

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday May 29; to Saturday June 2, 1764.

St. James's, June 2.

THE following Answer of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to His Majesty's most gracious Letter, has been presented to His Majesty by the Earl of Sandwich, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious Letter to this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with that Respect and Gratitude, which is due by us to our Gracious Sovereign, for so high an Honour conferred upon us.

The Expressions of your Majesty's Confidence in the Loyalty and Affection of this Church to your Royal Person and Government, fill us with the highest Pleasure. We trust that the Members of this Church shall never prove unworthy of this Confidence; it must be our Delight, as it is our Duty, to love and obey a King, under whose wise and truly paternal Administration our Liberties are secure, unless they shall be endangered by Licentiousness in the Subjects themselves, a Spirit which we heartily detest, as assuming the false Semblance of Liberty, that it may most effectually undermine it.—Nothing, except Regard to God and our own Consciences, can animate us more in exerting ourselves to the utmost, according to the Duty of our Offices, in promoting Virtue, Piety, and Religion, than the Notice which your Majesty condescends to take of our Endeavours to serve this glorious Cause.—It is with Thankfulness, and with the most unlimited Confidence, that we receive this repeated Declaration of your Majesty's fixed Purpose and Resolution to support the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, as by Law Established, in the full Possession and Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges.

Your Majesty's countenancing our present Meeting with your Royal Authority, we thankfully acknowledge as a new Testimony of your Goodness, which gives us the sincerest Joy. We trust that we shall always deserve the Continuance of this Favour, by aiming sincerely in all our Meetings to promote the Happiness of your Majesty's Government, and the true Interest of the Church of which we are Members; Objects which, we are sensible, merit our most fixed and constant Attention, and which we well know to be inseparably connected.

To prevent the Growth of Popery, a Superstition alike contrary to the Word of God and to the free and happy Constitution of your Majesty's Kingdoms; to suppress Vice and Immorality, which our Holy Religion teaches us to abhor; and to recommend Virtue and Piety to Mankind, are Ends which we are strictly bound to pursue with unwearied Diligence. It is in the Spirit of that Wisdom which cometh from above, that your Majesty points out these to us as the proper Objects of true Zeal. By the Assistance of God, to these our Zeal shall be confined.—And as your Majesty's Approbation of the Prudence, Wisdom, and Moderation of former Assemblies, convinces us with how favour-

able an Eye your Majesty is pleased to look on the Judicatories of this Church, it must animate us with the most ardent Desire to emulate those who have gone before us in the Exercise of Qualities which have procured them so honourable a Testimony from your Majesty. Permit us to assure your Majesty, that it shall be our sincere Endeavour, by maintaining Charity, Brotherly Love and Unanimity through all the Proceedings of this Assembly, to render ourselves not unworthy of the like Royal Approbation, when it shall be brought to a Conclusion.

We have such an high Sense of the undisturbed Tranquility and Freedom which we enjoy in common with all your Majesty's Subjects, that it shall be our Endeavour to confirm the People committed to our Charge in the Principles of Loyalty, and to infuse into their Minds the Knowledge and Love of that most Holy Religion which promotes their Interests in the future Life, by inculcating all the Virtues which can render them dutiful and useful Subjects and Friends to our happy Constitution, and which most effectually promote their true Happiness in the present Life.

We most thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's Royal Donation for promoting Religion and Virtue in the less civilized Parts of this Nation, as a new Proof of your Majesty's Concern for the best Interests of your Subjects; and we shall be careful to apply it in such a Manner, that it may most effectually contribute to the Accomplishment of your Majesty's pious Intentions.

The approved Zeal of the Earl of Glasgow in your Majesty's Service, his strict Integrity, his great Abilities for the Discharge of so high a Trust, his exemplary Regard to Religion, his warm Affection to this Church, and his many amiable Qualities and Christian Virtues, make your Majesty's Choice of him to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to this whole Church.

That the King of Heaven and Earth may long preserve your Majesty, the Guardian of Liberty, and the Pattern of Piety and Virtue, to your People; that He may render your Administration prosperous; that He may pour down His Blessings on your Royal Consort, our gracious Queen; that the Divine Favour may ever attend his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the Whole of your Royal Family; that your Descendants may to latest Ages reign over a free and loyal People; that after a long and happy Life on Earth, you may enjoy the glorious Crown of Immortality, are and ever shall be 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
this National Assembly of the
Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our
Appointment, by
Edinburgh, May 26, 1764. *Alex. Gerard, Moderator.*