

I Of Holy Scripture—That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being the inspired Word of God, are the supreme and infallible rule of faith and life.

II Of the Subordinate Standards.—That the Westminster Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, are received by this Church as her subordinate Standards.

But whereas certain sections of the said Confession of Faith, which treat of the power or duty of the Civil Magistrate, have been objected to, as teaching principles adverse both to the right of private judgment in religious matters, and to the prerogatives which Christ has vested in this Church, it is to be understood:—

1. That no interpretation, or reception of these sections is held by this Church, which would interfere with the fullest forbearance as to any differences of opinion which may prevail on the question of the endowment of the Church by the State.

2. That no interpretation, or reception of these sections is required by this Church, which would accord to the State any authority to violate that liberty of conscience and right of private judgment, which are asserted in chap. xx. sec. 2, of the Confession; and in accordance with the statements, of which this Church holds, that every person ought to be at full liberty to search the Scriptures for himself, and to follow out what he conscientiously believes to be the teaching of Scripture, without let or hindrance.

3. That no interpretation or reception of these sections is required by this Church, which would admit of any interference on the part of the state with the spiritual independence of the Church, as set forth in chap. xxx of the Confession.

III Of the Headship of Christ over the Church—That the Lord Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of His Church; That He has made her free from all external or secular authority in the administration of her affairs, and that she is bound to assert and defend this liberty to the utmost, and ought not to enter into such engagements with any party as would be prejudicial thereto.

IV Of the Headship of Christ over the Nations, and the Duty of the Civil Magistrate. That the Lord Jesus Christ, as Mediator, is invested with universal sovereignty, and is therefore King of Nations, and that all men, in every capacity and relation, are bound to obey His will as revealed in His Word; and particularly, that the Civil Magistrate (including under that term, all who are in any way concerned in the Legislative or Administrative action of the state,) is bound to regulate his official procedure, as well as his personal conduct, by the revealed will of Christ.*

V. Of Church Government—That the system of polity exhibited in the Westminster Form of Presbyterian Church Government, in so far as it declares a plurality of Elders for each congregation, the official equality of Presbyters who minister in word and doctrine, without any officers in the Church, in due subordination of a smaller part to a larger, and of a larger to the whole, is the Government of this Church, and is, in the general features of it therein set forth, believed by this Church to be founded on, and agreeable to the word of God.

VI. Of Worship—That the ordinances of worship shall be administered in this Church as they have heretofore been, by the respective bodies of which it is composed, in a general accordance with the directions contained in the Westminster Directory of Worship.

*The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada have made the following additions to this Clause:—"Provided that no one is allowed, under pretext of following the dictates of conscience, to interfere with the peace and good order of Society."

*Note.—That the article having relation to Christ's Headship over the nations, and the duty of the Civil Magistrate has always been, and is, one of the things most surely believed and most firmly maintained by the United Presbyterian Church, while, at the same time, it has constantly and carefully guarded against the practical inference drawn from it by some, that Christ, as King of Nations, delegates his power to earthly Kings—that they are in any sense his vicegerents, or that magisterial interference in matters purely of a religious nature is a medium through which Christ exercises the authority with which, as King of Nations, he is invested.—Note.—The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, have in the Basis as adopted by them, struck out this note appended to the 4th Article by the United Presbyterian Synod.