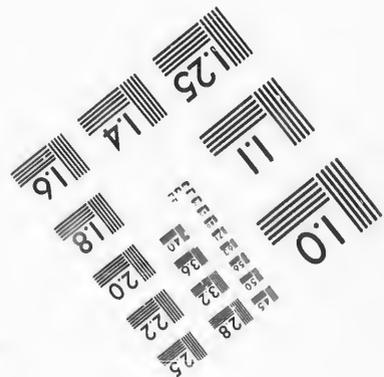
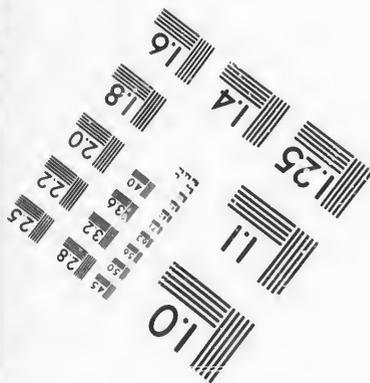
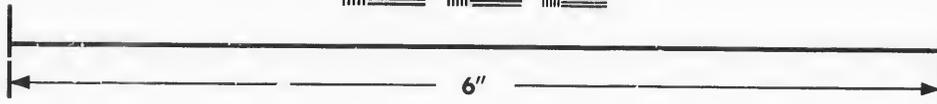
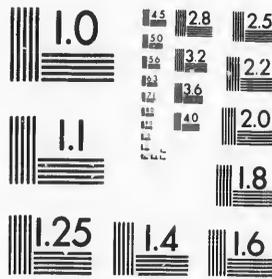


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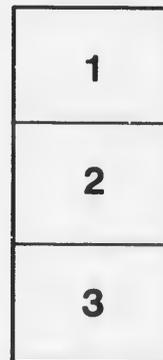
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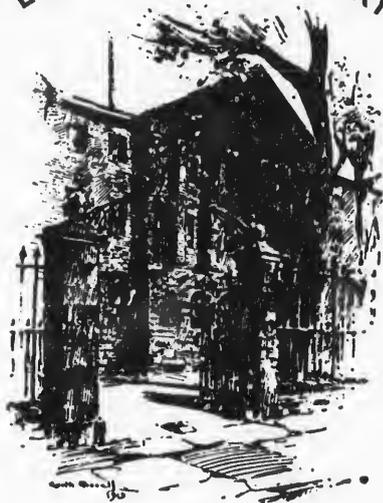


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STATEMENT

OF THE

CASE

OF THE

REV. E. RENNY,

AND THE

CONGREGATION

OF

SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH,

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

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GREENOCK:

PRINTED BY JOHN HISLOP.

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IT may be proper to explain the reason that this Statement has not been printed sooner, since I returned from Halifax in the beginning of 1826. This delay was owing to the following causes: \* The original papers, which were submitted to the Presbytery of Linlithgow immediately after my return to Scotland, were committed to the care of a Member of Presbytery, in whose hands they had fallen aside, and they were only recovered in October, 1829. Since that time, the case was submitted to the Presbytery of Paisley, and the General Assembly of last year; and has lately been brought under the notice of Government. A letter has just been received from the Secretary at War, refusing to grant the application for redress; and the whole details are now laid before the Public.

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\* A short statement of facts was printed and circulated among the different Presbyteries, in September, 1826.

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*Erratum.*—Page 10, 23d line, for 1825, read 1826.

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

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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

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\* 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.

were even desirous that Dr. Gray, the Senior Minister, should retire on an allowance, and that I should be appointed sole Minister. This is shown by the resolutions which were agreed to by them, and of which a copy is given. (No. 4.)

These resolutions, in the month of June, 1824, were by the Committee submitted to the congregation, but in consequence of being strenuously resisted by those members in the church who were favourable to the existing state of things, were not carried into effect. At this meeting a call was given to me to continue my labours as Junior Minister. A resolution was at the same time proposed by a member of the Committee in these words: "That in case Mr. Renny should afterwards receive a call to a church in Scotland, and should wish to accept thereof, or any other circumstance induce him to leave the congregation, that he give 12 months' notice, in a regular manner, of his intention to resign the call of the congregation."

A form of call was accordingly drawn out, in which the above mentioned resolution was introduced; and a deputation from the Committee and Elders waited upon me, with a draft of the proposed call. This condition was remarked with much surprise by me, and immediately objected to; and, with perfect frankness, I declared that it was not in my power to comply with the demand required. A meeting which was intended to be held in order to complete the call which had been given, was subsequently postponed, owing to my scruples upon this point, and the affair lay over till a twelvemonth, from the period when my ministerial labours had commenced, had nearly passed away. It was then thought advisable that I should write to the congregation a letter, in which I intimated my willingness to accept of the call that had, previously, in the month of June been given, in which they expressed their unanimous wish to retain me as their Pastor. In it no definite period was fixed upon for giving notice, if a presentation to a church in Scotland should be received. This letter was not accepted by the congregation, as was a few days afterwards officially communicated to me by Mr. Fairbanks, Moderator, "owing," as is there stated, "to my not having specified a time for giving notice, should a presentation from Scotland or other cause induce me to remove from hence."

A serious difficulty had in this way arisen which could not fail to be the cause of uneasy and painful reflection. If I should be prevailed upon to engage formally (as it plainly appeared, from the correspondence that afterwards ensued upon this point, was the design of the Committee to insist upon) to give 12 months' premonition, or, as was by some plainly and unequivocally declared to bind myself; this must be considered tantamount to relinquishing not only any hopes of future advancement, but all prospect of having it afterwards in my power to revisit the shores of my native land.— If again an absolute and unconditional refusal should be returned to the demand which had so unexpectedly been made, a separation between my flock and myself would take place; and it would be necessary to return to Scotland without any settled provision or permanent appointment. Placed

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in this dilemma, I judged it proper to try what impression reasoning might produce upon the minds of the Committee; and it was with this view that the following representation was drawn up, and submitted to several Members in the congregation.—This forms No. 7.—Statement of the Question.

The sentiments of the Committee on the subject of previous intimation continuing to remain unaltered, it was judged advisable by my friends that I should make an offer of six months' notice. This effort to restore that harmony and good understanding which it was desirable on many accounts should continue unbroken, was made by a letter (No. 9.) addressed to Mr. G. N. Russell. The communication contained in it having been laid before a meeting of the congregation, called a few days afterwards, to decide on this proposition, was accepted by a majority of 19 to 9. The call was accordingly drawn out, but at first was subscribed by only 30 Pewholders, a majority of the Committee having refused to sign it in that shape. About the middle of January, 1825, copy of a resolution was transmitted to me officially that had been adopted by the Committee, bearing, "that out of 109 persons entitled to vote, only 30 had signed the call—that the Committee in consequence consider the call incomplete and of no effect."

