

We are peculiarly gratified by the lively interest which your Royal Highness continues to feel in the prosperity of the Church of Scotland, and by the notice taken of the advantages which a large portion of His Majesty's subjects have derived from the counsels of her General Assemblies. It is a pledge of the happy union which subsists between our religious and civil establishments, that the annual meetings of the General Assembly of our National Church take place under royal countenance and protection, and we trust that our proceedings, upon the present occasion, will secure to us a continuance of that favour which we have experienced through so long and uninterrupted a series of years.

The appointment of William Earl of Errol, to represent the sacred person of our beloved Sovereign among us, we regard as an additional pledge of the royal favour. The eminent qualifications which he possesses for discharging the duties of this great trust, cannot fail to render him acceptable to us, and command the respect and reverence which, in his high and important office, he is entitled to receive. We rely with full assurance on his countenance and cordial support in all our efforts to promote the cause of true religion and piety, and thus secure the welfare and happiness of the people committed to our care.

The confidence and affection, inspired by the wisdom and discretion of former Assemblies, with which your Royal Highness is graciously pleased to regard us, fill our minds with sentiments of the warmest gratitude, and encourage us to redouble our zeal in administering useful instruction, and in the discharge of every public and private duty.

We lament, with unfeigned sorrow, that a spirit inimical to the established Constitution, and the existing form of Government of these realms, exists in any description of His Majesty's subjects. Though well assured that the principles of unshaken loyalty, and a just sense of the blessings of our inestimable Constitution generally prevail in this part of the United Kingdom, we shall guard, with anxious solicitude, against the beginnings of evil, and employ our most strenuous exertions to counteract the effects of any wicked and designing persons who may labour to increase so mischievous a spirit, and to promote general discontent.

Receiving with all respect the intimations of danger, we shall exert the vigilance which the pressure of the times demands, and be diligent in exposing the designs of those, who, under the specious semblance of reform, inculcate doctrines the most extravagant and dangerous, and who, by constant misrepresentations and wicked means, endeavour to bring into contempt all the civil and religious establishments and institutions of the United Kingdom.

Fully satisfied of the powerful efficacy of religious principle, and that nothing can be more effectual to repress those evils than a thorough and sincere belief in the doctrines of Christianity, we listen with reverence to the call upon us, and will not fail to use our unremitting exertions to establish the salutary influence of the Gospel in the minds of those committed to our charge, and to enforce a due obedience to the laws, upon Christian principles, and from Christian motives.

Contemplating steadily the great objects of our

holy vocation, we humbly trust that entire dependence may be placed on our zealous endeavours to promote the growth of true piety, and a due reverence for the sacred word of Almighty God; and we are convinced that while we impress upon the minds of our people a strict and conscientious discharge of their duties both civil and religious, we are directing them to the only means by which individual happiness and national prosperity can be secured. We feel the unspeakably strong obligations which we are under to perform worthily the sacred duties assigned to us, for it is only by so doing that we can promote the glory of God and the happiness of our fellow creatures.

We rejoice in the assurance that it is the great object of your Royal Highness to secure and continue to all His Majesty's subjects the invaluable possession of their laws, their liberties, and their excellent Constitution: and we receive with the most sincere gratitude the renewed expression of your full determination to maintain and support the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all her rights and privileges as by law established.

We receive with all thankfulness the royal donation of two thousand pounds, for the propagation of Christian knowledge and the principles of the reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. We shall be anxiously studious, by a faithful application of this bounty, to accomplish the pious and benevolent purposes for which it has been bestowed.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may bless, sustain, and console His Majesty the King; that he may bless abundantly the Queen, your Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales, and all the Members of the Royal Family; that he may direct and prosper the measures of His Majesty's Government, and that Princes of your illustrious House may be the guardians of our national blessings, and reign over a free and a happy people to the latest posterity, are the fervent prayers of, may it please your Royal Highness, His Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed, in our name, in our presence, and at our appointment, by *Gavin Gibb, Moderator*  
Edinburgh, May 24, 1817.

*May it please your Royal Highness,*

WE, His Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, beg leave to lay before the Throne this humble expression of our dutiful and affectionate respect for His Majesty's person and family, and of devoted attachment to that Constitution of Government under which the goodness of Divine Providence has placed us.

We offer to your Royal Highness, during the continuance of our beloved Sovereign's lamented indisposition, the sympathy which we feel, in common with a people to whom from his paternal reign and private virtues, he has been so long and so deservedly endeared.

We shared the general horror of the nation at the recent atrocious assault upon your Royal Highness's sacred person, returning from Parliament in