

your councils, we most sincerely deplore the event which has so prematurely removed him from them; and whilst we rely in confidence that a wise successor will be soon appointed to him, we again beg leave to assure your Royal Highness, of our firm attachment to your royal person, and determination as a body and individually, to support the laws of the country at the present crisis, and the magistracy in the due execution of them.

Signed, in name and by appointment of council, by
William Brown, Chief Magistrate.

[Presented by *Sir James Shaw*, Bart. M. P.]

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Ireland.

WE, the Magistrates and Common Council of the Town of Paisley, in Council assembled, most humbly present to your Royal Highness sentiments of utter abhorrence of the cruel assassination of the late Right Honourable Spencer Perceval, First Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, of condolence and unfeigned regret for the loss sustained by your Royal Highness, in consequence of the untimely death of so eminent a Minister, and of lamentation for the injury inflicted on society by the deprivation of a man, so distinguished for integrity, ability, simplicity of life and manners, and the exercise of every amiable private virtue.—May 26, 1812.

Signed and sealed in our name and presence,
John Davidson, Chief Magistrate.

[Transmitted by *John Davidson*, Esq., and presented
by *Mr. Secretary Ryder*.]

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT.

May it please your Royal Highness,

WE, the Ministers and Elders of the Scots Presbytery in London, desire most humbly to approach your Royal Highness with sentiments of the deepest concern, and most respectful condolence, on the great loss your Royal Highness has sustained by the sudden death of the Right Honourable Spencer Perceval. With feelings of the most cordial and afflictive sympathy, with the universal gloom and consternation which this dreadful event has excited throughout the kingdom; and with the mingled emotions of reprobation, astonishment, and horror at the unparalleled cruelty and atrocity of the crime which has thus deprived your Royal Highness and the country of the valuable services of one pre-eminently distinguished by his transcendent abilities, his exemplary worth, and his exalted virtues, both private and public.

This severe and dark dispensation of Divine Providence, which has permitted the hand of an assassin to deprive the nation of one of its brightest ornaments, and nefariously to terminate a life most justly dear to his family and his country, we contemplate with solemn awe and humiliation of mind before God. We view with the deepest anxiety and regret the interruption of the public business, which, at a moment of unusual national difficulty, it has occasioned. We lament with the most heartfelt sorrow, that, in a land so universally blessed

with the light of Christianity, a single individual could be found so unprincipled and abandoned, as to be capable of committing, on any occasion, the crime of deliberate assassination;—a crime hitherto almost unknown, except by name, in Great Britain, and which, it was fondly hoped, had vanished for ever with the ignorance and barbarity that gave it rise: and we reflect with tenfold horror on the atrocity of that assassin who could basely and deliberately murder such a man as Mr. Perceval, in the very lobby of the Commons' House of Parliament, when proceeding to the discharge of the arduous duties of the high station which he filled, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Prime Minister of this country.

Could we conceive it possible that this daring and unexampled crime had been the result of combination, and that the assassin had been only the instrument of others, we should have infinite reason to weep over the degraded morals of our native land, and to bewail the inefficiency of that Gospel, of which we are honoured to be the preachers, to restrain the arm of violence, and to subdue the corruptions of the human heart:—but it affords us some consolation to know that the perpetration of the crime was the offspring of private malice alone, —the unconnected explosion of individual atrocity, —the base and murderous villainy of a solitary wretch, dead to every principle of religion, humanity, and honour, and deaf to every claim of public duty and domestic life.

We would revere the universal feeling of indignation and horror which the crime has excited in the country, as a bright token, amid the darkness it has occasioned, of the open, manly, and virtuous spirit which breathes in the bosom of the British public, which detests every thing treacherous, cowardly, and cruel, as much as it delights in every thing connected with true magnanimity, heroism, humanity and glory.

We would express, in common with all ranks of our fellow-subjects, our grateful satisfaction in witnessing that paternal solicitude which your Royal Highness has evinced, to provide, in some measure, for the numerous and interesting family who now bemoan the irreparable loss of Mr. Perceval; the affectionate readiness of your Royal Highness to mitigate their unspeakable calamity and affliction; and thus to spread the wide mantle of your Royal Highness's princely protection over the disconsolate survivors of that virtuous, distinguished, and ever-to-be-lamented servant of the crown.

That your Royal Highness may long be preserved to be the protector of the helpless and the unfortunate, the benefactor of the favoured and happy country over which it hath pleased Divine Providence to place your Royal Highness, is the most cordial wish, and shall ever be the most fervent prayer of, *May it please your Royal Highness, your Royal Highness's most loyal, most humble, and most dutiful servants, the Ministers and Elders of the Scots Presbytery in London.*

William Smith, A. M. Moderator.

London, May 25, 1812.

[Transmitted by the *Rev. Dr. Young*, and presented
by *Mr. Secretary Ryder*.]

