

At a General Meeting of the Standing Committee, appointed severally by the Members of St. Gabriel Church, of St. Paul's Church, and St. Andrew's Church, of the city of Montreal, in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, held at St. Andrew's Church aforesaid, on the 25th day of September, 1838, for the purpose of framing and carrying into effect, with their brethren in the Sister Provinces, such measures as might be deemed advisable in the present crisis for vindicating and maintaining inviolate, by all constitutional means, the rights and privileges of the National Church in British North America; it was unanimously Resolved, That the following Address, subscribed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Meeting, along with the Resolutions of the Members of the said three Churches, appended thereto, be forthwith printed and circulated as widely as possible, among the Members of the Established Church of Scotland in these Colonies.

TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE
ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
IN
BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND BRETHREN,

A crisis has arisen in the state of affairs in these Colonies, in which we behold not a merely threatened invasion, but an actual infringement of the Constitutional rights of our Church. In the recent establishment of the Rectories in Upper Canada, the first decisive step has been taken towards commencing an exclusive Establishment on the Sister Church of England—of imposing upon us, who belong to the equal co-ordinate Establishment of the Church of Scotland, built, in respect to her civil and political standing in the Empire, upon the same rock of the British Constitution, and guaranteed and perpetuated by the same inviolable securities, a yoke which our Fathers could not bear, and which we, their free born descendants, the inheritors of the invaluable privileges, purchased and sealed with their blood, have not, we trust, so far degenerated from their wisdom, spirit, and virtue, as tamely to submit to at this day, in British North America.

No! Countrymen and Brethren, we did not come from our native Scotland, in the full, the proud possession of equal rights and privileges, civil and religious, with our brethren and fellow subjects in South Britain, to submit here to such disfranchisement, to such degradation. Not one jot or tittle will we suffer to be blotted out from the dear bought charter of rights and liberties, which we have, which we hold, which we inherit in common and equally with our Brethren of the Sister Kingdom, of the Sister Church. We have no hesitation to aver, that without reference to our constitutional rights, a just regard to the character and merits, no less than to the commercial, moral, and political importance of that part of the Colonial population, which belong to our Church, ought to have determined the Parent Government to turn a deaf ear to any counsel, from whatever quarter it might come, of which the effect might be, to divest us of any honour or advantage, enjoyed by us in our parent land.

Yet, what, we would ask, up to this moment, has been the result of the many petitions and memorials, which, in the course of the last twenty years, we have presented to the authorities of the Empire, waiting the issue with exemplary temper and moderation, and sustaining all our repeated disappointments, delays, and evasions, with long suffering patience even until now? What, we would ask, has been really done by Government in fulfilment of claims, of which they have professed to admit the justice, holding out to us hopes of participating, in some equitable proportion, with the Church of England, in whatever means of provision might be placed at its disposal?

In Lower Canada, nothing, absolutely nothing, has been done until last year, of which by-and-by. In Upper Canada, a very inadequate annual grant of money, out of a precarious and temporary fund, has been made—of which, our Church receives less than the Roman Catholic, and not more in proportion than the Methodists and Dissenting Presbyterians, with whom she is actually classed by a Government, which in words had professed to recognize her equal rights, as one of the Established Churches of the Empire.