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Whitehall, May 30.

ON the 14th Instant the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh, and chose for their Moderator Mr. William Hamilton. His Majesty's Commission to the Right Honourable the Earl of Loudoun was read; as was likewise his Majesty's most gracious Letter to the Assembly. His Majesty's High Commissioner made a Speech to the Assembly, which was answered on their Part by the Moderator; and a Committee being appointed, drew up a dutiful Answer to his Majesty's most gracious Letter; which having been transmitted by the Moderator to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, has by him been presented to his Majesty, who was pleased to receive it very graciously.

His Majesty's High Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Right Reverend and Right Honourable,
YOU are met together in this Assembly under his Majesty's Protection, to deliberate upon what is proper to be done in your Capacities for the promoting of true Religion, and to concert the Measures that may best conduce to the Peace and Welfare of the Church, the Advancement of Piety and Virtue, the preventing the Growth of Popery, and the suppressing of Prophaneness and Immorality.

These are the great Ends of your Meeting, in which you have always us'd your most sincere and hearty Endeavours.

The Assurances the King has been pleased to give you in his most gracious Letter of his Approbation and Concurrence in whatever may effectually answer these good Purposes, must be very agreeable to you, and encourage you more and more in the Pursuit of them.

That you may be the better enabled to prevent the Growth of Popery and Ignorance in the Highlands and Islands, his Majesty has been graciously pleas'd to renew his Warrant for One thousand Pounds for the Entertainment of Itinerant Ministers and Catechists in the Countries, to be managed and accounted for in the Manner as in the Warrant which is in my Hands. I hope by the Blessing of God you have made some Progress there, in teaching those People Religion and Loyalty, and that you will continue to take Care, that the pious Purposes for which it is granted, may be still farther carry'd on.

I have received his Majesty's Commands to assure you, that he is very sensible of the steady Adherence of this Church to the Succession of his Family, and to the Protestant Interest in general, and that he has an entire Confidence in your Loyalty.

I am authorized by the King to tell you,

that it is his Majesty's fixt and determin'd Resolution, inviolably to maintain the Presbyterian Government of the Church of Scotland in the full Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges.

Right Reverend and Right Honourable,

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer upon me the Honour of representing his Royal Person in this Assembly.

The Proofs you have given of your Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and your Conduct in former Assemblies, particularly in those where I had the Honour to represent his present Majesty and his Royal Father, have encouraged me to undertake this great Trust, in which the Prudence that prevails in all your Consultations will be a great Assistance to me in discharging it with Fidelity to his Majesty, and a sincere Regard to the Interest of this Church.

Your hearty Dispositions to the Good both of Church and State, the Unanimity, Moderation and Brotherly Love, that I am confident will appear in your Proceedings, and cast a Lustre upon them, together with the Equity and Justice of your Decisions, and the Dispatch of Affairs to come before you, cannot fail to bring this Assembly to a happy Conclusion, and afford me the Pleasure of giving a good Account of it to his Majesty.

The General Assembly's Answer to His Majesty's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE repeated Assurances and frequent Instances of your Majesty's Royal Favour and Countenance, renew'd in your Majesty's most gracious Letter, with which we are honour'd at this Time, next to the Favour of our God, gives us the greatest Joy.

Your Majesty's Royal Approbation, in so full a Manner of the Conduct of former General Assemblies of this Church, the Countenance which your Majesty with so much Pleasure graciously gives to our present Meeting, and your Majesty's unalterable Resolution to maintain this Church, as it is established by Law, in the full and perfect Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges, bring us under the strongest Obligation to be of the same Dispositions and Intentions as former Assemblies have been, and to direct all our Proceedings to the Glory of God, the Advancement of your Majesty's Service, the Prosperity of the Church, and the Good of the Country.

We beg Leave with all Humility to express our grateful Acknowledgments of the Assurances which your Majesty is pleased to give us of your Royal Favour and Protection, in the Prosecution of such Measures as may best conduce to these great Ends of our meeting, the Peace and Welfare of the Church, the Advancement of Piety and Virtue, the preventing the Growth of Popery, and the suppressing of Profaneness and Immorality. And we esteem

