Thomas Brown,

Dalkeith.

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THE PRINCIPALL ACTS OF FOURE GENERALL ASSEMBLIES OF THE KIRK OF SCOTLAND,

HOLDEN

At EDINBURGH 1639.
At ABERDENE 1640.
At S. ANDREWS and EDINBURGH 1641.
And at S. ANDREWS 1642.

EDINBURGH,
Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings most excellent Majestie. 1642.

THE

PRINCIPALL ACTS

OF

YOUNGE GENERALL

ASSEMBLIES

OF THE KIRK OF

SCOTLAND

HOLDEN

At Edinburgh 1560.
At Aberdeen 1640.
At St. Andrews and Edinburgh 1651.
At St. Andrews 1654.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by Evan Tyler, Printer to the Kings most excellent Majestie. 1654.

THE PRINCIPALL ACTS OF THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

HOLDEN

At EDINBURGH in the year 1639.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by EVAN TYLER, *Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie.*

Anno Dom. 1642.

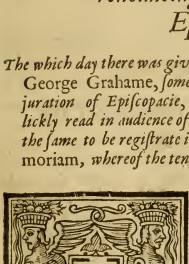
THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

At EDINBURGH 1639.

Sess. VIII. *August* 17. 1639.

Master George Grahame his *renouncing and abjuring of Episcopacie.*

The which day there was given in to the Assembly, direct from Master George Grahame, *sometimes pretended Bishop of* Orknay, *an abjuration of Episcopacie, subscribed with his hand, which was publickly read in audience of the Assembly; and thereafter they ordained the same to be registrate in the Assembly Books* ad perpetuam rei memoriam, *whereof the tenor followes.*



TO all and sundry whom it effeirs, to whose knowledge these presents shall come, specially to the reverend and honourable Members of the future Assembly to be holden at *Edinburgh* the twelfth day of *August* 1639. years: Me Master *George Grahame*, sometime pretended Bishop of *Orknay*, being sorry and grieved at my heart that I should ever for any worldly respect, have embraced the order of Episcopacie, the same having no warrant from the Word of God, and being such an order, as hath had sensibly many fearfull and evill consequences in many parts of Christendome, and particularly within the Kirk of *Scotland*, as by dolefull and deplorable experience this day is manifest, to have disclai-

med, like as I by the tenor hereof doe altogether disclaime and abjure all Episcopall power and jurisdiction, with the whole corruptions thereof, condemned by lawfull Assemblies within the said Kirk of *Scotland*, in regard the same is such an order as is also abjured within the said Kirk, by vertue of that Nationall Oath which was made in the years 1580. and 1581. promising and swearing by the great Name of the Lord our God, That I shall never whiles I live, directly nor indirectly, exerce any such power within the Kirk, neither yet shall I ever approve or allow the same, not so much as in my private or publicke discourse: But on the contrary, shall stand and adhere to all the Acts and Constitutions of the late Assembly holden at *Glasgow* the 21. of *November*, 1638. last by-past, and shall concurre to the uttermost of my power, sincerely and faithfully, as occasion shall offer, in executing the saids Acts, and in advancing the Work of Reformation within this Land, to the glory of God, the peace of the Countrey, and the comfort and contentment of all good Christians, as God shall be my help. In testimony of the which premisses, I have subscribed thir presents with my hand at *Breeknes* in *Stronnes*, the eleventh day of *February*, the year of God 1639. years. Before thir witnesses, Master *Walter Stewart*, Minister at *Southronnaldsay*, Master *James Heynd*, Minister at *Kirkwall*, Master *Robert Peirson*, Minister at *Firth*, and Master *Patrick Grahame*, Minister at *Holme*, my son.

Sess. VIII. 17. *Aug.* 1639.

Act containing the causes and remedie of the by-gone evils of this Kirk.

THe Kings Majestie having gratiously declared, That it is His Royall will and pleasure, that all questions about Religion, and matters Ecclesiasticall be determined by Assemblies of the Kirk, having also by publicke Proclamation indicted this free nationall Assembly for settling the present distraction of this Kirk, and for establishing a perfect peace, against such divisions and disorders as have been sore displeasing to His Majestie, and grievous to all His good Subjects. And now His Majesties Commissioner *John* Earle of *Traquair*, instructed and authorized with a full Commission, being present, & sitting in this Assembly, now fully conveened and orderly constitute in all the members thereof, according to the order of this Kirk, having at large declared His Majesties zeal to the reformed Religion, and His Royall care and tender affection to this Kirk, where his Majestie had both His Birth and Baptisme, His great displeasure at the manifold distractions and divisions of this

Kirk

Kirk and Kingdome, and His desires to have all our wounds perfectly cured with a fair and fatherly hand: And although in the way approven by this Kirk, tryall hath been taken in former Assemblies before from the Kirk registers, to our full satisfaction, yet the Commissioners Grace making particular inquiry from the members of the Assembly, now solemnly conveened, concerning the reall and true causes of so many and great evils as this time past had so sore troubled the peace of this Kirk and Kingdome, It was represented to His Majesties Commissioner by this Assembly, That beside many other, the main and most materiall causes were first, The pressing of this Kirk by the prelates with a service Book, or Book of Common Prayer, without warrand or direction from the Kirk, and containing beside the Popish frame thereof, divers Popish errors and ceremonies, and the seeds of manifold grosse superstitions and idolatry, with a Book of Canons, without warrand or direction from the Generall Assembly, establishing a tyrannicall power over the Kirk in the person of Bishops, and overthrowing the whole discipline and government of the Kirk by Assemblies, with a Book of Consecration and Ordination, without warrand of Authoritie, Civill or Ecclesiasticall, appointing offices in the house of God, which are not warranted by the Word of God, and repugnant to the discipline and Acts of our Kirk, and with the High Commission, erected without the consent of the Kirk, subverting the jurisdiction and ordinarie Judicatories of this Kirk, and giving to persons meerly Ecclesiasticall, the power of both swords, and to persons meerly Civill, the power of the Keyes and Kirk-censures. A second cause was the Articles of *Perth*, *viz.* the observation of Festivall dayes, kneeling at the Communion, Confirmation, Administration of the Sacraments in private places, which are brought in by a null Assembly, and are contrary to the Confession of Faith, as it was meant and subscribed *Anno* 1580. and divers times since, and to the order and constitutions of this Kirk. Thirdly, the changing of the government of the Kirk, from the Assemblies of the Kirk to the persons of some Kirk-men, usurping prioritie and power over their Brethren, by the way, and under the name of Episcopall government, against the Confession of Faith, 1580. against the order set down in the Book of Policy, and against the intention and constitution of this Kirk from the beginning. Fourthly the Civill places and power of Kirk-men, their sitting in Session, Councell and Exchequer, their Riding, Sitting, and voting in Parliament, and their sitting in the Bench as Justices of peace, which according to the constitutions of this Kirk are incompatible with their spirituall sanction, lifting them up above their Brethren in worldly pompe, and do tend to the hinderance of the Ministrie. Fiftly the keeping and authorizing corrupt Assemblies at *Linlithgow*, 1606. and 1608. At *Glasgow*, 1610. At *Aberdene*, 1616. At S. *Andrews*, 1617. At *Perth*, 1618.

which

which are null and unlawfull, as being called and constitute quite contrary to the order and constitutions of this Kirk received and practised ever since the Reformation of Religion, and withall labouring to introduce novations into this Kirk, against the order and Religion established. A sixth cause is the want of lawfull and free Generall Assemblies, rightly constitute of Pastors, Doctors, and Elders yearly, or oftner *pro re nata*, according to the libertie of this Kirk, expressed in the Book of Policy, and acknowledged in the Act of Parliament, 1592. After which the whole Assembly in one heart and voyce did declare, that these and such other, proceeding from the neglect and breach of the Nationall Covenant of this Kirk and Kingdome, made in *Anno*, 1580. have been indeed the true and maine causes of all our evils and distractions. And therefore ordaine, according to the constitutions of the Generall Assemblies of this Kirk: and upon the grounds *respective* above-specified, That the foresaid service Book, Books of canons, and Ordination, and the High Commission, be still rejected: That the Articles of *Perth* be no more practised: That Episcopall Government, and the Civill places and power of Kirk-men be holden still as unlawfull in this Kirk: That the above-named pretended Assemblies, At *Linlithgow*, 1606. and 1608. At *Glasgow*, 1610. At *Aberdene*, 1616. At S. *Andrews*, 1617. At *Perth*, 1618. be hereafter accompted as null, and of none effect. And that for preservation of Religion, and preventing all such evils in time-coming, Generall Assemblies rightly constitute, as the proper and competent judge of all matters Ecclesiasticall, hereafter be kept yearly, and oftner, *pro re nata*, as occasion and necessity shall require; The necessity of these occasionall Assemblies being first remonstrate to His Majestie by humble supplication: As also that Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries and Synodall Assemblies, be constitute and observed, according to the order of this Kirk.

After the voycing of the Act (anent the causes of our by-gone evils) His Majesties Commissioner consented verbally to the said Act, and promised to give into the Clerk in writ, the Declaration of His consent, and that he should ratifie this Act in the ensuing Parliament.

Sess.

Sess. XVIII. 26. *Aug.* 1639.

Act approving an old Register of the Generall Assembly.

The whole Assembly (upon the report made to them anent the old Register of the Assembly, gotten from Master John Rig) *all in one voice approved the said Register, and ordained the same to make faith in judgement, and outwith in all time coming, as a true and authentick Register of the Kirk of* Scotland, *conforme to the testimonie subscribed by the Committee, to be insert in the Books of Assembly: whereof the tenor followeth;*

WE under-subscribers, Forsameikle as the late Generall Assembly holden at *Glasgow*, gave power and commission on to us, To peruse, examine, and cognosce upon the validitie, faith, and strength of the books and Registers of the Assembly, particularly set down in the Commission given to us thereanent: According whereunto we did carefully view, peruse, and consider the saids Registers, and gave our testimony thereof under our hands, of the validitie and sufficiencie of the samine, to the said Generall Assembly. And now having a new Commission given to us from the Generall Assembly now presently conveened and sitting at *Edinburgh*, To peruse, examine, and cognosce upon the validitie, faith and strength of another Register of the Assembly, which was not set down and recommended to us by the said former Commission, which Register beginneth at the Assembly holden at *Edinburgh* the sixth day of *March* 1572. and endeth at the Assembly likewise holden at *Edinburgh* 1573. we have carefully viewed, perused, & considered the said Register: And being deeply and maturely advised, as in a matter of greatest weight and consequence, doe attest before God, and upon our consciences declare to the world, and this present Assembly, That the said Register above expreft, is a famous, authentick, and good Register, which ought to be so reputed, and have publick faith in judgement and outwith, as a valid and true Record in all things, And findes the same to be of the same hand-writ, and subscribed by the same Clerk of the Generall Assembly, as divers of the said other Registers (formerly perused by us) are. And in testimonie of our solemne affirmation, we have subscribed these presents with our hands, at *Edinburgh* the day of *August* 1639.

Act

Act Sess. XIX. *Aug.* 27. 1639.

Act approving the deposition of the Ministers by the Committees.

THe Assembly, after the receiving of the whole reports from the Committees, appointed for revising of the processes and sentences, led, deduced, and pronounced before, and by the severall Commissions granted by the Assembly at *Glasgow*, All in one voice approved the saids whole processes as orderly proceeded, and the whole sentences pronounced thereintill, as just and lawfull decrees, without prejudice of any favour that can be showne to any person or persons, against whom the said sentences are pronounced upon their supplications, or of Justice to such as complaine of their processe, and offers to reduce the same upon whatsoever reason competent, by the Constitutions of this Kirk and Kingdome, before the Generall Assembly, and the Commissioners thereof, they being appointed for that effect.

Act Sess. XX. 28. *Aug.* 1639.

Act anent receiving of deposed Ministers.

THe which day the Generall Assembly upon the report of the Committees anent these who are deposed by Synods, Doe make this Generall Act, recommending to the Synods all these who are deposed before them for subscribing of the Declinator, and reading of the Service-Book, and for no other grosse cause, That upon their true repentance and submission to the Constitutions of this Kirk, and upon their purgation and clearnesse from any grosse Faults laid to their charge in any new processe against them, they may be found by the Synods capable of the Ministerie, when God grants them an ordinary and lawfull calling by admission from the Presbyterie, either in the Church they served in before, or in any other Church.

Act Sess. XXI. 29. *Aug.* 1639.

Act anent the keeping of the Lords Day.

The generall Assembly recommendeth to the severall Presbyteries the execution of the old Acts of Assembly, against the breach of the Sabbath day, by going of Mylnes, Salt-Pannes, Salmond-fishing, or any such like labour, and to this end revives and renewes the Act of the Assembly holden at Haly-rudehouse, 1602. *Sess.* 5. *whereof the tenor followes:*

THe Assembly considering that the conventions of the People, specially on the Sabbath day are very rare in many places, by distraction of labour, not onely in harvest and seed-time, but also every Sabbath, by fishing both of white fish, and Salmond-fishing, and in going of Mylnes. Therefore the Assembly dischargeth and inhibiteth all such labour of fishing, as well white fish, as Salmond-fish, and going of Mylnes of all sorts upon the Sabbath, under the pain of incurring the censures of the Kirk: And ordaines the Commissioners of this Assembly, to mean the same to His Majestie, and to desire that a pecuniall paine may be injoyned upon the contraveeners of this present Act.

Act Sess. XXII. 29. *Aug.* 1639. *à meridie.*

Articles and Overtures approved by the Assemblie.

THat some Commissioners be appointed to visit and peruse the whole Acts of Generall Assemblies; and to mark such Acts as are for the use of the Kirk in Generall, To extract the same out of the Registers, to the effect that after they be tryed, they may be printed according to the old Acts of the Assembly, at *Edinburgh March* 7. 1574. *Sesion* 9.

The Assemblie appoints the Presbyterie of Edinburgh *to have a care of this article, and to report their diligence to the next Assembly.*

That course may be taken for restraining of people from passing to *England* to marry, which is the occasion of great inconveniences.

The Assembly alloweth this article, and recommends to the Parliament, that they would appoint a pecuniall summe to be payed by the contraveeners.

That the Acts for furnishing expences to Commissioners, sent by the Presbyteries to the Generall Assembly, and sent in Commission by Generall Assemblies, may be explained; And it be declared, that all such Commissioners whatsoever, by their stipends may be furnished by the Kirks of the Presbyterie, according to the order set down in the Act of the last Assembly, since the errand is common, and the benefit concerneth all: and that order may be taken, how that an expedient voluntarie course, thought fit by the Assembly, shall by advise of Parliament, have the force of a law, for compelling these to pay who are stented, both for the last and this Assembly, and in time to come.

The Assembly allowes this article, and referres the same to the Parliament.

That the Session-Books of every Paroch be presented once a year to the Presbyteries, that they may be tryed by them.

The Assembly alloweth this article.

That the Act of the 38. Assembly at *Edinburgh*, *October* 24. 1578. Sess. 8. ordaining Ministers who are deposed, to be charged under the pain of excommunication, to dimit their places, that they may be unquestionably vacand, may now be renewed.

The Assembly alloweth this article, and remits the same to the Parliament.

The Assembly would revive or renew all former Acts of Assembly against Papists, and excommunicate persons, against haunters with them, and receivers of them.

The Assembly alloweth this article.

That an uniforme Catechisme may be appointed to be used throughout this whole Kingdome, in the examinations before the Communion.

The Assembly alloweth this article.

That all Ministers or Intrants presented to Kirks, be tryed before their admission, if they be qualified for the places to which they are presented, besides the ordinary tryalls of Expectants before their entrie to the Ministerie.

The Assembly alloweth this article.

Sess.

Sess. XXIII. 30. *Aug.* 1639.

The Supplication of the Generall Assembly to the Kings Majesties Commissioner, concerning the Book called, The large Declaration.

WEe the Members of this present Assembly, for our selves, and in name of the severall Presbyteries, Burghs, and Universities, for which we are Commissioners, resenting the great dishonour done to God, our King, this Kirk, and whole Kingdome, by the Book called, *A large Declaration*, have here represented the same to your Grace, & have collected some amongst many of false, grosse and absurd passages, That from the consideration thereof, your Grace perceiving the intolerable evils foresaids contained therein, may be pleased to represent the same to our gracious Soveraigne, and in our behalfs humbly to beseech his Majestie, so much wronged by the many foul and false relations, suggested and perswaded to him as trueths, and by stealing the protection of His Royall Name and Authoritie to the patrocine of such a Book: To be pleased first to call in the said Book, and thereby to shew his dislike thereof: Next to give Commission and warrant, To cite all such parties as are either knowne or suspect to have had hand in it, and to appoint such as His Majestie knowes to be either authors, informers, or any wayes accessarie, being Natives of this Kingdome, To be sent hither to abide their tryall and censure before the Judge Ordinary, and in speciall Master *Walter Balcanquell*, now Deane of *Durhame*, who is known and hath professed to be the author, at least avower and maintainer of a great part thereof; that by their exemplar punishment, others may be deterred from such dangerous courses, as in such a way to raise sedition betwixt the King and His Subjects, Gods honour may be vindicate from so high contempt, His Majesties justice may appear, not only in cutting away such Malefactors, but in discouraging all such under-miners of His throne, His loyall and loving Subjects shall be infinitely contented to be cleared before the world of so false and unjust imputations, and will live hereafter in the greater securitie, when so dangerous a course of sedition is prevented, and so will have the greater and greater cause to pray for His Majesties long and prosperous Reigne.

