

Records of the Meeting

of the

Exercise of Alford

MDCLXII-MDCLXXXVIII

Edited by

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Aberdeen

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Mdcccxcvii

...

At the period covered by our "Record"-1662-1688-the parishes with their ministers were as follows:-

...

Cabrach-1662-1668, James Ross; 1668-1677, John Irving (or Irvine); 1678-1681, James Irvine; 1682-1705, Alexander Brown.

...

...

..... [*discipline*]

The said day compeered James Gordoune and Janet Innes befor the brethren of the Exercise, upon the account of the publick citatione from the pulpit, and were both convicted of adulterie by their own confessione, and they were ordained to undergo the usuall pennance of adulterers, first at the Churches of Towie and Kildrummie, and afterwards at the Churches of Cabrach and Auchindoor, wher also they had given scandall by their lewdness. Likewise, they are strictly inhibited to converse any more together, with certificatione if they were found to do so, they should be holden guiltie of a relapse in adulterie.

...

...

It is reported by James Ross, minister at Cabrach, that whereas, by (decree?) of the Presiterie of Alford and Synod of Aberdene, the lands of Strathdiverane were disjoined from the parish of Mortlich and united to Cabrach (that the said lands with those of Cabrach might mak up ane competent parish) Mr. Thomas Stewart is studying to withdraw the lands of Strathdiverane from Cabrach, and the emoluments therof

(The rest not legible.)

NOTE.-In Alford Record the leaves here are misplaced, also part is illegible and part awanting, but is supplied from Minute Book of Synod of Aberdeen-the parts supplied being in Synod Record, pages 13-23-nearly the whole minute of this Synod.

...

...

Sess. 5^o. 29 Octr. 1663 Ante meridiem-Thursday.

...

26. It is ordained that the moderator of the Exercise of Fordyce, with two of the bretherene, and the moderator of the Exercise of Alford, with one of the bretherene of that Exercise, shall perambulat the landis of Strathdoveraine, and to represent the commodiousnes of disjoyning the said landis from the parochin of Morthlick, and joyning them to the parochin of Cabrache, and that the dyet for the perambulatione shall be last Tuysday of Marche nixt.

...

...

Alford March 30, 1664.

...

It is reported that Janet Innes hade satisfied at Kildrummie and Cabbrach, and is now to bee transferred to Auchindoor to mak publick professione of repentance their.

...

...

Sess. 5^o. 20 Octr. 1664 ante merediam-Thursday.

It is thought fitt that the mater of the perambulatione betwixt the pariochines of Mortlick and Cabrache be represented by the Lord Bishope to the Commissione for the planting of Kirks, wherby the best remedie according to law be provyded.

...

Conforme to the Bishop's order, the brethern gave in the names of the papists in their several congregations as followeth viz.:

...

for the parish of Strathdiveran, Cabrach, James Stewart of Lesmurdie, Elspet Straquhan his wife, and Patrick Gordoune, all three excommunicat; professed papists, but not excommunicat William Grant in Ardwell, Isobell Gairden his wife, John Duff in Shenwell, Margaret Kelman his wife, William Anderson in Socco, Jean Corsbie his wife, Agnas Murray;

...

...

It being found that the Church of Cabrach was vacant now, by the removall of Mr. James Ross to Tarlan and Migvie, the heriteres and others of Cabrach did present ane supplication to the brethren for supplie of the vacancie of that place, till the Lord should provide ane minister of their owen for them.

Ane letter was presented to the brethren, from the Bishop, showing that hee hade received ane presentation from the Earle of Marre, in favour of Mr. John Irving, Student of Divinitie, for his instalement in the parochin of Cabrach to the cure, and charige therof, and therfor desired that the brethren should enter him to his tryals, in reference to the said place, in all convenient diligence, which the brethren, considering, in obedience to the said order, did ordain the said Mr. John to have ane common head, *De locis sanctorum defunctorum*, against the appoynted tyme of their meeting, and hee should distribute his theses theron the assemblee, and lykwise he was ordered to

preach once or if he could twice, at the Church of Cabrach before the next meeting.

...

...

No report of the supplie of the Cabrach vacancie by Mr. John Irving, in regard of his absence from this meeting.

...

At Alford June 24, 1668.

Mr. John Irving handled the controversie De locis sanctorum defunctorum, and sustained his disputes theron, and hee was approven. It is appoynted that hee have the Exercise and Addition upon Romans 15. 5, as his next poynt of tryall, at the next meeting at Alford July 15.

...

Mr. John Irving reported that hee hade supplied Cabrache's vacancie twice since his first engagement.

...

Mr. John Irving is ordained to supplie Cabrach, once betwixt and the next meeting.

[9 cases of discipline]

At Alfoord July 15, 1668.

Mr. John Irving exercised on Romans 15. 5, and was approven. It is appoynted that hee have a popular sermon on Matthew 11. 28, and sustain his questionarie tryals, and tryall of the Languages, at the next dyet, which is appoynted to be August 12.

...

...

The said Mr. John Irving reported that he had supplied Cabraches vacancie, and ordained yet once to supplie before and the next dyet.

[11 cases of discipline]

At Alford August 12, 1668.

Mr. John Irving gave his populare sermon, Matthew 11.28, sustained his questionnaire tryall and tryals of the languages, and was approven.

...

...

Mr. John Irving reported that he had supplied Cabrach vacancie, and is ordained to supplie yet once, betwixt this and the next meeting.

...

Mr. John Irving having finished his tryals, in order to his admission to the ministrie of Cabrach, the Presiterie, taking to their consideration the whole poynts of his tryals, did find themselves considerably satisfied theranent, so that they resolved to grant him a testimonie and recomendation to the Bishop, in order to his ordination.

[15 cases of discipline]

At Alfoord September 9, 1668.

...

No report of the supplie of Cabrach, Mr. John Irving being absent.

...

...

Compeired two parishoners of Cabrach viz. Thomas Stuart and Thomas Mackgillchrist, presenting a letter from the Earl of Aboyn, together with another inclosed from the Bishop of Aberdeen to the said Earl, wherin, it being shewed that ane complaint being given in to the said Bishop against Mr. John Irving, minister at Cabrach, and presented a libell subscribed with their hands, together with a list of wittnesses for proving the said libell, which being read in the presence of the said Mr. John, and he required to answer the samen, which libell not being acknowledged by him in all the articles, he, together with the parties accusers, were sumoned apud acta to appear at Alfoord the nixt dyet of the Presbytrie, and the wittnesses ordained to be sumoned, and the Presbytrie being impowered to proceed therin, by virtue of ane comission directed to them from their Ordinarie, the brethren accordingly issued out precepts for sumonding wittnesses, that they might try the said matter, and report.

[15 cases of discipline]

At Alfoord July 14, 1669.

There was no exercise, nor calling the ordinarie referres, because of the weightiness of the bussiness which concerned Mr. John Irving.

...

Thomas Stewart and Thomas Mackgillichrist insisting in the libell formerly given in against Mr. John Irving, and eiking a second libell subscribed with their hands, which being read in the presence of the said Mr. John, and he required to answer both, or except against the witnesses there present, and having given his answers to the several poynts of the libell, the witnesses were admitted and sworn. Having deponed in the said maters, and their depositiones being subscribed by their hands, and the hands of a notar in their names, it was found that the libell was not proven in all the heads therof concerning the scandalls and ryots alledged to be done by the said Mr. John; therfor the said Mr. John was sumoned apud acta to compeir at the nixt dyet, in respect the parties accusers demanded a competent tym to sumond their witnesses, and the said Mr. John desyred to get copies of the libells, that he may give his answers advisedly.

...

...

The rest of the session was spent in examining the witnesses, in the process ledd befor the Presbytrie of Alfoord, against Mr. John Irving, minister at Cabrach, wherupon the ordinance after specified was established.

Sess: 4^o eodem die. post meridiem.