In this emergency, it was in my opinion high time to consult my friends on this side of the Atlantic, with respect to the course which in these circumstances it was prudent to follow. My brother-in-law, Mr. Young, therefore, was requested by me to correspond with a confidential friend in Edinburgh upon the subject. As this letter is of importance, inasmuch as it shows the position in which the parties then stood towards one another, an extract from it is here inserted.

*"Halifax, February 7th, 1825.*

"My Dear Sir,

"I have been looking for your reply to my last by every Packet.—This subject is not the cause that has induced me to address you at this time. A nearer and more pressing object that touches deeply both our feelings and interests, has started up in Mr. Ebenezer's prospects, and calls loudly for an unreserved and full communication. Not a moment should be lost in making known all the details, because some effort in his behalf may be immediately needed.

"Towards the close of last summer, St. Matthew's congregation gave him an unanimous call, to which the condition was annexed, of 'his affording them twelve months previous notice, in the event of his pastoral relation being dissolved by his removal to some other charge.' Mr. Renny wished to waive the discussion of this point, and in his answer to the intimation of the call by the Committee, he promised to give them as long previous notice as was in his power, apprising them, at the same time, that he had no present intention of quitting them. This cautious reply led immediately to a conference betwixt him and the managers, in which *they* insisted upon a specific premonition, and *he* argued upon the impossibility of compliance.

A meeting of the Committee was then convened, for the express purpose of deciding upon your ——'s determination; and at that meeting they came to the resolution 'that Mr. Renny's letter was not satisfactory.' This happened about November last; and was communicated to you: —— by the Chairman, (G. N. Russell) in an official form. His friends in the Committee, as well as his sister, now importuned him to promise at least 6 months' notice; and after much solicitation on their part, and much reluctance on his, he was prevailed on to yield to this point. This was considered by all his friends as a certain remedial concession that would allay the ferment and restore peace to the congregation. A general meeting of all the Pewholders was then called, before which were laid all the proceedings; and on the vote being put, whether Mr. Renny's acceptance of the call on 6 months' premonition should be received, it was carried in the affirmative by 19 to 9. This vote of the congregation disappointed the wishes of a majority of the Committee, and they fell upon a scheme to defeat it. Two of them only signed the call, and left a blank space for the names of the other five, which they refused to fill up. In this state the call was sent round the town for signatures, and obtained about thirty-two, while the Pewholders are upwards of an hundred. The Committee, on this, announced to your —— 'that the call was incomplete and of no effect.' Another general meeting is fixed for March, and should the Pewholders alter their former vote, and conclude to withhold the call, he means to resign his situation at once, and return to Scotland. Although this his determination is very painful to us, I cannot but approve of it; for if he binds himself to twelve months' notice, he cuts off for ever all prospect of preferment either in America or the Scottish church.—I write this with his approval, and at his request. Comps. from Mrs. Y. to Mrs. —— and the young saplings rising around you.

"Dear Sir,

"Your's, &c. &c.

"JOHN YOUNG."

The following was the reply received at Halifax per the Pacquet in the Month of May, and from it it will be seen, that the opinion of my friend coincided with the judgment which my Transatlantic advisers and I had formed of the matter.

"Edinburgh, 3d April, 1825.

"———  
"I address you directly on the subject of Mr. Young's letter, both because it chiefly related to your matters, and because —— wishes to add a few lines to you.—I was a good deal vexed to find that your congregation had made such an unreasonable stipulation with you: and I can scarcely conceive any thing either more unhandsome, or, considering the terms on which you were induced to cross the Atlantic,—done in worse faith. They cannot but be aware, that not only in honour, but even *in law*, they are bound by the terms held out in their application to Doctors Brown and Baird. While they authorized these gentlemen to nominate an Assistant

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and Successor to them, they made no such condition as they are attempting now to enforce against you; and they must well know, that if such a stipulation had then been proposed, neither you, nor I believe any other licentiate of the Scotch church, would have accepted of the appointment. I am glad, as it is, that you have so far resisted the attempt to impose a condition on you which would render it impossible for you ever to obtain a church in Scotland. In agreeing to give your Parishoners six months' notice before leaving them, you have at least gone as far, if not farther, than it was prudent to do; but at all events, I trust you have not agreed to give farther notice, and if they do not accede to the terms you have offered, you can have no alternative but to abandon the appointment altogether.—But before you fairly abandon, I trust you will take care to have the whole matter—the unreasonable requisition on the part of the unreasonable part of the congregation, and the consequent necessity for your resignation, fully evidenced *in writing*; so that there may be no possibility of doubt, or room for misrepresentation as to the cause of your leaving the congregation. Indeed you ought to make a strong struggle against such a condition being imposed on you, or your being compelled in consequence to abandon your appointment; and for this purpose, you ought to protest *formally* against any condition being adjected to your appointment, which was not stipulated for on the part of the congregation, when they gave the authority to Doctors Brown and Baird, under which you were appointed; and you ought to give no facility to the plan which seems to me to be at the bottom of the proposal—that of getting you to resign—but on the contrary, rather allow yourself to be forced out, than go out willingly. Your chief object must now be, to look to consequences. If you do not take care to preserve evidence of being clearly in the right, recollect, that the world will take it for granted that it was you who was in the wrong. The world always presumes, in the case of a quarrel between a clergyman and his flock, that it is the clergyman who is in the wrong: and unless you take care to preserve proof to the contrary, you may have difficulties to contend with even when you return here, on account of what has taken place. I shall not trouble you farther on the point at present. I can only regret that this matter has been stirred at all; but if it is to be made a *sine qua non* by a majority of your flock, you can have no alternative but to leave them. I shall hope, however, that the unreasonableness and injustice of the proposed condition, will become apparent to the agitators of it, and that you will be allowed still to continue your ministrations in peace. I shall, however, be anxious to hear the result. So write to me immediately.—

“I remain,

“Your's, &c.

“\_\_\_\_\_”

The Rev. Mr. E. Renny, }  
Halifax. }

The congregaon, at the Quarterly Meeting held on 10th March, having confirmed the view formerly taken by them of the subject, two gentlemen were nominated to call and request the signatures of the Pewholders. This commission was executed by the gentlemen to whom it was intrusted; and in their hands the call was rendered a valid and efficient instrument, 80 Pewholders having signed it, out of 109 persons entitled to vote. At the Annual Quarterly Meeting, 10th June, 1825, a majority, as had been the case on former occasions, was obtained in my favour; and another Committee, consisting of new members, was ballotted for and appointed.

In October I wrote to the Chairman, Mr. John Howe, requesting that the call, which I had examined, and which had received the signatures of so great a majority, should be delivered to me. This proposition was submitted to a meeting of the congregation which took place on 18th October, and at this meeting it was resolved by a vote of 27 to 21, that they should send to Scotland for another Minister. In these circumstances, and finding it difficult to obtain my salary,\* no choice—no alternative remained, but to withdraw and return to my native country. Previous to my departure from Halifax, I considered it to be incumbent on me to transmit to the Committee a *protest* (No. 14) against the proceedings of the congregation in this affair, appealing from them to the Presbytery of Linlithgow, County of West Lothian, by which I had been ordained to that charge.

