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Whitehall, May 24, 1827.

**T**HE following Addresses of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, having been transmitted by James Ochothar Lord Forbes, His Majesty's Commissioner, to the Right Honourable William Sturges Bourne, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, have been by him presented to the King, which Addresses His Majesty was pleased to receive very graciously :

*May it please your Majesty,*

THE gracious letter with which your Majesty has been pleased to honour this General Assembly of our National Church, demands from us the most grateful and respectful return, which can be rendered by subjects, who are sensible of the inestimable benefits which they enjoy, under the paternal Government of a King, who is ever alive to the dearest and most sacred interests of his people.

The condescending notice which your Majesty has taken of the reiterated proofs of zeal for the maintenance and advancement of the Protestant Religion, and of unshaken loyalty and affection for your Majesty's Person and Government, which have been given, in times past, by our predecessors and ourselves, cannot fail to confirm and enliven the sentiments of devoted allegiance, which we have heretofore entertained, and which it so well becomes us to cherish and avow.

As your Majesty has been pleased cheerfully to countenance our present meeting, with your full approval and royal authority, and to express the most entire reliance that we will persevere in acting upon the same well grounded principles, for the encouragement of virtue in the best and most efficacious manner, we trust that, through the aid of Divine Grace, we shall be enabled to fulfil, in some degree, your Majesty's expectations, and to prove ourselves not unworthy of the assurance, that the Church of Scotland, as by law established, shall enjoy your Majesty's undiminished protection for securing to it the complete possession of all its rights and privileges.

We have been so strongly impressed with a sense of the fidelity and ability of the Noble Lord who has been appointed to represent your Royal Person

in this General Assembly, of his diligence and prudence in the discharge of so important a trust, of his steady attachment to your Majesty's service, and of his zealous adherence to the substantial interests of this Church, that we regard your Majesty's repeated choice of him as one of the most gratifying marks of your royal favour.

Your Majesty's donation of two thousand pounds, for the propagation of Christian knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we receive with humble gratitude, as an additional proof of your royal munificence, and of your pious concern for the spiritual improvement of your people; and it shall be our study, by a prudent and faithful application of it, to promote the great and good purposes for which it is bestowed.

We crave permission to assure your Majesty, that we shall anxiously exert ourselves to conduct the business of this Assembly, so as to attain the object which your Majesty has recommended to us, the advancement of true religion and piety; and we earnestly hope, that, both in our deliberations at this time, and in our assiduous endeavours to train the people under our charge in the principles and practice of Christianity, we shall be instrumental in securing their attachment to the Government, and their obedience to the mild and equitable laws under which it is the happiness of Britons to live.

That Almighty God may ever extend his guardianship to your Majesty's Person and his guidance to your councils; that he may satisfy you with length of days and the durable riches of righteousness; that he may bless you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; and that after you have long swayed the sceptre, over a free, a prosperous, and a religious people, he may present you before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, is the earnest prayer of, may it please your Majesty, your Majesty's most faithful, most loyal, and most obedient subjects, the Ministers and Elders of this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

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

*Robert Waldane, Moderator.*

Edinburgh, May 19, 1827.