton submitting to the Committee for the Reception of Ministers a certificate of disjunction from the Congregational Union of New South Wales, the Committee be empowered to deal with and issue the case.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. J. C. Johnstone, and approved.

From this decision the Revs. John Burgess, W. Gray, and W. M. M. Alexander, dissented.

Mr. Malcolm
McGillivray.

77. The Moderator intimated the removal by death of Mr. Malcolm McGillivray, and called on the Rev. Dr. Rentoul to lead the Assembly in prayer.

It was agreed to send a telegram of sympathy to Mrs. McGillivray.

Next Meeting
of Assembly.

78. It was agreed that the next meeting of the General Assembly of Australia be held in St. Stephen's Church, Philip Street, Sydney, on the 28th day of September, 1910, at 7 p.m.

Capital Fund
for Assembly
Expenses.

79. It was further agreed to appoint the following Committee to raise a Capital Fund of at least £5000, the interest to be used to meet the expenses of the General Assembly :—The Revs. John Walker, Convener; Dr. Meiklejohn, A. J. Wade, James Gibson (Brisbane), J. Heyer, A. McCarlie, Hon. James Balfour, Professor Darnley Naylor, Colonel Goodlet, and Messrs. Wm. Wood and Geo. Kerr.

Federation of
Churches.

80. The Report on the Federation of Churches was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Clouston, who moved :—

“ That the Assembly receive the Report.

“ Re-appoint the Committee, with instructions to continue vigorously the negotiations with the other Protestant Churches, and endeavour to present a full Scheme of Polity to the next Asssmbly; and resolve that in future the Committee act as a whole, and that any differences of opinion between the sections of the Committee be decided by the full Committee; express satisfaction with the friendly spirit shown by the Church of England, and receive the resolutions passed by the Joint Conference, and defer their consideration till after the General Synod of the Church of England has decided to proceed with negotiations in common with the other Protestant Churches.

"Rejoice to learn that a practical step towards drawing closer the bonds of fellowship between the Churches has been taken in New South Wales, in that the Theological students of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches have for the past two sessions attended courses of common lectures and passed common examinations, and hopes that this practice may be continued and extended; approve of the Scheme of Divinity Degrees, and remit it to the College Committee, with instructions to take any step that may be rendered possible to further the end in view, and report to next Assembly."

The motion was seconded by Colonel Goodlet.

The Rev. Principal Harper, by leave of the House, submitted the motion of which he had given notice, and which is recorded in the minutes of the Twelfth Sederunt as an addition to the deliverance.

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

81. The Rev. W. M. M. Alexander submitted the motion of which Ministers and Parliament. he had given notice, and which is recorded in the Minutes of the Seventh Sederunt.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. C. Howatt.

The Previous Question was moved, and carried.

82. The following were appointed Assessors in terms of the Deed of Assessors. Union:—Rev. R. Steel, M.A., Rev. C. A. White, B.A., Rev. Hume Robertson, B.A., Rev. J. Mathew, B.D., Rev. J. Meiklejohn, D.D., Mr. J. H. Beatson.

83. The Hon G. H. Reid being present, was welcomed by the Hon. G. H. Reid. Moderator, and addressed the House.

On the motion of Dr. Rentoul, carried by acclamation, the Moderator conveyed to Mr. Reid an expression of the Assembly's respect and regard for him.

84. The Report on Statistics was submitted by the Rev. Hume Robertson, who moved:—"That the Statistics. Assembly receive the Report; recommend that the State Assemblies take such steps as may seem effective

to secure complete returns from all parishes; instruct Presbyteries to see that baptismal certificates are used; instruct Clerks of Kirk Sessions to compile a complete list of Presbyterians (giving names and birth year of children) in the parish; recommend that where practicable a special officer, to be called a Registrar, to be appointed by the Presbytery, be charged with the duty of keeping this list of Presbyterians, and supplying all required statistical information."

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

Year Book.

85. The Report on the Year Book was submitted by the Rev. Hume Robertson, who moved:—"That the Assembly receive the Report; specially thank the Convener; re-appoint the Committee, with the Rev. W. M. M. Alexander as Joint Convener; and authorize the continuance of the Year Book."

The motion was seconded by Dr. Meiklejohn, and approved.

Unfermented
Wine at
Communion.

86. The Rev. W. M. M. Alexander submitted the motion of which the Rev. Jas. Steele had given notice, and which is recorded in Minute 15.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. John Walker.

The Previous Question was moved, and carried.

Beneficiary
Funds.

87. The Overture relative to the Beneficiary Funds was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

The Overture was received and sustained in so far as it raises the question of a Beneficiary Fund for the whole Church, and the Overture remitted to the Finance Committee to consider the whole question raised, to correspond with the Committees of Beneficiary Funds or Finance Boards in all the States, and to report to next Assembly as to the possibility of such Fund and the best method of accomplishing it.

M. G. Hart.

88. The consideration of the Petition of the Rev. M. G. Hart was resumed.

It was moved by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre, and seconded by the Rev. John Walker:—"That the Assembly receive the Petition of the Rev. M. G. Hart, who is resigning his charge of St. John's, Ballarat, in order to give himself for some years to special Evangelistic work,

recognise in Mr. Hart an honoured and faithful Minister of the Church ; commend him to the Grace of God in the work he proposes to undertake ; and pray that his labours may be abundantly blessed of God."

The motion was approved.

89. The following were appointed the Business Committee to arrange for business necessary to be done previous to the meeting of the next Assembly — Revs. R. G. Macintyre, Convener, John Burgess, Principal Harper, J. Kemp Bruce, Dr. Clouston, and Messrs. J. H. Beatson and William Wood, with the Clerk and the Law Agent.

90. It was agreed that the cordial thanks of the Assembly be given to the Arrangements Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, especially to its Convener, the Rev. Thos. Brown ; to the ladies of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union ; and to all others who have so generously and graciously exercised hospitality towards members of Assembly.

The minutes of the Thirteenth Sederunt were confirmed.

91. The business of the General Assembly 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 St. Stephen's, Philip Street, Sydney, on the 28th day of September, 1910, at 7 p.m., the Session was closed with the Benediction.

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

JOHN FERGUSON,
Moderator.

GEORGE TAIT,
Clerk.

COMMITTEES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

I.—JUDICIAL COMMISSION.

Rev. John Burgess, M.A.	Rev. W. Sweyn Macqueen
T. E. Clouston, D.D.	W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Principal Harper, D.D.	J. Walker
Professor Macintyre, M.A., B.D.	R. Kerr
Professor Rentoul, D.D.	A. J. Wade
Professor Adam, M.A., B.D.	Dr. J. H. MacFarland
George Tait, M.A.	Hon. James Balfour
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	Mr. J. A. Aitken
A. Stewart, M.A.	J. H. Balfour
Alex. Hay, D.D.	John Kirkland
Peter Robertson	J. H. Goodlet
A. McCarlie	J. M. Campbell, LL.M.
J. Barr	James Longmore
W. Gray	G. S. Mackay
A. Gillison, M.A.	T. W. Fleming
J. C. McDonald, M.A.	W. G. Crane
J. Russell	J. Candlish
J. Kemp Bruce	W. J. Hill
J. Walker, M.A., B.D.	J. K. Reid

THE RIGHT REV. THE MODERATOR, Chairman.

ASSESSORS.

Rev. R. Steele, M.A.	Rev. J. Mathew, B.D.
C. A. White, B.A.	J. Meiklejohn, D.D.
H. Robertson, B.A.	Mr. J. H. Beatson

II.—BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Rev. J. Cosh, B.D.	Rev. R. Hanlin
J. Lamont, F.L.S.	W. H. Ash
W. M. M. Alexander	J. Heyer
T. R. Cairns, D.D.	Mr. W. S. Park
W. Fraser, B.A.	William Wood
A. Stewart, M.A.	A. Byers
P. Robertson	J. Mackinnon
F. H. L. Paton	Colonel Goodlet
J. H. McGowan	H. H. Kemp
W. Gray	D. Walker

REV. ALEXANDER STEWART, Convener.

III.—THE CODE.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. John Burgess, M.A.
Professor Macintyre, M.A., B.D.
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.
R. Kerr
J. H. Fordyce, M.A.
J. Russell
S. G. McLaren, M.A.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
C. A. White, B.A. | Rev. W. Gray
J. Heyer, M.A.
Geo. Ewan
A. J. Wade
Hon. John Garland, M.A., LL.B.
Mr. William Wood
J. M. Campbell, LL.M.
W. G. Geikie
A. G. Proudfoot
T. W. Fleming |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

IV.—COLLEGE.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. J. Ferguson
Dr. Merrington
J. Mathew, B.D.
R. Fergus, M.A.
J. Lundie, B.A.
H. W. Burridge, M.A.
J. Heyer
J. K. Bruce
J. C. McDonald, M.A.
J. Gibson, M.A. (Q) | Rev. R. Steel, M.A.
C. A. White, B.A.
J. Meiklejohn, D.D.
George Tait, M.A.
W. H. Steele, M.A.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Dr. J. H. MacFarland
Professor E. Rennie
Hon. James Balfour
Colonel Goodlet |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

REV. DR. MEIKLEJOHN and J. MATHEW, Joint-Conveners.

REV. R. FERGUS, Secretary.

REV. J. KEMP BRUCE, Convener, New South Wales Section.

V.—HOME MISSION.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. J. Ferguson
T. E. Clouston, D.D.
Principal Harper, D.D.
G. Keith, M.A.
J. Barnaby, B.A.
D. A. Cameron, M.A.
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
J. Meiklejohn, D.D.
George Ewan
A. Crow | Rev. W. Sweyn Macqueen
A. J. Wade
W. Beck
J. Walker
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
J. C. McDonald, M.A.
Jas. Kinghorn, M.A.
R. Steel, M.A.
Hon. James Balfour
Mr. William Wood |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

REV. JOHN FERGUSON, Convener.

VI—FINANCE.

Rev. Dr. Marshall	Hon. James Balfour
Geo. Ewan	Mr. R. Gillespie
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.	Wm. Wood
W. Gray	W. G. Crane
Mr. Jno. Cameron	W. G. Geikie
Jno. Kirkland	A. L. Pryde
Dr. J. H. MacFarland	A. G. Proudfoot
Mr. Mr. T. J. Finlay	A. R. Gillespie
A. S. Lang	Captain Craig
Colonel Goodlet	

COLONEL GOODLET, Convener.

VII—RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. P. Norman	Rev. Professor Macintyre, M.A., B.D.
Principal Harper, D.D.	A. McKinley
J. Steele	T. E. Clouston, D.D.
C. A. White, B.A.	John Walker
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	J. F. Macrae
Professor Skene, M.A.	George Ewan
J. Gray, M.A.	A. J. Wade
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.	W. Beck
A. S. C. James	Mr. A. S. Lang
J. Meiklejohn, D.D.	A. L. Pryde

REV. A. MCKINLEY, Convener.

VIII—STATISTICS.

Rev. D. Barnet, B.A.	Rev. J. D. Brown
R. Millar, B.A.	Jno. Burgess, M.A.
J. Steele	D. A. Cameron, M.A.
C. A. White, B.A.	W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
W. M. M. Alexander	W. Gray
Hume Robertson, B.A.	J. L. Cope
W. S. Rolland	Mr. A. S. Lang
J. F. Macrae	D. Walker
R. Kerr	S. J. Carruthers
E. J. Petherick	G. S. Mackay

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

I.—FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rev. J. Kemp Bruce | Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A. |
| Dr. Clouston | R. H. Roberts |
| R. E. Davies, M.A. | Right Rev. Peter Robertson |
| John Edwards | Rev. J. M. R. Dale |
| Dr. Harper | Mr. Jas. Allen |
| James Kinghorn | D. Ewart |
| James Lamont, F.L.S. | George Hall |
| R. G. Macintyre, M.A., B.D. | A. S. Lang |
| Dr. Kinross | A. McKellar |
| John Walker | J. S. Sword |
| R. H. Waugh, M.A. | George Stupart |
| R. Scott-West | |
| C. A. White, B.A. | |
| Colonel Goodlet | Rev. G. Davidson, M.A. |
| Mr. William Affleck | G. C. Love, M.A., B.D. |
| John Kirkland | T. Shanks, M.A., B.D. |
| W. G. Crane | R. Thompson |
| Dr. Robertson | A. J. Wade |
| Mr. W. Wood | Mr. A. H. Bryson |
| | T. W. Fleming |
| | R. Gilchrist |
| | Professor Rennie |
| | Mr. T. W. Tassie |
| Rev. Dr. Cairns | |
| W. Fraser, B.A. | Rev. W. Beck |
| W. G. Maconochie, M.A. | J. D. Brown |
| J. Mathew, M.A., B.D. | F. E. Ozer, M.A., B.D. |
| Dr. Meiklejohn | J. G. Millar |
| P. J. Murdoch, M.A. | Mr. F. Burbury |
| A. R. Osborn, M.A. | D. McKinnon |
| H. Robertson | Hon. J. Murdoch |
| A. Stewart, M.A. | Mr. J. K. Reid |
| Hon. W. Anderson | F. Williams |
| James Balfour | J. Wright |
| Mr. T. J. Finlay | |
| R. Gillespie | Rev. A. Crow |
| W. F. Greenwood | J. H. Fordyce, M.A. |
| D. Love | A. S. C. James |
| | A. McCarlie |
| Rev. Dr. Hay | Dr. S. Macaulay |
| A. Gillison, M.A. | Mr. R. Bracks |
| D. McLennan | F. A. Moseley |
| W. S. MacQueen | R. Robertson |
| Jas. McQueen | |
| S. Martin | |

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

DR. CLOUSTON, Convener.

II.—PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Right Rev. the Moderator	Hon. James Balfour
Rev. Dr. Bruce	Mr. John Cameron
J. Burgess, M.A.	T. W. Fleming
John Ferguson	Colonel Goodlet
Principal Harper	
Dr. Rentoul	
C. H. Talbot	

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

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

THE RIGHT REV. THE MODERATOR, Convener.

III.—SABBATH SCHOOL HYMNAL.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander	Rev. Jas. Steele, M.A.
W. H. Ash	D. Macrae Stewart
C. Crane	T. J. Smith, M.A.
R. E. Davies, M.A.	Jno. Walker
R. M. Fergus, M.A.	R. H. Waugh, M.A.
J. Heyer, M.A.	C. A. White, B.A.
J. Lamont, F.L.S.	Mr. Neil Black
Joseph Lundie, B.A.	M. F. Culliford
W. S. Macqueen	Lachlan Fraser
J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.	W. F. Greenwood
R. Mitchell (S.A.)	E. H. Hume
R. Miller	A. Jackson
F. E. Oxer, M.A., B.D.	J. MacIntyre
W. S. Rolland	P. D. McCormack
Hume Robertson, B.A.	Robert Robertson
J. T. Robertson, M.A.	G. A. Steel
W. Wishart	

REV. W. H. ASH, Convener.

IV.—RELIGION AND MORALS AND SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Conveners of the State of Religion Committees in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania; the Convener of the Committee on "Life and Work" in South Australia; the Convener of the Moderator's Committee in Western Australia, and the Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees of 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	Mr. W. G. Geikie
John Ferguson	Dr. Marden
R. Steele, M.A.	Mr. S. J. Carruthers
J. K. Bruce	

REV. J. KINGHORN, Convener.

VII.—SITES IN FEDERAL CAPITAL.

Hon. James Balfour	Mr. Wm. Wood
Colonel Goodlet	

VIII.—BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

The Clerk	Rev. R. G. Macintyre
The Law Agent	J. Kemp Bruce
Rev. John Burgess	Mr. William Wood
Dr. Harper	J. H. Beatson
Dr. Clouston	

REV. R. G. MACINTYRE, Convener.

IX.—TO NOMINATE THE MODERATOR OF THE NEXT ASSEMBLY.

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

THE RIGHT REV. THE MODERATOR, Convener.

X.—SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE.

Rev. John Burgess	Rev. A. Stewart
Dr. Clouston	George Tait
J. C. McDonald	Dr. McCay
Prof. Macintyre	J. Mathew
Principal Harper	F. A. Hagenauer
C. A. White	Dr. Hay
R. Scott West	W. C. Radcliffe
W. Sweyn Macqueen	R. Kerr
Dr. Merrington	Peter Robertson
Robert Steel	James Gibson (Brisbane)
Colonel Goodlet	John Russell
Mr. John Garland	W. Gray
J. A. Aitken	F. E. Ozer
John Kirkland	Mr. J. M. Campbell
Rev. Prof. Adam	A. G. Proudfoot
Dr. Meiklejohn	Dr. MacFarland
P. J. Murdoch	Hon. James Balfour
John Walker	Mr. Robert Gillespie
A. Gillison	D. Storrer, M.H.R.
J. F. Macrae	T. W. Fleming

REV. P. J. MURDOCH, Convener.

XI.—EVANGELISTIC COMMITTEE.

Rev. James Gibson (Brisbane) P. Robertson G. Ewan Angus King R. J. H. McGowan J. Lamont James Kinghorn Dr. Merrington C. A. White J. Crookston J. F. Macrae John Walker W. S. Rolland D. Ross A. Stewart J. Heyer J. Russell G. Davidson	Rev. A. J. Wade A. McCarlie A. Crow Dr. Macauley Hon. Jas. Balfour Prof. Darnley Naylor Rennie Mr. A. S. Lang James Allan Colonel Goodlet Mr. J. H. Beatson W. Wood R. Gillespie D. Love Geo. Kerr F. Burbury T. W. Fleming R. Robertson
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

REVS. A. STEWART AND C. A. WHITE, Joint Conveners.

XII.—APPENDIX TO HYMNARY.

Rev. G. Carson R. Scott West W. Beck G. Davidson	Rev. R. Hanlin Hon. Jas. Balfour Colonel Goodlet Mr. A. S. Lang
-----------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------

REV. G. CARSON, Convener.

XIII.—CAPITAL FUND FOR ASSEMBLY EXPENSES.

Rev. John Walker Dr. Meiklejohn A. J. Wade James Gibson (Brisbane) J. Heyer A. McCarlie	Hon. Jas. Balfour Prof. Darnley Naylor Colonel Goodlet Mr. William Wood Geo. Kerr
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

REV. JOHN WALKER, Convener.

XIV.—YEAR BOOK.

Rev. F. E. Ozer Wm. Gray H. W. Burridge James McQueen R. G. McIntyre	Rev. A. J. Wade W. M. M. Alexander H. Robertson Wm. Wood
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------

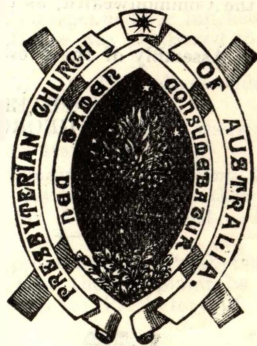
REVS. H. ROBERTSON AND W. M. M. ALEXANDER, Joint Conveners.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AND OTHER PAPERS

PRESENTED TO THE

General Assembly of Australia.



MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1909.

ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE EARL OF DUDLEY, G.C.V.O.

(Governor-General of Australia.)

May it please Your Excellency,—

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, we beg leave, through you, to express our loyalty and attachment to His Majesty's Person and Government.

We also desire to tender you a sincere and cordial welcome to Australia, of which Commonwealth it has pleased His Most Gracious Majesty to appoint you Governor.

The public record of the eminent services which you have already rendered to our King and country has made us familiar with your name and ability.

We, therefore, look forward with hope and confidence to the future life of our Commonwealth as the results of your administration of the high office to which you have been called.

The Presbyterian Church has ever been deeply interested in all that pertains to the social, intellectual, and moral well-being of the people. The Church and all its members will feel it an honour, as well as a duty, to co-operate with you in all your efforts for the welfare of the community.

We pray that, under the blessing of Almighty God, your residence in Australia may be to you, and your household, a time of great happiness, and also a time of great prosperity to the Commonwealth, as the fruit of your administration.

On behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia,

PETER ROBERTSON, Moderator.
GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.



REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

Gentlemen,—It affords me much satisfaction to receive your assurances of loyal attachment to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King.

I thank you for your cordial welcome and kindly reference to myself. The knowledge that I may count upon the co-operation of the members of your Church in all efforts to promote the social, intellectual, and moral well-being of the people, encourages me to share, in some degree, the hope that you have expressed that my tenure of office may not be unfruitful of good; and I join with you most heartily in invoking the blessings of God upon me and mine, as well as upon the great Commonwealth of Australia.

DUDLEY.

I.

APPEAL.

APPEAL BY REV. THOS. SHANKS FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

At Adelaide, the fifth day of May, 1909, which day the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia being met and constituted, *inter alia*,

Called for complaint by Rev. Thos. Shanks against the finding of the Presbytery of Adelaide in the matter of the statement respecting the Rev. A. C. Sutherland and marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The documents were read by the Clerk.

The Rev. A. J. Wade asked permission for the Presbytery of Adelaide to meet forthwith in order to appoint one of its members to defend its action. Leave was granted on the motion of Rev. J. A. McLellan, seconded by Rev. J. MacIntyre.

The Moderator thereupon left the chair.

Upon the House resuming, Rev. A. J. Wade reported that Revs. W. Gray and A. C. Sutherland had been appointed by the Presbytery of Adelaide to defend its action.

The Rev. Thos. Shanks raised a question of privilege, drawing the attention of the House to the fact that the text of his appeal (as printed in the White Book), had appeared in Monday's issue of "The Register," and stating that he had had nothing to do with such publication.

The Presbytery of Adelaide was placed at the Bar of the Assembly.

The Complainant raised objection to the presentation of the matter in his complaint, as printed in the White Book. His objection was over-ruled.

Rev. W. Gray pointed out that the Moderator was a member of the Presbytery of Adelaide, whereupon the Ex-Moderator, Rev. J. A. McLellan, took the chair and the Complainant continued the statement of his case.

At 12.50 p.m. the Assembly suspended for luncheon, and resumed at 2.15 p.m., when the business before the House was postponed to take up consideration of the order of the day.

Rev. W. Gray proposed, Rev. A. J. Wade seconded:—That the House proceed with the hearing of the appeal. Carried.

The Ex-Moderator, Rev. J. A. McLellan, thereupon took the chair, and the Complainant proceeded with his statement.

Upon the Complainant concluding his statement, the Ex-Moderator pointed out that the time had arrived for the taking up of other business. On the motion of Rev. G. C. Love, seconded by Mr. Hunter, agreed:—That the House proceed with the business on hand.

The Rev. W. Gray, as representing the Presbytery of Adelaide, addressed the House in defence, and asked that the complaint be dismissed. The Rev. A. C. Sutherland, likewise representing the Presbytery of Adelaide, also addressed the House in defence.

The Rev. Thos. Shanks was heard in reply.

No questions were asked.

The record of the case was held to be closed, and the parties were removed from the Bar.

Proposed by Rev. J. MacIntyre, seconded by Mr. H. J. Driscoll:—Dismiss the complaint on the general question, but sustain the same on the personal question.

The following amendment was moved by Mr. Holdsworth and seconded by Mr. Hunter:—That the complaint be dismissed.

The amendment was carried on the casting vote of the presiding Ex-Moderator, and the complaint was dismissed.

The parties were called to the Bar and the Ex-Moderator announced the decision of the Assembly to them.

Rev. J. MacIntyre dissented from this decision.

Rev. Thos. Shanks dissented and asked for leave to appeal to the General Assembly.

Agreed, on the motion of Rev. W. Gray, seconded by Rev. G. C. Love:—That permission be granted to Rev. Thos. Shanks to appeal.

Agreed, on the motion of Rev. W. Gray, duly seconded:—That the Rev. A. J. Wade and Mr. T. W. Fleming be appointed to defend the finding of this Assembly in the matter of the Rev. Thos. Shanks to the Australian General Assembly appointed to meet in Melbourne in September next, should this Appeal be found to be competent.

Extracted from the Records of the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, this fifteenth day of July, 1909, by me,

W. GRAY,
Clerk of Assembly.

The tenor of the complaint is as follows:—

Within the Vestry of Flinders Street Church on Tuesday, January 5, 1909, at 11 a.m., the Presbytery met and was duly constituted, etc., *inter alia*:

The following motion was carried:—That in the matter of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, a committee be appointed to consider the whole question and to report to the next ordinary meeting of the Presbytery, and that the following be the Committee: Revs. T. Shanks, A. C. Sutherland, W. Gray, Messrs. A. Ure, H. J. Congreve, T. W. Fleming.

Took up discussion on the statement laid on the table by the Rev. T. Shanks, which was as follows:—

“To the Rev. the Presbytery of Adelaide.

On the 18th April, 1908, at their residence in . . . Street, . . . the Rev. A. C. Sutherland, M.A., B.D., celebrated marriage between . . . and . . . the sister of his deceased wife.

1. The performance of the ceremony gave ecclesiastical sanction apparently to a union expressly forbidden by the Subordinate Standard of the Church, Confession of Faith: chapter 24, section 4.

2. Inasmuch also as I, the minister of Port Adelaide, to which charge the parties claimed connection, had refused to perform the ceremony on the ground that such unions are forbidden, Mr. Sutherland's action appeared subversive of order, as well as derogatory to sound doctrine.

I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) THOMAS SHANKS.

Woolnough Road, Semaphore, October 5, 1908.”

After discussion, the following motion was carried: That inasmuch as the personal element in the statement of the Rev. T. Shanks is of secondary importance compared with the question involved, viz., Marriage with a deceased wife's sister: and inasmuch as the Presbytery had already appointed a committee to deal with the question and report, no action be taken.

The Rev. T. Shanks begged leave to dissent from the finding and to appeal to the Assembly.

Leave was granted.

ALEXANDER URE,

Acting Clerk of Presbytery.

April 15, 1909.

II.

OVERTURES.

1

OVERTURE ANENT ARTICLE III.

Transmitted by the Presbytery of Sydney.

Whereas the present mode of calculating the membership of the General Assembly of Australia is very cumbrous, and whereas practically the same representation would be given to Presbyteries under the proposal herewith submitted; it is humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Sydney to the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to amend Article III. of the Articles of Agreement, so that it shall read as follows:—

III. The General Assembly shall be representative, and shall consist of an equal number of ministers and elders. Each State Assembly shall be represented by a number equal to one-sixteenth of its membership, elected from those actually on its roll or eligible for its membership; and each Presbytery shall be represented by one minister and one elder for the first five sanctioned charges or under, and an additional minister and elder for every additional five charges after the first five.

The Rev. J. Burgess was appointed to support the Overture in the Assembly.

Certified this tenth day of August, 1909, by me,

JOHN BURGESS,

Clerk of the Presbytery of Sydney.

2

OVERTURE FROM PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE THROUGH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND *RE* HOME MISSION AGENTS AND SACRAMENTS.

At Rockhampton, and within St. Andrews' Church, Friday, 7th May, 1909, at 10 a.m.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland being duly constituted, *inter alia*,

The Assembly resolved to transmit the following Overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

"From the Presbytery of Brisbane, to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

"Whereas under present conditions it is indispensable for our church extension work in Queensland that Home Mission agents should be empowered to dispense sealing ordinances, without which power the Gospel may be preached, but a Church cannot be built up: and

"Whereas the commissioning of agents who have been ordained as elders to dispense the sacraments apparently leads to doctrinal difficulty and is in various respects anomalous: and

"Whereas literary and theological training is not essential to the being of a Minister, but to his wellbeing:

"The Presbytery of Brisbane humbly overtures the General Assembly to order that Home Missionaries who are employed by Home Mission Committees for this work, may, at the discretion of the Presbytery, within whose bounds they are labouring, and the Home Mission Committee of their Church, receive Ministerial ordination with the title of 'Ordained Missionaries,' and that such regulations be provided for their further training and control as the General Assembly may devise."

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland by me,

RICHARD KERR,

Clerk of Assembly.

Warwick, 4th August, 1909.

A similar Overture is forwarded by the General Assembly of Queensland, with the addition of the words "or to do otherwise as the General Assembly may in its wisdom think fit."

OVERTURE *RE* BENEFICIARY FUNDS.
OVERTURE FROM THE STATE ASSEMBLY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA ON
BENEFICIARY FUNDS.

Whereas it is desirable that provision should be made for the establishment of Beneficiary Funds in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Australia in which all the Ministers of the Church may participate, and furthermore expedient that this question should receive immediate attention. The Moderator's committee, acting on behalf of the State Assembly of Western Australia, hereby humbly overtures to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take the premises into consideration and to deal with the matter as in its wisdom may seem fit.

The Revs. A. McCarlie and A. Crow were appointed to support the Overture.

Extracted from the minutes of the Moderator's Committee, by me,
ALEX McCARLIE,
Vice-Convenor.

OVERTURE FROM PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH *RE*
TRAINING OF HOME MISSION AGENTS.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, on 15th October, 1908, at 10 a.m., which day the Presbytery of Melbourne North met and was duly constituted, *inter alia* :—

The Overture to the General Assembly of Australia, of which Professor Adam, M.A., B.D., had given notice, was taken up, carefully considered, and with some alterations, sustained and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia, through the General Assembly of Victoria.

Whereas former Assemblies have approved of special arrangements for the training of Home Mission Agents, and whereas it is desirable to make provision that properly trained Home Mission Agents may enter a Theological Hall, with a view to becoming candidates for License, the Presbytery of Melbourne North humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration, and to insert the following new clause in Article VIII., Section 6, of the Articles of Agreement, to send this proposed addition down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies, in terms of Article XIII., and meanwhile to declare it of interim authority, or to deal otherwise with the matter, as in its wisdom it may see fit.

Clause proposed: In Article VIII., Section 6, after the word "Assembly," add "Also Home Mission Agents who have not qualified through attendance at a University, but who have passed through a regular course of preliminary training, appointed by the Assembly, may by resolution of their own State Assembly, be admitted to the Entrance Examination with a view to becoming regular students."

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery by me,
W. M. M. ALEXANDER, Clerk.

Overture to be supported by Rev. Professor Adam, M.A., B.D., and Rev. John Mathew, M.A., B.D.

Assembly Hall, Collins Street,
May 26th, 1909.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment at 7.30 p.m., and was duly constituted. *Inter alia* :—

The Overture relative to the Training of Home Mission Agents was submitted by the Rev. Professor Adam.

It was moved by Professor Adam, and seconded by the Rev. J. Mathew :—

"That the Overture, with the omission of the words 'and meanwhile to declare it of interim authority,' be approved, and transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia."

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. J. M. Campbell, and seconded by the Rev. E. M. Fergus:—

“That the words ‘approved and transmitted’ be omitted, with the view of inserting the words ‘transmitted *simpliciter*.’”

The amendment was approved.

The proposed words were inserted.

The motion, as amended, was approved.

Extracted from the minutes of the State Assembly of Victoria by me,

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

June 9th, 1909.

OVERTURE FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE *RE* EXPENSE OF PRINTING PAPERS IN APPEAL CASES.

At Sydney the first day of September, 1909, which day the Business Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia being duly met and constituted with prayer.

Inter alia: The Business Committee resolved to transmit the following Overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas the papers in appeal cases may sometimes be lengthy and numerous, and it is undesirable that the expense of printing these should in all cases fall upon the funds of the Assembly.

It is, therefore, humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly by the Business Committee:

That the following words be added to Standing Order No. 104—“In appeals the expense of printing shall, in the first instance, be borne by the appellant or appellants; and by the party losing when the case is finally decided, unless remitted or distributed by the Assembly.”

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the minutes of the Business Committee, this second day of September, 1909, by me,

RONALD G. MACINTYRE, Convener.

OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH ANENT APPEALS TO THE CIVIL COURT.

1. Whereas a minister of this Church recently applied to the Civil Court for an Injunction to restrain the members of his Presbytery from reporting or forwarding to its State Assembly a resolution relative to an investigation into the affairs of his congregation:

2. Whereas the same minister afterwards applied to the Civil Court to set aside as null and void a sentence of suspension from office passed on him by his State Assembly:

3. Whereas the fact that it has been decided by the Civil Courts in the actions referred to above, “that the first action is and always was incompetent,” yet that bringing of this action was no offence against the constitution of the Church, and that the sentence of suspension from office inflicted in consequence of it is “illegal and null and void,” may encourage ministers to appeal to the Civil Courts against the spiritual sentences of the Church:

4. Whereas the doctrine of this Church that “the Lord Jesus Christ is the Only King and Head of the Church,” as set forth in her subordinate Standard—“The Lord Jesus Christ, as King and Head of His Church, hath therein appointed a government in the hand of church officers, distinct from the Civil Magistrate. To these officers the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven are committed.” (Chap.

xxx. sections 1 and 2). "It belongeth to synods and councils ministerially to determine controversies of faith, and cases of conscience; to set down rules and directions for the better ordering of the public worship of God, and government of His Church; to receive complaints in cases of mal-administration, and authoritatively determine the same; which decrees and determinations, if consonant to the Word of God, are to be received with reverence and submission, not only for their agreement with the Word, but also for the power whereby they are made, as being an ordinance of God, appointed thereunto in His Word" (chap. xxxi. : section 3)—on the one hand requires the Church in the administration of her spiritual affairs to regulate her decisions according to the mind and will of Christ, as revealed in His Word, and to interpret that mind and will for herself, and on the other hand forbids her to accept authoritative direction in this sphere from any outside power :

5. Whereas the doctrine of the Civil Magistrate, as stated in chap. xxiii. of the Confession of Faith, has been interpreted (1) as conditioning and even overturning the doctrines of chapters xxx. and xxxi., as defined above, and (2) as contradicting the doctrine of chap. xx.—"That God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrary to His Word or beside it in matters of faith and worship,"—and as authorising the Church to call on the Civil Magistrate, and the Civil Magistrate to obey the call, to enforce spiritual sentences by civil penalties :

6. Whereas the first of these interpretations has been adopted by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, in his judgment in the action referred to above, and made the main ground upon which he concluded that it was no offence against the constitution of the Church for a minister to appeal to the Civil Court to restrain a Church Court from exercising such an ordinary act of administration as the forwarding a report to a superior court, and one of the grounds upon which he held a spiritual sentence inflicted on that minister for that action "illegal and null and void" :

7. Whereas, whatever plausibility the interpretations referred to above may have, the Presbyterian Church of Australia adopted the 6th section of its Declaratory Act, in the light of which its Confession is to be read, for the express purpose of repudiating such interpretations, and shutting out both the intrusion of the civil power into the spiritual sphere for the purpose of reviewing or annulling the spiritual sentences of the Church, and also the intrusion of the Church into the Civil sphere, for the purpose of using the Civil power to enforce her spiritual sentences by civil penalties; both these intrusions being regarded as "inconsistent with the liberty of conscience and right of private judgment," which the Church claims for its members acting in their capacity as office-bearers to whom Christ has committed the government of His Church, or submitting for conscience sake to that government, and for all men; and as issuing in persecution :

8. Whereas the claim of the Church to be supreme in the spiritual sphere is not a claim to infallibility any more than the claim, which the Church acknowledges, of the Civil Magistrate to be supreme in the civil sphere is a claim to infallibility, but simply the claim that within the sphere in which Christ has authorised and commanded her to act, and promised by "His own Presence and Spirit" to qualify her to act she is more likely to be right in her decisions than the Civil Magistrate, and that an appeal in spiritual matters from her court to the civil courts is in the words of the Supreme Court of the United States of America, "an appeal from the more learned tribunal in the law which should decide the case, to one which is less so" :

9. Whereas, it being an axiom that no Supreme Court, civil or ecclesiastical, is infallible, to call on a civil court to enter the spiritual sphere to correct the decisions of an ecclesiastical court in spiritual matters—such as suspension or deposition of ministers, which, though carrying indirect civil effects, yet are not thereby changed in their nature—is an attempt to provide against the admitted fallibility of church courts, acting in their own sphere, by an assumed infallibility of civil courts acting beyond their sphere :

10. Whereas the doctrine of the supremacy of the Church in the spiritual sphere, as defined above, is not a denial of the subjection of the Church and her members in all civil matters to the Civil Magistrate, or a claim that the Civil Magistrate shall enforce her spiritual sentences, or a denial of the right of her members to claim the protection of the civil power when their property or good name is assailed, but simply a claim to exercise the functions which Christ has conferred on her, and discharge the duties which He has imposed on her according

to His Mind and Will as revealed in His Word and as interpreted with the promised help of "His own Presence and Spirit" by herself, free from the authoritative control of any outside power--a claim that leaves the Civil Magistrate to judge according to the principles that govern his decisions, what, if any, civil effects are legally connected with the Church's spiritual decisions, and also to judge whether the Church, under colour or pretence of spiritual action for spiritual ends, has been maliciously injuring a man in his property or good name :

11. IT IS HEREBY HUMBL Y OVERTURED TO THE VENERABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA, appointed to meet on the twenty-second day of September, 1909, to take these premises into consideration, and to declare it to be an offence against the constitution of the Church, for ministers or members of the Church to appeal to the civil courts against the decisions of the courts of the Church in spiritual matters, and to embody this application of the doctrine of the spiritual independence of the Church in a definite Rule or otherwise, as in its wisdom it may determine.