His Majesties Commissioner in Councell having received the said Supplication, promised to impart the same to His Majesty, and to report his diligence therein.

The Supplication of the Assembly to His Majesties High Commissioner, and the Lords of secret Councell.

WEe the Generall Assembly, considering with all humble and thankfull acknowledgement, the many recent favours bestowed upon us by His Majestie, and that there resteth nothing for crowning of His Majesties incomparable goodnesse towards us, but that all the members of this Kirk and Kingdome be joyned in one and the same Confession and Covenant with God, with the Kings Majestie, and amongst our selves: And conceiving the main lett and impediment to this so good a work, and so much wished by all, to have been the Informations made to His Majestie, of our Intentions to shake off civill and duetifull obedience due to Soveraignty, and to diminish the Kings greatnesse and authoritie, and being most willing and desirous to remove this and all such impediments which may hinder and impede so full and perfect an Union, and for clearing of our loyaltie, WEE in our own names, and in name of all the rest of the Subjects and Congregations whom we represent, do now in all humility represent to your Grace, His Majesties Commissioner, and the Lords of His Majesties most Honourable Privie Councell, and declares before God and the world, that we never had, nor have any thought of with-drawing our selves from that humble and duetifull obedience to His Majestie, and to His government, which by the descent and under the reigne of 107. Kings, is most chearfully acknowledged by us and our predecessors: and that we never had, nor have any intention nor desire to attempt any thing that may tend to the dishonour of God, or the diminution of the Kings greatnesse and authoritie: But on the contrary, acknowledging our quietnesse, stabilitie and happinesse to depend upon the safety of the Kings Majesties Person, and maintenance of His greatnesse and royall authority who is Gods Vice-gerent set over us: for the maintenance of Religion and ministration of Justice, Wee have solemnly sworn and do sweare, not only our mutuall concurrence and assistance for the cause of Religion, and to the uttermost of our power, with our meanes and lives, to stand to the defence of our dread Soveraigne, his person and authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion, Liberties and Lawes of this Kirk and Kingdome, but also in every cause which may concerne His Majesties honour, shall according to the Lawes of this Kingdome, and the duties of good Subjects, concurre with our friends and followers in quiet manner, or in Armes, as we shall be required of His Majestie, His Councell, or any having his authority. And therefore being most desirous to clear our selves of all imputation of this kinde, and following

following the laudable example of our predecessours, 1589. do most humbly supplicate your Grace, His Majesties Commissioner, and the Lords of His Majesties most honourable Privie Councell, to enjoyn by Act of Councell, that this Confession and Covenant, which, as a testimony of our fidelity to GOD, and loyaltie to our King, we have subscribed, be subscribed by all His Majesties Subjects, of what ranke and quality soever.

The Act of the Lords of Councell at Edinburgh, Aug. 30 1639. *containing the Answer of the preceding Supplication.*

THe which day in presence of the Lord Commissioner, and Lords of Privie Councell, compeired personally *John* Earle of *Rothes*, *James* Earle of *Montrose*, *John* Lord *Lowdoun*, Sir *George Stirling* of Keir Knight, Sir *William Douglas* of Cavers Knight, Sir *Henry Wood* of Bonytoun Knight, *John Smyth* Burgesse of Edinburgh, Mr. *Robert Barclay* Provest of Irwing, Mr. *Alexander Henderson* Minister at Edinburgh, and Mr. *Archbald Johnstoun* Clerk to the Generall Assembly, and in the name of the present sitting Generall Assembly, gave in to the Lord Commissioner and Lords of Privie Councell, the Petition above written; which being read, heard, and considered by the saids Lords, they have ordained, and ordain the same to be insert and registrate in the bookes of Privie Councell, and according to the desire thereof, ordaines the said Confession and Covenant to be subscribed in time coming by all His Majesties Subjects of this Kingdome, of what ranke and quality soever.

The

The Kings Majesties Commissioners Declarations.

THE which day His Majesties Commissioner, and Lords of Councell, after the receiving of the Supplication of the Generall Assembly, anent the subscribing of the Covenant, having returned to the Assembly, His Majesties Commissioner in name of the Councell, declared; that he had received the Supplication of the Assembly, desiring that the Covenant might receive the force of an Act of Councell, to be subscribed by all His Majesties Subjects, that they had found the desire so fair and reasonable, that they conceived themselves bound in duety to grant the same; and thereupon have made an Act of Councell to that effect: and that there rested now the Act of Assembly. And that he himself was so fully satisfied, that he came now as His Majesties Commissioner to consent fully unto it: and that he was most willing that it should be enacted here in this Assembly, to oblige all His Majesties Subjects to subscribe the said Covenant, with the Assemblies explanation. And because there was a third thing desired, His subscription as the Kings Commissioner, unto the Covenant, which he behooved to do, with a Declaration in writ, and he declared as a Subject, he should subscribe the Covenant as strictly as any, with the Assemblies Declaration, but as His Majesties Commissioner in his name he behooved to prefix to his subscription, the Declaration following, which no *Scots* Subject should subscribe, or have the benefit of, no not himself as Earle of *Traquair*. The tenor whereof follows:

SEeing this Assembly, according to the laudable forme and custome heretofore kept in the like cases, have in a humble and dutifull way, supplicate to us His Majesties Commissioner, and the Lords of His Majesties most honourable Privie Councell, That the Covenant, with the explanation of this Assembly, might be subscribed: And to that effect that all the Subjects of this Kingdome by Act of Councell be required to doe the same: And that therein for vindicating themselves from all suspitions of disloyaltie, or derogating from the greatnesse and authoritie of our dread Soveraigne, have therewith added a Clause, whereby this Covenant is declared one in substance with that which was subscribed by His Majesties Father of blessed memory 1580, 1581, 1590. and oftner since renewed. Therefore I as His Majesties Commissioner, for the full satisfaction of the Subjects, and for settling a perfect Peace in Church and Kingdome, doe according to my foresaids Declaration & Subscription, subjoyned to the Act of this Assembly of the date the 17. of this instant, allow and consent that the Covenant be subscribed throughout all this Kingdome. In witnes whereof I have subscribed the premisses.

Like

Like as His Majesties Commissioner, read and gave in the Declaration following of his consent to the Act of the Assembly 17. August, *anent the causes of our by-gone evils.*

I *John* Earle of *Traquair*, His Majesties Commissioner in this present Assembly, doe in His Majesties Name declare, that notwithstanding of His Majesties own inclination, and many other grave and weighttie considerations, yet such is His Majesties incomparable goodnesse, that for settling the present distractions, and giving full satisfaction to the Subject, He doth allow, like as I His Majesties Commissioner doe consent to the foresaid Act, and have subscribed the premisses.

Like as His Majesties Commissioner, read and gave in the Declaration following:

IT is alwayes hereby declared by me His Majesties Commissioner, That the practice of the premisses, prohibited within this Kirk and Kingdome, outwith the Kingdome of *Scotland*, shall never bind nor inferre censure against the practices outwith the Kingdome: which when the Commissioner required to be insert in the Register of the Kirk, and the Moderator in name of the Assembly, refused to give warrant for such practice, as not agreeable with a good conscience, His Grace urged, that it should be recorded, at least that he made such a Declaration, whatsoever was the Assemblies Judgement in the contrair: And so it is to be understood to be insert here onely *vocitative*.

Act ordaining the subscription of the Confession of Faith and Covenant, with the Assemblies Declaration.

THe Generall Assembly considering the great happinesse which may flow from a full and perfect Union of this Kirk and Kingdome, by joyning of all in one and the same Covenant with God, with the Kings Majestie, and amongst our selves, having by our great Oath declared the uprightnesse and loyalty of our intentions in all our proceedings, and

and having withall supplicated His Majesties high Commissioner, and the Lords of His Majesties honourable Privie Councell, to injoyn by Act of Councell, all the Lieges in time coming to subscribe the Confession of faith & Covenant, which as a testimony of our fidelity to God, and loyaltie to our King, we have subscribed; And seeing His Majesties high Commissioner, and the Lords of His Majesties honourable Privie Councell, have granted the desire of our Supplication, ordaining by civill authority, all His Majesties Lieges in time coming, to subscribe the foresaid Covenant, that our Union may be the more full and perfect, We by our Act and Constitution Ecclesiasticall, doe approve the foresaid Covenant, in all the Heads and Clauses thereof, and ordaines of new, under all Ecclesiasticall censure, that all the Masters of Universities, Colledges, and Schooles, all Schollers at the passing of their degrees, all persons suspect of Papistry, or any other errour; and finally, all the members of this Kirk and Kingdome, subscribe the same, with these words prefixed to their subscription: *The Article of this Covenant, which was at the first subscription referred to the determination of the Generall Assembly, being determined. And thereby the five Articles of* Perth, *the government of the Kirk by Bishops, the civill places and power of Kirk-men, upon the reasons and grounds contained in the Acts of the Generall Assembly, declared to be unlawfull within this Kirk, we subscribe according to the determination foresaid.* And ordaines the Covenant, with this Declaration, to be insert in the Registers of the Assemblies of this Kirk, Generall, Provinciall, and Presbyteriall, *ad perpetuam rei memoriam*; and in all humility supplicates His Majesties high Commissioner, and the honourable Estates of Parliament, by their authority, to ratifie and injoyne the same, under all civill paines, which will tend to the glory of God, preservation of Religion, the Kings Majesties honour, and perfect peace of this Kirk and Kingdome.

Aug. 30. 1639.

Act anent Appellations.

THe Assembly appointed that in all time hereafter, no Appellations should be, leaping over either Presbyterie or Synod, but to ascend by degrees as from the Kirk Session to the Presbyterie, or from the Presbyterie to the Synod, and from the Synod to the Generall Assembly, except it be after the Synod be past, and immediatly before the Generall Assembly, or in the time thereof, and renewes all former Acts made to this effect.

Act

Act anent advising with Synods and Presbyteries before determination in Novations.

THe Generall Assembly, considering that the intended Reformation being recovered, may be established, Ordaines, that no Novation which may disturb the peace of the Church, and make division, be suddenly proponed and enacted: But so as the motion be first communicat to the severall Synods, Presbyteries and Kirks, that the matter may be approved by all at home, and Commissioners may come well prepared, unanimously to conclude a solide deliberation upon these points in the Generall Assembly.

Act anent Ministers Catechising and Familie Exercises.

THe Assembly considering that the long waited-for fruits of the Gospel, so mercifully planted and preserved in this Land, and the Reformation of our selves, and Families, so solemnly vowed to God of late in our Covenant, cannot take effect, except the knowledge and worship of God be carried from the Pulpit to every family within each Parish, hath therefore appointed that every Minister, besides his paines on the Lords day, shall have weekly catechising of some part of the Parochi, and not altogether cast over the examination of the people, till a little before the Communion. Also that in every Familie the worship of God be erected, where it is not both Morning and Evening, and that the Children and Servants be catechised at home, by the Masters of the Families; whereof accompt shall be taken by the Minister and Elders, assisting him in the visitation of every Family: And left they fail, that visitation of the severall Kirks be seriously followed by every Presbyterie, for this end among others. The execution and successe whereof, being tryed by the Synods, let it be represented to the next Generall Assembly.

Sess. XXIIII. 30. *Aug. à meridie.*

The Assemblies Supplication to the Kings Majesty.

Most Gracious Soveraigne,

WEe Your Majesties most humble and loyall Subjects, the Commissioners from all the parts of this Your Majesties ancient and Native Kingdome, and members of the Nationall Assembly, conveened at *Edinburgh* by Your Majesties speciall indiction, and honoured with the presence of

Your Majesties high Commissioner, have been waiting for a day of rejoycing, and of solemne Thanksgiving to be rendred to God by this whole Kirk and Kingdome, for giving us a King so just and religious, that it is not only lawfull for us to be Christians under Your Majesties government, which sometime hath been the greatest praise of great Princes, but also that it hath pleased Your gratious Majestie, to make known that it is Your Royall will and pleasure, that all matters Ecclesiasticall be determined in free Nationall Assemblies, and matters civill, in Parliaments; which is a most noble and ample expression of Your Majesties justice, and we trust shall be a powerfull meane of our common happinesse under Your Majesties most blessed Raigne. In the mean while we doe most humbly, upon the knees of our hearts, blesse your Majestie for that happinesse already begun in the late Assembly at *Edinburgh*; in the proceedings whereof, next under God, we have laboured to approve our selves unto Your Majesties Vice-gerent, as if Your Majesties eyes had been upon us, which was the desire of our soules, and would have been the matter of our full rejoycing, and doe still continue Your Majesties most humble supplicants for Your Majesties civill sanction and ratification of the constitutions of the Assembly in Parliament; That Your Majesties Princely power, and the Ecclesiasticall Authority joyning in one, the mutuall embracements of religion and justice, of truth and peace may be seene in this Land; which shall be to us as a resurrection from the dead, and shall make us, being not only so farre recovered, but also revived, to fill Heaven and Earth with our praises, and to pray that King CHARLES may be more and more blessed, and His throne established before the Lord for ever.

THE Assembly appoints the next Generall Assembly, to sit at Aberdene *the last Tuesday of* July *next*, 1640. *years. And warneth all parties, Universities and Burrows, to send their Commissioners, for keeping the samine. And thereafter the Assembly was concluded by giving of thanks by the Moderator, and singing of a Psalme, according to the custome.*

FINIS.

THE ASSEMBLY CONVEENED At ABERDENE *July* 28. 1640.

Sess. II. *July* 29. 1640.

THe Assembly, having past the first day before they would make any Act in attending of His Majesties Commissioner.

This day the Moderator openly asked in face of the Assembly, if there was any Commissioner come from His Majestie: And finding there was none, the Assembly proceeded according to their Liberties.

Overtures given in by the Committee appointed by the last Assembly, anent the ordering of the Assembly-house: Which being read in audience of the Assembly, they approved the samine.

THe Assembly finds it expedient for the ordering of the House in all time coming, that the Commissioners sit together unmixt, and that the places where they sit be railed about, or some other way divided from the seats of others, and that places be provided without the bounds of the

Commissioners seats to persons of respect, who are not Commissioners, and others according to their qualities, as the Magistrates of the Town shall find most convenient.

II. Also that the Commissioners, having received tickets from the Magistrates of the Burgh, at the delivery of their Commissions, whereby they may have ready accesse to the Assemblie-House and place appointed for them, doe keep the houre of meeting precisely, and whosoever comes after the time, or shall be found absent at the calling of the Rols, to be censured as the Assemblie sees fitting: And whatsoever Presbyterie, Burgh or Universitie, shall not send Commissioners, or Commissioners sent from them doe not come at all to the Assembly, be summond unto the next Assembly, and censured as the Assembly shall find reasonable.

III. That foure persons of respect have warrant from the Assembly to injoyne that there be no standing, no din, nor disorderly behaviour; And if any shall disobey them, or direct his speech to any, except to the Moderator, and that one at once with leave first asked and given, to be rebuked publickly by the Moderator: and if he desist not, be removed out of the Assembly for that Session.

IV. That no motion come in unto the Assembly but by the Committee appointed for matters of that nature: and if the Committee refuse to answer the same, let it be proponed to the Assemblie with the reasons thereof.

V. That the minutes of ilk Session be read before their rising, and if the matter concerne the whole Kirk, let it be drawne up in forme and read in the beginning of the next ensuing Session, that the Assembly may judge whether or not it bee according to their minde.

Act anent the demolishing of Idolatrous Monuments.

Forasmuch as the Assembly is informed, that in divers places of this Kingdome, and specially in the North parts of the same, many Idolatrous Monuments, erected and made for Religious worship, are yet extant, Such as Crucifixes, Images of Christ, *Mary*, and Saints departed, ordaines the saids monuments to be taken down, demolished and destroyed, and that with all convenient diligence: and that the care of this Work shall be

be incumbent to the Presbyteries and Provincial Assemblies within this Kingdome, and their Commissioners to report their diligence hereinto the next Generall Assembly.

Act against Witches and Charmers.

THe Assembly ordaines all Ministers within the Kingdome, carefully to take notice of Charmers, Witches, and all such abusers of the people, and to urge the Acts of Parliament, to be execute against them: And that the Commissioners from the Assembly to the Parliament, shall recommend to the said supreme judicatory, the care of the execution of the Lawes against such persons in the most behoovefull way.

Sess. V. *Aug.* 1. 1640.

Act for censuring speakers against the Covenant.

