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FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1898.

SCOTTISH OFFICE, WHITEHALL,
May 31, 1898.

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 :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

We, Your Majesty's loyal and devoted subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly, have received with gladness and with lively gratitude Your Majesty's most gracious Letter.

We receive with the utmost satisfaction and thankfulness the renewed assurance of Your Majesty's affectionate regard for the Church of Scotland, and Your resolution to maintain it in all its rights and privileges. The unflinching sympathy of Your Majesty, and the confidence which Your Majesty is graciously pleased to repose in us, are to us a great comfort and encouragement. We trust at all times to deserve the good opinion of Your Majesty.

We most thankfully acknowledge Your Majesty's gracious gift of two thousand pounds, and in the administration of it shall carefully have respect to the wishes expressed by Your Majesty.

We have been sincerely gratified to receive Your Majesty's Commission to the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven and Melville to represent Your Royal Person in this General Assembly, and we have given him a cordial welcome. We recognise in him the worthy descendant of ancestors who many times received the like honour from their Sovereign, and the bearer of an illustrious and historic name, well known to fame in many fields, and associated in our memories with the heroism which, in troublous times, defended the liberties of our Church and Nation.

We would humbly renew the expression of our loyalty and attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Throne. We rejoice in the loving kindness of God so abundantly experienced by Your Majesty; and it is our earnest prayer that still His favour may compass You about and extend to all places of Your dominions.

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.

THOMAS LEISHMAN, Moderator.

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1898.