Adopted by the Presbytery. To be supported by the Rev. George Tait and Rev. A. Gillison.

7

OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH ANENT
NOBILE OFFICIUM.

1. Whereas the Christian Church is not a human institution, the creation of man, and ordered by human discretion, for temporal ends; but a divine institution, the creation of the Spirit of God working in the mind, the heart, the conscience of men, and ordered in all things according to the will of Christ as revealed in His word and interpreted by His Spirit, for spiritual ends :

2. Whereas the Presbyterian branch of the Christian Church has a history extending over long centuries, during which, guided by the promised Spirit, she has expounded and applied to a great variety of cases and circumstances the principles on which Christ wills that His Church should be administered :

3. Whereas no Code of Rules or Forms of Procedure can possibly anticipate and provide for the almost innumerable variety of circumstances and cases to which the Church may be called to apply these principles :

4. Whereas particular Presbyterian Churches in drawing up Rules and Forms of Procedure for the guidance of their courts, never intend that they should confer the powers, or expressly mention all the powers, inherent, according to these principles, in their various courts, or that the cases and circumstances not expressly provided for in them, or which differ in some particulars from those provided for, should be beyond the application of these principles, or that all the history and precedents of the past should be discarded :

5. Whereas some of these churches on issuing Rules and Forms, have definitely repudiated this intention--The United Free Church of Scotland in her Manual of Procedure says:—"The General Assembly, being the supreme judicial legislative and administrative court of the Church, has a *nobile officium*. In virtue of this it may deal with and dispose of any matter which may arise and which is not provided for in the Rules of the Church or its Forms of Procedure. It may also, in virtue of its *nobile officium*, deal with and dispose of matters and cases provided for by these Rules and Forms in a way other than is therein directed, as shall seem to the General Assembly right and needful for doing justice in the particular case; but this should not be save in circumstances exceptional in their character, or which appear in the particular case to render such a course necessary." The English Presbyterian Church, in the Preface to her Book of Order, says:—"The Book of Order is not a code of laws, but a representation of the consuetudinary practice or common law of the Church"; and in her Minute says, "Receive the Book of Order . . . and deeming it useful in maintaining uniformity in the procedure of the Church, adopt the same and recommend its use in all the courts of the Church, etc." The Presbyterian Church of Victoria, in the minute adopting her Rules and Forms, says:—

“These Rules and Forms are not to be regarded as laws which can in no instance be added to or deviated from without a violation of justice or equity, but as indications of what is considered by this Church to be the equitable and orderly method of procedure in the cases and under the circumstances to which they refer, and which is therefore to be followed in all such cases and circumstances. In cases and circumstances which are held and declared to be plainly exceptional the General Assembly possesses and claims the right to exercise the *nobile officium*, which the Church of Scotland has always claimed and exercised under such conditions,”—yet this repudiation, as implied in the fundamental principles and uniform practice of Presbyterianism, has always been held to govern the Church's use of its Rules and Forms of Procedure :

6. Whereas this claim, to interpret her Rules and Forms in their application to given cases, and to supplement them when necessary, in the light of the fundamental principles of her constitution, is not a claim to be free to violate her rules and constitution, but simply a claim—analogueous to that made by every supreme court—under authority to Christ alone, and with the promised help “of His own presence and Spirit,” to administer the affairs of His Church; and can only be considered dangerous if, notwithstanding the authority under which she acts, and the promised guidance she seeks, she be unequal to this work, and in need of the inspection and control of the civil magistrate to keep her from violating the fundamental principles of justice and equity.

7. Whereas the analogueous distinction between, and combination of, the three elements of Custom, Common Law, and Statute Law in the legal system of the British communities, and in the British constitution show that the distinction between the fundamental principles of Presbyterianism and their partial embodiment in Rules and Forms applicable to particular cases is sound and safe :

8. Whereas in a recent case it seems to have been assumed that the constitution of a Presbyterian Church is wholly a written one, and that her courts have no powers not expressly mentioned in her Rules and Forms of Procedure, and no power to deal, according to her fundamental principles, with cases that are exceptional, or differ in various particulars from cases provided for :

9. IT IS HEREBY HUMBL Y OVERTURED TO THE VENERABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA to take the premises into consideration, and to prefix to the Rules and Forms issued by its authority a Declaration on the lines of the United Free Church of Scotland, the English Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, or to take such other course as in its wisdom it may determine.

Adopted by the Presbytery. To be supported by the Rev. George Tait and Rev. A. Gillison.

III.

PETITIONS.

I

PETITION OF REV. M. G. HART.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia, now sitting in Melbourne.
Your petitioner, who has just resigned the pastoral charge of St. John's, Ballarat East, has resolved to devote two or three years to evangelistic work throughout the Australian States.

Your petitioner does not wish the Assembly to guarantee any salary, but merely to give its approval, in order that he may hold evangelistic services as a duly-accredited Minister of the Presbyterian Church.

Your petitioner has been for twenty-four years in the service of the Church, being ordained in Maryborough in 1885. For three years and a-half he was Minister of the Church in that town. For seven years and a-half he was Minister of the Church at Footscray; for three years he was Minister of Chalmers Church, Launceston; and for eleven years he has been the Minister of St. John's, Ballarat East.

Your petitioner is 50 years of age, and is in the enjoyment of perfect health.

Trusting that your Venerable Court will grant the request, and your petitioner will ever pray.

MATTHEW GRAHAM HART.

2

PETITION OF MR. WILLIAM BENNETT TO BE RECOGNISED AS THIRD-YEAR THEOLOGICAL STUDENT.

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

1. The Petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

2. That your petitioner is now in the service of the Home Mission Committee, Victoria, and is at present at Heywood, in the Hamilton Presbytery.

3. That your petitioner is 43 years of age, is married, and has a family of three (3) children. That your petitioner entered upon Christian work in the year 1884, and is now in the 25th year of active service for the Master.

For two years I was a student in Dr. Grattan Guinness' Institute, Derbyshire, England, for the training and preparing men for Home and Foreign Mission Work. The tutor of the Institute was Mr. Wm. Rattray, late of Aberdeen, Scotland.

A year later I was accepted by the Primitive Methodist Church for the Ministry, and spent one year in the Primitive Methodist College, Manchester, under the tutorship of Rev. James McPherson. In 1890 I left England under appointment with the Primitive Methodist Church, Victoria, passed my probation with an average of 70 per cent. for each year, and would have been ordained by that Church in 1895, but I had, after very careful consideration of the matter, decided to apply for an appointment with the Presbyterian Church, therefore resigned my position with the former church, was accepted by the Home Mission Committee, and appointed to Omeo in February, 1895.

In June, 1896, I was asked by the Home Mission Committee to pass a preliminary examination before taking up a course of instruction for missionaries. At that examination I obtained 88 marks out of the possible 100. During that month, and for four years, in the month of June, I attended a course of instruction for the training of Missionaries at Ormond College (according to a scheme adopted by the General Assembly in 1895).

During the 14 years of my employment with the Home Mission Committee, I have laboured with some degree of success in the following places:—Omeo, Kewell, Mirboo North, Lindenow, and Heywood. In November, 1905, I was ordained an

elder of the Church in connection with Lindenow Mission, under the Bairnsdale Session (Rev. F. Milne, M.A., B.D., Moderator).

4. Your petitioner now prays the Venerable Assembly to be recognised as a third year student in the Theological Hall, to be exempt from Greek and Hebrew.

5. In support of the petition, I herewith enclose a Presbyterial Certificate bearing testimony to my work from the Hamilton Presbytery; and also one from the Gippsland Presbytery, within whose bounds I laboured for over eight years.

6. And your petitioner will ever pray.

WILLIAM BENNETT,

The above-mentioned documents are in hand.

J. MEIKLEJOHN.

At a meeting of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, held in Melbourne on the 16th March, 1909, it was agreed "to endorse on the petition" that this Committee gladly bears testimony to the fact that Mr. Bennett has served the Church satisfactorily for a period of 14 years."

Extracted from the minutes.

JOHN BARNABY, Convener.

3

PETITION OF MR. WILLIAM EVANS, FOR ORDINATION.

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

The petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

1. That your petitioner is now in the service of the Home Mission Committee of Victoria, and is at present in charge of the Dimboola Home Mission Station.

2. That he is desirous of entering the regular Ministry of the Church.

3. That he is 41 years of age, and Victorian born, being Scottish on his mother's side, and Welsh on the side of his father, and that he is married and has three children.

His strength was not sufficient to enable him to do the study necessary to pass through the regular course and at the same time to carry on the work of a Home Missionary.

4. That he has served the Church for 13 years in the Dropmore, Cobden, and Dimboola Home Mission charges, and during that time has reason to believe that his work was and is owned and blessed of God.

5. That on being transferred from both the Dropmore and the Cobden Missions, the Home Mission Committee was petitioned by the members and adherents of each of these stations to allow him to remain a longer term as their Missionary, and showed by their expressions that they were satisfied with his ability for the work, and for their needs as Christian congregations, and now the congregation of the Dimboola Home Mission charge express the same satisfaction with his ability and work, and are petitioning your venerable Court to grant him ordination so that they may be able to call him to be their minister.

6. Your petitioner, finding that this desire was spontaneous and practically unanimous throughout the charge, was moved to take this step of petitioning for ordination, and prays that your venerable Court, in its wisdom, may see fit to grant this request so that the desire of the members and adherents of these churches will be fulfilled.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

WILLIAM EVANS.

PETITION TO THE VENERABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA FOR THE GRANTING OF
ORDINATION FOR MR. WM. EVANS, DIMBOOLA, VICTORIA.

The humble Petition of the members and adherents of the Dimboola Mission charge, comprising Dimboola, Wallup, Cannum, Dart Dart, and East Dimboola Congregations, in the State of Victoria, hereby sheweth that Mr. Evans has served the Church as a Home Missionary for a period of 13½ years, viz., 6 years in Seymour, 5 years in Cobden, and 2½ years in Dimboola, and at each of the three mentioned stations the Home Mission Committee have been petitioned to allow him to remain for a longer term. That, having enjoyed the ministration of Mr. Evans for 2½ years, we are well assured of his ministerial abilities, piety and prudence, and suitableness to their circumstances as a pastor and preacher. The charge as a whole has shown great progress under his ministrations. The erection of new churches in different parts of the charge are under consideration owing to the increasing congregations. That if it be possible your petitioners are anxious to have him settled as their minister, and are prepared to undertake and fulfil all the requirements of a regular charge, taking up the duly appointed collections, and paying due rates. And your petitioners therefore ask your venerable Court to grant Mr. Evans ordination, and to grant them authority to call him as their minister. Your petitioners beg to state that this Petition has not emanated from Mr. Evans in any way, but is the outcome of a spontaneous desire to retain him as their pastor.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed by 177 members and adherents.)

4

PETITION OF MR. HORATIO O'SULLIVAN.

To the College Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The petition of the undersigned Horatio O'Sullivan humbly sheweth:—

1. That I had been the Minister of several Union Churches prior to 1896, when I entered the service of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and was given to understand that I would obtain full standing in four years.

Further, I went to Western Australia in 1897 on the distinct understanding that it would hasten my being licensed, but when the Boulder City Church applied for my ordination and induction as their Minister in 1898, I was then informed for the first time that I had to go through Ormond College first.

2. That I have not laboured in vain is seen by the following results:—Land secured for Church purposes Boulder City, Menzies, Berriwillock; Church debts cleared off and financed Sorrento, Uhill, Korong Vale; land purchased for Manse at Sorrento, and Manse bought at Borung; Churches built or collected for, Boulder City, Rutherglen and Berriwillock.

Further, at Boulder City, Newstead and Uhill, my immediate successors were inducted as ministers.

3. That I completed the Home Mission course in 1901, and have passed the first and second years examinations of the Theological Hall, Ormond College.

4. That, owing to the breaking down of my health, I was compelled to relinquish the hard and incessant studies that examinations entail. My age is 48. In consequence of this, the College Committee in 1905 decided that I should not be asked to sit for any further examinations, but that I should serve under the Home Mission Committee of the Victorian Church for three years more, and if my work was satisfactory I should be recommended for license at the expiration of that period.

5. That the Bendigo Presbytery and the Home Mission Committee of the Victorian Church have granted me certificates that my work has been satisfactory.

6. That, as your petitioner has now fulfilled the conditions imposed upon him, he asks your Committee to recommend the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to authorise his trials for license to be entered upon.

7. That subjoined are the following documents in reference to this petition :—

- (a) Letters from Ministers in Victoria regarding my work in Victoria and Western Australia.
- (b) Letter from Dr. Macdonald re decision of College Committee.
- (c) Letter from Dr. Meiklejohn in regard to same matter.
- (d) Certificate from Bendigo Presbytery.
- (e) Certificate from Home Mission Committee, in the State of Victoria.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

HORATIO O'SULLIVAN.

The documents referred to above are in hand.

The following is an extract of minutes of a meeting of the Executive of College Committee :—

"The petition of Mr. H. O'Sullivan was considered, and the relative documents and minutes read. Amongst the documents was one written by the late Professor M. Macdonald, together with favourable testimonies borne, and recommendations made by Mr. A. L. Pryde, and the Bendigo Presbytery, as to the satisfactory character of his Mission during the past three years.

After careful consideration it was agreed that the petition be recommended, on the ground that something like a promise had been made to him, more than three years ago, that if the reports of his Mission work, after three years' additional service, were favourable, the Committee could recommend the Assembly to favourably consider his application for license."

ROBERT M. FERGUS.

6

PETITION OF MR. WILLIAM RIDE FOR ORDINATION.

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

The petition of the undersigned, William Ride, Presbyterian Missionary, of the Wedderburn charge, in the State of Victoria, humbly sheweth :—

That your petitioner is 50 years of age, a married man with wife and four children, whose respective ages are 22, 21, 14, and 10.

That your petitioner has occupied the position of Missionary in your church in this State for above 20 years.

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

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

That your petitioner spent five years and nine months in the Newstead Mission charge, and enjoyed considerable prosperity. During that period a disastrous wind storm occurred, damaging the Newstead and Guildford Churches, necessitating an expenditure of £172. This debt was paid, and the Manse thoroughly renovated during your petitioner's stay there. During this period a petition for ordination was presented to the General Assembly of Victoria, with recommendation from the Presbytery of Maryborough.

That your petitioner has been seven years and eight months at Wedderburn, and God has graciously blessed his labours there. This includes the expenditure of some hundreds of pounds on the Manse and Church properties, which are all at present in good order. During this period also a service was started at Wehla, where a Church has since been built, and a congregation established. During your petitioner's residence at Wedderburn, he was again urged to make application for ordination, which application was recommended by the Bendigo Presbytery.

That both at Newstead and Wedderburn the people themselves petitioned for the ordination of their Missionary.

That your petitioner begs leave to present letters of recommendation in connection with his work.

That your petitioner wishes to state that the movement in connection with this matter did not begin at his suggestion, and that it was only after much thought and prayer that he decided to petition your venerable Court, praying that you will be graciously pleased to raise him to the full status of the Ministry.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

WILLIAM RIDE.

Various letters in connection with the above petition have been received, together with the following extract from a minute of the Bendigo Presbytery:—

"A petition from Mr. Ride, Missionary at Wedderburn, was received and read. On the motion of Dr. A. R. B. McKay, seconded by the Rev. F. Hagenauer, the petition was ordered to be transmitted *simpliciter* with a hearty recommendation of the man for his sterling worth and long and successful service as a Missionary of the Church."

J. MEIKLEJOHN,

Convener, College Committee.

IV.

REPORTS.

1

COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

Since the meeting of the General Assembly in 1907, the full committee has met thrice and the executive very frequently. The business dealt with has chiefly concerned the regular and H.M. courses of study, and the examinations connected with them. In each of the years 1908 and 1909 there were four examinations, with some supplementary ones.

The following are the particulars in connection with the examinations:—

1. *Entrance*, February, 1908; fourteen names were entered—all for Ormond College. Of this number 11 passed, 2 failed (one of the two passed in the Supplementary Examination).

The following are the names of the successful candidates (placed in order of merit):—F. Tanswell, D. D. Munro, D. Ross, R. Alexander, R. D. Watson, A. F. Lawson, D. Dow, F. Tomangno, E. M. M. Baird, F. H. Dawe, A. McLeod. Supplementary: A. Lusted.

For the *April* Examination, 1908, eleven entered, and two presented themselves without due notice. Of these, six were for St. Andrew's College, and one for Ormond College, and six for the extra-mural course. Of these ten passed, viz. (placed in order of merit), James Muir and G. K. Kirke (equal), George Tulloch, J. B. McKissock, D. R. Hamilton, G. H. Parsons, A. E. Harvey, D. Galloway and F. L. Schloeffell (equal), Wm. Taylor.

For *February* Entrance, 1909, twenty entered—twelve for Ormond College, four for St. Andrew's, and four (Queensland) for Extra-Mural Course. Of this number four failed. One West Australian student passed after Supplementary. The following were successful (placed in order of merit):—M. McQueen, M.A., A. Tulloh, M.A., S. H. Dorman, B.A., E. A. Swan, B.A., H. Adams (private student), P. H. Widmer, G. T. Welling, G. L. Shirreffs, A. McAlister, J. A. Craigen, E. W. Wallis, W. D. Anderson, E. H. McL. Shugg, B.A., Wm. Duffy, John Walker, W. J. S. Rankine (after Supplementary).

For *April* Entrance, 1909, ten presented themselves; two of these without due notice, and only taking one subject each. Two failed, and four passed—all for St. Andrew's College. They are as follows, and arranged in order of merit:—A. G. Carter, B.A., A. C. Grieve, B.A., John Walker, R. B. Garner. F. E. Yarnall obtained 66 per cent. in Scripture, but has to complete his Entrance by taking certain University subjects. D. J. Morris, B.A., is entitled to supplementary in one subject, but prefers to take Entrance next year.

W. D. McIlwraith and J. S. Hamilton, B.A., were the two who presented themselves without due notice.

The following students are in attendance at the classes in the Theological Hall who have not yet passed the Entrance examination:—In Ormond College: J. S. Thomson, H. Adams. In St. Andrew's College: J. W. Yarnall, F. E. Yarnall, C. J. Walkom, J. A. Malcolmson, J. S. Hamilton, B.A., D. McIlwraith, E. A. Ferguson.

2. *Exit* The results in connection with the Exit Examination, 1908, were as follows:—

Results of the Exit Examination, 1908 (including 1907 results).

The following are the names of the students who have passed (in order of merit):—

J. McKellar Stewart, M.A., 81½ per cent. (second class honours); J. L. Cope, 77 per cent. (second class honours); E. N. McKie, B.A., 76½ per cent. (second class honours); J. Ferguson Colquhoun, B.A., 75 per cent. (second class honours); H. T. Postle, 75 per cent. (second class honours); A. Dight Walker, B.A., 72 per cent.; A. H. Fletcher, 72 per cent.; Thos. J. Riddle, B.A., 69½ per cent.; H. R.

Grassick, 67 per cent.; A. McLeod, 64½ per cent.; F. I. A. Schloeffell, 59 per cent.; H. L. Baicke, 57 per cent.; Joseph A. Lee (Extra-Mural Course), 58 per cent.

Results of Exit Examination—Second Year Students.

N.S.W. (Two Subjects).—A. J. Carter, 69 per cent.; J. S. Hamilton, B.A., 65 per cent.; John Walker, 60 per cent.; W. P. Stewart, 58½ per cent.; R. G. McCarron, 55½ per cent.; R. B. Garner, 50 per cent.; F. E. Yarnall, 48½ per cent.; J. W. Yainall, 47 per cent.; J. A. Malcolmson, 59½ per cent. (one subject).

Victoria (One Subject).—J. F. Lawton, 92 per cent.; A. S. Legge, 90 per cent.; John Buchan, 81½ per cent.; W. D. Marshall, 80 per cent.; W. Bett, 78 per cent.; G. E. Harrison, 75½ per cent.; G. A. Stewart, 73 per cent.; John Flynn, 73 per cent.; D. S. Jones, 72 per cent.; David Chapman, 71½ per cent.; J. F. Sims, 69 per cent.; B. T. Buntine, 66½ per cent.; J. H. R. Halford, 64½ per cent.

3. *Extra-Mural*.—For the Extra-Mural Examination, 1908, six students presented themselves. One (W.A.) student failed, four (Queensland) passed. They are as follows (arranged in order of merit):—D. Galloway, 76 per cent.; G. Tulloch, 71 per cent.; G. K. Kirke, 60 per cent.; D. R. Hamilton, 57½ per cent. On the report of the examiners in one subject—in the case of the other student—the executive requested the convener of the Home Mission Committee, Queensland, to investigate the circumstances under which the examination took place. As a result, the Executive decided that the student must do all the papers over again. Meanwhile he has gone to Scotland, intending to return.

4. *Home Mission Examination*.—For the third Home Mission Examination, July, 1908, 46 candidates presented themselves, as compared with 58 last year, 22 of these sitting for the first time. For reasons not yet to hand, ten of last year's candidates have dropped out.

The following is the list of men who have passed:—

First Year.—F. J. Thomas (V.), 83 per cent.; H. E. Carey (Tas.), 83 per cent.; J. W. Rankin (S.A.), 72 per cent.; J. F. Hyde (Q.), 65 per cent.; J. Shaw (Vic.), 64 per cent.; T. Miller (Tas.), 58 per cent.; R. H. Wilson (V.), 53 per cent.; J. W. Macredie (N.S.W.), 53 per cent.

Second Year.—A. J. Porter (V.), 81 per cent.; A. J. Faram (V.), 74 per cent.; J. G. Scarffe (Q.), 72 per cent.; O. Jones (V.), 68 per cent.; W. J. Harvey (V.), 65 per cent.; J. Richardson (N.S.W.), 64 per cent.; A. G. Roy (Tas.), 64 per cent. The following have to take supplementary examinations.—A. W. Allen (V.), 64 per cent.; G. H. Elliott (V.), 63 per cent.; R. W. Lyon (S.A.), 50 per cent. (Supplementary).

Third Year.—J. A. G. Robertson (V.), 74 per cent.; E. W. Wallis (V.), 70 per cent.; F. McDonald (Q.), 70 per cent.; J. K. Robertson (Tas.), 67 per cent.; A. D. Leckie (Tas.) (Supplementary), 62 per cent.; C. McAlpine (N.S.W.), 61 per cent.; J. W. Meers (Tas.), 59 per cent.; J. A. Pawson (V.), 51 per cent.; F. W. Rankin (V.), 50 per cent.

Fourth Year.—J. R. Sweet (Q.), 82 per cent. (Sermon, 96 per cent.); W. Duffly (Q.), 71 per cent. (Sermon, 70 per cent.); P. H. Widmer (V.), 70 per cent. (Sermon, 96 per cent.); G. T. Welling (V.), 70 per cent. (Sermon, 80 per cent.); G. L. Shireffs (Q.), 67 per cent. (Sermon, 60 per cent.); A. McAlister (Q.), 66 per cent.

ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON.

(Figures in brackets are those of 1907.)

Victoria was represented by 24 men (20); Queensland by 8 (16); Tasmania by 6 (5); New South Wales by 4 (9); South Australia by 4 (4); West Australia by 0 (4).

Sixteen (16) men sat in the First year; 13 (8) in the Second; 10 (8) in the Third; 7 (16) in the Fourth.

Of the 46 men who have been examined, 29 passed, six of these qualifying for Entrance Examination; 12 (possibly 13) failed; 4 are entitled to Supplementary examinations in one subject.

The general average was 59 (55), excluding fourth year men's sermon.

The following are the percentages obtained by the States:—

Tasmania—65½ (66), with 100 (100) per cent. passes.
 Queensland—62¼ (56), with 85 (50) per cent. passes.
 Victoria—55½ (59), with 61 (65) per cent. passes.
 New South Wales—55 (46), with 66 (33) per cent. passes.
 South Australia—53 (47), with 66 (25) per cent. passes.

In the different years, the following percentages were obtained:—First year, 50½ (53); Second year, 61¼ (55); Third year, 60¼ (52); Fourth year, 64¼ (63).

In the different subjects the following percentages were secured:—Scripture, &c. 54 (57); Logic, 74 (62); Mental Philosophy, 73 (58); History, 59 (62); Moral Philosophy, 58 (47); English, 48½ (49); Greek, 67 (first year set).

Percentage of students obtaining 50 marks or over in each subject:—

In History, 71 (89) per cent.
 In Scripture, &c., 60 (67) per cent.
 In Logic, 55½ (79) per cent.
 In Mental Philosophy, 80 (71) per cent.
 In English, 53 (56) per cent.
 In Moral Philosophy, 63 (50) per cent.
 In Greek, 76 per cent. (first year set).

The examiners were those appointed to examine in the Entrance Examination, and to them the cordial thanks of the Church are due. It is hoped to have separate examiners for the Home Mission examination next year, and so to lighten their labours.

ROBERT M. FRIGUS, Hon. Secretary.

Since last Assembly the Executive has had application forms printed, and supplied to the various States, in connection with the Entrance and Home Mission Examinations. These have helped considerably to lighten the correspondence labours of the secretary.

To relieve the Entrance examiners from the Home Mission Examination work, your committee would recommend that separate examiners be appointed for the Home Mission Course.

Your committee, with the view of encouraging Home Mission agents to study both Hebrew and Greek up to the Entrance standard, arranged to secure, if possible, voluntary tuition, by way of correspondence, for all who desired to take advantage of such help. Thirteen Home Mission agents signified their intention to do so, and tuition has been provided.

Your Committee has granted the requests of R. H. Wilson and Robert Hall, recently appointed Missionaries to the Aborigines of North Queensland, to be allowed to take the Home Mission course of training with a view to the Ministry. In doing so, your committee decided to report this action to the General Assembly, seeing that they labour under the Foreign Missions and not the Home Mission Committee.

Your committee regrets to have to report the removal, by death, of two of the members of our Professorial staff since last meeting of the General Assembly. The Executive forwarded suitable messages to the relatives at the time, and agreed to insert the following minutes in the records of the committee:—

“That this College Committee (Executive) of the Presbyterian Church of Australia records its sincere sorrow at the removal, by death, of the Rev. George McInnes, M.A., D.D., Professorial Lecturer in N.T. Greek and Exegesis, in the Theological Hall of St. Andrew's College, Sydney. The committee sympathises deeply with Mrs. McInnes in her sore bereavement, and with the Church of New South Wales in the loss which has fallen upon it and upon its Theological Hall. The committee desires to express its high estimate of Dr. McInnes' scholarship, and fine qualities as a teacher, and the debt owed to him for his work in forming the minds and characters of many students for the Holy Ministry. Especially

would the committee recognise the brotherly spirit and the winsomeness of disposition manifested by Dr. McInnes in all his relationships with the committee, and with the teaching staffs of the Church, Theological Halls, and his hearty co-operation in efforts for the common good. The committee instructs that a copy of this resolution be sent to Mrs. McInnes, and to the faculty of the Theological Hall, Sydney, respectively, and that it have a place in the Committee's Report to next General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia."

"That the College Committee's Executive expresses its regret at the death of the Rev. Professor Kinross, D.D., and its high estimate of his learning and character, and of the great services he conferred upon the Church both as Lecturer in St. Andrew's College, Sydney, and, later, as Professor of Apologetics in the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Misses Kinross, and also to the Chairman of the New South Wales section of this Committee.

Since last Assembly several of the examiners tendered their resignations, or were temporarily relieved, and substitutes appointed. They are as follows:—

Entrance.—Rev. Karl Forster, M.A. (V.), in place of Rev. J. Gray, B.D., resigned; Rev. J. H. Robertson, M.A. (N.S.W.), in place of Rev. D. M. Barnet, M.A.; Rev. A. J. Wade (S.A.), in place of Rev. G. Davidson, M.A., on holiday; Rev. Aeneas Macdonald, M.A. (V.), in place of Rev. D. M. Stewart (temporarily relieved); Rev. J. McKellar Stewart, M.A. (V.), in place of Rev. J. G. Davies, M.A. (unwell).

Exit.—Rev. R. Robertson, M.A. (V.), in place of Rev. P. J. Murdoch, M.A.; Rev. J. Malcolm, M.A., B.D. (N.S.W.), in place of Rev. R. E. Davies, M.A. (appointed lecturer in his subject).

Since last meeting of the General Assembly, 48 Home Mission agents were received under the Home Mission scheme of training.

Seventeen were admitted as *First* year students, three of this number to be exempted from one year's work if in the first examination they obtained an average percentage of 75.

Seven were graded as *Second* year students, with the exemption from one year's study as above—75 per cent.

Seventeen were graded as *Third* year students, 13 of these having the B.T.I. diploma, Glasgow, 12 with such diplomas being Queensland Home Mission agents. Two in this class were to be exempted one year as above—75 per cent.

One was graded as *Fourth* year student.

Two are to be graded *Fourth* year if they have done two years' Home Mission work, otherwise only as *Third* year students.

Three were admitted to Entrance without the Preliminary course.

One Home Mission agent was received under Rule 2 (b) of Home Mission Training Scheme, and his University classes prescribed.

The Executive heartily congratulate the brethren in New South Wales on their successful efforts to implement the Article of Union, which says: "It shall be the aim of the Church to have all its halls equipped with not less than three professors, such professors to be separated from any pastoral charge."

The Executive have learned with interest and satisfaction that the Rev. Ronald G. Macintyre, B.D., has been elected to the chair of Systematic Theology and Apologetics in St. Andrew's College, Sydney; also that the work of founding a new chair of Church History and New Testament Exegesis in St. Andrew's College had now been practically completed, and that Dr. Clouston would be inducted into this new Professorship after the 1st of January, 1910. The Executive are gratified to learn that St. Andrew's College has secured a substantial endowment for its Theological Library, and also the endowment of a Lectureship in Elocution.

Owing to the removal of the Rev. H. M. Burns, B.D., to Bairnsdale, he had to resign his position as Secretary of the Committee. "The Executive desire to put on record its warm appreciation of the admirable qualities he has brought to bear upon the work, and the fact that he has fulfilled all the duties of the Secretaryship with great self-denial, enthusiasm, and efficiency." The Rev. R. Fergus, M.A., at the request of the Executive, agreed to act in his place, and has been devoting to the work much time and careful attention.

J. MEIKLEJOHN,
J. MATHEW, } Joint Conveners.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

(SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.)

The following are the results of the Exit Examination, 1909 (including 1908 results):

RESULTS OF EXIT EXAMINATION—1909.

(Including 1908 results.)

1. H. S. Legge, M.A.	...	...	81½	per cent.,	Second Class Honours.
2. W. D. Marshall, B.A.	...	...	80½	"	" " "
3. J. T. Lawton, B.A.	...	...	79½	"	" " "
4. J. Buchan, M.A.	...	...	75½	"	" " "
5. D. Chapman	...	...	71½	"	"
6. G. A. Stewart	...	...	70½	"	"
7. J. E. Sims	...	...	70	"	"
8. W. P. Stewart, B.A.	...	...	70	"	"
9. J. S. Hamilton, B.A.	...	...	68	"	"
10. A. J. Carter	...	...	66	"	"
(without Hebrew)					
11. W. Bett	...	...	65½	"	"
12. G. E. Harrison	...	...	64½	"	"
13. D. S. Jones	...	...	63½	"	"
14. John Walker	...	...	62½	"	"
15. J. H. R. Halford	...	...	62	"	"
16. J. T. Kelly	...	...	60½	"	"
17. B. T. Buntine	...	...	59½	"	"
18. J. W. Yarnall	...	...	59½	"	"
19. F. E. Yarnall	...	...	57½	"	"
20. R. B. Garner	...	...	55½	"	"
(without Greek and Hebrew)					
21. R. G. McCarron	...	...	54	"	"

The following are the results of the Exit Examination, 1909 (Second Year Students):

EXIT EXAMINATION, SECOND YEAR, 1909.

Victoria (One Subject):—

R. D. Watson	...	...	91	per cent.
D. D. Munro, B. A.	...	...	82	"
D. Ross	...	...	69	"
A. F. Lawson, B.A.	...	...	68	"
E. M. Baird	...	...	68	"
D. Dow	...	...	65	"
A. Lusted	...	...	64	"
J. H. Dawe	...	...	60½	"
F. Tamagno	...	...	56	"

New South Wales (Three Subjects):—

G. H. Parson	...	...	65½	"
W. D. McIlwraith (Private Student)	...	...	61½	"
Wm. Taylor	...	...	49½	"
A. Crowley, B.A. (Private Student)	...	...	48½	"

(Two Subjects):—

J. A. Malcolmson (Private Student)	62	"
------------------------------------	-----	-----	----	---

On account of the great distances of some of the students, the Extra-Mural Examination returns are not yet complete.

The following is the Exit Syllabus for 1910:

SYLLABUS FOR EXIT EXAMINATION, 1910.

HEBREW AND OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS.

I. GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX.

- (a) Davidson's Hebrew Grammar, with simple composition from English into Hebrew.
 (b) Davidson's Hebrew Syntax: Syntax of the Sentence, and all references to other parts of the book in the passages set.

II. TRANSLATION.

- (a) II. Samuel, xix., 10—xxiii., 7, and xxiv. (inclusive).
 (b) Ezekiel i.-v. (inclusive).
 Text books for Introduction and Exegesis: Kirkpatrick's "II. Samuel" and Davidson's "Ezekiel."
 These books in the "Cambridge Bible for Schools" series.

III. HISTORY AND OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY.

- (a) Ottley's *The Religion of Israel*, Chs. VII.—XI. (inclusive).
 (b) Bunney's *Outlines of Old Testament Theology*.
 (c) Box's Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament, pp. 30-63 (inclusive).

CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY AND APOLOGETIC.

THEISM.—Prof. Flint, *Theism*, pp. 1-321 (omitting in Lecture IX. from p. 274, at "break" ("In Him we live and move and have our being"), to p. 288 at "break.")

N.T. GREEK AND EXEGESIS.

- I. TEXT AND TRANSLATION.—Romans i.-xi. (W. and H. Text.)
 II. EXEGESIS, GRAMMAR, &c.—Sanday & Headlam's *Romans* (International Crit. Com.), pp. 1-350.
 III. INTRODUCTION.—Sanday & Hedlam's *Romans*, introd. pp. xiii.-xviii. (omitting Section 6, pp. iii.-lxiii., and Section 8, pp. lxxiv.-lxxxv.)
 IV. N.T. THEOLOGY.—Steven's *Theology of the New Testament*, Part IV., Ch. IX. ("The Holy Spirit").