Little remains to be added to this cursory and unvarnished statement.

In the month of February, 1825, I appeared before the Presbytery of Linlithgow, and laid before them all the documents and papers, up to that date, which will be given in this collection. A Committee consisting of four Members of Presbytery, was, on that occasion, named by the Moderator. An overture, in consequence of their report, was made to the General Assembly of that year; but it was not till last year (1830) that the deliverance which is here given was agreed to, *nemine dissentiente*.

Various reflections of an interesting kind, arising from this subject, present themselves to my mind; but in dwelling on these, I will not at present indulge. No one, it is believed, who attentively, and with an impartial mind, considers the subject, will hesitate to acknowledge that it is a case "of great hardship," and that much and flagrant injustice has been experienced.

The subject has been brought under the notice of Government, by Archd. Campbell, Esq., of Blythswood, M. P., and latterly by Sir M. S. Stewart, M. P. The applications thus made, through the good offices of these gentlemen, I regret to add, have hitherto terminated in disappointment.

Copies of the correspondence that has been entered into with His Majesty's Government, will be given in the Appendix.

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\* Vid. Letter to Mr. Howe—No. 19.

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## LETTERS

RELATING TO THE CASE.

I.—*Letter to the Very Rev. Principal Baird, and the Rev. Dr. Brown,  
University of Edinburgh.*

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, 1st MAY, 1823.

GENTLEMEN,

The Committee of Saint Matthew's Church in this town, are again obliged to solicit your good offices on behalf of the congregation; and it is with extreme sorrow we have to inform you, that Mr. Knox has notified to us his acceptance of a presentation to a church in Scotland, and that from the continued indisposition and infirmity of Dr. Gray, we are again under the necessity of trespassing on your kindness, by requesting your assistance in selecting a person competent to act as an Assistant and Successor to Dr. Gray, in the room of Mr. Knox.

We have to express to you, that it is with feelings of regret we received notice of his intention to leave us. From the prompt attention you were pleased to give to our former applications, we are induced to believe you will pardon the trouble we now give you; and we think it necessary again to state, that as we are surrounded with able preachers of other denominations, and the revenues of the church arise entirely from the rents of the pews, it will be actually necessary that the Gentleman should be an able preacher, a good orator of orthodox principles, duly ordained, and well acquainted with every branch of literature necessary for a Christian Minister. As our means are limited, we would further suggest, that a young man without a family would be preferred; as also, that the person selected should be one that would be likely to remain with us, provided a mutual approbation of each other should take place, as the chance of our again being left without a preacher of our own persuasion, will be productive of very serious inconvenience to the congregation.

We offer to the person you may nominate, a salary of £200 Halifax currency, to commence from the time of his embarking for this country, in lieu of all expences, and we have by this opportunity transmitted a letter of credit for the sum of £45 Sterling, to be paid to your order, if necessary, to defray his expences in coming here, which sum we consider in advance of the above mentioned salary; and though we have the fullest confidence that the choice which shall be made will prove agreeable, yet, in case a mutual approbation shall not take place within 12 months of his arrival here, we

will agree to continue the salary, at the same rate, for such reasonable time as may be necessary for his return to Scotland.

As Mr. Knox will leave us in the month of June, and as a vacancy of even a few weeks will be very detrimental to the interests of the congregation, we most earnestly entreat that his Successor may leave Scotland as soon as possible. We cannot conclude this letter without expressing our grateful thanks, and those of the congregation, for the very judicious selection you made in the appointment of Mr. Knox. He has discharged all his duties most faithfully, and returns to Scotland with the best feeling of our regard and esteem.

With the fullest reliance on your kind, benevolent, and prompt exertions on our behalf,

We have the honour to remain,

Your obedient humble Servants,

(Signed) James Dechman,  
Alexander Phillips,  
Robert Anderson,  
James Smith, } *Elders.*

(Signed) Mich. Wallace,  
Chas. Hill,  
D. M. Archibald,  
Rt. Hume,  
John Brown,  
William Strachan,  
G. N. Russell,  
James Fullarton,  
Joseph Alison,  
James Bain,  
James Foreman.

## II.—*Extract Minute of the Ordination of Mr. Renny.*

At Linlithgow the 8th September, 1823 years,—which day the Presbytery met, *pro re nata*, in consequence of circular letters addressed to all the Ministers, by the Moderator, for the purpose of taking on trials, and ordaining to the Holy Ministry Mr. Ebenezer Renny, appointed to the Presbyterian church of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Moderator stated that he had appointed to Mr. Renny, subjects of trial discourses, of which step, in the particular circumstances of the case, he hoped the Presbytery would approve.

Mr. Ebenezer Renny appeared, and laid before the Presbytery a letter addressed to the Rev. Dr. Baird, Principal, and the Rev. Dr. Brown, Professor of Rhetoric in the University of Edinburgh, by the Committee of Saint Matthew's Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia, empowering them to select and nominate a Probationer of the Church of Scotland, to be Assistant and Successor to Dr. Gray, present Minister of that charge; stating that the annual emoluments would be two hundred pounds, Halifax currency. Also, a letter from Dr. Baird and Dr. Brown, addressed to the Committee of Saint

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Matthew's Church, recommending and nominating Mr. Ebenezer Renny to said charge.

The Presbytery having heard these letters read, agreed to proceed to take trials of Mr. Renny, in order to ordination; and they agreed, in the circumstances of the case, to take discourses on the subjects appointed by the Moderator.

Mr. Renny delivered discourses on the subjects appointed him, which were sustained as parts of his trials. He was then examined on Hebrew and Greek, and was found well acquainted with these languages.

The Presbytery having taken all the trials of Mr. Renny which they judged necessary in the case of one so lately licenced by themselves to preach the Gospel, and having sustained the same, and being fully satisfied of his proficiency, resolved to ordain him to the Holy Ministry. The Moderator, therefore, called on Mr. Renny, and put to him the questions appointed to be put at ordination; to which questions satisfactory answers having been given by him, the said Mr. Ebenezer Renny was, by solemn prayer and imposition of hands of the Presbytery, ordained to the Holy Ministry, and received from the Brethren the right hand of fellowship.—Then the Moderator addressed to Mr. Renny solemn and impressive exhortations respecting the zeal, diligence, and conduct, of a Minister of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thereafter, Mr. Renny signed the formula in presence of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery ordered the Clerk to furnish Mr. Renny with an extract of this minute. They also agreed to grant him a Presbyterian Certificate of his usefulness, acceptableness, and conduct, while he was a preacher of the Gospel within their bounds.

