



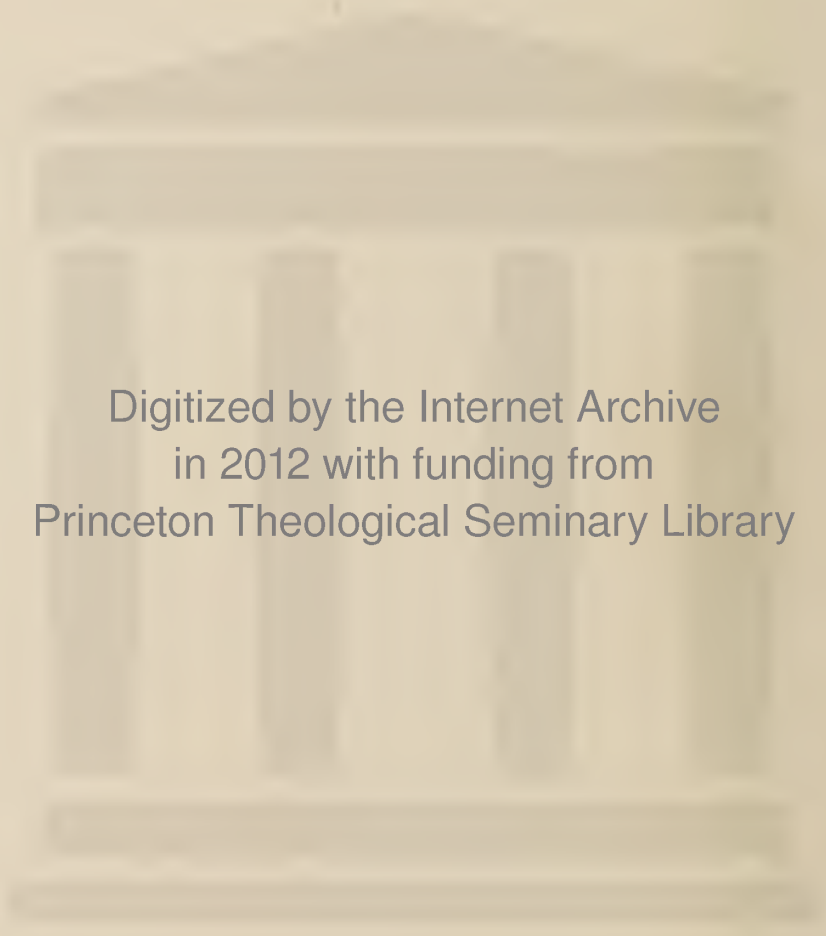
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Thomas Brown,

Dalkeith.

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L. J. J.



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THE  
PRINCIPALL  
ACTS  
OF THE  
GENERALL  
ASSEMBLY,  
CONVEENED AT  
EDINBURGH,  
Upon the last VV EDNESDAY of  
MAY, the 29. of that Moneth,  
in the year 1644.

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EDINBURGH,  
*Printed by EVAN TYLER, Printer to the  
Kings most Excellent Majestie.*  
Anno Dom. 1644.

THE  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
OF  
THE  
STATE OF  
NEW YORK  
Held at the City of Albany  
January 1st 1841

REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
LAND OFFICE  
IN  
RESPONSE TO A  
RESOLUTION PASSED  
BY THE SENATE  
JANUARY 1ST 1841

ALBANY:  
J. B. RILEY, PRINTER.  
1841.





THE  
G E N E R A L L  
A S S E M B L Y,

At E D I N B U R G H, 1644.

*Die Jovis penult. Maii. Sess. II.*

*The Letter from the Presbyterie with  
the Army in England, to the  
Generall Assembly.*

R I G H T R E V E R E N D,



HAVING the opportunity of the sitting of this Venerable Assembly, we thought our selves obliged to render some account of the estate of our Affairs. It hath pleased the Lord to exercise us since our out-coming, with many straits and difficulties, yet in the midst thereof he hath wonderfully upheld and carried us through. The depth of his wisdom hath suspended us for a time from any great action, to make us walk humbly before him, and to keep us in a continuall dependance upon himself: And yet he hath by his own power scattered before us the great Popish Army, and much diminished the number thereof, so that they do not now appeare against us in the Fields; that all may learne to trust in G O D, and not in Man. It was farre from our thoughts and intentions to have come this length at that instant when the course of Divine Providence pointed out our way unto us, which led us on by some long and speedie marches to joyne with my Lord *Fairfax* and his Sonne their Forces. The City of *York*, wherein a swarme of obstinate Papists have taken sanctuary, is blocked up; now and then God favoureth us with successe

in some enterprises about it , and wee look for more if the time be come which he hath appointed for the deliverance of this People.

Our Soules do abhorre the treacherous attempts of our dis-natured Countrey-men , that have endeavoured to make their native Kingdome a seat of Warre , and our bowels within us are moved to think upon the maine mischiefs, if not tymeously prevented, that may follow upon the unnaturall Warres there; like unto these under which this Kingdome hath groaned for a long time. We have found none more maliculous and cruell against us than these of our own Nation, and we measure those at home, by these here; *Cursed be their rage, for it is fierce , and their anger for it is cruell.* The present danger calls upon all to lay out of their hands what ever may hinder their haste , as one Man to come together for saving the Vine-yard that the wilde Boares would lay waste, and taking the Foxes that would destroy the Vines. You are, right Reverend, now set upon the highest Watch-tower, from whence you may discover the dangers that threaten on all coasts , and wee need not put you in minde to give warning to the Watch-men in their severall stations ; to rouze up the People from their too great security ; to call them to unfeigned Humiliation, and to stirre them up to wrestle with G O D by prayer; that hee would preserve Truth and Peace at home against the machinations of Malignants ; that hee would prepare the People here, and make them more fit to embrace the intended Reformation ; and that hee would command these unnaturall and bloudy Warres to cease, that Religion and Righteousnesse may flourish through the three Dominions. Praying G O D to send upon you the Spirit of truth , who may lead you in all truth. We remaine

*Middle-thorp, 20. Maie  
1644.*

*Your loving Brethren, The Pres-  
byterie of the Scottish Army  
in England,*

Master ROBERT DOUGLAS  
Moderator in their name.

*The*



*The Petition from the distressed Christians  
in the North of Ireland.*

To the Reverend and Honourable Moderator and remanent  
Members of the Generall Assembly of *Scotland*, conveened at  
*Edinburgh* in May 1644.

*The humble Petition of the distressed Christians in  
the North of Ireland.*

*Humbly sheweth,*

**T**Hat whereas your former enlarged bounty, and  
our present overflowing straits would require a  
gratefull acknowledgement of the one, and a  
serious representation of the other: Our case is  
such, as neither can be expected at our hands,  
being stricken with astonishment, and full of the  
furie of the Lord. We are these indeed who have seen affliction  
by the rod of his wrath: So that it were more fit, we had a Cot-  
tage in the Wildernesse amongst the Owles to mourn out our im-  
bittered Spirits, then that by word or writ we should compeer  
before any of his People: Although you cannot be wearied in  
wel-doing, yet we shall no way think it strange, if now you shall  
give over any more care of us; Seeing the Lord hath testified  
against us, and the Almighty hath afflicted us. Your judgement  
is with the Lord, and your reward is with God, not onely for  
your two years visiting and watering a barren vineyard, but also  
for your zeale and care to have your Reformation spread amongst  
other oppressed and borne-down Churches, whereof you have  
given an ample and famous testimony in sending hither that  
blessed League and Covenant which wee much desired and  
longed for, as by our Petitions to the Church and State of our  
Native Kingdome is knowne unto you; which hath had a wish-  
ed and gracious successe by the favour and blessing of God, ac-  
companying the pains of these to whom the tendering thereof  
was intrusted by you. And we conceiving a chief part of our mi-  
serie to consist in our want of opportunitie to joyne our selves  
with the People of God in the foresaid League; Esteeming our  
selves rejected of God and unfit to be joyned in any comfortable  
fellowship in the Gospel with them, when the said League and  
Covenant was presented to the Regiments; Wee made bold to  
lay hold upon the opportunity (though afflicted abjects) and  
cheerfully and unanimously joyned our selves thereunto: That  
if wee perish in our misery, wee may die a Covenanted People;  
and, if our miserable life be prolonged, we may finde shelter and

