

STATEMENT OF THE CASE
OF THE
REV. E. RENNY,
AND THE
CONGREGATION OF ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

THE documents which appear in this publication, will fully explain the nature of this case, which, it is believed, will be found interesting by those who feel a concern in the welfare and prosperity of the Church of Scotland, and which it is now thought advisable to make more generally known. It will be necessary, however, previously to state some particulars connected with the case, in order to make the subject to which these documents refer more fully understood.

In the outset it may be proper to mention, that at Halifax, which is the chief town of Nova Scotia, and the seat of government for that colony, there are two churches in connexion with the Church of Scotland. To the one of these (St. Matthews) it has for many years been customary, on the removal or decease of the Minister, to request the Principal of the University of Edinburgh to appoint to the vacant charge. An opening of this kind, in the appointment of Junior Minister to that church, occurred in the month of May, 1823, in consequence of the nomination of Mr. Knox to a church in Scotland.* The Very Reverend Principal Baird and Rev. Dr. Brown, University of Edinburgh, were accordingly again requested to fill up the vacancy by nominating his successor. Having been recommended and nominated as competent to discharge the duties of Junior Minister of St. Matthew's, I applied for ordination to the Presbytery of Linlithgow. I was accordingly duly ordained at Linlithgow on the 8th September in that year, and having taken passage at Greenock, in October, arrived at Halifax in the beginning of December.

During the first six months of my residence in that place, the greatest concord and unanimity in the congregation prevailed. The Committee

* Mr. Knox encountered the difficulty which, as will afterwards appear, led to my resignation. He was at last prevailed on to bind himself by a written engagement to remain in Halifax *for life*; but notwithstanding, accepted of a presentation to the church of Ordiquhill, Presbytery of Fordyce, in 1823.