Extracted by

(Signed)

HENRY LISTON, *Clk.*

### III.—*Presbyterial Certificate in favour of Mr. Renny.*

At Linlithgow the eighth day of September, One thousand eight hundred and twenty-three years.—The Presbytery of Linlithgow being duly met and constituted, considering that Mr. Ebenezer Renny has this day been by them ordained to the Holy Ministry, in the view of his going out to Halifax, in Nova Scotia, as Minister of the Church of Saint Matthews there, feel themselves called on to certify, that Mr. Ebenezer Renny has preached in many parishes within their bounds, and that they have every reason to believe him a useful and acceptable preacher, and that his conduct has always been correct and becoming his profession; and they warmly recommend him to the good offices, respect, and Christian submission of the congregation of which he is appointed Pastor. And they heartily wish him all manner of success in the discharge of his important functions.

Signed in name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Linlithgow, by

(Signed)

JOHN FERGUSON, *Modr.*

HENRY LISTON, *Clk.*

IV.—*Captain Fullerton's Letter.*

HALIFAX, 17th JUNE, 1824.

The REV. MR. RENNY,

Dear Sir,—The Congregation having proposed the inclosed Resolutions to be debated on, on Monday next, I have thought it proper to acquaint on the subject.—I remain,

Rev. Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,  
(Signed) JAMES FULLERTON,  
Chairman of Committee.

I shall be at home all the morning.

*Enclosure.*

The Committee understanding that it is the wish of the Congregation to reduce the salary of Doctor Gray, the Committee recommend, that Doctor Gray be released from his pastoral care of the church, and be allowed to retire with a yearly salary of £— for life. To remove from the parsonage house, and be allowed for house rent the sum of £— yearly. The Committee recommend, that the Congregation do give a call to the Rev. Mr. Renny to become Pastor of the Church, and not to be under any controul of Doctor Gray, with the salary he now holds, *till the demise of Dr. Gray.*—The Committee recommend to the Congregation the sale of the parsonage house, as it will shortly want great repairs.

V.—*Mr. Renny's Letter to the Congregation of Saint Matthew's.*

HALIFAX, 12th NOVEMBER, 1824.

Gentlemen,

It was only lately that I understood an answer was expected to the letter which was some weeks ago presented to me by the Members of your Committee; and it is to this circumstance alone that my silence is to be attributed. In this letter a call has been given to me, in which it is stated that you are unanimous in your desire to retain me as your Pastor. Since my first appearance in this place, considerably more than six months ago, I have endeavoured faithfully, but I am conscious very imperfectly, to discharge the solemn and important duties which have devolved upon me, in consequence of the unabated and lamented illness of your revered Pastor, Doctor Gray; and I thus publicly, therefore, and solemnly accept of the invitation which you have given to become Junior Minister of Saint Matthew's Church with Dr. Gray; and am resolved, through the effectual assistance of the grace of God, which alone worketh in us to will and to do of his good pleasure, to the best of my power, to perform the functions of that sacred office.

Your desire to give permanency to this appointment, has not escaped my attention. There is not at present the smallest prospect, nor, on my part, any wish that a change in my situation should take place; and if in the

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course of providence so unforeseen an event should afterwards occur, I will not fail to give the earliest notice of that circumstance to the congregation. Permit me to say, in conclusion, that while I pray to God, and your prayers in this good work, I sincerely trust, will be added to my own, that the labours which devolve upon me, as a servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, may conduce to your spiritual edification and growth in grace, the pastoral tie between us will long continue, & hope, to subsist in that harmony and good understanding which has hitherto been experienced, and which the kind and friendly wishes and dispositions expressed in your letter, will so strongly contribute to promote.—I am,

Gentlemen,

With warm wishes for your welfare, both temporal and eternal,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) E. RENNY.

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VI.—*Rufus Fairbanks, Esq., to Mr. Renny.*

HALIFAX, 13th DECEMBER, 1824.

Rev. Sir,

At the Quarterly Meeting of Saint Matthew's Church, held on Friday 10th instant, the Committee laid before the Congregation your letter of 12th November, in which you declare your acceptance of an invitation to act as Junior Minister with the Rev. Dr. Gray; and the same having been read, and the votes taken thereon, it was unanimously deemed unsatisfactory, owing to your not having specified a time for giving notice, should a presentation from Scotland or other cause, induce you to remove from hence.

I am, Rev. Sir,

Your's Very Respectfully,  
(Signed) RUFUS FAIRBANKS, *Modr.*

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VII.—*Statement of the Question that had arisen between the Congregation and Mr. Renny.*

The difficulty that has occurred with respect to the call being given by the Congregation of Saint Matthew's to the Rev. Mr. Renny, has arisen out of a motion being made by Mr. M'Dougall, a Member of the Committee of that Church, in these words: "That in case Mr. Renny should afterwards receive a call to a church in Scotland, and should wish to accept thereof, or any other circumstance induce him to leave the Congregation, that he give twelve months' notice, in a regular manner, of his intention to resign the call of the Congregation."—In the letter which was written to the Very Rev. Principal Baird and Dr. Brown, in May, last year, requesting these two Gentlemen to appoint a Successor to Mr. Knox, and in consequence of which Mr. Renny was nominated to the vacancy; no mention whatever is made, nor even a hint given, of this condition which it is now wished to an-

nex to the call. The mover of this Resolution, though he was at that time a Member of the Committee when the letter to the Very Rev. Principal Baird and Dr. Brown, was written, declares that he never saw, and was wholly unacquainted with, the contents of that letter. The expressions that are used in it, with reference to the point in question, are the following: "It would be preferred that the person selected should be one that would be likely to remain with us, provided a mutual approbation of each other should take place." Upon this subject Mr. Renny, in his letter to the Congregation, of 12th November, says: "Your desire to give permanency to this appointment, has not escaped my attention. There is not at present the smallest prospect, nor on my part any desire, that a change in my situation should take place; and if in the course of providence so unforeseen an event should afterwards occur, I will not fail to give the earliest notice of that circumstance to the Congregation." No specific time, therefore, with respect to notice being given previous to resignation of the call, is condescended upon, and the Resolution moved by Mr. M'Dougall, is inconsistent with the declarations of the letter to the Very Rev. Principal Baird and Rev. Dr. Brown, which must be considered as the basis of the original contract between the parties.

In the call which was formerly given to Dr. Brown and our much respected Pastor, Dr. Gray, no proposition of this kind is introduced as necessary or desirable; and besides, it is contrary to the form of call adopted, and that always, since its first establishment, has been used in the Church of Scotland.\*

But there is another particular intimately connected with this question, to which I would beg leave to call the attention of the Committee. The Church of Scotland does not recognize the right, that appears now to be claimed, to dissolve the connection that is formed between an ordained Minister and his flock. The words of the law are as follows: "Ordination is the solemn act of the Presbytery setting apart a person to some public church office. It is agreeable to the word of God, and very expedient, that such as are to be ordained Ministers, be designed to some particular church or other ministerial charge. See Directory; as also the 10th Act, Cap. 1. of French Church Discipline, wherein they agree that Ministers shall not be ordained without assigning to them a particular flock."†

In confirmation of this view of the case, it may be stated, that when Mr. Renny's ordination for this charge, by the Presbytery of Linlithgow, in Sept. last year, took place, an objection was started by some Members of the Presbytery, to proceeding with the ordination, on the ground, that the letter to the two Rev. Gentlemen above named, requesting them to nominate a Successor to Mr. Knox, seemed to claim this right of dissolving the connection, and that Mr. Renny might in consequence find it necessary to re-

\* See Stewart of Pardovan's Collections, p. 3. † Do. p. 5.

