

Wig 14th March 1834

Dear and Much Respected Sir

I take the liberty of communicating to you that the Inhabitants of this Parish have got two Petitions prepared to be forwarded to you (by first post) one Praying for the abolition of Church Patronage and the other Praying for the better observance of the Sabbath throughout the Kingdom, which Petitions you are respectfully requested to present & to support in the House of Commons as the Representative Member for Ross Shire —

The Scriptural use which we so happily know by experience which you & your Honourable Lady make of the Power Vested in you to recommend & to appoint Pastors

to Churches, The devotional & Exemplary regard with which you have always observed the Sabbath; The Religious Education in which you have brought up your own interesting Family; and withal the imperious duty which at present devolve upon every one of us to Support the Cause of Church Establishments which has been so deplorably reduced in her Number, and Strength, in her Beauty & Glory by the pernicious effects of the unscriptural and untenable System of Lay Patronage have prompted us to this measure. —

The Established Churches of England and Scotland being at this Crisis assaulted & surrounded with a Host of Enemies of every description for her destruction — — — and all of the above reasons have encouraged us Respectfully to forward both Petitions to you. We have many unanswerable proofs that were Patrons

in General to act upon the Christian Principles on which you have acted in the disposal of Livings. Such Petitions as those now framed would be totally unnecessary, ~~but~~ whatever renders the efficiency of Office Bearers in the Church inefficient in their Gospel Ministrations. that also accompanies, & increases Sabbath Profanation.

We are Satisfied that you will approve of our Conduct in this Case; bound as we are to support the Common interest of our Church & Religion at this critical period, and fully as we believe your opinion of the present System of Church Patronage to be un-
^{How} Scriptural in its principles, Baneful in its
^{no} Consequences, ruinous to the Church, and to im- mortal Souls, May Our & all of us therefore be enabled by Gods Grace to put our heart & hand to this good and noble work of Reformation in the Church of Christ!! All Friends in Lewis are well & I hope Mr Knox will be a blessing to the Country. I have the Honor to be Yours
 as Very Respect^{ly} & Aff^{ly} Alex^r McLeod -

*P.S. - All Petitions on these Subjects to the House
of Lords shall be addressed to the Duke of Hamil-
ton M.L.S.*

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GD46/12/63