CHURCH HISTORY, FOR SESSION 1910.

- I. THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN ENGLAND.
 (a) Reformation Period (16th century), Fisher pp. 346-363 and 369-382.
 (b) Puritan Period (17th century), Fisher, pp. 394-407.
 (c) Period of Wesleyan Revival (18th century), Fisher, pp. 509-524.
 (d) The Tractarian Movement (19th century), Fisher, pp. 549-553.
 II. THE SCOTTISH CHURCHES (N. L. Walker's Handbook, I. & I. Clark).
 III. THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN CHRISTENDOM (Ogilvie's Text Book, R. & R. Clark).
 IV. POLITY AND WORSHIP IN PROTESTANT CHURCHES, Fisher, pp. 413-423.
 V. HISTORY AND DOCTRINE SINCE THE REFORMATION, Fisher, pp. 423-449 and 598-641.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, FOR 1910.

DOCTRINE OF THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST.

- I. CLARKE'S OUTLINES OF THEOLOGY, Part IV., pp. 260-367.
 II. CALVIN'S INSTITUTES, Book II., ch. XII—XVII.
 III. ORI'S CHRISTIAN VIEW OF GOD AND THE WORLD, Lectures VI. and VIII.

The following are the report and results in regard to the Home Missions Examination, 1909:

HOME MISSION AGENTS' EXAMINATION, 1909.

There are 80 Home Mission Agents enrolled under the scheme of Training as follows:

Victoria	27
New South Wales	19
Queensland	18
Tasmania	10
South Australia	4
West Australia	2

At the Fourth Home Mission Examination held July, 1909, 43 candidates presented themselves, 7 sitting for the first time. The following is the list of those who have passed:—

First Year—A. E. Bates (N.), 72%

Second Year—F. J. Thomas (V.), 76½%; J. W. McCredie (T.), 66%; F. L. Heriot (V.), 61½%; John Shaw (V.), 59½%; T. Miller (T.), 59½%

Third Year—A. W. Allen (V.), 79%; H. E. Hulme (Q.), 74½%; J. W. Rankine (S.A.), 74½%; A. G. Roy (T.), 71½%; F. G. Farans (V.), 67%; John Sinclair (Q.), 64½%; H. E. Carey (T.), 62½%; O. Jones (V.), 63%; G. H. Elliott (V.), 55½%; W. J. Harvey (V.), 54½%; J. G. Scarfe (Q.), 53½%; Thomas Harvey (Q.), 53%; S. Williams (V.), 51½% (to receive Supplementary examination in Mental Philosophy).

Fourth Year—J. K. Robertson (T.), 83% (Sermon 85); A. D. Leckie (T.), 73% (Sermon 56); A. J. Porter (V.), 73% (Sermon 80); J. W. Meeres (T.), 65% (Sermon 75); J. McD. Forsyth (S.A.), 64½% (Sermon 75); C. J. McAlpine (N.), 53% (Sermon 70); J. A. Pawson (V.), 56% (Sermon 95); F. W. Rankine (V.), 59½% (Sermon 75), Supplementary in Moral Philosophy; C. McGregor (V.), 56½% (Sermon 95), Supplementary in Mental Philosophy; R. W. Lyon (S.A.), 50% (Sermon 70), Supplementary in English.

ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON.

(The figures in brackets are those of 1908.)

Victoria was represented by 19 (24); New South Wales by 6 (4); Queensland by 6 (8); Tasmania by 10 (6); South Australia by 4 (4); Western Australia by 0 (0). 7 (16) sat in the first year; 8 (13); in the second year 17 (10) in the third year; and 10 (7) in the fourth.

Of the 43 men examined 25 passed, 11 of these qualifying for the Entrance examination; 4 are entitled to supplementary examination in one subject; 14 failed.

The general average of marks obtained by those who passed was 64 (excluding fourth year men's sermons, which averaged 78%).

The following are the percentages obtained by those who passed in the several States:—New South Wales, 63½ (60); Victoria, 62½ (66); Queensland, 61½ (70½); Tasmania, 70 (65½); South Australia, 63 (55).

Reckoning the students, who have yet to take their supplementary examination, as passed, the following would be the record for the different years:—First year 7 sat, 1 passed; second year 8 sat, 5 passed; third year 17 sat, 13 passed; fourth year 10 sat, 10 passed.

In the different subjects, the following percentages were obtained—these percentages refer to all who sat:—Scripture, 49 (54); Logic, 48½ (74); Mental Philosophy, 69 (73); History, 55 (59); English, 46 (48½); Moral Philosophy, 49 (58); Greek, 71½ (67).

The following is the percentage in each subject, of students obtaining 50 marks or over:—Scripture, 63 (60); Logic, 44 (53½); Mental Philosophy, 77 (80); History, 65 (71); English, 40 (53); Moral Philosophy, 56 (63); Greek, 86 (76).

The examiners were those appointed in connection with the Entrance Examination, and to them is due the cordial thanks of the General Assembly.

Your Committee recommends that separate examiners be appointed for the Home Mission Course, and that the following be appointed—two for each subject:

Logic—Rev. Wm. Tait, M.A.

Greek—Rev. H. C. Matthew, M.A.

History—Rev. Æneas Macdonald, M.A.

English—Rev. A. Gillison, M.A.

Scripture and Catechism—Rev. Alexander McDonald, M.A.

Mental Philosophy—Rev. Smith McBain, B.A.

Moral Philosophy—Rev. A. J. Davidson, M.A.

Your Committee is endeavouring to meet the needs of Western Australia (by request of the Home Mission Committee, W.A.) in other subjects included in the studies of the Home Mission Agents, besides Hebrew and Greek. The Committee will be pleased to receive the names of any other Ministers who are willing to further the aim of the Committee in this respect.

Your Committee submits for your consideration the following alterations on the Home Mission Scheme of Training, together with contingent modifications of the Entrance Syllabus, with a view to making it easier for Home Mission Agents to qualify themselves for the full Entrance Examination.

Until the recommendations embodied in the preceding paragraph are considered by the General Assembly, your Committee cannot complete the Home Mission and Entrance Syllabuses for 1911.

Your Committee has to report that on the 22nd September, 1908, it decided, in view of all the circumstances of his case as brought before it by the New South Wales representatives, to grant the petition of H. R. Grassick for Exit Certificate, although he had not passed the Entrance Examination.

In the case of Wm. Ferris, your Committee has to report that he attended the Theological Hall, Sydney, according to the requirements of the General Assembly, and it recommends that the Sydney Presbytery be authorised to take him on trial for licence.

Your Committee recommends to the General Assembly, that in future, none shall be admitted as students for the ministry, except those who shall pass the Entrance Examination.

Your Committee recommends that graduates in Science be admitted to the Entrance Examination on the same conditions as graduates in Arts, but that Greek must be taken at the Examination, if not already taken in the University Course.

Your Committee recommends that in view of the large and increasing amount of work involved in carrying out the Secretarial duties of this Committee, an honorarium of not less than £20 per annum be granted to the Secretary, and that the Theological Hall Committees of New South Wales and Victoria be recommended, through their State Assemblies, to provide this sum in equal proportions.

Your Committee recommends that an entrance fee of 5/- be charged in connection with all examinations under this Committee, except in the case of the Exit Examination.

JOHN MEIKLEJOHN)
JOHN MATHEW) Joint Conveners.

2

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE 1909.

The Committee herewith submits the audited balance sheets and report.

It appears to your Committee that in connection with the funds placed under their care, extreme caution will require to be exercised to prevent the further increase in the expenditure, as it would be undesirable to have to again increase the amount of the assessment, and the revenue from the Hymnary Royalty does not show any expansion.

In the General Assembly Expenses Fund the credit has been increased from £30 10s 11d to £107 6s 5d. But it must be kept in view that this has only been made possible by the fact that the Assembly has not met for two years, and that two years' revenue was thus made available. Before the expenses of the present sittings of the Assembly, including the Blue Book, etc., can be paid, the revenue for the current year will require to be made available, and it will only be by allowing a two years' revenue to accumulate again, that the expenditure at the former rate will be possible.

It is a matter of satisfaction to find that all the State Assemblies have paid their assessment in full, even at the higher rate.

The amount received for Church Hymnary Royalty for the year ending 31st March, 1908, was £83 1s 9d, and to 31st March, 1909, £75 11s 8d—total £158 13s 5d. This with £23 9s 4d of interest forms the revenue of the account, total £182 2s 9d.

The credit balance report at last Assembly was £444 4s 5d, and after making the transfer for the expenses of last Assembly, and adding the revenue as above, the present credit is £320 15s. It will thus be seen that the amount at credit of this account is gradually getting less. There will be sufficient to pay the expenses of this Assembly, and possibly one other meeting, but unless the revenue is considerably augmented, the fund would be exhausted by payment of the travelling expenses for two Assemblies, including the present.

The Committee recommends that the expenses for this Assembly be paid on the same lines, and on the same proportion as for last Assembly, namely:—That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1909, 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, as formerly, ask directions regarding the sum of £45, and 15s interest thereon, received from the Presbyterian Church of England for Bush Mission Work in Australia, the amount being at present held in suspense.

In the Home Mission Account, the revenue was £21 6s 1d, and the payments £20 11s 6d, leaving a balance of £9 12s 6d, including a former credit of £8 17s 11d.

In the Assembly held in Adelaide in September, 1907, a collection of £8 11s 5d was taken up on behalf of Foreign Missions. The amount was forwarded to the treasurer of the Board of Missions.

Your Committee would suggest that the Assembly should pass a resolution to enjoin upon Congregations the desirability of adopting the Hymnary, and thus secure an increase in the Royalty revenue.

On behalf of the Committee,

JOHN H. GOODLET, Chairman.

3

BOARD OF MISSIONS.

This Report of the Board of Missions covers a period of two years, during which the blessing of God has furthered the heathen mission undertakings of the Presbyterian Church of Australia both in its united work in North Queensland and in its separate branches under the State Assemblies. Particulars of what has occurred will be found in the various reports and balance-sheets appended. Expressing profound thankfulness to God for His guidance and help in all, the Board calls attention here to some more general issues involved in the united work.

NORTH QUEENSLAND.

At Mapoon, the Rev. N. Hey has continued his labours with wonted zeal and success, and has in addition superintended Weipa and Aurukun, visiting these stations and encouraging his fellow-workers there from time to time. Mr. Hey has had much trouble from the misrepresentations of a discarded assistant, but his work has stood the test of investigation. Peter Bee, the Samoan assistant who took charge at Aurukun, was murdered there by a native early in 1908. His death recalled the Rev. G. Brown and Mrs. Brown from England. On their return to Weipa the Rev. A. Richter and his wife resumed their stations, and though the biennial reports from Weipa and Aurukun are not to hand at time of drafting this report, the Board believes from the quarterly statements that the stations are making satisfactory progress, and the staff at each is in good health. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Richter, along with Mr. Hey, have earned deep respect for their ability and devotion as Missionaries, and should be supported by the unceasing prayers of the Church.

ASSISTANTS.

The problem, how to provide competent industrial and educational assistants for the Mission Stations is very difficult, but the Board judges that it has been for the present solved by the engagement of young men with good experience in farming and artisan employments, who have been in the service of the Home Mission Committees, and whose wives have been specially trained for foreign mission work, and can at once, and adequately, do the duties of the station's Government teacher. In these capacities Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wilson have been settled at Aurukun, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hall more recently at Weipa. Both young men have already passed some examinations in the Home Mission course. The Board has promised them that they shall have facilities for continuing their annual examinations, and requests the General Assembly to confirm this promise and direct the College Committee to arrange accordingly. If this plan is followed out, the General Assembly will in due course have Missionaries of its own training in full ministerial status for the requirements of its work.

ASSISTANTS' HOUSES.

The change of system for assistants and teachers, placing an additional white family at each station, makes it incumbent on the Assembly to see that suitable house accommodation for them is supplied. It is expected that the Government of Queensland will provide the teachers' quarters. Whatever further outlay is needful must be undertaken by the churches. Since the assessment now levied has no surplus for such a purpose, the Board recommends that each Church which supports an assistant should be asked to supply the means for his home comfort. The charge would not be excessive, and would not recur. Pending the adoption of this suggestion, the Board should be empowered to borrow for the necessary buildings, until its adoption or a fresh assessment liquidates the debt.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA ABORIGINES.

The proposal to found an Aboriginal Mission in Western Australia like those in North Queensland has advanced considerably since last Assembly. The subjoined accounts show how the Churches have responded to the Assembly's request for a general collection. The response has been good, and when that from the Congregations of New South Wales comes in, the Aborigines' Committee of West Australia will have enough money in hand to make a start. Anticipating the prosperity of the funds, and feeling itself competent to raise the annual salary of £200 required, the West Australia Committee negotiated with the Moravian Board, through the Melbourne Executive, to procure a fully qualified Moravian Missionary, but the Moravian Board, under stress of a huge deficit in its finances and the need of general retrenchment, could not take part in opening a fresh field, and reluctantly declined to send a Missionary. A suitable agent is still being looked for. The Board of Missions recommends the General Assembly to accede to the request of the Church in Western Australia that when its Aboriginal Mission is begun in the north-west, probably near Dexby, the work may be controlled and managed like that in North Queensland, by the Board of Missions. Should the Assembly agree to this, proper precautions should be taken to avoid increasing the financial burdens of the Eastern Churches without their consent.

MORAVIAN BOARD.

The General Assembly should send a message of sympathy to the Moravian Church in its straitened circumstances. Not only Australia, but Christendom at large, is deeply indebted to that Church for its devotion to the cause of extending the Kingdom of God on earth. And it would not be unfitting if some of the wealthier members of the Presbyterian Church gave practical testimony to our gratitude by gifts that would help the present need of the Moravian Synod. The following is the text of the revised agreement between the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Moravian Church, which has been ratified by the recent Moravian Synod, and is recommended now for ratification to the General Assembly by the Board of Missions.

THE NORTH QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL MISSION.

The co-operation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Moravian Church in this Mission rests upon the broad lines of the original request of the former, that the Moravian Church supply the missionaries and the Presbyterian Church of Australia supply the means.

On this understanding, as on the experience of nearly twenty years' development, the two Churches base the following:—

AGREEMENT.

(a) That "Missionaries" shall mean the ordained men in charge of stations. Teachers and assistants shall not be sent from Europe, but shall be provided by the Presbyterian Church of Australia, so that the efficiency of the missionaries, as such, may be maintained.

(b) That when reinforcement of the missionary staff is desired the Presbyterian Board of Missions shall give early and detailed notification to the Moravian Mission Board, preferably at the commencement of the year.

The Moravian Board shall then endeavour to send out suitable missionaries as soon as possible.

(c) The Organization of the North Queensland Mission is wholly the affair of the Presbyterian Church. Therefore the duties and responsibilities of the missionaries in the field are not in the first instance to the Moravian Mission Board but to the Presbyterian Church of Australia, through its Board of Missions.

(d) Nevertheless the Missionaries retain a direct personal relation to the Church, which has trained them and sent them out, of which they remain members, and which provides for the education of their children and pays their retiring pensions.

In so far, it is the duty of one of the senior missionaries appointed by the Moravian Mission Board as their Official Correspondent to report to the Moravian Mission Board as to the well-being of the staff, and to keep the Moravian Mission Board informed of all events in the Mission, which concern this Board. This includes his sending in such minutes or resolutions of the General Mission Conference with his own explanations or expressions of opinion. He shall also send in to the Moravian Mission Board the complete statistics of the North Queensland Mission, copies of such reports, minutes, statistics and explanations to be sent to the Presbyterian Board of Missions through its Queensland Executive.

(e) In order that the Moravian Mission Board may be sufficiently informed as to the progress of the work in North Queensland to be able to lay it on the hearts of the members and friends of the Moravian Church, the Convener of the Presbyterian Board of Missions shall keep the Moravian Mission Board informed of important events and of any changes of their own officials with addresses. He shall also forward to the Moravian Mission Board copies of important reports, especially of visitations of the Mission, as well as the Proceedings of the General Assemblies referring to the North Queensland Mission.

(f) THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA MEETS THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES:—

- (1) The outfits and outward journey expenses of the Missionaries whom the Moravian Church supplies.
- (2) The building of Stations and the other expenses connected therewith.
- (3) The salaries of the Missionaries at the rate of £200 (960 dollars) per annum, for a married couple.
- (4) The salaries for Assistants.
- (5) The furloughs of Missionaries, whether in Australia or Europe.
- (6) Other local expenditure, caused by sickness or other occurrences.

(g) THE MORAVIAN BOARD UNDERTAKES THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES:—

- (1) The training of the Missionaries.
- (2) The education of their children, either in Europe or Australia; if in Australia, at the usual charge made for Missionaries' children in Fulneck (England) and Kleinwelka (Saxony).
- (3) The journeys of Missionaries called back or retiring from service, the recall and the permission to retire being given by the Moravian Mission Board with the consent of the Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. This shall hold good only of Missionaries, who have been in the service at least five years. If earlier permission to return has to be granted, the expense of the homeward journey shall be mutually agreed upon in each case by the two Churches.
- (4) The retiring Pensions of Missionaries or their widows, who have been called to full service by the Mission Board. The Annual subscription of £7 per missionary, paid on this account by the Presbyterian Church of Australia, shall be placed to the credit of the Moravian Pension Fund.

LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

The Board reports with gratitude the formation of a Laymen's Missionary Movement in Australia. This movement is educational and inspirational. It raises no new fund for Mission purposes, and it sends out no Missionaries of its own, but it asks the men of to-day to do the work of to-day by taking their true place in the

Home and Foreign Missionary enterprises of the Church. It is based on the belief that it is the duty of the Church to evangelize the whole world, and it asks every man to pray, to study, to work, and to give, that the Church may carry the Gospel to all mankind in this generation. The movement has already given an unprecedented impetus to the Missionary Cause in Canada and America, is making good headway in Great Britain and Ireland, and is now being enthusiastically taken up by a growing body of laymen in our Church.

WORLD'S MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.

A world-wide convention to treat of Foreign Missions has been summoned to meet in Edinburgh (Scotland), in June, 1910. It is to represent all Missionary Societies and Church Missions on the basis of their annual expenditures for the extension of the Kingdom of God in heathen lands. This Church will be entitled to send three delegates so far as is at present known. The Board considers the Convention of considerable importance, and recommends that the Assembly should be represented in its deliberations. Australian Presbyterian Missions cover so wide an area and involve material interests so large, that they ought to be guarded and furthered in any general concert of societies and churches that may be determined. The Board suggests that the Assembly should itself appoint the delegates, give them commissions to the Home Churches, and empower the Board to appoint substitutes for any of those appointed who may be unable to go.

FINANCE.

The system of assessment adopted by last Assembly for the support of the North Queensland Mission has worked out smoothly. The credit balance in the general account is held against claims for boat service, repairs, furloughs, and general expenses which are certain to arise, and is explained, so far as it comes from the assessment, thus:—

Sources.	Received.	Paid.	Dr. Balance.	Cr. Balance.
Salaries	£1,181 18 10	£1,200 0 0	£18 1 2	—
Moravian Insurances	41 7 4	42 0 0	0 12 8	—
Boat Service	157 12 0	126 8 7	—	£31 3 5
Repairs	78 16 0	—	—	78 16 0
Furloughs	88 12 11	—	—	88 12 11
Expenses	88 12 11	52 10 5	—	36 2 6

At the time of drafting this report, Tasmania owes £25 on account of assessment, and a claim is to hand from the Rev. N. Hey, on account of boat service, for £34 2s. 5d. By the end of next financial year the Board will be in a position to estimate more accurately the cost of the various branches of the work. Should the Assembly meet in September, 1910, it will have the opportunity of revising the Board's recommendations, but should it not meet till the following year the Board should be empowered to vary the assessment in amount and incidence according to the revised statistics of membership which it now asks authority to collect, and the varying expenditure which the working of the system discovers.

Mainly from the necessity of appointing and sending forward two new assistant Missionaries and their wives, and some arrears being due by Victoria, the Board expended £109 5s. 6d. more than it received from the Churches supporting the assistants. The Board holds a sum earned by the Mission for teaching (£79 13s. 11d.), and asks authority to allocate this amount to the assistants' deficit, and to pay the balance, after arrears due are received, out of the general expenses. In future the Churches whose assistants occasion this additional expense, should provide it, as the Board ordinarily has no funds to pay for assistants' travelling and initial expenses. The Foreign Missions Committee of New South Wales has generously paid £17 extra outlay incurred by the settlement of Mr. Wilson at Aurukun.

The Board recommends that when a lady missionary or missionary's wife travels alone her expenses be paid not oftener than once in three years.

The Assembly should have satisfaction in noting that at last the Board has been able to pay in full all the claims of the Moravian Board of Missions, and is out of debt to that Church, to which otherwise it is so deeply obliged.

In returning from Europe, the Rev. E. Brown travelled by a more costly route than the amount contributed for his furlough warranted, and asks the Assembly to refund to him the difference. The Board of Missions remits the request *simpliciter* to the Assembly, which has not supplied it with resources to meet such a claim.

Next year the Board deposit of £172 9s. 9d. in the Australian Deposit and Mortgage Bank will probably be paid back in full, and the Board asks directions for its disposal. It recommends that the whole be placed to the credit of the general account to provide for contingencies.

In conclusion, the Board requests the General Assembly to thank W. S. Park, Esq., of Sydney, one of its members, for his valuable services to the Mission in North Queensland and the projected Mission in Western Australia, and the hon. treasurer and the hon. auditor for their assistance, and especially Mr. William Thomson, of the Melbourne office, who is now acting as treasurer, and has kept the accounts of the Board for many years with great care, exactness and efficiency.

ALEX. STEWART, Convener.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF THE ABORIGINAL MISSION WORK IN
NORTH QUEENSLAND IN GENERAL, AND FOR MAPOON
IN PARTICULAR, DURING THE TWO YEARS ENDING JUNE, 1909.

(By Rev. N. Hey)

We earnestly desire to review the past two years with gratitude to God and man for all the blessings and help which have been rendered to us.

HOW DOES THE LIGHT FIRST PENETRATE THE DARKNESS?

Among the blacks the inner man is not dead—only dormant. Many have learned wisdom and found light in the school of sorrow and danger. The definiteness, and, above all, the hopefulness of Christianity, appeals to the natives. The heathen has no hope. The Gospel of a living Saviour supplies food for the empty heart and hungry soul. The old preaching method of the prophets, "Turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die?" and "Thus saith the Lord," have proved the best for our people.

SPIRITUAL WORK.

The Divine Services have been held twice every Lord's Day, as well as the Sunday School for the children and Bible-reading for the young men. Open-air services have also been held whenever possible, and the Wednesday and Saturday night services.

Prayer meetings, as well as the instruction classes for the candidates for baptism, have all been well attended during the past two years. The importance of self-sacrifice, and to be up and doing, have been impressed upon our advanced people at every opportunity.

RESULTS.

So far, we have only one Evangelist, Mamoos, from among our own natives, but he is a power for good, and respected by all. There are others who are trying to act according to the light and knowledge which they possess. The fighting and bloodshed so common among all Aborigines is nearly a thing of the past at Mapoon. Family worship is on the increase, and there are several men who may now be asked to offer prayer in public. Open persecution for the sake of the Gospel is almost unknown, though the Christian who cuts himself adrift from his tribe is considered antisocial, and held guilty of great offence against his people and their customs.

TABULATED RESULTS.

Much of our work and the fruit thereof may never be known. Our people are not demonstrative, but it matters little who sows or who reaps, as long as God is glorified and souls are saved. We agree with D. L. Moody, who said, "The Lamb's book of life is not in my keeping."

During the past two years Mapoon congregation has added eleven new members to its communicant membership. Besides these adults, six children of Christian parents have been baptized. On the other hand, we have lost four by death, so that at the end of the present year the baptized membership numbers 65 souls.

EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG.

The average attendance at School has been 63 all through the year. School hours were 3 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. On Wednesday and Saturday the children were employed about the Station, outside the ordinary course of school routine—the boys being taught carpentry, agriculture, and dairy work—the girls sewing and general housework, besides having their own garden to cultivate.

Our 60 boarders, partly supported by Government and partly by individuals and various organisations in the Church, were housed in their respective dormitories.

Most of these children come from other districts, and vary in colour from nearly white to deepest black, and the difference in their characters is just as great. We believe that great good will come of this training home, the seed sown will bear fruit in God's good time.

The dormitories, the yard, and playground were enlarged. Being always kept in good order, they have an educative value for those who come from the squalid camp life. Yet the higher and real aims have been the training of their hearts and the conversion of their souls. We want homes, and the young people must make them.

The educative value of play was also fully recognised—swings and a merry-go-round are constant sources of pleasure. Amusement is a want that must be satisfied; without it the young life grows crabbed or sour. The merriment of our young people is a striking contrast to the stolid, frightened, and expressionless look of their heathen friends.

MEDICAL WORK.

Among a sick and dying race, medical work is indispensable. Both in 1908 and 1909, a severe epidemic of influenza and dengue fever visited our district. Nearly the whole of the population was attacked, and it was only God's blessing and our own strenuous efforts that saved many lives. Some difficulty was experienced in preventing the fever patients from being plastered over with wet clay or drenched with water by their friends—their usual drastic measures for reducing temperature. Much has been done in instilling the laws of health and the importance of cleanliness, but in a land and among a people where everything is done "to-morrow," old habits are not quickly changed, and much has still to be done to overcome fatalism, apathy, and firmly rooted custom and superstition.

SECULAR WORK.

We believe with Carlyle, "Work is the portion of every son of Adam," and the best of it is not the wages, but the work itself well done. Our industrial training has not been in the first instance the value of the labour, but the principle involved—a lazy man cannot be a Christian. There is no activity so adapted to fit the young for life as the farm—history bears this out.

A MODEL FARM.

Four miles from Mapoon a model farm has for some years been in operation, and from it a number of little homesteads have sprung up during the last two years where young married couples enjoy the novel sensations of home life, ownership and possession. All the expenses connected with this important branch of our work, with the exception of a few unsolicited donations, have been met by our own efforts.

MISSION PROPERTY.

All the buildings connected with the Mapoon Settlement have been kept in good repair, and fences and paddocks renewed. The reserve is stocked with 90 head of cattle, 7 horses, and all the work is done by the natives, under our supervision.

The coconut plantation has produced a good return, and its value is increasing every year.

Two small cutters and a number of canoes have been at work in the neighbourhood of Mapoon, and the results in fish, turtle, and beche-de-mer have yielded a fair income and given congenial employment to a number of natives.

Arrangements have been made that all aboriginals who wish to work have an opportunity of doing so, and are provided for.

MISSION BOAT "J. G. WARD."

Our boat has been kept very busy throughout the past two years, as we depend entirely on the monthly visits, or ten trips a year for our mails and stores. Her arrival at the respective stations is always hailed with delight. A detailed statement of the running expenses of the Mission boat is appended. The other smaller boats employed by the Mission pay their own expenses.

LOCAL NATIVE GOVERNMENT.

Some few years ago the natives asked for permission to elect a leader from amongst themselves, and the request was granted. To our great joy, the native Evangelist above-named, Mamoos, was unanimously chosen. Under the presidency of the Missionary, Mamoos has since acted as Magistrate, assisted by a jury composed of all the male members of the community. A number of cases, chiefly quarrels, thefts, and other minor offences, have been dealt with. The culprits are fined a certain number of spears, according to the offence, but the greatest punishment is the public admonition from the president.

MISSIONARY ASSISTANTS.

In view of the possibility in the future of making more use of Home Missionaries as assistant Foreign Missionaries, we venture to point out that in their selection great care should be exercised. A successful Home Missionary may not always make a suitable Foreign Missionary, and *vice versa*.

We rejoice that a suitable assistant missionary and a teacher have been found in Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, and settled at Aurukun, and that a second young couple are on their way to Weipa.

THANKS.

In conclusion, we have to thank your committee for the encouraging and sympathetic letters received from time to time. We are exceedingly grateful for the valuable help rendered by the various branches of the P.W.M.U., and by other kindred organisations, as well as by thoughtful friends too numerous to mention. Last, but not least, we tender our sincere thanks for the substantial Christmas boxes which loving hearts and willing hands have so gladly prepared for us, and for our people. May God's choicest blessing rest upon all.

In the name of the Mapoon staff,

N. HEY.

REPORT OF WEIPA MISSION STATION FOR THE YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1909.

(By Rev. E. Brown.)

In many respects the past year has been a most trying one.

We read of great times of revival in Christian work in the Southern parts of this land. To us it seems as though the old miracle of Gadara has been repeated in Australia, and the demons driven out in the South have come North and entered into our people and are driving them to self-destruction. Never since I have been amongst them can I remember such a year as the past one. Out of a total of eleven deaths which I have to record, no less than four were from spear wounds.

1. Population.—The figures for births and deaths, eight of the former and eleven of the latter, show at once a serious decline, when it is remembered that we deal with between 300 and 400 people. Were it not for the fact recorded above—of four violent deaths—we should have shown a slight increase, in spite of three of the other deaths being of children under six months old.

Owing to a murder during the previous year, one tribe, the aggressors, were entirely cut off for some months from the station, being afraid to come in for fear of reprisals. When they came the guilty persons were punished—one with death. At the same time, an innocent man was, in a way, accidentally killed, and now the fellow-tribesmen of him who killed the latter are afraid, and have betaken themselves to their own territory. So practically we have had but one tribe a great part of the year, and they have been very unsettled. They, being the relatives and friends of the second man, were determined to kill the one who killed him, but we managed to persuade them to be satisfied with punishing him with a non-fatal spear wound. All this has affected, more or less, several departments of the work, as there are Christians and children on both sides.

2. *Spiritual.*—Though we strive to make every department of our work tend to the spiritual, yet there are efforts which we strive to keep purely spiritual as far as possible. Our people, however, try to make the spiritual serve the temporal. They come to the Church services when they are working, and know that there is food to follow, or when they are sick and want medicine and food. But when we face things squarely, the depressing fact obtrudes itself that very few come to Church who are not entitled to come to the store afterwards. The one cheering feature about them in the matter is, when they are there I could not wish for more attentive hearers. They are not careless then, though carelessness is a marked trait in their character. Even some of our Christians have become careless of attending God's house, or of maintaining an orderly life, though none will admit that they have become tired of serving Christ. There have been no adult baptisms, but two children of Christian parents were baptized. Recently two of our young men, ex-schoolboys, came, asking for baptism, and we therefore have a candidates' class.

A special effort to get into touch with the women has been made by Mrs. Brown, who gives them one afternoon a week. A sewing class, which occupies the first part of the afternoon, is followed by a special service for them in the Church, when, by the aid of a picture an effort is made to teach them about the Saviour who can brighten even their sad lives. Then on another afternoon the girls who have married and left school are invited to come and join the school-children in singing, and attend a Bible-class afterwards. Of course, if these women, whose days are spent in foraging for their daily food, give us an afternoon instead of hunting, we must feed them.

3. *Health.*—In the matter of health, we have reason to be specially thankful for we were visited by no serious epidemic, but the old complaint—a kind of influenza—we have had, and a great many people had a touch of it, but it claimed no victims.

There are a number, especially women, whose complaint is old age, and the aches and pains which old age and a hard life bring. These have great faith in a little simple liniment—plus a pannikin of flour—both of which we can hardly refuse to such poor old decrepit folk as they are.

4. *Educational.*—This has been one of the most hopeful parts of our report when we had one whose special work it was, and who was able to devote herself to it. Then the children made real progress in their studies, and profited thereby, but the progress made during the past year has been very small in comparison. Having no teacher, Mrs. Brown and I divided the school work between us, each taking half a day, and doing the best that our duties permitted us. The subjects taught are the three R's, geography, singing, and sewing; and, in addition to the morning service, a daily Bible lesson. The principal failing with these children as scholars, is that they are afraid of hearing their own voices. When reading together they would be almost deafening if not checked, but as soon as one stands alone it is difficult to get more than a whisper. On the whole they are considerably further on than at the beginning of the year, and two of the older girls, who are married, having been bright pupils, were employed as pupil teachers.

As to numbers, there have been eighty children attending more or less regularly; and the daily average for the year is fifty.

The evening classes for the young men have been in abeyance owing to our inability to do everything.

The Sunday School has been carried on, Mrs. Brown having the girls and I the boys. We hope when we have our assistants to still further divide, and work more effectively.

We have 25 girl boarders, the number having been reduced by the eldest girl getting married, and by the death of one little girl at Christmas. In December they moved into a much larger dwelling. Not only is it larger, but it is built on 6ft. piles, the upper part serving as a dormitory, and the verandah as a playground, whilst underneath is their kitchen and dining-room. Efforts have also been made for general education by means of the magic-lantern and concerts. When we returned from our furlough the young people, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Richter, gave a bright little concert to welcome us, and on the occasion of the visit of Mr. Hey in May the children again made one evening pleasant with a simple concert. Then, looking at themselves in lantern pictures, has shown them that there are many things in this world that they have never even dreamed

of, and has given great amusement. The gramophone also has been an educative force, bringing some of the world's best music, vocal and instrumental, within their reach, enabling them to hear what such things as a good brass band, a large organ, a peal of bells, etc., are like. Of course, they have to be educated to really appreciate such. What they like best is to hear some choir singing hymns with which they are familiar. The gramophone seems to have taken a greater hold on them than anything we have yet introduced. Sometimes they have asked to have it on an evening in the church, and at other times for permission to sit in the yard and hear it when it has been going in the house.

5. Manual Labour.—From the nature of things, this occupies a very large part of our lives. It is ever present with us, except on Sundays.

The great effort of the year has been to put up a fence three-and-a-half miles long, running across a corner of land, connecting the river and creek, which form natural fences, and will, when complete, give us an enclosure about eight miles in circumference. It is being made with one rail and posts, split and mortised and one wire. Some of the men engaged to do it, with occasional supervision, and all things considered, they have done very well indeed, though it is not quite finished.

We made an attempt to fence in about four acres adjoining the main garden, but when a part of the material was prepared and laid, we had to stop for lack of food.

The gardens have been worked as usual, though, unfortunately, floods spoiled the growing crops, and we had but small returns. The garden work is now done by fewer men, as the horses with plough, cultivator and harrow have largely superseded their hoes.

Other work includes, finishing the girls' house, and a house for the bachelors. The latter is an improvement on our old style, the walls being made of slabs and the roof galvanised iron. One new house in the village, for a newly-married couple, was also built of slab walls with a bark roof. Then all the houses in the village were renovated—bark does not last long. A shed was built for a blacksmith's shop and buildings, fences and roads repaired as required. During last dry season we made two more attempts at well-digging, trying to supply the station with water nearer than the lagoons, but in both cases, as in former years, we struck salt water, and had to abandon them. So our people have still to walk to the lagoons, a mile distant, for every drop of water they want during some months of the year, and by means of a tank on a trolley we have to fetch almost daily for the children and general station requirements. The frequent mending of either tank or trolley makes the Missionary wish for some kind friend who would give about £100 to purchase pipes to convey the water.

6. General Remarks.—During the year we had short visits, at different times, from Mr. and Mrs. Hey and Mrs. Ward, all of whom cheered us by their presence.

In August, Mrs. Brown and I returned from our furlough, and took over the station from Mr. and Mrs. Richter, who had kindly left their station to take charge of this during our absence. A day or two before they left, a large number of the people met in the church to give them a valedictory. At this three of the men made short speeches, thanking Mr. and Mrs. Richter for all they had done for them, and asking forgiveness for all the trouble they had given.