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turn to Scotland, still unprovided for. This objection, however, was overruled by the Rev. Dr. Wilson of Falkirk, who stated, that this was the form that was usually followed in those applications which are made by the churches in our colonies for Presbyterian Clergymen, belonging to the Church of Scotland; that no bad consequences in former cases had resulted from it; that it was very unlikely that any would happen in the present instance; and that the right which appeared thus to be claimed, would in all probability not be exercised. The ordination of Mr. Renny for the charge of Saint Matthew's Church, was thereupon allowed to proceed.

In making the above remarks, it is not intended, nor is any wish entertained, to question the right of the Congregation to decline giving a call to Mr. Renny; but it has been judged proper and expedient to state to the Committee the law laid down in the Acts of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland upon this subject. From the observations that have been advanced, however, it is evident, that the Resolution in question, is not contained in the letter to the Very Rev. Principal Baird and Rev. Dr. Brown; is contrary to the form of call in the Church of Scotland; and is, I understand, an innovation on the practice and usage, in former instances, pursued by the Congregation of St. Matthew's.

(Signed)

E. RENNY.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 15th, 1824.

VIII.—*Letter—Mr. G. N. Russell, Chairman of Committee.*

Dear Sir,

In consequence of your communication to me on Friday, on the subject of your call from the Congregation of Saint Matthews, the Committee met on Saturday to consider the same; and they wish me to suggest to you the propriety of communicating in writing, the terms upon which you are willing to accept the call, and the Congregation shall be again assembled to consider whether the proposal is acceded to.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your's very respectfully,

(Signed)

G. N. RUSSELL,

*Acting Chairman of Committee.*

MONDAY, 20th DEC. 1824.

To the Rev. E. RENNY, &c. &c.

IX.—*Mr. Renny's Letter in answer.*

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 23d, 1824.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 20th instant, in which you suggest the propriety of stating in writing the terms on which I will accept the call. Upon mature consideration of the difficulty that has unexpectedly occurred, with respect to the time of giving notice previous to

resignation of the call, I am willing to consent that six months' notice shall be given to the Congregation, should a presentation from Scotland, or any unforeseen cause, occur on a future occasion, that might give rise to a wish on my part of a change in my situation. A twelve months' previous notice, you must be well aware, is too long a period to require; and all difficulty, therefore, with respect to the call to be given to me, will now, I trust, be removed by the insertion in it of six months' notice to be given by me previous to resignation of the call.—I am, Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

E. RENNY.

GEORGE RUSSELL, Esq.,  
Acting Chairman of Committee. }

X.—*Letter of Captain Fullerton, Chairman of Committee.*

JANUARY 20th, 1825.

Mr RENNY,

Rev. Sir,—Agreeable to a Resolve of the Committee, I send you the enclosed. The Committee do not think themselves authorized to press to you the call in its present state.—I remain, Rev. Sir,

With great respect,

Your very humble Servant,

(Signed)

JAMES FULLERTON.

*Enclosure, dated Halifax, 19th January, 1825.*

At a Meeting of the Committee of Saint Matthew's Church, held this day,

PRESENT,

Messrs. James Fullerton, <i>Chairman</i> ,	Messrs. Alex. M'Dougall,
Joseph Allison,	Patrick Ross,
James Bain,	William Forsyth,
G. N. Russell,	

Resolved, that a communication be made by the Chairman of the Committee, to the Rev. Ebenezer Renny, that the Committee had in pursuance of the decision of a majority of the Pewholders present at a meeting of the Congregation, held on the 28th December last, in Saint Matthew's Church, at which meeting 28 Pewholders attended, and the majority of whom voted a call to the said Rev. Ebenezer Renny, and agreed on the form thereof, that to complete the said call, the Committee sent a person round respectively to the Pewholders, to procure their signatures, and those who were not seen by him were notified in writing, where the call was left for one week, for that purpose; that out of 169 persons entitled to vote, only thirty had signed the call, viz. 2 Elders, 2 of the Committee, and 26 Pewholders; that the Committee, in consequence thereof, conceive that the call is incomplete and of no effect.

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XI.—*Letter—Mr. Renny to John Howe, Esq.*

HALIFAX, 12th OCTOBER, 1825.

My Dear Sir,

I received to-day your note of yesterday, with its enclosures. Permit me to return the letter of 5th September, addressed to the Committee of Saint Matthew's, which you were so good as to enclose for my perusal.

I have now been for nearly two years labouring among you in word and doctrine, in the discharge of my duties as a Minister of the Gospel of our Lord; and according to the terms of the original letter, written to the Rev. Principal Baird and the Rev. Dr. Brown of Edinburgh, in consequence of which I received my nomination from these Rev. Gentlemen, it was stipulated that when a twelvemonth had elapsed, a definite answer would be given with respect to my future appointment as your Junior Minister.

The causes that have led to the delay originating, I am sorry to say, in the opposition of some individuals in the Congregation, have not escaped my notice; but as matters cannot any longer remain in their present state, it appears to me to be most advisable to request, that the call which was formerly agreed upon, and duly signed, and is now I believe lodged in the hands of the Secretary, be transferred to me. This proposition, I trust, will meet with the approbation of the Members of the Committee.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your's very truly,

(Signed)

E. RENNY.

XII.—*Letter—John Howe, Esq. in answer.*

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 13th, 1825.

My Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 12th instant, was this day laid by me before the Committee of Saint Matthew's Church, and I have been directed to state to you, that as a special meeting of the Congregation will be held on Tuesday next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, it is considered advisable to refer your request respecting the call, to that meeting.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Your's truly,

(Signed)

J. HOWE, JR.

Chairman of Committee.

Rev. Mr. Renny.

XIII.—*Resolution of the Committee, 19th October, 1825.*

Resolved,—That in consequence of the Congregation being so much divided in opinion, as to the propriety of settling the Rev. Mr. Renny as their permanent Pastor, and the dissatisfaction existing in the minds of many of its Members, tending greatly to lessen his usefulness amongst them, it is

therefore expedient, in order to preserve that unanimity and harmony which is so desirable and necessary for the well being of the Congregation, that immediate steps be taken to obtain a Minister who may be more unanimously approved; also, that the Rev. Mr. Renny be continued (provided he thinks proper to remain) at the present salary, until another Minister shall be procured, and that he be allowed a liberal sum to defray his expences to Scotland, should he wish to return to that country.

XIV.—*Protest by Mr. Renny against the Proceedings of the Congregation.*

TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH, HALIFAX.

Gentlemen,

In consequence of the termination of the connection which existed between the Congregation of Saint Matthew's, in this town, and myself as Junior Minister of that Church, I have deemed it my duty to make a concise and faithful statement of the nature of that connection, and of the circumstances which produced its dissolution; that I may enter my solemn Protest before the Congregation here against the cause and manner of my dismissal from the situation which I lately held; and also, that I may hereafter be enabled to lay the subject before the Presbytery of Linlithgow, in the County of West Lothian, Scotland, by which I was ordained to the Holy Ministry.

It will be remembered, that a letter was addressed by the Congregation of St. Matthew's, in the month of May, 1823, to the Rev. Dr. Baird and Dr. Brown, of Edinburgh, requesting their good offices in selecting a person competent to act as Assistant and Successor to Dr. Gray, upon the intended removal of Mr. Knox to a church in Scotland. The terms and stipulations specified in that letter, are as follows: "We offer to the person whom you may nominate a salary of £200, Halifax currency, to commence from the time of his embarking for this country, in lieu of all expences, and we have by this opportunity transmitted a letter of credit for the sum of £45 Sterling to your order, if necessary, to defray his expences in coming here, which sum we consider in advance of the above mentioned salary; and although we have the fullest confidence that the choice which shall be made will prove agreeable, yet in case a mutual approbation shall not take place within twelve months after his arrival here, we will agree to continue the salary at the same rate, for such reasonable time as may be necessary for his return to Scotland."

Upon reference to this letter, it is obvious, that no stipulation or condition was exacted in it respecting any notice from the person accepting the situation therein offered, should he feel a disposition to return to his native country at a subsequent period. It is true, that in the preceding part of the letter, a strong wish was expressed that his residence and situation should be permanent, but the possibility of his removal was at the same time contemplated; and any condition respecting notice to be given, on his part,

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might very properly, and *ought*, I humbly conceive, to have been there introduced, if it had been intended that a stipulation of this kind should form part of his engagement.

Having been recommended by the two Rev. Gentlemen already mentioned, and duly ordained on the 8th September, 1833, by the Presbytery of Linlithgow, at a pro re nata meeting held on that day, I left my native country, and having arrived at Halifax in the month of December in the same year, I took upon myself the sacred duties of that important trust; and after the approbation of so many Members of the Congregation of St. Matthew's, expressed by their written certificates, I may be permitted to avow, that with conscientious and faithful zeal, I have discharged those duties.

After officiating about six months as your Junior Minister, and without any further engagement than the one contained in the letter to Dr. Baird and Dr. Brown, at a meeting which took place on 10th June, 1824, when it was unanimously agreed by the Congregation, that a call should be given to me, a resolution was proposed in these words: "That in case Mr. Renny should afterwards receive a call to a church in Scotland, and should wish to accept thereof, or other circumstance should induce him to leave the Congregation, he give 12 months' notice, in a regular manner, of his intention to resign the call of the Congregation." And to this stipulation my consent was then first required, as a condition to my obtaining such call.— It would have been obviously an engagement of too narrow and limited a nature on the part of the Congregation, and certainly not fair towards myself, that I should resign all natural desires of returning to my native country, and consent to fix myself permanently in my present situation, at the sum stipulated in the letter referred to. And yet such would have been the real effect of that condition, as I must have thereby become unable to accept any situation in the Church of Scotland, to which I might afterwards be appointed, unless I did so by a breach of this engagement into which I was required to enter. Although I did, then, however, and do still conceive, that no such terms could be exacted from me, I willingly and frankly offered, in my letter to the Congregation of 12th November, 1824, to give the earliest notice in my power of any such intended removal which it might be desirable for me to make. My proposition was considered to be unsatisfactory, as appears from the following letter:—

“ HALIFAX, 13th DECEMBER, 1824.

“ Rev. Sir,

“ At the Quarterly Meeting of Saint Matthew's Church, held on Friday 10th instant, the Committee laid before the Congregation your letter of 12th November, in which you declare your acceptance of an invitation to act as Junior Minister with the Rev. Dr. Gray; and the same having been read, and the votes taken thereon, it was unanimously deemed unsatisfac-

tory, owing to your not having specified a time for giving notice, should a presentation from Scotland or other cause, induce you to remove from hence.

"I am, Rev. Sir,

"Your's Very Respectfully,

(Signed) "RUFUS FAIRBANKS."

To fix with sufficient certainty this time, I named six months, as in itself perfectly reasonable, as I apprehended, and which would, if necessary, give the Congregation sufficient time to procure a person in my room. It would appear that such had been the sentiments of a large portion of the Congregation; for at a meeting which took place on the 28th December, 1824, this proposition was accepted by a majority of 19 to 9. A call was accordingly drawn out to this effect, and after some delay, was actually subscribed by 80 Pewholders out of 100 persons entitled to vote. This call, though it has been seen by me, has never been in my possession; but judging, after some time, that it was both expedient and my right that I should be in possession of this instrument, and that after the signatures of so great a majority, it could not with any propriety be withheld from me, I applied for it by a letter addressed to John Howe, Esq. the Chairman of the Committee. In reply, I was informed by Mr. Howe, that this letter having been submitted to the consideration of the Committee, they had resolved that my request should be referred to a meeting of the Congregation, which was fixed for the 18th October. Accordingly, at this meeting, 48 Members being present, a resolution was passed by a majority of 27 to 21, a copy of which has been delivered to me by the Committee as follows:—

"Resolved,—That in consequence of the Congregation being so much divided in opinion, as to the propriety of settling the Rev. Mr. Renny as their permanent Pastor, and the dissatisfaction existing in the minds of many of its Members, tending greatly to lessen his usefulness amongst them, it is therefore expedient, in order to preserve that unanimity and harmony which is so desirable and necessary for the well being of the Congregation, that immediate steps be taken to obtain a Minister who may be more unanimously approved; also, that the Rev. Mr. Renny be continued (provided he thinks proper to remain) at the present salary, until another Minister shall be procured, and that he be allowed a liberal sum to defray his expences to Scotland, should he wish to return to that country."

And to this proposition of remaining on these terms for an uncertain period, I declined acceding.