THe Assembly ordaines, that such as have subscribed the Covenant, and speakes against the same, if he be a Minister, shall be deprived; and if he continue so, being deprived, shall be excommunicate: And if he be any other man, shall be dealt with as perjured, and satisfie publickly for his perjury.

Sess. X. 5. *Aug.* 1640.

Act against Expectants refusing to subscribe the Covenant.

THe Assembly ordaines, that if any Expectant shall refuse to subscribe the Covenant, he shall be declared uncapable of a Pedagogie, teaching of a School, reading at a Kirk, preaching within a Presbyterie, and shall not

not have libertie of residing within a Burgh, Universitie, or Colledge: And if they continue obstinate, to be processed.

THe Generall Assembly appoints the next Assembly to be in S. Andrews *the third Tuesday of* July 1641. *And that the Moderator in a convenient way, by the secret Councell, or otherwise as may best serve, request the Kings Majestie to send His Commissioner to the said Assembly. And if any exigent fall out, that the Presbyterie of* Edinburgh *give advertisement for an Assembly* pro re nata.

FINIS.

THE PRINCIPALL ACTS OF THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

CONVEENED

At S. ANDREWS the 20. of *July* 1641.
And from thence translated to
EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by EVAN TYLER, *Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie.*

Anno Dom. 1642.

THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY HOLDEN AT S. ANDREWS and EDINBURGH, *Anno* 1641.

Sess. I. 20. *July*, 1641.

Iohn *Earle of* VVeymes, *His Majesties Commissioner, presented His Majesties Letter to the Assembly, whereof the tenor followeth:*

CHARLES R.

Rustie and welbeloved, Wee greet you well. It is no small part of Our Royall care and desires, that the true Reformed Religion, wherein by the grace of God, We resolve to live and dye, be settled peaceably in that Our ancient and native Kingdome of *Scotland*, and that the same be truly taught, and universally received and professed by Our Subjects there, of all degrees. For preventing of all division and trouble hereafter, We did intend in Our Own Royall Person, to have been present at this Assembly; but conceiving it to

be unfitting, to detaine the Ministers from their particular charges, till the time of Our coming to the Parliament. We have resolved to make knowne unto you by these, and by Our Commissioner, That in the approaching Parliament, it is Our intention by Our authoritie, to ratifie and confirme the Constitutions of the late Assembly at *Edinburgh*, that they may be obeyed by all Our Subjects living in that Our Kingdome. And that We will take into Our Royall consideration, by what meanes the Churches belonging to Our presentation, when any of them shall happen to vaik, may be best provided with well qualified Preachers: Like as We are not unwilling to grant presentations unto such as in these times of trouble have entred into the Ministerie, providing they have been examined by the Presbyteries, and approved by them: Because We want not Our own feares of the decay of Learning in that Church and Kingdome, We intend also to consider of the best means for helping the Schooles and Colledges of Learning, especially of Divinity, that there may be such a number of Preachers there, as that each Parish having a Minister, and the Gospel being preached in the most remote parts of the Kingdome, all Our Subjects may taste of Our care in that kinde, and have more and more cause to blesse God that We are set over them. And finally, so tender is Our care, that it shall not be Our fault if the Churches and Colledges there flourish not in Learning and Religion: For which Royall testimonie of Our goodnes, We require nothing upon your part, but that which God hath blessed you unto, even that you be faithfull in the charge committed unto you, and care for the soules of the people: That you study Peace and Unity amongst your selves, and amongst the people, against all Schisme and Faction; and that you not only pray for Us, but that you teach the people, which We trust are not unwilling to pay that honour and obedience which they owe unto Us, as his Vicegerent set over them, for their good; wherein We expect you will by your good example goe before them. Which hoping you will doe, We bid you farewell. *From Our Court at* Whitehall, *the* 10. *day of July* 1641.

Sess. III. 28. *July* 1641.

Act approving the Overtures of the Assembly at Aberdene, *for ordering the Assembly-House.*

THe Overtures for ordering the Assembly-House, given in to, and approved by the Assembly of *Aberdene*, the 29. *July* 1640. Act Sess. 2. were openly read, and again approved by this Assembly, and ordained to be kept the whole time thereof.

Sess.

Sess. V. 30. *July*.

Act anent old Ministers bruiking their Benefices.

THe Assembly having considered the Supplication given in by Doctor *Robert Howie*, Provest of the New Colledge of S. *Andrewes*, whereby he craved, that (notwithstanding of his dimission of his charge) he should not be prejudged of his full provision and maintenance during his life-time: The Assembly thinks it fit and necessary, that his provision and maintenance should not be diminished, but that he should injoy the same fully, as of before, during all the dayes of his life-time, and craveth his dimission to be onely but a cessation from his charge, because of his age and inabilitie: And declares, that old Ministers and Professors of Divinitie, shall not by their cessation from their charge, through age, and inabilitie, be put from injoying their old maintenance & dignity. And recommends this and others the like things, concerning the estate of that Universitie of S. *Andrewes*, to the Parliament, and the Visitation to be appointed from the Assembly and Parliament. And likewise the Assembly being informed, that the said Doctor *Howie* hath been very painfull in his charge, and that he hath divers papers which would be very profitable for the Kirk: Therefore they think fit, that the said Doctor *Howie* be desired to collect these papers, which doeth concerne, and may be profitable for the use of the Kirk, that the samine may be showne to the Visitors of the said Universitie.

Sess. VIII. *August* 2. 1641. *à meridie.*

Act against sudden receiving Ministers deposed.

THe Assembly ordaines, that Ministers who are deposed either by Presbyteries, Synods, or Generall Assemblies, or Committees from Assemblies for the publick cause of the Reformation and order of this Kirk, shall not be suddenly received againe to the Ministerie, till they first evidence their repentance both before the Presbyterie and Synod, within the bounds where they were deposed, and thereafter the samine reported to the next ensuing Generall Assembly.

Sess. IX. *August* 3.

The Overtures under-written, concerning the Universities and Colledges of this Kingdome, to be represented by the Generall Assembly, to the Kings Majesty and Parliament, being openly read, the Assembly approved the saids Overtures, and ordained them to be recommended to the Parliament.

FIrst, because the good estate both of the Kirk and Common-wealth, dependeth mainly from the flourishing of Universities and Colledges, as the Seminaries of both, which cannot be expected, unlesse the poore meanes which they have, be helped, and sufficient revenues be provided for them, and the same well imployed: Therefore that out of the rents of Prelacies, Collegiat or Chapter-Kirks, or suchlike a sufficient maintenance be provided for a competent number of Professors, Teachers, and Bursers in all faculties, and especially in Divinitie, and for upholding, repairing, and enlarging the Fabrick of the Colledges, furnishing of Libraries, and suchlike good uses in every Universitie and Colledge.

II. Next, for keeping of good order, preveening and removing of abuses, and promoving of pietie and learning, it is very needfull and expedient, that there be a communion and correspondencie kept betwixt all the Universities and Colledges. And therefore that it be ordained, that there be a meeting once every year, at such times and places as shall be agreed upon, of Commissioners from every Universitie and Colledge, to consult and determine upon the common affairs, and whatsoever may concerne them, for the ends above-specified, and who also, or some of their number may represent what shall be needfull and expedient for the same effect, to Parliaments and Generall Assemblies.

III. *Item*, that speciall care be had, that the places of the Professors, especially of Professors of Divinity in every University and Colledge, be filled with the ablest men, and best affected to the Reformation and order of this Kirk.

Sess. X. *Aug.* 4. 1641.

Act against Impiety and Schisme.

THe Assembly seriously considering the present case & condition of this Kirk & Kingdome, what great things the Lord hath done for us, especially since the renewing of our Covenant, notwithstanding our former backsliding & desertion, and if we shall either become remisse in the duties of Piety, or shall not constantly hold and keep our Religion, unto which we have bound

bound our selves so straitly and solemnly, what dishonour we doe unto the name of God before men, who have their eyes upon us, and how great judgements we bring upon our selves; upon these and the like considerations, The Assembly doth finde it most necessary to stirre up themselves, and to provoke all others both Ministers and people of all degrees, not only to the religious exercises of publick worship in the Congregation, and of private worship in their Families, and of every one by themselves apart, but also to the dueties of mutuall edification, by instruction, admonition, exhorting one another to forwardnesse in Religion, and comforting one another in whatsoever distresse; and that in all their meetings, whether in the way of timely conversation, or by reason of their particular callings, or any other occasion offered by divine providence, no corrupt communication proceed out of their mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers: And because the best meanes have been, and may still be despised or abused, and particularly the duety of mutuall edification, which hath been so little in use, and so few know how to practise the right manner, may be upon the one part subject to the mocking of ungodly and worldly men, who cannot endure that in others, which they are not willing to practise themselves, and upon the other part, to many errors and abuses, which the godly through their weaknesse may fall, or by the crastinesse of others may be drawne into, such as are Error, Heresie, Schisme, Scandall, Self-conceit, and despising of others, pressing above the common calling of Christians, and usurping that which is proper to the Pastorall Vocation, contempt or mis-regard of the publick meanes, idle and unprofitable questions which edifie not, uncharitable censurings, neglect of dueties in particular callings, businesse in other mens Matters and Callings, and many such ones in doctrine, charity, and manners, which have dolefully rent the bowels of other Kirks, to the great prejudice of the Gospel.

Therefore the Assembly, moved with the zeale of God against all abuses and corruptions, and according to their manifold obligations, most earnestly desiring and thirsting to promove the Work of Reformation; and to have the comfort and power of true godlinesse sensible to every soul, and Religion to be universally practised in every Familie, and by every person at all occasions, Doth charge all the Ministers and Members of this Kirk whom they doe represent, that according to their severall places and vocations, they endeavour to suppresse all impiety and mocking of religious exercises, especially of such as put foule aspersions and factions, or odious names upon the godly. And upon the other part, that in the fear of God they be aware and spiritually wise, that under the name and pretext of religious exercises, other wayes lawfull and necessary, they fall not into the aforesaid abuses; especially, that they eschew all meetings which are apt to breed Error, Scandall, Schisme, neglect of dueties and particular callings, and such other evills as are

the works, not of the spirit; but of the flesh, and are contrary to truth and peace; and that the Presbyteries and Synods have a care to take order with such as transgresse the one way or the other.

Sess. XIIII. 6. *Aug.* 1641. *à meridie.*

Act anent Novations.

SInce it hath pleased God to vouchsafe us the libertie of yearly Generall Assemblies, It is ordained according to the Acts of the Assemblie at *Edinburgh*, 1639. and at *Aberdene*, 1640. that no Novation in doctrine, worship or government be brought in, or practised in this Kirk, unlesse it be first propounded, examined and allowed in the Generall Assembly, and that transgressors in this kind be censured by Presbyteries and Synods.

Act Sess. XV. 7. *Aug.* 1641.

Overtures anent Bursars, and Expectants.

The Overtures under-written being openly read in audience of the Assembly, were approved and declared by them to be Acts of the Assembly, in all time coming, to be observed respectivè, *as the samine bears.*

THe Assembly thinks meet for maintaining of Bursars of Divinitie, that every Presbyterie that consists of twelve Ministers, shall maintaine a Bursar, and where the number is fewer nor twelve, shall be joyned with these out of another Presbyterie where their number exceeds: where this course is not already kept, it is to be begun without longer delay, and every Provinciall is ordained to give an accompt of their number of Bursars, that is constantly to be entertained by their Province at the next ensuing Generall Assembly.

II. No Expectant shall be permitted to preach in publick before a Congregation, till first he be tryed after the same manner, howbeit not altogether with that accuracie which is injoyned by the act of the Assembly of *Glasgow*, 1638. which prescribes the order and manner of tryall, that is to be kept with these who are to be admitted to the holy Ministerie: and none so tryed shall preach in publick, without the bounds of the Universitie or Presbyterie where he past his tryalls, till first he make it known to the other Presbyteries, where he desires to be heard, by a testimoniall from the Universitie or Presbyterie where he lived, that he hath bin of an honest con-

conversation, and past his tryalls conforme to the order here prescribed: Which being done in the meeting of the Province or Presbyterie, where he desires to be heard, he is to be allowed by them to preach within the bounds of that Province or Presbyterie, without any further tryall to be taken of him.

Expectants being educat in a Colledge, that was corrupt or under a corrupt Minister, if they themselves have been known to have been tainted with error, or opposite to our Covenant, and the blessed Work of Reformation within this Kirk, the same order is to be kept in admitting them to the holy Ministerie, or to any place in the Colledges or Schooles of this Kingdome, that was ordained to be kept in admission of these Ministers who fled out of the Countrey, and shew themselves opposite to our Covenant and Reformation. III.

Act Sess. XVII. 9. *Aug.* 1641.

Act against unlawfull Bands.

THe Assembly taking to their consideration the question proponed unto them concerning the Band, the copy whereof was presented before them from the Parliament, doth finde and declare that Bands of this and the like nature, may not lawfully be made: By which Declaration the Assembly doth not intend to bring any censure for what is past, and by the wisedome and care of the Committee of the Parliament is taken away, upon any person, who being required by the Moderator and the Clerk, shall under his hand declare before them, That as the Assembly doth finde that the subscribers are not astricted by their Oath to the tenor of the said Band, so he findeth himself not to be astricted by his Oath to the tenor thereof; but the intention of the Assembly is meerly to prevent the like in time coming.

Sess. XVIII. 9. *Aug.* 1641. *à meridie.*

A Letter from some Ministers in England *to the Assemblie.*

Right reverend and dear Brethren, now conveened in this Generall Assembly.

WE most heartily salute you in the Lord, rejoycing with you in his unspeakable goodnesse, so miraculously prospering your late endeavours, both for the restoring & settling of your own Liberties and Priviledges, in Church and common wealth (which we hear and hope he is now about to accomplish) as also for the occasioning & advancing of the Worke of Refor-

Reformation among our selves ; for which as we dayly blesse the highest Lord, sole Author of all our good, so doe we acknowledge your selves worthy Instruments thereof. And for that (besides all other respects) doe, and ever shall (by the help of God) hold you dear unto us, as our own bowels, and our selves obliged to render unto you all due correspondence according to our power, upon all good occasions.

And now (dear Brethren) forasmuch as the Church of Christ is but one body, each part whereof cannot but partake in the weal and woe of the whole, and of each other part; and these Churches of *England* and *Scotland*, may seem both to be embarqued in the same bottome, to sink and swim together, and are so near conjoyned by many strong tyes, not only as fellow-members under the same Head Christ, and fellow-subjects under the same King; but also by such neighbour-hood and vicinity of place, that if any evill shall much infest the one, the other cannot be altogether free: or if for the present it should, yet in processe of time it would sensibly suffer also. And forasmuch as evills are better remedied in their first beginning, then after they have once taken deep root; therefore we whose names are here under-written, in the behalf of our selves, and of many others, Ministers of the Church of *England*, are bold to commend to your consideration (being met together in this venerable Assembly) a difference of great concernment, which you may please (in brief) thus to understand. Almighty God having now of his infinite goodnesse raised up our hopes of removing the yoke of Episcopacie (under which we have so long groaned) sundry other forms of Church-government are by sundry sorts of men projected, to be set up in the roome thereof: one of which (amongst others) is of some Brethren that hold the whole power of Church-government, and all Acts thereunto appertaining (as Election, Ordination, and Deposition of Officers, with Admission, Excommunication, and Absolution of Members) are by divine Ordinance *in foro externo*, to be decreed by the most voyces, in and of every particular Congregation, which (say they) is the utmost bound of a particular Church, endued with power of government, and only some Formalities of solemne execution to be reserved to the Officers (as servants of the saids Church) if they have any, or if none, then to be performed by some other members, not in office, whom the said Church shall appoint thereunto: And that every of the said particular Congregation (whether they consist of few or many members, and be furnished with Officers or not) lawfully may and ought to transact, determine and execute all matters pertaining to the government of themselves, amongst and within themselves without any authoritative (though not consultatory) concurrence or interposition of any other persons or Churches whatsoever, condemning all imperative and decisive power of Classes, or compound Presbyteries and Synods, as a meere usurpation. Now because we

we conceive that your judgement in this case may conduce much, by the blessing of God, to the settling of this question amongst us. Therefore we doe earnestly intreat the same at your hands; and that so much the rather, because we sometimes hear from those of the aforesaid judgement, that some famous and eminent Brethren, even amongst your selves, doe somewhat incline unto an approbation of that way of government. Thus humbly craving pardon for our boldnesse, leaving the matter to your grave considerations, and expecting Answer at your convenient leasure, We commit you, and the successe of this your meeting, to the blessing of the Almighty, in whom we shall ever remain,

London, 12. July. 1641. *Your faithfull Brethren to serve you in all offices of love.*

The Assemblies Answer to the English *Ministers Letter.*

Right reverend and dearly beloved Brethren in our Lord and common Saviour Jesus Christ.

