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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Thursday, May 16th, 1839.

Lord Belhaven her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, held his first Levee on Thursday forenoon, which was more numerous attended than on any similar occasion for a great many years back. Amongst the presentations were the following noblemen and gentlemen:—

The Lord Provost, the Marquis of Huntly, Earl of Leven and Melville, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Torphichen, Lord Greenock, Lord Robert Kerr, the Hon. Bouverie Primrose, the Hon. W. Sandilands, Sir James Milles Riddell, Sir Andrew Agnew, Sir D. Maxwell, Sir Robert Abercrombie, Sir James Stewart, Sir Charles Fergusson, Sir William Hamilton, Sir George Ballingall, Count Martigny, Le Chevalier de Bivar, Attache a la Legation de Sa Majeste Britannique, the Solicitor-General, the Procurator for the Church, Principal Macfarlan, Principal Dewar, Professor Jackson, Professor Scott (Aberdeen), Professor Kelland, Professor Sime, Rev. Dr. Muir, Rev. Dr. Duncan (Ruthwell), Dr. Cook, Dr. Fleming (Neilston), Dr. Dickson, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Burns (Paisley), Dr. Simpson (Kirknewton), Dr. Clason, Dr. Ralph (Liverpool), Dr. Brown, (Aberdeen), Dr. Clark, Dr. Abercrombie, Dr. Monro, Dr. Thatcher, Dr. Hunter, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dr. J. H. Balfour, Dr. MacLagan, Surgeon to the Queen, the Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh, the Magistrates and Ministers of Cannongate, Bailie Thom of Leith, Rev. Mr. Thomson (Dundee), Mr. Home (Greenlaw), Mr. Maitland (Kells), Mr. Forrester (Linton), Mr. Murray (Balmaclellan), Mr. Paul (Tullynessle), Mr. Miller (Aboyne), Mr. Clark (Inverness), Mr. Ross (Inverness), Mr. Cousens (Lauder), Mr. Abercromby Gordon, Mr. Runciman, Mr. Macfarlane, Mr. Gray (Perth), Mr. Tannoch, Mr. J. Thorburn (Forglan), Mr. Houston (Dalmellington), Mr. Murray (Aberdeen), Mr. Anderson (Cults), Colonel Irving, Colonel Kinnaird, Colonel Gordon, Colonel Blanchard, Colonel Dundas, Colonel Carter, Colonel H. M'Gregor, Major MacLaine, Major Nunn, Major Taylor, Captain Sinclair, Captain Bruce Boswell, Bengal Army, Captain Hope, Lieutenant Perott, Lieutenant Tulloch, 90th Regiment, the Officers of the Guard, Mr. Trotter of Dreghorn, Mr. Inglis of Redhall, Mr. Howison Crauford of Craufordland, Mr. Bruce of Kennett, Mr. Craige of Glendoick, Mr. Smith of Glenmillan, Cluny M'Pherson, Mr. Graham of Leitchtown, Mr. Henderson, Queen's Remembrancer, Mr. Longmore, Exchequer, Mr. Sheriff Boswell, Mr. Sheriff Douglas, Mr. Rhind, Advocate, Mr. Thomas Anderson, Advocate, Mr. Gracie, Commissary-Clerk, Mr. Jameson Torrie, Mr. Bridges, W. S. Mr. Laurie W. S. Mr. W. Malcom, Mr. W. Paul, &c. &c.

A detachment of the 3d Dragoon Guards and of the 1st Royal, formed the guard in the Palace yard. About twelve o'clock his Grace proceeded in his carriage to the High Church, preceded by the military guard and a carriage in which were the pages, ushers, &c. parties of the day police, in their new uniform, and the streets were lined by the 3d Dragoon Guards.

Before his Grace entered the Cathedral many of the seats had been occupied, and when divine worship began the church was completely filled. The Rev. Dr. Muir, Moderator of last General Assembly, preached an eloquent and excellent discourse from 1st John, iv. chap. 1. 2. and 3. Public worship having been concluded, his Grace the Commissioner and suite walked in procession to the Tron Church, where the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

The Moderator (Dr. Muir) said—The time is now come, fathers and brethren when I am to leave this chair, in which, I may well say; no deservings of mine could ever have put me; and the consciousness of this prevented any wish of mine to be appointed. It was the great indulgence and kindness of my much respected fathers and brethren, which formed the sole basis for distinguishing me with such honour. For the courteousness and friendliness to which my own conscious shortcoming made me the more keenly alive, and which I have so uniformly received, I am, and will, while I live, feel deeply grateful. The remembrance of last General Assembly, during which so much good spirit and good order were maintained, is strongly impressed on my mind; and my fond persuasion is that as much, nay, that even more of that good spirit and good order will prevail during this Assembly, and will secure calm deliberation on matters, with regard to which a false step may produce tremendous consequences. With regard to a successor in this chair, I beg leave to state that my attention has been directed to Dr. Henry Duncan of Ruthwell—one who is eminent in the Church, and distinguished most creditably for himself and the country, by his writings and by his practical improvements on parochial economy which have done so much to promote the public interest.—I beg to move that Dr. Duncan be appointed Moderator. (Cries of "Agreed.")