Whilst in England I came into contact with the "Boys' Brigade" movement, and on agreeing to start a company here, a gentleman who is greatly interested in the "B.B." kindly gave a complete outfit for forty boys. Since returning, I have carried out my agreement, and the boys have taken well to it. Perhaps I could hardly speak of *esprit de corps*, but certainly the boys are always pleased to drill, and they seem proud of having something in which the girls have no share. It ought to prove a great force for good.

From friends in many places, principally in England, a sum of money was received to purchase a number of brass instruments for forming a band, and a beginning has been made—but a beginning only.

A gift which served a more utilitarian purpose was a cheque for £5 from a gentleman in Melbourne. This, with a little more added, enabled us to supply a long-felt want by purchasing a blacksmith's bellows, anvil and vice.

The gramophone, of which mention has already been made, is also a new thing this year. We bought it on our return.

To try and make some income for the stations, Mr. Hey and I have jointly purchased a Jack donkey, with the object of breeding mules. This necessitated the large paddock aforementioned.

Christmas was, as usual, a joyous time with us, thanks to the kindness of friends in the South, who sent clothing, toys, etc.; and to Mr Embley, owner of Yock Downs cattle station, who gave a large bullock for the Christmas feast.

We close this report with thanks to Him who is always with us, and to all our kind friends who are co-workers with us in this work.

REPORT OF AURUKUN MISSION STATION FOR YEAR ENDING

JUNE 30th, 1909.

(By Rev. A. Richter.)

Ten months have now been spent at Aurukun, and we were thankful to work regularly at our Station. The troubles of 1908 tamed our people a little, and they were looking forward to our arrival with great joy, expecting a more quiet and peaceable time. This we have enjoyed for ten months, and so far the people were willing to bear the punishment imposed upon them for public transgressions. Whether the wild tribes now are beginning to be tired of that quiet life, and the spirit of fight has entered them once more, I cannot yet say.

1. Manual Labour.—This quiet time was a good one for working, and the people were willing to work, and there was work enough. As no repairing had been done at the Station during our absence, everything was pretty much out of order. In addition, a hurricane, lasting for 36 hours, in January caused a good deal of extra labour. Of five bark houses the roofs were injured, and our old work-shop knocked down by two very heavy trees, broken by the hurricane, falling upon it.

Since September, 1908, a great deal of manual labour has been done in building and gardening. A large new workshop, which will serve for several purposes of our Station, is almost completed, and also the fowl-house. Three houses have been roofed, and a great deal of work done in preparing old and making new fences and gates. Much labour was bestowed upon the garden. About 150 fruit trees have been re-planted, also shrubs. Of the 240 trees planted in former years, 100 had to be transplanted this year, while 120 remained undisturbed, several of the latter already bearing fruit. Thus the Station has about 370 fruit trees, besides 500 banana plants in the garden, and 1000 in the nursery. A large new nursery was built, and, together with the smaller old one, proved to be very valuable for semi-tropical plants, etc. The large yard will soon be shaded by mangoes. The new road to the landing-place in a couple of years will be a beautiful avenue, while the Native village in a few years will be hidden among the cocoa-nut trees. A large piece of ground, attached to the boys' dormitory, has become their garden, of which they are very proud. This meets the desire of our children to have a place where, at any time, they may go and pick whatever they like. And this cuts off the temptation to steal. For the first time at Aurukun a trial was made to encourage the blacks in the camp to cultivate a piece of ground for themselves. The result was satisfactory, and there has been less stealing than in other years. One young man has sold already a number of pumpkins. The returns from the Station garden for pumpkins, watermelons, beans, peanuts, and maize were comparatively good. A new piece of ground, about five acres, was cleared and planted with cotton, but the enterprise turned out a failure; but it will be tried again. A greater extension of the garden is impossible until the new assistant's house is built and inhabited. Even the eastern garden, cultivated in 1905 and 1906, is lying waste, since the Kanaka who lived here had to leave the place. The new house is to be built where the old one was, and thus the assistant will be able to have an eye on the garden.

2. The School.—Finding the Station in the state mentioned, it needed all our energy to restore it. Thus we were unable to begin school, especially as the old school-house was in a very bad state. Peter Bee, who was to have built our new church and school during our taking charge at Weipa, had been killed soon after he had commenced the preparation for it. The school was re-opened on January 7th, 1909, after 20 months' interruption, and since then the lessons have been regularly taught by Mrs. Wilson. This has quieted the children, more especially

the boys, and they have made good progress in learning. The boys are nearly all living in the dormitory, but not the girls. We regret very much that soon after the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, all the girls that were at the Station disappeared into the bush, and only a few have returned. Mrs. Wilson likes the school-teaching very much, as well as her black children, and we are glad indeed that Aurukun has such a teacher. The life of the children on the Station is a happy one, judging by their fun and laughter. They have as much liberty as we can possibly give them, and some of the bigger boys are becoming now very handy and useful fellows.

3. Spiritual Work.—In former years we had to complain of indifference in spiritual matters. This is natural to the Natives, who do not know any higher power than that of a bushman, and of the "devil." (Devil is an adapted word, meaning the spirit of a dead man.) Also their natural character, the peculiarities of which are carelessness and laziness, is a great hindrance. We consider our work as sowing, and wait for an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit in God's own time. Our blacks on the whole have not yet learnt to hear God's voice in events, and the present peaceable time has rather confirmed them in their neglect of spiritual things. Nevertheless, there are a few willing to renounce the world and sin, and, though often weak in their efforts, still they are trying to obey God's voice. These are the first signs of life and light, and we are not mistaken, if we count this partly as a result of Dick Kemp's faithful Christian life. Dick, being a New Hebridean, was regarded by the blacks as one of themselves, and his life, therefore, more readily imitated than that of a white man, who appears to the black man too superior for imitation. We have had encouraging signs of faith among some young men and some school boys, and we have to be contented with slow progress. Still, we trust that some day we shall see the fulfilment of Joel 3: 1 and 2, here also.

Everyone of the Mission staff has taken part in religious teaching. The Sunday and week-day services have been held in turn by Mr. Wilson and myself, while the ladies have the Sunday-school. Night classes for men and women, as well as the singing evenings, have been held by Mrs. Richter and myself. The night-class for young men, to which only those have had admission who professed willingness in word and life to become Christians, has caused a little emulation, for which we are thankful. May our Saviour grant that this will turn into zealously, and thus become valuable to these young men. For the workers' staff only we have had a service every Sunday morning, and a workers' conference once every week, which have proved very beneficial to us all.

4. Medical Work.—The state of health in general has been excellent among the workers and blacks. Apart from a few colds, there has been no sickness among the children, and among the adults we had little fever. Nevertheless, a great part of our time has been devoted to medical treatment. Our chief fight was against sores, skin diseases (especially ringworm), burns, bruises, etc. Spear wounds have been very rare—a sign of peaceful times, that have been granted us during the past ten months.

Our birth-rate has been satisfactory. Against four deaths we can mention eight births. Strange is the fact that the two daughters of Pumpkin, the murderer of Peter Bee, died within a very short time. The one was a girl of eight (a little black beauty), the other a married woman of 20, and mother of an 18 months' old child.

5. Historical.—Soon after our arrival here, the police appeared to look for suspected lepers. Though I named four people to the sergeant, he was unable to get even one. Then he went away and sent the boat after them, but without our help they would have tried in vain. It was necessary to remove the lepers, as that disease spreads so easily.

The Christmas festival was again a happy one, and the natives appreciated our being once again with them. The friends had in the usual way thought of our Station, and provided us with a number of gifts. Though in former years they had received more, none were discontented, for they had expected little sympathy from their white friends after all that had happened on the Station during that year.

For the first time, Aurukun has welcomed Mrs. Hey, with her son Fred., in October, 1908, while in May, 1909, Mr. Hey paid us his annual visit, and both visits were very much enjoyed by all.

We trust that Aurukun Station, the workers' staff as well as the people, may often be remembered by the Church in private devotion, and in public meetings, that the Spirit of God may come mightily upon all our work.

General Assembly's Foreign Mission Board.

From 26th July, 1907, to 30th July, 1909.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Victoria to 30/6/09 (including £90 from Ormond College Missionary Society)	920	13	4	By Balance from last year	2	18	2
„ New South Wales to 30/6/09 (including £153 for Assistant's salary)	660	13	5	„ Salaries—			
„ Queensland to 30/6/09 (including £114 for Assistant's salary)	320	18	0	Rev. N. Hey, to 30/6/09... ..	400	0	0
„ Queensland Government, for Teacher's salary	79	13	11	„ E. Brown „ „ „	400	0	0
„ South Australia to 30/9/09	50	0	0	„ A. Richter „ „ „	400	0	0
„ Western Australia to 30/9/09	46	2	4	Assistants „ „ „	382	16	0
„ Tasmania to 30/9/08	25	0	0	Boatman... „ „ „	120	0	0
„ Collection at Meeting of the General Assembly	8	11	5	„ Outfits and Passages to Thursday Island (two Assistants)	83	9	6
„ Interest on Deferred Deposit Receipt	12	0	8	„ Moravian Pension Fund	42	0	0
„ Interest on Bequest of late Mrs. S. L. Comrie	6	2	4	„ Moravian Board Expenses	3	10	0
				„ Expenses re "J. G. Ward"	6	8	7
				„ Convener's Travelling and other Expenses	5	12	6
				„ Cost of Drafts, &c.	23	0	1
				„ Bank Charge for keeping Account	1	0	0
				„ Transferred to Moravian Board's Debt Account	19	7	10
				„ Balance	239	12	9
<u>£2,129 15 5</u>				<u>£2,129 15 5</u>			

XXXX

MORAVIAN BOARD'S DEBT ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1907	86	15	1	By Moravian Board	136	0	0
„ Victoria	14	17	7				
„ New South Wales	8	18	5				
„ Queensland	3	3	9				
„ Western Australia	2	17	4				
„ Transfer from General Account	19	7	10				
<u>£136 0 0</u>				<u>£136 0 0</u>			

WEST AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance in La Crosse Island Account...			1 17 6	By Treasurer of West Australian Church	327		1 2
„ Victoria			173 10 7				
„ New South Wales (Donation, Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Park)			130 0 0				
„ South Australia			12 7 1				
„ Queensland			9 6 0				
			£327 1 2				£327 1 2

WEIPA BUILDING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1907			17 4 6	By Balance in hand			17 4 6
			17 4 6				17 4 6

REV. E. BROWN'S FURLOUGH ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1907			173 11 6	By Rev. E. Brown			173 11 6
„ Donation			0 10 0	„ Balance in hand			0 10 0
			£174 1 6				£174 1 6

W. H. THOMPSON, Acting Treasurer.

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
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

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.

5th August, 1909.

WM. L. MOLLISON, A.I.A.V., Hon. Auditor.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS STATE CHURCHES, 1907.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 1907.

The Committee presents its report with unbounded gratitude to God, for all our Missionaries have been preserved in good health, and have been enabled to continue their good work, and the evidence of their faithfulness is visible in the steady progress of the cause of Christ in the field under their care.

Financially, there is much cause for thankfulness, for, though we carry on the work on a debit for the greater part of the year, nevertheless we are able to close with accounts squared. This is due to the loyalty of the Women's Missionary Association, which, year after year, donates sufficient to make ends meet.

THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

The New Hebrides is a group of islands about 1300 miles north-east from Sydney. As far back as 1868 we have had a special interest in these islands. For here we commenced our first work in the foreign missions field, and with men like the Rev. J. D. Gordon on Erromanga, the Rev. W. B. Murray, M.A., and his brother, the Rev. C. Murray, M.A., on Ambrim, and the Rev. J. D. Landels and the Rev. D. L. Paterson on Malo, we have been enabled to transform at least a portion of the earth's face. And every letter from our present Missionaries tells of the progress of the work. Our field is Malo or St. Bartholomew, a small island in the north of the group, about 11 miles long from east to west. Between it and Santo there is a still smaller island called Tutuba. Both of these are under the care of Mr. Paterson, and the Gospel has such a hold, that they may now be said to be Christian. There are 1300 native inhabitants, of whom about 1000 attend the regular Sunday Services.

During the year we have received the full text of the correspondence between the Rev. Dr. D. Macdonald and A. Rolland Rainy, Esq., regarding the communications of the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific. In these that official made certain charges against the Missionaries. We are pleased to report that the Rev. Dr. Macdonald has successfully refuted all of them.

In view of the arrangements under the new law, whereby there is now a joint legal administration of affairs in the New Hebrides by representatives of Britain and France, your Committee has forwarded copies of the former registered titles to lands in these islands. The Rev. D. L. Paterson has been advised to take any necessary steps to get a better title, if possible, or, in any case, to protect the interests of the Church by exhibiting the documents and having them verified. The Rev. D. L. Paterson and Messrs. J. Cameron and W. Wood have been appointed trustees for the property belonging to our Church in the New Hebrides.

THE CHINESE MISSION.

In 1869 Phillip Lee Hyung came across from Victoria and commenced work among the Chinese on the Araluen goldfields. Three years later George Ah Yen commenced work in Sydney and laboured for eight years, but not with much success. In 1882 our present Missionary, the Rev. John Young Wai, accepted the call of our Church, and commenced his work at what is now the Foster Street and Waterloo Church. The two Church buildings furnish evidence of his successful labours. About 100 to 150 attend the regular Sunday services, and there are some 60 communicants.

During the year the Rev. John Young Wai celebrated his semi-jubilee at Foster Street Church. There was an immense gathering of Chinese, and an excellent representation of the Church's Ministers and Elders. The Chinese presented their Minister with a handsome silk Geneva gown and a complete outfit in the shape of a frock suit and silk hat. The meeting was most enthusiastic.

In Newcastle, Maitland and the Lower Hunter, Mr. James Kem Yee is maintained partly by an association of ladies of the Presbyterian and other churches. The Missionary and the Mission property are Presbyterian. Mr. Kem Yee has done excellent work, and is very much esteemed by his countrymen and the Church at large.

The Foster Street Church has not yet been taken possession of by the City Council, but your Committee has entered into an agreement with the Comptroller of Assets and Stores at the Sydney Town Hall whereby we are allowed the occupation of the building rent free, in consideration of which we forego all claim to interest on resumption money. The building and property has been valued at £1200.

In connection with the Waterloo Church debt there is no alteration in the position.

THE INDIAN MISSION.

The Women's Missionary Association was formed in 1891, as a result of Mrs. Longhurst's visit to Australia. The object was to assist the Missions of the Church, and to aid Zenana work in India. The first Missionary appointed was Miss Mary McLean, who still works there under the direction of the Church of Scotland Zenana Mission at Madras. In 1898 Sholinghur was put in charge of Miss McLean, who was shortly followed by Miss M. McNeill, M.P.S., and two years later by Miss Daisy Symonds, B.A. Schools have been established for caste girls and non-caste children in Sholinghur and in several adjoining villages. In one of these, Ramakrishnapet, a church has been erected by Miss McLean to the memory of her mother.

Miss McNeill is a chemist and a trained nurse, and now has charge of a hospital and a dispensary.

During the year Miss Elizabeth J. Holt, sister of the Rev. W. J. Holt, M.A., of St. Marys, has gone to India to assist our Missionaries. This has been made possible by the generosity of Mrs. J. H. Goodlet.

Miss Flora Butcher, M.D., has had to retire from the field owing to the death of her sister.

Miss Daisy Symonds has been in N.S.W. for the greater part of the year on furlough. After regaining her strength she visited a large number of the congregations in the city and suburbs as well as in the country. She left Sydney for Sholinghur on the 23rd January.

Fuller reports of the great work these noble women are doing may be found in the Annual Report of the Women's Missionary Association.

THE NORTH QUEENSLAND MISSION.

This is properly the Mission field of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and your Committee only makes reference to it in order to keep up the interest of our Church in it, seeing we are responsible for a large share in its maintenance. Originally the Government and other religious bodies carried on the work among the Aborigines, and our Church assisted these other bodies rather than start a new mission on its own account. But in 1891, to celebrate the Federation of the Australian Presbyterian Churches, a Mission was established at Mapoon, on the Batavia River, and later at Weipa on the Embley River, and still later at Aurukun on the Archer River. To these Missions the various Churches of the Presbyterian Church of Australia contribute the proportion assigned to them.

The Missionaries at Mapoon are the Rev. N. and Mrs. Hey and Mrs. Ward; at Weipa the Rev. E. and Mrs. Brown; at Aurukun the Rev. A. and Mrs. Richter.

During the year your Committee has obtained copies of the Agreement between the Moravian Church and the Board of Missions relative to the Missionaries in North Queensland.

According to the recommendation of the General Assembly of Australia, the sum of £120 has been paid to Mr. Richter for an assistant, as well as the portion for the past year.

Quarterly reports have been received from the Rev. N. Hey, the substance of which has been published in the "Messenger."

During the year we have had trouble through the Queensland Aborigines Protector allowing recruiting of natives from the Mission station. Mr. W. S. Park was commissioned by the Board of Missions to inquire into the matter in conjunction with the Queensland Executive. This gentleman was also commissioned to represent your Committee. A detailed statement of the recruiting in Mission Reserves was made to the Queensland Authorities. And we have a definite promise that the like will not recur.

The Rev. E. Brown and his wife are at present on furlough. On their way through Sydney an order for £100 on the Board of Missions was presented to them at a valedictory meeting arranged by the Women's Missionary Association. This amount had been collected by the ladies, and had been forwarded to Melbourne. Miss McCubbon made the presentation.

THE PAMPHLET ON MISSIONS.

The draft of this pamphlet has now been prepared. By the time the Assembly meets it will have been published, and copies will be at hand for Members of Assembly. It is hoped that good use of it will be made, especially among the young folk.

THE ROBERT MORRISON CENTENARY.

This was held in Sydney on the 25th November. Special meetings were held in the morning and afternoon in the Pitt-street Congregational Church, and in the evening at the Sydney Town Hall. These meetings were all of an inter-denominational character, and were well attended.

THE CONVENER'S VISITATION.

During the year the Convener was lecturing as much as on four evenings a week in the interests of the Missions of our Church. Providing himself with a splendid lantern, he has addressed the congregations in connection with the following Churches:—Ashfield, Beecroft-Thornleigh, Balmain East, Chinese Church, Double Bay, Dulwich Hill, Epping, Gladesville, Drummoyne, Annandale, Hurstville, Kogarah, Mosman, Neutral Bay, Pymble, Burwood, Stanmore, Wahroonga, Woollahra, Woolloomooloo. He also visited a section of the Bathurst Presbytery, namely, Bowenfells, Lithgow, Gulgong, Mudgee, Bathurst, Evans Plains, the Muller Memorial Church and Hobby's Yards. Unfortunately, the Convener was not able to complete his work by visiting Moorilda, Blayney and Wellington. On the invitation of the Rev. A. S. McCook, a journey was made to West Maitland and Paterson. In all these places, particularly in the country, the meetings were large and hearty.

FINANCES.

There has been a slight decrease in the collection from the Sunday Schools and the Churches. But there has been an immense increase in the funds coming in from the Women's Missionary Association, to whose assiduous labours the Church at large is very much indebted. The Fellowship Union has also helped materially, as have several Bible Classes and Christian Endeavour Societies, and friends of the Mission. Again our much-loved Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, and Miss Rawson have sent their usual annual donation. The total expenditure has been £1,973 13s. 3d. The receipts have amounted to £1,919 6s. 11d., so that on the 1st January, 1908, we were in debt to the extent of £54 6s. 4d. This deficit has been met by the Women's Missionary Association out of the proceeds of the sale of the Cookery Book.

The appeal for a collection has been responded to by 147 congregations.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, your Committee desires to thankfully acknowledge the blessing of God upon our work, and to commend the extension of the Saviour's kingdom to all earnest Christians throughout the Church to which we belong.

On behalf of the Committee,

JAMES COSH, Convener.

FOREIGN MISSIONS REPORT FOR 1908.

In reviewing the past year's work, there is much which calls for devout thankfulness to God. Although nothing startling has taken place, and although we have not launched out into any new work, yet we have been well favoured. Our Missionaries on the various fields have been preserved amid the many dangers and illnesses to which they are always liable. They have also been encouraged by seeing their work prosper steadily.

In connection with the *New Hebrides*, our Missionary, the Rev. D. L. Paterson and his wife, have been granted their furlough. At present they are away in the Old Country. Mr. Paterson has been armed with full credentials, in order that he may visit the Assemblies of the various churches that may be in session. His work during his connection with our Church has entitled him to this, for he has well maintained the cause of Christ.

In *India* the work is going on steadily. A full report of this Mission will be found in that of the Women's Missionary Association. We would gratefully acknowledge the practical sympathy of Miss Rose Symonds. This lady has spontaneously promised to donate £20 per annum towards the upkeep of the non-caste school, which forms an important part of our Mission at Sholinghur.

The quarterly reports from Miss McLean and Miss McNeill are full of interest, and give evidence of advancement in their particular branches of the work.

In connection with the *Chinese Mission* in Sydney under the Rev. J. Young Wai, we are holding our own. The services are well attended, and from personal testimony we are glad to report that our Missionary's labours are highly appreciated.

During the year we have received intimation from the City Council that payment for our Church property in Foster Street will be made. And it has been paid. Arrangements have been entered into whereby we may lease the property until it is demolished, at a rental equivalent to the interest on the money received by us for it.

At the same time, there is no intention of demolishing the building in the immediate present. But, to obviate any difficulty that may arise when this takes place, the Committee has appointed two of its members to conserve the interests of the Church, so that there is no danger of our work being hindered from want of provision made against the day when we must quit our old Mission quarters.

At Newcastle, under Mr. James Kem Yee, progress is being made. The Committee is satisfied about this, not only from Mr. Kem Yee's own reports, but also from those made by the Rev. C. E. James and the Rev. A. Thain Anderson. These gentlemen have taken great interest in this Mission, and have rendered invaluable service in keeping an eye over it, and in advising our Missionary.

Regarding the Church building, this has been sadly in need of repair for some time past. During the year Mr. William Wood inspected the property, and, on his recommendation, the whole has been put in thorough repair.

The need has also been felt for increased remuneration to Mr. J. Kem Yee, and an increase of £25 per annum has been made to his salary, which now stands at £175.

The Rev. A. Thain Anderson has rendered good service in the resuscitation of the Newcastle Ladies' Committee. Intimation had been made to your Committee that the ladies had resolved to cease work, but Mr. Anderson has been successful in reviving the interest and in organising the Ladies' Committee on a much better basis.

Regarding the work in North Queensland among the Aborigines, the Committee is pleased to report that the difficulties of the past, which threatened this Mission's usefulness, have been surmounted for the present. The Rev. N. Hey has been mainly responsible for this by keeping us well acquainted with what has been going on, and your Committee has ceaselessly insisted on a careful conserving of the Church's interests there through the Board of Missions.

The agreement between the Moravian Board and the Presbyterian Church of Australia has never worked satisfactorily in the past, owing to a not very clear understanding existing between both parties. However, a new agreement has been entered into, whereby it is confidently expected that the work will go ahead and be successful.

Owing to Mr. Park's interest in this particular field, the Committee has been able to find an assistant and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilson, for Aurukun. These

two workers have gone forth from West Australia, and are at present engaged in their first year's work. For the maintenance of Mr. Wilson our own Church is entirely responsible.

The Committee desires gratefully to acknowledge the kind interest of the Rev. Robert Dey, of *The Australian Christian World*. His efforts have been successful in the handing over to us of the handsome donation of £40 10s. 8d.

A communication has been received from the Rev. Alex. Stewart, Convener of the Board of Missions, asking the Committee to appeal to the Assembly to appoint a special collection to be made throughout the Church to assist the West Australian Church in the establishment of an Aborigines Mission. The Committee could not see its way clear to recommend this.

Towards this Mission an elder and his wife have donated £130 for the initial expenses in establishing it, on the express condition that the West Australian Church undertakes to raise £100. This was accepted by the Board of Missions on condition that the West Australian Church provided the whole amount required for the maintenance of the Mission.

Concerning the Finances, the Committee again acknowledges the loyalty and hearty support of the Women's Missionary Association and the Fellowship Union. At the same time, the Committee would urge upon all interested in the world's evangelisation the need for increased liberality. The work is growing, and the expenses are increasing, and we require a regular and annual increase in subscriptions. This year, despite the hearty support of all concerned, we end without a debit. This has been wiped out by a donation of £34 15s. 11d. from the Cookery Book Fund, and by the transfer from the Foreign Missions Reserve Account of £139 18s. 9d. Continual inroads upon the Reserve Fund will gradually do away with it. To obviate such a condition of affairs, the Committee strongly urges the need for keeping apace with the Mission work by increased liberality on the part of the Church.

The thanks of the Church are due to the many donors of moneys towards our Missionary enterprises, among whom are Sir Harry and Miss Rawson.

On behalf of the Committee,

JAMES COSH, Convener.

NEW SOUTH WALES CHURCH.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, JANUARY 1st, 1907, TO DECEMBER 31st, 1908.

RECEIPTS.				DISBURSEMENTS.			
	£	s	d.		£	s	d.
General Missions—				New Hebrides Missions	...	...	...
Church Collections	327	15	1	Aborigines Missions	...	...	...
Sabbath Schools Collections	423	14	3	Chinese Missions	...	...	...
Per Missionary Association	423	18	3	Zenana Missions	...	...	...
Donations, etc.	438	13	10	Sundry Local Missions	...	...	...
			1814 1 5	Sundry Expenses	...	...	...
New Hebrides Missions			251 13 1				
Aborigines Missions			368 5 5				
Chinese Missions			225 9 4				
Zenana Missions			834 18 4				
Sundry Local Missions			10 10 0				
Grant from W.M.A. Cookery Book Account			89 2 3				
			<u>£3,593 19 10</u>				<u>£3,593 19 10</u>

VICTORIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

NEW HEBRIDES.

Staff: 6 ordained missionaries and 80 native teachers supported in Victoria; 5 ordained missionaries, 2 assistants, and 120 native teachers supported by the John G. Paton Fund.

The Rev. C. E. Yates has resigned from North Santo, and the Rev. W. Mackay has been appointed in his place. The Rev. J. S. Jaffray has been appointed to succeed the Rev. T. W. Leggatt at Aulua, Malekula; Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie has been transferred to the service of the Joint Government for 12 months as clerk of works; and Mr. George Thomson has been appointed in his place.

The New Hebrides sustained a severe loss in the death of Mrs. Noble Mackenzie, of Santo. Mrs. Mackenzie was privileged along with her husband to lead 1400 savages to the knowledge of Jesus and His love. Both the committee and the Mission Synod placed on record their very deep appreciation of Mrs. Mackenzie's qualities as a missionary, and of the work which God enabled her to do.

Mr. Mackenzie has been prohibited from returning to the tropics, and the committee has appointed him to Korea.

In view of the Joint Court which is about to be constituted in the New Hebrides, the Victorian Committee has been empowered by the other Committees interested to take steps to ensure the proper presentation of Mission Land Claims.

In view of the increased cost of living in the New Hebrides, and in response to Synod's recommendation, the Committee has raised the salaries of its Missionaries to £240 per annum, has also provided motor launches for the more effective oncarrying of the work.

Plans are now being prepared for the John G. Paton Memorial Hospital which is to be erected at Vila, and which is to be large enough to meet all requirements for Europeans as well as Natives.

All our Missionaries report steady progress in their fields of work, and so remarkable is the movement towards Christ that Synod declares that it is "Flood Tide in the New Hebrides."

THE ABORIGINES.

The Station at Ramahyuck has now been closed. The Assembly presented an illuminated address to the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer on the occasion of his jubilee as a Missionary. Mr. Hagenauer was sent out by the Moravian Church, and was afterwards transferred to the service of the Victorian Church. During the last 50 years Mr. Hagenauer has been the leader in the work among the Aborigines, and he enjoys the affectionate regard of the whole Church in the evening of his days.

The Committee still ministers to the spiritual needs of the Aborigines at Coranderrk, but the number of Natives is rapidly decreasing. A growing interest is being manifested in the work at North Queensland, and the Victorian Church has gladly borne its share in that great Mission. Hitherto there has been great difficulty in obtaining news wherewith to stimulate the interest of our people in North Queensland, but the Executive in Brisbane has promised to see that more information is forwarded from time to time to the various State Committees. A collection was taken up throughout the Victorian Congregations in aid of the new Mission to the Aborigines in Western Australia, amounting with donations to £177 19s 1d.

THE CHINESE WITHIN THE STATE.

Staff: 1 lady teacher, 1 ordained Chinese Minister, 4 trained Catechists, and a large number of voluntary workers. The Rev. J. Tong Wai, superintendent of the Mission, reports that the Catechists are doing faithful and fruitful work in Melbourne, Ballarat, Beechworth, Bairnsdale and Warrnambool, while the Chinese School conducted in Melbourne by the P.W.M.U. is reaching both the children and the parents. The Ormond students are conducting a Sunday School for the Chinese boys in Melbourne. New work is being opened up in Geelong and other places. The influence of the Mission is reaching right into the heart of China itself, for some of our converts are now labouring successfully as Missionaries in their own country.

One of our foremost Chinese workers has passed away in the person of Mr. Paul Young of Bairnsdale. Mr. Young was a Catechist of rare qualities who won a high place in the esteem of the whole community. He was a princely giver. Out of his slender income he built the Chinese Church and Mission House, and supported a refuge for old and worn out members of his own race. A Chinese Consul-General has lately been appointed to watch over the interests of his fellow-countrymen in Australia, and he has expressed his gratitude to the Churches for the work they are doing among the Chinese.

KOREA.

Staff: 4 ordained Missionaries and their wives, 4 single lady Missionaries, and a growing number of Native workers.

The Rev. J. Noble Mackenzie has been appointed as the Missionary of the Young People's Mission Band, and will sail for Korea at the end of the year. Miss Margaret M. Davies, M.A. has been appointed as the Birthday Missionary, and will sail early next year; and now the Executive of the P.W.M.U. has decided to appoint a Matron to the Margaret Whitecross Paton Memorial Hospital which is about to be erected at Chinju, and an eminently qualified volunteer has offered for the post.

The Fellowship Union has practically decided to support a second Missionary in Korea, and the Foreign Missions Committee hopes to send out three more Missionaries in the near future. With this end in view the General Assembly has invited the Church to double its present contribution to Foreign Missions.

The Committee has asked the Board of the American Presbyterian Church North to agree to a rearrangement of territory which will consolidate our work and give us the care of 1,000,000 Koreans.

The work is everywhere full of blessing, and there is every indication that if a sufficient staff is put into the field, Korea will be the first nation of the East to become Christian.

THE HOME BASE.

The Home organisation for our Foreign Missions is now being completed, and is made up as follows:—

1. The Women's Missionary Union, which has entered upon a great forward movement. A travelling Secretary has been appointed and new branches are being formed in many places. A Missionary depot and tea room has been opened in Melbourne, with a staff of 80 voluntary workers. The Women's Union has also decided to take Home Missions within the sweep of its consecrated energies.
2. The Young People's Mission Band, which has now decided to support a Missionary of its own in Korea.
3. The Fellowship Union, which supports one ordained Missionary in Korea and hopes to send out a second in the near future.
4. The Laymen's Missionary Movement, which has now gained a footing in more than 330 Congregations of our own Church, and is spreading into all the other denominations as well. This Movement supports no Mission of its own, and raises no fund of its own, but seeks by educational and inspirational methods to rouse the men of the Church to take their true stand in the great Missionary enterprise. The Laymen's Missionary Movement was afforded definite recognition and a warm welcome by the State Assembly in May, and it has already shown that it will profoundly influence the Missionary outlook of the whole Church. There is every reason to believe that the Movement will spread right through Australia, and that it will do for the men of the Church what the Student Movement is doing for the students.

In reviewing the work of the last two years, the Committee feels that there has been decided progress both at home and abroad, and it expresses its devout thankfulness to God for His guidance and blessing.

W. FRASER, Convener.

FRANK H. L. PATON, Secretary.

VICTORIAN CHURCH.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

FOR TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS TO 31st MARCH, 1909.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.		EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
New Hebrides Branch—including New Hebrides, Amy Gertrude Russell, Dayspring Maintenance, and Native Teachers' Funds	4,779	15	5		New Hebrides Branch	5,938	5	10
Chinese Branch—including Chinese, Aborigines, Korean, Korean Medical, North Queensland, and Caroline Kay Funds	6,482	7	9		Chinese Branch	4,809	17	10
Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union Fund	2,788	9	4		Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union Fund	2,869	0	2
					Balance—being excess of receipts over expenditure	433	8	8
	<u>£14,050</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>			<u>£14,050</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>

xlv.

QUEENSLAND.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEATHEN MISSIONS, 1907.

With gratitude to Almighty God, the Committee have to report another year's faithful labour on the part of the Missionaries in North Queensland. The conditions of the work are peculiarly difficult, but the spirit with which it is conducted is that of men who realise they are there as the messengers of the Master, to whom they are answerable for the faithful discharge of their duties.

The Rev. N. Hey, whose special field of work is Mapoon, where he is the successor of the consecrated founder of the Mission, Rev. J. G. Ward, has been appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to visit the other Stations, to consult with and advise the workers, and to report annually. To him is thus entrusted a general oversight of the whole of the North Queensland Mission.

It is not possible to tabulate spiritual results. The Committee are gratified to know that Mr. Hey speaks encouragingly of the year's work, and of the promise of the future. Special attention is being devoted to the training of the young, and in this the hope of the future lies.

Mr. Hey states:—"The general behaviour of our people has been all that could be desired, except where outside influences interfered." One of the great troubles at Mapoon has been from the pearling boats, which put in in the neighbourhood and succeed in recruiting the Mission boys. The Committee felt fairly confident that an end had been put to their destructive interferences with the Mission Work some time ago, but, unfortunately, the mischief has been renewed. The Queensland Government has now granted the Mission a larger area under its protection, which covers the waters to which these boats come for recruiting purposes. This will, it is believed, afford increased security to Mapoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown are now on a well-earned furlough in Europe, and it is hoped they will return refreshed in body and mind to resume the work at Weipa, where they have laboured long and well. Miss Schick has resigned the position as teacher at Weipa. Mr. and Mrs. Richter are in charge of this Station during the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Galloway, who volunteered for work in the Northern Mission, were unable, for health reasons, to remain on the field.

It is with deep regret the Committee have learned of the murder of Peter Bee, at Aurukun. Peter Bee was a Samoan native, and formerly a teacher under the London Missionary Society. He had worked as assistant to Mr. Hey at Mapoon for eighteen months. Mr. Hey thought highly of him, and gave him and his wife charge of the Station at Aurukun. No particulars have yet reached us of the massacre. Mr. Hey has sent some of his Mapoon workers to take charge of the Station.

The Committee are glad to be able to present a favourable financial report. The Kanaka Mission, which was closed last year, leaves a debit balance of £26 4s. 5d. The Aboriginal Mission Fund General Account began the year with a debit balance of £116 9s. 3d., and closed with a reduction to £59 6s. 4d. This satisfactory result was largely contributed to by a generous donation of £50 from the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union, and by an increased revenue from the Congregations.

At the General Assembly meetings, held in Adelaide in September last, recommendations of the Board of Missions were adopted, introducing a new system of financial responsibility, based on statistics of membership in the various States. Queensland's membership is placed at 6,377, and its quota at £97, but the payment of assistants is not included in the new system. The matter is referred to the Assembly. The Committee have made no payment of assistants' salaries since September. Our State is no longer responsible, under the new arrangement, for the up-keep of the "J. G. Ward"; the Boat Maintenance Account is, therefore,

closed, the indebtedness remaining at the time of closing was met by a donation of £42 3s. from the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union, and the transfer of the amount at credit of the New Boat Reserve Account, £50.

