

cluded by proposing as his successor Dr Crombie of Scone.

Rev. Mr. MURRAY expressed regret that Dr. Robertson of Edinburgh had not been nominated; but Dr. Robertson declined to allow himself to be proposed, and seconded the nomination of Dr. Crombie, who was then declared duly elected, and, having been introduced to the Assembly, took his seat in the Moderator's chair.

The Lord High Commissioner then presented the Royal Commission and the Queen's Letter, which was read by Principal Lee (the Clerk), the Assembly standing.

HIS GRACE then addressed the Assembly. He said her Majesty had been pleased to appoint him her representative to the Assembly, and had commanded him to present them the sum of £2000, for the purpose of enabling them to extend still farther the blessings of religious instruction among the people of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. He then congratulated them on the fact, that since last he had had the honour of addressing them from that place, it had pleased Almighty Providence to confer the blessings of peace upon the land. He trusted that their deliberations would be conducted with the view of promoting the great objects which were entrusted to their care; and he begged to assure them that he would do everything in his power to promote their convenience and comfort during the sittings of the Assembly.

The MODERATOR, in reply, said that it was with the most grateful feelings that they received as the Lord High Commissioner a nobleman, a firm friend of the Church of Scotland, a member of the Commission, an office-bearer in her courts, and one who had stood by her in her seasons of peril and difficulty. They recognised in the person of the Lord High Commissioner that link which united them with the State. They rejoiced in that connection. They had never felt it to be a burden; and though there were some who called it a burden and a yoke, they were sure, from their own matured experience, they might say that, like the yoke and burden of the gospel itself, it was one that was easy, that it was one that was light. They beheld in his Grace the Commissioner of her most gracious Majesty, not only a mark of her confidence in them, for which they were most grateful, but also a mark of becoming homage to Him who was Head over all things to his Church. They received with feelings of the deepest respect her Majesty's renewed assurance of her favour and protection to the Established Church of Scotland, and accepted her Majesty's gift with gratitude. But their gratitude to her Majesty would be best shown by their zeal to promote the best interests of those of her subjects who were within the reach of their influence, by making them faithful servants of the King of kings, and thereby all the more faithful unto her who, on the throne of these realms, was ordained over them in the Lord. He trusted that the whole demeanour of this Assembly would leave upon the mind of his Grace

the impression that the Church of Scotland remained steadfast in her zeal for God, and in her loyalty to the Crown. His Grace did not need to be told that their venerable Church had ever been the staunch defender of religious liberty and the firm supporter of constituted monarchical Government. But he might venture to assure his Grace that they were determined to continue faithful to their loyalty, and that they were duly impressed with the conviction, that never was there a period in their past history when they were called on more cordially to honour and support the throne, than they were at the present moment under the reign of their most gracious Queen. Brought up and educated in the bosom of their sister Establishment—accustomed to its more imposing ritual—worshipping in its more gorgeous temples, and listening to the ministrations of a splendid hierarchy—still she does not disdain to join in the simple service of our Presbyterian worship, nor, under the humble roof of a country kirk, to mingle her notes of praise and thanksgiving with those of the lowliest of her Presbyterian subjects—an example well worthy the imitation of the wisest, the greatest, and the best of Scotland's most ancient and honoured nobility.

The Assembly then remitted it to a Committee to prepare an answer to her Majesty's letter, and also, on the motion of Dr. Bell, to draw up an address congratulating her Majesty on the peace which has now been established.

The Assembly then adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 23.

The Assembly met to day at eleven o'clock, in Victoria-Hall—Dr. Crombie, of Scone, Moderator.

The Assembly were engaged in devotional exercises till half-past twelve o'clock, when they adjourned till half-past one.

The Rev. John Wilson, of Forgardenny, and the Rev. John Mitchell, of Peterhead, were appointed to preach before the Commissioner on Sunday.

The Court met in terms of adjournment, and was constituted by the Moderator.

THE LORD ADVOCATE'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL BILL.

Dr. Cook of Haddington read the Report of the Committee on Parish Schools and Schoolmasters, in which disapprobation was generally expressed of the principle on which the Lord Advocate's bill was based, in so far as there could be no guarantee, in the event of its passing, for the religious character of the teachers to whom the education of the young of the country was to be confided. The Committee accordingly prayed the Assembly to adopt such steps as would give proper effect to the feeling which so widely prevailed amongst the people in favour of the parish schools as at present constituted.

Dr. Bell said he had to submit a motion, which he trusted would be unanimously

adopted. It was to the effect that the General Assembly approve of the report just read; that they commend the diligence and zeal of the committee, that they regret to learn that no progress has yet been made by the Legislature with an enactment for securing better accommodation and provision for the parochial teachers, whilst these are embraced in the Lord Advocate's Bill along with the objectionable provisions by which the superintendance by the Church of teachers and scholars was proposed to be abolished. The General Assembly, therefore, resolve to petition in the strongest manner against the Lord Advocate's Bill, and reappoint the Committee, with instructions to use every means for opposing the measure.

Mr. Stewart, of Libberton, in seconding the motion, said the Church and Country were under a deep debt of gratitude to the convener of the Committee for the manner in which he had performed his duties. He had read with interest the speech of Dr. Cook at last meeting of Commission, which fully and clearly exhausted the whole subject.

Mr. A. S. Cook, advocate, in a speech of some length, supported the motion.

The Assembly then adjourned.

SATURDAY, MAY, 24.

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock—the Rev. Dr. Crombie, Moderator.

PRESBYTERIAN CHAPLAINS IN INDIA.

Dr. Bryce read the report of the committee appointed to communicate with the Indian authorities, as to increasing the number of chaplains of the Church of Scotland in the different presidencies. It stated that since last Assembly the Committee had addressed a letter to the Marquis of Dalhousie on the subject, and had received from him an answer, expressing views very favourable to the claims of the Church of Scotland.

A deputation of the chaplains in India had also waited on his Lordship, and elicited similar favourable expressions. A deputation of the committee had waited on Lord Canning, before leaving England, and he had promised to give attention to their statement. The Committee had also taken measures to bring their case before the Governments of Bengal and the other presidencies, and also before the East India Company. Dr. Bryce stated that the paucity of chaplains connected with this Church in India was becoming a matter of great gravity and importance, as, from their limited number, they could not overtake the duties that pressed upon them. From almost the establishment of the chaplaincies there had been no increase made in the number belonging to the Church of Scotland. The Church of England had, in 1822, 35 chaplains in India. It had now 128, while the Church of Scotland had never increased its numbers from six, whereas, had their been a proportionate increase in the number, it would now have had about 30. All, however, that this Church now presumed to ask was six