

though I cannot claim the privilege of a particular acquaintance, possesses, I am assured, in a high degree, all the qualities which will enable him to discharge with ability, impartiality, and courtesy, the high duties belonging to the presidency of this National Assembly. Dr. Craik certainly requires—(applause)—no recommendation from me, for his name has been long known in the Church in connection with more than one of our great Christian enterprises. He has, besides, vindicated for himself in the commercial capital of the West the reputation of being a faithful and successful parish minister, and a valuable member of that society with which he has been long connected. With the greatest possible deference to this venerable House, and with extreme cordiality, do I suggest to you the name of Dr. James Craik, and move that he be appointed Moderator of this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. (Applause.)

The election of Dr. Craik was unanimously agreed to, and he took the chair accordingly.

The commission of the Lord High Commissioner, and her Majesty's letter, having been read,

The Lord High Commissioner said he had again the honour of being appointed representative of her Majesty to this venerable Assembly; and, alluding to the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, remarked that it was an event in which they all must have taken a deep interest—an event which had given the highest satisfaction to the Queen, and had called forth feelings of joy and gratification from all her subjects. They could not but implore the Divine blessing upon that union—a union which promised so much for the happiness of our beloved Sovereign, and for the benefit of the whole kingdom. Mindful, as her Majesty had always been, of the best and dearest interests of our Church, and of this portion of her kingdom, she had commanded him to give to them her usual gift of £2000 for the promotion of religious instruction in the Highlands and Islands. His Grace concluded by saying that he would do everything that was in his power which would conduce to the comfort and convenience of the Assembly.

The Moderator then, in addressing the Lord High Commissioner, said—May it please your Grace, the ministers and elders of the Church of Scotland, met in this General Assembly, desire to express the high sense they entertain of the distinction conferred on them by the Queen through the presence of her Majesty's representative. They rejoice in the recognition of the National Church thus directly afforded. In that spirit of loyalty which takes a deep interest in every event by which the Sovereign is affected, the General Assembly would give most respectful expression to the high gratification which, in common with all the other subjects of the Queen, they have felt at the marriage of his Royal

Highness the Prince of Wales. It will be their fervent prayer that her Majesty may long enjoy, at once as a mother and a Queen, the happiness to be anticipated from this auspicious union, and that the Royal Highnesses, following her bright example, may be as faithful in the discharge of duty as her Majesty has ever been, while soothing her sorrows and augmenting her enjoyments by that affectionate companionship that only a son or a daughter can give. May it please your Grace—The General Assembly receive most gratefully the munificent gift from her Majesty of £2000 for the purpose of promoting religious instruction in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. They gratefully receive your Grace's assurance of a desire to promote the comfort and convenience of the members of the General Assembly, convinced that your Grace will continue to show the same considerate attention and unvarying courtesy which the members of former Assemblies have experienced, and the impression of which, permit me to assure your Grace, must always be vividly retained.

A committee was then appointed to answer her Majesty's letter, as also a committee on overtures, and another on bills, &c.

ADDRESSES OF CONGRATULATION ON THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.

The replies from her Majesty the Queen and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, to the addresses presented by the deputation in name of the Commission of the Assembly, having been read and laid on the table.

Dt. Bisset moved that a committee be appointed to prepare similar addresses of congratulation from this Court to her Majesty, and also to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The motion was adopted, and a committee appointed accordingly.

After the transaction of some routine business, the Assembly adjourned to meet to-day (Friday), at 12 o'clock.

EVENING SEDEBUNT, } MONDAY, May 25. }

The Assembly met this evening at eight o'clock.

THE DUNBOG CASE.

Mr. J. Campbell Smith addressed the Assembly on behalf of Mr. Edgar, the presentee to the Church and parish of Dunbog. After a few introductory remarks, he said,—What the people asked for was the right of popular election. The objectors talked of intrusion, and of this being a case of intrusion, but they submitted that it was only a simple case of the exercise of patronage. They seemed to hold a simple exercise of patronage to be synonymous with intrusion. It would be going back a very considerable way in the history of the Church to find any proposition in law to warrant any such contention as that