The Committee desire once more to place on record their appreciation of the faithful and generous service rendered to the Church, and especially to its Heathen Mission work by the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union,

R. HENRY ROBERTS,

Convener.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEATHEN MISSIONS, 1908.

The Assembly will learn with much pleasure that the work in North Queensland has been carried on during the year with that earnest fidelity which we have all along been accustomed to associate with our Missionaries. There is no record to set before the Church of a great spiritual awakening, or even of anything phenomenal in the way of interest in the more material side of the missionary operations, but we have to tell, and we do it with pride, of unstinted labour and unselfish service on the part of our Missionaries, which, we believe, will, at no distant date, bear abundant fruit.

The Mission staff, save in the matter of assistants, remains as it was at the presentation of last report, and we wish to convey to the Assembly an assurance of our complete confidence in the Missionaries, who have proved themselves workmen needing not to be ashamed.

During the year Mr. Brown, who, along with his family, had been in Europe on furlough, returned to his post, and the members of your Committee had an opportunity, when he was passing through Brisbane, of conferring with him in regard to a number of matters of interest in connection with his own work at Weipa, and the general work of the Mission as a whole. Such conferences, if they could be held oftener, would, we have no doubt, be of very great service in advancing the work.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming to Queensland Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who have been appointed to Aurukun to assist Mr. and Mrs. Richter. It is extremely difficult to secure good assistants. The Moravian Board cannot help in the matter, and, though every means has been used to enlist the practical sympathy of our people, Australia does not seem to be a good hunting ground for this purpose. It was all the more gratifying therefore to find in Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, two devoted young Australians, who are prepared to serve Christ in the humble capacity of assistants in North Queensland. An assistant of the same type is needed for Weipa, and we trust that one will soon be sent to Mr. Brown's help.

During the year a collection was taken up on behalf of work among the Aborigines about to be commenced by the West Australian Church, but to this appeal there was not a very liberal response, only £9 6s. net being collected. This amount has been forwarded to the Board of Missions to be used for the object specified, and we trust that much blessing may rest on the work in the Western State.

A considerable amount of trouble was again caused at Mapoon, by the efforts of recruiters to obtain labour from the Mission Stations, and by the apparent unwillingness of the Government officials at Thursday Island to prosecute the offenders. A vigorous protest, and a small deputation to the Home Secretary, who was at the time on the point of going on a tour of inspection to the North, put matters right, and your Committee desire to acknowledge the considerate kindness of the Hon. A. G. C. Hawthorn, who at that time occupied the position of Home Secretary. It is confidently believed by your Committee that we are not likely to have that kind of trouble very soon again. In this connection your Committee feel that they should express their deep indebtedness to Mr. F. C. Hodel, of Thursday Island, who has shown a very warm interest in the work, and has gone to much trouble in order to safeguard the interests of the Missions.

The beginning of the work beyond the bounds of the Commonwealth—work that could really be described as Foreign Mission work—has been under consideration, and, while no definite step has been taken, there is a general feeling among the Committee that, at no distant date, the Church should face her duty to the regions beyond. We may be told that it is folly to think of advancing, when we have some difficulty in making ends meet as it is. It may be, however, that our financial difficulties are largely the result of the small appeal which our work makes to the imagination of our people. If we would attempt more, we might be astonished by the discovery of a fountain of Christian generosity in our midst of which few of us have yet dreamed. Some small steps have been taken by the Committee to obtain sets of lantern slides, illustrative of the work of Presbyterian Missions all over the world, and by the exhibition of these in our various congregations it is believed that something may be done to arouse a much deeper interest in the great work which is being done by our Church for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom throughout the world.

The financial position of your Committee is much the same as last year, and by reference to the financial statement it will be seen that very slightly increased liberality on the part of our people would enable us to meet our present liabilities, while anything approaching to a generous response would enable us to take up some fresh field either in the Commonwealth or outside it.

During the year the Rev. R. Henry Roberts, having resigned his position as Minister of Enoggera Terrace Church, ceased to be Convener of your Committee, and the Rev. W. Sweyn Macqueen was appointed to act in his stead till the meeting of Assembly. During the term of his office Mr. Roberts has given earnest attention to the duties devolving upon him as Convener, and your Committee part from him with regret.

Your Committee cannot close this report without expressing their deep sense of gratitude to the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union for the excellent service which they have rendered during the year, service which is all the more appreciated that it is rendered year after year with such loyalty to the Church and such unselfish devotion to the great work of spreading the Evangel.

In name and by authority of the Committee,

W. SWEYN MACQUEEN,
Acting Convener.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 1907.

1. Last year your Committee, with deep sorrow, had to report the death of Mrs. Macmillan, the wife of our devoted missionary at Tanna. Since then Mr. Macmillan has stuck manfully to his work, and earned the sympathy and admiration of the whole Church. The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union resolved to send some memorial of Mrs. Macmillan to Tanna, and this has been done. The memorial took the form of a Baptismal Font, and it was used for the first time on Sunday, December 29, 1907, at White Sands, when 43 persons were baptised. In all ninety-one members have been added to the membership of the Church by Mr. Macmillan, not including others belonging to Dr. Nicholson's district. This is a fine proof of the work that is being done, and calls for gratitude to God.

2. Mr. Macmillan has set himself to build a new Church at White Sands, at a cost of £300. Towards this the natives contributed £14 15s. 3d. at the Baptismal service referred to, and a consignment of 626lbs. of arrowroot has been sent to Adelaide to help the enterprise. All the branches of the P.W.M.U. have assisted in the sale of this, with the result that up to the present £12 worth has been sold and the money remitted. It is to be hoped that the balance of the arrowroot will soon be disposed of. Mr. Macmillan has as yet made no direct appeal for help in the building of this new Church, but friends in South Australia have sent him £6, and further contributions are invited.

On September 2, 1907, a letter was received from the Hon. Secretary to the John G. Paton Mission Fund, proposing that the Church in this State should transfer its Mission Station at White Sands to the John G. Paton Fund, on the ground that the interest and sentiment of the public and friends of the Fund in Great Britain crystallised so closely round the island of Tanna, the scene of Dr. J. G. Paton's early labours, that the identification of the Fund more closely with that island would be likely to put it on a more permanent basis. A copy of the letter was sent to the Presbyteries of the Church, and to the Executive of the P.W.M.U. In acknowledging the letter, the Convener pointed out that the Committee had no power to make the transfer, and that it was a matter which only the Assembly could decide. Your Committee discussed the proposal on its merits, and also held a conference with the P.W.M.U. on the subject, but no unanimity of opinion was disclosed. Later on a letter was received from the Rev. F. H. L. Paton, the director of the John G. Paton Fund in Australia, stating that if the proposal was likely to arouse discussion and differences he had authority to withdraw it. Your Committee thereupon agreed to ask Mr. Paton to withdraw the proposal, and this was done.

3. The question as to what amount is due to Mr. Macmillan, on account of furlough expenses, on the occasion of his visit to Great Britain, still remains undecided. The Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, acting for our Church, promised Mr. Macmillan a periodical furlough to Great Britain on full salary, with travelling expenses paid. Your Committee had no knowledge of this at the time, and has no record of it. The amount in question is £182. Mr. Macmillan offered, as a compromise, that he be paid this amount in lieu of six months' stipend paid in advance; but in a letter to the Convener of September 3, 1907, he indicates his wish to let the matter drop so far as any claim on his part is concerned, and asks the Committee to reconsider the whole matter, that things may be put on a satisfactory basis for the future. The terms on which Missionaries are engaged by the Victorian Church are (a) Three furloughs in ten years: i.e., three months' furlough, covering the third and sixth hot seasons, and fifteen months' furlough at the beginning of the ninth hot season; and (b) Allowance during furlough at the rate of £60 per annum over and above regular stipend and fares between the Colonies and the Islands. Missionaries whose head-quarters are in Great Britain, have, on the other hand, their travelling expenses paid to London and back, under the John G. Paton Mission Fund. Mr. Macmillan's position is unique. He was engaged in Great Britain, but not under the John G. Paton Mission Fund. It will be necessary for this Assembly to give a final decision on the matter. Then there is the further matter of allowances for the Missionary's children, as agreed upon by this Assembly.

4. Finances.—We began this year with a debit balance of £127 12s. 8d. Since then one-half of the Walter H. Duncan bequest was placed to the credit of the funds; special donations, amounting to £33 1s, have been received; Congregations have contributed by annual collections, £24 2s 2d; Sunday Schools, £53 1s 5d; and the P.W.M.U., £120 15s 2d. We close the year with a debit balance of £6 0s 4d.

5. Mapoon Mission—In his annual report the Rev. N. Hey, Superintendent of the Mission, states that the number of those who have been baptised during the existence of the Mission is forty-nine. The chief event of the year was the completion and opening of the new Church: the building having been put up entirely by the natives, under supervision. The influence of the school and training of the young have been beneficial, apparent both in connection with family life and with the work of the Mission generally. The average attendance at school was seventy: 46 girls and 24 boys. The contribution to this Mission by our Church in South Australia, amounting to £24 10s., has been made. Chalmers Church Sunday School and the Ministering Children's League each support an orphan girl at Mapoon, at a cost of £3.

6. Other Fields and Objects.—Flinders Street P.W.M.U. contributes regularly to Zenana Missions. Sums of £1 8s 6d and £2 11s have been donated for sundry Mission objects; and £1 1s for the Margaret Whitecross Paton Mission Fund.

By authority of the Committee,

GEORGE DAVIDSON, Convener.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 1908.

We rejoice to be able to report another year of progress at White Sands. The membership has increased, and our missionary has been cheered by many tokens of the Divine blessing. The work has not been carried on without danger and hardships, but we have reason to praise God, who has watched over His servants on Tanna and blessed their labours. It has been one of the most successful years in Mission work ever known on that island, where heathenism has been so stubborn and the fight so prolonged.

In the early part of the year Mr. Macmillan, owing to the absence of his brother missionaries on furlough, was in sole charge, and it was with pleasure he welcomed them back to their respective stations. In November, as the hot season advanced, he left the islands to enjoy a well earned and much needed rest in Australia; Dr. Nicholson undertaking the oversight of his station in his absence. After spending some time in Victoria and New Zealand, circumstances arose that, in his judgment, rendered his immediate return to White Sands necessary. His stay there, however, must be brief, as he has been nominated to the Moderator's chair of the Assembly. It will enable him more easily to devote the necessary time to visiting the congregations, and to fulfil in a more satisfactory way his Moderatorial duties with benefit to the Church.

The plan for deputation work by our missionary which the Committee had drawn up, could not, of course, be carried out. The work, however, has only been left in abeyance, and shall be taken in hand forthwith. A most hearty welcome awaits Mr. Macmillan from every congregation as he goes to tell the story of the progress of the Gospel at White Sands.

As instructed by last Assembly, we have paid Mr. Macmillan an additional £100 in settlement of his claim for furlough allowance. The direction to pay his salary when due, and not, as formerly, in advance, has also been attended to. The Women's Missionary Union undertook, with our sanction, to raise not only the sum necessary to meet our obligations respecting furlough expenses, but also the amount due for child's allowance. A special effort was made throughout the whole Church, which resulted satisfactorily. In addition to this amount (£172 15s 10d) we have received from various sources the sum of £305 19s 6d. The year opened with a debit balance of £6 0s 4d, and it has closed with a credit balance of £29 14s 8d.

The question of furlough allowances for the future has been before the Committee; but, unhappily, there has been no opportunity of conferring with Mr. Macmillan. At the instance of the New Zealand Church the matter was brought before the New Hebrides Synod last June, and it was decided to submit certain suggestions to all the Churches concerned. In addition to these recommendations of the Mission Synod, we have had information in our hands as to the terms that have been adopted by the Victorian Church. The proposals we recommend are the following:—

1. A short furlough of three months covering the third hot season; a similar short furlough covering the sixth hot season, and a long furlough of fifteen months covering the ninth and tenth hot seasons.

2. Allowance for furloughs at the rate of £5 per month over and above fares between the Islands and Adelaide.

As our Missionary is put to additional expense by having to go on furlough he is justly entitled to some allowance. The question of an allowance for travelling expenses in connection with the long furlough we have thought better to leave unsettled until the need arises for facing it.

The Mission Synod has also drawn our attention to the altered conditions in the New Hebrides and to the increased cost of living there consequent thereupon. We have postponed consideration of the Synod's recommendation on this matter until after conference with Mr. Macmillan.

The whole of the first consignment of arrowroot has been sold, and a second consignment is being disposed of. The proceeds go towards the erection of a Church at White Sands.

The Church in this State pays a proportion for the maintenance of the North Queensland Mission. The staff there has been increased by the addition of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who were engaged in Adelaide. The Mission has had some very serious difficulties to contend with, and the murder of one of the native mission agents has given the executive an anxious time. From the last quarterly report of the Queensland Executive to the Australian Mission Board, we are glad to learn that the workers were in good health at the close of the year. In order that Weipa (the Rev. E. Brown's station) might be placed on an equality with others, the Committee were disposed to make representations to the Government with a view to obtaining an increase of the grant for rations. As, however, the whole subject of Government aid for Aborigines is likely to undergo fresh consideration at an early date, action was postponed in the hope that the revision might wipe out existing inequalities. There appears no reason to fear that the Government is going to depart from its hitherto kind and liberal care for the Aborigines.

An appeal was made to congregations by direction of the Board of Missions for funds to start a mission to the Aborigines in West Australia, and as a result £12 7s 1d has been subscribed. The sum of £2 5s was also contributed by the Flinders Street branch of the W.M.U. towards Zenana Mission work.

It is confidently expected that the sojourn of our worthy missionary, the Rev. T. Macmillan, M.A., in the State and his visit to congregations will greatly revive and extend interest in our missions to the heathen.

By authority of the Committee,
THOMAS SHANKS, Acting Convener.

TASMANIA.

REPORT OF TASMANIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS.

During the last two years the work for Foreign Missions in Tasmania has visibly improved. At the beginning of 1908 all arrears of previous years had been paid off and we were enabled to enter into arrangements for the appointment of a new Missionary. After some unavoidable delay a suitable student of New Zealand volunteered. He was accepted and ordained at the beginning of this year and went down to the New Hebrides by the April steamer. In the Rev. J. B. Weir and Mrs. Weir we feel that we have obtained two workers of the right stamp and spirit. The Rev. T. E. Riddle, the missionary on the field adjoining ours, has rendered noble service in the prolonged supervision of our work which fell to him. We have also to gratefully acknowledge the help of the New Zealand Committee in enabling us to proceed to our new appointment.

Our late missionary, the Rev. R. M. Fraser, has now retired from active work. We have instituted a Provident Fund for an allowance to him of £100 per annum, and have also entered into a contract with the A.M.P. Society on behalf of our new missionary, the Rev. J. B. Weir. We should not have been able to undertake these liabilities had we not received the splendid assistance of the J. G. Paton Fund, and the Victorian Church. The Rev. W. Fraser, B.A., and the Rev. F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D., have been associated with us as advisory members of our committee.

In our missionary field we have a native population of about 2000. There are 24 native teachers. The native collections for the year were over £33. Our new missionary received a very hearty welcome, and we look forward hopefully to a forward movement in the field. As we look back we see great cause for thanksgiving. The difficulties that have been overcome are considerable, and we humbly acknowledge the hand of the Almighty Father who hath both guided us and helped us on.

J. HEYER, Convener.

Hobart, July 12th, 1909.

TASMANIA.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

1907.

RECEIPTS.

NATIVE TEACHER'S FUND.		GENERAL FUND.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance ...	12 2 6		60 18 8
Congregations ...	52 0 6		149 7 1
Subscribers	—		—
Sabbath Schools	—		35 16 11
Total	<u>£64 3 0</u>		<u>£246 2 8</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Salary ..	—		100 0 0
Native Teachers	50 0 0		—
Board of Missions	—		26 1 6
Maritime Service Board	—		90 19 4
Commission	—		1 6 6
Convener's Expenses	—		5 2 6
Printing ...	—		0 15 0
Balance ...	14 3 0		21 17 10
	<u>£64 3 0</u>		<u>£246 2 8</u>

1908.

RECEIPTS.

NATIVE TEACHERS' FUND.		GENERAL FUND.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance ...	14 3 0		21 17 10
From Congregations	49 19 9		187 11 10
Subscribers	—		—
Sabbath Schools	—		30 5 10
	<u>£64 2 9</u>		<u>£239 15 6</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Salary	—		100 0 0
Travelling Expenses	—		2 16 6
Maritime Service Board	—		28 0 2
Board of Missions	—		25 0 0
Convener's Expenses	—		5 18 1
Rev. T. E. Riddle's Expenses	—		6 10 0
Native Teachers	50 0 0		—
Printing	—		1 14 0
Balance	14 2 9		69 16 9
	<u>£64 2 9</u>		<u>£239 15 6</u>

Hobart,
March 1st, 1909.

Signed { J. HEYER, Convener.
 { JAMES MURDOCH, Treasurer.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN AND ABORIGINES MISSION COMMITTEE.

Interest in Aborigines mission work has increased greatly since the Report furnished to the General Assembly two years ago. Spurred on by the splendid results achieved by the Anglican, Roman Catholic and other denominational Missions the Committee approached the Government for the purpose of obtaining a suitable site and grant in aid. In this they were encouraged by the visit of Mr. W. S. Park, a member of the Board of Missions, who, besides giving on behalf of himself and wife the sum of £130, lectured on the North Queensland Missions. The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union rendered valuable assistance by arranging a Missionary demonstration, and donated £50 towards founding the station. Further help came from Victoria where about £160 was received in response to an appeal made by the Assembly. South Australia has also called for donations, and a collection was to be made throughout the New South Wales congregations during July. For all this assistance we express our heartiest thanks. The amount now lying to the credit of our Committee is over £600.

It being a condition of Mr. Park that the proposed Mission should be under the control of the Board of Missions, and this being the desire of our Committee also, a communication to this effect was made to the Board. A reply was received stating that the Board was recommending the General Assembly of Australia to take control of the Mission on lines similar to those governing the Queensland station, and that an application would be made to the Moravian Board for a Missionary, conditional on our Committee being responsible for all the financial obligations. The State Assembly, meeting in November, adopted the following resolution:—"Confirm the action of the Committee in seeking to place the Mission under the control of the Board of Missions; empower the Committee, as soon as it is able to make suitable financial arrangements, to secure the services of a missionary." Unfortunately, word has been received from Bishop La Trobe stating that it was not practicable for his Board to supply a Missionary.

Much attention has been given to the selection of a suitable site. As the outcome of consultations with an explorer of the far north-west, Walcott Inlet has been chosen. A suitable harbour is there and the soil is good. We are asking for a reserve of 50,000 acres on the north shore of the inlet, and west of the Charnley River. Out of this area the permanent Mission station of 20,000 acres will be chosen. In addition, the Government are being asked to make a capitation grant, such as is being made to the existing Missions, of tenpence per day per native, and to provide the salary of a teacher. The Colonial Secretary, who knows of the work of our Church in Queensland, is desirous of a similar undertaking in this State, and has promised that a reply to our requests will be in the hands of our delegates to the General Assembly.

In making this Report, the Committee feels that it has the best wishes of Presbyterians throughout Australia for the establishment of the Mission. Not only will it be a means of reaching the Aborigines, it will also afford a base for Home Mission enterprise between Derby and Wyndham, and so lead to the establishment of Presbyterianism along the greater part of our coastline of 4350 miles. Knowing the opportunities afforded, knowing also the great responsibilities, the Committee earnestly trusts that the General Assembly will place the Mission under the control of the Board of Missions, and that after the monsoon season, the settling of a Missionary in the Far North will be an accomplished fact.

E. G. PETHERICK
G. F. PITCHFORD

Conveners

REPORT OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

This report consists of two parts:—

A.—Brief statements furnished by the Conveners of State Home Mission Committees.

B.—Answers to queries.

A.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

HOME MISSION WORK IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The general character of the work of the Committee during the past year has been very similar to that of preceding years. It has made substantial progress notwithstanding the two formidable obstacles of an insufficient supply of suitable agents and a strictly limited income. Four districts that have been supplied by Home Mission Agents for many years have become fully sanctioned charges, and are now happily settled under the Ministers whom they have called. At least four new districts have been occupied by the agents of the Committee, but this does not measure the growth, for in four parishes, assistants to the Minister have been provided by the Committee with the view of so working up the parishes that they may in course of time be divided.

The Committee has long been impressed with the necessity of having one or more men in the field to act as Home Mission Organisers, and developed a scheme which was submitted to the State Assembly, and received its approval. It was not considered expedient to make a permanent appointment at the time, but the Committee was authorised to make a temporary appointment. This has been done since the Assembly, and the Rev. H. E. Grassick is at work as Acting Superintendent, and so far the results of his labours have been very beneficial.

The north-western portion of the State was erected into a Home Mission district, and the Rev. M. Henry has been in charge, and arrangements are being made for agents to work under his direction, and supply that vast but thinly populated area with religious ordinances. In one of the most needy districts of the city, namely Woolloomooloo, has been established a Home Mission Settlement at St. Andrew's House, under the charge of a Deaconess, Miss Eva Holland, and the House has been the centre of much quiet, steady work during the year. This part of the Mission is under the charge of a special sub-Committee, composed of members appointed by the Home Mission Committee and the Women's Missionary Association.

VICTORIA.

Although all the results have not been satisfactory, it is gratifying to know that earnest and widespread efforts have been made. The matter of a sufficient supply of suitable agents has been a standing hindrance. Classes for Home Mission Agents are held for four weeks in Ormond College prior to the examination, and lectures are delivered in all subjects of the Syllabus. The travelling expenses are paid by the Home Mission Committee and the lecturers are appointed by the State Assembly. The operation of the rule in Victoria, requiring one year of service from Licentiates, has greatly assisted during past years in the raising of prospering Home Mission Stations to the status of settled charges. The new departure in concentrating attention on some of the densely populated parts of Melbourne has already been productive of good results. This work is urgent, but it cannot be successfully prosecuted until sources of revenue are obtained without trenching on the support available for general Home Mission work. Fitzroy has been selected as a special sphere of operations, and the Rev. A. J. Davidson, M.A., was appointed in 1908 for three years as superintendent. Since the city branch was formed in 1907, about £1250 has been allotted for buildings and equipment. The services of the Rev. D. A. Cameron as Director of Home Missions have been invaluable for the Committee, owing to his knowledge of local conditions.

NOTE.—*Since last Assembly the Churches of New South Wales and Victoria have contributed the sum of £250 and £191 respectively to assist the Churches of South Australia and Western Australia in Home Mission Work.*

TASMANIA.

Since the General Assembly of Australia last met we have made various changes and considerable progress in our Home Mission work. Funds—the relics of State aid—which used to be equally divided among all our charges, have been withdrawn from those paying over £250 and a manse, and are now equally divided between the weaker charges and Home Mission stations.

In the chapter on Home Missions in the new edition of our Rules and Forms, we have inserted a rule that every Missionary before he can be permanently employed must produce a certificate of Presbyterian Church membership, sign the formula, as an elder does, and promise to take up a course of study, either that prescribed by the General Assembly of Australia, or one prescribed by the State Assembly.

A new Mission Station has been opened at Newtown, a suburb of Hobart, and steps are being taken towards the erection of a building. A site has been secured at Sheffield, and building will soon be begun. A new brick church has been erected at Burnie, where we have a most efficient agent, and we hope it will soon become a regular charge. Nearly all our Home Mission Stations, of which we have 12, are in a healthy condition. We cannot get a sufficient number of suitable men in the State, and some of those imported only remain for a short time. Some of the Stations are unable to contribute much to the support of the Missionary, and local collections are small. We shall greatly miss the services of our very efficient convener, Rev. F. E. Owen, M.A., B.D., who has gone to Western Australia.

J. RUSSELL, Acting Convener.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Considerable progress has been made in Home Mission work in South Australia during the past year. The new congregation at St. Peters, East Adelaide, has made such advance that it is now about to be settled under the care of the Rev. J. Ferguson Colquhoun. A neat hall has been built, suitable for school purposes, till the congregation becomes equal to the task of building a church.

Woodville has also gone forward, and next year will be able to take a licentiate with a view to a settlement.

Hawthorn is in a similarly progressive state.

We are glad to report that a further movement is in progress for Church extension in the suburbs, a generous donor having come forward with an offer of financial assistance to provide sites for future use. In line with this, steps will be taken to establish a charge somewhere in Northern Adelaide, and in other suburban districts.

At Port Pirie, in the suburb of Solomon Town, the church vacated by the Congregationalists has been acquired, and there is already a growing attendance, and also a flourishing Sunday School.

The Home Mission Stations that were in existence at last report are all in good order, with the exception of Petersburg, which the Committee are endeavouring to place on a more satisfactory footing.

At Pinnaroo, beginning in a small way, and with practically no external resources, our Missionary, Mr. Wylde, has gone bravely forward. He now ministers to a large number of our people, and has commended himself very much to them. He has already seven preaching places under his care. A small cottage was erected as a manse (the cost of which was defrayed out of the money sent to us by the N.S.W. Church), and two blocks of land have been secured at Pinnaroo and one at Parilla, and another at Lameroo has been given for Church purposes.

The Committee has instructed its Missionary in the Iron Knob district to proceed into the back country towards Yardea and Tarcoola, doing for that district the same kind of work that is being done so effectively by the Smith of Dunesk Mission in the Far North. It is also hoped to work this territory more effectively, as a great Mission district, with Port Augusta as its headquarters, as soon as an ordained Minister can be obtained.

W. GRAY, Pro Convener.

Adelaide,
September 4, 1909.

QUEENSLAND.

Since our former report was furnished to your Committee in 1907, the Home Mission work in this State has been carried on with considerable energy and hope-

fulness. Perhaps development rather than extension has been its characteristic. No method of work or administration has been introduced which can claim particular novelty. The general lines of work which past experience has proved have been followed with such modifications as new circumstances required.

The only exception to this (if it be one) is to be found in work inaugurated in Central Queensland with Longreach as headquarters. In that region we have placed three agents, who by co-operation are endeavouring to minister to people scattered over nearly 20,000 square miles of country.

The need for our work and the encouragement we have received in it are great, but, for the present at any rate, we feel that we have a financial burden somewhat greater than we are yet prepared to carry.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The great event of the year has been, undoubtedly, the opening up of work in the north-west of the State. Upon this thinly peopled territory the churches of Western Australia have made but slow inroads, partly owing to the difficulty of securing sufficient bases for their work, and partly to the immense demand made upon them by the rapid growth in the southern portion of Western Australia. Beyond Geraldton, on the coast line, and north of Cue, further inland, the population is scanty. In no part of Australia are the sheep stations further apart than in the districts between Carnarvon and Port Hedland, while the cattle country from Derby to Wyndham, and continuing right into the Northern Territory, presents even greater difficulties in the scattered nature of the settlements and the immense distances between the different points which have to be touched. Connecting these regions, in some respects, is the long line of coast, where the pearling fleets find so remarkable a source of wealth. In all this territory the necessary bases, with a few exceptions, must be found in the small coastal towns. Of these, Broome, while the largest, is also the most isolated, and the most exceptional in its conditions, owing to the large proportion of Asiatics in its population, and its distance from other settled districts. The Anglican Church has one or two clergymen in the North and North-west, which are as large as Germany and France combined. The Roman Catholics have priests in several centres, and some years ago the Congregational Church established a congregation at Carnarvon, which may be taken as the most southerly township in this whole region. The Methodists, like the Presbyterian Church, have long desired to break ground in the North. The Rev. J. H. Fordyce, M.A., during last year, when he was Home Mission Convener, actively interested himself by getting in touch with different people in that section of the North-west known as Pilbarra, which has the distinguishing feature that at Marble Bar, some 125 miles inland, there is a mining field which furnishes a good centre.

In September the Home Mission Committee saw its way to send the Rev. A. Crow, our Home Mission Superintendent, to investigate, and to organise work in this quarter. From Port Hedland he travelled to Marble Bar, to Nullagine, and to Roy's Hill Station, which may be taken as almost the limit of the territory which can be occupied with effect. All this region lies north of the Tropic of Capricorn, and between 118 and 120 degrees of east longitude. Mr. Crow, who has taken so magnificent a part in opening up new charges on the Eastern Goldfields of this State, as well as in the agricultural districts and in the Metropolitan area, was well received in these remoter parts, and was able to bring back substantial promises of financial assistance and an earnest request that a man should be sent to that region. In accordance with the decision of a *pro re nata* meeting of Assembly, the whole section of the State lying in the tropics was made into a superintendentship, which was afterwards offered to the Rev. J. H. Fordyce, Moderator of the Church in Western Australia, who accepted the appointment and went north in the beginning of April. In the first place, Port Hedland and Marble Bar were selected as his headquarters, as this territory is being opened up by a new railway, the construction of which is now being begun by the Government. So far, Mr. Fordyce has held services with great acceptance at Port Hedland and Marble Bar, a leading Anglican declaring that his addresses have made a deep impression. It will take some time to thoroughly test this section of the State. The need certainly is great, since a whole generation is growing up beyond touch of direct gospel influences. For this very reason it is the more necessary that those who go to that region should be like Mr. Fordyce, men of special ability with much of the apostolic spirit.

While this has been the chief forward movement of the year, other developments may well be shortly referred to. An opening has been made at Denmark, lying to the west of Albany, and reputed to be "the very Gippsland of Western Australia." Never were our Home Mission stations on the eastern goldfields so well manned, and from several of these new causes have been started in towns which may be reached by our present agents. A re-arrangement of districts has been made with regard to work along the Great Southern line. Northam, stimulated by the presence of the Rev. H. T. Postle, has resumed the status of a full charge. Rev. W. L. Fordyce, after doing good work for us at Albany, has become minister at Boulder. In the Metropolitan area there seems a prospect of several new mission stations being opened up in the near future, with the assistance of the Lay Preachers' Association, which has done such fine service in this direction in the past. On the other hand, we have withdrawn from Cue and Day Dawn, on the Murchison.

These forward movements have been made in spite of some degree of financial embarrassment. The funds collected by the Rev. A. Crow in his two visits to the United Kingdom are now exhausted, and only the generosity of the churches in New South Wales and Victoria, together with the grants received from the Presbyterians of the United Kingdom, have enabled us to face our responsibilities in this manner. The contributions of our own church people, even in the time of depression through which Western Australia is passing, show constant improvement. The expenditure on existing stations is being gradually reduced. The whole conditions of life in the State, however, necessitate the payment of salaries to our Home Mission agents on a higher scale than those necessary in most of the Eastern States, while the adoption of the system of paying salaries direct by our general treasurer—to whom different local treasurers remit monthly—while financially an admirable means of retaining direct control, may not, in all cases, put so much pressure on the different charges as might be secured by following the method of grants in aid. Comparative statistics do not give any very clear evidence on this question, owing to local circumstances, but it may be generally stated that, in view of the reduction in the gold yield, and the corresponding depression on many of the goldfields, and the unprecedentedly low average yield in our agricultural districts last year, our people, many of whom are new settlers, can scarcely be blamed for the check which has been sustained in our efforts to reduce the burden cast upon our general funds for the support of our Home Mission stations.

The Committee has sustained a serious loss by the decision of the Rev. A. Crow, who has done such splendid work for the Church during the past three years as Home Mission Superintendent, but who has now, in view of the absence of much prospect of forward work in the near future, accepted a call to North Perth Congregation, which this year began its separate existence as a full ministerial charge, Maylands, previously allied with North Perth, now being an independent congregation under the Rev. F. G. Petherick. Until the end of our present church year, an attempt is being made to keep in touch with the various stations by means of direct correspondence with the Convener, assisted by periodical visitations, undertaken by each Presbytery, of the charges within its bounds.

Among the difficulties with which we are faced is the lack of a sufficient supply of Home Mission agents suitable for work at stations far from any direct ministerial oversight. Our present staff have shown admirable loyalty, a generous response to the demands made upon them, and a spirit worthy of all commendation, but the difficulty of securing new Home Mission agents to take the place of those who retire is serious, while, at the same time, the immense distances separating many of our missionaries from the nearest minister, render it very difficult to give that assistance in the way of coaching which is necessary to enable them to pass their examinations in the Extra-Mural Course. This naturally inclines those who can get employment in the more densely populated States to prefer that to the conditions existing here.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the general body of our people were never more interested than at present in Home Mission work. This is shown not only by the subscriptions through the Home Mission boxes and by response to special collections, but by the success of our Home Mission festivals, towards which the Western Australian branch of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union has done much. One of our smallest Home Mission stations, Bally Bally, in connection with Pingelly, has devised a novel means of helping the Home Mission funds, which indicates their enthusiasm, and might well be adopted throughout the Commonwealth. They are striving to persuade each farmer's family in connection

with our church at that place, to set aside one acre of wheat land per annum, the crop of which is to be sold and the proceeds donated to our funds.

The visits to the State during the year of the Rev. John Meiklejohn, D.D., and of Professor Naylor, of Adelaide, were of immense service in rousing enthusiasm and practically demonstrating that, although we number only a dozen ministers, less than a score of congregations—only one of which can boast over 150 members—and about twelve Home Mission stations, with a territorial responsibility of nearly a million square miles, we have the cordial support of all other sections of a historic church that has known how to face new problems in the old spirit of the evangel, and which will not leave on too few shoulders a burden greater than can be borne except in the strength that cometh from Above.

B.
TABULATED INFORMATION FROM ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

	New Fields.	Fields Ab'nd'ned.	Home Mission Districts settled as Charges.	Ordained Ministers employed as Agents.	Divinity Students employed.	Matri- culated Arts Students employed.	GENERAL AGENTS.			AGENTS UP FOR EXAMINATIONS.				Passed.	Lay Agents Baptising.
							Under As- sembly's Scheme.	Not Studying.	Elders.	1st yr.	2nd yr.	3rd yr.	4th yr.		
New South Wales	4	0	4	17	16	11	23	9	2	3	1	1	1	—	{ None authorised
Victoria ...	4†	1	2	12	18	5	23	42*	6	25	9	7	4	16	0
Tasmania ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	6	2	1	3	0	6	4
South Australia	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	4	2	0	2	0	3	{ None authorised
Queensland	4	0	0	6	5	0	6	6	26	2	1	2	4	7	23
Western Australia	6	4	3	3	0	0	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	{ No inst'nce known
	20	5	9	38	42	17	71	66	46	34	12	15	9	32	

† Two assistantships.

* Several of these are preparing for study.

It seemed to your Committee to be of importance to find out what help is afforded the Home Mission lay agents in the prosecution of their studies under the Assembly's Scheme of Training. The information is, on the whole, fairly satisfactory.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

"No general scheme, but Ministers and Moderators are asked to supervise work of agents."

VICTORIA.

"Many of our Moderators assist, and some Ministers tutor by correspondence."

TASMANIA.

"We provide lectures annually at a centre, and supervise during the year by correspondence. Our men have never failed."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

"Coaching Class."

QUEENSLAND.

"The services of Ministers have been secured, and amongst them the several subjects are allotted. Largely by means of correspondence they keep in touch with the agents, testing their progress through questions and explaining difficulties which are brought under their notice."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

"As far as possible, all agents studying for examination have been brought into postal communication with one of our Ministers for coaching purposes, and have been assisted where practicable by lessons."

As to the question whether State Home Mission Committees, on employing fresh agents or on reviewing the status of agents for some time on the staff, insist upon their pursuing the Assembly's scheme of study, the information is not satisfactory.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Yes, very definitely so.

VICTORIA.

"All who are admitted are expected to study either for the University classes or the scheme of studies prescribed by the General Assembly when age or other considerations make that course advisable."

TASMANIA.