WEe the Ministers and Elders met together in this Nationall Assembly, were not a little refreshed and comforted by the good report which we heard of you, and others of our Brethren of the Kirk of *England*, by some of our Ministers, who by the good providence of our Lord had seen your faces, and conversed with you. But now yet more comforted by your Letters which we received, and which were read in the face of the Assembly, witnessing your Christian love, and rejoycing with us in God for his great and wonderfull Work in the Reformation of this Kirk, and in the beginning of a blessed Reformation amongst your selves, and that you are so sensible of your communion and fellowship with us, and to desire to know our minde and judgement of that which some Brethren amongst you hold, concerning Kirk-government.

We doe with our hearts acknowledge and wonder at the great and unspeakable wisedome, mercie, and power of our God, in restoring unto us the truth and puritie of Religion, after many back-slidings and defection of some in this Kirk, and desire not only to confesse the same before the world, and all other Christian Kirkes, but also doe pray for grace to walk worthy of so wonderfull a love: We have been helped by your prayers, in our weak endeavours, and you have mourned with us, (we know) in the dayes of our mourning; and therefore is it that you doe now rejoyce and praise God with us: Neither are we out of hope, but the same God shall speedily perfect that which he hath begun amongst you,

you, that your joy may be full: which is the desire of our soule, and for which we doe now pray, and in our severall Congregations will be instant at the throne of grace, for this and all other spirituall and temporall blessings upon the Kirk and Kingdome of *England*, by name, expecting the like performance of mutuall love from you, and others equally minded with you, for your parts, till a common consent may be obtained, even that you will recommend the Kirk of *Scotland* by name in your prayers to God. Thus shall we be as one people, mourning and rejoycing, praying and praising together; which may be one meane of the preservation of Unity, and of many other blessings to us both.

We have learned by long experience, ever since the time of Reformation, and specially after the two Kingdomes have been (in the great goodnesse of God to both) united under one Head and Monarch, but most of all of late, which is not unknowne to you, what danger and contagion in matters of Kirk-government, of divine worship, and of doctrine, may come from the one Kirk to the other, which beside all other reasons, make us to pray to God, and to desire you and all that love the honour of Christ, and the peace of these Kirks and Kingdomes, heartily to endeavour, that there might be in both Kirks, one Confession, one directory for publick worship, one Catechisme, and one Forme of Kirk-government. And if the Lord who hath done great things for us, shall be pleased to hearken unto our desires, and to accept of our endeavours, we shall not onely have a sure foundation for a durable Peace, but shall be strong in God, against the rising or spreading of Heresie and Schisme amongst our selves, and of invasion from forraine enemies.

Concerning the different Formes of Kirk-government, projected by sundrie sorts of men, to be set up in place of Episcopall Hierarchie, which we trust is brought near unto its period, we must confesse, that we are not a little grieved that any godly Ministers and Brethren should be found, who doe not agree with other Reformed Kirks in the point of government, as well as in the matter of doctrine and worship; and that we want not our own feares, that where the hedge of Discipline and Government is different, the Doctrine and Worship shall not long continue the same without change: yet doe not marvell much, that particular Kirks and Congregations which live in such places, as that they can conveniently have no dependencie upon superiour Assemblies, should stand for a kind of independencie and supremacie in themselves, they not considering that in a Nation or Kingdome, professing the same Religion, the government of the Kirk by compound Presbyteries and Synods, is a help and strength, and not a hinderance or prejudice to particular Congregations, and Eldership, in all the parts of Kirk-government; and that Presbyteries and Synods are not an extrinsecall power set over particular Kirks, like unto Episcopall dominion, they being no more to be reputed extrinsecall unto the particular Kirks, nor the power of a Parliament, or Convention of Estates,

where

where the Shires and Cities have their own Delegats , is to be held extrinsecall to any particular Shire or City.

Our unanimous judgement and uniforme practice,is,that according to the order of the Reformed Kirks,and the ordinance of God in his Word,not only the solemne execution of Ecclesiasticall power and authoritie,but the whole acts and exercise thereof,doe properly belong unto the Officers of the Kirk; yet so, that in matters of chiefest importance , the tacite consent of the Congregation be had, before their decrees and sentences receive finall execution, and that the Officers of a particular Congregation , may not exercise this power independently, but with subordination unto greater Presbyteries & Synods,Provinciall & Nationall:which as they are representative of the particular Kirks conjoyned together in one,under their government;so their determination,when they proceed orderly, whether in causes common to all,or many of the Kirks, or in causes brought before them by appellations or references from the inferiour, on the case of aberration of the inferiour, is to the severall Congregations authoritative and obligatory and consultatory only: And this dependencie and subordination, we conceive not only to be warranted by the light of nature , which doth direct the Kirk in such things as are common to other societies , or to be a prudentiall way for Reformation,and for the preservation of Truth and Peace, against Schisme,Heresie,and Tyranny , which is the sweet fruits of this government wheresoever it hath place , and which we have found in ancient and late experience; but also to be grounded upon the word of God , and to be conforme to the paterne of the Primitive and Apostolicall Kirks: and without which , neither could the Kirks in this Kingdome have been reformed , nor were we able for any time to preserve Truth and Unity amongst us.

In this Forme of Kirk-government, our unanimity and harmony by the mercy of God, is so full and perfect, that all the Members of this Assembly have declared themselves to be of one heart , and of one soule,and to be no lesse perswaded, that it is of God, then that Episcopall government is of men ; resolving by the grace of God, to hold the same constantly all the dayes of our life , and heartily wishing that God would blesse all the Christian Kirks,especially the famous Kirk of *England* , unto which in all other respects we are so nearly joyned with this divine Forme of government. Thus having briefly and plainly given our judgement for your satisfaction , and desiring and hoping that ye will beleeve against all misreports,that we know not so much as one man , more or lesse eminent amongst us,of a different judgement,we commend you unto the riches of the grace of Christ,who will perfect that which he hath begun amongst you,to your unspeakable comfort. Subscribed by our Moderator and Clerk.

Edinburgh 9. Aug. 1641.

The

The Assemblies Answer to the Kings Majesties Letter.

Most gracious Soveraigne,

BEside the conscience of that ductie which we owe to supreme Authority, we are not onely encouraged, but confirmed by the Royall favour and Princely munificence, expressed in Your gracious Majesties Letters, which filled our hearts with joy, and our mouthes with praise, to offer up our prayers with the greater fervencie to God Almightie for Your Majesties happinesse, our selves for our own parts, and for the whole Kirks of this Your Majesties Kingdome, which we do represent, to serve Your Majestie in all humble obedience, our faithfull labours for preserving Trueth and Peace amongst all Your Majesties Subjects, and our example (according to Your Majesties just commandments laide upon us) to be a president to others in paying that honour, which by all Lawes divine and humane, is due unto Your sacred Majestie, being confident that Your Majestie shall finde at Your coming hither much more satisfaction and content then can be expressed by

Your Majesties most humble Subjects and faithfull servants, the Ministers and Elders met together in the venerable Assembly at S. Andrews, *July* 20. *and* Edinburgh, *July* 27. 1641.

Act anent the Kirk of Campheir.

THe which day a motion was made in the Assembly, that it seemed expedient for correspondencie that might be had from forraigne parts, for the weal of this Kirk, That the Scots Kirk at *Campheir* were joyned to the Kirk of *Scotland*, as a Member thereof: Which being seriously thought upon and considered by the Assembly, they approved the motion, and ordained M. *Robert Baillie* Minister at *Kilwinning*, to write to M. *William Spang* Minister at *Campheir*, and Kirk Session thereof, willing them to send their Minister, and a ruling Elder, instructed with a Commission to the next Generall Assembly to be holden at S. *Andrews*, the last Wednesday of *July* 1642. at which time they should be inrolled in the Books of the Generall Assembly, as Commissioners of the Generall Assembly of *Scotland*, from the Scots Kirk at *Campheir*.

THe *Assembly appoints the next Generall Assembly to be holden at* S. Andrews, *the last Wednesday of July next* 1642.

FINIS.

THE PRINCIPALL ACTS OF THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

CONVEENED

At S. ANDREWES the twentie seventh day of *July*, *Anno* 1642.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by EVAN TYLER, *Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie.*

Anno Dom. 1642.

THE

PRINCIPALL ACTS

OF THE

GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

UNIVERSALLY

[illegible] Lawes by
[illegible]

EDINBURGH,

Printed by Evan Tyler, Printer to the
Kings most Excellent Majestie.

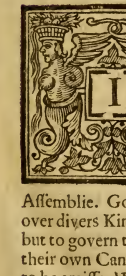
Anno Dom. 1642.

THE KINGS LETTER TO THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY:

Presented by His MAJESTIES Commissioner, the Earle of *Dumfermling*, the 27. of *July*, 1642.

Act Sess. I.

CHARLES R.



IN the midst of Our great and weighty affaires of Our other Kingdomes, which God Almighty, who is privie to Our Intentions, and in whom We trust, will in his own time bring to a wished and peaceable conclusion, We are not unmindfull of that dutie which we owe to that Our ancient and native Kingdome, and to the Kirks there, now met together by their Commissioners in a Nationall Assemblie. God, whose Vicegerent We are, hath made Us a King over divers Kingdomes, and We have no other desire, nor designe, but to govern them by their own Lawes, and the Kirks in them by their own Canons and Constitutions. Where any thing is found to be amisse, We will endeavour a Reformation in a fair and orderly way; and where a Reformation is setled, We resolve, with that authoritie wherewith God hath vested Us, to maintain and defend it in peace and libertie, against all trouble that can come from without, and against all Heresies, Sects, and Schismes which may arise from within: Nor doe We desire any thing more in that Kingdome (and when We shall hear of it, it shall be a delight and matter of gladnesse unto Us) then that the Gospel be faithfully preached throughout the whole Kingdome, to the outmost skirts & borders thereof. Knowing that to be the mean of honour to God, of happinesse to the people, and of true obedience to Us. And for

this effect, that holy and able men be put in places of the Ministery, and that Schooles and Colledges may flourish in Learning and true Pietie. Some things for advancing of those ends, We did of Our own accord promise in Our Letters to the last Assembly, and We make your selves Judges, who were witnesses to Our Actions, while We were there in Person, whether We did not perform them both in the point of presentations which are in Our hands, and in the liberall provision of all the Universities and Colledges of the Kingdome, not only above that which any of Our Progenitours had done before Us; but also above your owne hopes and expectation. We doe not make commemoration of this Our Beneficence, either to please Our Selves, or to stop the influence of Our Royall goodnesse and bountie for afterward, but that by these reall demonstrations of Our unfained desires and delight to do good, you may be the more confident to expect from Us, whatsoever in Justice We can grant, or what may be expedient for you to obtaine. We have given expresse charge to Our Commissioner, to see that all things be done there orderly and peaceably, as if We were present in Our Own Person; not doubting but in thankfulnesse for your present estate and condition, you will abstaine from every thing that may make any new disturbance, and that you will be more wise then to be the enemies of your own peace, which would but stumble others, and ruine your selves. We have also commanded Our Commissioner to receive from you your just and reasonable desires, for what may further serve for the good of Religion, that taking them to Our consideration, We may omit nothing which may witnesse Us to be indeed a nursing Father of that Kirk, wherein We were born and baptized, and that if ye be not happy, you may blame not Us, but your selves. And now what doe We again require of you, but that which otherwise you owe to Us as your Soveraigne Lord and King, even that ye pray for Our prosperitie and the peace of Our Kingdomes, that ye use the best means to keep Our People in obedience to Us and Our Lawes, which doth very much in Our personall absence from that Our Kingdome depend upon your preaching, and your owne exemplary loyalty and faithfulnesse, and that against all such jealousies, suspitions and sinister rumors as are too frequent in these times, and have been often falsified in time past, by the reality of the contrary events: Ye judge of Us and Our professions by Our actions, which We trust through God in despight of malice shall ever go on in a constant way for the good of Religion, and the weal of Our People, which is the chiefest of Our intentions and desires. And thus We bid you farewell.

Given at Our Court at Leicester, *the* 23. *of* July, 1642.

To Our trusty and wel-beloved the Generall Assembly in Our Kingdome of Scotland, *conveened at S.* Andrews.

Act

Act Sess. III. *July* 29.

Act for bringing in of the Synod Books yearly to the Generall Assemblies.

THE Moderator calling to minde that which was forgotten in the preceding Sessions, the examination of the Provinciall Books, caused call the Roll of the Provinciall Assemblies, And the Assembly finding very few Provinces to have sent their Books to this Assembly, notwithstanding of the ordinance of the former Assembly thereanent, for the more exact obedience of that ordinance hereafter, the Assembly in one voice ordaines, That the Books of every Provinciall Assembly shall be brought and produced to every Generall Assembly: And that this may be performed, ordaines that every Clerk of the Provincialls, either bring or send the said Books yearly to the Generall Assemblies, by the Commissioners sent to the Assemblies, from these Presbyteries where the Clerks reside. Which charge the Assembly also layes upon the said Commissioners, sent from the saids Presbyteries where the Clerks reside, ay and while some meanes be provided, whereby the Clerks charges may be sustained for coming with the said Books themselves: And that under the pain of deprivation of the Clerk in case of his neglect, and of such censure of the saids Commissioners, in case of their neglect, as the Assembly shall think convenient.

Act Sess. V. *Aug.* 1. 1642.

Act anent the choosing of Kirk Sessions.

ANent the question moved to the Assembly, concerning the election of Kirk Sessions, The Assembly ordaines the old Session to elect the new Session both in Burgh and Land. And that if any place shall vaik in the Session chosen, by death or otherwise, the present Session shall have the election of the person to fill the vacand roome.

Sess. VI. *Aug.* 2. 1642.

The report of the interpretation of the Act at Edinburgh, *anent tryall of Ministers.*

THe meaning of the foresaid Act, is not that an actuall Minister to be transported, shall be tryed again by the tryalls appointed for trying of Expectants, at their entry to the Ministery, according to the Acts of the Kirk; but only that he bringing a Testimoniall of his former tryalls, and of his abilities, and conversation, from the Presbyterie from whence he comes, and giving such satisfaction to the Parochiners Presbyterie whereto he comes in preaching, as the Presbyterie finds his gifts fit and answerable for the condition and disposition of the Congregation, whereto he is presented. Because, according to the Act of the Assembly 1596. renewed at *Glasgow*, some that are meet for the Ministery in some places, are not meet for all alike: and Universities, Towns, and Burghs, and places of Noblemens residence, or frequencie of Papists, and other great and eminent Congregations, & in sundry other cases, require men of greater abilities, nor will be required necessarily in the planting of all private small Paroches, the leaving of the consideration of these cases, unto the judgement and consideration of the Presbyterie, was the onely intention of the Act.

The Assembly approves the meaning and interpretation foresaid: and appoints the said Act, according to this interpretation, to stand in force, and to have the strength of an Act and Ordinance of Assembly in all time coming.

Act Sess. VII. 3. *Aug.* 1642.

Act anent the order for making Lists to His Majestie, and other Patrones for Presentations: the order of tryall of Expectants, and for trying the quality of Kirks.

FOrsameikle as His Majestie was graciously pleased in His Answer to the Petition, tendred by the Commissioners of the late Assembly to His Majestie, to declare and promise, for the better providing of vaiking Kirks at His Majesties Presentation with qualified Ministers, to present one out of a list of six persons, sent to His Majestie from the Presbyteries wherein the vaiking Kirk lyeth, as His Majesties Decla-

Declaration, signed with his Royal hand at *White-hall*, the 3. of *Jan.* last, registrate in the books of Assembly, this day at length beares. And suchlike whereas the Lords of Exchequer upon a Petition presented to them by the Commissioners of the general Assembly, and the Procurator and Agent for the Kirk representing two Prejudices; one, that gifts obtained from His Majestie of patronages of Kirks, at His Presentation were passing the Exchequer, either without the qualification and provision of a List, wherewith His Majestie was pleased to restrict Himself; and the other, that some were seeking gifts of patronage of Bishop-Kirks, which are declared to belong to Presbyteries, to be planted by two Acts of the late Parliament: The saids Lords have ordained that no signator, containing gifts of patronages from His Majestie, shall passe hereafter, but with a speciall provision that the samine shall be lyable to the tenor of His Majesties said Declaration. Ordaining also the Procurator and Agent of the Kirk to be advertised, and to have place to see all signators whatsoever, containing any patronage, to the effect they may represent the interest of the Kirk therein; as the said Act of the date the 27. of *June* last, registrate also in the Bookes of Assembly, this day at length beares. Therefore, that the saids Kirks which now are, or which were at His Majesties presentation the said third day of *January* last, may be the better provided with able Ministers, when the samine shall vaik, The Assembly ordains that hereafter every Presbyterie shall give up yearly a Roll of the ablest of their Expectants, to their Synods; and that the Synods select out of these Rolls such persons whom they in certain knowledge judge most fit for the Ministrie, and worthiest of the first place, With Power to the Synods to adde or alter these Rolls given by the Presbyteries, as they think reasonable: And that the Synods shall send the Rolls made by them in this manner, to the next General Assembly, who shall also examine the Rolls of the Synods, & adde or alter the same as shall be thought expedient. Which Roll made by the General Assembly, shall be sent to every Presbyterie, and that the Presbyterie, with consent of the most or best part of the Congregation, shall make a List of six persons willing to accept of the presentation out of that Roll of the Assembly, upon every occasion of vacation of any Kirk within their bounds, and shall send the samine, together with a blank presentation: The which (if His Majesty be Patron to the vacant Kirk) shall be sent by the said Procurator and Agent, to such as the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, or in their absence the Presbyterie of *Edinburgh*, shall direct and think at that time most able and willing to obtain the presentation, to be signed and filled up by His Majesties choise of one of the List. And if the vacant Kirk be of a Patronage disponed by His Majesty since the 3. of *January*, in that case either the Presbyteries themselves shall send a List of six Persons in manner foresaid, with a blank presentation to the Patron, to be filled up by his choise, & subscribed, or send the samine to the

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ſaids Officers of the Kirk, to be conveyed by them to the Patron of the vaiking Kirk, as the Presbyterie ſhall think moſt expedient. It is alwayes declared, that this order ſhall be without prejudice to the Presbyteries, with conſent foreſaid, to put actuall Miniſters upon the ſaid Liſt of ſix perſons, to be ſent to the Patron of the ſaid vaiking Kirks, if they pleaſe. And leſt that the nomination of Expectants by Presbyteries, Synods, or Aſſemblies, in their Rolls or Liſts foreſaid, be miſ-interpreted, as though the Expectants nominated in theſe Rolls and Liſts, were thereby holden and acknowledged to be qualified, which is not the intention of the Aſſembly, who rather think, that in reſpect of this Order, there ſhould be a more exact tryall of Expectants then before: Therefore the Aſſembly ordaines, That no Expectants ſhall be put on the Rolls or Liſts above-mentioned, but ſuch as have been upon the publicke exerciſe, at the leaſt by the ſpace of half a year, or longer, as the Presbyterie ſhall finde neceſſary. And ſuchlike ordaines, that hereafter none be admitted to the publicke exerciſe, before they be tryed, according to the tryal appointed for Expectants, at their entrie to the Miniſterie in the late Aſſembly at *Glaſgow*, in the 24. Article of the Act of the 23. Seſſion thereof: which tryall, the Aſſembly appoints to be taken of every Expectant, before his admiſſion to the publicke exerciſe. And ſuchlike ordaines, That the ſamine tryall ſhall be again taken immediatly before their admiſſion to the Miniſterie, together with their tryall, mentioned in the advice of ſome Brethren, deputed for penning the corruptions of the Miniſterie, approven in the ſaid Act of the Generall Aſſembly at *Glaſgow*. And becauſe that Kirks of the patronages foreſaids, will vaik before the Rolls and Liſts be made up by the Presbyteries, Synods, and Generall Aſſemblies, in manner foreſaid: Therefore in the *interim* the Aſſembly ordaines the Commiſſioners of every Presbyterie here preſent, to give in a Liſt of the ableſt Expectants within their bounds, the morne, to the Clerk of the Aſſembly, that the Aſſembly may out of theſe Rolls, make a Liſt to be ſent to every Presbyterie: Out of which the Presbyteries ſhall make a Liſt of ſix perſons, with conſent foreſaid, and ſend the ſamine upon vacancie of any Church within their bounds, together with a preſentation to His Majeſtie, or any other patron, in manner foreſaid. And becauſe the Procurator & Agent of the Kirk cannot get ſufficient information to the Lords of Exchequer, anent the Right & Intereſt of the Kirk, and Presbyteries in Kirks, whereof gifts of patronages may be preſented to the Exchequer: Therefore the Aſſembly ordaines, for their better information hereanent, that every Presbyterie, with all diligence, uſe all meanes of exact tryall of the nature and qualitie of all Kirks within their bounds, as what Kirks belong to the Kings Majeſties patronage, what to other Laick patronages, what Kirks of old were planted by Presbyteries, and what by Prelates, and Biſhops, before the Aſſembly at *Glaſgow* 1638. what hath been the way and time of the change of the planting and providing

of

of the Kirks, if any have been changed, or any other thing concerning the nature and qualitie of every Kirk within their bounds, and to send the same to the Procurator of the Kirk with all diligence.

Act anent Lists for the Kirks in the Highlands.

THe Assembly considering that in *Argyle*, and in other places of the *Irish* language, there will not be gotten six Expectants able to speak that language, And therefore the Assembly is hopefull, that in these singular cases, His Majestie will be pleased for Kirks vacand in the *Highlands*, to accept of a List of so many Expectants as can be had, able to speak the *Irish* language. And the Commissioners Grace promiseth to recommend it to His Majestie.

Overtures against Papists, non-communicants, and profaners of the Sabbath.

THe Assembly would draw up a Supplication to be presented by the Commissioners of the Presbyterie of *Edinburgh* to the Councell at their first meeting for the due execution of the Acts of Parliament, and Councell against Papists, wherein it will be specially craved, that the Exchequer should be the Intromettors with the Rents of these who are excommunicate, and that from the Exchequer, the Presbyterie may receive that portion of the confiscat goods, which the Law appoints to be employed *ad pios usus*.

II. Every Presbyterie would conveene at their first meeting, all knowne Papists in their bounds, and require them to put out of their company, all friends and servants, who are Popish within a moneth: also within that same space, to give their Children, Sonnes, and Daughters, who are above 7. years old, to be educate at their charges, by such of their Protestant friends, as the Presbyterie shall approve, and finde sufficient caution for bringing home within three moneths such of their Children, who are without the Kingdome, to be educate in Schooles, and Colledges, at the Presbyteries sight; to finde caution likewise of their abstinence from Masse, and the company of all Jesuits and Priests.

III. That all of whatsoever rank or degree, who refuse to give satisfaction, in every one of the foresaid Articles, shall be processed without any delay: but those who give satisfaction shall be dealt with in all meekness, after this manner. The Presbyteries shall appoint such of their number as they shall find fittest to confer

with them so frequently as the brethren are able to attend, until the midst of *October* next, against which time if they be not willing to go to Church, they shall give assurance to go and dwell in the next adjacent Universitie Town, whether *Edinburgh*, *Glasgow*, S. *Andrews*, or *Aberdeene*, from the first of *November* to the last of *March*, where they shall attend all the dyets of conference, which the professors and Ministers of the bounds shall appoint to them: by which if they be not converted, their obstinacie shall be declared in the Provincial Synods of *April*, & from thence their processe shall go on to the very closure without any farther delay.

IV. That every Presbyterie, as they will be answerable to the next generall Assembly, be carefull to doe their duty in all the premisses.

V. That there be given presently by the members of this present Assembly unto the Commissioners of the Presbyterie of *Edinburgh*, a List of all excommunicate Papists they know, and of all Papists who have children educate abroad, that they may be presented, together with our Supplication, to the Councell at their first sitting.

VI. That the Councell may be supplicate for an Act, that in no Regiment which goes out of the Kingdome, any Papists bear office, and that the Colonell be required to finde caution for this effect, before he receive the Councells Warrant for levying any Souldiers: also that he finde caution for the maintaining of a Minister, and keeping of a Session in his Regiment.

Item, the Assembly would enjoyne every Presbyterie to proceed against non-communicants, whether Papists or others, according to the Act of Parliament made thereanent. And suchlike, that Acts of Parliament against prophaners of the Sabbath be put to execution.

The Assembly approves the overtures foresaid, and ordaines Presbyteries to put the samine to execution with all diligence: and that the Commissioners of every Presbyterie give in a List of the excommunicate Papists within their bounds, and of Papists children out of the Countrey, to the Clerk, that the same may be presented to the Councel by the Commissioners of this Assembly.

Act anent the joyning of the Presbyterie of Sky *to the Synod of* Argyle.

THe Generall Assembly having considered the whole proceedings of the Commissioners of the late Generall Assembly, holden at *Edinburgh*, anent the reference made to them concerning the Presbyterie of *Sky*, together with the whole reasons *pro & contra* in the said matter, after mature deliberation have ratified and approved, and by these presents ratifie

tifie and approve the sentence of the saids Commissioners thereintill. And futher ordaines the said Presbyterie of *Sky*, and all the Ministers and Elders thereof, to keep the meetings of the Provinciall Assembly of *Argyle*, where they shall happen to be appointed in all time coming, suchlike as any other Presbyterie within the bounds of the said Province of *Argyle*, uses to doe. And that the samine Presbyterie be in all time hereafter within the Jurisdiction of the said Provinciall Assembly, without any further question to be made thereanent.

Sess. VIII. 3. *Aug. post meridiem.*

The Supplication of this Assembly to the Kings Majesty.

TO THE KINGS MOST Excellent Majestie, the heartie thanksgiving, and humble Petition of the Generall Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, *met at* S. Andrewes, *July* 27. 1642.

OUr hearts were filled with great Joy and Gladnesse at the hearing of Your Majesties Letter, which was read once and againe in face of the Assembly; every line thereof almost either expressing such affection to the reformed Religion, and such royall care of us, as we could require from a Christian Prince; or requiring such necessary duties from us, as we are bound to performe as Ministers of the Gospel, and Christian Subjects. For which, as solemne thanks were given by the Moderator of the Assembly, so doe we all with one voice in all humility, present unto Your Majestie the thankfulnesse of our hearts, with our earnest prayers to God for Your Majesties prosperitie, and the peace of Your Kingdomes, that Your Majestie may be indeed a nursing Father to all the Kirks of Christ, in Your Majesties Dominions; and especially to the Kirk of *Scotland*, honoured with Your Birth and Baptisme; promising our most serious indeavours by doctrine and life, to advance the Gospel of Christ, and to keepe the people in our charge in Unity and Peace, and in all loyaltie and obedience to Your Majestie & Your Lawes. Your Majesties commands to Your Commissioner, the Earle of *Dumfermling*, to receive from us our just and reasonable desires

for what may further serve for the good of Religion here, the favours which we have received already, and Your Majesties desire and delight to do good, expressed in Your Letter, are as many encouragements to us, to take the boldnesse in all humility to present unto Your Majestie (beside the particulars recommended to Your Majesties Commissioner) one thing, which for the present is the chiefest of all Our desires, as serving most for the glory of Christ, for Your Majesties Honour and Comfort; and not only for the good of Religion here, but for the true happinesse and peace of all Your Majesties Dominions; which is no new motion, but the prosecution of that same which was made by the Commissioners of this Your Majesties Kingdome in the late Treaty, and which Your Majestie, with advice of both Houses of Parliament, did approve in these words: *To their desire concerning unity in Religion and Uniformitie of Church-government, as a speciall means of conserving of Peace betwixt the two Kingdomes, upon the grounds and reasons contained in the Paper of the* 10. *of* March, *given in to the Treaty and Parliament of* England: *It is answered, upon the* 15. *of* June, *that His Majestie, with advice of both Houses of Parliament, doth approve of the affection of His Subjects of* Scotland, *in their desire of having the conformity of Church-government betwixt the two Nations, and as the Parliament hath already taken into consideration the reformation of Church-government, so they will proceede therein in due time as shall best conduce to the glory of God, the peace of the Church, and of both Kingdomes*, 11. *of* June, 1641. In Our Answer to a Declaration sent by the now Commissioners of this Kingdome from both Houses of Parliament, we have not only pressed this point of unity in Religion and Uniformity of Church-government, as a meane of a firme and durable union betwixt the two Kingdomes, and without which former experiences put us out of hope long to enjoy the puritie of the Gospel with Peace, but also have rendred the reasons of our hopes and confidence, as from other considerations, so from Your Majesties late Letter to this Assembly, that Your Majesty in a happy conjunction with the Houses of Parliament, will be pleased to settle this blessed Reformation, with so earnestly desired a Peace in all Your Dominions. And therefore we Your Majesties most loving Subjects in name of the whole Kirks of *Scotland*, represented by us, upon the knees of our hearts, doe most humbly and earnestly beg, that Your Majestie in the deep of Your Royall Wisedome, and from Your affection to the true Religion, and the Peace of Your Kingdomes, may be moved to consider, that the God of Heaven and Earth is calling for this Reformation at Your hands, and that as You are his Vice-gerent, so You may be his prime Instrument in it. If it shall please the Lord (which is our desire and hope) that this blessed unity in Religion and Uniformity in Government shall be brought about; Your Majesties Conscience in performing of so great a duty, shall be a wel-spring of comfort to Your Self, Your memory shall be a

sweet

ſweet ſavour, and Your name renowned to all following generations. And if theſe unhappy commotions and diviſions ſhall end in this peace and unity, then it ſhall appear in the Providence of God, they were but the noyſe of many waters, and the voice of a great thunder before the voice of harpers harping with their harps, which ſhall fill this whole Iland with melodie and mirth, and the name of it ſhall be, THE LORD IS THERE.

The Declaration of the Parliament of *England*, ſent to the Aſſembly.

THe Lords and Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, finding to their great grief, that the diſtractions of this Kingdome daily increaſe, and that the wicked counſells and practices of a malignant party amongſt us (if God prevent them not) are like to caſt this Nation into bloud and confuſion, To teſtifie to all the World how earneſtly they deſire to avoide a Civill Warre, they have addreſſed themſelves in an humble Supplication to His Majeſty, for the prevention thereof. A Copy of which their Petition, they have thought fit to ſend at this time to the Nationall Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, to the intent that that Church and Kingdome (whereunto they are united by ſo many and ſo near bonds and tyes, as well Spirituall as Civill) may ſee that the like minde is now in them, that formerly appeared to be in that Nation. And that they are as tender of the effuſion of Chriſtian bloud on the one ſide, as they are zealous on the other ſide of a due Reformation both in Church & State. In which work, whileſt they were labouring, they have been interrupted by the plots and practices of a malignant party of Papiſts, and ill-affected perſons, eſpecially of the corrupt and diſſolute Clergy, by the incitement and inſtigation of Biſhops, and others, whoſe avarice and ambition being not able to bear the Reformation endeavoured by the Parliament, they have laboured (as we can expect little better fruit from ſuch trees) to kindle a flame, and raiſe a combuſtion within the bowels of this Kingdome: Which if by our humble ſupplication to His Majeſty it may be prevented, and that according to our earneſt deſire therein, all Force and Warlike preparations being layde aſide, we may returne to a peaceable and Parliamentary proceeding, We do not doubt, but that by the bleſsing of Almighty God upon our endeavours, we ſhall ſettle matters both in Church and State, to the encreaſe of His Majeſties Honour and State, the peace and proſperitie of this Kingdome, and eſpecially to the glory of God, by the advancement of the true Religion, and ſuch a Reformation of the Church, as ſhall be moſt agreeable to Gods Word. Out of all which, there will alſo moſt undoubtedly reſult a

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most firme and stable Union between the two Kingdomes of *England* and *Scotland*, which according to our Protestation, we shall by all good wayes and meanes, upon all occasions, labour to preserve and maintaine.

Subscribitur Jo. Brown *Cleric. Parliament.*

The Assemblies Answer to the Declaration of the Parliament of *England*.

THe Generall Assembly of the Kirk of *Scotland*, having received a Declaration sent unto them by the Commissioners of this Kingdome, now at *London*, from the Honourable Houses of the Parliament of *England*, expressing their care to prevent the effusion of Christian bloud in that Kingdome, and their affections to Reformaion both in Kirk and State, and having taken the same to such consideration as the importance of so weighty matters, and the high estimation they have of so wise and honourable a meeting as is the Parliament of *England*, did require; have with universall consent resolved upon this following Answer.

I. That from the recent sense of the goodnesse of God, in their own late deliverance, and from their earnest desire of all happinesse to our native King and that Kingdome, they blesse the Lord for preserving them in the midst of so many unhappy divisions and troubles from a bloudy Intestine War, which is from God the greatest Judgement, and to such a nation the compend of all calamities. They also give God thanks for their former and present desires of a Reformation, especially of Religion, which is the glory and strength of a Kingdome, and bringeth with it all temporall blessings of prosperity and peace.

II. That the hearts of all the members of this Assembly, and of all the wel-affected within this Kingdome, are exceedingly grieved and made heavy, that in so long a time, against the professions both of King and Parliament, and contrary to the joynt desires and prayers of the godly in both Kingdomes, to whom it is more deare and precious then what is dearest to them in the world, the Reformation of Religion hath moved so slowly, and suffered so great interruption. They consider that not only Prelats, formall Professours, profane and worldly men, and all that are popishly affected, are bad counsellours and workers, and do abuse their power, and bend all their strength and policies against the Work of God, but the God of this world also, with Principalities and Powers, the rulers of the darknesse of this world, and spirituall wickednesse in high places, are working with all their force and fraud in the same opposition, not without hope of successe, they having

having prevailed so far from the beginning, That in the times of the best Kings of *Juda* of old, and the most part of the Reformed Kirks of late, a through and perfect Reformation of Religion hath been a work full of difficulties, Yet doe they conceive, that as it ought first of all to be intended, so should it be above all other things, with confidence in God, who is greater then the world, & he who is in the world, most seriously endeavoured. And that when the supreame Providence giveth opportunity of the accepted time and day of salvation, no other work can prosper in the hands of his servants, if it be not apprehended, and with all reverence and faithfulnesse improved. This Kirk and Nation, when the Lord gave them the calling, considered not their own deadnesse, nor staggered at the promise through unbelief, but gave glory to God. And who knoweth (we speak it in humility and love, and from no other mind then from a desire of the blessing of God upon our King and that Kingdome) but the Lord hath now some controversie with *England*, which will not be removed, till first and before all, the worship of his name, and the government of his house be settled according to his own will? When this desire shall come, it shall be to *England*, after so long deferred hopes, a tree of life, which shall not only yeeld temporall blessings unto themselves, but also shall spread the branches so far, that both this nation and other reformed Kirks shall finde the fruits thereof to their great satisfaction.