refreshment under the shadow thereof in our fierie trials , confidently expecting from the Lord by our neerer conjunction with you than of before , an accomplishment of what is agreed into the Covenant , which ye bountifully expressed before we were one with you , to your never-dying-commendation. We are nothing shaken in our minds with the odious aspersions of sedition, combination against the King, and overthrow of Municipal Laws, &c. ( wherewith our Covenant is branded ) nor with the threats of these who should be comfortable to us in our troubles : But are the more encouraged to beleieve that God shall raise up the Tabernacle of *David* that is fallen , and repair the breaches thereof : For, since we Covenanted with God , and united our selves together , our dying Spirits have revived , and we sing like these who have come forth from their Graves, for God hath had mercy on *Jacob* : In testimony whereof he hath opened the bowels of the Churches of *Holland* , who were strangers to us, and yet dear Brethren , and tender Sympathizers with our afflictions and sorrows , who , when these who were left of the Sword were in danger to dye by famine , did plentifully relieve us in our straits, not onely by comfortable encouragements to walk humbly with God , and wait for him who hides his face from the house of *Jacob* for a season ; but also by their rich supply in Victuals and others necessar for our relief and comfort , which we humbly desire our Lord to repay seven-fold in their bosome , and become your Supplicants to joyne with us in a gratefull acknowledgement of their singular favours : And upon the heels of these favours you have continued your unparelled compassions in keeping your forces and enabling them, together with the other Forces , for avenging the cruell murders , and effusion of Christian blood in this Land , notwithstanding of your owne multiplied difficulties. The Lord hath begun to delight into us , and in a day of salvation hath helped us ( So happy are the people who are in Covenant with God. ) We are these ( indeed ) who may justly be burnt up for our unfruitfulnesse in the dayes of our plenty, and stubbornesse in the dayes of our affliction , which hath brought us so low , that where we once enjoyed a blessed plenty, we must now beg of the crumbs that fall from your Table : Wee cannot dissemble , but so farre as we can discern our owne hearts, we would preferre the joyfull sound of the Gospel to our much wished Peace and precious lives : But it may be discerned , your Consultations of before have been guided by the Spirit of the Lord ; in that when wee twice in our forward hasting desires begged the present loosning and planting of some Ministers amongst us , you judged it more convenient to supply us by turnes ; as foreseeing that our Captivity was likely to endure : Our hopes are so far revived, that we trust to see the day when he shall take the Cup of trembling out of our hands, and put it in the hands of them that afflicted us.

And



And therefore, if you account us fellow-partners of the Purchased Inheritance, Yet again suffer our necessitie to plead with you, that as it hath been by the Committee of Bills already advised, that a competent number of Ministers may be gifted to us by your Commission when they shall see the Calling cleared, the same may be granted as a testimony of your confidence, and expectation of our delivery; And in the meane time some others may be sent by turnes to keep in the dying lives of above twenty foure desolate Congregations, who are in danger to perish for want of Vision: And although we do professe, we count not ourselves worthy of such favours, yet as we have resolved to dye with the cry of hope in our mouthes to the Lords Throne; So in obedience of the use of the means by him appointed, we stretch out our hearts and our hands to you for help, and have sent our Brother *William Mackenna* Merchant at *Belfast*, to attend what answer it shall please the Lord by you to returne unto

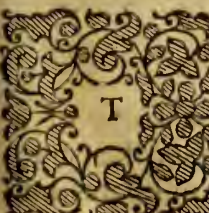
*Your distressed Brethren  
and Supplicants.*

*Subscribed by very many hands.*

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3. Junii 1644. Antemeridiem. Sess. V.


*Act for the present Entrie of the new erected  
Presbyterie at Biggar.*

 He which day anent the Supplication subscribed and given in to the Generall Assembly by the Ministers & ruling Elders of the Kirks of *Biggar, Skirling, Brochton, Glenquhome, Kelbocho, Culter, Lamyngtoun, Symontoun, Covingtoun, Quothquen, Westoun, and Dolphingtoun*, making mention, That the Generall Assembly at *Edinburgh* in August 1643. years, by their Act of the date of the twelfth day of the samine moneth and year, did upon good grounds, and after tryall and hearing of all Parties to the full, erect a Presbyterie seat at *Biggar*, to consist of the Kirks above-written; And granted to their Presbyterie full power of jurisdiction and exerceing Discipline, with all other Liberties and Priviledges belonging to any other Presbyterie; but suspended the entrie and possession of this new erected Presbyterie, during the pleasure of the Assembly: And therefore desiring the said Generall Assembly to ordaine and appoint the entrie and possession of the foresaid Presbyterie at *Biggar*, now presently;  
And

And to Declare, that it is their pleasure, that the entrie and possession thereof shall be no longer suspended, as the Supplication proports. Which Supplication being read in audience of the Generall Assembly, and thereafter the Commissioners from the Presbyteries of *Lanerk* and *Peebles*, and all others having entresse to oppose the desire foresaid being publickly called, and the saids Commissioners for *Peebles* and *Lanerk* personally present, being at length heard in what they could say or alledge therein: And the said Supplication and desire thereof, with the Alledgeances and Objections made against the same, being taken to consideration by the Assembly, and they therewith being fully and ripely advised: The Assembly after removing of the Parties, and after consideration of the premisses and voycing of the foresaid desire, Ordaines the entrie and possession of the foresaid Presbyterie of *Biggar*, consisting of the particular Kirks above-mentioned, to begin now presently; And appoints and ordaines all the Ministers and Ruling Elders of the foresaid Kirks above specified, whereof the said Presbyterie consists, to meet and conveene as a Presbyterie, with all conveniencie, at the said Kirk of *Biggar*, which is the Place and Seat of the same Presbyterie. And the Assembly refers to the Commissioners to be appointed by them for the publick affairs of the Kirk, to determine to what Synod this the said new erected Presbyterie shall be subordinate; As also to prescribe the order and solemnities that shall be necessary for entring and possessing the Ministers and Elders in the said Presbyterie.

*Junii 3. 1644. Sess. VI.*

*Act concerning the Declaration subscribed by  
the Scottish Lords at Oxford.*

 He Generall Assembly having received a Copy of a Declaration, made and subscribed at *Oxford*, sent unto them from the honourable Convention of Estates, and having seriously considered the tenour thereof, doth finde the same to be a perfidious Band and unnaturall confederacy, to bring this Kirk and Kingdome to confusion, and to be full of blasphemies against the late solemn League and Covenant of the three Kingdomes, of vile aspersions of Treason, Rebellion and Sedition, most falsely and impudently imputed to the Estates and the most faithfull and loyall Subjects of these Kingdomes: And seeing it is incumbent to the Assembly to take notice thereof, and to stop the course of these malicious intentions, in so farre as concernes them, Declare that the subscribers of this or the like Declaration or Band, or any that have been accessory to the framing,



framing, or that has been, or shall be accessory to the execution thereof, deserve the highest censure of the Kirk: And therefore gives power to the Commissioners of this Assembly appointed for the publick affairs, to proceed against them to the sentence of Excommunication, unless they make humble confession of their offence publicly, in such manner, and in such places as the Commission shall prescribe; Or otherwise to refer the tryall and censure of such Delinquents to Presbyteries or Synods as they shall think convenient. And when the sentence of Excommunication shall be pronounced, discharges Presbyteries or Synods to relax any from the sentence, without the advice of the Generall Assembly, or their Commissioners, *nisi in extremis*. And in respect of the atrocitie of this Fact, the Assembly in all humility, do seriously recommend to the right honourable the Estates of Parliament to take such course, as the persons that shall be found guilty, may be exemplarily punished, according to the merit of so unnaturall and impious an offence: And that some publick note of ignominie be put upon the Declaration and Band it self, if their Honours shall think it meet.

*Act against the Rebels in the  
North and South.*



He Generall Assembly considering the just sentence pronounced against the principall Actors in that Rebellion in the North and South, by ordinance of the Commissioners of the late Assembly; And finding it most necessary, that such as assisted or joyned with them in that impious and unnaturall Fact, be likewise censured; Therefore ordains Presbyteries and Synods *respectively*, to proceed against them with the highest Censures of the Kirk, if they give not satisfaction by publick repentance; And when the sentence of Excommunication shall be pronounced, The Assembly discharges the said Judicatories to relax any of them from the sentence, without the advice of the Generall Assembly, or their Commissioners, *nisi in extremis*: To whom also the saids Presbyteries and Synods shall be answerable for their diligence in the premisses as they shall be required. And the Assembly doth humbly recommend to the Honourable Estates of Parliament, to take such course as the Persons that shall be found guilty may be exemplarily punished according to the merit and degree of their offence.

