

loving appreciation of the goodness and great qualities of My dearly beloved Mother.

"I thank you for your dutiful good wishes, and I share your hope that My reign also may be blessed by a continuous growth of My people in enlightenment, refinement, and power for good.

"The intellectual attainments and energies which your Society so conspicuously represents are among the most precious possessions of the nation as aids in securing these high ends, and I remember with gratification the close connexion of the Society with its Royal founder and My other predecessors on this Throne, and the fact that I am a Fellow, as was also My dear Father.

"You may feel assured of my constant interest in and protection of your work: and in token of My good will I shall be pleased to inscribe My name as patron in the charter book."

Scottish Office, Whitehall, February 25, 1901.

THE following Address was presented to His Majesty at St. James's Palace on the 23rd instant:—

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

THE Loyal and Dutiful Address of the Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's most Loyal and Dutiful Subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the Commission of the General Assembly, desire to take the earliest opportunity of humbly offering the tribute of our sincere condolence to Your Majesty and the Royal Family on the Death of our late Revered and Beloved Sovereign of Blessed and Glorious Memory, and our cordial congratulations on Your Majesty's Accession to the Throne of Your Ancestors.

We recall the glorious reign of the departed Sovereign with profound thankfulness to Almighty God for all the signal blessings which we so long enjoyed under Her wise and beneficent rule. We remember with heartfelt gratitude the many virtues which adorned Her beautiful and illustrious life, drawing towards Her in a degree pre-eminent and unexampled the devotion and affection of Her subjects, and the unstinted admiration of the world. The recollection of Her great goodness will never fade from the memory of living men, or from the pages of British history. Her steadfast faith in God, Her high sense of duty, Her unflinching sympathy with the joys and sorrows of Her people, Her unwearied efforts to promote the happiness and well-being of all classes, and the manifold influences of Her splendid example which did so much to elevate and purify the life of the nation, have made Her reign the most memorable, as it has been the longest, in the annals of the Empire.

We rejoice to find in Your Majesty's gracious declaration the expression of Your Majesty's earnest purpose and desire to follow the footsteps of our late Sovereign, by maintaining the same principles of constitutional government, by seeking to advance the good and improvement of the people, and by the manifestation of those Christian virtues which impart the brightest lustre to the Crown.

It has been most pleasing to us to learn how readily the constitutional pledge required by the Act of Union was proffered by Your Majesty at Your first Council, to maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the true Protestant religion with the government, worship, discipline,

rights, and privileges of the Church of Scotland as established by law.

Firmly relying as we do on the fulfilment of this solemn vow, and remembering with gratitude to God how long the protection of our civil and religious liberties has been identified with the Royal House, as also the affectionate regard in which Her late Majesty ever held the National Church established in Her ancient Kingdom of Scotland, and being fully persuaded that the love of righteousness and the fear of God pervading all classes of the people, are the best safeguard of the stability of the Throne, and of the peace and prosperity of the Kingdom, we esteem it a sacred duty to encourage and exhort the people under our charge to maintain inviolate their loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Government, and to render that willing obedience to the laws which the precepts of the Gospel require not only for wrath but for conscience sake.

That He who is King of kings and Lord of lords, in whose hands it is to make great, may abundantly bless Your Majesty and Your august and gracious Consort with the treasures of His grace and wisdom, that He may establish Your Throne in righteousness, that the power of the Most High may sustain You amidst all the labours and cares of Your exalted station, that You may long reign in the heart of a free, loyal, and religious people, and that after a prosperous and glorious reign on earth You may be called to an inheritance incorruptible and unfading in that Kingdom which cannot be moved, is the heart's desire and prayer of

May it please Your Majesty, Your Majesty's most faithful, most loyal, and most obedient subjects, the Ministers and Elders of this Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

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

*Norman Macleod, D.D.,
Moderator.*

Edinburgh, the 30th day of January, 1901.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

"IT is with sincere gratification that I receive the loyal and dutiful Address of the Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

"I thank you with all My heart, for your very touching reference to the irreparable loss which the Nation has sustained by the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, My revered Mother, whose memory will, I feel sure, for ever dwell in the loving hearts of Her people.

"I also thank you for your warm congratulations on My accession to the Throne, and the valued expressions of goodwill towards Myself and the Queen.

"You may securely rely upon the fulfilment of the sacred obligation under which I bound Myself on My accession, to maintain inviolate the rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland.

"I also firmly rely on the loyalty and attachment of her Ministers and Elders to My Throne and Person, and I pray that, under the blessing of Almighty God, the Church of Scotland may long continue, by the promotion of true religion and virtue, to exercise its powerful influence for good amongst My faithful and beloved subjects of Scotland."