III. The Commissioners of this Kingdome in the late Treaty of peace, considering that Religion is not only the meane of the service of God, and saving of Souls, but is also the base and foundation of Kingdomes and Estates, and the strongest band to tye Subjects to their Prince in true loyaltie, and to knit the hearts of one to another in true unity and love, They did with preface of all due respect and reverence, far from arrogancy or presumption, represent in name of this Kingdome, their serious thoughts & earnest desires for unity of Religion, That in all his Majesties Dominions, there might be one Confession of Faith, one directory of worship, one publicke Catechisme, and one Forme of Kirk Government. This they conceived to be acceptable to God Almighty, who delighteth to see his People walking in truth and unity, to be a speciall means for conserving of peace betwixt the Kingdomes, of easing the Kings Majesty, and the publicke government of much trouble, which ariseth from differences of Religion, very grievous to Kings and Estates; of great content to the King himself, to his Nobles, his Court, & all his People, when (occasioned to be abroad) without scruple to themselves, or scandall to others, all may resort to the same publicke worship, as if they were at their own dwellings; of suppressing the names of Heresies, and Sects, Puritans, Conformists, Separatists, Anabaptists, &c. which doe rent asunder the bowels both of Kirk and Kingdome; of despaire of successe to Papists and Recusants, to have their profession, which is inconsistent with the

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true Protestant Religion,and authority of Princes,set up again, and of drawing the hearts and hands of Ministers, from unpleasant and unprofitable Controversies,to the presing of mortification, and to Treatises of true pietie,and practicall Divinity. The Assembly doth now enter upon the labour of the Commissioners,unto which they are encouraged, not onely by their faithfulnesse in the late Treaty, but also by the zeale and example of the Generall Assemblies of this Kirk in former times,as may appeare by the Assembly at *Edinburgh, Decemb.* 25. in the year 1566. which ordained a Letter to be sent to *England* against the Surplice, Tippet, Corner-cap, and such other Ceremonies as then troubled that Kirk, that they might be removed. By the Assembly at *Edinburgh, April* 24. 1583. humbly desiring the Kings Majesty,to command his Ambassadour,then going to *England*,to deale with the Queen, That there might be an Union and Band, betwixt them and other Christian Princes and Realmes, professing the true Religion, for defence and protection of the Word of God,and Professours thereof, against the persecution of Papists and confederates, joyned and united together by the bloudy league of *Trent*: as also that her Majesty would disburden their brethren of *England* of the yoke of Ceremonies,imposed upon them, against the liberty of the Word: And by the Assembly at *Edinburgh, March* 3. 1589. ordaining the Presbyterie of *Edinburgh*, to use all good and possible meanes for the relief and comfort of the Kirk of *England*,then heavily troubled for the maintaining the true discipline and government of the Kirk,and that the Brethren in their private and publick prayers,recommend the estate of the afflicted Kirk of *England* to God. While now by the mercy of God,the conjunction of the two Kingdomes is many wayes increased, the zeale of the Generall Assembly towards their happinesse ought to be no lesse. But besides these, the Assembly is much encouraged unto this dutie,both from the Kings Majesty and his Parliament, joyntly, in their Answer to the proposition, made by the late Commissioners of the Treaty, in these words: *To their desire concerning unity of Religion, and uniformity of Kirk-government, as a speciall meanes for conserving of peace betwixt the two Kingdomes, upon the grounds and reasons contained in the paper of the* 10. *of* March, *and given in to the Treatie and Parliament of* England: *It is answered upon the* 15. *of* June, *That His Majestie with advice of both Houses of Parliament, doth approve of the affection of His Subjects of* Scotland, *in their desire of having conformitie of Kirk-government, between the two Nations,and as the Parliament hath alreadie taken into consideration the Reformation of Kirk-government, so they will proceed therein in due time, as shall best conduce to the glory of God, the peace of the Kirk, and of both Kingdomes.* And also severally: for His Majestie knoweth, that the custodie and vindication, the conservation and purgation of Religion, are a great part of the dutie of Civill authority and power. His Majesties late practice while he was here in person, in resorting frequently to the exercises of publick worship,His Royall

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actions, in establishing the worship and government of this Kirk in Parliament, and in giving order for a competent maintenance to the Ministery and Seminaries of the Kirk, and His Majesties gratious Letter to the assembly (seconded by the speech of His Majesties Commissioner) which containes this religious expression: *Where any thing is amisse, we will endeavour a Reformation in a fair and orderly way, and where Reformation is settled, we resolve with that authority wherewith God hath vested us, to maintain and defend it in peace and liberty, against all trouble that can come from without, and against all Heresies, Sects, and Schismes, which may arise from within.* All these doe make us hopefull that His Majestie will not oppose, but advance the work of Reformation. In lik manner the Honourable Houses of Parliament, as they have many times before witnessed their zeale, so now also in their Declaration sent to the Assembly, which not only sheweth the constancy of their zeal, but their great grief that the worke hath been interrupted by a malignant party of Papists & evill-affected persons, especially of the corrupt and dissolute Clergie, by the incitement and instigation of Bishops and others, their hope according to their earnest desire, when they shall returne to a peaceable and Parliamentary proceeding, by the blessing of God, to settle such a Reformation in the Church, as shall be agreeable to Gods word, and that the result shall be a most firme and stable union between the two Kingdomes of *England*, and *Scotland*, &c. The Assembly also is not a little encouraged by a Letter sent from many reverend Brethren of the Kirk of *England*, expressing their prayers and endeavours against every thing which shall be found prejudiciall to the establishment of the Kingdome of Christ, and the Peace of their Soveraigne. Upon these encouragements, and having so patent a doore of hope, the Assembly doth confidently expect, that *England* will now bestirre themselves in the best way for a Reformation of Religion, and do most willingly offer their prayers and uttermost endeavours for furthering so great a Work, wherein Christ is so much concerned in his glory, the King in his honour, the Kirk and Kingdome of *England* in their happinesse, and this Kirk and Kingdome in the purity and peace of the Gospel.

That the Assembly also from so many reall invitations, are heartened to renew the Proposition made by the aforenamed Commissioners of this Kingdome, for beginning the Work of Reformation, at the uniformity of Kirk-government. For what hope can there be of Unity in Religion, of one Confession of Faith, one Forme of Worship, and one Catechisme, till there be first one Forme of Ecclesiasticall Government? Yea, what hope can the Kingdome and Kirk of *Scotland* have of a firme and durable Peace, till Prelacie, which hath been the main cause of their miseries and troubles, first and last, be plucked up, root and branch, as a plant which God hath not planted, & from which, no better fruits can be expected then such sower grapes, as this day set on edge the Kingdome of *England*? IV.

V. The Prelaticall Hierarchie being put out of the way, the Wor will be easie, without forcing of any conscience, to settle in *Engla* the government of the Reformed Kirks by Assemblies. For althoug the Reformed Kirks do hold, without doubting, their Kirk Officer and Kirk-government by Assemblies higher & lower, in their stron and beautifull subordination, to be *jure divino*, & perpetuall: yet Pr lacie, as it differeth from the Office of a Pastor, is almost universa ly acknowledged by the Prelats themselves, and their adherents to be but an humane ordinance, introduced by humane reason, an settled by humane Law and Custome for supposed conveniency which therefore by humane authority, without wronging an mans conscience, may be altered and abolished upon so great a n cessity, as is a hearty conjunction with all the Reformed Kirks, firme and well grounded Peace betwixt the two Kingdomes, fo merly divided in themselves, and betwixt themselves by this pa tition wall, and a perfect Union of the Kirks in the two Nation which although by the providence of God in one Iland, and und one Monarch, yet ever since the Reformation, & for the present als are at greater difference in the point of Kirk-government, which i all places hath a powerfull influence upon all the parts of Religio then any other Reformed Kirks, although in Nations at greatest d stance, and under divers Princes.

VI. What may be required of the Kirk of *Scotland* for furthering th Work of Uniformitie of Government, or for agreeing upon a com mon Confession of Faith, Catechisme, and directory for Worshi shall according to the order given by this Assembly, be most wi lingly performed by Us, who long extreamely for the day whe King and Parliament shall joyne for bringing to passe so great, good a Work, That all Warres and Commotions ceasing, all S perstition, Idolatry, Heresies, Sects, and Schismes being remove as the Lord is one, so his name may be one amongst us; and me cy and truth, righteousnesse and peace meeting together, and ki sing one another, may dwell in this Iland.

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Act Sess. VIII. *Aug.* 3. 1642.

Overtures for transplantation of Ministers, and provision of Schooles, ordained by the late Assembly at Edinburgh, *to be sent to Synods, and reported to this Assembly.*

Act Sess. XI. *Edinb.* Aug. 5. 1642.

These Overtures underwritten, anent the transporting of Ministers, and Professors, to Kirks and Colledges, being read in audience of the Assembly, and thereafter revised by a Committee appointed for that effect, The Assembly appoints them to be sent to the severall Synods, to be considered by them, and they to report their judgements thereof to the next Generall Assembly.

NO transportation would be granted hereafter without citation of parties, having interest (*viz.* the Minister who is sought and his Parish) to hear what they can oppose, and the matter is to come first to both the Presbyteries (*viz.* that wherein the Minister dwells, whose transportation is sought, and the other Presbyterie to which he is sought, if the Kirks lye in severall Presbyteries) and if the Presbyteries agree not, then the matter is to be brought to the Synod, or Generall Assembly (which of them shal first occurre after such transportation is sought) and if the Synod (occurring first) agree not; or if there be appeale made from it, then the matter is to come to the Generall Assembly. I.

A Minister may be transplanted from a particular Congregation (where he can only doe good to a part) to such a place, where he may benefite the whole Kirk of *Scotland*, because, in reason the whole is to be preferred to a part, such as *Edinburgh*. II.

1. Because all the great Justice Courts sit there, as Councell, Session, Justice Generall, Exchequer, &c. and it concerns the whole Kirk, that these Fountains of Justice be kept clean, both in the point of Faith, and Manners.

2. Because there is great confluence to *Edinburgh*, from time to time, of many of the chief Members of the whole Kingdome, and it concerns the whole Kirk to have these well seasoned, who (apparently) are to be the Instruments of keeping this Kirk and Kingdome in good temper.

That this may be the more easily done, the Assembly first recommends to *Edinburgh*, that some young men of excellent spirits may be (upon the charges of the said Town) trained up, at home or abroad, toward the Ministery from time to time. Secondly, we mean not, that all the places of the Ministerie of *Edinburgh* be filled with Ministers to be transported by Authoritie of this Act, but onely till they be provided of one Minister (transplanted

planted by the Authority of the Assembly) for every Kirk in *Edinburgh*, and that the rest of the places be filled, either according to the Generall Rules of transportation for the whole Kingdome, or by agreement with actuall Ministers, and their Parishes, with consent of the Presbyterie or Synod, to the which they belong.

III. In the next roome, we finde, that it is a transporting of Ministers for publick good, that Colledges, (having the profession of Divinitie) be well provided of Professors.

Wherein the Colledge of Divinitie in S. *Andrews* is first to be served, without taking any Professors or Ministers out of *Edinburgh*, *Glasgow*, or *Aberdene*, and then the rest of the Colledges would be provided for, as their necessity shall require: yet (in respect of the present scarcity) it were good for the Universities to send abroad for able and approved men, to be Professors of Divinitie, that our Ministers may be kept in their pastorall charge asmuch as may be.

Towns also wherein Colledges are, are very considerable in the matter of transportation.

IV. Also Congregations, where Noblemen have chief residence, are to be regarded, whether planted or unplanted, and a care is to be had, that none be admitted Ministers where Popish Noblemen reside, but such as are able men (especially for controversies) by sight of the Presbyterie: and moreover it is necessary, that such Ministers as dwell where Popish Noblemen are, and are not able for controversies, that they be transported.

V. They who desire the transportation of a Minister, should be obliged to give reasons for their desire: Neither should any Presbyterie or Assembly, passe a sentence for transportation of any Minister, till they give reasons for the expediencie of the same, both to him and his Congregation, and to the Presbyterie whereof he is a member. If they acquiesce to the reasons given, it is so much the better: if they doe not acquiesce, yet the Presbyterie, or Assembly, (by giving such reasons before the passing of their sentence) shall make it manifest, that what they doe is not *pro arbitratu, vel imperio* only, but upon grounds of reason.

VI. Because there is such scarcity of Ministers having the *Irish* tongue, necessity requires, that when they be found in the Low-lands, they be transported to the High-lands: providing their condition be not made worse, but rather better by their transportation.

VII. In the point of voluntary transportation, no Minister shall transact and agree with any Parish, to be transported thereto, without a full hearing of him, and his Parish, before the Presbyterie to which he belongs in his present charge, or superiour Kirk judicatories, if need shall be.

VIII. The planting of vacant Kirks, is not to be tyed to any (either Ministers, or Expectants) within a Presbyterie: but a free election is to be, according to the order of our Kirk, & Lawes of our Kingdome.

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The chief Burghs of the Kingdome are to be desired to traine up young men of excellent spirits for the Ministerie, according to their power; as was recommended to *Edinburgh*: Which course will in time (God willing) prevent many transplantations. IX.

The Overtures under-written anent the Schooles being likewise read in audience of the Assembly, they recommend the particulars therein mentioned, anent the providing of the maintenance for School-masters, to the Parliament: and ordaine the rest to be sent to the Synods, to be considered by them, and they to report their judgements thereof to the next Generall Assembly, as said is.

EVery Parish would have a Reader, and a Schoole, where children are to be bred, in reading, writing, and grounds of Religion, according to the laudable Acts, both of Kirk and Parliament, made before. I.

And where Grammar Schooles may be had, as in Burghs, and in other considerable places, (among which all Presbyteriall Seats are to be reputed) that they be erected, and held hand to.

Anent these Schooles, every Minister with his Elders, shall give accompt to the Presbyteries at the visitation of the Kirk; the Presbyteries are to make report to the Synod, and the Synod to the Generall Assembly, that Schooles are planted, as above-said, and how they are provided with men and means. II.

And because this hath been most neglected in the High-lands, Ilands, and borders. Therefore the Ministers of every Parish are to instruct by their Commissioners, to the next Generall Assembly, that this course is begun betwixt and then: and they are further to certifie from one Generall Assembly to another, whether this course is continued without omission, or not. III.

And because the means hitherto named, or appointed for Schooles of all sorts, hath been both little, and ill payed, Therefore, beside former appointments, (the execution whereof is humbly desired, and to be petitioned for, at the hands of His Majestie and the Parliament) The Assembly would further supplicate this Parliament, that they (in their wisedome) would finde out how means shall be had for so good an use, especially that the children of poore men, (being very capable of learning, and of good engines) may be trained up, according as the exigence and necessity of every place shall require. And that the Commissioners, who shall be named by this Assembly, to wait upon the Parliament, may be appointed to represent this to His Majestie, and the Parliament, seeing His sacred Majestie, by His gracious Letter hath put us in hope hereof, wherewith we have been much refreshed. IV.

The Assembly would supplicate the Parliament, that for youths of V.

of the finest and best spirits of the High-lands, and borders, maintenance may be allotted (as to Bursars) to be bred in Universities.

VI. For the time and manner of visitation of Schooles, and contriving the best and most compendious and orderly course of teaching Grammar, we humbly desire the Assembly to appoint a Committee for that effect, who may report their diligence to the next Generall Assembly.

The Overtures and Articles above-written being reported to this Assembly, after reading and serious consideration thereof, the Assembly approves the samine, And ordaines them to have the strength of an Act and ordinance of Assembly in all time-coming.

Sess. XI. *Aug.* 5. 1642.

Act anent contrary Oaths.

THe Generall Assembly finding the inconvenience of contrary Oaths in trying of Adulteries, Fornications, and other Faults and Scandalls, doe therefore for eviting thereof, discharge Synods, Presbyteries and Sessions, to take Oath of both parties in all time hereafter, Recommending to them in the mean time all other order and wayes of tryall used in such cases: And that there may be a common order and course kept in this Kirk of trying of publick Scandalls, The Assembly ordains the Presbyteries to advise upon some common order hereintill, and to report their judgements to the next Assembly.

