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SCOTTISH OFFICE, WHITEHALL,

February 25, 1901.

THE following Address was presented to His Majesty at St. James' Palace on the 23rd instant:—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's most Loyal and Dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the Commission of the General Assembly, desire to take the earliest opportunity of humbly offering the tribute of our sincere condolence to Your Majesty and the Royal Family on the death of our late revered and beloved Sovereign of blessed and glorious memory, and our cordial congratulations on Your Majesty's accession to the throne of Your ancestors.

We recall the glorious reign of the departed Sovereign with profound thankfulness to Almighty God for all the signal blessings which we so long enjoyed under Her wise and beneficent rule. We remember with heartfelt gratitude the many virtues which adorned Her beautiful and illustrious life, drawing towards Her in a degree pre-eminent and unexampled the devotion and affection of Her subjects, and the unstinted admiration of the world. The recollection of Her great goodness will never fade from the memory of living men, or from the pages of British history. Her steadfast faith in God, Her high sense of duty, Her unflinching sympathy with the joys and

sorrows of Her people, Her unwearied efforts to promote the happiness and well-being of all classes, and the manifold influences of Her splendid example, which did so much to elevate and purify the life of the nation, have made Her reign the most memorable, as it has been the longest, in the annals of the Empire.

We rejoice to find in Your Majesty's gracious declaration the expression of Your Majesty's earnest purpose and desire to follow the footsteps of our late Sovereign, by maintaining the same principles of constitutional government, by seeking to advance the good and improvement of the people, and by the manifestation of those Christian virtues which impart the brightest lustre to the Crown.

It has been most pleasing to us to learn how readily the constitutional pledge required by the Act of Union was proffered by Your Majesty at Your first Council, to maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the true Protestant religion, with the government, worship, discipline, rights, and privileges of the Church of Scotland as established by law.

Firmly relying, as we do, on the fulfilment of this solemn vow, and remembering with gratitude to God how long the protection of our civil and religious liberties has been identified with the Royal House, as also the affectionate regard in which Her late Majesty ever held the National Church established in Her ancient Kingdom of Scotland, and being fully persuaded that the love of righteousness and the fear of God pervading all classes of the people, are the best safeguard of the stability of the throne, and of the peace and prosperity of the kingdom, we esteem it a sacred duty to encourage and exhort the people