*Act against secret disaffecteds of the Covenant.*

**T**He Generall Assembly understanding that divers Persons disaffected to the Nationall Covenant of this Kirk, and to the Solemne League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms, do escape their just censure, either by their private and unconstant abode in any one Congregation, or by secret conveyance of their malignant speeches and practises; Therefore ordains all Ministers to take speciall notice when any such Person shall come within their Paroches, and so soon as they shall know the same, that without delay they cause warn them to appear before the Presbyteries within which their Paroches lyes, or before the Commissioners of this Assembly appointed for publick affairs, as they shall finde most convenient; which warning the Assembly declares shall be a sufficient citation unto them: And als that all Ministers and Elders delate to the saids Judicatories *respective*, every such disaffected Person, although without their own Paroch, so soon as they shall hear and be informed of them. And the Assembly ordains the saids Commissioners not only to proceed to Tryal & Censure of such disaffected Persons, but also to take a special account of the diligence of Ministers, Elders, and Presbyteries herein *respective*.

*Act for sending Ministers to the Armie.*

**T**He Assembly understanding that Ministers are not duly sent forth to the Regiments of the Army, neither such as are sent duly relieved, which neglect falleth out oftimes, by reason of questions among Presbyteries interessed in the Regiments: Therefore for remedy hereof, thinks it convenient that this order be kept hereafter; That a List be made of three Ministers by the Colonels, or in their absence the chief Officers of every Regiment, with advice & consent of the Presbyterie at the Army, & sent to Presbyteries here, or if the list be of Ministers in divers Presbyteries to the Commissioners of the General Assembly, that they may appoint one out of that list to be sent to the Regiment, to attend them for performing Ministeriall duties 3. Moneths. And that the relief of Ministers already sent or to be sent hereafter shall be in the same manner. And the Assembly ordains Ministers who shall be thus appointed by Presbyteries or the Commissioners of the Assembly *respective*, to repair to the Armie with all diligence, under the paine of suspension: And humbly recommends to the Honourable Estates of Parliament, to provide some way whereby these Ministers may have due and ready payment of their allowance, from the time of their going from their charges here. And it is declared that this order shall be also kept for sending forth of Ministers to the Regiments in the second expedition.



## Renovation of the Commission for the Publick affairs of the Kirk.

**T**He Generall Assembly considering that the Commissioners appointed by the last Assembly upon the nineteenth day of August 1643. years, the last Session thereof to sit at *Edinburgh* for the Publick affairs of the Kirk, have not yet fully perfected that great Work for Unitie of Religion, and Uniformitie of Kirk-Government in his Majesties Dominions; And that now in respect of the present condition of affairs in this Kingdome, their proceedings cannot be examined at this time: Therefore finding it necessary that the said Commission be renewed unto the Commissioners therein mentioned, and to the Persons afternamed now thought fit to be added for the better expediting of the businesse; Do hereby appoint the Persons particularly nominate in the said Commission, *viz.* Masters, *Andrew Ramsay, Alexander Henderson, Robert Douglas, William Colvill, William Bennet, George Gillespie; John Oiswald, Mungo Law, John Adamson, John Sharp, James Sharp, William Dalgleish, David Calderwood, Andrew Blackhall, James Fleeming, Robert Ker, John Macghee, Oliver Colt, Hugh Campbell, Adam Penman, Richard Dickson, Andrew Stevinson, John Lawder, Robert Blair, Samuel Rutherford, Arthur Mortoun, Robert Traill, Frederick Carmichael, John Smith, Patrick Gillespie, John Duncan, John Hume, Robert Knox, William Jameson, Robert Murray, Henry Guthrie, James Hamiltoun in Dumfries, Bernard Sanderson, John Levingstoun, James Bonar, Evan Camron, David Dickson, Robert Bailzie, James Cuninghame, George Young, Andrew Affleck, David Lindsay, Andrew Cant, William Douglas, Murdo Mackenzie, Coline Mackenzie, John Monroe, Walter Stuart Ministers, Archbald Marquesse of Argyle, William Earle Marshall, John Earle of Sutherland, Alexander Earle of Eglintoun, John Earle of Cassils, Charles Earle of Dumfermeling, John Earle of Lauderdale, John Earle of Lindsay, James Earle of Queensberry, William Earle of Dalhousie, Archbald Lord Angus, James Vicount of Dudhope, John Lord Maitland, David Lord Elcho, John Lord Balmerinoch, James Lord Comper, Sir Patrick Hepburne of Waughtoun, Sir Archbald Johnstoun of Waristoun, Sir David Hume of Wedderburne, Sir Alexander Areskine of Dun, Sir William Cockburne of Langtoun, Sir Thomas Ruthven of Frieland, Sir James Arnot of Fernie, Sir Walter Riddall of that Ilk, Sir Lodovick Houstoun of that Ilk, Sir William Carmichael Fiar of that Ilk, Master George Douglas of Bonjedburgh, Master George Winname of Libbertoun, Laird of Bredie, Sir John Smith, James Dennistoun, Master Robert Barclay, John Rutherford, William Glendunning, John Sempill, John Kennedy, and Master*

*Alexander Douglas Elders: And also Masters, David Dalgleish, Andrew Bennet, John Moncreiff, Alexander Carse, Thomas Wilkie, James Guthrie, Henry Levingstoun, David Drummond at Creiff, John Hay at Renfrew, John Strang, Richard Inglis, William Falconer, John Paterson, Gilbert Rosse, Richard Maitland, George Cumming, William Campbel Ministers, And William Earle of Glancairne, William Earle of Lonthian, James Lord Murray of Gask, John Lord Yester, Robert Maitland, Frederick Lyon of Brigtoun, James Macdowell of Garthland, David Beton of Creich, Sir James Stuart Sheriff of Buit, Sir John Weemes of Bogie, Master William Sandilands Tutor of Torphichin, Archbald Sydserfe, Laurence Henderson, James Stuart, Thomas Paterson, and Alexander Fassray Elders now added by this Assembly, to meet at Edinburgh upon the fifth day of this instant moneth of June, and upon the last Wednesday of August next, the last Wednesday of November next, and upon the last Wednesday of February next; and upon any other day, or in any other place they shal think meet: Giving and granting unto them, or any fifteen of them, there being twelve Ministers present, full power and commissiion to prosecute the said work of unities in Religion, and uniformities of Kirk-government in all his Majesties Dominions, and to do and performe all things particularly or generally contained in the said Commission of the preceding Assembly, or in an Act of the said Assembly upon the said 19. day of August, intituled, *A Reference to the Commission anent the Persons designed to repair to the Kingdome of England*, and to treat and determine therein, & in all other matters referred unto them by this Assembly, siclike, and as freely, as if all these were herein expressed, and as the persons nominat in the said former Commission might have done by vertue of the said Act and former Commission at any time by-gone, and with as ample power as any Commission of former Generall Assemblies hath had, or been in use of before, they being alwayes comptable and censurable for their whole proceedings hereintill by the next Generall Assembly.*

*Renovation of the Commission granted to  
the Persons appointed to repair to the  
Kingdome of England.*



**T**He Generall Assembly, finding that the great Work of unity in Religion, and uniformity of Kirk-government in all his Majesties Dominions is not yet perfected, Do therefore renew the Commission granted for that effect by the preceding Assembly, unto the Persons appointed to repair to the Kingdome of *England* upon the 19. day of August 1643. in the last Session thereof, Giving and granting to the Persons



sons therein mentioned, the same power, to do all and every thing particularly or generally contained in the said Commission, in the same manner, and as fully, as if the same were herein expressed, and as they might have done at any time by-gone by vertue of the former Commission:

*The Assemblies answer to the Presbyterie  
with the Armie.*

*Reverend and loving Brethren in the LORD,*

**W**E received yours of the 17. and 20. of May, and were much refreshed with the knowledge you gave unto us therein, of your sense of our condition here, and of the Lords dealing with your selves there in your straits and difficulties: We rejoyce exceedingly to see you make such a blessed use of the Lords delays, for your further Humiliation and Dependence upon him: That Sanctuary, your Enemies, and the Enemies of your GOD hath taken, shall not save them: You have found by experience in your marches and maintenance, that events are not ordered by the propositions of men, but by the Providence and purpose of GOD. There is a time for every purpose under Heaven, and the Cup of the *Amorites* must be filled: Which being now full of every abomination, yea of the blood of the Saints, the cry whereof cannot but be heard in Heaven, and answered on Earth, presageth no lesse to us, than that the Lordstime of his deliverance of his own, and destruction of his Enemies draweth near.

We are not unsensible of your present estate, and by the Lords grace shall be carefull, both here and with our Congregations at home, to make all take the same to heart. As for our condition here remembred with such pious affection by you, we doubt not but ye have heard what the Lord hath done for us; these happy beginnings of the Lords scattering our unnaturall Enemies in the North, gives us confidence of his assistance in the midst of difficulties against these that assault us in the South: It is nothing with the Lord to help whether with many, or with them that have no power.

