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., F.R.S. 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 Kingscairn; and among the clergy we find Mr A. Ramsay, Minister of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Henderson of Leuchars, Mr Robert Blair, and James Peersoun 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, Made by the Erles of Argyll and other Noble Men, 10th [December] 1557.

We persaving how Sathan in his membis the Antechrystis of oure tyme crewellie dois raige, seiking to downebring 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 well con-
syderit; WE do promiss before the Majestie of GOD, and his Congrega-
tioune that we (be his grace) sail with all diligence continenwallie applie oure haill power, substance, and oure very lyves to mentene, sett forwarde, and establishe the MAIST BLESSED WORDE OF GOD and his Con-
gregationne. And sail lawbour at oure possibilitie, to haif faithfull ministeres purelie and trewelie to minister Christes evangell and sacramentes to his peopill; We sail mentene tham, nurys tham, and defend thame, the haill Congregationne of Christ and eveye member thereof at our haill poweres and waring of our lyves aganis Sathan and all wicked power that dois intende tyrannye or troubill aganis the foresaid Congregatioune. ONTO the quhilk holie worde and Congregatioune, we do joyne us; and also dois forsaik and renunce the Congregatioune of Sathan with all the superstitionne, abhominationne and idolatrie thereof; And mareattour sail declare ourselves manifestlie inriemies 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 hundred thirtie sevin yeres: GOD CALLIT TO WYTNESS.

Ab, Erle of Ergyll.
Glencaen.
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 subscriyed by the four-written and many others."