

may assure Her Majesty of our unswerving loyalty to Her Throne and Government, and that our feelings of attachment to her person, and of veneration for her character, are so deep and sincere that the formal language of loyalty would fail appropriately to express them. (Applause.) The reappointment of your Grace to represent Her Majesty in this Venerable Assembly is, I have reason to know, very gratifying to the members of Assembly. (Applause.) Your courtesy, your considerate and polite attention to the members of last Assembly, and the manifest interest taken by your Grace in its proceedings, are well known throughout the Church, and have rendered your renewed appointment to the high office of Her Majesty's Commissioner peculiarly pleasing and welcome to us all. (Applause.) We tender our grateful acknowledgements for Her Majesty's donation of £2000 towards promoting the religious interests of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The Highlands of Scotland are well known to her Majesty, and they are endeared to her by many sacred and tender Associations. Her Majesty well knows and appreciates the devoted loyalty and attachment of the humble classes in these remote regions, for whose benefit her munificence is intended. The boon will be doubly dear to the poor of the Highlands and Islands as coming from the hand of the Queen. (Applause.) I may assure your Grace that the royal gift will, as heretofore, be carefully and judiciously applied; and I may presume further to assure your Grace that of all Her Majesty's munificent charities there is none perhaps that accomplishes a larger measure of benefit in Scotland. (Applause.) Thereby the blessings and hopes and consolations of the gospel are conveyed to many a lowly and humble home in these Highlands which Her Majesty loves so well. (Applause.) Your Grace has adverted to that most wicked attempt made upon the life of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. I scarcely can presume to follow your Grace in the suitable and touching words in which you referred to that subject: but I cannot doubt that the General Assembly will take an opportunity of conveying, in some suitable way, their sympathy towards our Sovereign under the anxieties to which she has been subjected. (Applause.) In the name of the Assembly, I have to render your Grace our hearty thanks for the courteous expression of your desire to the convenience and comfort of its members. It will be our duty to arrange our business so as to study your Graces convenience, and to secure your approbation. In the conduct of our business there may questions arise that will cause difference of opinion, and give rise to keen debate. But there are grave features in the present aspect of affairs that may well subdue the fervours of controversy and induce us to cultivate union and peace amongst us. (Applause.) I hope the business of this General Assembly may be conducted in a spirit of such wisdom and moderation, of such courtesy and charity as becomes Christian gentlemen met to consult about the affairs of Christ's Church, so that at its close your Grace may feel able to report of us favourably to our gracious Sovereign. (Applause.)

## ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

Dr. CRAWFORD said he wished to direct attention to the subject which had been brought under their consideration both in the speech of His Grace the Lord High Commissioner and in the address of the Moderator—he meant the atrocious attempt that had been recently made on the life of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. He knew there was but one feeling in the minds of all the members of Assembly—namely, one of horror and indignation at the thought of the assault, and also that there was but one feeling of gratitude to the Almighty God that in His good providence the evil intentions of the assassin were frustrated, and of sympathy with Her Majesty in her anxiety. He proposed that an address should be sent from the General Assembly to Her Majesty. (Cries of "Agreed.")

A committee was appointed to prepare the address and also to prepare the answer to the Queen's letter.

## PRINCIPAL TULLOCH AND THE DEPUTY CLERKSHIP.

Dr. COOK read a letter from Principal Tulloch intimating that he had the honour to be a member of the General Assembly, and that it was therefore necessary that some gentleman should be appointed to discharge his duties as Depute-Clerk. Principal Tulloch suggested that Mr. Story of Roseneath, who had formerly discharged the duties with great satisfaction, and who was prepared to do so again, should be appointed.

Mr. GORDON, Newbattle, said he thought that Principal Tulloch ought not to accept any appointment to the Assembly which rendered such a request as this necessary. If the present request was granted this would be the fifth or sixth year in which they had not had the ordinary clerks acting. He thought that the rule in regard to this matter ought to be taken into consideration by the Assembly.

Mr. STEWART, Liberton, said that if an assistant-clerk was to be appointed, the Assembly should nominate the individual, and not Principal Tulloch.

Mr. DAVID SMITH, W.S., said that Principal Tulloch was acting in entire conformity with the rules of the House in asking them to appoint some one as his substitute. He read the report of a committee, which embodied the rule of the house, which was to the following effect:—That "when the clerk is appointed a member he should for such Assembly cease to act as clerk, and should ask leave of the Assembly to be allowed to appoint some competent friend, approved of by the Assembly, to act in his stead, it being understood that such leave shall be granted as a matter of course." (Hear, hear.) In such circumstances they could not interfere with the course Principal Tulloch had adopted. He confessed, however, for himself that he should have preferred if Principal Tulloch had asked leave in person, and had not communicated with them simply by letter. He must also honestly confess that when the report was framed and approved of, it was not expected that the clerks should be returned to the Assembly more frequently than in their ordinary rotation. He thought in the circumstances that they