Overtures anent Family Exercises, Catechising, keeping of Synods and Presbyteries, and restraint of Adulteries, Witch-crafts, and other grosse sins.

The Committee supplicates the Assembly,

I. TO urge the severall Synods and Presbyteries, especially these of the North, that Family Exercise in Religion, visitation of the Churches, Catechising, keeping of the Presbyteriall and Provinciall meetings (both by preaching and ruling Elders) be more carefully observed.

II. That the Clerk at least subscribe every book before it come to the

the Assembly, and that every Act be noted on the Margent, for a directory of expedition.

3. That the Assembly would seriously studie by all means and wayes how to procure the Magistrates concurrence, to curb and punish these notorious vices which abound in the Land, especially in the Northern parts.

The Assembly approves the Overtures foresaids, and ordaines them to be observed: and for the last, the Assembly being confident of the readinesse of the Judge Ordinair to restrain and punish these faults, Doe therefore ordain all Presbyteries to give up to the Justice, the names of the Adulterers, incestuous persons, witches and sorcerers, and others, guilty of such grosse and fearfull sins within their bounds, that they may be processed and punished according to the Laws of this Kingdome: and that the Presbyteries and Synods be carefull herein, as they will answer to the Generall Assemblies. And because that witch-craft, charming, and such like, proceedes many times from ignorance: Therefore the Assembly ordains all Ministers, especially in these parts where these sins are frequent, to be diligently preaching, catechising, and conference, to informe their people thereimill.

Sess. XI. 5. *Aug.* 1642.

Act against Petitions, Declarations, and such like in name of Ministers, without their knowledge and consents.

THe Generall Assembly being informed, that after the Petition presented to the Lords of His Majesties Privie Councell by the Noblemen, Burgesses, and Ministers, occasionally met at *Edinburgh* the 31. day of *May* last by-past, had received a very gratious Answer, There was another Petition given in to their Lordships upon the day of *June* last, entituled, The Petition of the Nobilitie, Gentrie, Burrowes, Ministers, & Commons: which as it was not accompanied with any one Minister to the Lords of Privie Councell, so all the Ministers of this Assembly, disclaimes and disavoweth any knowledge thereof, or accession thereto. And the Assembly conceiving that the Kings Majesty Himself, and all the Courts and Judicatories of this Kingdome may be deluded and abused, and the Kirk in Generall, and Ministers in particular injured and prejudged by the like practices hereafter. Do therefore prohibite and discharge all and every one to pretend or use the name of Ministers to any Petition, Declaration,

ration, or suchlike at any time hereafter, without their knowledge, consent and assistance: And if any shall do the contrary, ordaines Presbyteries and Provinciall Assemblies to proceed against them with the highest censures of the Kirk.

Sess. XI. 5. *Aug.* 1642.

Act anent the Assemblies desires to the Lords of Councell, and conservators of Peace.

THe Assembly being most desirous to use all, and to omit no lawfull meane or occasion to testifie their zeale by dealing with God and man, for furtherance of their desires of Unity in Religion, and uniformity of Kirk-government, And considering the great necessity, that the Kirk and State contribute jointly their best endeavours to this happy end: Therefore enjoynes the Moderator, and the Commissioners from the Assembly, to supplicate with all earnestnesse and respect, the Lords of His Majesties Honourable Privie Councell, and likewise the Commissioners appointed by His Majestie, and the Parliament, for conservation of the Peace, that they may be pleased to concurre with the Kirk in the like desires to His Majesty, and the Parliament of *England*, and in the like directions to the Commissioners of this Kingdome, at *London* for the time, that by all possible means, Civill and Ecclesiastick, this blessed Worke may be advanced, and a happy settling betwixt His Majestie and His Parliament, may be endeavoured, and the common Peace betwixt the Kingdomes continued and strengthened.

Sess. XI. 5. *Aug.* 1642.

The Assemblies humble desire to the Kings Majestie for the Signator of 500. lib. sterling, and recommendation thereof to the Kings Commissioner.

THe Generall Assembly having received the Report of the proceedings of the Commissioners of the late Assembly, and specially that His Majesty was graciously pleased, upon their humble Petition, solemnly to promise and declare under His Royall hand, his pious resolution and dedi-

dedication of 500. lib. sterling, out of the readiest of his Rents and revenues, to be employed yearly on publick necessary and pious uses of the Kirk, at the sight of the Generall Assembly, as His Majesties gratious Answer of the 3. of *January*, 1642. registrat in their books at His Majesties own desire, for their further assurance of His Majesties pious zeale, doth more fully proport. Likeas being informed that His Majestie was gratiously pleased to signe and send down to the Kirk the Signator of the said 500. lib. yearly to have past the Exchequer, albeit the samine is not as yet delivered; And considering His Majesties pious directions to them by His Majesties Letter to plant and visit the utmost skirts and borders of the Kingdome, as most necessary for the glory of God, the good of the Kirk, and His Majesties honour, and service, which is only stopped by the want of charges for publick visitations, And withall to remonstrate to His Majestie by His Commissioner, their just and necessary desires for what may further serve to the good of Religion, whereunto His Majesties Commissioner promised his best endeavours and assistance. Therefore the Assembly doth most earnestly recommend to His Majesties Commissioner to represent to His Majestie, with his best assistance, the humble and necessary desires of the whole Assembly, That His Majestie will be gratiously pleased to command that Signator, already signed by His Royall hand (or to signe another of the samine tenor, whereof they deliver the just double to His Majesties Commissioner for that effect) to be sent to this Kingdome, and delivered to the Commissioners from this Assembly, who are to sit at *Edinburgh*, or to the Procurator of the Kirk, whereby His Majestie shall more and more oblige this whole Kirk to pray for a blessing from Heaven upon His Royall Person and Government.

Sess. XI. 5. *Aug.* 1642.

The Assemblies Letter to the Commissioners of this Kingdome at London.

Right Honourable,

WE have received your Lordships Letter, with the Declaration of the Parliament of *England*, and have sent this Noble bearer to His Majesty with our humble supplication, & to your Lordships with our Answer, earnestly desiring Unity of Religion, and Uniformity of Kirk-government, to be presented by your Lordships, & this Noble bearer, to the hon: Houses of Parliament. Your Lordships will perceive by the inclosed Copies, and by

our desires to His Majesties honourable Privie Councell and Commissioners for the conservation of the Peace, to joyn their best endeavours with His Majestie and the Parliament, and their directions to your Lordships, by our leaving a Commission behinde us, to concurre with them in all Ecclesiastick wayes, and by our appointing publick Prayers, and a solemne Fast through this Kirk, for the furtherance of this great Work of Reformation, and continuance of the common Peace, that this Unitie in Religion, and Uniformitie of Kirk-government, is the chiefest of our desires, prayers and cares: Whereunto as we have been encouraged by the faithfull labours of the Commissioners of this Kingdome in the late Treaty, and continued and renewed by your Lordships; so we are assured, that your Lordships will omit no lawfull meane, argument, or occasion of seconding the samine there, And advertising our Commissioners at *Edinburgh*, wherein they may further concurre with your Lordships, for the furtherance of the Work, which tends so much to the glory of God, advancement of Christs Kingdome, increase of the honour and happinesse of our Soveraigne, and the peace and welfare of these Kingdomes, whereby your Lordships will oblige this Kirk more and more to pray for a blessing on your persons and travels, and to rest

S. Andrewes 5. *August* 1642.

Yours in the Lord
The Commissioners of the Generall Assembly.

A Letter from some Ministers of *England*.

Reverend and wel-beloved in our Lord and Saviour.

WE received with much joy and satisfaction, the Answer which your Generall Assembly vouchsafed us to our Letters of the last year. Some of us in the name of our Brethren, thought it then fit by Master *Alexander Henderson* (a brother so justly approved by you, and honoured by us) to returne our deserved thanks. And we now further think it equall upon this occasion, to make a more publick acknowledgement of such a publick favour. You were then pleased to give us fair grounds, to expect that brotherly advice and endeavours, which the common cause of Christ, and the mutuall interest of the united Nations, command us now again to ask, if not to challenge. We doubt not but your experience, together with your intelligence, abundantly informes you of our condition, what various administrations of providence we have passed through, and we still lye betwixt hopes and fears, a fit temper for working; the God of all grace

grace enable us to improve it. As our hopes are not such as may make us fear, so neither doe our Feares prevail, to the casting away our confidence. Your owne late condition, together with this Declaration of ours present, may acquaint you with the certain, though subtill, authors and fomentors of these our confused conflicts: which we conceive to be the Hierarchicall Faction, who have no way to peace and safetie, but through the trouble and danger of others. Our prayers and endeavours, according to our measure, have been, and shall be for the supplanting and rooting up whatsoever we find so prejudiciall to the establishment of the Kingdome of Christ, and the peace of our Soveraigne. And that this Declaration of our selves may not leave you unsatisfied, we think it necessary further to expresse, That the desire of the most godly and considerable part amongst us, is, that the Presbyterian Government, which hath just and evident Foundation both in the Word of God, & religious reason, may be established amongst us, and that (according to your intimation) we may agree in one Confession of Faith, one directorie of Worship, one publick Catechisme & form of government: Which things, if they were accomplished, we should much rejoyce in our happy subjection to Christ our Head, and our desired association with you our beloved brethren. For the better effecting whereof, we thought it necessary, not only to aquaint you with what our desires are in themselves, but likewise to you, that is, that what way shall seem most fit to the wisedome of that grave & religious Assembly, may be taken for the furtherance of our indeavours in this kind. We understand that our Parliament hath been before hand with us in this intimation, and it cannot but be our duty, who are so much concerned in the businesse, to adde what power the Lord hath given us with you to the same purpose. This designe and desire of ours, hath enemies on the Left-hand; and dissenting brethren on the Right; but we doubt not, that as our hearts justifie us that our intentions are right, and such as we conceive tend most directly to the glory of God, and the peace of the Churches of the Saints; so (by your brotherly concurrence in the most speedy and effectuall way you can find out) the Work will in Gods due time, receive a prayed for, hoped for issue. We shall not need by many arguments from mutuall Nationall interest (though we know you will not overlook them) to inforce this request, the firme bond wherewith we are all united in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are assured will alone engage your faithfull endeavours in this businesse. To him we commit you, with these great and important affaires you have in hand. Be pleased to accept of these as the expression of the mindes of our many godly and faithfull Brethren, whose hearts we doubt not of, neither need you, though their hands in regard of the suddennesse of this opportunity could not be subscribed together with ours, who are

Your most affectionate friends and brethren in the Work of the Lord.

London 22. *July* 1642.

Answer to the Ministers Letter.

Right reverend and beloved in the Lord Jesus.

BY our Answer to the Declaration sent unto us from the honourable Houses of Parliament, ye may perceive that your Letter which came into our hands so seasonably, was not only acceptable unto us, but hath also encouraged us to renew both to the Kings Majestie and the Houses of Parliament, The desires of the late Commissioners of this Kingdome for Unity in Religion, in the four particulars remembred by you: We cannot be ignorant but the opposition from Satan & worldly men in Kirk & Policy, will still be vehement as it hath been already, But we are confident through our Lord Jesus Christ, that the prayers and indeavours of the godly in both Kingdomes, will bring the Work to a wished, and blessed Issue. This whole nationall Kirk is so much concerned in that Reformation and Unity of Religion in both Kingdomes, that without it we cannot hope for any long time to enjoy our puritie and peace, which hath cost us so dear, & is now our chiefest comfort and greatest treasure: Which one cause (beside the Honour of God, and the happinesse of the People of God in that Kingdome, more desired of us then Our lives) is more then sufficient to move us, To contribute all that is in our power for bringing it to passe. And since we have with so great liberty made our desires and hopes known both to King and Parliament, it is a duety incumbent both to you and us, who make mention of the Lord, and are Watch-men upon the Walls of *Jerusalem*, never more to keep silence nor to hold our peace day nor night, till the righteousnesse of Sion go forth as brightnesse, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And if it shall please the Lord to move the hearts of King & Parliament, to hearken unto the motion, for which end we have resolved to keep a solemne Fast and Humiliation in all the Kirks of this Kingdome, the mean by which we have prevailed in times past, we wish that the Work may be begun with speed, and prosecuted with diligence by the joynt labours of some Divines in both Kingdomes, who may prepare the same for the view and examination of a more frequent Ecclesiastick meeting of the best affected to Reformation there, and of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly here, that in end it may have the approbation of the Generall Assembly here, and of all the Kirks there, in the best way that may be, we wish and hope at last in a nationall Assembly; Our Commissioners at *Edinburgh*, shall in our name receive and return answers for promoving so great a Work, which we with our heart and our soule recommend to the blessing of God, we continue,

Your loving brethren and fellow-labourers.

Act

Act for my Lord Maitlands *presenting the Assemblies Supplication to His Majestie, and for going to the Commissioners at* London, *with the Answer to the Parliament of* Englands *Declaration.*

THe Generall Assembly considering the necessity of sending some person of good worth and qualitie for to present their humble Supplication to His Majestie, and to deliver their directions to the Commissioners of this Kingdome, now at *London*, with their Declaration to the Parliament of *England*, and answer to some wel-affected Ministers of that Kirk: And having certaine knowledge of the worth, abilitie, and faithfulnesse of *John* Lord *Maitland*, one of their number, who being witnesse to all their intentions and proceedings can best relate their true loyaltie and respect to their Soveraign, and brotherly affection to the Kirk and Kingdome of *England* therein; Therefore doe unanimously require his Lordships paines by repairing to Court, and to *London* for the premisses, which hereby they commit to his diligence and fidelitie, willing his Lordship to make accompt of his proceedings herein to their Commissioners appointed to sit at *Edinburgh*.

Sess. XII. 5. *Aug. post meridiem.*

Commission for publick affairs of this Kirk, and for prosecuting the desires of this Assembly to His Majestie and the Parliament of England.

THe Generall Assembly considering the laudable custome of this Kirk for to appoint some Commissioners in the interim betwixt Assemblies for presenting of Overtures and prosecuting the other desires of the Kirk to His Majestie, the Lords of His Councell, and the estates of Parliament; And taking to their consideration the present condition of the Kirk of *England*, with the Declaration thereof sent downe from the Parliament, and some reverend brethren of the Ministerie there, with their own Answer to the Parliament and Ministerie, and their humble Supplication to His Majestie for Unitie of Religion and Uniformitie of Kirk-government. And withall remembring their

desires

desires to the Honourable Lords of His Majesties secret Councell, and to the Commissioners appointed by the King and Parliament, for conservation of the common peace, That they would joyne their concurse in their desires to His Majestie and Parliament, and directions to the Commissioners of this Kingdome at *London* for the time. And likewise considering their good hopes from Gods gratious favour to this Iland, that by his good providence he will in his own way and time settle this great Work through this whole Ile, And that it is both our earnest desire & Christian duty to use all lawfull means and Ecclesiastick wayes for furtherance of so great a Work, continuance of the common peace betwixt these nations, & keeping a brotherly correspondence betwixt these Kirks. Therefore the Assembly thinks it necessary before their dissolving, to appoint, and by these presents doe nominate & appoint Masters, *Andrew Ramsay*, *Alexander Henderson*, *Robert Dowglas*, *William Colvill*, *William Bennet* Ministers at *Edinburgh*, Master *William Arthur* Minister at S. *Cuthbert*, Master *James Robertson*, *John Logan*, *Robert Lightoun*, Commissioners from *Dalkeith* to this Assembly: Masters, *Andrew Blackhall*, *James Fleeming*, *Robert Ker*, Commissioners from *Hadingtoun* to this Assembly: Masters, *George Hamilton*, *Robert Blair*, *Arthur Mortoun*, *David Dalgleish*, *Andrew Bennet*, *Walter Greg*, *John Moncreff*, *John Smith*, *George Gillespie*, *John Row*, *John Duncan*, *Walter Bruce*, Commissioners for the Presbyteries within the Province of *Fyffe*: Master *David Calderwood* Minister at *Pencaitland*, Master *John Adamson* Principall of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Master *John Strang* Principall of the Colledge of *Glasgow*, Master *David Dickson*, Master *James Bonar*, Master *Robert Baillie*, Master *John Bell*, Master *Robert Ramsay*, Master *George Young*, Master *Henry Guthrie*, Master *Samuel Oustein*, Master *John Robertson* Minister at S. *Johnstoun*, Master *John Robertson* Minister at *Dundie*, Master *John Home* Minister at *Ecklills*, Master *Andrew Cant*, Master *William Guild*, Master *Samuel Rutherfuird*, Master *James Martin*, Master *Alexander Monroe*, Master *Robert Murray*, Master *John Maclellan*, *Andrew Doncanson*, Master *Silvester Lambie*, Master *Gilbert Ross*, Ministers: Marquesse of *Argyle*, Earles of *Lauderdail*, *Glencarne*, *Kinghorne*, *Eglintoun*, *Weemes*, *Cassils*: Lords, *Gordoun*, *Maitland*, *Balcarras*, Sir *Patrick Hepburne* of *Wauchtoun*, Sir *David Home* of *Wedderburne*, Sir *David Creightoun* of *Lugtoun*, Sir *David Barclay* of *Cullearnie*, *John Henderson* of *Fordell*, Master *George Winrame* of *Libbertoun*, Sir *Robert Drummond*, Sir *William Carmichaell*, *John Binnie*, *Thomas Paterson*, *John Sempill*, *John Kennedy* of *Air*, *John Leslie* from *Aberdene*, *William Glendinning* Provest of *Kirkubright*, *John Colzear*, Ruling Elders, with the concurse of the Procurator of the Kirk: And grants to them full Power and Commission in this *interim*, betwixt and the next Assembly, for to meet and conveen at *Edinburgh* upon the seventeene day of this moneth of *August*, and upon any other day, or in any other place, as they shall think convenient: And being met and convee-

