

Placed in the perilous days so well described in your Majesty's most gracious letter, when the very principles of religion and morality are denied by some, and confounded by others; and when wicked men have derided every thing which is grave and just and holy, we have unpeakable consolation in thinking that we live under the reign of a Prince whose exemplary piety adorns the throne, who condescends to mention with approbation the zeal of the Church of Scotland, who calls us by his authority to an undeviating perseverance in the discharge of our duty, and assures us of all the encouragement and support which the circumstances of the times require.

We listen with the most profound respect to the solemn charge which we receive from your Majesty, and it is our determined resolution, in compliance with that charge, and in fulfilment of the duties of our sacred office, that we will, thro' the strength of the Lord Jesus, be instant at all seasons in seeking after truth, in defending, teaching, and spreading it; that we will labour by precept and by example, to aid the cause of religion and virtue in the world; that we will endeavour to dispel the dangerous delusions of an arrogant and vain philosophy, and of science falsely so called; and in all our ministrations will direct the minds of the people over whom we exercise the pastoral care to the revealed will of Almighty God as the only infallible standard of truth and perfect rule of manners. We feel the sacred obligations of which your Majesty is graciously pleased to remind us, that arise from our being, in the words of our great Master, "a city set upon a hill." And we look up to him for those influences of his spirit which may enable us to frame our decisions that they may secure the respect of our brethren, and may guide them in all matters of doctrine and discipline.

Conscious that our exertions, however unremitting and well directed, are of none avail without the blessing of Heaven, we cease not to offer our fervent prayers to the Supreme Disposer of all events, beseeching him to avert from these kingdoms those errors which have brought ruin and desolation upon all who have embraced them. We bless the Lord our God, who, because he loved us, hath raised up a succession of princes in the illustrious House of Hanover to be the nursing fathers of his Church. We pray that it may please him to prosper all your Majesty's designs for the good of the Church of Scotland, and the advancement of the Christian religion; and, relying upon his Almighty protection, we trust that, under the wise and vigorous Administration of your Majesty's Government, our Ecclesiastical Establishment, which has been cherished with warm affection by the people of Scotland, and which has been the means of diffusing amongst all ranks, the knowledge and the principles of pure and undefiled religion shall be preserved from being shaken by external violence, or undermined by the machinations of secret foes.

That the best blessings of Heaven may descend upon your Majesty, upon our gracious Queen Charlotte, upon the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; that your Majesty may long continue to reign in the hearts of a pious, loyal, free, and happy people; and that after swaying the British sceptre for many years with felicity and renown, you may be received into those regions where an unfading Crown awaits the faithful, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient,
and most loyal subjects,
The Ministers and Elders, met in General Assembly
of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name, in our presence, and at our appointment, by

WILLIAM MOODIE, Moderator.

Edinburgh, 25th May, 1799.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders, of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly beg leave to approach the throne with sentiments of the most affectionate attachment to your Majesty's person and government.

Beholding with reverence the conduct of Providence in the permission of those calamitous events which for years past have afflicted and desolated so many of the neighbouring nations, we feel the most lively gratitude to Almighty God when we contemplate the prosperous condition of Great Britain. Preserved by the wisdom of your Majesty's councils from the traitorous attempts made to disturb its internal tranquillity, this happy country flourishes even in the midst of war, and, communicating to its allies a portion of its own vigour, it has been justly regarded as the great bulwark raised by Divine Providence for relieving the progress of those destructive principles which threatened the total subversion of religion and good government in every quarter of the world.

We are sincerely grieved to learn that there are still among us men insensible to the inestimable blessings we enjoy, but trust that their numbers are daily decreasing; and your Majesty may be assured that the Church of Scotland, faithful to her duty, will in her proper sphere co-operate zealously with the civil power in counteracting their insidious designs. We have reason to think that the blessings of your Majesty's paternal government, aided by the salutary restraints imposed on the licentious, have already produced a favourable impression on the minds of many of our fellow-subjects who were formerly discontented; and we are persuaded that the great body of the people under our charge, notwithstanding the artful endeavours employed to agitate and divide them, continue firmly attached to the religious and civil constitution of their country, and deeply interested in whatever may have any tendency to strengthen its security, and to transmit it unimpaired to the latest posterity.

Amidst the general satisfaction with which we contemplate the state of the country, we embrace, with peculiar pleasure the first opportunity which our meeting affords us of congratulating your Majesty on the splendid Naval victories gained in the course of last year by your Majesty's arms at the mouth of the Nile, and on the coast of Ireland, under the conduct of Lord Nelson and Sir John Borlase Warren: Victories, honourable in the highest degree to the good and gallant men by whom they were achieved, highly conducive to the national security, and most important in their consequences to the general issue of the war. And while our devout acknowledgments rise to the Lord of Hosts, from whom alone cometh wisdom and strength, on account of the brilliant events, which, under your Majesty's more immediate administration, have contributed so much to the advantage of the common cause, we have beheld also, with the most grateful satisfaction, the rapid tide of victory which has followed of late the arms of your Majesty's allies on the Continent; and we cherish the hope that, by a continuation of success, your Majesty will be soon enabled, in concert with your allies, to bring this arduous contest to a termination glorious to our country, and salutary to the general interests of Europe.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may protect your Majesty's person, direct your councils, and prosper your administration; that he may bless our gracious Queen Charlotte, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that after reigning long with wisdom and felicity over a free, happy, and grateful people; you may receive that crown of righteousness which fadeth not away, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most dutiful, most faithful,
and most obedient Subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this
General Assembly of the Church of
Scotland,
Signed in our name, in our presence, and at our
appointment, by
WILLIAM MOODIE, Moderator.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1799.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, JUNE 1.

Copy of a letter from Captain John Clements to Evan Nepean, dated Leith, 29th May, 1799.

SIR,

You will be pleased to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that La Rufe French lugger privateer, mounting fourteen guns, and carrying sixty men, arrived here this day; she was taken on the 20th instant, off the Scaw, by his Majesty's sloop of war Kite, on her return with the convoy from Elsinour.

I am, &c. &c.

JOHN CLEMENTS.

Commissions in the Fourth (or Dumfries-shire) regiment of North British Militia.

Captain Charles Riddell to be Major. Dated March 21 1799.

Captain Lieutenant Alex. Campbell to be Captain. Date as above.

Lieutenant Andrew Watson to be Captain-Lieutenant. Dated March 21, 1799.

Ensign George Pott to be Lieutenant. Dated March 25, 1799.

Ensign Daniel Morrison to be Lieutenant. Dated April 12, 1799.