The security of this Nation indeed is great; it is our part to blow the Trumpet to give warning to the People, and to rouse them from that fearfull condition which threatneth so much desertion. And to this end we have injoynd a solemne Fast, the causes whereof being more particularly considered by our Commissioners here, will no question be sent unto you, that if the Lord please, you may joyne with us there in that Action.

Wee have set down an order to be kept hereafter, for sending  
Ministers

Ministers unto the Armie, which the Clerk will send herewith unto you. Now the Lord our G O D, in whose Name his people go forth against his Enemies, help and assist them, and cover their heads in the Day of Battell, and be their Refuge; and blesse your travels and endeavours, for the good of their souls and his own glory.

*Edinburgh, 3. June  
1644.*

*Subscribed in name of the Generall  
Assembly by the Moderator.*

4. June 1644. Sess. VII.

*The Letter from the Commissioners  
at London to the Ge-  
nerall Assembly.*

*Right Honourable, Reverend, and Beloved in the L O R D,*

**I**T was the earnest desire of our hearts to have come unto you at this time, and to have brought with us the desireable fruits of our weighty imployments and labours, to our common rejoycing in the mids of so many troubles both here and there: but our Lord in his wisdom hath not judged it fitting, that this should be the time of our joyfull harvest, and of bringing our sheaves, to be matter of sacrifice to himself, and of shouting to us. Both Nations as yet doe but go forth weeping and bearing their precious seed; yet are we confident through J E S U S C H R I S T, that as it is a seed-time, if the Labourers (although other men before us have laboured, and we are entred into their labours) prove faithfull unto the end, the harvest shall come in due time, and in great plenty.

The common Directory for publick Worship in the Kirks of the three Kingdomes is so begun (which we did make known to the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly) that we could not think upon any particular Directory for our own Kirk, and yet is not so far perfected, that wee could present any part thereof unto your view: for although wee have exhibited unto the Grand Committee (which is composed of some of the Members of both Houses, and of the Assembly, with our selves) the materials of the publick Prayers of the Kirk, the method of Preaching, and the order of administration of both Sacraments, and have the Catechisme in hand; yet are they not thoroughly examined by the Committee, nor at all by the Assembly or Parliament, which we cannot impute to any neglect or unwillingnesse, but to the multiplicity and weight of their affairs, by which they are sore pressed, and above their power.

The



The Directory for Ordination of Ministers ( which upon the extreme exigence of this Kirk was much pressed by the Parliament ) is agreed upon by the Committee and Assembly, and some dayes past is presented to both Houses , but hath not yet passed their Vote. The Assembly hath been long in debate about the Officers and Government of the Kirk ( concerning which, we offered the two Papers which wee drew up , according to the practice of our own, and other Reformed Kirks, and so neere as we could conceive, to the minde of the Generall Assembly , and did send to the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly ) and hath passed many votes about the one & the other, but hath not brought their thoughts to such ripeness and perfection , that they could think upon the publishing of them , or presenting them to your sight, nor is it in their power to do so, without warrant of Parliament. Your wisdom will consider that they are not a Generall Assembly, but some select Persons, called by Authority to give their advice in matters of Religion, that they walk in a way which hath not been troden by this Nation before this time, that many things seeme new unto them, and cannot obtain their assent, till they see them clearly warranted by the Word of G O D; That matters of the Government of the Kirk have been much controverted here , and the prejudices against Presbyteriall Government are many and great ; That the two extremes of Prelacie and Independencie, which latter is the generall claime of all Sects and Sectaries , have prevailed most in this Kirk , and no other thing known by the multitude but the one or the other ; That such as look toward the Government of the Reformed Kirks , finde a mighty party within and without opposing them ; And that Reformation and Uniformitie must therefore be a work so full of difficulty, that the hand of the most high G O D, which is now begun to be stretched out in this Land, must bring it to passe.

There was also presented to the Assembly , a new Paraphrase of the Psalmes in English Meeter, which was well liked of , and commended by some of the Members of the Assembly ; But because we conceived that one Psalm Book in all the three Kingdomes was a point of Uniformity much to be desired , we took the boldnes ( although we had no such expresse and particular Commission ) to oppose the present allowing thereof , till the Kirk of *Scotland* should be acquainted with it ; and therefore have we now sent an essay thereof in some Psalmes. We have also sent another *Specimen* in Print; done by some Ministers of the City. Your wisdom hes to consider , whether it be meet to examine them by your Commissioners there , that their judgments be sent up unto the Assembly here, both about the generall of Uniformity in this point, and about the particular way of effecting it, whether by either of these two , or by any other Paraphrase , or by changing some expressions in the Books  
now

now in use, which is aymed at by the first of these two.

As we cannot but admire the good hand of G O D in the great things done here already, particularly; That the Covenant ( the foundation of the whole Work ) is taken, Prelacie and the whole train thereof, extirpated; The Service-Book in many places forsaken, plain and powerfull preaching set up; Many Colledges in *Cambridge* provided with such Ministers, as are most zealous of the best Reformation; Altars removed; The Communion in some places given at the Table with sitting; The great Organs at *Pauls* & of *Peters* in *Westminster* taken down; Images and many other Monuments of Idolatry defaced and ablished; The Chappel-royal at *Whitehal* purged and reformed; & all by Authority in a quiet manner at noon day, without tumult: So have we from so notable experience, joyned with the promises of the Word, sufficient ground of confidence, that G O D will perfect this Work against all opposition, and of encouragement for us all to be faithfull in the Work of G O D, which is carried on by his mighty Hand, that no man can oppose it, but he must be seen fighting against G O D. It is unto us no small matter of comfort, that we have heard of no Minister of the Gospel ( except such as the Kirk hath rejected ) joyning with the Malignants there, in their ungodly and unnaturall afflicting of that Kingdome, while they are endeavouring the relief of the afflicted in this Kingdome; and we pray and hope, that they may carefully keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and walk worthy both of their holy calling, and of the great Work, which the Lord is working by his own weak servants in Kirk and Policy.

Be pleased to receive a Letter from the Assembly, unto which you will return such an answer as shal seem good unto your wisdom, and withall ( which is our humble desire ) some word of your thankfull acknowledgement of the respect and favours done by them unto us.

We have at all occasions since our coming hither, acquainted the Commission with our proceedings, and by the help of God, shall be industrious in obeying your directions and theirs, during our abode here, which through the power and blessing of God, bringing the affairs of his own Church to a peaceable and blessed successe, wee wish may be for a short time, and unto which your fervent prayers through Christ may be very effectuell, which therefore is the humble and earnest desire of

*Worcester house;  
London, May 20.*

1644.

*Your affectionate fellow-labouring and fellow-  
feeling Brethren in the Work of the Lord,*

*Jo. Maitland. Alex. Henderson. Sam. Rutherford.  
Robert Bailie. George Gillespie.*



*The Letter from the Synod of Divines in  
the Kirk of England , to the  
Generall Assembly.*

*Right Honourable , right Reverend, and dearly beloved  
Brethren in J E S U S C H R I S T,*

**T**He blessing and comfort of that inviolable Union which our gracious G O D hath vouchsafed to both Churches and Nations , gave us opportunity the last year, to breath out some of our sighs into your compassionate bosomes: And such have been the soundings of your bowels, as have offered violence to Heaven by your effectuall fervent prayers, and brought many sweet refreshings to our languishing spirits by your pious and comfortable Letters , in answer to ours.

This makes us studious of all means of acknowledging your tender Sympathie, and of laying hold on all opportunities of repairing again to the same streams of consolation: for which end, as we cannot but confesse , that in the midst of those boysterous waves wherein we have been daily tossed , wee have met with many gracious and unexpected encouragements: so we must needs renew our former mournings, & rend our hearts afresh unto you, with greatest instance for all the assistance that your Prayers, Tears, Learning, Piety, and Largeness of heart can possibly contribute to your poor afflicted and still-conflicting Brethren: And this we the rather beg of you, who, having bin first in the furnace of affliction, and are come out of great tribulation, are meepest to commiserate, and best able to comfort others in any trouble, by the comforts wherewith you your selves have been comforted of G O D.