conveened, or any fifteene of them, there being alwayes twelve Ministers present: With full power for to consider and performe what they finde necessary for the Ministerie, by preaching, supplicating, preparing of draughts of one Confession, one Catechisme, one directory of publick Worship (which are alwayes to be revised by the next Generall Assembly) and by all other lawfull and Ecclesiastick wayes, for furtherance of this great Work, in the Union of this Iland in Religion and Kirk-government, and for continuance of our owne peace at home, and of the common peace betwixt the Nations, and keeping of good correspondence betwixt the Kirks of this Iland. Like as if it shall please God to blesse the prayers and endeavours of his Saints for this blessed Union, and that if either the Lords of Councell, or Commissioners for the Peace shall require their concurse at home or abroad, by sending Commissioners with theirs to His Majesty and Parliament for that effect, or that they themselves shall finde it necessary; The Assembly grants full power to them, not only to concurre by all lawfull and Ecclesiastick wayes, with the Councell and Conservators of the Peace at home, but also to send some to present and prosecute their desires and humble advice to His Majesty and the Parliament, and the Ministerie there, for the furthering and perfecting of so good and great a Worke. Like as, with power to them to promove their other desires, overtures, and recommendations of this Assembly, to the Kings Majestie, Lords of Councell, Session, Exchequer, and Commissioners of Parliament, for plantation of Kirks, for common burdens, or conservation of the common peace, and to the Parliament of this Kingdome, incase it fall out *pro re nata* before the next Assembly. And suchlike, with as full power to them to proceede, treat and determine in any other matters to be committed to them by this Assembly, as if the samine were herein particularly insert, and with as ample power to proceede in the matters particularly or generally above-mentioned, as any Commissioners of Generall Assemblies have had, and have beene in use of before: They being alwayes comptable to, and censurable by the next Generall Assembly, for their proceedings thereanent.

Sess.

Sess. XIII. 6. *Aug.* 1642.

A Letter from some distressed Professors in *Ireland*.

To the reverend and right Honourable the Moderator and remanent members of the Generall Assembly of Scotland, *conveened at S.* Andrews, *in* Iuly 1642. *The humble Petition of the most part of the* Scottish *Nation in the North of* Ireland, *in their owne names, and in name of the rest of the Protestants there.*

Humbly sheweth,

THat where your Petitioners, by the great blessing of the Lord, enjoyed for a little while a peaceable and fruitfull Ministerie of the Gospel, yet through our own abuse of so rich a mercy, and through the tyranny of the Prelates, we have been a long time spoyled of our Ministers (a yoke to many of us heavier then death) who being chased into *Scotland*, were not altogether un-usefull in the day of your need; And we having been since oppressed and scattered, as sheep who have no shepherd, now at last the wise and righteous hand of the Lord, by the sword of the Rebells, hath bereft us of our friends, and spoiled us of our goods, and left us but a few, and that a poore handfull of many, and hath chased from us the rest that were called our Ministers; the greatest part whereof we could scarce esteeme such, as being rather Officers to put the Prelats Injunctions in execution, then feeders of our souls: So that now being visited with sword and sicknesse, and under some apprehension of famine, if withall we shall taste of the forest of all plagues, to be altogether deprived of the Ministerie of the Word, we shall become in so much a worse condition then any Pagans, as that once we enjoyed a better: Neither know we what hand to turne us to for help, but to the Land so far obliged by the Lords late rare mercies, and so far enriched to furnish helpe of that kind; a Land whence many of us drew our bloud and breath, and where (pardon the necessary boldnesse) some of our own Ministers now are, who were so violently plucked from us, so sore against both their own and our wills; yea, the Land that so tenderly in their bosomes received our poore out-casts, and that hath already sent us so rich a supplie of able and prosperous Souldiers to revenge our wrong.

Therefore

Therefore, although we know that your zeal and brotherly affection would urge you to take notice without our advertisement, yet give us leave in the bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ, to entreat, if there be any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any bowels of mercy, that now in this nick of time, when the sword of the Enemy making way for a more profitable entertaining the Gospel, having also banished the Prelates & their followers, when our extremity of distresse, and the fair hopes of speedy settling of peace, hath opened so fair a doore to the Gospel, you would take the cause of your younger sister, that hath no brests, to your serious consideration, and pity poore *Macedonians* crying to you, that ye would come over and help us, being the servants of the God of your Fathers, and claiming interest with you in a common Covenant, that according to the good hand of God upon us, ye may send us Ministers for the house of our God. We do not take upon us to prescribe to you the way or the number, but in the view of all, the finger of the Lord points at these, whom though persecution of the Prelats drew from us, yet our interest in them could not be taken away, wherein we trust in regard of severall of them, called home by death, your bountie, will super-adde some able men of your own that may help to lay the foundation of Gods house, according to the Pattern. But for these so unjustly reft from us, not only our necessity, but equity pleads, that either you would send them all over, which were a Work to be parallelled to the glories of the Primitive times, or at least that you would declare them transportable, that when Invitators shall be sent to any of them, wherein they may discerne a call from God, there may be no difficultie in their loosing from thence, but they may come back to perfect what they began, and may get praise and fame in the Land, where they were put to shame. Neither are you to question your power over us so to doe, or crave a president of your owne practice in that kind, for our extraordinary need calling on you, furnisheth you with a power to make this a president for the like cases hereafter: herein if you shall lay aside the particular concernement of some few places, which you may easily out of your rich Nurseries, plant again, and make use of your publick spirits, which are not spent, but increases by your so many noble designes; you shall leave upon us and our posteritie the stamp of an obligation that cannot be delete, or that cannot be expressed; you shall send to all the neighbouring Churches a patterne, & erect for after-ages a monument of self denying tender zeale; you shall disburden the Land of the many out-casts, who will follow over their Ministers; and you shall make it appear, that the churlish bounty of the Prelats, which at first cast some of these men over to us, is not comparable with the cheerfull liberalitie of a rightly constitute Generall Assembly, to whom we are perswaded, the Lord will give seed for the loane which you bestow on the Lord; yea, the day may come, when a Generall Assembly in this Land may

returne to you the first fruits of thanks, for the plants of your free gift. And although you were scant of furniture of this kinde your selves, or might apprehend more need then formerly, yet doubtlesse, your bowels of compassion would make your deep povertie even in a great tryall of affliction, abound to the riches of your liberalitie. But now seeing you abound in all things, and have formerly given so ample a proof of your large bestowing on Churches abroad in *Germanie* and *France*, knowing that you are not wearied in well-doing, we confidently promise to our selves in your name, that ye will abound in this grace also, following the example of our Lord, and the Primitive Churches, who alwayes sent out disciples in paires. But if herein our hopes shall faile us, we shall not know whether to wish that we had dyed with our Brethren by the Enemies hand; for we shall be as if it were said unto us, *Goe serve other gods*; yet looking for another kinde of Answer at your hands, for in this you are to us as an Angel of God, we have sent these bearers, Master *John Gordoun*, and Master *Hugh Campbell* our Brethren, who may more particularly informe you of our case, and desire that at their returne, they may refresh the bowels of

Your most instant and earnest Supplicants.

Commission to some Ministers to go to Ireland.

THe Assembly having received a Petition, subscribed by a considerable number in the North of *Ireland*, intimating their deplorable condition, through want of the Ministerie of the Gospel, occasioned by the tyrannie of the Prelats, and the sword of the Rebels, and desiring some Ministers, especially such as had beene chased from them, by the persecution of the Prelats, and some others to be added, either to be sent presently over to reside amongst them, or declared transportable, that upon invitation from them, they might goe and settle there; together with some particular Petitions, desiring the returne of some particular Ministers, who had laboured there before: All which the Assembly hath taken to their serious consideration, being most heartily willing to sympathize with every member of Christs Body, although never so remote; much more with that Plantation there, which for the most part was a Branch of the Lords Vine, planted in this Land. In which sollicitude, as they would be loath to usurpe without their own bounds, or stretch themselves beyond their owne measure; so they dare not be wanting,

to the enlargement of Christs Kingdome, where so loud a cry of so extreame necessitie, could not but stirre up the bowels of Christian compassion. And although they conceive, that the present unsettled condition both of Church, and State, and Land, will not suffer them as yet to loose any to make constant abode there; yet they have resolved to send over some, for the present exigent till the next Generall Assembly, by courses, to stay there four moneths allanerly: And therefore doe hereby authorize and give Commission to the persons following, to wit, Master *Robert Blair*, Minister at S. *Andrewes*, and Master *James Hamilton*, Minister at *Dumfreis* for the first foure moneths: Master *Robert Ramsay*, Minister at *Glasgow*, and Master *John Maclelland*, Minister at *Kirkudbright*, for the next four moneths: and to Master *Robert Baillie*, professor of divinitie in the Universitie of *Glasgow*, and Master *John Levistoun*, Minister at *Stranraier* for the last four moneths: To repair into the North of *Ireland*, and there to visit, comfort, instruct and encourage the scattered flocks of Christ, to employ to their uttermost with all faithfulnesse and singlenesse of heart, in planting and watering according to the direction of Jesus Christ, and according to the doctrine and discipline of this Church in all things, And if need be (with concurrence of such of the Ministers of the Army as are there) to try and ordain such as shall be found qualified for the Ministrie, Giving charge unto the persons foresaid in the sight of God, that in doctrine, in worship, in discipline, and in their dayly conversation, they studie to approve themselves as the Ministers of Jesus Christ, and that they be comptable to the Generall Assembly of this Kirk, in all things. And in case it any of the abovementioned Ministers be impeded by sicknesse, or otherwise necessarily detained from this service, the Assembly ordaines the Commissioners residing at *Edinburgh*, for the publick affairs of the Church, to nominate in their place well qualified men, who hereby are authorized to undertake the foresaid employment, as if they had beene expressely nominate in the face of the Assembly. And this, although possibly it shall not fully satisfie the long expectation of the Brethren in *Ireland*, yet the Assembly is confident they will take in good part at this time, that which is judged most convenient for their present condition, even a lent mite out of their own, not very great plenty, to supply the present necessity; requiring of them no other recompence, but that they in all cheerfulnesse may embrace and make use of the message of salvation, and promising to enlarge their indebted bounty at the next Assembly, as they shall finde the Worke of the Lord there to require. In the meane while, wishing that these who are sent, may come with the full blessing of the Gospel and peace, and recommending them, their labours, and these to whom they are sent, to the rich blessing of the great shepherd of the flock.

Sess. XIII. *6. Aug.* 1642.

Act against slandering of Ministers.

THe Generall Assembly considering the malice of divers persons in raising calumnies and scandalls against Ministers, which is not onely injurious to their persons, and discreditable to the holy calling of the Ministerie, but doth also prove often a great prejudice and hinderance to the promoving of the Gospel: Doe therefore ordaine Presbyteries and Synods to proceed diligently in processe against all persons, that shall reproach or scandall Ministers, with the censures of the Kirk, even to the highest, according as they shall finde the degree or quality of the scandall deserve.

Act anent ordering of the Assembly House.

THe Assembly for better order in time coming ordains the Act of the Assembly at *Aberdeene* for ordering the House of the Assembly to be kept hereafter punctually. And for that effect, that the famine be reade the first Session of every Assembly.

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6. Aug. 1642.

Act for remembring in publick prayers the desires of the Assemblie to the King and Parliament, and indiction of a publick Fast.

THe Generall Assembly being desirous to promove the great work of Unity in Religion, and Uniformity in Church-government, in all thir three Dominions, for which the Assembly hath humbly supplicat the Kings Majestie, and remonstrate their desires to the Parliament of *England*, lest they should be wanting in any meane that may further so glorious and so good a Work: Doe ordaine, that not only the said Declaration to the Parliament, and supplication to the Kings Majestie, shall be accompanied with the earnest Petitions and prayers of the whole Brethren in private and publick, for the Lords blessing thereunto, according to the laudable custome of our predecessors, who in the

year

year of God 1589. ordaines that the Brethren in their private and publick prayers, recommend unto God the estate of the afflicted Church of *England:* But having just cause of fear, that the iniquities of the Land, which so much abound, may marre this so great a Work, doe also ordain a solemne Fast to be kept on the second Lords day of *September*, and the Wednesday following throughout the whole Kingdome for the causes after specified.

Grosse ignorance and all sort of wickednesse among the greater part, security, meer formalitie and unfruitfulnesse among the best, and unthankfulnesse in all. I.

The sword raging throughout all Christendome, but most barbarously in *Ireland*, and dayly more and more threatned in *England*, through the lamentable division betwixt the King and the Parliament there, tending to the subversion of Religion and Peace in all the three Kingdomes. II.

That God may gratiously blesse the supplication of the Assembly to the Kings Majesty, and their motion to the Parliament of *England*, for Unity in Religion, and Uniformity of Kirk-government, and all other means which may serve for the promoving of so great a Worke, and advancement of the Kingdome of Christ every where. III.

That God may powerfully overturne all wicked plots and designes of Antichrist and his followers, and all divisive motions against the course of Reformation, and the so much longed for Union of the King and Parliament. IV.

That God may blesse the harvest. V.

Reference from the Presbyterie of Kirkcaldie.

ANent the Acts of the Assemblies, for observation of the Lords Day, profaned by going of Salt-pans, That this Assembly would declare the limits of the Sabbath, during which the Pannes should stand.

THe Assembly referres the Answer of this Question, to the Acts of former Assemblies.

Reference from the Synod of Fyffe.

THat the Provinciall of *Angus* keep their meeting on the same day with the Synod of *Fyffe*, which breakes the correspondence between them, appointed by the Generall Assembly of *Glasgow*.

ANSWER

ANSWER.

THe Assembly ordaines the Provinciall Assembly of Angus *to keep their first meeting upon the third Tuesday of* April, *conforme to the Act of the said Assembly of* Glasgow.

Overtures to be advised by Presbyteries against the next Assembly.

HOw Appeals shall be brought in to the Generall Assemblies, and by what sort of citation.

What shall be the prescription of scandalls, within what space of time shall they be challenged, whether after three years, the Minister having been allowed and approved in life and doctrine by Synods, Presbyteries, and Visitations.

What order shall be taken for keeping General Assemblies, when Presbyteries send not the full number of Commissioners: Or when the Commissioners abide not untill the conclusion and dissolving of the Assembly.

Order to be advised for Testimonialls.

THe Assembly appoints the next Generall Assembly to hold at Edinburgh *the first Wednesday of* August, 1643.

FINIS.

INDEX OF THE PRINCIPALL Acts of the Generall Assemblies holden at EDINBURGH 1639. At ABERDENE 1640. At S. ANDREWS and EDINBURGH 1641. and at S. ANDREWS 1642. which are not printed.

Index of the principall Acts of the Assembly at Edinburgh *1639. not printed.*

Index

Index of the principall Acts of the Assembly at Aberdene 1640. *not printed.*

Index of the principall Acts of the Assembly holden at S. Andrews, *and* Edinburgh 1641.

Com-

Index of the principall Acts of the Aſſembly holden at S. Andrews, 27. *July* 1642. *not printed.*

FINIS.

Faults escaped.

Page 9. line 13. *for* patrocine *read* patrocinie. p. 13. l. 21. for *restitutio* read *restituit*. p. 15. l. 1. *for* [illegible] p. 26 [illegible]ring *read* desiring. p. 16. l. 31. *for* pagies *read* Presbyteries. p. 22. l. 35. *for* blessed *read* hospitall. p. 26 from *read* upon. p. 27. l. 12. *for* timely *read* civill. l. 19. *ibid. for* the right manner, *read* in the right [illegible] l. 30 *ibid. for* ones *read* others. l. 42. *ibid. for* factions *read* factions. p. 31. l. 12. *for* consilly *read* consilio [illegible] *ibid. read* Congregations. p. 33. l. 19. *for* on the case, read in the case. l. 18. *ibid. for* and consultatory, [illegible] not consultatory. p. 35. l. 1. *dele* the words either. p. 17. l. 16. 17. *for* 1641 p. 30. in the title, *for* [illegible] Petition. p. 33. l. 34. *for* long *read* large. In the 2. page of the Index, after the words S. Andrews add [illegible] 1641. adde, not printed.

See page 37
- - 43
- - 32, 1641.
- - 10, 1642.
- - 13
- - 16