Dr. Duncan was elected Moderator by acclamation, and having been installed, the Commission of his Grace the Lord High Commissioner, and also the Queen's letter, were read and ordered to be engrossed.

His Grace the Commissioner then addressed the Assembly;—Right Reverend and Right Honourable, the Queen has again conferred upon me the distinguished office of representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; and her Majesty commands me to express to you her undiminished confidence, in your loyalty and attachment to her throne, and of your zealous and anxious exertions to guide the people committed to your care, in those moral and religious duties which are ever the surest safeguards of the altar and the throne. Her Majesty continues resolved to support the Presbyterian Church as by law established; and I have the pleasure to present you with £2000 for the moral and religious instruction of her people in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. I am commanded to afford you every aid and assistance, in the due exercise of your undoubted rights and privileges; and I trust that calmness, and moderation and brotherly love will pervade all your deliberations. I am commanded also to express to you her Majesty's regret, that a proper place of meeting has not yet been prepared for you; but at the same time I am desired to inform you that her Majesty's orders have been issued, to provide such with as little delay as possible. Right Reverend and Right Honourable, it will afford me the most unfeigned gratification to do every thing in my power, that may conduce to your comfort and convenience during the sitting of the Assembly; and I hope your Moderator will communicate your wishes to me on all occasions without the smallest hesitation.

The Moderator then addressed his Grace in reply and said—The appointment of your Grace as Commissioner by her Majesty is felt, I am sure by the General Assembly, as a new proof of her Majesty's kindness, and long knowledge of your Grace's excellent character, have won for you the respect and attachment of the members. It affords us high satisfaction to be assured of

her Majesty's undiminished confidence, in the loyalty and Christian zeal of the Church of Scotland; and we will endeavour to earn the approbation of her Majesty, as well as the approbation of our own consciences, by promoting to the utmost of our power, in humble dependence upon Divine assistance, the moral and religious welfare of the people committed to our charge. We rejoice in the renewed assurance, that her Majesty will continue to maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of our National Church, and we receive it as an acceptable assurance of her Majesty's good will, that your Grace has been commanded to afford the General Assembly, your aid and countenance in the exercise of those rights and privileges. We do trust that the deliberations of this Assembly will be conducted in such a spirit of Christian meekness, moderation, and brotherly love as may deserve and meet with your Grace's approbation. We accept with gratitude the munificent donation of £2000 for promoting the moral and religious improvement, of the spiritually destitute population in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and we shall endeavour faithfully to apply that fund for the important purpose for which it has been granted. The expression of your Grace's personal desire, to promote the comfort and convenience of the Assembly is peculiarly gratifying; and I beg to assure your Grace, that the Assembly feels a corresponding anxiety, to render the duties of your high office as little burdensome as possible.

The Assembly then proceeded to appoint the Committees on Bills and Overtures, and to dispose of other matters of routine.

### COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

Dr. Cook wished a Committee appointed to report on the record of the Commission, and the report of that Committee with the record, to be laid on the table on Monday, when he should be ready to make a proposition on the subject.

After a few words from Dr. Brown and Dr. Bruce, a Committee was appointed to revise the record of the Commission; to report on Monday.

The Assembly adjourned at half-past four o'clock to Friday.

Friday, May 17.

The greater part of this day's sederunt was, as usual, devoted to prayer.

The following ministers were appointed to preach on Sabbath before his Grace the Commissioner;—Forenoon—the Rev. James Macfarlane, St. Bernard's church, Stockbridge. Afternoon—Rev. George Duncan, minister of Irongray.

### BOOKS FOR THE BLIND.

Principal MACFARLAN introduced Mr. Alston of Glasgow, who presented the Moderator with a copy of the Book of Genesis, and a copy of the Psalms and Paraphrases, printed for the blind. Mr. Alston stated that the blind children in the different institutions in Scotland and England, by means of the types invented for the use of the blind, read the Bible as well as any who had the use of their eye-sight. Mr. A. stated that it was his intention to print the whole Bible, for the use of the blind, which with his limited means, would occupy him for three years; and that if he was spared till the expiry of that time, he would have much pleasure in being again honoured with so kind a reception by the Venerable Assembly, (Hear, hear.)

On the motion of Dr. Cook, the Moderator communicated the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Alston for his philanthropic and useful labours.

The Assembly adjourned about four o'clock, till eleven on Saturday.