It was in our desires to have presented to your Venerable Assembly, some of our dearest respects in writing, by that eminently learned & much honored Commissioner of yours, the Lord *Warristoun*: But his departure hence was so sudden to us, & unexpected by us, that we could not have time (as his Lordship can inform you) to tender by him such a testimony of our Brotherly and intimate affections, as may in some measure suite with your manifold and most affectionate expressions toward us, when our sighings were many, and our hearts faint: For such hath been your love, that no waters can quench it, and such the undertakings of the whole Kingdome of *Scotland*, through your furtherance, that we already begin to reap the fruits of all that Piety, Prudence, and Valour, which at this day render your Nation worthily renowned in the Christian World; and us, exceedingly straitned and restless

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lesse in our selves , untill G O D please to open a way for our endeavours, to make some more answerable returnes.

Toward this, our thoughts and hopes were to have made, ere now , some proceedings of our Assembly legible in yours. But such are the continued distractions which lye upon our spirits, by means of the sad and bleeding condition of this Kingdome , as have cast us much behinde our own expectations , and hindred that expedition which the necessities of this Nation , and the desires of our Brethren abroad, do earnestly call for at our hands.

Sometimes through G O D S goodnesse wee have a prosperous Gale : Sometimes againe , we saile like *Paul* and his company, *very slowly many dayes*. And even then , when wee draw near *the fair Havens* , some contrary Windes put us out into the Deep again. We walk in paths that have hitherto been untrodden by any Assembly in this Church : We therefore are inforced to spend more time in our inquiries , and in seeking of G O D a right way for us , that at length we may put into that high way, the way of holinesse , wherein Wayfaring men , though fools, shall not erre: And we will wait upon our G O D (before whom we have been this Day humbling of our Souls ) untill he lead us into all these Truths which we seek after , and we shall labour to be yet more vile in our own eyes , as finding by experience that it is not in man to direct his way.

Those Winds which for a while do trouble the Aire, do withall purge and refine it: And our trust is that through the most wise Providence and blessing of G O D , the Truth by our so long continued agitations, will be better cleared among us , and so our service will prove more acceptable to all the Churches of Christ, but more especially to you, while we have an intente eye to our peculiar Protestation , and to that publick Sacred Covenant entered into by both the Kingdomes, for Uniformity in all his Majesties Dominions.

Which Work we carry on ( against what ever difficulties are cast in our way ) with more ease and comfort , by the great sedulity and seasonable assistance wee daily receive from your Noble and Reverend Commissioners sitting among us: Their Prudence will ( we doubt not ) sufficiently furnish you with more particular information touching our affairs : And here , we cannot but acknowledge that the assiduous presence of these our learned and highly-esteemed Brethren among us , and their free and faithfull contributing of their counsels to us , doe oblige us much to a double duty ; the one of Thanks , which we now heartily render to you , for sending to us such excellent Helpers; the other of Request , which wee earnestly make for their continuance with us , untill the Work bee brought up to the finishing Cubite.

Now , the Great Master-Builder ( without whose Almighty concur-



concurrence, the Builders labour but in vain) accomplish and perfect all his own glorious Work in your hands, and in ours also, to his own Glory, the peace and edification of all the Churches, and the comfort of our selves over all our travels and sufferings.

*Westminster, May 17.*

1644.

*Your most affectionate Brethren and  
servants in the L O R D, by the di-  
rection, and in the Name of this  
whole Assembly,*

WILLIAM TWISSE, Prolocutor.

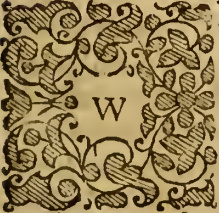
CORNELIUS BURGESS, Assessor.

HENRY ROUBROUGH, Scriba.

ADONIRAM BYFIELD, Scriba.

*The Generall Assemblies Answer, to the right  
Reverend the Assembly of Divines in  
the Kirk of England.*

*Right Honourable, right Reverend, and most dearly  
beloved in our L O R D,*

E do thankfully acknowledge your respectfull remembrance of us by your Letters at all occasions; and not a little rejoyce to see that happie correspondence and Christian communion so sweetly entertained amongst us, which is so acceptable in the sight of the Lord, so pleasant and profitable, especially when kept and entertained betwixt Kirks and Kingdomes about affairs of highest and most publick concernment and interest: We have nothing more in our desires than to entertain that harmonious correspondence, that Christian sympathie and compassion, that sounding and resounding of bowels, which well becometh Kirks and Nations; united by a solemn League and sacred Covenant, for mutuall endeavours, by all lawfull means, to a further unitie in that Faith once delivered to the Saints, and greater Uniformitie in Divine Worship, Discipline, and Government, according to the Paterne.

The case and condition of your bleeding Kingdome is no lesse sensible to us, than if our selves were in affliction with you; but we trust all is working to your best, & to our Lords glory: That some of you hes fallen, it is to try you, purge you, and make you white: If the Lord by those means be with that Reformation of his Ordinances, bringing also amongst that other Reformation of hearts

and lives, should it not be welcomed with all joy, although it bee upon the expence of blood and lives? The Lord will turn the by-gone rage of Man to his glory & your spiritual good, the remnant of rage will hee reſtraine. The Lord delivereth his owne by degrees, *he is with them in trouble, and delivereth them, and honoureth them*; He who hath been ſenſibly with you hitherto, and upholden you in your trouble, will we truſt, yet deliver you, and honour you: The more ye ſow in teares, the greater ſhall be your harveſt of peace and joy, when the Lord, according to the dayes wherein he hath afflicted you, and the years wherein yee have ſeen evill, ſhall make you glad, and his Work to appeare unto you, and his glory unto your children, and the beautie of the Lord your God to be upon you, and ſhall eſtabliſh the work of your hands; yea, even eſtabliſh the work of your hands.

We ſhould prove both unthankfull to God, and unfaithfull to men, did wee not hold out unto you the Lords gracious and powerfull dealing with us in the like condition, and comfort you with the conſolations wherewith wee our ſelves have been comforted: We were involved in the like difficulties; we had the ſtrong oppoſition of higheſt Authoritie ſet over two powerful Kingdoms, beſide this of ours; and the unhappy providence of our wickedly-wiſe and wary Prelates, had done what in them lay, to make the Miniſtery of this Land ſworn Enemies to the intended Reformation: So that we walked in a very wilderneſſe, in a labyrinth, and as upon deep waters, wherein not onely did our feet loſe footing, but alſo our eyes all diſcovering or diſcerning of any ground; yea, wee were ready to loſe our ſelves: Yet the Lord hath graciouſly rid us, and recovered us out of all theſe difficulties, and ſet our feet upon a rock, and ordered our goings. The experience wee have had in our own perſons, affoordeth us confidence and hope concerning your affaires; and wee truſt this hope ſhall not be diſappointed; it is our duety to hope upon experience, and it is the Lords word and promiſe, that ſuch an hope ſhall not be aſhamed. It cannot chooſe but beget confidence in you, when yee ſhall conſider, that ye have ſeen before your eyes your neighbouring Ship of this Kirk and Kingdome, having (as it were) looſed from your ſide, in the like or ſelf ſame ſtorme, notwithstanding all toſſing of windes and waves, yet (*not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of hoſts*) to have arrived ſafe and ſound to the Port and Harberie; yea, and to have dared to put out again unto the ſtorm, to contribute her weak endeavours for your help.

We acknowledge your impediments to be great and many; the ſufferings of your Brethren, the People of G O D, cannot chooſe but both damp your ſpirits, and divide your thoughts: Your walking in an untroden and unknown way, muſt put you (though never ſo willing to go on ſpeedily, yet) to take time and leiſure to aſk for the right way; and ye want not the oppoſition of ſome amongſt



mongst your selves, to whom notwithstanding we trust the Lord will reveale his truth in his own time. Neverthelesse (much honoured and dear Brethren) go on couragiously against the stream of all opposition; every Mountain in the way of *Zerubbabel*, the Lord shall make plain; and as many of you as are perfect, be thus minded, that forgetting the things that are behinde, and looking to the things that are before, you presse hard towards the mark, as having before you, not onely the prize of the high calling and recompence of reward, but also at the end of this race, these two precious Pearls and inestimable Jewels of Truth & Unity, and all the Reformed Churches beholding and looking on; not onely as witnesses, but also being ready to congratulate and embrace you.

