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SCOTTISH OFFICE, WHITEHALL,

June 1, 1901.

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, K.T., His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland, has been by him laid before the King, who was pleased to receive the same very graciously :—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
 MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly, have received with feelings of profound gratitude Your Majesty's most gracious Letter.

Approving of the promptitude with which the Commission of the last General Assembly instructed a Deputation of their number to convey to Your Majesty the assurance of our sincere condolence on the occasion of the death of our late revered and beloved Sovereign, and concurring entirely in the sentiments of devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Throne and Person which were expressed by them, we have received with liveliest satisfaction their report of the manner in which Your Majesty was pleased to

accept that act of homage, performed by the representatives of the National Church.

Recalling the glorious and beneficent reign of the departed Queen, we give thanks to Almighty God for the faithfulness, wisdom, and sympathy with which she was enabled to fulfil all the duties of a Constitutional Sovereign during a period of unexampled duration, and to set before Her people the bright example of Her personal and domestic virtues which added lustre to Her Throne.

We have observed with gladness that Your Majesty's Accession to the Throne of Your Ancestors has been hailed with acclamation by Your loyal subjects, and we desire, with all due submission and respect, to offer to Your Majesty our heartfelt congratulations on the auspicious commencement of Your reign. It is our fervent prayer that You may be guided and sustained under the cares, solitudes, and burdens of Sovereignty, that the fulfilment of the arduous duties of Your exalted station may prove a source of unflinching satisfaction to Your own heart, and of lasting benefit to the great Kingdom and Empire, over which you have been called, in the good Providence of God, to rule.

We thank Your Majesty for the assurance of Your fixed purpose to continue to the Church of Scotland, as by law established, the same countenance and support which it has received from