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Whitehall, May 23.

ON the 4th Instant the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh, and chose for their Moderator Mr. Neil Campbell, Principal of the University of Glasgow. His Majesty's Commission constituting the Right Honourable the Marquess of Lothian His Majesty's High Commissioner was read; as was also His Majesty's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly. His Majesty's High Commissioner made a Speech to the Assembly; to which the Moderator in their Name returned a very respectful Answer. Then a Committee being appointed, drew up a most loyal and dutiful Answer to His Majesty's most gracious Letter; which Answer was unanimously agreed to on the 6th; and having been transmitted to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, has by him been laid before His Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty being pleased in your most gracious Letter to us, kindly to express your Satisfaction with the Zeal and Loyalty of our former Assemblies, and their Affection to your Person, Royal Family, and Government, is a great Pleasure to us, and cannot but engage us carefully to follow the same dutiful Measures in this Meeting.

We esteem it our great Happiness, that we have a Sovereign upon the Throne, who recommends to us the pursuing of so high and good Ends, as the Glory of God, the Peace of the Church, and the Welfare of our Country; and that your Majesty is graciously pleased, from a Perswasion of our Regard to these Ends, willingly to countenance our Meeting with your Royal Authority, and to renew on this Occasion the Assurances which you have formerly given us, of your fixt Purpose and Resolution to maintain this Church, as it is established by Law, in the full and free Possession and Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges, which we most thankfully acknowledge, and presume with Confidence to rely upon.

The promoting of true Religion and Virtue, the preventing the Growth of Popery, and suppressing of Profaneness and Immorality, we hope, shall always be the great Subject

and Design of our Consultations; for the accomplishing of these valuable Ends, we are sensible how much (under God) we need your Majesty's Royal Protection and Encouragement, upon which (we bless God) your Majesty is graciously pleased to allow us always to depend.

Your Majesty's expressing such Confidence in our Wisdom and Prudence, is doing us the greatest Honour; and we hope, through the Divine Assistance, that our Debates and Proceedings shall be conducted with that Moderation and Calmness, and that Brotherly Love and Charity, which becomes such a Body, and which are necessary to secure the Success of our Counsels and Measures. And we esteem it an Evidence of your Majesty's great Goodness, that our Behaviour in a Manner so agreeable to our Duty and Interest, will recommend us to your Royal Favour.

The Choice your Majesty has made of the most Honourable the Marquess of Lothian, to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, is most acceptable to us, who are fully satisfied of his Loyalty and Zeal for your Majesty's Service, of his Affection and Concern for this Church, and firm Adherence to its Principles, and of his Abilities for the Discharge of so great a Trust: All which justly oblige us to esteem this Choice, as a new and great Mark of your Majesty's Royal Favour to us; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that nothing shall be wanting on our Part, to make the Discharge of his high Trust easy and agreeable to him.

We humbly presume to take this Opportunity of acknowledging, with the greatest Thankfulness, your Majesty's Royal Bounty in renewing your pious and charitable Donation, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands. It is with great Pleasure that we can assure your Majesty, that the Application thereof in former Years, hath produced very good Effects, and we hope it shall still produce more; and for that End, it shall be our Care, faithfully to employ it to the good and laudable Purposes for which your Majesty hath been pleased to grant it, and in an exact Conformity to your Majesty's Royal Orders.

May our gracious God, who hath placed your Majesty upon the Throne of your Ancestors, as a great Blessing to these your Dominions, and to all the Protestant Churches, long preserve you to reign over us, and bless you,