"We insist upon it."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

"Yes."

QUEENSLAND.

"Yes."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No information.

JOHN FERGUSON, Convener.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Your Committee has to report the death of its Convener. In Dr. McInnes the Church has lost a capable minister, a wise counsellor, an able leader, and an accomplished scholar. In the administrative work of the Church his advice was invaluable, his business tact and ability combined with an intimate knowledge of ecclesiastical law and procedure enabling him to be of great service in the Courts and Committees of the Church.

Your Committee desires to express its appreciation of his services by its sympathy with the widow and family in their bereavement.

The Rev. Alex. McKinlay, of Chatswood, N.S.W., was appointed to act as Convener till the meeting of Assembly.

PRESBYTERIAN OR CALVINISTIC METHODIST CHURCH OF WALES.

The following communication, with covering letter, has been received:—

Rhyl, North Wales, January 1, 1909.

The General Assembly of the Calvinistic Methodist or Presbyterian Church of Wales herewith presents its cordial greetings to the General Assemblies and Presbyteries of the Australian Colonies and other Colonies.

The General Assembly of the Church of Wales, meeting in Liverpool on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th June 1908, Rev. William Evans, M.A., Pembroke Dock, Moderator, adopted the following resolution:—

Inter alia,

REPORT OF THE WELSH-ENGLISH COMMITTEE.

The following corresponding members, and members of the various deputations of other Churches who appeared in the Assembly were present:—The Rev. G. D. Matthews, D.D., London, Secretary of the Presbyterian Alliance, in the chair; Rev. James Mellis, M.A., Southport; Rev. R. M. Maclean, B.D.; and Mr. Thorburn, of the United Free Church of Scotland; Mr. Archibald Irwin, Belfast, of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland; Rev. John Owen, Mold; Rev. R. J. Rees, M.A., Aberystwyth; Mr. D. D. Jones, Swansea; and Rev. Lewis Ellis, Rhyl, Convener of Committee on Intercourse of the Church of Wales.

The following resolution was adopted with unanimity:—

Re our Ministers and the Colonies.—To avoid irregularities and facilitate the admission of our Ministers to the Presbyterian Churches of the Colonies, e.g., Australia and New Zealand, etc., that the following regulations be acted upon:—That it be agreed that the Moderator and Secretary of the Presbyteries in the Colonies be desired to admit to full rights and privileges of the Church as a Minister, any Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, who can present a duly filled certificate indicating his good character and standing signed by the Moderator and Secretary of either the North or South Wales Synod (Association), such certificate and such credentials to be accompanied, at the request of the Monthly Meeting (Presbytery) and the Association from which the Minister proceeds, with a covering letter from the officers of the General Assembly of the Welsh Church regarding such Minister to the Presbytery officers of the Church concerned.

Extracted from the Minutes of the General Assembly.

Signed on behalf of General Assembly.

WILLIAM EVANS, Moderator.
RICHARD J. REES, M.A., Secretary.
LEWIS ELLIS, M.A., Convener of Committee.

Your Committee in terms of the above resolution recommends the Assembly to declare that the Calvinistic Methodist or Presbyterian Church of Wales is included in the designation of the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain and Ireland, under Section A of the Regulations.

(1) Rev. E. FOX.—A certificate having been received from the Home Mission Committee of the N.S.W. Church, that Mr. Fox had satisfactorily completed his twelve months' probation, your Committee in terms of remit of last General Assembly agreed to receive him as an ordained Minister eligible for a call.

(2) Rev. T. E. McCLEMENT.—The last General Assembly referred Mr. Clement's petition to the Assembly. Mr. McClement has withdrawn his petition, he having left for New Zealand.

(3) Rev. W. A. HOBSON.—Your Committee not having heard anything of Mr. Hobson since last Assembly recommends that his petition be departed from.

The following petitions have been received:—

(4) Rev. THOMAS J. CURTIS.

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

The petition of the undersigned Thomas John Curtis, a Presbyterian Minister, respectfully sheweth:—

That petitioner was born in Neath, South Wales, Great Britain, on November 20th, 1838.

That petitioner received a sound English education partly under his eldest brother, the late Alfred Curtis, schoolmaster and afterwards solicitor, and partly at a public school in Neath.

That petitioner emigrated with his parents to Australia, and settled with them in the town of Bathurst, N.S.W., in the year 1854, and was there engaged for some years in business as a watchmaker, jeweller, and gold buyer, in connection with his father and brothers, Henry and Edwin.

That in the year 1856, petitioner became a member of the Presbyterian Church at Bathurst, and shortly afterwards a teacher in its Sabbath School.

That in the year 1865, although continuing in business, petitioner commenced to study, with a view to the ministry, under the late Rev. James Brotherton Laughton, B.A., first at Bathurst and afterwards at Parramatta.

That subsequent to leaving Parramatta in the year 1867, petitioner continued his studies privately, while still in business in Sydney, and afterwards in Dubbo, N.S.W.—in the last-named place petitioner formed and conducted a Sabbath School, and frequently held Divine Service.

That in the year 1873 petitioner presented himself before the Presbytery of Bathurst for examination, and passed, and was received and appointed as Catechist to labour in Gulgong, where he was instrumental in having a Church and Manse built, and outlying districts of the parish of Mudgee, now divided into the parishes of Mudgee, Gulgong, Coonabarabran and Gulargambone, as assistant to the late Rev. Alexander McEwen, M.A., and was directed by the said Presbytery to pursue his studies for the ministry, under, and with the aid of Mr. McEwen, and present himself for examination by the said Presbytery every six months, which directions he obeyed, and after successfully passing in all the prescribed courses in Theology, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Mathematics, Philosophy, History, General Literature, etc., and undergoing and passing final and special examinations in his various studies and trials in preaching as appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, was eventually, by order of the said Assembly, towards the close of 1875, licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Bathurst.

That in January, 1876, petitioner with the sanction of the Presbytery of Bathurst retired from Gulgong, and by direction of the Presbytery of Sydney undertook the formation of a new parish in the district of Waterloo and Botany.

That petitioner in the month of October, 1876, was ordained, and having been duly called thereto, was also inducted as Minister of the Charge of Waterloo and Botany by the late Rev. John Dunsmore Lang, D.D., by direction of the Presbytery of Sydney.

That petitioner having succeeded in building up a flourishing Charge, and erecting substantial Church edifices in Redfern and Botany, obtained in March, 1887, in consequence of ill-health, leave of absence from his Charge for nine months, and went to San Francisco, where having accepted a call to the pastorate of Woodbridge Presbyterian Church in that city, he remained until the year 1892, and then returned to Sydney, in consequence of domestic affliction, and resigned the charge of the said Woodbridge Church.

That in May, 1894, petitioner accepted a call to his old Charge, then called "St. Luke's, Redfern," and continued as its pastor until January, 1907, when,

acting on the advice of his physician, he resigned his charge, and bearing with him the usual certificate from the Presbytery of Sydney, and many expressions of the respect and goodwill of co-Presbyters, parishioners, and neighbours, went to America and took up his residence at Alameda, San Francisco Bay, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Oakland, and did some Church work as "supply."

That in June last his health having become thoroughly restored, petitioner left America for Sydney, arriving here on 24th July ultimo, bearing with him the usual Presbyterial Certificate from the Presbytery of Oakland, in favour of the Presbytery of Sydney, which certificate he has already handed in.

That petitioner has ever striven to be loyal to the Church and faithful in its work.

That documentary evidence in support of this petition is to be found in the minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of N.S.W., and of the Presbyteries of Sydney, Bathurst, San Francisco and Oakland, and much original documentary evidence is also in the hands of petitioner who is prepared to produce it whenever required.

That petitioner accordingly prays that he may be again received by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as an ordained Minister of the said Church.

And petitioner, as in duty bound, will every pray.

THOMAS J. CURTIS,

August 14th, 1908.

Permanent address:
"Muritai," opp. Park, Lennon Street,
Mosman, North Sydney.

PRESBYTERIAL DISMISSION OF A MINISTER.

This is to Certify

That the Rev. Thomas John Curtis is a member in good and regular standing in this Presbytery, and is now, at his own request, dismissed to unite with the Presbytery of Sydney, New South Wales, to whose fraternal affection and fellowship he is hereby cordially recommended.

The Rev. Thomas John Curtis was ordained by the Presbytery of Sydney, N.S.W., on the day of October, A.D., 1876.

Attest, R. S. Eastman,

Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Oakland.

Done in Presbytery, at the First Church of Oakland, on this 25th of May, A.D. 1908.

SYDNEY PRESBYTERY.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, on Tuesday, November 10, 1908, the Presbytery of Sydney met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading of the scriptures and prayers.

Inter alia: The Presbytery, sitting in private, proceeded to consider the report of the Presbytery's Committee on the reception of Ministers, which was submitted by the Rev. C. A. White, Convener. With reference to the application of the Rev. Thomas John Curtis, Mr. White moved that, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation the petition of Mr. Curtis be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia with the recommendation that he be received as a minister available for supply but not eligible for a call. The Rev. J. Ferguson raised the question as to the competency of this motion. The Moderator left the matter to the judgment of the House. Mr. Ferguson's point of order was sustained. From this finding the Rev. R. G. Macintyre and J. Burgess craved leave to dissent, which was granted. Mr. Ferguson moved that the petition of Mr. Curtis be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted. The motion was seconded, and on being put, was carried by a majority of 20 to 5.

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Sydney this twelfth day of November, 1908, by me,

JOHN BURGESS, Presbytery Clerk.

Your Committee recommends that the prayer of the petition be granted.

(5.) Rev. WM. WATT :

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

I, William Watt, Minister of the Gospel, make petition to be received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

I was born at Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and I am 56 years of age. After attending the University Course in Glasgow, I went to London and took the Theological Course of the Presbyterian Church of England. I passed the exit examination with honours and was licensed by the Presbytery of London, and soon after being licensed, I came out to New South Wales. Having worked up the Church extension charge at Corowa, until it received full status, I was ordained in 1889 as its first minister, leaving Corowa after some five years' work there. I did a good deal of Church extension work for the New South Wales Church, dividing the Couabarabran parish, and after reorganising it, forming the new parish of Gulargambone. Thence I went to Warren and formed and organised this new parish on the Macquarie. From Warren I went to Nyngan on the Bogan and formed and organised the Church extension charge there. I then went to Western Australia, where I held two pastorates, first Geraldton and afterwards Coolgardie. After six years of work in Western Australia with little opportunity for rest, and being somewhat run down, I thought it expedient to seek a change of sphere and went to New Zealand. In the New Zealand Church I was minister first of Pukehohe in the Auckland Presbytery, and then of Cheviot in the Christchurch Presbytery,—about seven years in all. Becoming possessed by a strong desire to return to Australia, I resigned the pastorate of Cheviot on the 30th September of this year, and arrived in Sydney in the middle of October. Attached hereto is my certificate from the Presbytery of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Your petitioner, therefore, prays your Venerable Court to receive him into the Ministry of your Church.

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

WM. WATT.

Sydney, 9th November, 1908.

Certificate of Christchurch Presbytery :—

I hereby certify that the Rev. W. Watt on August 11th resigned the charge of Cheviot (Christchurch, N.Z.), with the intention of returning to Australia, that the Presbytery of Christchurch accepted his resignation with great regret, expressed its sorrow at losing him from its membership, its appreciation of the work he had done during the three years of his pastorate at Cheviot, and commended him to the confidence and esteem of the Church wherever his lot may be cast.

Given by authority of the Presbytery by

JAMES MAXWELL, Clerk Presbytery of Christchurch.

October 6th, 1908.

PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY.

This is to certify in name and by authority of the Presbytery of Sydney that on December 8, 1908, the Presbytery resolved to recommend that the prayer of the petition of the Rev. William Watt for admission to the ministry of this Church be granted.

Certified this ninth day of December, 1908, by me,

JOHN BURGESS,

Clerk of the Presbytery of Sydney.

Your Committee recommends that the prayer of the petition be granted.

(6.) Rev. JOSEPH B. WEIR.

Launceston, Tasmania, March 3, 1909.

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

The petition of the undersigned Joseph Brown Weir, humbly sheweth :—

That he spent eighteen months in Angas Missionary College, South Australia, subsequent to which he acted as Home Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand for about twelve months.

That he then attended lectures for four sessions at the University of Otago, and passed in the following subjects, viz. :—Junior and senior English, junior

mental science, philosophy and general geology, concurrently with junior and senior Greek at the Theological College.

That he passed the entrance examination to the Theological College, Dunedin, with credit.

That he took the first year's course in the Theological College, and passed in all the subjects, viz.:—Hebrew, Church history, New Testament Exegesis and theology.

That for over six years he was a Home Mission Agent.

That he proceeded to the course of the ministry with the fixed intention of seeking work in the foreign field.

That having been offered the vacancy on the field of the Tasmanian Church he accepted it, and was duly licensed and ordained by the Presbytery of Launceston in "St. Andrew's Church," on Tuesday, 2nd March, 1909.

That your petitioner accordingly prays your Venerable Court that he be received into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as a minister in full standing.

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

REV. JOSEPH BROWN WEIR.

Commendatory letters accompanying petition from Rev. Prof. Watt, D.D., New Zealand, and Rev. David Borrie, Convener of Theological Hall Committee, New Zealand,

REPORT *re* LICENSING AND ORDINATION OF MR. J. B. WEIR.

St. Andrew's Church, Launceston.

2nd March, 1909.

Which time and place the Presbytery met and was duly constituted.

Inter alia: The Rev. W. Beck, Clerk, laid on the table an application from the Rev. J. Heyer, M.A., Convener of the Foreign Missions' Committee, he receiving as a student of the Church, taking on trials for licence, licensing, and ordaining Mr. J. B. Weir as Missionary to Epi, New Hebrides, together with extract minute of Foreign Missions' Committee meeting.

There were also laid on the table a letter certifying to the literary attainments and capacity and suitability of Mr. Weir from Rev. G. Hewitson, B.A., Knox Church, Dunedin, New Zealand, also letters from the Revs. F. H. L. Paton, F. Fraser, and John Matthew, Secretary of the College Committee.

A discussion thereupon took place.

After some considerable discussion, on the motion of the Rev. W. Beck, seconded by the Rev. John Scott, it was agreed that the application be received and the prayer thereof granted; that the Presbytery receive Mr. J. B. Weir as a student of the Church and take him on trials for licence; that he be licensed on Tuesday afternoon, 2nd March next, and that his ordination be appointed to take place within St. Andrew's Church, Launceston, on Tuesday evening 2nd March, 1909, at 7.30; that the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. W. Beck, preside, ordain and address the Missionary; that the Rev. Stewart Byron, Moderator of Presbytery, preach the sermon, and the Rev. J. Heyer, M.A., address the congregation on behalf of the Foreign Missions' Committee, and report to the General Assembly.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Launceston this 12th day of April, 1909, by me,

WILLIAM BECK, Presbytery Clerk.

In the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Launceston.

This is to certify that the Rev. Joseph Brown Weir was duly licensed on Tuesday afternoon, 2nd March, 1909, and ordained to the office of the Holy Ministry by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery and by prayer within St. Andrew's Church, Launceston, on Tuesday evening, 2nd March, 1909.

Certified by me,

WILLIAM BECK, Presbytery Clerk.

This 12th day of April, 1909.

PRESBYTERY OF LAUNCESTON.

Chalmers' Church, Launceston,

9.30 a.m. 6th May, 1909. .

Which time and place the Presbytery met by permission of the General Assembly and was duly constituted.

Inter alia : A petition from the Rev. Joseph Brown Weir, Epi, New Hebrides, to the General Assembly of Australia, praying that the status of a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia be granted to him, together with letters of commendation from the Rev. David Borrie and Professor Watt, was laid on the table.

On the motion of the Rev. W. Beck, seconded by the Rev. T. Cunningham, it was agreed that the petition be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Launceston this 21st day of May, 1909, by me,

WILLIAM BECK, Presbytery Clerk.

Your Committee, while recommending that in the circumstances the prayer of the petition be granted, desires to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that the Presbytery of Launceston has exceeded its powers in admitting Mr. Weir into the ministry, and that the Assembly expresses its emphatic disapproval of such action.

(7.) REV. JOHN LELEAN COPE.

To the Convener of the Reception of Ministers Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The petition of the undersigned John Lelean Cope respectfully sheweth:—

1. That the petitioner was accepted as a candidate of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australasia at the Conference of March, 1889, and passed through the Theological Hall, Queen's College, for the three annual sessions under Professor Sugden, as well as completing one session in Arts at the Melbourne University. In March, 1892, he was accepted as a probationer by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Victoria, and duly appointed as such to the following circuits:—Mordialloc, 1892; Camperdown, 1893; Heywood, 1894. During these years he passed the prescribed probationer's examinations, and at the Conference of 1895, was ordained as a minister in full standing, by the Rev. W. H. Fitchett, B.A., LL.D., President of the Conference, the Rev. Wm. Williams, F.L.S., Secretary of the Conference, assisted by others including the petitioner's father, the Rev. John Cope, ex-President of the Conference. He was subsequently appointed to the following circuits:—Lefroy (Tasmania), Devonport (Tasmania), Latrobe (Tasmania), Campbelltown (Tasmania), and in 1905 to Buninyong (Victoria), as one of a staff of five ministers of the Ballarat West Circuit, the Rev. Henry Bath being superintendent.

2. That the petitioner having formed the resolve to seek entrance into the ministry and labour of the Presbyterian Church, voluntarily retired in January, 1906, from the ministry of the Methodist Church, and asked for permission to sit for the Entrance Examination of the Presbyterian Church in February, 1906, and was duly recognised as "a regular student" of the Theological Hall by the Presbyterian Church of Australia in September, 1906 (B.B. Minute 101).

3. That the petitioner has attended three consecutive sessions at the Theological Hall, Ormond College, and has sat for the Exit Examination which is just over.

4. That the petitioner has during the period of his College Course—viz. nearly three years—served at Berwick under the direction of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

5. That the petitioner has no opportunity of sending this petition through the Presbytery in time for the meeting of your Committee.

6. In these circumstances your petitioner humbly asks to be received as a minister in full standing, and eligible for a call at once, provided the Presbytery of Melbourne South recommend his petition.

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

JOHN LELEAN COPE.

Berwick, 16th September, 1908.

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH.

The Manse,
Camberwell, Victoria,
13th October, 1908.

The Convener of the Reception of Ministers Committee.

My Dear Sir,—I have to inform you that the Presbytery has agreed to recommend the Rev. J. L. Cope's Petition to your Committee.

Yours very truly,

P. J. MURDOCH,
Clerk, Melbourne South.

Your Committee, deeming the three sessions at Ormond as more than fulfilling the twelve months' probation required of such petitioners, ask the Assembly to approve of their action in granting the prayer of the petition.

(8) REV. JAMES MILLS STOOPS, B.A.

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

The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

1. That he was born in Ulster, 25th September, 1867, his parents being members of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

2. That he attended the regular Arts classes for three years in Queen's College, Belfast, being first Junior Science Scholar of his year, and afterwards Senior Scholar in Mathematics.

3. That he obtained the B.A. degree of the Royal University of Ireland with honours in Mathematics.

4. That during the period 1890-1899 he taught Mathematics and Science in Secondary Schools in Ireland.

5. That in 1899 he entered Hackney College, London, where he underwent the regular three years' course prescribed for theological students, he being excused the Arts course in consideration of his previous Arts course in Queen's College, Belfast. In his final year he was Senior Student of the College.

6. That in September, 1902, he was ordained to the Congregational Ministry by the laying on of hands in the Burdett Road Congregational Church, the ordaining ministers being Rev. Principal P. T. Forsyth, D.D., Rev. Professor W. H. Bennett, D.D., Rev. Professor Thompson, M.A., Rev. J. R. Fisher, and Rev. C. Chambers.

Documents accompanying petition:—(1) B.A. Diploma of the Royal University of Ireland; (2) Certificates of Honour, 1900, 1900-1, 1901-2; and Final Certificate from Hackney College, London; (3) Transfer Certificate from Congregational Union of New Zealand.

7. That he was minister of the Burdett Road Church, London, for two years (1902-4).

8. That in September, 1904, at the special request of the Congregational Colonial Missionary Society, he undertook three years' ministerial work in connection with the aided Church at Onehunga, New Zealand.

9. That he completed the work he had undertaken to do in October, 1907.

10. That since November he has been doing ordinary "supply" work in the Congregational Churches of New South Wales.

11. That he has examined with care the doctrine and polity of the Presbyterian Church; that he heartily assents thereto, and undertakes, if received, to loyally serve the interests of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

12. That he respectfully petitions your Venerable Assembly to admit him as an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

JAMES M. STOOPS.

Strathfield, N.S.W.
August 7, 1908.

8th June, 1909,—Transmitted by the Presbytery of Sydney, with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.

JOHN BURGESS, Clerk of Presbytery.

Your Committee recommend that the prayer of the petition be granted, and, in view of the fact that Mr. Stoops has duly served the Church of New South Wales for a period of more than twelve months, that he be made eligible for a call forthwith.

(9; REV. JOHN SMITH.

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

The petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

1. That the petitioner was born at Stewarton, Ayrshire, Scotland; is now 35 years of age; that he is unmarried.

2. That petitioner is a Congregational Minister in full standing; that he attended Glasgow University for four sessions, taking the Arts course, less one subject, owing to the exigencies of last session; that he took the full Theological course at the Congregational College, Edinburgh, a course which included Systematic Theology, Old and New Testament Lectures, Apologetics, The Science of Religion, Exegesis, Textual Criticism, Christian Ethics, Pauline and Johannine Theology, Church History, New Testament Greek, Hebrew; a weekly Lecture on Elocution during two sessions.

3. That he was accepted by the Colonial Missionary Society, London, for work in Western Australia; that immediately before leaving for Western Australia, at conclusion of Theological course, he was publicly ordained to the work of the Ministry by laying on of hands by two Professors from College, and several ministers (members of the Congregational Union); that he proceeded to Western Australia, and was minister in charge of Midland Junction for two years, which charge he voluntarily resigned.

4. That since his resignation from the Congregational Ministry in January, 1906, petitioner has been engaged by the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia; that he has acted as minister in charge at

Katanning, and is presently in charge at Menzies; that before going to Glasgow University all his Christian work was in connection with the Bridgegate, U.F., and Carrick Street U.F.,—the U.F. Students' Mission, of which church he was a member, and held positions in several agencies; that during both Arts and Divinity course he supplied many U.F. Churches, and is well known to many U.F. ministers.

5. That petitioner has fairly known the doctrine and polity of the Presbyterian Church since before student days; that in the reading of the Declaratory Act the doctrine has long ago been accepted by him; that, though often urged by several ministers to enter the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church, he imagined as a student that another order was freer; that he now considers the polity of the Presbyterian Church more conducive to Christian work and organization; that both doctrine and polity of the Presbyterian Church are in accord with New Testament scriptures.

Accordingly, your petitioner prays your Venerable Court to admit him as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

JOHN SMITH.

May 4th, 1909.

Documents accompanying petition:—(1) Glasgow University Class Certificate; (2) Congregational Theological Hall Certificate; (3) Certificate of ordination; (4) Letters of Commendation from (a) Home Mission Committee of Presbyterian Church, W.A., (b) Rev. G. Cranston, Cowra, N.S.W., (c) Rev. I. B. Macpherson, U.F. Church, Kilmany, Scotland, (d) Rev. Henry C. Matthews, Barrabool, Victoria.

GOLDFIELDS PRESBYTERY, W.A.

St. Andrew's Manse,

Kalgoorlie,

June 10th, 1909.

To the Convener on Reception of Ministers Committee.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed you will please find the petition of Rev. John Smith to the Federal Assembly of Australia, with accompanying documents.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of the Goldfields in W.A., held on 3rd June, the following resolution was carried:—Moved by Rev. W. Agnew, seconded by Mr. G. M. Roberts: "that the petition of Rev. John Smith, asking to be admitted as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, be forwarded to the Committee on Reception of Ministers, with a recommendation that the prayer of the petitioner be granted."

Mr. Smith has done good work for our Church in W.A., and the brethren of this Presbytery will be glad to know that he has been received as a minister of our Church.

On behalf of the Goldfields Presbytery,

WILLIAM AGNEW, P.C.

Your Committee recommends that the prayer of the petitioner be granted, and that, in view of the fact that Mr. Smith has served the Church of Western Australia for a period of more than three years, that he be made eligible for a call forthwith.

(10) REV. W. F. TURTON.

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 Rotherham, Yorkshire, and is 49 years of age; and is at present a minister in full standing in the Congregational Church of Australia, and a member of the Congregational Union of New South Wales.

That your petitioner was educated at St. John's School, Rotherham, and commenced his preparation for the Ministry under the private tuition of the Rev. Philip C. Barker, M.A., LL.B., Professor of Classics and Mathematics, at the Rotherham Congregational College.

After spending two years thus, your petitioner sought and obtained entrance into the Congregational Theological Institute,—since incorporated with Weston College, Bristol—where he passed through the full course of four years; part of the work being done during that time at University College, Bristol, and at the close obtained his Exit Certificate, and entered upon his first pastorate at Appledore, North Devon, where he was publicly ordained to the Christian Ministry, the Principal of the College, the Chairman of the County Union, and other leading ministers taking part.

Whilst labouring at Appledore, your petitioner was invited to the Pastorate of the Church at Hindmarsh, South Australia, on the recommendation of Mr. Richard Searle, the Chairman of the Congregational Union of South Australia,—then on a visit to England—and the Rev. S. Hebditch, of the Clapton Park Church, London, a commission appointed by the Church.

This invitation your petitioner accepted, but, after a brief pastorate, resigned, to become assistant minister to Collins Street Independent Church, Melbourne, with charge of St. Paul's Clifton Hill. Here your petitioner had the satisfaction of seeing a strong church grow up about him, during a pastorate of ten years.

At the close of that period resigning to take charge of Johnston Memorial Church, Fremantle, Western Australia.

After four years' labour in this sphere, your petitioner, at the unanimous request of the Congregational Union, retired from the Johnston Memorial Church to become the Union's agent, and open up work on the Goldfields. Commencing in the Caledonian Hall, Kalgoorlie, he gathered a congregation together, and afterwards built the stone church in the Boulder Road; continuing to work there until the complete breakdown of his wife's health necessitated his hurrying East.

He settled at Williamstown, Victoria, but his wife dying about eighteen months later, he removed to Rockdale, New South Wales, and was labouring there when smitten with typhoid, an after result of which caused him to be laid aside for more than a year. During this time his people at Rockdale loyally stood to him, paying his stipend in full; but at the end of that period your petitioner felt that, in the interests of the Church, this must cease, and insisted upon his resignation being accepted.

Shortly afterward, your petitioner, for painful domestic reasons, came over to Western Australia, and after awhile sought supply work, and there being but little available in the Congregational Church, he, through your then Superintendent of Missions (the Rev. A. Crow), engaged for two Sundays at Northam. This is a year ago, and he has preached for the Presbyterian Church every Sunday since, an engagement entered into with the West Perth Church not expiring until January next.

The kindly and generous treatment meted out to your petitioner,—alike by the ministers of the Presbyterian Church and the laity in the Churches where he has laboured—together with the frequent requests that he think of more permanent work—has led your petitioner to believe that he can render God service thus; and if received he will gladly honour the Church's authority, and faithfully strive to extend its interests.

Your petitioner would respectfully add, that during his pastorate in Melbourne he was at one time Minute Secretary of the Congregational Union; Secretary of the Melbourne and Suburban Ministers' Association; Secretary of the Congregational Ministers' and Deacons' Association,

Member of the Executive of the Victorian Congregational Jubilee Board.

Together with the Hon. Samuel Mager, was the founder and first Joint Secretary of the Victorian Anti-Sweating League.

In Western Australia he filled the posts of Secretary of the Congregational Union; and Chairman of the Congregational Union.

In New South Wales, at the time he was taken sick, he was Chairman of the Illawarra District Home Mission Association, and a member of the Executive of the New South Wales Home Mission Board.

In consequence of the hurried departure of your petitioner from New South Wales, under circumstances referred to earlier in this petition, all his books and papers are packed away in that State, so that documents in confirmation of this petition are not to his hand.

He has, however, forwarded the annual report of the Western Congregational College, Bristol, which shows him to have been a recognised student of the Bristol Theological Institute as aforesaid, and date of leaving College.

Other documents accompanying this petition are:—

1. Resolution of West Perth Kirk Session.
2. Resolution of North Perth Kirk Session.
3. Resolution of Northam Kirk Session.

Your petitioner accordingly prays your Venerable Court to admit him into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

W. F. TURTON.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

Maylands, 16th August, 1909.

This is to certify, in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Perth,

To the Committee on the Reception of Ministers.

Within St. Andrew's Hall, Perth, on the 13th day of August, 1909, the Presbytery of Perth met and was duly constituted, the Rev. C. D. P. Taylor, Moderator.

Inter alia: a petition from the Rev. W. F. Turton, an ordained minister of the Congregational Church, who is seeking admission to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church, was received and considered. The following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

“That the Presbytery, having read the petition of the Rev. W. F. Turton, resolve to transmit such petition and all relative documents to the General Assembly of Australia, with the cordial recommendation that the petitioner be admitted to the status of a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.”

“In doing so, the Presbytery wish to testify to Mr. Turton's personal character and worth. During his twelve months' work within the bounds of the Presbytery he has been signally successful in maintaining and, in some notable cases, improving the condition of the congregations to whom he ministered. Congregations have earnestly desired the continuance of his services. His preaching ability and genial personality will make him a very valuable addition to the ranks of the ministry.”

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery, by me,

ERNEST G. PETHERICK, Clerk.

(11) REV. JOHN R. THRUM.

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

The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your petitioner (John Robert Thrum) was born at Trentham, Victoria, on December 6th, 1869. That he is married, and has four children.
2. That he was accepted by the South Australian Conference of the then Wesleyan Methodist Church as a candidate for the Ministry in A.D. 1894.
3. That he then became a resident student of Prince Alfred College, South Australia, where he remained until A.D. 1896. That during that period he took the lessons of the ordinary curriculum of that institution, including Greek, Chemistry, and Physics, besides Theology and Homiletics.
4. That, prior to his candidature for the Ministry, he served an apprenticeship as a mechanical engineer at Adelaide, and that during that apprenticeship he attended classes (evening) of the South Australian School of Design, taking the subjects of Geometry, Mathematics, and Machine Construction; and that certain certificates were there obtained, and have since been destroyed by fire, with his residence and contents, at Menzies, A.D. 1901.

5. That his Ministry was begun, as a probationer, at Newcastle, in Western Australia, A.D. 1896, and that during the succeeding four years he was examined, and passed, in all the following subjects:—

- (a) *Bible*: Joshua, Genesis, and Psalms—Cambridge Bible for Schools; Isaiah—Orelli's Commentary.
- (b) *Greek*: Parts of Matthew and Acts—Cambridge Greek Testament for Schools; Westcott's Epistles of St. John; Lightfoot's "Colossians and Philemon," with Green's Greek Grammar.
- (c) *Theology*: Beet's "Through Christ to God"; Pope's "Compendium of Theology," 3 vols.; "Wesley's Sermons."
- (d) *Polity*: Gregory's "History and Polity of Methodism"; Lightfoot's "Essay on the Christian Ministry."
- (e) *Apologetics, etc.*: Orr's "Christian View of God and the World"; Salmon's "Introduction to the New Testament"; Smyth's "Christian Ethics," part I.

6. That he was duly ordained to the Ministry by the Methodist Church at Perth, March 28th, A.D. 1900; and has continuously exercised his ministry in that Church until his resignation at the Conference of A.D. 1909.

7. That the reason for such resignation, and consequent petition for admission to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church is, he believes that his Ministry may be exercised to much greater advantage in a Church in which the association of minister and congregation—or dissolution of such tie—is brought about as in the Presbyterian Church, rather than in the (to him) arbitrary method of the Methodist Church.

8. That he has examined the polity and doctrine of the Presbyterian Church, and believes it to be scriptural and right, and will undertake to honour and observe it faithfully.

Your petitioner, being under no censure, or fear of censure, from the Methodist Church, accordingly prays your Venerable Court to receive him as an ordained minister into the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

JOHN R. THRUM.

North Perth, W.A.

May 10th, A.D., 1909.

Documents accompanying:—

- (1) Official letter, President Methodist Conference, W.A., A.D. 1909.

Commendatory Letters:

- (2) Rev. A. S. J. Fry, Ex-President Methodist Conference, A.D. 1909.
- (3) Rev. Thos. Allan, General Secretary of Home Missions Methodist Conference, 1909.
- (4) Mr. T. Paterson, an Elder, Cottesloe Presbyterian Congregation.
- (5) Mr. G. M. Roberts, an Elder, Boulder City Presbyterian Congregation.
- (6) Session of the North Perth Presbyterian Congregation.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

Maylands, 14th June, 1909.

This is to certify, in the name and by authority of the Presbytery of Perth, to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers:—

That on the 11th of June, 1909, a report was received from the Committee on the petition of the Rev. J. R. Thrum, to be received as an ordained minister, and in accordance therewith the Presbytery resolved to transmit the petition, with all relative documents, to the General Assembly of Australia, with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be favourably considered.

Certified this 14th day of June, 1909, by me,

ERNEST G. PETHERICK,

Clerk of the Presbytery of Perth.

The following were received under section "A" of the Regulations:—

- (13) Rev. J. FREW BROWN, by the Home Mission Committee of Queensland, from the U.F. Church, Scotland.
- (14) Rev. WM. HERMAN WATERS, by the Home Mission Committee of Queensland, from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland.
- (15) Rev. ISAAC GLYN JONES, by the Home Mission Committee of Victoria, from the North Wales Calvinistic Methodist Church.
- (16) Rev. WILLIAM ROWLANDS, by your Committee, from the North Wales Calvinistic Methodist Church.
- (17) Rev. ROBERT W. MACAULAY, B.A., by the Home Mission Committee of Western Australia, from the Presbyterian Church of England.
- (18) Rev. JAMES MALCOLM, M.A., B.D., by the Home Mission Committee of New South Wales, from the U.F. Church of Scotland.
- (19) Rev. JOHN LUNDIE, M.A., by the Home Mission Committee of Queensland, from the U.F. Church of Scotland.

In the name and on behalf of the Committee,

ALEX. MCKINLAY, Convener.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

Your Committee has to report that since the last meeting of Assembly, the following matters have been dealt with, as under:—

A request was made by the Congregation at Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, that the convener should accept, in the name of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, of the portrait in oils of the Rev. John Meiklejohn, D.D., their senior pastor, and the first Moderator of the Church, and also to make arrangements for its safe custody until the mind of the Assembly should be known on this matter. This the Committee very gladly agreed to do, and the Clerk of Assembly was authorised to act for the Moderator.

The prospective arrival of His Excellency, the Earl of Dudley, as Governor-General of the Commonwealth, was made the occasion of having prepared and presenting to His Excellency of an address of welcome, also for reiterating our loyalty and attachment as a Church to the King and throne, as well as a promise of sympathy and support in his efforts to further the interests of the Commonwealth, especially in all that tends to uplift the standard of life amongst the people. This was duly presented, as soon as arrangements could be made after his arrival in Sydney, by Dr. Clouston, ex-Moderator of the Assembly.

In accordance with the expressed desire of the last Assembly that the members should aid in the movement for the introduction of the Bible in State schools in Victoria and Queensland, the convener, as Moderator of the Church, issued a circular letter to all the congregations in Queensland, calling their attention to the finding of the Assembly on this matter. The Queensland Government have promised a referendum on this subject at the time of the next Federal election in the State.