We were greatly refreshed to hear by Letters from our Commissioners there with you, and by a more particular relation from the Lord *Waristoun* now with us, of your praise-worthy proceedings, and of the great good things the Lord hath wrought among you, and for you: Shall it seem a small thing in our eyes, that the Covenant (the foundation of the whole Work) is taken? That that Antichristian Prelacy with all the traine thereof is extirpate? That the door of a right entrie unto faithful Shepherds is opened; many corruptions, as Altars, Images, and other Monuments of Idolatry and Superstition removed, defaced and abolished; the Service-Book in many places forsaken, and plaine and powerfull preaching set up; the great Organs at *Pauls* and *Peters* taken down; That the Royal Chappell is purged and reformed, Sacraments sincerely administrate, and according to the paterne in the Mount; That your Colledges, the Seminaries of your Kirk, are planted with able and sincere Professors? That the good hand of G O D hath called and kept together so many pious, grave, and learned Divines for so long a time, and disposed their hearts to search his Truth by their frequent Humiliations, continuall Prayers, and learned and peaceable debates? Should not all and each one of these stir up our souls to blesse the Lord, and render both you and us confident, that he who hath begun the good Work, will perfect it, and put the Cope-stone upon it; That the beauty of a perfected Worke may shine to all Nations, and we may say and shout, *Grace, Grace, unto it*; that the time may be when full liberty and leasure shall be to all the Builders of the House of G O D, to give themselves with both their hands to the building up and edifying the people of G O D in these things that belong to life and Godlinesse, to the making of them wise to salvation, & thoroughly furnished to every good work, & when the Lord shall delight to dwell more familiarly, and to work more powerfully in, and by his thoroughly purified ordinances? That you afflicted and tossed with tempests and not comforted, shall have your stones laid with fair Colours, your foundations with Saphires, your Children shall be taught of G O D, and shall have  
great

great peace, and no Weapon framed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that riseth against you in Judgement shall bee condemned; That the Lord will awake as in the ancient dayes, as in the generation of old; That the Redeemed of the Lord shall come unto Zion with singing, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

And as we are confident that the Lord who heareth Prayer, and hath promised to guide his servants into all truth, will bring your labours to a comfortable conclusion: So do all the Reformed Kirks, and the Kirk of *Scotland* above all others extreamly long for the taste of the fruits of their pious labours and continual pains: And so much the more, that we have suspended some materiall determinations amongst our selves, upon expectation of Uniformity; and that in the meane time so many scandalous Papers come to our view, and to the hands of the People here, for libertie of conscience, toleration of Sects, and such Practices as are contrary to the Doctrine, Government, and Peace of all the Reformed Kirks. For stopping and suppressing whereof, as wee doubt not, but your Wisedome, and the Authoritiy of the Honourable Houses of Parliament will use some more effectuell means; So do we hope that your Determinations shall carry such evidence of Divine Truth, and demonstration of the Spirit, that those unhappy Clouds of darknesse shall be so scattered, that they shall be no more gathered nor appear hereafter, to the dishonour of God, the prejudice of his Truth, and the scandalizing of so many Souls for which Christ hath dyed.

We doe with hearty thankfulnessse resent all the kindnesse and respect you have shown to our Commissioners, and your high esteeme of them in love for the Works sake; Although their presence here would be very comfortable unto us, very steedable to the publick, and necessar in respect of their great and important particular charges and Stations; yet do we willingly dispense with all, yea nothing shall be too dear unto us, so that this Work be finished with joy, and *Jerusalem made the glory and praise of the whole Earth: Because of the house of the Lord our God, we will seek her good: For our Brethren and Companions sake, we will now say, Peace be within her Walls, prosperity within her Palaces.*

Edinburgh 4. June  
1644.

*Subscribed in name of the Generall  
Assembly of the Kirk of Scot-  
land, by the Moderator of  
the Assembly.*



*The Assemblies answer to their Commissioners at London.*

*Reverend and Beloved Brethren,*

**I**T would have been the rejoycing of our hearts, and the lightning of our countenances, to have seen your faces, and injoyed your presence here with us, especially, should yee have arrived unto us loaden with the spoils of Antichrist, the Trophees of the Kirk of Christ, and the long longed-for fruits of your painfull labours: But seeing it hath pleased the Lord whose Interest in the businesse is main and principall otherwise to dispose, it doth become us with all humility to submit to his good pleasure, with faith and patience to attend his leasure, for *he that beleeveth maketh not haste*, and with more frequency and fervencie in prayer seek to him who will be sought for these things, and having *begun the good work will perfect it*, and double the benefit by bestowing it in a more seasonable time unto us.

We have not been a little refreshed with your Letters sent unto us and the Commissioners of the preceding Assembly, and with these from the Reverend Synod of Divines, the answer whereof you will be pleased to present unto them: By all which, and more particularly by a full Relation from the Lord *Waristoun* a faithfull witnesse and a fellow-labourer with you there, we see and acknowledge that by the Lords blessing, the Progresse of the Work is already more than we can overtake in the course of our thankfulnesse, that your labours are very great, your pains uncesant, your thoughts of heart many, that ye endure the heat of the day; but being confident of your patient continuance in well-doing, and that your labours shall not be in vaine in the Lord, wee have renewed your Commission, and returned the Lord *Waristoun* unto you, according to your desire, that ye may prosecute that great Work which the Lord hath blessed so farre in your hands.

When the Ordination and entry of Ministers shall be conformable to the Ordinance of God, there is to be expected a richer blessing shall be powred out from above, both of furniture and assistance upon themselves, and of successe upon their labours; for which end as our earnest desire is, that the Directory for it may be established; so doe we exceedingly long to see the common Directory for worship perfected, which, may prove an happy meane of that wished for Uniformity in the Kirks of the three Kingdomes, shall (we trust) direct by all Rocks of offence and occasions of stumbling, and shall remove all these corruptions  
where-



wherewith the Lords sacrifice and service hath been defiled.

That point concerning a change of the Paraphrase of the Psalmes in Meeter, we have referred to the Commissioners here, whose power and Commission granted by the preceding Assembly, we have renewed and continued.

That there be difficulties concerning Kirk-Government, wee think it not strange for these reasons you lay out before us; yet because the minds of men are still in suspense upon the successe of the determination of that Reverend Assembly on the one hand, and upon the successe of the Warre on the other; which doth not a little faint their hearts and feeble their hands, both you and we must be instant with God and man for a finall determination of all these debates, and a happy and speedy conclusion of this great affaire, so much concerning his own glory and the good of his Kirk. *Now the Lord lead you in all truth, and give you understanding in all things.*

Edinburgh 4. June  
1644.

*Subscribed in name of the  
Generall Assembly by  
the Moderator.*

### *The Assemblies Letter to the Kirks in the Netherlands.*

Fratres in Domino plurimum colendi,



*Uæ anno superiore Ecclesiarum Zelandicarum nomine, missæ sunt ad nos Literæ, ut eas communis totius Ecclesiæ vestræ Belgicæ voluntatis testes fuisse interpretaremur, effecit benevolentia vestra tot tantisque officiis nobis spectata: quam sententiam nobis confirmarunt ea quæ copiosè clarissimus Eques D. Archibaldus Jonstonus Varistonus in foro supremo Judex, à reliquis tum Ordinum tum Ecclesiæ hujus Regni Delegatis Londino non ita pridem remissus, in hac ipsa Synodo Nationali de eximio vestro erga nos studio commemoravit: præsertim quanta fide, quàm sollicità diligentia nostram, vel Domini potius nostri Jesu Christi causam, quæ nunc Londini agitur, & promoveritis, & promoveri etiamnum satagatis. Quo in negotio, ex iis, quorum ab eo recitata audi vimus nomina, de propensa reliquorum voluntate & curâ, ut conciliandæ Ecclesiarum Britannicarum unionis fæliciter suscepta consilia, vestrà ope & operâ prosperum maturè sortiantur exitum, minimè obscura fecimus indicia. Sunt hæc tam illustria benevolentia vestræ testimonia, & in omnium bonorum oculis adeo perspicua, ut eorum memoriam nulla unquam delere potuerint oblivia. Laboris autem & jam impensi & porro suscepti ad controversias in Synodo Londinensi suborientes fæliciter*  
expe-

*expediendas & decidendas nequando pœniteat, ex eo quem per divinam jam benedictionem fructum cepistis, optima quæq; in posterum sperare consentaneum est.*

*Huic tam honorificæ beneficiorum vestrorum commemorationi à D. Varistonio factæ supervenerunt ex partibus Hiberniæ aquilonaribus Literæ multorum Chirographis subsignatæ; Qui singularis gratiæ in illam Ecclesiam divinitus effusa, ex quo tempore in societatem fœderis trium unitorum sub Rege nostro Regnorum admissi sunt, mentione facta, hujus inquit divini benedictionis amplissimum nuper habuimus testimonium, Sanctorum in Belgio liberalitatem eximiam; qui nobis, ignotis licet & peregrinis, fratres se nostri amantissimos, & malorum nostrorum sensu tenerrimo compunctos apertè demonstrarunt. Pauculos enim nos gladio superstites, & fame propediem interituros, omnibus extremis circumventos, in ipso articulo sublevaverunt: nec tantum oratione ad consolationem composita nobis animos confirmarunt, hortantes ut humiliter incedentes Deum liberatorem expectemus, qui non nisi ad breve tempus faciem suam à domo Jacob abscondere solet; sed subsidio insuper opulento cùm annonæ, tum aliarum rerum ad nostram in tantis angustiis relaxationem et solatium necessariarum, copiosè nos refocillarunt. Tantam munificentiam cùm supplices à Deo contendimus, ut septuplam ipsis in sinum rependat, tum demissè vos etiam atq; etiam rogamus, ut in tanti beneficii agnitione Ecclesiæ Belgicis, nobiscum gratias agatis. Hæc illi. In quo quidem officio si illis desimus, in nos pariter & illos graviter peccemus.*