Anent the processe depending befor the Presbytrie of Alfoord, against Mr. John Irving, minister at Cabrach, it is ordained by the Bishop and Synod that the Presbytrie of Alfoord, with Mr. Georg Burnet, minister at Kincardin, and Mr. Robert Forbes, minister at Coldstone, shall meet, and hold a visitatione at the Kirk of Cabrach, upon Wedensday the tent of November nixt, for trying what is not clear by the processe alreadie led, and the new emergent scandall since, as also generally of the said Mr. John his life and conversation in the ministrie, and Mr. John Leslie, minister at Cushnie, is ordained to preach at the Kirk of Cabrach, upon the last Lord's day of October instant, and then to mak public intimatione of the said visitatione to that parish, and all persones concerned, that if they have anything to say against the said Mr. John, they may then appear befor the Presbytrie, and be heard therin; and for this effect that ane edict be served by the said Mr. John Leslie, at the Kirk, and returned to the Presbytrie, duly execut and indorsed, and that ane precept be direct by the Bishop to the moderator of Alfoord, for sumonding such particular personses to the said meeting, as did formerly appear on the said Mr. John his process, but have not alreadie deponed therin, and what the said brethren shall find therin to mak report to the bishop therof.

There was no other thing done in this Synod wherein the Presbytrie of Alfoord is concerned.

...

At Aberdeen Ocotober 6, 1669.

The brethren of the Exercise of Alfoord mett within the Colledg Church, and appoynted their nixt meeting to be at Cabrach, for visiting the said kirk, according to the ordinance of the Bishop and Synod, and Mr. Walter Ritchie ordained to preach.

At Cabrach November 10, 1669.

There was no preaching, the day being short, and stormie, and farr spent. The brethren that conveened were the moderator, Mr. Walter Ritchie, Mr. Robert Irving, Mr. John Mair, Mr. John Leslie, and Mr. William Christie.

The act of the Synod being read for visitatione of the said church, and finding that the edict was served and sumondes executing according to the order of the Bishop and Synod, the brethren did proceed in the tryall of the said libells, allreadie given in against Mr. John Irving, and visitatione of the said Mr. John as to his doctrin, disciplin, and conversation, according to the comission granted to them for that effect, all which the clerk was ordained to transcribe *in mundis*, and have them in readiness against the Synod. The day being taken up with the said bussiness, the brethren continued the referres till their nixt meeting at Alfoord, December 8th.

[1 case of discipline]

At Alfoord Decr. 8th, 1669.

The brethren being late in conveening, and for the shortness of the day, the exercise was continued this day also, and the nixt meeting appoynted to be at Alfoord Januarie 12. The absents from Cabrach the

other day were excused, because of the storminess of the day, and length of the journey from the respective dwellings, only Mr. Andrew Abercrombie alleadged that he mistook the dyet.

...

At Alfoord Januarie 12, 1670.

...

The absents the former day excused, save only Mr. John Irving who is continuing his absences.

...

At Alfoord Junii 15, 1670.

The brethren mett, and Mr. John Irving, who was formerly ordained to exercise, declaring such multiplicite of bussiness wherabout he was employed, and promising to be readie again the nixt day without further delay, the Presbytrie admitting of this excuse did appoynt him *de novo* to exercise and add, the nixt dyet to be Julie 6.

...

There was a complaint given in by James and John Gordones, against Thomas, Robert and Alaster Stuarts, for violently removing a dask belonging to them, utering minaceing speeches on the Lord's day in defence of that deed; the parties complaining ordained to sumond the parties complained upon, and such wittnesses as shall be given up to him by the said complayners, against the nixt day.

...

At Alford July 6, 1670.

Mr. John Irving, on whom the exercise yet lay, did excuse his absence by reason of his wiffes and his sister's sickness at his house; the ordinance anet the exercise renewed, the nixt meeting appoynted to be at Alfoord July 27.

...

...

Compeired James and John Gordones, and presented their bills subscribed with their hands, against Thomas, Robert and Alaster Stuarts in Cabrach, and the parties called upon compeiring, did avow and own the removing of that dask, pretending a right to the room, but denyed and minaceings, yet willing to submitt to the sentance of the Presbytrie theranent. After due hearing of both parties, it was ordained that the dask should be reponed, and stand till the said Thomas, Robert and Alaster Stuarts should legally prove the room to belong to them, and they were sharply rebuked for their disorderly removing the same, unto which sentance they promised obedience.

...

At Alford July 27, 1670.

The brethren mett, and Mr. John Irving having exercised on Romans 15. 24, and he being censured for some imprudence, and want of exact method of exercise and addition, was gravely admonished therfor;

...

...

Compeired John Gordon in Cabrach, and declared that the sentance of the Presbytrie anent the dask was obeyed.

...

Alfoord March 15, 1671.

...

Mr. John Irving being present, and the reasones of his absences being heard, such as his bodily weaknes, the difficultie of the way, and the winter season, which (because the brethren were informed he travelled to and betwixt Aberdeen and his own house and elsewhere, which he did not deny) the brethren considering, and lykwise concerning his privie censure, and what might be said, they referred to the Bishop and ensueing Synod, to which he choiced rather to subject himself than to the brethren of the Presbytrie.

...

Alfoord Apryl 12, 1671.

...

Thomas Stuart in Cabrach was delait by the minister for removing a dask belonging to the tennants of the laird of (?) Eryht; being summoned to this day and called, compeired and confessed the same, and pretending

a right to the said room; the tenants of the laird of (?) Eryht also compeering and complaining of the wrong done them, contrarie to ane former act of the Presbytrie in same particular after much paynes taken for that accomodation. The Presbytrie appoynted some of their number to meet the 3^d of May at Cabrach that probation may be led, and sufficient evidence given by the said Thomas Stuart for making out his claim, and, in the meantym, that the dask be reponed by the said Thomas, which he promised and engaged to do under his hand. The brethren appoynted to meet were the moderator Mr. Adam Barclay, Mr. Thomas Garden, and Mr. William Burnet.

The forsaid Thomas Stuart and others gave in severall complaints against Mr. John Irving, against Mr. John protested that they might not be heard, and did back his protestation with ane appeal to the Bishop, declaring he would not own us any longer longer for a judicatorie. In the meantime he did delait one John Straquhan for speaking in the church to some on the Lord's day imediately preceeding Christmas, in the tym of divyn service, being sumoned to this day compeired, and denyed, whereupon Mr. John was ordained to summon wittnesses.

...

...

Sess: 3^o. 26 Apryl, ante meridiem.

Anent two supplicationes and complaints given in to the Bishop by Thomas and Alexander Stuarts, in the Kirktoun of Cabrach, against Mr. John Irving, minister at Cabrach, for his alleadged scandalous misbehaviour, as ane minister of the Gospell, and other alleadged deeds of wrong, which being publickly read, in presence of the Lord Bishop and Synod, they, finding no witnesses present adducted nor sumond for proving these deeds, have appoynted and ordained the brethren after mentioned viz. Mr. James Straquhan at Oyne, Mr. William Garioch at Culsamond, Mr. William Meldrum at Auchterles, Mr. Arthur Straquhan at Methlich, Mr. Alexander Mitchel at Lamphanan, Mr. Robert Irving at Towie, and Mr. Georg. Watsonne at Lochel, or any three of them to be ane quorum, and the said Mr. William Meldrum to be moderator of the said meeting, and in case of his absence, with power to those brethren who shall meet to choos any other moderator of their own number, and also with power to them to choos their own clerk, to conveen and meet at the Kirk of Cabrach upon the first Tuesday of June nixt to come, to tak notice and cognosce upon the said complaints given in, or to be given in befor

the said day, against the said Mr. John Irving, and to use and admitt all lawfull probation on the said mater, and sumond wittnesses for that effect, and have ordered a just doubl of the said complaints to be given in to the said Mr. John, fyfteen dayes preceeding the said meeting at Cabrach, wherby he may have his answersand defences in readiness, and to report to the Lord Bishop what they shall find anent the premisses.