The matter of preparing a small manual of Presbyterianism, for circulation in the Church, which had been before the Assemblies of 1906 and 1907, was again taken up, but owing to some misunderstanding as to the re-appointment of the sub-committee to deal with it, this much-desired book is yet in abeyance. The Committee recommend the Assembly to take definite steps with regard to it, it being of great importance, especially to the rising generation, who are closely surrounded by so many different denominations in these lands.

At last Assembly a committee was appointed to draft a circular letter to be issued to the Church on social purity and cognate subjects. Owing to the indisposition of the convener at the time when the Standing Committees met in Melbourne, this Committee did not meet. After a good deal of correspondence

between the members, it was finally resolved that, owing to the importance of this subject, this letter be prepared and laid upon the table of the Assembly with the report, and, if adopted, issued with the imprimatur of the Assembly itself to give it force and more strongly commend it to all our people.

PETER ROBERTSON, Convener.

PASTORAL LETTER.

At the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia held in Adelaide in 1907, it was ordered that a pastoral letter should be issued to all ministers, to be read in their congregations, calling attention to the spread of lax and unchristian opinions with regard to the great evil of "race suicide," a crime that is spreading in all civilised countries. It is not an easy subject on which to address congregations, but it would be a betrayal of the best interest of the community, and an abdication of the functions of the Church as the highest conscience of our people to permit scruples of delicacy to close our mouths. From the recent report of the Commission in regard to patent medicines, it appears that in this new country, where the conditions of life are easier than elsewhere, the vice which these drugs subvert is most lamentably common. Evidently large sections of the population deliberately enter upon marriage, and then, in defiance of both God and nature, refuse the burden of parenthood. This has led to at least grave laxity of opinion even in the Churches on this matter, and if the practice of Christian people is not so lax as opinion is, the danger is that it might soon become so if the evil be not counteracted. Legislation may do much, and that ought not merely to be supported by but it ought to be demanded by the Churches. But the pressure of public opinion, especially among women, will do more. To guide you in forming a right and Christian opinion, we, in common with the Church in all ages, wish to denounce this cowardly and selfish refusal of parenthood as a crime against both humanity and against God.

The callous selfishness of such a course is in itself shocking, but when we see, as we must do, that a continuance and spread of it will bring about the decay, and ultimately the ruin of our race and nation, the call, not only to all Christian men and women, but to all men and women who are loyal to our civilisation and who respect themselves, to abhor and protest against this evil becomes most urgent. If the higher and Christianised races in the world take and keep this path, then, inevitably, the non-Christian races will displace them. If the frugal, and thrifty, and educated among our population allow the fear of poverty to pervert their lives in this fashion, then the continuance of our race must depend upon the thriftless, the reckless, and the uneducated. When these things have had their perfect work, the crime against humanity involved in race suicide will stand out in all its blackness in the national and racial ruin it has brought.

All Christian men and women, therefore, are exhorted to stand by the word of God, by the high principles of ancient Christian morality, and by the voice of nature in this matter; to deal with laxity of thought in regard to it as intolerable; and to sternly separate themselves from all who defend or practise such evil things. So, only, can this plague, which threatens the very foundations of our Christian civilisation, be stayed. Such things should not be even mentioned among the followers of Christ, and it is with deep sorrow of heart we find that the state of public opinion demands that our Church, like others, should warn and exhort the faithful "to abhor," in this matter, "that which is evil, and to cleave unto that which is good."

REPORT ON FEDERATION OF CHURCHES.

At the last meeting of the General Assembly it was reported that a Conference had been held with the Anglican Church. This Conference was held apart from the Congregational and Methodist Churches. The reason of this may be explained. The original invitation to the Churches to confer with regard to Union was made by the Presbyterian Church. The General Synod of the Church of England heartily responded to the invitation, but, in appointing a Committee for the purpose, only gave it authority to confer with the Presbyterian Church, and, consequently, it would be necessary to await a further Synod to obtain power to negotiate with the other Churches. The General Assembly passed the following resolution:—"That the Assembly has learned with

interest and satisfaction the negotiations that have been carried on with the representatives of the Church of England, but agree that as soon as practicable negotiations with that Church shall be carried on in common with the Churches with whom the Committee has already been negotiating."

A second Conference between the Anglicans and Presbyterians was held at Melbourne in October, 1907. At that and the preceding Conference a series of resolutions on which Union might be based had been adopted; but, before proceeding further, the representatives of the Anglican Church desired to consult the Lambeth Conference, which was to meet in 1908. After the Lambeth Conference, another meeting was held in March and April of this year, and it was resolved to report the complete result of all the Conferences to the Primate of the Church of England in Australia and Tasmania, who will lay the report before the Synod next year, and to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The resolutions adopted are as follow:—

Resolutions of Conference of Committees appointed by the General Synod of the Church of England in Australia and Tasmania and by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, meeting at St. Paul's Cathedral Buildings, Melbourne, during November, 1906; October, 1907; March and April, 1909.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE CONFERENCE IN 1906 AND 1907.

1. We hold the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as containing all things necessary to salvation, to be the rule and ultimate standard of faith.
2. We accept the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed as expressing the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, and as an adequate basis for any further formulated statement of Christian truth which may be needed.
3. We agree that there are two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself—Baptism and the Supper of the Lord—which must be ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
4. That the act of ordination, when regularly administered involves prayer and the imposition of hands.
5. With regard to ordination, this Conference affirms the following to be essential conditions:—
 - (1) Full membership of the Church.
 - (2) The inward and personal call of the Holy Spirit.
 - (3) The recognition by the Church of this call, after due inquiry into intellectual and spiritual fitness.
6. The laying-on of hands in ordination we understand to be a visible symbol of the bestowal, in answer to the prayer of faith, of authority and grace by the Holy Spirit for the work of the ministry.
7. The authority to perform an act of ordination comes from God the Father, through Christ the Mediator, by the Holy Spirit as the Living Agent in the Church, and is exercised by the appointed officers of the Church.
8. We are opposed to the establishment of a State Church in Australia, and the President is authorised to make this fact known at his discretion.
9. We recognise that up to the period of the Reformation there was one common succession of orders, and that since that time the practice of ordination has been continued, and the act of ordination has been performed (*a*) in the Anglican Church by a Bishop and Presbyters, and (*b*) in the Presbyterian Church by a Presbytery presided over by a Moderator.
10. That a Union of the Church of England in Australia and Tasmania and the Presbyterian Church of Australia be effected and consummated by a joint Solemn Act under the authority and sanction of both Churches, in which each Church shall confer upon the Presbyters of the other all the rights and privileges necessary for the exercise of their office in the United Church, so that from the moment of such Union all the Presbyters of each Church shall have equal status in the United Church.*
11. That some form of individual superintendence and government, constitutionally exercised, is expedient for the United Church, and that authority to execute such superintendence and government shall be conferred by a Solemn Act of Consecration duly administered on a Presbyter, with the title of Bishop exclusively attached.
12. That the person to hold the office of Bishop shall be elected by the Church in accordance with Regulations duly authorised.
13. That a Bishop, in his administration, shall be subject to all duly enacted laws of the Church.

*A minority of the Anglican members declined to recommend this Resolution, but expressed their willingness that it should be referred to the judgment of the Lambeth Conference.

14. That the length of tenure of office as a Bishop having jurisdiction shall be determined by the Church.

15. This Conference, while recognising that the authority to perform an act of ordination is inherent in the Church, agrees that, as a matter of order in the United Church, all ordinations of persons to the office of Presbyter as ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall be by a Bishop and three Presbyters at least.

And, further, that in the consecration of every Bishop, three Bishops at least shall take part, and such Presbyters as may be appointed for the purpose.

16. That liturgical and non-liturgical forms of worship be authorised, and that the use of the Book of Common Prayer be sanctioned, and additional forms of worship be sanctioned by authority.

17. That there be an order of Deacons or Licentiates, who are ordained to office, and may be allowed to preach the Gospel, but are not allowed to dispense the Lord's Supper.

18. That there be an order of Officers whose office shall be analogous to that of Churchwardens and Elders, appointed to help in the pastoral oversight and the government of the Church, but not for the administering of the Sacraments, and that these Officers shall be elected by the communicants of each several congregation, and shall be set apart to their office by a form of ordination without the laying-on of hands.

SCHEME FOR CONFERRING DEGREES, AS AGREED TO BY THE CONFERENCE.

1. The co-operation of the various Churches shall be sought for the formation of a Board, whose function will be to institute and conduct examinations for Degrees in Divinity.

2. The Board shall consist of fifteen members, appointed by the various Churches adopting the scheme, and representing them in proportion to the number of ministers in charge of congregations.

3. The Board shall make all the necessary arrangements for the examinations, be solely responsible for conducting them, and have power to appoint their own examiners.

4. There shall be at least two examiners in each subject on the syllabus, but more than one subject may be committed to the same examiner.

5. The Degrees shall be of two grades—viz., Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity—each of which shall be obtainable on the conditions hereinafter named, but in no case will be conferred *honoris causa tantum*.

6. The B.D. shall be obtainable by examination, which shall be open only to such candidates as have graduated in some University whose Degrees are recognised by the Board.

7. The Candidate for the B.D. shall be examined in the following subjects:—Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Greek and Exegesis, Church History, Biblical Theology, Historical Theology, Doctrinal Theology, Christian Ethics, Apologetics, the Philosophy of Religion, Comparative Religion, and such other subjects as may be determined by the Board.

8. The examinations shall be held annually, and extend over two years. The division of the subjects for the two examinations shall be determined by the Board.

9. Candidates shall be admitted by the Board for examination who furnish the requisite certificates of character and scholarship, and who pay a fee of £3 3s. for each examination.

10. Those who have obtained the degree of B.D. either from the Board or from some University whose Degrees in Divinity are recognised by the Board, may, after a period of ten years from the date on which the Degree was conferred, enter for the Degree of D.D.

11. For the Degree of D.D. there shall be an examination on subjects agreed upon by the Board, or upon subjects and books submitted by the candidate to the Board, and approved of by them. In addition to the examination, a thesis shall be written on some theological subject selected by the candidate and approved of by the Board, which will be expected to contain evidence of independent thinking and research. A theological work of repute, written by the candidate, may be taken in lieu of the thesis.

12. Candidates for the Degree of D.D. shall be admitted to the examination on their satisfying the Board as to their qualifications, and paying a fee of £6 6s.

RESOLUTION, 1909.

That the Conference, having had before them the Resolutions of the Lambeth Conference, report the eighteen Resolutions already adopted, and the Scheme for Conferring Degrees, to the Primate of the Church of England in Australia and Tasmania,

and to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, as a basis of future negotiations.*

Your Committee believe that if the Anglican Church be prepared to enter on a Union with the Presbyterian Church and the other Churches with whom she is negotiating on the basis of these resolutions, further negotiations may be entered upon in the most hopeful spirit. No action can, however, be taken in this direction till the Synod has met, and its decision laid before the General Assembly, and then only in concert with the other negotiating Churches. In any case, your Committee are convinced that great gain has been made by the fraternal intercourse that has taken place, and by the adoption of these resolutions.

Since the last Assembly, negotiations have been continued with the Congregationalist and Methodist Churches. In Sydney this was done immediately after the meeting of Assembly, but delay was made in Melbourne until the final meeting with the Anglican Committee, against the desire of the Central Committee meeting in Sydney, but with the approval of the representatives of the other negotiating Churches in Victoria. But for the last few months both the Sydney and Melbourne sections of the Committee have been at work, and a great deal of useful work has been done in the elaboration of a Scheme of Polity. There was a general understanding between the sections that New South Wales should especially attend to such matters as Admission to the Ministry and the constitution and functions of the proposed Church Courts, and that Victoria should consider the Calling of Ministers and the Tenure of the Pastorate. Both sections of the Committee have brought their shares of work to a considerable measure of completeness, but there has not been time for either section to discuss fully the work of the other section and arrive at a substantial agreement, and so a Scheme of Polity cannot be presented yet to the Assembly. But the Committee deem it right to present, for the information of the members of Assembly, the recommendations made by the Joint Committees in Sydney and in Melbourne respectively.

* Principal Harper, of Sydney, requested that his dissent from this Resolution should be recorded.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF N.S.W. COMMITTEE ON POLITY.

I.—CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

1. The conditions of full membership in the Church shall be confession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and an outward life in conformity therewith, and participation in the Lord's Supper.
2. Admission to full membership shall be by the Elders' Meeting, with the approval of the Minister.
3. All persons who have been admitted and enrolled in the full membership of the Church, and are not less than twenty-one years of age, 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 and exercised 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 Elders' Meeting.
- (b) The Parish Council
- (c) The District Synod.
- (d) The Provincial Conference.
- (e) The General Assembly.

III.—THE MINISTRY.

1. A candidate for the Ministry must be a member of the Church in full communion, must have given evidence of the possession of gifts essential to a preacher, and be approved by the Parish Council on the nomination of the Minister.
2. He shall then be examined and approved by a Committee of the District Synod as to his religious experience, his qualifications as a preacher, and his general suitability for the work of the Ministry.
3. Before entering upon his theological training, every candidate, except as herein-after provided, must produce evidence to the College Committee of the General Assembly that he has obtained or qualified for a University degree, of which Greek has been one of the subjects. Provided that, when a candidate has passed the first year's examination in Arts at a recognised University (including Greek as one of the subjects), he may, on petition to the Provincial Conference, be authorised to proceed to the Theological Hall.

4. In special cases, where a University course or any part thereof is, in the opinion of the Provincial Conference, not possible, or does not seem advisable, the College Committee shall submit such candidates to the Theological Hall on the following conditions:—

(a) That they have served the Church as recognised Home Missionaries or Lay Preachers for at least one year previous to their nomination as candidates.

(b) That they fulfil the conditions laid down in (1) and (2).

(c) That they pass through a preliminary course of training under the Assembly's College Committee for a period of three years in such subjects as are approved, and pass such examinations as are prescribed by the Assembly.

5. The course of study at the Theological Hall shall extend over a period of three years, and candidates must pass an exit examination and be certified by the College Committee to the Provincial Conference, with whom shall lie their acceptance for the Ministry of the Church.

6. Anyone who is deemed by the General Assembly to have given proof of being specially qualified for the work of the Ministry may be placed on the roll by a resolution of the Assembly, adopted by two-thirds of those present.

7. The office of Lay Preacher shall be part of the constitution of the Church. Before enrolling a Lay Preacher, the Parish Council shall examine him as to his knowledge of the Scriptures and of Church Doctrine, and shall be satisfied of his fitness for the work.

IV.—CONSTITUTION OF CHURCH COURTS.

1. In connection with each Local Church there shall be officers, to be designated Elders, who shall be elected by and from the full members of such Church.

2. The number of Elders in a Local Church shall not exceed nine where the membership does not exceed 50, or 15 where the membership is between 50 and 150, or 21 where the membership exceeds 150.

3. They shall be elected for a period not to exceed three years, subject to the provision that in cases of the first election in any Local Church, one-third of those elected shall retire at the end of the first year and another third at the end of the second. The elections shall take place annually. The retiring Elders shall be eligible for re-election.

4. The Elders' Meeting shall consist of—

(a) The Minister or Ministers of the Parish.

(b) The Elders elected by and from the full members of the Local Church with which they are connected.

5. The Elders' Meeting shall have the spiritual oversight of the Local Church, and, as hereinafter provided, shall have charge of the admission to membership, the conduct of members (with power to exercise discipline), the administration of the Sacraments, the religious training of the young, the arrangements for public worship (including the service of praise), the care of the poor and the sick, and generally the consolidation and extension of the work of God in the Local Church.

6. A Parish may consist of one or more Local Churches having an Elders' Meeting, and under the pastorate of one or more Ministers.

7. The Parish Council shall consist of—

(a) The Minister or Ministers of the Parish.

(b) The Elders and Lay Preachers of the Parish.

8. The functions of the Parish Council shall be—

(a) The maintenance of the Ministry within the Parish, and the management of ecclesiastical property therein.

(b) To deal with all matters connected with the establishment of new stations and churches within the Parish.

(c) The management of all efforts in aid of Home and Foreign Missions within the Parish.

(d) The forwarding of memorials and recommendations to the District Synod touching the general work of the Parish, or referring to the general work of the Church within the State.

(e) The issuing of calls and invitations to Ministers, the arrangements of appointments to the Parish, and the consideration and determination of matters relating thereto, in harmony with the regulations governing the same.

(f) The consideration of applications of candidates for the Ministry.

9. The District Synod shall consist of—

(a) All Ministers within the District who are engaged in pastoral charges, colleges of the Church, or departments of Church work.

(b) Aged or Superannuated Ministers whose names are placed on the roll of the District Synod by the Provincial Conference.

(c) Representatives elected annually by each Parish Council from among their own number in equal proportion to the Ministers.

10. The Provincial Conference shall consist of—

(a) All Ministers who are members of the District Synods within the Province.

(b) Representatives elected by the Parish Council in the same proportion as to the District Synod.

11. The General Assembly shall consist of an equal number of Ministers and non-ministerial representatives chosen by the Provincial Conferences.

APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF MINISTERS.

(Proposed by the Victorian Committee on Polity.)

1. A congregation shall have the right to call a Minister, this call to be forwarded to the Synod or its representative, and to be sustained by them, unless it be inconsistent with the general interests of the Church.

2. This call must be addressed to someone whose name appears in a roll approved by the Synod, but there shall also be the right to call Ministers of other Churches, under definite regulations.

Note I.—This roll shall contain the names of (a) ordained Ministers within the Church; (b) candidates approved and set aside under provisions, under heading "The Ministry."

Note II.—No Minister shall be transferred until he has been at least twelve months in his charge.

3. Should a congregation fail to have a Pastor settled within twelve months, the Synod or its representative may appoint.

4. When a call is sustained, or an appointment made by the Synod or its representative, the appointment is made for three years.

5. A Minister or a pastoral charge, through its governing body, may, at the end of any one year, seek a change of pastoral relation by application to the Synod or its representative, and the Synod or its representative has the power, with or without such application, if it be for the general interests of the Church, to transfer the Minister to another charge.

6. At the end of three years the call may be renewed for a period of five years by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Parish present at a meeting called for the purpose, and who are qualified to vote; and this case is dealt with in the same way as the former.

7. In special cases pastorates may be extended beyond eight years by the Synod, subject to the provision of the two-thirds vote by the Parish.

8. Except in exceptional cases, all appointments are to be made at the annual meeting of the Synod, and these appointments are to take effect at a fixed date to be afterwards settled.

T. E. CLOUSTON, Convener.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO RELIGION AND MORALS AND SABBATH SCHOOLS.

I. RELIGION AND MORALS.

Your committee would begin their report with a thankful acknowledgment to God of His goodness in guiding to our shores the Rev. Dr. Wilbur Chapman, Mr. C. M. Alexander, and the members of their party, and blessing us as He has done, through the labours (by speech and song) of these earnest and devoted Missioners.

It was, of course, impossible, in the time at their disposal, that they could visit all parts of the Commonwealth, but they have held wonderfully successful Missions in the larger centres of population, and, where it was practicable, in other places as well.

Our Church in Australia has shared with other Churches in the time of refreshing. Christian hearts have been encouraged, cheered, and stimulated. Many who had fallen away from the Christian life and from Church ordinances have been

restored, and many have been brought, we believe, from sin and unbelief, to a saving knowledge of Christ.

The Missioners have not spared themselves, but have toiled with extraordinary enthusiasm to bring souls to decision. Enormous attendances have gathered wherever they have gone, and from all that we can learn, large accessions to the Communion Rolls of many of our Churches have resulted from the Mission services, and increased attendances at public worship.

The note of loyalty to the Churches has never been wanting from the Mission addresses, and there has been a persistent urging by the Missioners on all who accepted Christ as Lord, to join themselves as soon as possible in fellowship with the churches.

One would fain hope that with a revived religious life in our community there may come a decided influence on its morals, and certainly the renewed spiritual life in the Church ought to manifest itself in a higher tone in all departments of social and business life.

That the moral fibre of our people needs strengthening, that much is done in city and country that ought to bring the blush of shame to any lover of Australia, is apparent enough, and the reports from our various State Assemblies show that gambling, Sabbath desecration, the inordinate love of amusement, impurity, intemperance, and other evils are but too abundant in Australia.

If the recent Mission is followed by a stirring up of Christian people everywhere to oppose by example, and in other more strenuous ways, these enemies to a high-toned national life, then it will have accomplished a great deal for our land, and we trust that as time goes on this will be plainly seen.

Your committee note the efforts put forth by our New South Wales Church to suppress the brutalities of the prize-fight, to prevent the Sydney City Hall from becoming a Sunday evening concert room, and to arrest the passing of a proposed Totalisator Bill. They note also the attempt made to bring together more closely in sympathy and co-operation the churches and labour, and the report of the Federal Council of Churches in the United States, printed in the Blue Book of the New South Wales Church, is well worth studying by all who are interested in this important question.

In Queensland, the Government and many public bodies were approached by our Church there with the view of enlisting their co-operation in the suppression of gambling. Some have responded sympathetically, many have not replied at all, but none have answered inimicably. It is recommended by that Church that special sermons should be preached on Gambling, Impurity, Sabbath Observance, and Family Worship.

In Victoria and New South Wales successful conferences have been held during the meetings of the Assembly on such great subjects as—"The Work of the Holy Spirit," "Communion with God," "The Church and Socialism," "Labour Movements and the Church."

In almost all the States there is evident a desire for evangelistic missions to be conducted by men specially suited for this work, and various efforts of this kind are reported, apart from the Chapman-Alexander Mission Campaign.

That the gospel should reach every part of our land, and all classes of our people, in saving, sanctifying, and elevating power, is, we feel sure, the earnest wish and prayer of our Presbyterian Church of Australia.

II. SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Without attempting to give perfectly accurate statistics, up to date it appears that we have about 7,987 teachers, and 73,232 scholars in our schools.

Examinations of the scholars are made with more or less success, some schools regretfully reporting a decrease in the number of examinees.

The matter of the training of the teachers is receiving attention generally, but it is deplored in some of the reports that, from one cause or another, better results have not been attained as yet.

The hope is expressed that where training cannot be done by lecturers in centres of population, text-books may be used on which teachers shall be examined. The subject is one of great importance.

It is suggested by one of the committees that memory lessons should be supplied to the schools, passages of Scripture, psalms and hymns being specially selected for the purpose.

It would be interesting to learn how many of the scholars in each State make confession of their faith by joining the Church, but information on this point is not given in all the reports.

It is to be feared that the number of such bears no proper proportion to the number of scholars in the schools, judging from those actually reported. It is surely matter of the gravest concern that the Church is not recruited from our Sabbath-schools as it ought to be.

The amount contributed from the schools to Foreign Missions varies much, but, generally speaking, it cannot be said that it is very satisfactory. It is surely a good thing that in early life our children should be taught and encouraged to give to such great objects. But while there are undoubtedly things which call for improvement in various directions, it is matter for thankfulness that such a large number of our Australian youth are being taught in our schools, and that so many earnest Christian men and women are found willing to devote themselves week by week to this great and responsible task. They deserve and ought to receive due acknowledgment from the Assembly of duties faithfully performed.

W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

9

REPORT OF COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE *RECORD*.

Your Committee regrets to report that there is a slight decrease in the total circulation of the Magazine, as will be observed by a perusal of the accompanying statement:—

	1907.	1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
Queensland	502	454	—	48
New South Wales	1,038	1,045	7	—
Victoria	6,915	6,932	17	—
Tasmania	243	195	—	48
South Australia	475	518	43	—
Western Australia	504	325	—	179
New Zealand	170	158	—	12
	9,847	9,627	67	287

The States which report decrease are:—Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia, but it is in Western Australia that the drop in the circulation is greatest.

Your Committee have no special reason to give why this should be so, unless it be that the organ of that Church now supplies its readers with an inset of a peculiarly attractive form for its young people.

It is to be regretted, however, that the bond of union which such a Magazine as the "Record" affords to all our Sabbath scholars in the Commonwealth, should be weakened in any way, for it is surely of the utmost importance for the unifying of our Presbyterian Church of Australia that all our Sabbath scholars should be kept in touch with one another, and with the Missionary work carried on by the various branches of our Church.

It is not wonderful that the circulation in New Zealand should be lessened, as the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand is separated from ours, has its own special Missionary efforts, and has now its own Missionary magazine for its young people. And we congratulate that Church on this forward movement, and wish it all success.

But when we remember that there are over 73,000 scholars in our schools throughout the Commonwealth, we surely ought to reach a circulation here of 13,000 or 14,000 monthly.

Your Committee would again urge the Assembly to recommend the more general adoption of the "Record" as the Missionary magazine of the Sabbath Schools in our united Church.

W. S. ROLLAND, Convener.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOL HYMNAL.

Your Committee, in its last report, after referring to what it had previously been attempting, stated :—“If the Assembly approves, the Committee can in future devote itself to the work of compiling a Hymn Book for use in our own Sunday Schools. A very large number of different books are at present in use in our schools and in the homes of our people. It would be a manifest advantage to have an Australian book, suitable to the conditions and needs of our Commonwealth and people, bearing the *imprimatur* of the Assembly.”

After carefully considering the claims of a number of books, it seemed that the 1907 edition of “School Praise” is the book most likely to be adaptable to our needs. It reaches a high level of excellence, and, in the opinion of your Committee, a few alterations in the words, to suit Australian conditions, and the adding of less than half-a-dozen special Australian hymns would be all that would be required to make the book of considerable service to us, until the publication of a hymnal wholly our own is possible.

In its present form “School Praise” contains 297 pieces, including a large number of the best known children’s hymns, many new ones of high quality, as well as several psalms and paraphrases, and more than a dozen favourites from Sankey’s Collection. The classification is good, and the range of subjects touched is unusually large. One feature that is noticeable is, that the book provides many hymns that are also found in the books used during public worship, and thus the children’s hymnal, if “School Praise” were adopted, would be what many feel it ought in part to be—an introduction to the hymnals used by our Congregations at the Sunday services. It may be said, too, that the tunes in “School Praise,” while suitable for children’s voices, possess intrinsic value, which does not always characterise the music found in books of the kind.

Communications were opened up with the publishers of “School Praise,” to discover whether they would be willing to treat for the printing of an Australian issue, and whether the Presbyterian Church of England, to whom the book belongs, would be likely to agree to this being done. The publishers were found to be quite willing to negotiate with your Committee, and they offered to do everything in their power to assist us, should their help be desired. We are also glad to be able to inform the Assembly that our Church in England, having been approached by the publishers, has appointed a small Committee specially to deal with this matter, should it come before it.

Your Committee believes, as it has already said, that our Church should have a Hymn Book of its own—a book which all loyal Australian Presbyterians would be glad to put into the hands of their children, and which the children would be willing and proud to use. An “Australianised” “School Praise” will, so we believe, in a measure supply what we need. It will help our children, and it will also be found useful for purposes of domestic worship, and for small meetings in country centres, where at present various books, some belonging to other denominations, are used by our people. Your Committee, therefore, makes the recommendations embodied in the deliverance appended hereto.

On behalf of the Committee,

W. H. ASH, Convener.

APPENDIX TO HYMNARY.

I have to report in name of the Committee that we put ourselves in the first place, in communication with the publisher of the Hymnary to see whether he would be willing to publish an appendix. A satisfactory reply was received with a request for a list of the items to be included, when he would give an estimate of its cost. Your Committee then issued a circular letter in the “Messenger” and other organs of the Churches asking for a list of such tunes as were desired. Few replies were received from Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia, but there was a large response from Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia, and one from New Zealand. Accompanying letters gave abundant testimony of the desirability of an appendix. It was apparent, however, when these were examined, as had been anticipated in our communication with the publisher, that if the appendix were to accomplish what was desired, viz.: the popularizing of the Hymnary, the first idea would have to be extended, and familiar hymns as well as tunes with a few extra chants included.

From the suggestions received a list was made out that included the bulk of those recommended, and was sent on to the publisher, from whom was received the accompanying letter of estimate, etc. Later, a circular was issued in Victoria and Tasmania, seeking to know the mind of the Church, generally. The replies accentuated the need of something being done immediately if the Hymnary was to maintain its position in the Churches. Some talk of reverting to "Church Praise." Others are waiting the decision of the Assembly with regard to the appendix, which will decide them in regard to its continuance, while yet others have adopted the new "Church Praise."

The Committee would remind the Assembly of the purpose of introducing the Hymnary. It had been constructed with a view to give the Home Churches a common Hymn Book, and it was felt that such a Hymn Book might be accepted here for the same purpose, and the additional advantage that people coming from the Old Land would find here the book they had been accustomed to. Unfortunately for us the Presbyterian Church of England, who were approached by the Home Churches, could not see its way to fall in line with the other Churches for a common book, and it has issued a new Edition of "Church Praise," though in the pamphlets advertising the new edition it is said, "The time will soon come when a Book of Common Praise will be adopted, but it is not yet, and the Committee of 'Church Praise' by the excellence of their work have brought that time appreciably nearer." Perhaps the Colonial Church, in this as in other matters, may show the way to a larger union by the adoption of its appendix which is largely composed of hymns and tunes to be found in "Church Praise."

The Committee, too, would remind the Assembly of a minor matter. It is the royalty received from the Hymnary that to a large extent has hitherto paid the expenses of the General Assembly. Wherever the Hymnary is not adopted, the revenue from that source is materially impaired. It is true that the publishers of "Church Praise" have generously offered a percentage of the profits to the Churches adopting their book, but it amounts to much less than the royalty on the Hymnary.

It will be seen from Mr. Frowde's estimate that there are six tunes, the copyright of which would probably cost £15 or £20. The Committee would suggest that these be omitted from the Appendix. The cost would then be from £60 to £65, and they are of opinion that the outlay would shortly be recouped from the profits. It would, of course, at first be issued in a separate form, but later, if it commended itself to the whole Church, it would be bound with the new copies of the Hymnary issued.

GEORGE CARSON, Convener.

MR. FROWDE'S LETTER.

Oxford University Press,
Amen Corner, London, E.C.,
April 6, 1909.

Dear Sir,

The three lists which you sent me in your letter of February 1 as a basis for an Appendix to the Church Hymnary, for use in Australia, comprise 69 pieces, viz.

- List 1. Hymns and tunes not in the Hymnary, and to be added—20 pieces.
- List 2. Words not in the Hymnary and to be added—6 pieces; and Chants not in the Hymnary and to be added—9 pieces.
- List 3. Tunes not in the Hymnary and to be added—34 pieces.

In the style of the Church Hymnary, family edition, the whole of the above is estimated to make 64 pages, which quantity allows for a few pages of preliminary matter and indexes. The words only (26 pieces), if set in the style of the long primer Church Hymnary is estimated to make 32 pages including preliminary matter and index.

As you are probably aware, the cost of composing and making plates of the various editions of the Church Hymnary was defrayed by the Committee who also paid the fees demanded for the use of copyright pieces. The books are prepared at my risk and cost, and I pay the Committee a royalty on all copies sold. I can suggest no better plan for the Appendix, and I therefore quote you prices as below.

- A. The music edition of the Appendix in the style of the family edition (staff notation) of the Church Hymnary.

Cost of composing and making plates of the 64 pages (this expense to be defrayed by your Committee)—£42.

I suggest that this be issued to the public in a limp cloth cover at 6d net, and on that sum I can pay a royalty of 12/6 per 100 copies on all copies sold.

B. The "words only" portion of the Appendix in the style of the long primer
24mo. Church Hymnary.

Cost of composing and making plates of the 32 pages (this expense to be defrayed by your Committee)—£7 10s.

I suggest that this be issued to the public in a limp cloth or strong paper cover at 2d net, and on that sum I can pay a royalty of 3/6 per 100 on all copies sold.

When the Appendix is bound up with the Hymnary and sold as one book, the price of the complete book might be increased by the price of the Appendix; the family edition being 3/- net including Appendix, and the 24mo. words book 1/2 net including Appendix, and I should pay you royalty the same as if the Appendix was sold separately.

The only point not covered above is the question of copyright fees. In your selection you have included many copyright pieces, amongst which are six tunes which I think Novello's will claim, viz.—"Northcoates," "Rest," "Ter Sanctus," "Hanford," "Day of Service," and "St. Lucian." Other copyright tunes belong to Nisbet & Co., Dr. Charles Vincent, Rev. W. Garrett Horder, Rev. A. Havergal Shaw and others. Novello's is perhaps the most serious item, as they may demand as much as £10 per tune, the other fees will vary from £3 3s to 10s each. Apart from Novello's, the copyright fees will possibly amount to between £15 and £20. You may of course wish to reconsider the question of inserting copyright tunes now that you have an idea of the fees required for them.

There would be no objection to the inclusion of Mr. Craston's tune in the Appendix. One critic says it is weak in one or two places, but before printing it I would submit it to Sir George Martin, the organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, and any suggestions he might make could be put before Mr. Craston.

I shall look forward to the visit from the Secretary of your Victorian Church, and shall be pleased to discuss the matter with him.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY FROWDE.

Rev. George Carson.

REPORT OF YEAR BOOK.

The Assembly at Adelaide voted £20 for an issue of a Year Book. Your Committee published a 2000 issue for 1908, and sent parcels to each Minister of the Church, requesting them to bring the book under the notice of their office-bearers. The published price was sixpence. Some of our Ministers responded right loyally, and orders for fresh copies were received. We desire to thank them for their co-operation. The receipts for sales amounted to £22 7s. 11d. Having a profit of some £8 on this issue, the Committee, desirous of making the book more extensively serviceable to the Church, determined to issue 5000 for 1909, and to distribute it free to the principal office-bearers in all charges. The book contained a request for contributions to meet expenses of publication. The idea of free contributions has not yet been enthusiastically received, but we trust further moneys will yet come to hand.

HUME ROBERTSON, Convener.

STATEMENT *RE* YEAR BOOK.

RECEIPTS.

Sale of Year Books, 1908	£22 7 11
Sale of Year Books, 1909	3 17 0
Advertisement paid direct	1 15 0
General Assembly's contribution	20 0 0
	<hr/>
	£47 19 11

PAYMENTS.

Printing Year Book, 1908 (less advertisements, £24/11/-)	7 16 9
Printing Year Book, 1909 (less advertisements, £11/4/9)	25 2 9
Postages, 1908	6 5 0
Postages, 1909	13 18 6
	<hr/>
	£53 3 0
Payments exceed Receipts by	£5 3 1
Advertisements to be received	5 15 0

REPORT ON STATISTICS, 1909.

Some years must yet elapse before all our Ministers and Missionaries fully recognise the value of statistics, and by furnishing complete returns fulfil their responsibility, and enable our Church to give a trustworthy statement as to its standing and progress. In N.S.W., Victoria, and in Tasmania a number of parishes failed to furnish any returns. In the N.S.W. and Victorian totals the figures of these missing schedules have been supplied by estimate, but in the Tasmanian totals this does not appear to have been attempted. Queensland, West Australia and South Australia print returns more or less complete from all their Charges. We would ask the Assembly to direct the attention of the State Assemblies concerned to the advisability of ascertaining why certain statistical returns have not been furnished.

ESTIMATED POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31.

