

I.

NOTICE OF TWO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, WITH SIGNATURES EXHIBITED TO THE MEETING :—I. THE NATIONAL COVENANT, NOVEMBER 1638 ; II. THE COMMON OR GODLY BAND, DECEMBER 1557. BY DAVID LAING, Esq., FOR. SEC. S.A. SCOT.

The two Documents exhibited to the meeting to-day require only a few words of explanation.

I. The first is a copy of the NATIONAL COVENANT with original signatures in the usual form, and issued from Edinburgh in November 1638. It is one of the better class of twenty-five copies which were previously described in the "Proceedings," vol. iv. p. 238-250. It is a large sheet of vellum, mended and pasted down, commencing, like many others, with the Signatures of the nobility—Rothes, Lindesay, Montrose, Loudoun, Boyd, Balmerinoch, Lothian, Eglintoun, Wemyss, and others ; also Kinnaird of that Ilk, James Rige of Carberry, W. D. (Dundas) of Ricartoun, T. Gourley of Kingscraig ; and among the clergy we find Mr A. Ramsay, Minister of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Henderson of Leuchars, Mr Robert Blair, and James Peersoune of Dunblane.

II. The other document I consider of greater interest and importance as connected with the History of the Reformation in Scotland. It is known as "THE COMMON OR GODLY BAND IN 1557." As the document itself was inserted by Knox in his "History of the Reformation," I was enabled previously to give an accurate copy of this "Ane Godlie Band for maintenance of the Evangell in 1557," from a collation of the original, with a facsimile of the Signatures, in the Appendix to Knox's Works (vol. vi. p. 674). It was also exhibited at the meeting held at Edinburgh in August 1860, to commemorate the Third Centenary of the Reformation ; and was then described by my worthy friend, the late Rev. James Young, whose account was printed in the form of a separate pamphlet with the same facsimile of the signatures ; and therefore need not here be repeated.

The Document itself is in the following terms :—

ANE GODLIE BAND FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE EVANGELL, MAID BE THE
ERLES OF ARGYLL AND UTHER NOBLE MEN, 10^{BER} [DECEMBER] 1557.

WE PERSAVING HOW SATHAN in his membris the Antechrystis of
oure tyme crewellie dois raige, seiking to downebning and to destroye the
Evangell of Christ and his Congregatioune; awght according to oure
bownden dewtie, to stryve in our maisteris cause, even unto the deth; being
certane of the victorie in him; the quhilk our dewtie being weill con-
syderit; WE do promiss before the Majestie of GOD, and his Congrega-
tioune that we (be his grace) sall with all diligence continewallie applie
oure haill power, substance, and oure very lyves to mentene, sett forwarde,
and establishe the MAIST BLESSED WORDE OF GOD and his Con-
gregatioune. And sall lawboure at oure possibilitie, to haif faithfull
ministeres purelie and trewlie to minister Christes evangell and sacramentes
to his peopill; We sall mentene tham, nuryss tham, and defend
thame, the haill Congregatioune of Christ and everye member therof
at our haill poweres and waring of oure lyves aganis Sathian and all wicked
power that dois intende tyrannye or troubill aganis the foresaid Congrega-
tioune. ONTO the quhilk holie worde and Congregatioune, we dó
joyne us; and also dois forsaik and renunce the Congregatioune of Sathan
with all the superstitionne, abhominatioune and idolatrie thereof; And
mareattour sall declare ourselves manifestlie innemies tharto be this our
faithful promiss before GOD testifyit to his Congregatioune, be
oure subscriptiones at this presentes. Att Edinburgh the —— day of
December the yere of God ane thousand fyve hundreth fiftie sevin yeres:
GOD CALLIT TO WYTNES.

AR. ERLE OF ERGYL.
GLENCARN.
MORTOUN.
A. LORD OF LORN.
JHONE ERSKYN.

Other copies of this Band must also have been subscribed, as Knox to
the above names added *et cetera*, and says expressly, that it "was
subscribed by the fair-written and many others."