

STATEMENT.

THE Case of *Guelph*, in *Upper Canada*.

"Guelph is the centre of a district in Upper Canada, containing 900 square miles. Although not cleared above ten years, it is already thickly settled. The population is estimated, by the Canada Company, to amount to 3,500 souls; and the tide of emigration continues to set strongly in that direction. The population is, of course, much dispersed over the surface of the district. Above one-third of the inhabitants are attached to the communion of the Church of England; of the rest, a considerable number are rather careless about religion altogether, than attached to any other communion; and there can be no doubt that many of these would be reclaimed, if ministers and churches were supplied in a manner at all adequate to the necessities of the case. But the fact is that, until the year 1832, there was neither church nor minister in the entire district. Since that time there has been one minister residing at Guelph, and a church has been erected, capable of holding 500 persons; but, excepting at the central town, there is not now to be found, in the whole extent of 30 miles square, so much as a single school-house, or other decent building, where the people might assemble for Divine worship, and the Sacraments might be occasionally administered.

Moreover, the expense of building the church is not yet wholly defrayed; but 100*l.* having been furnished by the bishop of Quebec, another 100*l.* by the Canada Company, 180*l.* collected in England, by the exertions of Mr. Bosanquet (the chairman of the Canada Company), and another gentleman; and 337*l.* contributed by the inhabitants, (no small sum, considering the circumstances of early settlers,) there yet remains to be provided, to complete the fabric and its inclosure, the further sum of 133*l.*, upon the lowest calculation; for the greater part of which the Rev. Arthur Palmer, rector of Guelph, with six of his congregation, has given personal security. As the Provincial Government had aided the erection of a Roman-catholic chapel at Guelph, by a grant of 90*l.*, it was hoped that a similar aid might have been afforded in the present instance; but the repeated applications of the rector and his parishioners for such assistance have been attended with no success. To a memorial addressed to the present Lieutenant-governor, which was agreed upon last year at the Easter vestry meeting, and numerously signed by the parishioners, the following answer was returned, directed to one of the church-wardens:

" Sir,

" Government House, Toronto,
5 May 1836.

" I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have laid before the Lieutenant-governor your letter of the 2d instant, with its accompanying petition; and I am commanded by his Excellency to state to you that he much regrets there are no funds at his disposal from which he could afford you the assistance you desire. The sum given in aid of the Roman-catholic chapel, which you referred to, was given at the express command of the Home Government. And if the Secretary of State would sanction the grant of a similar aid in furtherance of your object, his Excellency would have much gratification in affording it.

" I have, &c.

(signed) "J. Joseph."

It may here be added, that extracts from official documents are in the hands of the framers of this statement, by which it appears that in the years 1833 and 1834 sums amounting in the whole to 5,002*l.* 2*s.* 2½*d.* were furnished by the Provincial Government, for the erection of dissenting places of worship in Upper Canada, of which sum 1,335*l.* 8*s.* 10½ was expressly given for Roman-catholic chapels; and that by a despatch from the Home Government, bearing date the 27th day of January 1834, authority was given for the continued application of 2,000*l.* per annum to similar purposes.

It is therefore most earnestly hoped, that Government, upon this representation been made to them, will consider whether it might not be consistent both with good policy and with justice to give to the Church of England, in Upper Canada, the same measure of protection and encouragement which they give