...

Another letter was presented from the Bishop, relating to Mr. John Irving and his parishioners, to which the moderator was ordained to return ane answer, and Mr. John Irving being posed anent John Straquhan, answered that what he had to say against him was contained in his libell.

[13 cases of discipline]

Alfoord September 6, 1671.

...

Ane letter was presented to the Presbytrie, in answer to their last letter directed by the moderator to the Bishop, wherin it is showed that he has appoynted Mr. John Irving to exhibit such grievances and complaints against his parishioners befor the Presbytrie, as he could condescend upon, and to advertise such assessors as were nominat in ane lybell, which was read, and he was desyred to draw it up in form, and subscribe it, and give coppies to the persones accused, and cause sumonds both parties and wittnesses to appear at the nixt dyet at September 24.

[10 cases of discipline]

Alfuid September 24, 1671.

There was no exercise in regard of the multiplicite of affairs, and that important business anent Mr. John Irving, minister at Cabrach.

...

It being enquired who were deficient to the bursar, it was found that all had payed preceeding yeirs except Cabrach and Auchindor.

...

Sess: 3^o. Octr. 4 post meridiem.

Anent the referre of the last Synod holden in Apryl 1671. relateing to Mr. John Irving minister at Cabrach, and his parishioners lybellers and complainers against him, it being found that the said Mr. John has not as yet had the opportunitie of presenting his lybell against them, and some of these lybellers, viz. William Gordoune and Thomas Stewart having come to this Synod to give in ane lybell against the said Mr. John Irving, he being absent and excused, the Lord Bishop, with consent of the Synod, ordaines the Presbytrie of Alford, with the brethren appoynted at the last Synod, Apryll 1671, assessors to them, to proceed and examine the said Mr John Irving his lybell against his parishioners, and for that effect to keep the first meeting anent that affair at Alford, and the nixt meeting thereafter at Cabrach, and if any shall offer ane new lybell against the said Mr. John to the Presbytrie, that the moderator, in name of the Presbytrie, certifie them, that, after the discusseing of the said Mr. John his lybell, their lybell shall be nixt heard, and then, after that the lybells of both the said parties are examined, the Presbytrie of Alford shall make

report therof to the Bishop. And because there may be ane conveniencie of calling and meeting of those brethren who are presentlie upon the conference betwixt this and the nixt Synod, it is ordered that upon ane call from the Lord Bishop, the said brethren shall meet at Old Aberdeen at any time to be appoynted by his Lordship, betwixt this and the ensueing Synod. It is lykewyse ordered that the moderator of Alford shall have the processe and procedure betwixt the said Mr. John Irving and his parishioners in readienes to be sent to the Lord Bishop, befor that day, which shall be appoynted for the meeting of the Lord Bishop and the brethren of the conference.

...

At Alford Januarie 17, 1672.

...

In reference to a letter sent from our Ordinarie, concerning a late emergent, alleadged to be done by Mr. John Irving, minister at Cabrach, by setting fyre to the corns of a widow woman, named Jannet Roy, and some endeavours to kill some persones, the tryall of which was recomended in the first place, and to be begune at, befor any other accusationes exhibited by him against his pariochoners, should be examined, as the letter at more length proports. Mr. James Straquhan, minister at Oyne, Mr. William Garioch, minister at Culsamond, Assessors nominat by the Bishop, in his letter, mett with the Presbytrie for that effect. The parties who joyned in this accusatione against the said Mr. John Irving are as follows, Thomas Stewart, Alexander Stewart and Jannet Roy their mother, who gave in a lybell to that purpose, which Thomas and Alexander Stewarts subscriybed with their owne hands, and the woman did authorize the Clerk to subscriybe for her. And the said Mr. John being posed as to these alleadgeances given in against him, if they were true or no, denyed the lybell *in terminis*, and for the probation of the lybell, the accusers forsaid give in these witnesses, Patrick Gordoune servitour to the said Mr. John Irving, John Gordoune in Larg, James

Morice in the Kirktowne, Katherine Kellis there, William Gordoune in Ballhillock, John Clerk in Redfoord, William Gordoune in the milne of Cabrach, and none of these witnesses being present, save John Gordoune in Larg, and Patrick Gordoune, against whom the said Mr. John made no exception, only desyred that John Gordoune should give his oath *de calumnia*, who were admitted and sworn in presence of the said Mr. John, and the forsaid accusers, who deponed as after followes. John Gordoune deponed, in the first place, that he had no malice against the said Mr. John, and being interrogat anent the lybell, as to Mr. John Irving his oppressing Jannet Roy, and minaceing Thomas Stewart, *nihil probat*. As to the other particulare, in setting fyre to the corns, *nihil probat*. Patrick Gordoune being called in, as to the particular *nihil probat*; as to the second, he deponed that he saw Mr. John Irving stricking Thomas Stewart with his foot, whill the said Thomas was holding him by the shoulders, and that he heard the said Mr. John say he should be alyke with the said Thomas and Alexander Stewarts, either with swourd, durk, or whinger, in the rest *nihil probat*. And there being no more witnesses given up by them, or more (if they had any) to the nixt Presbyteriall meeting, to be holden at Cabrach the 14 of the ensueing moneth of Februarie.

...

At Cabrach Febr: 14, 1672.

Being stormie, mett onlie Mr. Robert Irvine, minister at Towie, Mr Arthur Strachan, minister at Mortlech, appoynted Assessor by the Bishop, Mr Thomas Garden, minister at Clatt, and Mr. William Thomsone, minister at Auchindore. Compeired Thomas Stewart, Alexander Stewart, and Jannet Roy, their mother, parties, and appealed not onlie from the brethren conveyened at the tyme, but also from the wholl brethren of the Presbytrie and assessors, nominat by the Bishop.

Wherupon Mr. Irving took instruments in the Clerk his hands, and protested that they might have no further hearing befor those from whom they had appealed, in any processe they were carrying on against him.

Jannet Tomsone and Margaret Hebron gave in a lybell against the said Mr. John Irving, for stricking and bleeding of them, at the tending of their lint, witnesses Donnald Catenoch, Georg Hector, James Gordoune, and Alexander Fordyce, who being called, none compeired, safe Alexander Fordyce, who was admitted; and being sworne, deponed that he saw Mr. John Irving pulling at the lint with his owne hand, and heard Jannet Thomsone and Margaret Hebron desyre him to take his teynd where it fell him, notwithstanding he continueing to pull the lint as formerlie, both the said persones did fly in his hair, wherupon the said Alexander endeavouring to redd them, they did flee in his hair also, and trailed him the length of ten oxen by the hair, whilk Mr. John Irving seeing, strack the foresaid Jannet Thomsone to the ground with ane elvand, and brack it on her head, but declaired that he saw no blood.

Mr. John Irving gave in a lybell against Thomas and Alexander Stewarts, for stricking and miscalling him, witnesses James Morice, Robert Keith and Robert Stewart, who being called, compeired, and being admitted, and sworne, deponed as followes. James Morice deponed that Thomas Stewart called Mr. John Irving dwarf and rogge, and threatned to trample him, and that Alexander Stewart stroke him with his feet, and took the rod out of his hand, wherwith he had beaten him, and therwith strake the said Mr. John Irving. Robert Keith *nihil probavit*. Robert Stewart *nihil probavit*.

In the forsaid lybell also, Mr. John Irving compleaned on John Marnoch, for calling him a dwarf bodie, and threatning to beat his servant; witnesses James Gordoune and John Stewart, who being called, compeired not; wherfor the Presbytrie, according to the Bishop his letter to them, offered the probation to the oath of partie, who refuseing was judged guiltie of the calumnies contained in the lybell.

Mr. John Irving took instrument in the Clerk's hand, that Robert Keith called him a lyar in face of the brethren mett at the tyme.