*Agnoscamus igitur illustrissimorum & potentissimorum Hollandiæ, Zelandiæ, aliorumq; Ordinum Belgicorum tam eximiam beneficentiam: quibus non conniventibus modo & permittentibus (quod ipsum non vulgare beneficium habendum esset) sed authoribus etiam, modumque & rationem præscribentibus, exemplo quoque præeuntibus, in subsidium fratrum nostrorum Hibernensium collecta per Ecclesias facta ad ipsos maturè deportata sit: Agnoscamus piorum in iisdem Ecclesiis Belgicis tam expromptam voluntatem & liberalitatem: agnoscamus tantum beneficium non in ipsos magis fratres nostros, quam in illorum persona in nosmetipsos esse collatum: Vosque (fratres Reverendi) obnixè rogatos volumus, ut quemadmodum nos ad omnem grati animi significationem prompti semper erimus, ita quæ vobis potissimum ratione commodum videbitur, illustrissimis & potentissimis Ordinibus nostro nomine gratias agatis: populo autem Christiano curæ vestræ commisso tum publicè universo, tum privatim singulis, ut occasio tulerit, demonstretis quam honorificè de ipsis sentiamus, & quanti faciamus tam eximiam benevolentiam & charitatem, quæ in Ecclesiarum Hibernicarum consolatione viscera nostra refocillaverunt. Quæ autem vestræ fuerint partes, fratres charissimi, quam pio studio & labore, quam assiduâ diligentia tantæ charitatis semen in segetem & maturam tandem messem provexeritis, cùm nos libentes agnoscamus, tum res ipsa loquitur, & fructus opimus abundè testatur. Inprimis autem (quod caput est) tantæ gratiæ authorem & largitorem nos unâ cùm Ec-*



*clesiis Hibernicis laudamus & celebramus: comprecantes ut in vos universos, in Ecclesias à Domino vobis commissas, in illustrissimos Belgii vestri Ordines Spiritum suum copiose effundat, ut quemadmodum in Rep. vestrà adversus hostem potentissimum defendendâ, & inter tantas bellorum moles indies amplificandâ, in Evangelii luce & veritate incontaminatâ contra inferorum portas in vestris Ecclesiis propugnandâ, atque inde latius propagandâ, immensa Dei vobis excubantis potentia, multiformis sapientia, & eximia beneficentia, per universum terrarum orbem hactenus celebrata est; ita bonis omnibus vos deinceps cumulare pergat idem fons omnis bonitatis, ut frementibus religionis & libertatis vestræ hostibus, sapientiæ & optimarum artium juxta ac armorum triumphorumque gloriâ inter nobilissimas gentes Resp. vestra fœderata quotidie magis emineat, Ecclesia sacrorum puritate, & cœlestis veritatis splendore perspicua resulgeat, eoque prospere vobis cedant vestra prudentissima & saluberrima consilia, quibus certissimum ad fœlicitatem publicam compendium vos capeßere demonstratis, nec vobis tantum consulitis, sed de vicinis etiam Ecclesiis solliciti, quâ opcrâ, quâ consilio opibusque vestris eas sublevatis & confirmatis omnes, & quasi de specula universis prospicientes de periculis imminetibus commonesacitis, & ad ruinam ab hostibus dolose machinatam maturè præcavendam armatis.*

*Ergo quod anno superiori, veluti signo dato, Reformatas omnes Ecclesias, missis ex Zelandia literis commonuistis, ut cum impostores, Jesu nomen impudenter eementiti, caterique Antichristi satellites, quò securius in populum erroribus Pontificiis fascinaturn grassari, & puriores Christi Ecclesias funditus extirpare queant, arctissimâ conjuratione sociati ad impia consilia patranda sese accinxerunt; Ita Ecclesiæ quoque Reformatæ sine mora consilia in medium alacriter conferant, & animos ac vires conjungant, ut perniciem sibi omnibus intentatam in hostiam capita retorqueant: nî fecerint, tam pudendâ ignavia excusatione apud posteritatem carituri, consilium non minùs prudens & fidum, quam fœlix & salutare libenter & tum agnovimus & nunc ipso etiam eventu comprobamus.*

*Principio autem ad hoc consequendum necessarium videtur, ut sine morâ convolemus omnes ad Deum nostrum clementissimum, qui postquam Ecclesiarum Reformatarum mores minimè reformatos multis annis longanimitate suâ pertulisset, ferulam primùm, mox etiam gladium vibratum interminatus, tandem rubentem & madidum suorumque sanguine calentem & spumantem per regiones plurimas jam diu circumtulit; in nos denique reliquos nunc intentat, nisi maturè resipuerimus, & de domo ipsius amplius purgandâ, de gratiâ Domini nostri Jesu Christi pluris faciendâ, de cultu Dei ipsiusque institutis religiosius habendis, de Sabbatho ejus sanctificando, à quo nimium oculos nostros avertimus, & de moribus ad pietatis normam componendis magis seriò quàm hactenus à nobis factum est, nobiscum statuentes cum populo Dei sub Nehemia, Josia, reliquisque piis Gubernatoribus, religioso fœdere percusso, tanquam firmissimo vinculo Deo obstricti, nos inter*

nos arctius adversus hostes univverimus, ut avertat Deus jam fuman-  
tem & caputibus nostris imminentem iram, quam peccata nostra pluri-  
ma & maxima adversus nos provocarunt & accenderunt.

Non tantum nobis deferimus, nondum eos renovato cum Deo fœdere,  
& votis nuncupatis dignos edidimus fructus, ut nostrum exemplum vo-  
bis proponere libeat: Quod tamen experti sumus, de Dei erga nos gra-  
tia, quod gratitudo erga Deum, quod gloria ipsius à nobis flagitat, ce-  
lare non audemus. Quæcunque nostra male merita sunt in conspectu  
Dei & hominum, certè ex quo die nos de religioso fœdere cum Deo &  
inter nos ineundo cogitavimus, à portis inferorum revocari, & res no-  
stræ omnes in Deum nostrum necessariò conjectæ melius habere cæpe-  
runt, & sæliciore hæcenus successu processerunt. Quod si de fœderis hu-  
jusmodi religiosâ societate coeundâ (quod rerum vestrarum & Religio-  
nis in Britannia nostra ex fœdere nuper inito perpurganda & stabili-  
endæ commodo fieri possit) vestræ prudentiæ visum fuerit cogitare, &  
ex consilio eorum quorum interest statuere, ac cum aliis Reformatis Ec-  
clesiis agere (pro eâ quâ apud omnes valetis gratiâ) ut eandem vobis-  
cum ineant rationem, non dubium est, per Domini ac Dei nostri benigni-  
ssimi Jesu Christi in Ecclesias suas gratiam, fore, ut non modò, quod  
certissimum adversus impendentiam mala perfugium anno superiore mis-  
sis ex Zelandia literis denunciastis, Ecclesiæ Reformatae arctioris socie-  
tatis vinculo inter se unitæ ad hostium conatus impetisque frangendos  
corroboventur & confirmentur, sed disjecti etiam lapides Domus Dei  
per Germaniam ex rudere & cineribus redi-vi-vi recolligantur, ac glo-  
riosum Domini nostri Templum ibidem instauratur: & purioris Reli-  
gionis Professores in istis Ecclesiis, per resipiscentiam ad eum qui per-  
cussit eos, reversi, & quod nullis canescat sæculis fœdere, Domino no-  
biscum coadunati, malis, sub quorum pondere tot annos gemiscunt, tan-  
dem subleventur. Qui dies longè optatissimus si per Dei gratiam semel  
illuxerit, de consiliorum communionem inter Reformatarum Ecclesiarum  
Synodos per Legatos & Literas conciliandâ iniri possit ratio, per quam  
Ecclesiæ hostes compescantur, hæreses opprimantur, & schismata resar-  
ciantur, pax cum Deo & inter Ecclesias firma conservetur, & glorio-  
sum Dei opus in Evangelio per orbem terrarum propagando, & Anti-  
christi regno abolendo promoveatur. Quod ut optandum, & speran-  
dum, piis & prudentibus vestris meditationibus, ut bonum semen sæ-  
cundissimo solo commendamus.

