

people, by our Monarch's sharing in the offices of religion through which we endeavour to promote these ends, as well as by Her ready sympathy with the joys and sorrows of all who are under Her rule.

The occurrence of Your Majesty's eightieth birthday during our Session enables the Assembly to express in this form, as well as by a special religious service, their gratitude to Almighty God for continuing through so many years a life and reign so rich in blessing to the Empire. We feel that for the stability which has accompanied its remarkable progress and expansion, and for the hope of peaceful and prosperous times in the future, we are in great measure indebted to the wise and impartial rule of our earthly Sovereign under the Supreme Majesty of our Heavenly King. Our earnest prayer to Him is that for the confirmation and increase of these blessings Your Majesty's life may be prolonged and its example be thereafter transmitted with the Crown to many generations.

The General Assembly congratulates itself on the appointment of the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven and Melville as Lord High Commissioner. His selection by Your Majesty as representative of the Sovereign, and our recollections of his uniform courtesy during his former tenure of the office, make his return among us doubly welcome.

We have to express our gratitude for the generous gift of which he is the bearer, and to assure Your Majesty that it will be our care to employ it so as to further the ends for which it has been bestowed.

We trust that in this and all the other duties to which we are called at this time we shall have the guidance of Him, to whose Fatherly care Your Majesty commends us, and that all our Counsels will be carried out in a Christian spirit. When our deliberations are concluded we shall continue to pray that the Divine Blessing may be with Your Majesty here and hereafter.

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



John Pagan, D.D.,
Moderator.

Edinburgh, May 22, 1899.

Whitehall, May 31, 1899.

THE Queen has been pleased to issue a Commission under Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual to the following effect :—

VICTORIA, R.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to—

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Henry, Baron James of Hereford, Chairman ;
Our right trusty and well-beloved cousin Henry Robert, Viscount Hampden, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George ; and

Our trusty and well-beloved :—

Ailwyn Edward Fellowes, Esquire (commonly called the Honourable Ailwyn Edward Fellowes) ;
Sir George Ernest Paget, Baronet ;

Sir John Wolfe Wolfe-Barry, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath ;

Sir Guilford Lindsey Molesworth, Knight Commander of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire ;

Sir Alfred Hickman, Knight ;

Sir Charles Scotter, Knight ;

Charles Scrope Hutchinson, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Major-General on the Retired List of Our Army ;

Henry Hardinge Samuel Cunynghame, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, Legal Assistant Under Secretary of State for the Home Department ;

William Mitchell Acworth, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law ;

Archibald Campbell Elliott, Esquire, Doctor of Science, Professor of Engineering at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire ;

John Edward Ellis, Esquire ;

Charles Fenwick, Esquire ; and

Walter Hudson, Esquire ; Greeting !

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire into the causes of the accidents, fatal and non-fatal, to servants of Railway Companies and of truck owners, and to report on the possibility of adopting means to reduce the number of such accidents, having regard to the working of railways, the rules and regulations made, and the safety appliances used by Railway Companies :

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have nominated, constituted, and appointed, and do by these Presents nominate, constitute, and appoint, you, the said Henry, Baron James of Hereford ; Henry Robert, Viscount Hampden ; Ailwyn Edward Fellowes ; Sir George Ernest Paget ; Sir John Wolfe Wolfe-Barry ; Sir Guilford Lindsey Molesworth ; Sir Alfred Hickman ; Sir Charles Scotter ; Charles Scrope Hutchinson ; Henry Hardinge Samuel Cunynghame ; William Mitchell Acworth ; Archibald Campbell Elliott ; John Edward Ellis ; Charles Fenwick ; and Walter Hudson to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said inquiry.

And for the better effecting the purposes of this Our Commission, We do by these Presents give and grant unto you, or any five or more of you, full power to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission ; and also to call for, have access to, and examine all such books, documents, registers, and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject ; and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever.

And We do by these Presents authorize and empower you, or any five or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid, and to employ such persons as you may think fit to assist you in conducting any inquiry which you may hold.

And We do by these Presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our said Commissioners, or any five or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment.