

*The Gen. Ass. of that Province will in my own
opinion, for their ex-patriated-country men in
Canada. J.B.*

1759

STATEMENT respecting the **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** in
UPPER and LOWER CANADA, made before the **General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland** on **Tuesday, 23rd May
1837**, by the **Rev. EDWARD BLACK, D. D.**, Minister of **St
Paul's, Montreal.**

MODERATOR,—Previously to my bringing under the considera-
tion of this venerable Court, the present state of a branch of the
Church of Scotland in Upper and Lower Canada, I beg leave, in
my own name, and in that of my brethren in that distant coun-
try, to return you our warmest acknowledgments for the sym-
pathy that this Assembly has always expressed for our desti-
tute situation; and for the interest it has taken in furthering
our views, both through the medium of direct communications
with the Government, and through the labours of a Committee,
annually appointed to watch over our interests. In particular,
I beg to tender to you my grateful thanks, for the indulgence
kindly granted to me, of appearing this day at your bar;
and for the opportunity thus afforded me, of bringing under
your consideration the destitute situation of those connected
with you by many endearing ties. May I be allowed to indulge
the hope that the result will be the adoption of such measures,
on the part of this Assembly, as will awaken the Government
to a sense of what, I conceive, to be the partiality of their con-
duct, in reference to the Presbyterian population of Canada, and
induce them to do a tardy act of justice to a body of people,
more numerous than any other Protestant sect there, and un-
questionably inferior to none in point of respectability, and in
attachment and loyalty to their King.

*This is
a year
hope*

The subject on which I am about to enter ought to be deep-
ly interesting to every patriotic Scotchman. Within a few
years, Canada has become the adopted country of thousands of
our brethren, and each returning year brings to its shores thou-
sands more, compelled to leave their native land, either from
misfortunes which no human prudence could perhaps foresee,
or actuated by the laudable desire of improving their own cir-
cumstances, and of providing for their families.

*Don't
to 400
year
year
than*

Lower Canada comprehends a population of nearly 600,000.
Of these about 400,000 are French Catholics, a considerable
number Irish Roman Catholics, and the remainder Protestants
of various sects from Great Britain, Ireland, and the United
States. Of these Protestant sects the most numerous, it is sup-
posed, is that in communion with the Established Church of Scot-
land—and that church can boast of having among her number,
those who have, to use the language of a Canadian, awaken-

*the first Protestant clergyman that ever
in Canada belonged to the Church of Scotland*