The nixt meeting is appoynted to be at Alford this day fourtnight, and Mr. John Irving desyred libertie to sumond such persons as had

wronged him in his good name or otherwise to the next meeting, which was granted.

At Alford Febr: 28, 1672.

No exercise, in respect the last meeting at Cabrach was but thinne, by reason of the storminess of the weather, as also the brethren who did meet knew not whose *vice* it was to exercise, and therfor could not appoynt it.

...

Mr. John Irving gave in a literall sumonds against Jannet Roy, Thomas Stewart, Alexander Stewart, John Marno, William Stewart, Christian Morice, James Morice, James Millar, John Strachan, Jannet Couper, and William Robertsons, who being called compeired not. He is appoynted to sumond them to the next dyet *sub poena contumaciae*.

...

At Alford March 20, 1672.

...

Anent Jannet Roy, Thomas Stewart, Alexander Stewart, John Manro, William Stewart, Christian Morice, James Morice, James Millar, John Strachan, Jannet Couper, and William Robertstone in Cabrach, the minister gave in the execution of a literall sumonds given them, to be present this day, who being called compeired not, are declaired contumacious, and the minister is appoynted to goe on in processe against them.

...

...

At Alford June 12, 1672.

...

Anent the referrs of Cabrach, no report, the minister being yet

absent, and in respect of this so frequent absence, the Presbytrie appoynted Mr. William Thomsone to goe to Cabrach, betwixt and the nixt Presbyteriall meeting, on a Lord's day, and hold session, and call for ane accompt of his referrs, and to make report at the nixt meeting, withall to acquaint the minister of Cabrach what Lord's day he is to goe thither, that he may sumond delinquents tymeouslie to that day.

...

At Alfoord Julie 10, 1672

...

Anent the referrs of Cabrach, Mr. William Thomsone declaired that he had gone there on Lord's day was eight dayes, and had preached and holden session, and found the elders most willing to keep session evry Lord's day with the minister, which the minister would not doe, unles they were all swore *de novo* (pretending they all sweyed together against him) which could not be done without a comission from the Bishop. The delinquents were called, but none compeired, he is desyred to cause sumond them to the nixt Presbyteriall meeting, to be holden at Alfoord Julie 10.

...

At Alford Januarie 8, 1673.

...

Anent the referrs of Cabrach, tehe minister of Auchindore reported that he had written to the minister of Cabrach, desyring him, in name of the Presbytrie, to keep the meetings of the Presbytrie, and that he had received his answer, that it was ane unreasonable desyre of the Presbytrie to him, and that he would keep no more meetings with them, until the

Lord Bishop came home, which answer being publickly read befor the Presbytrie, and considered, he is judged guiltie of contumacie, and referred to the Bishop and Synod for censure.

...

At Alfoord March 5, 1673.

...

Mr. John Irvine, minister of Cabrach, sent a lyne to the Presbytrie, shewing that Jannet Roy, Thomas Stewart, Alexander Stewart, John Marno, William Stewart, Christian Morice, James Morice, James Millar, John Strachan, Jannet Couper, and William Robertstone, were literallie sumoned to this day *sub pœna contumaciæ*, as was formerly appoynted by the Presbytrie, but the Presbytrie did forbear to call them, in regard

nothing could be done anent them, untill Mr. John Irving were present, to instruct what he had to lay to their charge.

...

At Alfoord, Apryl 2, 1673.

... The nixt meeting is appoynted to be this day twenty dayes at Cabrach, in regard the Presbytrie had received a letter from the Lord Bishop, of the dait at Edinburgh, March 1, earnestly desyring them to take speedy and exact notice as they could of ane emergent done by Mr. John Irving, minister of Cabrach, against Alexander Stewart his pariochoner, in excommunicating him without processe or warrand from the Lord Bishop, and therby warranting them to suspend the said Mr. John Irving from the exercise of his ministrie, till the nixt Synod, if, after tryall, his cariage should be found such as was represented in a letter subscribed under the hands of a certaine number of the congregation of Cabrach, and incloyed in the Lord Bishop his lyne to the Presbytery, and Mr. John Irving is appointed to be summoned *litera scripta* to be present this day twenty dayes at Cabrach, to hear and see probation ledd against him in the said matter, and Alexander Stewart is appoynted to have his wittnesses sumoned tymeouslie to the said day.

...

At Cabrach April 23, 1673.

There was no exercise or referris, save that which was recomended by the Lord Bishop to the Presbytrie, anent Mr. John Irving, his cariage to Alexander Stewart. The Presbytrie being mett, Mr. John Irving and Alexander Stewart being called, compeired, and Alexander Stewart gave in the executiones of literall sumonds given to the witnesses after following viz. John Clerk in Reedford, Alexander Robertson in Belchilie, John Mackanla in Lesmurdie, John Smith in Ardwell, James Thomson in Over-Charrach, Robert Clerk in Netherhowbog, John Roy and James Kellis in Brackla, John Scot in Oldownie, James Clerk in Howbog, John Gordoune in Larg, James Gordoune in Ennercharrach, all within the parochine of Cabrach, and William Couper and John Strachan in parochine of Glenbucket, and Alexander Couper in the parochine of Keirne, who being called, all compeired, and Mr. John Irving being desyred to give in exceptiones (if he had any) against any of these persones, why they might not be admitted wittnesses against him in this matter, did except against John Clerk, John Mackanla, John Smith, James Thomson, James Clerk, and James Gordoune, who were all rejected as wittnesses against the said Mr. John, but had nothing to object against any of the rest, they first giving their oath *de calumnia*, which, in his hearing, they did, and afterwards being sworn, both parties and wittnesses were removed, and witnesses call in as followes, John Gordoune being under oath proved the lybell *in terminis*.

Alaster Couper, being under oath, proved the lybell *in terminis*.

William Couper, being under oath, proved the lybell *in terminis*.

John Strachan, being under oath, *nihil probat*.

James Kellis, being under oath, deponed that he heard Mr. John Irving deliver Alexander Stewart by name into the hands of the divel, but knew not certainly if it was done in the same words of the lybell.

John Scot, being under oath, proved the lybell *in terminis*.

Alexander Robertson, being under oath, proved the lybell *in terminis*.

The Presbytrie, finding the matter sufficiently proven, did call in the parties, and sumoned them apud acta to compeir befor the Presbytrie this day 20 dayes, at Alfoord, to hear the sentence of suspension past against Mr. John Irving, according to the Bishop his warrand. And Mr. James Oare is appoynted to pass his questionarie tryall the said day.

At Alfoord May 14, 1673.

...

Mr. John Irvine and Alexander Stewart being present, were sumoned to be present at the nixt meeting, for the effect forsaid.

At Alfoord May 28, 1673.

...

The Presbytrie received a letter from the Lord Bishop, in order to Mr.

John Irving his suspension from the exercise of his ministrie, desyring them to delay the pronouncing of the sentence, if they found any just ground of a farther demurr, and in respect the sentence has been for these 5 weeks delayed, and now not finding any just ground of a farther delay, they did pronounce the sentence, according to their warrand of the dait, at Edinburgh, the first day of March 1673 yeirs, wherupon Mr. John Irving did give in his appeall from this sentence of the Presbytrie, to the Lord Bishop, and Synod, notwithstanding of which, the Presbytrie did appoynt Mr. William Thomson, minister of Auchindore, to goe to Cabrach, upon a Lord's day, and intimate the sentence to the people.

...

At Alfoord June 18, 1673.

...

The minister of Auchindore reported that he had gone to Cabrach, and intimate the sentence of suspension against Mr. John Irving after sermon, and that Mr. John Irving did enter his protestation, taking instrument in the hand of one Robert Finla, notar publick.

Mr. William Christie is appoynted to supplie the vacancie at Cabrach one Lord's day, betwixt and the next meeting.

[6 cases of discipline]

At Alfoord Julie 16, 1673.

...

Mr. William Christie reported that he had gone to Cabrach on Lord's day was eight dayes, and supplied the vacancie.