Thus, then, Gentlemen, do I find the connection between us severed, and I now cease to fill the situation to which you invited me, and to which a call from so large a majority of the Pewholders of the Church, has been, though formally, yet ineffectually, made, and from which, the small number of 27, and that by a majority of six individuals, have removed me, by the resolution now referred to. To this resolution, thus weakly sanctioned, and formed

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I conceive in defiance of precedent and reason, I have no option but to submit; and equally anxious as I am, with every member of my late flock, to preserve unanimity and harmony, allow me to express the hope that these benefits may be thereby produced, and that a Successor may be obtained, in whom the affections of all will centre. Conscious that I possess the esteem and good wishes of many, and that whatever dissatisfaction may exist in any mind respecting myself, I cherish no unfriendly sentiment or disposition towards any individual in the Congregation, I would not willingly be understood as saying ought personal on the subject. And while my duty leads me to deny the authority of those whose proceedings have thus terminated in the dissolution of my pastoral connection, and to protest before you and the Presbytery of our Church, against such assumption of power, I do so in this manner, that I may appear to act openly before all; that my sentiments and my intentions may not be mistaken or misinterpreted; that the facts upon which this Protest is founded, may challenge remark, if incorrectly stated; and that upon these, the Presbytery of our Church, to which I make this appeal, may hereafter decide.

I DO, THEREFORE, solemnly and publicly Protest against any right, power, or authority, in the Congregation, or any individual or members thereof, to introduce, demand, or make any stipulation or condition, respecting myself, or my situation, which was not stated in the letter addressed to Dr. Baird and Dr. Brown, upon which, and upon which alone, my ministry was founded, and the charge undertaken as Junior Minister of the Church of Saint Matthew's in Halifax.

And I do also, and further, solemnly and publicly Protest against the power and authority of the Members of the Congregation of Saint Matthews, assumed and acted upon at their meeting held on the 18th day of October, 1825.

1. Because the Church of Scotland does not recognise the right thus claimed, to dissolve the connection that has been formed between an ordained Minister and his flock; and consequently, the Resolution passed at this meeting, is contrary to the authority of our Church, and inconsistent with the lawful privileges and acknowledged rights of its Ministers.

2. Because this resolution is a violation of the terms upon which the invitation was given, accepted, and confirmed; and expressly contrary to the pledge held out in the letter to Dr. Baird and Dr. Brown, in which the period of probation was limited by the Congregation themselves to 12 months, and within which period, therefore, and before the call was executed, this right, if at all, could have been alone exercised.

And lastly. Because not only was such a resolution inconsistent with the call previously made, and of no validity or effect to annul the solemn, formal, and effective mode by which I was confirmed as the Junior Minister of this Church; but because, also, it is in itself contrary to all precedent and justice, principle and reason, that the act of a greater num-

ber can be destroyed by a lesser, and that having the sanction of *eighty* Pewholders, I can be deprived of the situation, and dismissed from the charge to which they had invited me, by a meeting at which scarcely more than half of that number were present, and of which, in fact, a majority of *six* alone have annulled and rendered void their solemn call, by which I had been confirmed as the Junior Minister of the Church of St. Matthew's.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. RENNY.

HALIFAX, 10th Nov. 1825.

XV.—*Certificate signed by Members of Council, the Moderator, and Acting Committee, in favour of Mr. Renny.*

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do Certify, that the Rev. E. Renny has officiated as Junior Minister of Saint Matthew's Church here, for nearly two years, during which time he has conducted himself with the strictest propriety and attention to his duty as a Christian Minister. His preaching and doctrines have been such as to merit our warmest approbation. His moral conduct has been pious, exemplary, and altogether becoming his profession.

Given under our Hands at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 28th day of October, 1825.

(Signed) Archd. Gray, D.D.	}	Sen. Min. St. Matthew's Church.	Mich. Wallace, Enos Collins, James Foreman,	} Members of His Majesty's Council. Moderator.
		Man. Committee of St. Matthew's Church.	J. Howe, jun. William Forsyth, Alex. Murison, John Dempster, Adam Esson, Rt. Hume, David Fletcher,	} Man. Committee of St. Matthew's Church.

XVI.—*Letter of the Congregation to Mr. Renny.*

HALIFAX, 28th OCTOBER, 1825.

Rev. Sir,

The Congregation of Saint Matthews Church understanding that it is your intention to return immediately into Scotland, offer their best wishes for your safe arrival in your native country, and for your future welfare and happiness in life.

The doctrines you have taught, and the morality which has distinguished your conduct in the discharge of the Ministerial duties of Junior Pastor of their Church, have been every way worthy of your profession. Notwithstanding the unhappy differences which occurred between yourself and a

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portion of its members, they *all* feel bound to bear this testimony to your character. And wherever Almighty God, in his wisdom, may hereafter direct your footsteps, they sincerely hope his blessing will attend you, and that all your labours in the great cause of religion, will be crowned with the happiest success.—We are,

Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

(Signed)

Mich. Wallace,  
Enos Collins,  
James Foreman,  
John Howe, jun.  
Joseph Allison,  
G. N. Russell,  
Alexander Murison,  
John Dempster,  
Adam Esson,  
Rt. Hume,  
David Fletcher,  
William Forsyth,  
W. Crawford,  
James Wilkie,  
Robert Romans,  
William Patterson,  
James Carmichael,  
John Benzie,  
George Thomson,  
Archibald Sinclair,  
Wm. Cleaveland,  
William Gordon,  
Chas. Esson,  
Thomas K. Grassie,  
Errol Boyd,  
John Fillis,

John Esson,  
Joseph Wilson,  
James Donaldson,  
John Farquhar,  
John M'Lean,  
James Greig,  
James Grant,  
Saml. Story,  
David Walker,  
Wm. Stairs,  
F. Mitchell,  
Alexr. Fiddes,  
David Hall,  
Alex. Am. Ferguson,  
William Mitchell,  
Robt. Noble,  
James D. Fraser,  
Alexander Mitchell,  
James Mitchell,  
Peter Lynch,  
Wm. Annant,  
James Bain,  
John Brown,  
James Foreman, jun.  
Jos. Lee,  
Rufus Fairbanks,

James Smith,  
James Deekman, jun.  
William Merrick,  
Alexander Philips,  
Nathl. Callander,  
Edward Wallace,  
John Williamson,  
John Liddell,  
William M'Donald,  
G. W. Archibald,  
Charles D. Archibald,  
John Young,  
William Young,  
James Deekman, sen.  
William Knox,  
Jane Knox,  
Thomas Knox,  
Chas. Alexander,  
Dun. M'Farlane,  
William Grant,  
Peter M'Nab,  
John Ross,  
John Davie,  
Nicholas Vass.

The Reverend Mr. RENNY.

XVII.—*John Howe, jun. to Mr. Renny.*

HALIFAX, 11th NOVEMBER, 1825.

Rev. Sir,

As Chairman of the Committee of Saint Matthew's Church, it was my duty to submit to their consideration your letter of yesterday's date.

Called upon, as they now are, in justification of the conduct of the Congregation towards you, to transmit to Scotland a full explanation of all the circumstances that led to the separation that has taken place between them and you, and to account for the motives that induced them to address to you their farewell letter, I have been directed to notify you of this their intention, and distinctly to state, that such representation will be forwarded by the first packet which sails from hence for England, unless you should, upon reflection, and in the course of to-morrow, think proper to withdraw it.

