

The Assembly was constituted with prayer by Dr. Drawford; after which it was agreed to hold the printed roll of members as read.

#### ELECTION OF MODERATOR.

The MODERATOR (Rev. Dr. Crawford) said—Right Rev. and Right Honourable—Before leaving this chair it becomes me to express my deep sense of the honour conferred on me by the last General Assembly in calling me to preside over their deliberations, and thankfully to acknowledge, as I do with all my heart, the countenance and support I have received in my endeavours to discharge the duties of the Moderatorship, and the generous forbearance and indulgence with which my manifold shortcomings have been regarded. I assure you I shall ever bear about with me a grateful remembrance of the kindness I have thus met with, and I trust that I shall be stimulated and encouraged by it to a more faithful and earnest discharge of my ordinary duties, so as by the Divine blessing, to secure the continued favour and confidence of my brethren, and to further in my appointed sphere the welfare of our national Church. (Applause.) It is customary for the retiring Moderator to submit the name of some individual who may, if approved of, be appointed as his successor: in accordance with this custom, but without in any way presuming to dictate to the wisdom of this Assembly, I venture to suggest Dr. James Barty, minister of Bendochy, as being in all respects worthy of this office. Dr. Barty is well known as an able and influential member of one of the most important Synods of this Church, in which he has long held the office of the clerkship—a Synod from which, for nearly half a century, no one has been selected to occupy the Moderator's chair. Apart, however, from this consideration, he has personal claims to the highest honour which his brethren can confer upon him. (Applause.) I can confidently speak of him, from intimate personal knowledge, as a man of distinguished talents and accomplishments, as an eloquent preacher, a prudent counsellor, an eminently faithful and acceptable parish minister, as a zealous and highly efficient promoter of all the educational and missionary schemes of our Church, particularly the great endowment scheme, and as specially qualified by his mingled firmness and courtesy, as well as by his thorough knowledge of ecclesiastical laws and forms, for presiding over the deliberations of this Assembly. (Applause.) It was to myself a source of peculiar gratification to be nominated to this memorable office by one of my dearest friends, who had known me from my boyhood, and whom I had the honour of succeeding in the first ministerial charge to which I was called. It is equally gratifying to me now, when I demit the office, that I am privileged to nominate to it another of my oldest friends, one with whom, while ministering for years in his neighbourhood, I was closely associated and whose friendship I have ever since cherished as of inestimable worth, and one, I may be allowed to add, who, during the troublous times of the Ten Years Conflict prior to the late secession, displayed a prudence, energy and eloquence, which, in common with all his brethren, I greatly admired, and by which the true interests of the Church were most effectively maintained

and promoted. (Applause.) I have great pleasure therefore, in proposing that the Rev. James Barty, doctor of divinity, minister of the parish of Bendochy, be, with your permission, appointed Moderator of this General Assembly. (Loud applause.)

After a pause,

The MODERATOR said—Is it the pleasure of this House that Dr. Barty, of Bendochy, be now appointed Moderator of this General Assembly? (Applause.)

Dr. BARTY was then introduced to the Assembly, and took the Moderator's chair amidst loud applause, all the members standing.

Dr. R. H. RAMSAY, purse-bearer to the Lord High Commissioner, handed to the clerk (Dr. Cook) His Grace's commission, which was read by the clerk, the members all standing during the reading of the document.

The commission was ordered to be recorded.

The CLERK then read the Queen's letter to the General Assembly, which formally intimated the appointment of the Earl of Haddington as Her Majesty's Commissioner, and contained the usual expression of Her Majesty's continued attachment to the Church of Scotland.

The Queen's letter was ordered to be recorded.

The LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER then addressed the Assembly as follows:—Right Rev. and Right Honourable, I am again commanded by Her Majesty to represent her at this General Assembly. I deem that command to be the highest honour which my Sovereign can bestow upon me. I am commanded by the Queen to assure you of her great sense of your steady and firm zeal for her service, and of her Majesty's resolution to maintain the Presbyterian Government. I am also commanded by Her Majesty to acquaint the General Assembly that she shall order her gift of £1000 yearly to be continued: and that Her Majesty has granted, in addition, £1000 thereof to be applied to such uses as may appear most for the propagation of Christian knowledge and the principles of the Reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. (Applause.) Most Reverend and Right Honourable, I am perfectly aware that subjects of the deepest importance will be laid before you during this present Assembly—subjects of the deepest and the most vital importance to the Church of Scotland; and I do trust and pray that under the guidance of Divine Providence, your deliberations may be so ordered as to redound to His glory.

The MODERATOR in his address acknowledged the gracious message of Her Majesty, and said no Sovereign was so qualified, from personal observation, to acknowledge the blessings flowing from the Established Church; and no Sovereign was ever better acquainted, from personal knowledge, with the Protestant principles and the Presbyterian predilections of her subjects in this her ancient kingdom of Scotland. On these grounds, we cherish an undoubting confidence that we will continue to receive the protection and support of our Gracious Sovereign. (Applause.) It will be our endeavour, with the help of God and the grace of our Lord, by diligence and fidelity in our ministry, to see that neither Church nor State take any harm by us. (Applause.) We beg that your Grace