...

This day Mr. Thomas Garden is appoynted to goe to Cabrach betwixt and the nixt meeting.

[11 cases of discipline]

At Alfoord August 13, 1673.

...

...

Mr. William Thomson, minister of Auchindore, is appoynted to supplie the vacancie at Cabrach one Lord's day, betwixt and the nixt meeting.

...

...

Sess: 4, 16 October ante meridiem.

...

...

Ane supplicatione being presented by George Gordoune, William Couper, Alexander Stewart, and James Stewart, in the parochine of Cabrach, in name of the wholl parochine, who could not shew ane comission therfor, that matter is referred to ane visitatione to be had at the said kirk of Cabrach.

...

...

Sess: 6^o. October 17 ante meridiem.

...

...

The matter anent Mr. John Irving being taken to consideratione, who haveing been suspended from the exercise of his ministrie at Cabrach, from May to this tyme, by order of the Lord Bishop, for his disorderly walking towards the Presbytrie of Alfoord, and for pronouncing ane disorderly sentence of excommunicatione against Alexander Stewart, the said Mr. John appearing, and humblie acknowledging his miscarriage and failings through rashnes and passione, and promiseing in God's strength, to stryve against tentationes, the matter being brought to ane vott, whether he should continue suspended, or be reponed to the exercise of the ministry at Cabrach, with this certificatione, that if he be found to miscarrie through rashnes or passione, the nixt step of censure will be weightie, and withall it is appoynted that Mr. Adam Barclay goe to Cabrach, at his first convenience, on ane Lord's day, and preach to the people, and repone him in the exercise of his ministrie, and declare to that people that the said Mr. John is now reponed againe, in hope of amendment, and withall to rebuke that people for their insolent cariage to him, and to cause Mr. John to preach part of the tyme that daye, and to professe to the people his former failings, and resolutiones, and ingadgements to a better behaviour in the tyme to come.

...

At Alford 17 December 1673.

...

Mr. Adam Barclay at Keig declared that he had gone to Cabrach, and declared Mr. John Irvine reponed to the exercise of his ministrie in that place.

...

At Alford Januarie 20, 1675.

...

...

Mr. John Irvine of Cabrach did delate John Mill, Christian Marno, Elspet Morice, Robert Mackie, John Stewart, John Craig, and Thomas Roy for running out of the Church befor closour of divine worship. They are appoynted to be sumoned the nixt meeting.

The privy censure past on the brethren, but nothing censurable observed, safe that Mr. William Christie was sharplie rebuked for his absence from the last Session of the Synod, and his frequent absence from the Presbytrie, and Mr. John Irvine advysed to peace with his parochioners.

...

...

At Alfoord May 19, 1675.

...

The brethren of the Presbytrie designeing to goe on in the course of visitatione of the severall Churches, appoynted the nixt meeting to be at Cabrach June 15, and Mr. Thomas Garden at Clatt to preach at the said meeting, as also for the more speedie accomplishing of their designe, did appoynt another meeting at Glenbucket June 16, and Mr. Andrew Abercrombie to preach at the said place. The Session book of Glenbucket is appoynted to be visited by Mr. William Burnet, minister at Kildrummie.

At Cabrach June 15, 1675.

There was no meeting, for however Mr. John Irvine, minister of the place, was tymouslie advertised of this dyet, and desyred to give notice of it to his people, by ane edict to be published two Lord's dayes befor the meeting, yet upon various pretences suggested to the moderator, the speaker, and the Clerk, and others of the brethren, he discharged them from going thither upon the account of the visitatione, and although he was pressed and requested, by the moderator, to goe along with the brethren in the former ordinance, yet willfullie he refused, affirming

plainlie that, if they came there on such a designe, he would withdraw himself; and when some of the brethren, who had not gotten notice of Mr. John his intention, went to the place, they found it so as he had promised. With this disappoyntment the wholl brethren of the Presbytrie were dissatisfied, but have referred his censure to the Lord Bishop and Synod.

...

Eodem die Sess: 5 post meridiem.

There being some grievances and complaints given in to the Bishop and Synod, by the moderator and Presbytrie of Alford, against Mr. John Irvine, minister at Cabrach, after some notice and tryall taken therof, the further consideration of that business is continued until the morrow, at the next meeting.

...

October 8 Sess: 6 ante meridiem.

...

Anent Mr. John Irvine, minister at Cabrach, the said Mr. John having humbly acknowledged first before the Lord Bishop and brethren of the conference, and afterwards publickly before the whole brethren of the Synod, his overreaching and miscarriage towards the moderator and brethren of the Presbytrie of Alford, and humbly craved pardon of the Lord Bishop, moderator, and remanent brethren of that Presbytrie in particular, the said brethren did pardon him, and the Lord Bishop having (by advyce of the brethren) first rebuked the said Mr. John for what he had done, did gravely admonish and exhort him to studie mortification of passion and a more prudent walking towards all men, and especiallie his brethren of the Presbytrie, assureing him that, if he did again miscarie, all his former failings would be remembered against him for the more weightie censure. The Lord Bishop did recomend to the moderator and brethren of the Presbytrie of Alford to have compassion on the said Mr. John, although he did not attend the dyets of their meetings so constantlie as others did, because he hath ingenuously profest the straitnes of his condition did sometyme occasion it.

Mr. John Ross, now minister at Tarlane, and late minister at Cabrach, is ordered by the Lord Bishop, with consent of the Synod, to search and look out such papers as he has in his custodie concerning the Stipend of the Kirk of Cabrach, and designatione of the gleeb thereof, and to give an account, and deliver the same to Mr. George Melvil, moderator of Alford, betwixt and the twentieth seventh of October instant, being Wednesday, and ane Presbytrie day at Alford, which the said Mr. James Ross promised to do.

...

...

At Alfoord Apryl 6, 1676.

...

Anent the referrs of Cabrach, the minister this day sent a lyne of excuse for this dayes absence, the Presbytrie not finding clearnes anent the relevancie of his excuse, or his discipline, were necessitat to lay them over to the Lord Bishop and Synod, to judge therof as they shall think convenient, upon the sight of his letters, which are in the hands of the Clerk.

...

...

At Alford June 14, 1676.

...

Anent the referrs of Cabrach, the minister being this day present, reported that he had forgotten to cause sumond those who were under discipline in his parochine. He is appoynted to cause sumond them to the nixt dyet.

...

At Alfoord August 16, 1676.

...

The brethren of the Presbytrie hearing that Mr. John Irvine, minister at Cabrach, was gone to Edinburgh without acquainting them, or desyring any brother to supplie his place, judged themselves concerned to send one of their number to preach at Cabrach ane day betwixt and the nixt meeting. Wherfor they appoynted Mr. William Thomson, minister at Auchindore, to supplie that place on Lord's Day come eight dayes; as also ordained Mr. John Walker to supplie the vacancie fo Forbes once, betwixt and nixt dyet of the Presbytrie.

At Alfoord September 13, 1676.

...

Annent the referrs of Cabrach, the minister of Auchindore reported that, according to the ordinance of the Presbytrie, he had supplid that place on Lord's day was eight dayes, by preaching to the people, but had not kept Session, in regard that there was no established officer to call the delinquents, neither were they cited to that dyet, nor could he have ane elder to sitt with him.

...

...

At Alfoord March 7, (1677).

... The nixt meeting is appoynted to be this day 20 dayes, at the Cabrach, in order to the designation of a gleeb, grass, foggage, fewall, faill, and divott, to the present incumbent there, for which the Presbytrie had received ane edict to be served at the said church, with a comission for that effect, at which meeting Mr.

William Garrioch is appoynted to have a popular sermon on Genesis 3 15, and Mr. William Thomson is ordained tymouslie to serve the edict at the said church.

...

At Cabrach March 29, (1677).

...

