

Unto the Reverend Moderator, and remanent Members of
the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

William Earl Marischal of Scotland, and the Heritors and
Elders of the Paroch of Fetteresso,

Sheweth,

TH A T this Kirk being vacant, we were at great pains to provide the
the same with a qualified Minister, and while we were so doing it
pleased the Presbytrie of *Fordon*, as a Spur to keep us to our Duty, to
Call *tanquam jure devoluto* Mr. *John Webster* to that Church, which
being notified to us, we took Information anent him, and not being desirous to
open any Scandal against him, we applyed to the Presbytrie and Synod of the
bounds, and obtained till *Candlemas* last to Call any other qualified Person; In
conformity to which Act, we Called Mr. *Samuel Semple* Minister of *Libertoun*, a
Person every way above Exception as to his Qualifications, Life and Conver-
sation, and who by Relation, had great Interest in the Paroch, and was more able
to advance the Gospel therein than any other.

There was no time taken to advise this Call, but he and Presbytrie of *Edin-
burgh* declined to accept and receive the same upon the first sight, if upon any In-
formality we know not; but since we were right in the matter, we could never
expect to be taken *tarde* upon an Informality; but rather that we should have
been directed and advised as to the Form; However, the Presbytrie of *Fordon*
proceeded upon the Call given by them to Mr. *Webster*, and upon the 7th. of
March last, ordained him Minister of *Fetteresso*, against which Ordination we ap-
pealed; and because your Reverend Wisdoms first sits, we resume the Grounds,
which were these, That we having *Candlemas* allowed us, betwixt and which
to call a qualified Person; accordingly we called Mr. *Samuel Semple*, a Person a-
bove exception, and thereby purged any former neglect: And so, though he,
and the Presbytrie of *Edinburgh* refused the Call; yet we might justly claim ano-
ther half Year, at least a competent time, before the Presbytrie could proceed
tanquam jure devoluto, we being in so good course of Diligence, and no Certifica-
tions even in secular Matters, are so strictly applyed, as to deprive the Party
from purging, and far less in the Church Discipline, which is more willing to
gain than discourage any; and we are still in hopes, with Assistance of the Vene-
rable Assembly, to prevail with Mr. *Semple*, and if that should fail (which God
forbid) we shall immediatly apply to an other qualified Person, who may be ac-
ceptable to the Presbytrie; whereas, if Mr. *Webster* be imposed upon us against
our Will, there will never be a Pastoral Relation betwixt him and us and the
People, but a perpetual Aversion and Animosity upon Grounds we desire to con-
ceal, because he may be profitable to other People, though never to us.

Herefore we beseech your Reverend Wisdoms to take what is above represented in-
to your serious Considerations, and to hear us upon the Grounds of our Ap-
peal, and in the mean time to Suspend or Delay Mr. *Websters* serving
the Cure in the Church of *Fetteresso*, And your Wisdoms Answer.

