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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.