	General.		Presbyterian.
	1906	1908	1908
New South Wales	1,526,697	1,591,673	155,800
Victoria	1,231,940	1,271,174	202,630
Queensland	535,113	552,345	63,690
South Australia	383,829	407,179	20,580
West Australia	261,746	267,111	21,340
Tasmania	180,156	185,824	12,410
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,119,481	4,275,306	476,450

Estimated increase in two years—General population, 155,825; Presbyterian, 20,650. The general increase is made up of 25,664 excess of arrivals over departures, and of 130,161 excess of births over deaths. Compared with other countries the Commonwealth stands in a good position in regard to its death-rate, and on this account, the natural increase is higher than most other countries, and the effect of our low birth-rate is not so marked. For 1907 only two countries out of the total number (34) given by the Commonwealth Statistician, Mr. G. H. Knibbs (to whose kindness we are indebted for returns), stands lower in the birth rate than Victoria and South Australia. Tasmania stands 17th with 29.5; Western Australia 18th with 29.4; N.S.W. and Queensland 23rd and 25th with 27.2 and 27.0; Victoria is 31st with 25.3; South Australia next with 24.0; then comes Ireland, 23.6; and France, 20.60. For 1908 the birth rates of N.S.W., Victoria and West Australia show a decline, but these of Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania have risen. The vital issues concerned do not come within the scope of this Committee.

We may assume that the number of communicants (Table IX.) is an accurate return save for the comparative small omissions from the Tasmanian figures; the increase of members is 2432 in two years, or 4.4 per cent. The increase in the general population for the same period was at the rate of 3.7 per cent. It must be observed, however, that the general increase of the years from which our mem-

bers are drawn was much greater than it was during the last two years. No return from W.A. as to loss of members otherwise than by certificate, compels us to estimate their total loss by removals to be 80; with this assumption we find our net gain of members for one year was 1876; the gain for two years is 2432. In 1907 our gain was reported as 1668 for one year, in 1906, 2073 also for one year, and in 1905 the increase was 2158 for two years.

Of all returns that of communicants might be expected to be exact with the exception of that of marriages, but a consideration of Table VIII. shows that we have failed to enumerate all these interesting events celebrated by our ministers. The South Australian return is the only one that corresponds with that of the Government Statist. The table enables us to see how far the Church is meeting the need of our Presbyterian population in this direction, and it is encouraging to see that on the whole the percentage of marriages celebrated by our ministers has increased. Our record of baptisms and funerals (Table VII) is manifestly a long way below actual ministrations.

If the State Assemblies were to make the giving of baptismal certificates compulsory, and we unhesitatingly recommend this course, there would be some likelihood of correct information being available, and we would be able to compare the number of children thus admitted to our Church with the number of children born to Presbyterian parents.

That in the Commonwealth there is a Presbyterian minister or missionary to about 325 Presbyterians, does not necessarily imply that we have yet covered our field of usefulness; the scattered nature of our population requires a far greater proportion of ministers than is needed in closely settled countries. The increase in the number of our churches and our debt (Table II.) as well as our additions to the Home Mission staff tell of aggressive work. Our sitting accommodation in churches shows a decided increase; we have now seating accommodation for nearly 40 per cent. of the Presbyterians, exclusive of other buildings used for divine worship. The decline in the morning average attendance in N.S.W. has persisted during two years. The convener of that State can offer no explanation; we suspect that it is due to a more systematic tabulation by individual congregations.

The number of our Sunday Schools (Table XI) shows an increase of 43. The scholars have increased by 1387. The percentages of the average attendance are—New South Wales, 66; Victoria, 69; Queensland, 72; South Australia, 71; West Australia, 77; Tasmania, 65.

The enumeration of Presbyterians known to the Church proceeds slowly. A general adoption of the card system as recommended by the Assembly, will, it is hoped, enable us to keep the hand of our Church upon families and individuals. It has been suggested that the important work of securing a complete registration of Presbyterians in each parish should be entrusted to a special officer in each congregation known as the Registrar. The card system would be under his control, and he would be responsible for forwarding the cards of Presbyterians who move to other parishes. Such a responsible officer might be nominated by the congregation and appointed by the Presbytery. The further duty of supplying the information required by the statistical schedules might be assigned to him.

Table IX gives the number of Presbyterians known to our Church as 235,181. Comparing this figure with the estimated number of Presbyterians in the States (455,110), it is evident that in many parishes an attempt to enumerate Presbyterians has not been seriously attempted. In our large cities there are thousands of Presbyterians whom we can barely hope to reach; some are already in connection with other churches, others are lapsed from all church connection. Yet cities are recruited from the country, and there is no reason why the drift should not be stayed at least in some measure by each country Minister, or the Registrar, if such an office be created, taking care that all Presbyterians leaving his parish are reported to the parish where they settle.

We would direct attention to the large increase (Table XII) in both stipends and total congregational revenue. The report, as a whole, gives us great reason for gratitude to the King and Head of our Church. We trust that the effect of the recent evangelistic campaign and the consequent impetus given to evangelistic work may be strikingly embodied in our next report by a marked advance in all the activities of our beloved Church. The capital funds and credit balances are as follows:—

	1906	1908
	£	£
New South Wales ..	109,606	119,454
Victoria ..	345,026	361,675
Queensland ..	12,090	11,795
South Australia ..	13,927	20,548
West Australia ..	241	28
Tasmania ..	—	7,964
		£521,464

HUME ROBERTSON
C. A. WHITE

Joint Conveners.

MINISTERS, CHARGES, AGENTS.

TABLE I.

		N. S. Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Australia.	W. Australia.	Tasmania.	Totals.
Presbyteries ...	{ 1906 ...	14	14	5	3	3	3	42
	{ 1908 ...	15	14	5	3	3	3	43
Charges ...	{ 1906 ...	160	200	40	16	20	15	451
	{ 1908 ...	166	204	38	16	17	16	457
Ministers in settled charges	{ 1906 ...	146	183	23	12	13	15	397
	{ 1908 ...	149	190	27	12	11	16	405
Ministers <i>Emeriti</i> ...	{ 1906 ...	10	28	1	3	—	1	43
	{ 1908 ...	12	28	2	1	—	—	43
Ministers without charges	{ 1906 ...	17	18	7	2	—	—	44
	{ 1908 ...	21	26	7	—	—	—	54
Students, Divinity ...	{ 1906 ...	12	37	2	—	—	6	57
	{ 1908 ...	17	37	5	—	—	12	71
Home Missionaries ...	{ 1906 ...	34	57	25	6	10	6	138
	{ 1908 ...	32	72	37	10	9	12	172
Ministers in Service, not in charge ...	{ 1906 ...	8	5	1	1	1	—	16
	{ 1908 ...	6	6	1	1	1	1	16
Mission Stations ...	{ 1906 ...	23	90	19	10	8	10	160
	{ 1908 ...	24	98	27	11	—	10	170

CHURCH BUILDINGS, &c., &c.

TABLE II.

	Churches.		Schools.		Mansees.		Debt.	
	'06.	'08.	'06.	'08.	'06.	'08.	'06.	'08.
N. S. Wales ...	357	377	89	96	115	123	£61,408	£69,344
Victoria ...	498	513	—	132	—	177	110,864	98,890
Queensland ...	92	107	42	30	29	34	11,686	13,432
South Australia ...	29	33	8	3	14	16	2,189	3,512
West Australia ...	—	26	—	12	10	13	9,516	25,365
Tasmania ...	34	45	16	17	13	15	3,144	6,249
	—	1,101	—	290	—	378	£198,807	£216,792

CHURCH BUILDINGS (Contd.)

TABLE III.

	Insurance.		Value.		Sitting Accommodation.		Sittings Let or Assigned.		Other Sitting Accommodation.	
	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.
	£	£	£	£						
N. S. Wales	213,300	241,525	—	487,028	58,586	61,241	5,845	5,485	—	—
Victoria	131,192	362,900	730,058	711,117	84,065	88,016	14,502	15,132	21,055	28,717
Queensland	46,619	61,339	127,552	146,226	14,977	17,222	1,637	1,113	3,500	4,030
South Australia	12,998	23,665	32,611	49,264	5,900	7,580	413	476	—	—
West Australia	—	—	—	57,638	—	—	—	350	—	2,105
Tasmania	24,082	15,668	51,459	51,325	5,700	7,305	235	200	—	—
		705,097		1,502,598		186,039		22,766		34,852

ORGANISATION.—TABLE IV.

	Elders.		Deacons and Managers.		District Visitors.		Sustentation Fund Collectors.	
	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08
N. S. Wales	746	805	2,625	2,732	121	166	1,030	1,096
Victoria	844	914	4,445	4,910	246	248	—	—
Queensland	260	269	595	758	24	25	153	188
South Australia	76	79	197	231	11	40	34	54
West Australia	39	66	166	224	—	—	—	—
Tasmania	70	90	203	198	—	6	—	—
	2,035	2,223	3,231	9,053		485		

TABLE V.

	Women's Societies.				Temperance Societies.			
	Number.		Membership.		Number.		Membership.	
	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08
N. S. Wales	187	247	4,090	4,742	53	46	3,632	2,901
Victoria	236	339	6,365	7,572	98	119	6,167	6,691
Queensland	47	58	944	1,080	19	20	1,260	1,398
South Australia	27	37	405	744	5	6	231	390
West Australia	—	33	—	455	—	6	—	312
Tasmania	7	12	161	280	4	4	104	90
		726		14,873		201		11,782

TABLE V.—Continued.

	Fellowship Associations.				C. E. Societies.				Literary Societies.				
	Number.		Member-ship.		Number.		Member-ship.		Number.		Member-ship.		
	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08	/06	/08	
N. S. Wales ...	74	78	2,039	1,960	39	25	1,084	738	35	32	1,258	1,150	
Victoria ...	115	119	2,697	2,650	63	54	1,365	878	56	68	2,116	2,298	
Queensland ...	6	7	106	103	51	32	1,373	624	6	6	178	192	
South Australia ...	4	3	107	76	6	6	181	217	4	4	71	161	
West Australia ...	—	3	69	59	—	8	155	285	—	6	—	134	
Tasmania ...	4	5	111	55	2	3	48	80	5	2	124	110	
			215	5,129	4,943		128	4,206	2,822		118		4,045

RELIGIOUS ORDINANCES.—TABLE VI.

	Preaching Centres.		Sabbath Services.		Weekday Services.		Prayer Meetings.	
	1906.	1908.	1906.	1908.	1906.	1908.	1906.	1908.
New South Wales ...	1,192	1,270	26,239	27,845	3,828	3,397	2,925	2,426
Victoria ...	971	1,005	39,423	40,531	2,238	1,650	2,735	4,774
Queensland ...	286	354	6,752	8,096	715	989	1,910	941
South Australia ...	46	111	2,864	3,131	157	334	217	232
West Australia ...	—	76	—	2,561	—	479	—	—
Tasmania ...	65	67	2,631	2,694	537	487	208	418
		2,883		87,558		7,336		

RELIGIOUS ORDINANCES (Contd.)

TABLE VII.

	Average Attendances.								Laptisms.		Funerals.	
	Morning.		Evening.		Afternoon.		Prayer Meetings.		/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.
	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.				
N. S. Wales ...	15,167	14,846	20,357	20,703	18,443	18,878	1,371	1,325	2,950	2,841	787	778
Victoria ...	27,313	28,459	30,047	32,475	12,639	15,119	3,055	—	2,675	2,611	1,583	1,525
Queensland ...	4,520	4,693	5,027	5,704	1,651	1,869	402	397	881	1,103	288	278
South Australia ...	1,329	1,734	1,651	2,266	429	463	32	139	78	147	52	103
West Australia ...	—	1,143	—	2,496	—	78	—	—	198	202	—	—
Tasmania ...	1,656	1,507	2,371	2,085	358	401	272	—	303	255	115	112
		52,382		65,729		36,808				4,159		

MARRIAGES.—TABLE VIII.

	Total.	Presbyterian		Percentage of Pres- byterian marriages.		Percentage of Presbyterian pop., 1901.
		Returns. Govt.	Schedule.	1906.	1908.	
New South Wales ...	12,641	1,658	1,365	12.92	13.1	9.9
Victoria ...	9,335	1,516	1,150	16.047	16.24	16.2
Queensland ...	4,069	554	421	13.57	13.8	11.7
S. Australia (S.A.) ...	2,979	98	98	4.44	4.59	
S. Australia (S.A. (Vi.)) ...	143	39	18	31.14	27.2	5.2
West Australia ...	2,012	177	89	7.16	8.79	8.2
Tasmania ...	1,432	164	152	13.23	11.45	6.8
	32,551	4,206	2,293		12.9	

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.—TABLE IX.

	Households.		Persons.		Communicants.	
	/07.	/09.	/07.	/09.	/07.	/09.
N. S. Wales ...	18,945	20,778	73,545	81,679	19,824	17,586
Victoria ...	30,037	32,604	110,038	121,126	27,601	28,518
Queensland ...	4,023	6,049	14,850	20,267	6,277	6,484
South Australia ...	1,455	1,840	5,625	6,926	1,777	1,905
West Australia ...	—	—	—	—	1,039	1,371
Tasmania ...	1,629	1,533	4,149	5,183	1,691	1,777
		62,864		235,181	55,209	57,641

TABLE IX. (Contd.)

	Admissions for One Year.							
	First time.		Certificate.		Renewals.		Totals.	
	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.
New South Wales ...	1,149	1,012	611	610	130	208	1,890	1,830
Victoria ...	1,449	1,174	1,221	1,109	206	234	2,876	2,517
Queensland ...	281	284	138	223	37	49	476	556
South Australia ...	87	86	59	74	19	28	165	188
West Australia ...	102	103	114	90	20	—	236	193
Tasmania ...	140	108	104	45	3	31	247	184
Total ...	3,208	2,767	2,267	2,151	415	550	5,890	5,468.

	Removals for One Year.							
	Certificate.		Death.		Otherwise		Totals.	
	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.
New South Wales ...	493	527	180	196	466	608	1,139	1,331
Victoria ...	1,190	942	425	353	454	377	2,069	1,672
Queensland ...	138	179	62	64	97	93	297	336
South Australia ...	23	36	18	26	26	10	67	72
West Australia ...	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
Tasmania ...	48	45	29	30	23	26	100	101
Total ...	1,934						3,672	3,592

TABLE X.

	Presbyterians.			
	Over 16.		Under 16.	
	1906.	1908.	1906.	1908.
New South Wales	28,856	32,395	24,991	28,428
Victoria	30,154	32,882	29,413	30,563
Queensland	2,739	3,320	3,241	3,678
South Australia	---	---	---	---
West Australia	1,893	2,147	---	---
Tasmania	1,372	1,351	1,038	1,106

WELFARE OF YOUTH.

TABLE XI.

	Schools.		Teachers.		Scholars.		Average Attendance.		Volumes in Library.		Attending Bible Classes.	
	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.
N. S. Wales	346	353	2,142	2,151	20,840	21,530	14,965	14,206	27,637	29,895	1,499	1,787
Victoria	541	539	4,097	4,133	38,755	38,255	26,822	26,438	68,579	71,972	4,004	3,675
Queensland	124	153	986	1,054	8,954	9,917	6,976	7,140	9,713	10,864	294	372
South Australia	33	38	205	258	1,863	2,213	1,388	1,570	5,484	4,737	187	220
West Australia	23	32	205	194	2,065	1,992	1,416	1,540	---	---	---	206
Tasmania	38	33	206	188	1,880	1,650	1,105	1,081	2,121	2,200	315	228
	1,105	1,148	7,841	7,978	74,170	75,557	52,672	51,975				6,488

FINANCIAL.—TABLE XII.

	Revenue for Congregational Purposes.				Stipends.		Home Mission.	
	Ordinary.		Special.		/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.
	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	48,092	53,305	13,066	18,551	42,177	46,268	729	868
Victoria	80,594	84,569	17,352	16,313	60,968	63,142	1,702	2,068
Queensland	14,582	15,501	4,502	4,450	9,924	9,370	252	254
South Australia	4,619	5,365	676	972	4,198	4,854	75	248
West Australia...	---	6,690	---	---	3,455	4,231	---	---
Tasmania	4,260	3,955	654	614	3,894	3,442	---	315
		169,185			124,616	131,307		

	Foreign Mission.		S.S. Revenue.		Charitable.		Total Congregational Revenue.	
	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.	/06.	/08.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
N. S. W.	1261	1279	1342	1219	384	577	67588	76640
Victoria	2460	2668	7363	7285	---	---	116725	118996
Queensland	213	147	1469	1493	99	122	22397	22829
South Australia	143	433	---	312	---	28	---	7333
West Australia	---	---	270	414	---	145	4619	7995
Tasmania	275	267	368	343	341	298	6437	5906
				11066				244699

REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

Your Committee has received a communication from the General Assembly of Victoria, requesting that an evening during the Assembly sittings be set apart to celebrate the quater-centenary of the birth of John Calvin. The Committee has agreed to this recommendation, and has asked the Victorian Committee (Professor Adam, convener), which had the matter in hand, to take charge of all the arrangements, and to bring up a report to this Assembly. Your Committee recommend that the evening of Thursday, 23rd September, be set apart for this purpose.

Letters have also been received on behalf of the Laymen's Missionary Movement in the Victorian Church, and also on behalf of the Evangelistic Committee of that Church, requesting that an opportunity be afforded for representatives from these organisations to address the Assembly. Your Committee recommend that these requests be cordially agreed to.

Your Committee would draw the attention of the Assembly to a practice which seems to be growing up, and which, in the opinion of the Committee, is not in the interests of the proper discharge of the business of the Assembly. Petitions from Home Mission Agents applying for ministerial status are, in some cases, being sent direct to the Convener of the Business Committee, or to the College Committee, without first passing through a Presbytery of the Church. Of the four petitions of this nature now forwarded, two of these have not, so far as your Committee is aware, passed through any Presbytery. This has been the case in past years also, and your Committee thinks that the practice ought to be noted and stopped. These petitions generally reach the Convener, for publication in the White Book, too late to insist upon the proper course being followed, but in future the Committee proposes to decline to forward to the Assembly any petition of this nature which has not passed through the Presbytery within whose bounds a Home Mission Agent is labouring.

Your Committee proposes that the following rule be made in regard to the printing of papers in appeal cases, viz., "In appeals, the expense of printing shall, in the first instance, be borne by the appellant or appellants; and by the party losing when the case is finally decided, unless remitted or distributed by the Assembly."

RONALD G. MACINTYRE, Convener.

V.

RETURNS TO REMITS.

RETURNS TO REMITS.

(1) *Re* TRAINING OF HOME MISSION AGENTS.

(M. 66, B.B. 1907.)

Approve: Presbyteries of Young, Monaro, Sydney, Illawarra, Clarence, Hunter, Goulburn Valley, Gippsland, Macedon, Wimmera, Beechworth, Hobart, Launceston, Midlands, Adelaide, Belalie, Onkaparinga, Fremantle, Goldfields, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Ballarat.

Disapprove: Presbyteries of Maryborough, Melbourne South, Melbourne North, Geelong, Mortlake, Murrumbidgee.

STATE ASSEMBLIES.

Approve: New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, West Australia, South Australia.

Disapprove: Victoria.

(2) *Re* HOME MISSION AGENTS AND THE SACRAMENTS.

(M. 64, B.B. 1907.)

Par. (1) Baptism.

Approve: Presbyteries of Monaro, Wagga Wagga, Murrumbidgee, Goulburn Valley, Geelong, Macedon, Melbourne North, Beechworth, Hobart, Launceston, Adelaide, Belalie, Fremantle, Goldfields, Toowoomba.

Disapprove: Presbyteries of Young, Sydney, Bathurst, New England, Moree, Illawarra, Clarence, Hamilton, Hunter, Maryborough, Bendigo, Gippsland, Wimmera, Mortlake, Onkaparinga, Midlands, Brisbane, Ballarat.

Par. (2) Lord's Supper.

Approve: Presbyteries of Young, Monaro, Wagga Wagga, Goulburn Valley, Geelong, Macedon, Melbourne North, Beechworth, Hobart, Launceston, Adelaide, Belalie, Fremantle, Goldfields, Toowoomba.

Disapprove: Presbyteries of Sydney, Bathurst, Murrumbidgee, New England, Moree, Illawarra, Clarence, Hamilton, Hunter, Maryborough, Bendigo, Gippsland, Wimmera, Mortlake, Onkaparinga, Midlands, Brisbane, Ballarat.

Par. (3) Alteration in Confession.

Approve: Presbyteries of Young, Wagga Wagga, Murrumbidgee, Goulburn Valley, Geelong, Macedon, Melbourne North, Beechworth, Hobart, Launceston, Adelaide, Belalie, Fremantle, Goldfields, Toowoomba.

Disapprove: Presbyteries of Monaro, Sydney, Bathurst, New England, Moree, Illawarra, Clarence, Hamilton, Hunter, Maryborough, Melbourne South, Bendigo, Gippsland, Wimmera, Mortlake, Onkaparinga, Goldfields, Midlands, Brisbane, Ballarat.

STATE ASSEMBLIES.

Victoria and Tasmania approve the remit as a whole. West Australia approves paragraphs (1) and (2), but disapproves of (3). South Australia approves paragraphs (1) and (3), but disapproves of (2). New South Wales disapproves of the remit as a whole. Queensland decided to make no return.

NOTES FROM RETURNS.

Monaro: Alteration in Confession of Faith is unnecessary.

Young: would approve of paragraph (1) if "when ordained as Elders" was omitted.

General Assembly of New South Wales, and Presbyteries of *Sydney*, *Bathurst*, and *New England*, recommend that a special Committee be appointed to carefully consider all the questions involved in the remit in relation to Home Mission work in all the States, with instructions to report to a future Assembly.

Melbourne South in sympathy with remote Missions, and trusts some way will be found of securing the Sacraments to furthest off settlers.

Mortlake suggests that power be given to Home Mission Agents to administer both Sacraments in extremely necessitous districts under authority of local Presbytery.

Adelaide suggests that an addition to Declaratory Act would be preferable.

Brisbane approves of the principle underlying the remit, and sends up separate Overture.

(3) *Re* THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

(M. 65, B.B. 1907.)

Approve: Presbyteries of *Young*, *Monaro*, *Sydney*, *Illawarra*, *Clarence*, *Hunter*, *Maryborough*, *Melbourne South*, *Geelong*, *Gippsland*, *Wimmera*, *Mortlake*, *Beech worth*, *Macedon*, *Launceston*, *Adelaide*, *Belalie*, *Onkaparinga*, *Fremantle*, *Goldfields*, *Brisbane*, *Toowoomba*, *Ballarat*.

Disapprove: Presbyteries of *Hobart*, *Midlands*, *Melbourne North*, *Murrumbidgee*.

STATE ASSEMBLIES.

Approve: *Queensland*, *Tasmania*, *Victoria*, *New South Wales*, *South Australia*.

Disapprove: *West Australia* (approves generally of the principle).

(4) *Re* BASIS OF DOCTRINE.

(M. 44, B.B. 1907.)

General Assembly of Victoria considers that no return is necessary meantime until Presbyteries have considered the Basis of Doctrine.

Presbytery of Melbourne North deems it inadvisable to offer suggestions upon what is a mere fragment of a scheme of union.

Melbourne South: No suggestions to make.

Hobart and *Launceston*: Consideration is meantime premature.

Hunter approves generally.

Sydney approves generally, but suggests that Article VII. be amended as follows: Instead of "By His perfect sacrifice of Himself upon the Cross He satisfied alike the eternal justice and the eternal love of God," read: "By His perfect sacrifice of Himself upon the Cross He manifested the infinite love of God, satisfied His eternal justice."

VI.

COMMUNICATION.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

S.S. "Kumano Maru."

August 24, 1909.

En route to China.

Rev. ALEXANDER STEWART, D.D.,
Care of Y.M.C.A., Flinders-street,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

My dear Dr. Stewart:

You will remember that I told you that our General Assembly had taken action at its last session in Denver, in May, 1909, with reference to a world-wide Presbyterian Evangelistic Movement. Each General Assembly throughout the world was to be approached by our Committee, and while the work to be carried on must be guided and controlled by the individual Assembly, yet it was believed that a concerted movement of some sort would go far towards moving the world for Christ.

In June, at a meeting of the World Alliance of the Reformed and Presbyterian Churches, held in New York City, the members of our Committee appeared and made an explanation of the movement. The following action was taken by this body:—

"Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., through its General Assembly, has initiated and invites a world-wide evangelistic movement, and

"Whereas, the said Church has authorised its Committee on Evangelistic Work to invite the co-operation of the Alliance in this movement, and

"Whereas, the said Committee has appointed a sub-committee to confer and act with any agency appointed by the Alliance, therefore,

"Resolved, that this Council authorises the Executive Commission to appoint a Committee of Co-operation in Evangelistic Work, to consist of ten or more members, five or more from each section, who shall consider all proposals made to it for evangelistic work in any country, shall make such arrangements as may appear proper in each case, and shall have power to act thereon in its own discretion, provided that there shall be no expense to the constituent Churches of the Council."

The Canadian Presbyterian Churches met and appointed a Co-operative Committee. The Southern Presbyterian Church has taken the same action, and I am expected to meet the Presbyterian ministers in France after the first of the year, and also in England. Will you not act for us in the matter of bringing the attention of your Assembly, which I believe meets in Melbourne in September, to this subject, and notify me regarding the action?

With sincerest regards, and thanking you again for your many kindnesses to me,

I am,

Most cordially yours,

J. WILBUR CHAPMAN.

P.S.—The Southern Presbyterian Church took the following action:—

"That, in view of a possible world-wide and concerted movement among the various Presbyterian bodies, we recommend, in connection with their suggestion, that they be authorised to appoint such Committees as they might find expedient, to confer with similar Committees from other Presbyterian bodies, and that they submit to the next Assembly such suggestions in regard to this matter as may seem to them wise.

"That the Committee be empowered to elect a General Secretary and call ministers to be Assembly Evangelists, provided they can see their way clear to do so without involving the Assembly in financial obligations."

You might write me at Yokohama, Japan, in care of Thos. Cook and Son. We leave there on November 12th.—J. W. C.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA EXPENSES FUND ACCOUNT.

DR.

JULY 31, 1907, TO AUGUST 10, 1909.

CR.

DISBURSEMENTS.		£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Meeting in Adelaide, September, 1907.					By Balance, July 31st, 1907 ...				30 10 11
To Church Officer ...	... £5 5 0				.. Proportion of Expenses—				
.. Advertising ...	... 6 15 5				For 1906—Tasmanian Church ...	16 13 4			
.. Preparing Church ...	... 1 18 6				For 1907—Victorian Church £50 0 0				
.. Orders of Day ...	... 0 7 6				New South Wales Church 50 0 0				
.. Circulars <i>re</i> Meetings ...	... 0 14 6				South Australian Church 16 13 4				
.. Printing in Melbourne ...	... 0 6 0				Queensland Church 16 13 4				
				15 6 11	Tasmanian Church 16 13 4				
					West Australian Church.. 12 10 0				
College Committee—						162 10 0			
.. Examination Papers, per Secretary ...	... 33 6 11				For 1908—Victorian Church ...	50 0 0			
.. Postages, Telegrams and Expenses, per Sec'y...	... 17 6 4				New South Wales Church 50 0 0				
.. Examiner's Expenses, per Secretary...	... 4 2 9				South Australian Church 16 13 4				
.. Books, per Secretary ...	... 0 15 6				Queensland Church ... 16 13 4				
.. Stationery ...	... 2 0 6				West Australian Church.. 12 10 0				
				57 12 0		145 16 8			
Statistics Committee—						325 0 0			
.. Postages, per Convener ...	... 0 5 0				.. Collection at opening of Assembly in Adelaide	... 11 9 5			
.. Reception of Ministers Committees—					.. Interest to December 31st, 1908	... 1 8 2			
.. Postages, per Convener ...	... 0 1 8								
Union Committee—									
Printing in Melbourne, <i>re</i> Conferences									
With Church of England ...	... 9 0 8								
With Methodist Church ...	... 1 4 0								
Year Book—				10 4 8					
.. Payment to Convener (Rev. Hume Robertson)	... 20 0 0								
To Printing Blue Book ...	... 61 19 0								
.. Postages, per Victorian Church ...	... 17 17 2								
.. Do. " South Australian Church ...	... 0 14 4								
.. Clerk for Supplies ...	... 0 18 3								
.. Printing and Stationery ...	... 3 0 0								
.. Postages and Telegrams ...	... 8 6 1								
.. Advertising <i>Messenger</i> ...	... 0 5 0								
.. Engrossing Address to Governor-General ...	... 2 2 0								
.. Scroll for " " " " ...	... 2 2 3								
.. Cab for Moderator—Levee ...	... 0 8 0								
.. Honorarium, Moderator ...	... 30 0 0								
.. " Clerk ...	... 30 0 0								
.. Balance...	... 107 6 5								
				£368 8 6					£368 8 6
					By Balance ...				£107 6 5
					Amount received from Tasmanian Church after auditing of accounts, £15 13s. 4d.				

XXVI.

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.C.P.A.,

Official Auditor Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

Sydney, 24th August, 1909.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA, HOME MISSION ACCOUNT.

DR.		31st JULY, 1909.		CR.	
DISBURSEMENTS.		£ s. d.	RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.
To Amount paid to South Australian Church, £ s per Instructions of Assembly	...	20 11 6	By Balance	...	8 17 11
„ Balance	...	9 12 6	„ Collection at Meeting in Adelaide	...	15 11 6
			„ Donation—Rev. S. G. McLaren	...	5 0 0
			„ Interest to December 31, 1908	...	20 11 6
					6 14 7
		<u>£30 4 0</u>			<u>£30 4 0</u>
			By Balance	...	£9 12 6

DR.		FOREIGN MISSIONS ACCOUNT.		31st JULY, 1909		CR.	
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
To Paid to Treasurer Foreign Missions Board (Mr. A. L. Pryde)	...	8 11 5	By Collection at Meeting in Adelaide, September, 1907	...	8 11 5		

MISSION WORK IN BUSH OF AUSTRALIA ACCOUNT.

DR.		31st JULY, 1909.		CR.	
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
To Amount paid to South Australian Church, as per Instructions of Assembly	...	25 0 0	By Balance, July 31st, 1907	...	25 0 0
„ Balance	...	45 15 0	„ Amounts received from Presbyterian Church of England—		
			March, 1908	...	£25 0 0
			March, 1909	...	20 0 0
			„ Interest, to December 31st, 1908	...	45 0 0
		<u>£70 15 0</u>			0 15 0
					<u>£70 15 0</u>
			By Balance	...	£45 15 0

Examined and found correct.

Sydney, 24th August, 1909.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.C.P.A.

Official Auditor Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA, TRAVELLING EXPENSES ACCOUNT.

DR.	31ST JULY, 1909.	CR.
DISBURSEMENTS.		RECEIPTS.
To Paid Travelling Expenses to Meeting in Adelaide, September, 1907—	£ s. d.	By Amount received from Church Hymnary Royalty Account
Moderator	£9 15 0	305 12 2
Ex-Moderator	6 0 0	
Clerk	3 10 0	
Convener Business Committee	6 0 0	
Finance Representative	5 5 0	
Victorian Representatives	75 8 11	
New South Wales Representatives	76 17 2	
South Australian Representatives	0 0 10	
Queensland Representatives	19 8 0	
Tasmanian Representatives	23 5 0	
West Australian Representatives	17 8 0	
Exchange	0 10 0	
	243 7 1	
,, Secretary College Committee	1 4 9	
,, Expenses to Committee Meetings in Melbourne, September, 1908—		
Victorian Representatives	3 17 10	
New South Wales Representatives	32 3 6	
South Australian Representatives	6 18 0	
Queensland Representatives	13 15 0	
Tasmanian Representatives	3 16 0	
	60 10 4	
,, Printing Receipt Forms	0 10 0	
	£305 12 2	£305 12 2

xcviii

DR.	CHURCH HYMNARY ROYALTY ACCOUNT.	CR.
To Amount paid for Travelling Expenses, as per separate account	£ s. d.	By Balance, July 31st, 1907
,, Balance	305 12 2	444 4 5
	320 15 0	
	£626 7 2	,, Royalties received from Trustees in Edinburgh—
		To March 31st, 1908
		To March 31st, 1909
		75 11 8
		158 13 5
		,, Interest to December 31st, 1908
		23 9 4
		£626 7 2
		By Balance
		£320 15 0

Sydney, 24th August, 1909.
Examined and found correct.
CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.C.P.A.,
Official Auditor Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

INDEX.

	Minute	Page
Accounts		xcvi.
Address and Reply—Governor-General		ii.
ADMISSION OF MINISTERS—		
Rev. E. Fox	22	lxii.
„ T. J. Curtis	22	lxii.
„ Wm. Watt	22	lxiv.
„ J. L. Cope	22	lxvi.
„ J. B. Weir	22	lxiv.
„ J. M. Stoop	22	lxvii.
„ John Smith	22	lxviii.
Appeal—Rev. Thos. Shanks	67	iii.
Calvin	26	
COMMITTEES APPOINTED—		
Selection Committee	9, 20	
Scrutineers	10, 31	
Standing Committees List		54
Special Committees List		57
Communion Service	12	
Dissents	40, 41, 71, 76	
Laymen's Missionary Movement	19	
LETTERS—		
Mr. M. McGillivray	27	
Dr. Chapman	58	xcv.
Moderator	3	
NOTICES OF MOTION—Matters introduced by—		
Spiritual Independence	7, 29, 33, 39	
State Assembly of Queensland	71	
Training Institutes	55	
Wine at Communion	15, 86	
Ministers and Parliament	36, 81	
Dr. Chapman	23, 62	
Rev. R. S. Duff, D.D.	64	
Capital Fund for Assembly Expenses	79	
Presbyterian Orders	66, 80	
OVERTURES—		
Appeal Cases, Expenses in	38	vii.
Article III.	54	v.
Beneficiary Funds	87	vi.
Training Home Mission Agents	53, 57	vi.
Home Mission Agents and the Sacraments	48	v.
<i>Nobile Officium</i>	69	ix.
Appeal to Civil Courts	70	vii.

	Minute	Page
PETITIONS—		
(For Admission to the Church)		
Rev. W. F. Turton	22, 76	lxix.
Rev. John R. Thrum	22	lxxi.
Rev. W. A. Hobson	22	lxii.
(From Students, &c.)		
Mr. W. Bennett	61	xi.
Mr. W. Evans	61	xii.
Mr. W. Ride	61	xiv.
Mr. H. O'Sullivan	61	xiii.
Rev. M. G. Hart	88	xi.
Portrait of Dr. Meiklejohn	45	
REMITTS—		
Article III.	54	
Training of Home Mission Agents	57	
REPORTS—		
(Standing Committees)		
College	75	xvi.
Finance	28	xxiii.
Board of Missions	16, 42	xxiv.
Home Missions	31, 46	liv.
Reception of Ministers	22	lxi.
Statistics	84	lxxxv.
(Special Committees)		
Business for next Assembly	89	
Federation of Churches	80	lxxiv.
Public Questions	37	lxxiii.
<i>Record</i>	63	lxxxi.
Sabbath School Hymnal	21	lxxxi.
Religion and Morals and Sabbath Schools	60	lxxix.
<i>Year Book</i>	85	lxxxiv.
Appendix to Hymnary	44	lxxxii.
RETURNS TO REMITS—		
Article iv. and x.	51	xciv.
H.M. Agents and Sacraments	47	xciii.
Training H.M. Agents	52	xciii.
Basis of Doctrine	—	xciv.
ROLL—	2. 13	
TELEGRAMS—		
Rev. N. Hey	18	
Mr. Jno. Gordon	43	
Mrs. M. McGillivray	77	
THANKS—		
For Hospitality	90	
Mr. W. S. Park... ..	17	

By H.M.

WELCOMES—					Minute	Page
Hon. G. W. Fuller	...	...	...	...	5	
Professor Darnley Naylor	...	...	...	...	32	
Mr. James Cormack	...	...	...	...	50	
Dr. T. R. Cairns	...	...	...	...	59	
Hon. J. T. Walker	...	...	...	...	74	
Hon. J. MacFarlane	...	...	...	...	74	
Hon. G. H. Reid	...	...	...	...	83	



VICTOR X VICTOR

Victor
Victor