Edinburgi, 4. Junii  
1644.

Vestræ Dignitati & Fraternitati addi-  
tissimi, Pastores & Seniores Natio-  
nalis Synodi Scoticanæ, & nostro  
omnium nomine ac mandato

DIRECT.

Ecclesiis Dei, quæ sunt in unitis  
Hollandiæ, Zelandiæ, aliisque  
fœderati Belgii Provinciis.

J. A. BONAR Moderator.

D 2

Ordinance



*Ordinance concerning Bursars.*

He Assembly understanding that the Overture for maintaining Bursars, in the Assembly holden in the year 1641. upon the 7. of August, Seff. 15. is never yet put in practice: Do therefore Ordain Presbyteries to put the same in practice with all diligence, and to make account thereof to the next Assembly.

*Ordinance for up-lifting and imploying Penalties contained in Acts of Parliament, upon pious uses.*



He Assembly understanding that the executing of some laudable Acts of Parliament, made against Non-Communicants and Excommunicate persons, and of divers other Acts containing pecuniall pains for restraining of Vice, and advancing Piety, is much neglected by the slownesse of Presbyteries and Ministers, in seeking Execution thereof: Therefore ordains Presbyteries and Ministers *respectively*, to be diligent hereafter by all means, in prosecuting full and exact Execution of all such Acts of Parliament, for lifting the saids Penalties contained in the same, and for faithfull imployment thereof, upon pious uses, and that every Presbyterie report their diligence herein yearly to Generall Assemblies.


*An Overture concerning Promises of Marriage made by Minors, to those with whom they have committed Fornication.*

Of same like as it is found by experience, that some young men being put to Colledges by their well-affected Parents, that they may be instructed in the knowledge of Arts and Sciences, to the intent they may be more able for publick Employments in the Ecclesiastick and Civill state, that the said Children has committed Fornication: And the Woman and her friends has seduced the foresaid Schollers being Minors, to make promise of Marriage to the party with whom they have committed Fornication; And thereupon intends to get the benefite of Marriage with the said young men, not only without the consent of their Parents, but to their great grief, and to the great appearance of the ruine and overthrow of their estate:  
Which


Which may be the case of Noblemen and Gentlemens children, as wel as of these of other estates & degrees within the Kingdom. Wherefore if the Assembly think it expedient, it would be declared that all such promises be made null and of none effect, especially where the maker of the promise is Minor, and not willing to observe the same, because his Parents will not consent, but oppose and contradict, threatening to make him lose not onely his favour but both blessing and birth-right. This Ordinance shal not onely be very expedient for many good civill causes, but is very consonant and agreeable to the Word of God, and will be very comfortable to many Godly Parents, who otherwise may be disappointed of their pious intentions, and have the comfort they expected, turned to an heavy and grievous crosse.

*The Generall Assembly thinks it convenient at this time, to delay any determination in the matter above-written untill the next Assembly, That in the meane time every Presbyterie may take the same to their serious consideration, and report their judgements to the Assembly.*

### *Act concerning dissenting voices in Presbyteries and Synods.*

 He Assembly thinks it necessar, if any Member of Presbyteries or Synods shall finde in matters depending before them, that the Moderator shall refuse to put any thing of Importance to voices; Or if they finde any thing carried by plurality of voices to any determination which they conceive to be contrary to the Word of God, the Acts of Assembly, or to the received order of this Kirk, That in either of these cases they urge their dissent to be marked in the Register, And if that be refused, that they protest as they would desire to be free of common censure with the rest: And the Assembly declares the dissenters to be censurable, if their dissent shall be found otherwise nor they conceived.

### *Act concerning the Election of a Moderator in Provinciall Assemblies.*

 He Generall Assembly understanding that some Provinciall Assemblies in choosing their Moderator, tye themselves to these Persons who have been before named and designed in particular Presbyteries, which is against the libertie of the Provinciall Assembly: Therefore discharges Presbyteries to make any such nomination hereafter;  
And



And ordain Provincials in their first meeting, to elect their Moderator, and to make their own List for that effect without any such prælimitation.

*Act for keeping of the Fast by the Congregations in the Towne where the Assembly holds.*

**T**He Assembly judge it most necessar & comely, seeing the first day of the meeting of Generall Assemblies, is by the laudable practice of this Kirk a day of Fasting and Humiliation, for craving the Lords blessing to that Meeting; That not onely the Members of the Assembly, but that all the Congregations also of the Town where the Assembly holds bee so exercised: And that publick worship be in all the Kirks thereof that day for that effect.

**T**He Generall Assembly appoints the meeting of the next Assembly, to be upon the last Thursday of May, in the year 1645.  
*at Edinburgh*



# I N D E X

*Of the Acts of the Assembly holden at  
Edinburgh, 1644. not printed.*

**E**lection of Master James Bonar Moderator. Sess. I.  
Continuation of the decision in the question concerning the Commission from Craill, untill the appellation be discussed. Ib.

Appointment of Committees for Bills, Reports, &c. Sess. II.

A Letter from the Presbytery at the Armie concerning sending Ministers unto them. Ib.

A Letter from the Presbyterie in Ireland. Ib.

The Assemblies thankful resentment of the E. Louthians sufferings. Ib.

The desire of the Convention of Estates, to quicken the proceedings of the Assembly, and the Assemblies resolution thereinto. Sess. III.

Reference to the Commission to be appointed by the Assembly, for presenting Overtures, Acts, &c. to the Parliament. Ib.

Renovation of the Act of the preceding Assembly, for planting the new Colledge

*Colledge of S. Andrews. Ib.*

*Ref. of Denmures Bill.*

*Ref. of Aytouns Bill.*

*Committee to consider some Overtures concerning Universities and Schooles. Sess. IV.*

*Commission granted to M. William Cockburn, M. Hugh Mackale for the first 3 Moneths beginning the 1. of Aug. next; to M. George Dick, and M. John Dick the next 3. Moneths; and to M. John Levingstoun, and M. Thomas Wylie for the last 3. Moneths, to repair to the North of Ireland, bearing the same power granted to the Persons appointed for that imployment by the preceding Assembly. Ib.*

*Renovation of the Commission for sending Expectants to Ireland. Ib.*

*Recom. of Sir John Weemes of Bogie his Bill. Ib.*

*Commission for visitation of Orkney, Zetland, Caithnes, Sutherland and Rossie, to Masters William Falconer, and Murdo Mackeinzie, and Alexander Brodie of that Ilk.*

*Act for M. George Halyburtouns going to the Army. Ib.*

*Report of the Lords of Exchequer their promise concerning payment of some of the arrears of the annuitie of 500. lib. Ib.*

*Act and Reference concerning M. James Wood. Ib.*

*Reference to the Commission of this Assembly concerning the Papers presented by my Lord Waristoun, which were directed to the Commissioners of the preceding Assembly. Sess. V.*

*Ref. to the Commission for planting the New Colledge of Aberdene. Ib.*

*Transportation of M. George Leslie to the Kirk of Leslie. Ib.*

*Act concerning the planting of the Kirk of Syres. Ib.*

*Ref. of the Countesse of Kinnowles Bill to the Commission. Ib.*

*Act concerning M. Andrew Murray Minister at Ebdie. Ib.*

*Act and Ref. concerning the planting of the Kirk of Lamingtoun. Ib.*

*Ref. to the Commission of the Assembly concerning Overtures for Universities and Schooles, &c. Sess. VI.*

*Ref. to the said Commission for planting the Kirk of Aberdene. Ib.*

*Indiction of a Fast. Ib.*

*Renovation of the appointment of the preceding Assembly for framing a Directory for Worship, and for tryall of Synods, Presbyteries, and Kirks. Ib.*

*Act for the Clerks subscribing the deliverance of the Committee of Bills for charity to the distressed people of Ireland. Ib.*

*Ref. to the Commission for considering the formes and draughts of Commissions for visitation of Universities. Ib.*

*Act recalling two Acts of the Commission for visitation of the University of S. Andrews. Ib.*

*Recom. to the Commission concerning confirmation of Ministers Books in their wives Testaments. Ib.*

*Recom. to the said Commission concerning Witches and Charmers. Ib.*

*Ref. of the Overtures of the Synod of Murray to the said Commiss. Ib.*

*Recom. of D. Adam Stuart. Ib.*

*Renova.*



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