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*Edinburgh, May 4.*

**T**HE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met here on Thursday the 2d Instant, and proceeded to the Choice of a Moderator, which fell upon Mr. William Withart Principal of the College of Edinburgh, who has born that Office in several former General Assemblies His Majesty's Commissioning the Right Honourable the Earl of Loudoun His Majesty's High Commissioner, was read; as was also His Majesty's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly His Majesty's High Commissioner made a Speech to the Assembly; to which the Moderator in their Name returned a very respectful Answer.

*His Majesty's High Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

*Right Reverend and Right Honourable,*

**T**HE Death of so great and so good a King as we have lost since your last Meeting, must have affected you in a very sensible Manner, who during the whole Course of his Reign have received so many Marks of his Royal Protection and Favour.

This great Loss has been well repaired by His Majesty's peaceable Accession to the Throne of His Royal Ancestors, who while Prince of Wales, gave us Reason to hope for all the Blessings which can be expected under the best of Governments; and whose Reign has made good and confirmed our Hopes.

I have received His Majesty's Commands to assure you, that he is very sensible of the steady Adherence of this Church to the Succession of His Family, and to the Protestant Interest in general; and that he has the most entire Confidence in your Loyalty and Affection for His Person and Government.

I am authorized by His Majesty to take this first Opportunity to tell you, that it is His Majesty's fix'd and determin'd Resolution inviolably to maintain and support Presbyterian Government in the Church of Scotland, in the full Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges

It is so much your Duty, and has been so much your Practice, to promote true Religion and Piety, to use sincere Endeavours to suppress Profaneness and Immorality, and to prevent the Growth of Popery, that His Majesty's assuring you of His chearful and ready Concurrence for promoting these great and good Ends must be very agreeable to you, and animate you to exert yourselves still more and more in these Duties.

That you may be the better enabled to prevent the Growth of Popery and Ignorance in the Highlands and Islands, His Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant Warrant for One Thousand Pounds for the Entertainment of Itinerant Preachers and Catechists in these Countries, to be managed and accounted for in the Manner as directed by the former, and by this Warrant which is in my Hands.

I know that you will receive this Mark of His Majesty's Favour with all imaginable Gratitude, and that you will take Care that the pious Purposes for which it is granted, may be still farther promoted, and the People there taught their Duty to God and the King.

*Right Reverend and Right Honourable,*

His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon me the Honour of representing His Royal Person in

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this Assembly; your Conduct in former Assemblies and particularly in those where I had the Honour to represent His late Majesty, encouraged me to undertake this important Trust, which I shall endeavour to execute with great Fidelity for His Majesty, and with a sincere Regard to the Interest of the Church of Scotland

I doubt not you are come together with the best Dispositions for the Good of both Church and State. I hope your Deliberations will be managed with the Prudence and Moderation, and your Decisions accompanied with the Unanimity, Equity and Justice usual in your Assemblies; so that this may be brought to as happy a Conclusion as any former Assembly of this Church.

Then a Committee being appointed, drew up a most loyal and dutiful Answer to His Majesty's most gracious Letter; which Answer was unanimously agreed to this Day.

The Assembly also, by unanimous Consent, took this first Opportunity of their meeting since His Majesty's Succession to the Throne, to make an humble and loyal Address to His Majesty upon that happy Occasion.

*St. James's, May 8.*

The Answer of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to His Majesty's most gracious Letter, and their Address to His Majesty upon His Succession to the Throne, were this Day presented to His Majesty by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State; which His Majesty was pleased to receive most graciously.

*The Answer of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to His Majesty's most Gracious Letter.*

*May it please your Majesty,*

**T**HE Honour done by your Majesty's most gracious Letter to this first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which had the Happiness to meet since the Beginning of your Majesty's most auspicious Reign, we received with the greatest Joy, and do acknowledge with the utmost Gratitude.

The Mention your Majesty is pleased to make of the firm and steady Adherence of our former General Assemblies to the Succession in your Royal Family, and to the Protestant Interest in general; of their Zeal for the Advancement of Piety and Virtue; and of the Prudence, Wisdom and Moderation which influenced their Councils and Debates; shews us your Majesty's kind Inclination to approve, in the most favourable manner, what hath been done by others before us according to their Duty, and is a great Encouragement to us to follow the good Example of these, with whom your Majesty hath the Goodness to express your self so well pleased: And the countenancing our present Meeting with your Majesty's Royal Authority, we take as a great Blessing from God, and a most engaging Evidence of your Majesty's Royal Goodness.

Your Majesty's being pleas'd to acquaint us in so kind and gracious a Manner, that it is with the greatest Pleasure you take this first Opportunity of assuring us of your fix'd and determin'd Purpose and Resolution to maintain and support the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in the full Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges, as by Law established, is an endearing Testimony of your Royal