

XXVII. ACT ANENT MINISTERS AND THE CIVIL POWER

Edinburgh, 26th May 1959, Session 12.

Whereas the Act of 19th December 1638 Against the Civill Places and Power of Kirkmen declared “that it is both inexpedient and unlawful in this Kirk for Pastors separate unto the Gospell to brook civill places and offices, as to be Justices of the Peace, sit and decerne in Councell, Session or Exchecker to ryde or vote in Parliament, to be judges or assessors in any civill judicatorie”. Whereas for many years past there have been many cases where ministers have become Justices of the Peace and members of local authorities charged with duties which include those of civil judicatories such as Burgh Courts, and no adverse effect upon the spiritual influence of the Church has followed thereon.

Now therefore the General Assembly with consent of a majority of Presbyteries hereby enact and declare that the Act of 19th December 1638 Against the Civill Places and Power of Kirkmen, and all other Acts of the like tenor and effect are hereby repealed.