The Presbytrie having mett in order to a designation of a gleebe, grasse, and other priviledges deficient to the present incumbent, after incalling of the name of God, did call for the Edict from Mr. William Thomson, who was formerlie appoynted to serve the samen at the Church of Cabrach, and the said Mr. William delivered up the same duellie execut and indorsed. The Presbytrie caused call the heritors, lyferenters, woodsetters, and others having interest in the said parochine. There appeared, in name of the Marques of Huntlie, David Tyrie in Collithie, Alexander Duff of Kethmor, and James Gordoune in Tirrisoull, and earnestlie desyred, in name of the said Marques, that the said matter might be delayed to some day to be appoynted at the ensueing Synod in Apryl nixt to come, and undertook that the said designation should be befor the last day of May nixt, and that, after the designation

made, the incumbent at the Church of Cabrach should have peaceable possession of gleeb, grasse, and other priviledges to be designed, and the validitie of the said gleeb for this cropt to sow should be payed and delivered to the incumbent for the tyme, at farrest at the ingathering of the cropt; as also they undertook that the present incumbent should have libertie without trouble for feeding and maintaining of ane hors and two kyne in the nearest adjacent grasse to his manse, and that for this Sumer tyme, or at least till such tyme as there were a designation of grass legallie made to him, all which they oblidged themselves to performe in name of the said Marques, by a lyne subscribt with their hands, of the dait at Cabrach March 29, 1677 yeires, which lyne was consigned in the Clerk of Presbytrie his hands, to be forthcomeing as occasion should serve. The Presbytrie taking this to their serious consideration granted the desyre.

No referrs, in regard the day was farre spent and verie tempestuous.

...

At King;s Colledge of Aberdeen, 25 Apryll 1677.

...

...

Eodem die Sess: 3^o. post meridiem.

George Gordon of Haddo, within the parochine of Cabrach, compeired, and did present to the Bishop and Synod ane lybell, subscriybed with his hand, against Mr. John Irvine, minister at Cabrach, accusing him of severall scandals, which lybell being read was sustained as relevant, and admitted to probation. And for the better examination and tryall of the said matter, and in respect the said Mr. John Irvine was not present at this Synod, nor witnesses adduced against him, it is appoynted and ordained, that the brethren of the Presbytrie of Alford, together with Mr. John Forbes at Coldstane, Mr. John Keythe at Birse, for the Presbytrie of Kincardyne, Mr. James Strachane at Oyne, and Mr. Alexander Mowatt at Leslye for the Presbytrie of Garioch, Mr. George Gardyne at

Forgue for the Presbytrie of Turreff, and Mr. Arthur Strachane at Mortlick for the Presbytrie of Fordyce (or anie fyve of them to be a quorum) to meitt at the kirk of Cabrach upon the sixteenth day of May nixt, being Wednesday, for tryall and examination of the lybell given in against the said Mr. John Irvine, by the said George Gordon, or anie new emergent complaints that shall be given in and offered to be proven against him at the said dyett, and for examining the witnesses to be adduced for that effect. And it is appoynted that the said Mr. James Strachan, minister at Oyne, be moderator at the said meeting, if he be present, and if absent, with power to the remanent brethren above named to choose their moderator, and appoynts Mr. William Thomson, minister at Auchindore, present Clerk to the Presbytrie of Alfoord, to be Clerk to the meeting; and appoynts him to cause his officer lay on the sumonds against the witnesses to be adduced in the said matter; and to deliver tymeouslie to the said Mr. John Irvine ane copie of anie lybells to be given in against him; for which ends ane comission was granted, and subscrybed by the Lord Bishop of Aberdeen, to the forenamed persons; and the said comissioners are appoynted to make report of their diligence to the Bishop, and those that were appoynted for the privie conference at this Synod, and of what they shall find therein, at the meeting of ane sub-Synod, to be kept at Old Aberdeen the second Wednesday of June next to come.

...

At Alford July 11, (1677).

...

The moderator produced a letter from the Bishop, which he caused the Clerk publickly read, appoynting the Presbytrie of Alford to intimat the vacancie of Cabrach, through the deposition of Mr. John Irvine late minister therat, desyring likewise the Presbytrie to have a care to supplie its vacancie, wherupon the Presbytrie ordained Mr. William Garioch, on the nixt Lord's day to repair thither, and intimat the same, and Mr. Andrew Abercrombie nixt.

At Alford July 25, (1677).

...

Mr. William Garioch reported that, conforme to the ordinance of the Presbytrie, he had intimat the deposition of Mr. John Irvine, and the vacancie at Cabrach, Mr. Andrew Abercrombie is appoynted to supplie it betwixt and the nixt meeting.

...

At Alford August 22, 1677.

...

[Vacancie of Cabrach supplied].

...

Mr. James Irvine, Student of Divinitie presented a letter from the Bishop, ordaining him to be entered upon his tryalls, in order to his admission to the Kirk of Cabrach, My Lord Marr, the patron therof, having presented him therto. Wherupon he is ordained to be in readines against the nixt day to sustaine the tryall of the Languages, and to bring with him testimonies from the Universitie and Professors.

At Alfoord September 19, (1677)

...

Mr. James Irvine sustained his tryall of the Languages, Greek and Hebrew, and not giving satisfaction to anie of the brethren, he was ordained against the last of his tryalls to give better satisfaction, else the Presbytrie could not grant him a testimonie upon this poynt of his tryalls. He is appoynted lykewise to be readie against the nixt day at Alfoord to sustaine the questionarie tryall; he is lykwayes appoynted to supplie Cabrach once or twice betwixt and the Synod.

...

...

At Alford October 31, 1677.

Mr. James Irvine sustained his questionarie tryall, and because manie of the brethren were absent, they thought fitt to delay the passing of censure upon this poynt of tryall, till the most should be present.

...

...

[Supplie for the vacancie at Cabrach. Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh to appeir befor the Presbytrie of Alfoord. Brethren observed the thanksgiving.]

At Alfoord November 21, 1677.

...

Mr. Robert Farquharson to supply Cabrach, and . . . to

cause the officiar of Cabrach fix a literall summons upon Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, to appeir befor the Presbytrie of Alford December 19.

...

At Alfoord December 19, (1677).

...

Mr. Robert Farquharson reported that he had supplied Cabrach, and had charged Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh verballie, which was not sustained, wherfor Mr. Patrick Copland being ordained to supplie next, his servant is to carrie a literall summons to the said Mr. James to the next dyet, Januarie 16, 1678 pro 1^o.

...

...

At Alfoord Januarie 16, 1678.

...

Mr. Patrick Copland reported that he had supplied Cabrach, and caused his officer lay on a summons upon Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, to appeir befor the Presbytrie of Alfoord upon the 16 of Januarie, who being called, and compeiring, is ordained to be summoned pro 2^o.

Mr. William Burnett is appoynted to go to Cabrach betwixt and the next meeting, and preach to the people, and to take his officiar with him, and lay on a literall summons upon Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, to appeir befor the Presbytrie of Alfoord, pro 2^o.

...

At Alfoord Februarie 6, 1678.

...

Mr. William Burnett reported that he had not gone to Cabrach, according to the ordinance of the Presbytrie, by reason of the stormines of the weather. Mr. James Irvine is ordained to supplie it once, betwixt and the next meeting, and to cause the officiar of Cabrach to lay on a literall summons upon Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, to appeir befor the Presbytrie of Alfoord Februarie 27, pro 2^o.

...

...

At Alfoord Februarie 27, (1678).

Mr. James Irvine had ane Exercise &c.

.....

The said Mr. James reported that he had, according to the ordinance of the Presbytrie, supplied Cabrach, but that there was not a summons fixt upon Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, in respect of his absence. He is appoynted yet at once to supplie it, betwixt and the next meeting, and Mr. William Thomson undertook to cause his officiar go to Soccoh, and fix a literall summons upon Mr. James Gordon there, to appeir before the Presbytrie of Alfoord pro 2^o., March 20.

...

...

At Alfoord Apryl 10, 1678.

...

...

Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh being summoned to this meeting pro 3^o., compeired, and being charged with his irregular and unwarrantable baptizing and marrying of persons, and particularlie of one Donald McLachlan and Christian Cruckshank, within our bounds, he did denye the same flatlie, and the said Christian being present did, on the other hand, confidentlie averr that she was married by him, offering to verifie the same on her knees by oath, in presence of the Presbytrie, which the said Donald appearing a little after did confirme, offering the self same evidence; this being done in the presence of the said James Gordon, he persevered in his deniall, and did not decline to give his oath in the verie contrarie, if the Presbytrie would accept it, but because the case was doubtfull, and not ordinare, it was referred to the Bishop and Synod for advice.

Mr. James Irvine sustained ane second questionarie tryall, and was tryed in the Languages againe, that the brethren might be more clear in determing in reference to their testimonie they were to give to the Bishop theranent. He was as yet found ignorant in the Greek, and although he did not give such abundant satisfaction in his other tryalls, yet the pluralitie of the Presbytrie, from a compassionat consideration of the case of the people of Cabrach, and of the condition of the said Mr. James who promised to improve himselfe more and more by prayer and studie, did recomend him to the Lord Bishop for ordination.

[Supply for Cabrach.]

...

At Alfoord Aprylis 9, (1679).

...

The minister of Cabrach did delait Mr. James Gordon, for exercising the ministeriall function within his parish. He is appointed to cuase summoned him *litera scripta*, and witnesses to prove the charge.

...

At Alfoord June 4, (1679).

...

The minister of Cabrach reported that he had no officer who would undertake to summond Mr. James Gordon. He is appointed to cite him from the pulpit.

...

...

At Alfoord Julii 30, (1679).

There was no exercise.

The minister of Cabrach reported that Mr. James Gordon was cited to this meeting. Being called, and not compeiring, he is ordained to be summoned pro 2^o.

...

At Alfoord Augusti 13, (1679).

...

The minister of Cabrach reported that he had forgot cause summond

Mr. James Gordon to this meeting. It is appoynted he be summoned to the next.

[Supply for vancancy at Alford.]

At Alford Septembris 3, (1679).

...

The minister of Cabrach reported that Mr. James Gordon was cited to this dyet. Called and not compeiring, it is ordained he be summoned pro. 3^o.

...

At Alfoord Octobris 1, (1679).

...

The minister of Cabrach reported that Mr. James Gordon was lawfullie cited to this dyet. Who being called, and compeiring, was accused of intruding himself irregularie into the ministeriall calling, and particularie of administrating baptisme to a child begotn between Thomas Gordon and (*blank*) Burges, in the parish of Cabrach, and of celebrating marriage to William Ferror and (*blank*) Melvin, citizens in Aberdeen. But the said James obstinatlie denyed the first, and that he had not baptized anie child of late, and refused to give anie account of the second till probation should be led against him, alledging that he had

been illegalie deposed, adding further, that, if the Lord Bishop would see him payed of the just expense he had been at in repairing the Kirk of Coul, he should find sufficinet suritie that he should never presume upon any part of the ministeriall office till he should be lawfullie called therto, but if otherwise he would not spare to provyde for himselfe by that sameter means, with some other wild and unseemlie expressions unworthie to be recorded here; he is cited *apud acta* to compeir at our next meeting here this day six weeks, and it is recommended to the moderator to get ane account of the witnesses at the next Synod, as they were named by William Ferrar to the ministers and Session of Aberdeen.

...

At Alfoord November 12, (1679).

...

The minister of Cabrach presented ane excuse from Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, for his absence this day, which was that his wife was latelie dead, and his affairs in such disorder that he could not come abroad, but that he promised to keep the next dyet, to which he is appointed to be cited, with a certificat that, if he compeir not, the Presbytrie will proceed to the examination of witnesses.

Likewise the moderator reported that he had sent the names of the witnesses, as they were given in by William Ferrar to the minister and Session of Aberdeen, which were John Stuart, William McWilliam, John Broune in Cabrach, and Michael Dumbar in Glenbucket, to respective ministers of these parishes, with a precept from the Lord

Bishop and Synod, to cite them to our meeting this day, to depone upon oath in the affair of Mr. James Gordon.

There was also an execution of a summons lawfullie fixed upon the forsaid witnesses, given in by the respective ministers, who being called, and not compeiring, were appoynted to be cited to the next meeting pro 2^o.

...

At Alfoord Decembris 31, 1679.

...

The minister of Cabrach sent an execution of a summons fixed upon John Stuart, John Broune, William McWilliam, witnesses against Mr. James Gordon, who being called, and not compeiring, it is ordained that advertisement be sent to the said Mr. James of the next meeting, and the witnesses to be cited pro 3^o.

...

At Alfoord Januar. 28, 1680.

...

...

The minister of Cabrach gave in an execution of a summons fixt upon John Stuart, John Broune, William McWilliam in Cabrach, to bear witness in the affair of Mr. James Gordon of Soccoh, who being called, and compeiring, together with the said Mr. James, the said Mr. James being interogat whether he could object anie thing in law against these witnesses, that would render them incapable of bearing testimonie, did answer that they all did bearr him deadlie malice, and therfor requyred their oathes *de calumnia*, which when the moderator offered to tender to the said persons, they obstinately refused it, and because the brethren were suspicious that the witnesses were suborned by the said Mr. James in the matter, after they were removed it was thought fit they should be further put to it, to declare upon oath whether they were ingenuous in what they had said, or were suborned by the said Mr. James, and called in so to do, they flatlie refused to obey. Upon this they were convict of disingenuitie, and contempt of the discipline of the Church. Wherfor the minister of Cabrach is ordered to discipline them, and to give them the first admonition betwixt and the next meeting.

The said Mr. James was cited *apud acta* to compeir here this day moneth, and hear and see the same or further probation led against him, with certification that, if he compeired not, the Presbytrie would proceed to the examination of witnesses.

...

At Alfoord Februar: 25, (1680).

...

The minister of Cabrach reported that John Stuart, and William McWilliam were not admonished, in respect they had promised to the

moderator and him to come this day, and declare upon oath what they knew in the matter of Mr. James Gordon. Whereupon the said John Stuart and William McWilliam, after they had given their oath *de calumnia*, did declare that they saw and heard the said Mr. James celebrat marriage to William Ferrar and (*blank*) Melvin in Aberdeen, and the said John had subscribed witnessse to a paper, in which Mr. James acknowledged his marrying of the forsaid persons.

[Fast lately appointed observed.]

At Alfoord Martii 17, 1680.

...

Compeired Michael Dumbar in Glenbucket, gave his oath de calumnia, and deponed that he saw and heard Mr. James Gordon marrie William Ferrar to (*blank*) Melvin in Aberdeen, and that the said Mr. James had lead his hand in subscribing witnessse to his acknowledgement of the forsaid deid.

And it being now found that the forsaid scandall was sufficientlie proven, by the deposition of three severall witnesses, it is appointed that the said Mr. James be cited *litera scripta* to appear before the Lord Bishop and Synod, according to the demerit of his offence.

...

...

At Old Aberdeen Apryle 20, 1680.

Sess: 1^o. post meridiem.

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Anent the supplie of Mr. John Irvine, sometyme minister at Cabrach, the Bishop and brethren of the Synod thought fitte, out of comiseration unto his mean and distracted condition, to add a shilling sterling more at each Synod, by and attour what was granted unto him formerlie, and that this additional supplie, where it can be convenientlie had, be taken oout of the kirk boxes of the severall parioches within this diocie, and brought in to him at each Synod.

Apryle 21. Sess: 2. ante meridiem.

