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*Scottish Office, Whitehall,
December 19, 1904.*

The KING has been pleased by Warrant under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, bearing date the 17th day of December, 1904, to direct the issue under the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and made use of in place of the Great Seal of Scotland of a Commission to enquire into matters concerning the Free Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland, as follows:—

EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith.

To Our right trusty and right well-beloved Cousin and Councillor Victor Alexander, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Commander of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Knight Grand Commander of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Chairman;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Alexander Smith, Baron Kinnear, one of the Senators of Our College of Justice in Scotland; and Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Ralph William Anstruther, Baronet. Greeting!

Whereas prior to the 31st October, 1900, the Free Church of Scotland held, directly, or through the medium of Trustees, various funds and properties hereinafter called "the General Property," and further funds and properties were held by Trustees in connection with the various congregations connected with the said Church hereinafter called "the Congregational Property":

And whereas in 1900 certain Members of the Free Church entered into a union with the United Presbyterian Church and the Church formed by that Union was designated the United Free Church of Scotland, but certain other members of the Free Church refused to enter the Union, and remained as the Free Church:

And whereas after the Union the United Free Church of Scotland continued to hold and administer the said funds and properties:

And whereas there ensued litigation between the said Free Church and the United Free Church as to their respective rights so far as held by the General Trustees' final judgment in which litigation was pronounced by the House of Lords in August, 1904:

And whereas by the judgment of the House of Lords it was declared that the General Property therein dealt with did not belong to the United Free Church, and that said Church had no right, title, or interest therein, but that the same was vested in the Free Church upon the Trusts of the constitution thereof: and in a case as to Congregational Property appealed to the House of Lords the claim of the United Free Church thereto was negatived:

And whereas it is doubtful how far the Free Church are or may be in a position to carry out the Trusts as declared by the House of Lords:

And whereas there were certain other funds and properties in which, prior to 31st October, 1900, the Free Church was interested, being the General Property so far as not dealt with by the Judgment of the House of Lords, and the Congregational Property other than that dealt with by the case in the House of Lords and four other cases ruled thereby which funds and properties are the subject of dispute between the United Free Church and the Free Church, and it is apprehended there may be further litigation between the parties:

And whereas it is desirable to make provision for the application of the General Property in so far as the Free Church is not or may not be in a position to carry out the Trusts thereof, and also to make provision as to the future ownership and right to the occupation and use of such other congregational and other properties and funds, and to obviate the necessity for further litigation: