

principal clerk. His Grace also tendered her Majesty's letter to the Assembly.

The Lord High Commissioner then said—Right Reverend and Right Honourable—Her Majesty has been graciously pleased again to honour me by appointing me as her Commissioner at the same time commanded me to assure you of her firm resolution to maintain the Church of Scotland in all its rights and privileges, and through you to express to her people her sincere regard and affection for this quarter of her dominions, of which her Majesty has given so many proofs. The Queen has at the same time desired me to present to you her usual royal bounty for the purpose of spreading religious instruction in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Right Reverend and Right Honourable—It will afford me the greatest satisfaction to do everything in my power that can conduce to your comfort and convenience during the sittings of your venerable Court. (Applause.)

The Moderator then, addressing the Lord High Commissioner, said—May it please your Grace,—The General Assembly, having met according to appointment and been duly constituted, have chosen me to occupy the Moderator's chair, and to preside over their deliberations, and hence the duty of replying to your Grace's address has devolved upon me. May it please your Grace,—We rejoice that we are again privileged to meet in General Assembly to deliberate and to decide upon the affairs of our Church, and we rejoice the more that we have your Grace's assurance that we meet under the express sanction and the approbation of our beloved Sovereign Queen Victoria, and that in the selecting of a noble personage to represent her royal person in the General Assembly her choice should have fallen upon one in whom we have implicit confidence, one so distinguished for his attachment to her Church, and who has now, I believe, for the twenty-third time—a circumstance unparalleled, I believe, in the history of the Church—been appointed to the office of Lord High Commissioner, the duties of which office he has on former occasions so ably discharged. May it please your Grace,—We feel deeply gratified by meeting in the presence of royalty, as represented in the person of your Grace, and by the assurance you have graciously given us of your protection in the discharge of our duties, and of contributing by every means in your power to our comfort and convenience during our sittings. We trust that in all our proceedings we may be able so to conduct all our proceedings, and carry on all our deliberations, as to enable you at the close of this Assembly to convey to the Queen our loyalty to her throne and person, and of our deep and great anxiety to advance the cause of truth and righteousness throughout this realm. My Lord High Commissioner,—We have received with profound respect and gratitude

her Majesty's munificent donation of £2,000 for the promoting of the reformed religion, especially in the Highlands and Islands; and your Grace may be assured that as it is our wish, so it shall be our endeavour, to expend this munificent donation so as to accomplish to the best of our power the great object which her Majesty has in view in placing it at our disposal. My Lord High Commissioner,—In the name of Assembly, I again respectfully thank you for your kind and gracious address. I trust that, through the grace of God, I may be so enabled to maintain the dignity of this chair, and that my rev. fathers and brethren may be able so to conduct all their proceedings and deliberations, as to render this Assembly memorable in the history of our Church, for the order, Christian wisdom, prudence, forbearance, and charity exhibited throughout our deliberations.

A Committee of the Assembly was appointed to answer the Queen's letter.

On the appointment of a committee for arranging the business of the House, a protracted and desultory debate took place, embracing no points of any particular interest to readers on this side the Atlantic. Dr. G. Smith then gave in a brief Report on the accommodation of the Assembly, and Mr. Beatson Bell read the Report of a Committee appointed at last Assembly, to consider various matters relating to the preservation of order in the House.

Dr Cook moved that the report be approved of, and the proposed regulations, adopted.

Some discussion took place as to the admission into the House of the conveners of Committee, but it was resolved that no exemption should be made from the general rule, and that conveners should only be admitted by tickets obtained for the purpose.

The Assembly, at five o'clock, adjourned till Friday at eleven.

FRIDAY, May 18.

The Assembly met at 11 o'clock, the Moderator in the chair.

The proceedings were opened with prayer.

The Report of the Committee on Bills was given; most of the disputed cases were postponed till to-day.

The subject of the Missionary Record was then taken up, and after some considerable discussion, and much diversity of opinion being expressed, it was resolved that the matter be left in the hands of a committee to report at a future diet. Dr. Cook rose and read a most interesting Report on *Parochial Schoolmasters and Schools*.

Dr. Cook, after reading the Report, said it gave him great pleasure to state to the Assembly that the Duke of Richmond had given instructions that the whole of the salaries of the schoolmasters on his extensive estates should be raised to the maximum, and should all be paid according to the former average.