It is appointed that intimation be made unto the sverall congregations within this diocese, that whereas Mr. James Gordon, sometyme minister at Coule, having been for severall scandalls deposed from the office of the ministrie, doth notwithstanding intrude himselfe upon the said holy function, by baptising and marrying of severall persons, for which he is under church process and censure, that therfor no persons doe resort unto him, either for the benefit of baptisme or marriage, with certification of severe censure to be inflicted upon those who shall be found to counterveen.

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Anent Mr. James Gordon, formerlie minister at Coule, it being found, by reviseing the Presbytrie register of Alfoord, that the said Mr. James is, by the depositiones of severall witnesses, convict of intruding upon the ministeriall function by marrying persones disorderly, and as did appeare by the production of ane summondes given in against him, that he is cited lawfullie to appeare befor this meeting of the Synod, to answer and undergoe censure for his said disorderly carriage, and being called, but not appeareing, the Bishop and brethren considering that great scandall he has given, and does still continue to give by his disorderly meddling as said is, did therfor think fite that the said Mr. James be forthwith sentenced with the lesser excommunication, with certification that, if against such a time as be prefixed by the Presbytrie of Alfoord, he doe not submit himselfe to the discipline of the Church, and remove the scandall he has given, that therafter the greater sentence of excommunication be pronounced against him, and that he be cited *litera scripta* to appeare before the Presbytrie of Alfoord to hear and see himselfe decerned to be forthwith sentenced as said is; and if he compeare that the certification above expressed be intimat unto him; and in like manner be assured that, if he doe not give sufficient surtie for his carriage in time coming, and that he shall no wayes intrude upon anie pairte of the ministeriall function, his carriage will be represented to the civil magistrat for

restraining of him. And it is recommended to Mr. Thomas Garden, moderator of the Presbytrie of Alford, with the very first convenience after that the said Mr. James is cited to compeir befor the Presbytrie as said is, that he repaire to the Kirk of Cabrach upon a Lord's day, and pronounce said sentence of the lesser excommunication against the said Mr. James, and intimat to the congregation the certification above expressed.

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At Alford May 12, (1680).

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The minister of Cabrach is appoynted, accordin to the order of the Synod, to cause cite Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, guiltie of celebrating irregular marriage to William Ferrar, and Elizabeth Melvin, in Aberdeen, to the next meeting to hear and see himselfe decerned to be sentenced in the lesser sentence, according to the order of the Synod anent him.

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At Alford June 9, (1680).

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Mr. James Irvine reported that no man would undertake to cite Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, for that he threatened violence to any who should presume to be officer in his affair. It is appointed the minister give him a publick citation from pulpit, betwixt and the next meeting.

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At Clatt Julii 21, (1680).

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The minister of Cabrach reported that Mr. James Gordon was cited to this meeting *litera scripta*, who being called, and not compeiring, the Moderator is to go to the Cabrach, according to the sentence of the Synod, to excommunicat him with the lesser sentence.

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At Alfoord Augusti 18, (1680).

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Anent James Gordon in Soccoh, the moderator reported that he had come to Clat, and offered sufficient suretie, that he should both satisfie for whatsoever scandall he had already given by intruding himselfe upon the ministeriall calling, and for his good deportment for the future, and that in order to this he had appointed to meet at Whytlumbs to the said Mr. James, who was to bring his sureties to the forsaid place, for the effect above mentioned. The moderator desiring the concurrence of some of the brethren in this affair, it is appointed that he have the assistance of Mr. William Thomson, minister, at Auchindore, in the expeding heirof.

The referres of the Synod were publickly read and recommended, particularie the referr concerning the prohibiting of all persons from having recourse to Mr. James Gordon, for baptisme, or marriage, or anie other part of the ministeriall calling.

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At Alford September 15, (1680).

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Concerning Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, the moderator reported that the former appointment was frustrate, through the neglect of the said Mr. James and his sureties, who had not come to the place appointed till three o'clock in the afternoon, and that he had appointed with him againe, at the same place, and should give account of the issue therof at the Synod.

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It is likewayes found, upon enquiry, that the brethren had prohibited all presons within their respective parishes to have recourse to Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, for baptisme, or marriage &c., according to the ordinance of the last Synod.

...

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October 14.

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It being found that the sentence of the lesser excommunication hath not as yet been pronounced against Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, as was appointed at the former Synod, therfor the former order is renewed. And seeing it is reported that the said Mr. James doth as yet continue to marrie persons disorderlie, therfor it is appointed that the matter be examined, and that the said Mr. James be requyred to remove the frequent scandals he hath given by his intrusion on the holie ministrie, and in caice of his refusall, that a process be carried on against him, in order to the greater excommunication. As also it is appointed that all such persons as pretend to have been married by the said Mr. James be processed in the severall congregations where they live, as cohabiting together in uncleanness, except they instruct their marriage by witnesses.

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At Alfoord Januarii 5, 1681.

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Concerning Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, the moderator reported that he had pronounced the sentenec of lesser excommunication against him.

The minister of Cabrach reported that Mr. James Gordon had joyned in ane irregular marriage William Milne in Cabrach, and (*blank*) Gordon in Gartlie, moreover that he had privately confessed to him fornication with (*blank*) Sivewright, his domestic servant. It is therfor appointed that the minister prohibit her to remaine any longer in his house or service, and that he cause cite the said Mr. James to the next meeting pro 1^o.

At Alfoord Januar 26, (1681).

...

The minister of Cabrach reported that Mr. James Gordon was cited to this meeting, who being called, and not compeiring, it is appointed he be cited pro 2^o.

At Alfoord Februar 23rd, (1681).

There was no exercise in respect the minister of Cabrach was not able to travell for the storme.

...

Concerning Mr. James Gordon, he (the minister of Cabrach) reported, that upon the forsaid account, (the storminess of the weather) a citation could not be fixed upon him. The former ordinance is renewed.

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At Alford March 23, 1681.

The minister of Cabrach had a discourse *De primatu Petri*.

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...

Mr. James Gordon in Soccoh, he (the minister of Cabrach) reported that he was removed out of the parish towards the South. It is appointed that he make enquiry for him against the next meeting.

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At Alfoord Aprilis 13, 1681.

The minister of Cabrach reported that William Milne there was, contrarie to the laws of the Church, married by Mr. James Gordon to a

woman in the parish of Gartlie. It is appointed the forsaid persons be cited to the next meeting pro 1^o. He reported likewise that the Mr. James Gordon had celebrat the disorderlie marriage aforesaid in his journey towards Ireland, and that there was little hopes of his return to this country.

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At Alfoord Martii 8, 1682.

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At Alford Martii 8, 1682.

Mr. William Johnston not being as yet cleared of his scruples anent

the Test, was not present, but Mr. Alexander Broune presented by the Earl of Marr to the Church of Cabrach, being recommended by our late Ordinarie for passing the tryall of a popular sermon befor the Presbytrie (which recommendation was directed to the Moderator, and he therin appointed to prescribe him a text for the said tryall) had a popular sermon on Isaiah 26. 3., and was approven; and the said Mr. Alexander having formerlie sustained the other points of the tryall befor the Lord Bishop and bretheren of the Presbytrie of Aberdein, was recommended to the Lord Primate.

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At Alfoord May 18, 1687.

The minister of Strathdone exercised, &c.

The next meeting is appointed to be at Cabrach June 15, in order to a visitation of that Church, &c.

At Cabrach June 15, 1687.

The minister of Tullinessell preached, &c.

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The minister gave in a list of the elders' names as followes, James Shyde, William Grant, John Gordon, Alexander Roy, George Gordon, William Whitson, John Marnoch, who compeiring, with such of the heritors as were present.

It is found there is no mortification in the parish.

Lykewayes there is no School, the parish not being able to afford any provision competent for a Schoolmaster.

That the fabrick of the Kirk is not altogether in repaire, which was represented to the heritors.

That the minister has a sufficient Stipend legallie secured, with all the other conveniencies, &c.

There are of church utensils, a laver for baptisme, tables, and two cups for the holy communion.

The Session book not being as yet in readines, it is appointed by be filled up *primo quoque tempore*.

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