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TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1897.

Scottish Office, Whitehall, May 29, 1897.

THE following Address of the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly, having been transmitted by His Grace the Lord High Commissioner to the Right Honourable Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Her Majesty's Secretary for Scotland, has been by him laid before the Queen, who was pleased to receive the same very graciously:—

To the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly, have received with liveliest gratitude Your Majesty's most gracious Letter.

We thank Your Majesty for the renewed and ever welcome assurance of the affectionate regard in which Your Majesty holds the Church of Scotland, and of Your Majesty's resolution to maintain it in all its rights and privileges. Of both we have enjoyed many unquestionable tokens since the day when God did set the Crown upon Your Majesty's head, and Your Majesty was charged "to do justice, stay the growth of iniquity, and protect the holy Church of God."

We shall continue to endeavour to deserve Your Majesty's approval by faithful discharge of our sacred duties, and by constant devotion to the spiritual and temporal welfare of Your Scottish subjects.

We thankfully acknowledge Your Majesty's gracious gift of two thousand pounds, and we gladly undertake to apply it to the important purposes indicated in Your Majesty's gracious Letter.

We have again heartily welcomed the Marquess of Tweeddale as Your Majesty's representative in this Assembly, remembering as we do his strong attachment to our Church in which he is an Elder, the dignity and efficiency with which on previous occasions he discharged all the duties of his high office, and the unfailing courtesy and consideration which he displayed to former General Assemblies.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE thank Almighty God the Giver of all good for the many blessings bestowed during Your Majesty's Sixty Years of Sovereignty, and we earnestly pray that Your Majesty's reign may be prolonged and that Your Majesty may see these blessings continued to the unnumbered peoples who rejoice in Your Majesty's Sovereignty.

May it please Your Majesty, Your Majesty's loyal Subjects and Servants, the Ministers

and Elders of the Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly.

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

L. S.

*Wm. Mair, D.D.,
Moderator.*

Edinburgh, May 22, 1897.

War Office, June 1, 1897.

A FURTHER Despatch, with enclosures, in continuation of that published in the London Gazette of the 9th March, 1897, having been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the Right Honourable H. G. R., Lord Rosmead, the following is published for information:—

To the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.
42, Princes-gardens, S.W.

Sir, *May 11, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter which I have received from Sir Frederick Carrington in continuation of his despatch of 12th December last. As the letter is marked on the outside "Urgent," I think it better to forward it to you direct instead of incurring the delay of sending it to South Africa to be dealt with by the High Commissioner.

I have, &c.,
ROSMEAD.

To the Right Honourable Lord Rosmead,
G.C.M.G.

Gibraltar,

My Lord, *6th May, 1897.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 12th December, 1896, I have the honour to bring to your Lordship's special notice the good services rendered during the late operations in Matabeleland and Mashonaland by Mr. Duncan (late Royal Navy), Surveyor-General under the administration of the British South Africa Company.

Mr. Duncan was in charge of affairs at Buluwayo at the time the rebellion broke out in Matabeleland, and, until the arrival of Sir Richard Martin, conducted the military operations in that country, including the relief and rescue of settlers in the district, and the organization of the defences at Buluwayo.

He subsequently proceeded to Mashonaland, and displayed great gallantry, first, in riding