I am, Rev. Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

J. HOWE, Jun.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 12.

XVIII.—*Mr. Renny to Mr. J. Howe, jr. in answer.*

Mr. Renny presents his compliments to Mr. Howe. Previous to his setting sail upon his return to his native country, he thought it proper and advisable to address his letter of the 10th instant to the Committee, for the reasons which he stated therein at large, and feels no disposition to withdraw it, as he conceives it to be his duty to submit a copy of it to the Presbytery of Linlithgow, immediately after his arrival in Scotland. He is persuaded that the Committee must be sensible of the candour and fairness of this proceeding.

JOHN HOWE, JUN. Esq., }  
Chairman of Committee. }

XIX.—*Mr. Renny to Mr. Howe.*

7th OCTOBER, 1825.

Dear Sir,

I am obliged, though unwillingly, to address to you this note. I have repeatedly applied to our Treasurer, Captain Fullerton, for the payment of my salary, but without success, and the reply made to my application is, that he has no church funds in his hands. There are at present due to me, *two quarters' salary*, and the want of so large a sum, as you must easily imagine, puts me to great inconvenience. By your interference, and ordering the payment of the sum due to me, you will oblige,

Dear Sir,

Your's very truly,

(Signed)

E. RENNY.

J. HOWE, JUN. Esq. }  
Chairman of Committee. }

XX.—*Certificate by Principle Baird and Dr. Brown, to Mr. Renny.*

COLLEGE, EDINBURGH, 31st DECEMBER, 1829.

We, who united in recommending the Rev. Ebenezer Renny, ordained a Minister of the Gospel to the Congregation of Saint Matthew's Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia, feel ourselves called upon, in justice to that Gentleman, to bear witness, that though his settlement among them was not carried into effect, we have never heard any allegation made against his private morals, or the soundness of his doctrine, or his faithfulness in the exercise of pastoral duty. We therefore entertain the pleasing hope, that by the blessing of God his additional studies and experience may enable him to become an active, useful, and acceptable, Minister in the Christian Church.

(Signed)

GEO. H. BAIRD, D. D.,

One of the Ministers and Principal of the University  
of Edinburgh.

ANDREW BROWN,

Minister, Old Church, and Professor of Rhetoric.

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XXI.—*Certificate by Mr. Menzies, East Parish, Greenock, and Members of Session, to Mr. Renny.*

I hereby Certify, that the Rev. E. Renny has resided within the bounds of my Parish for a considerable length of time, and that I have had frequent opportunities both of hearing him in the pulpit, and of cultivating a friendly intercourse with him in private. That the opinion which, in these favourable circumstances, I have been led to form of his talents, acquirements, and character, is very high, and that the prevailing sentiment by which I am actuated in stating this opinion, is that of deep and cordial regret, that an individual so very meritorious as Mr. R., an ordained Clergyman withal, and of larger and more extended experience than myself, should be under the necessity, at this time of day, of requiring my humble testimony. I forbear purposely going into a long detail of Mr. R.'s qualifications, lest I might be suspected of being influenced by private friendship more than by a regard to truth; but a sense of what is due both to him and to myself, constrains me to say in general terms, that I know of few, who, from superior intelligence, integrity of conduct, scrupulous fidelity, and unwearied patience, and good temper, are so well qualified, or promise so fairly, to be an useful and efficient Minister of a Parish.

(Signed)

WILLIAM MENZIES, *Minister.*

JAMES WATT, *Elder.*

COLIN LAMONT, *Elder.*

JOHN BUCHANAN, Jr. *Elder.*

C. BUCHANAN, *Elder.*

PETER M'MORLAN, *Elder.*

JAMES LIKLY, *Elder.*

MALCOM BUCHANAN, *Elder.*

I am authorised to state, that the forementioned Gentlemen, Elders of this Parish, give their cordial concurrence in the above Certificate.

(Signed)

W. MENZIES.

EAST PARISH, GREENOCK, 19th MARCH, 1829.

XXII.—*Letter from the Presbytery of Paisley to Sir George Murray, 8th April, 1830.*

The Presbytery of Paisley, feeling as they do the deepest interest in the sustained and increasing influence of pure religion, sound morality, and social order, among their countrymen, whether temporarily or more permanently resident in the colonies and foreign dependencies under His Majesty's paternal Government, and maintaining their connexion with the Church by law established in this part of the United Kingdom, have had at different times under their consideration, and do now humbly beg leave to bring under the notice of the Right Honourable His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, certain circumstances of peculiar hardship, connected with the case of the Rev. Ebenezer Renny, who has

been for these nine years resident within the bounds, and under the inspection of this Presbytery, with the exception of nearly two years, 1824 and 1825, during which, he occupied the important situation of Junior or Assistant Minister, to the Rev. Dr. Archibald Gray, of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia; and in that capacity of officiating Clergyman, acted as Chaplain to a numerous body of troops in that station, who adhere to the forms of worship of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

To that very important situation Mr. Renny was regularly ordained by the Reverend the Presbytery of Linlithgow, the 8th September, 1823, having been, in consequence of an application to that effect from the Congregation of St. Matthew's, specially nominated and appointed by the Very Reverend Principal Baird, and Dr. Andrew Brown, one of the Ministers of the city, and Professor of Rhetoric in the University of Edinburgh. The confidence reposed in the judgment of these learned and Rev. Gentlemen, so well grounded on other reasons, was the more natural in regard to Professor Brown, as he had for a series of years held the very charge in St. Matthew's, Halifax, N. S., which Mr. Renny was now destined to fill.

On the facts of the case, as to which a considerable body of documentary evidence has been produced to the Presbytery of Paisley, and might accompany this, did that seem necessary,—there appears to be no difference between the parties.

Mr. Renny being designated to the sacred office above described, received ordination from that Presbytery, (Linlithgow) by which he had been licensed a Probationer for the Christian Ministry, a few years before. He forthwith left Scotland, and arriving at Halifax early in Dec. 1823, immediately entered on the discharge of his official duties. The stipulated salary of £200 currency, was held as beginning to be due from the day he left the shores of his native land, and was fixed to continue till a vacancy should open the full charge and entire emoluments. Of the manner in which Mr. Renny justified the recommendations of his Patrons in Edinburgh, the most satisfactory evidence is afforded by Certificates given under the hands of said Dr. Gray and the Managing Committee, together with Michael Wallace and Enos Collins, Esqs. and Members of His Majesty's Council, and 77 Pewholders out of 109 qualified voters. These attestations of 28th October, 1825, bear, "that Mr. Renny, during the two years nearly of his officiating as Junior Minister of St. Matthews, has conducted himself with the strictest propriety and attention to his duties as a Christian Minister; that his preaching and doctrines have been such as to merit our warmest approbation; and his moral conduct pious, exemplary, and altogether becoming his profession."

There seems to have existed a very general solicitude to secure in time coming the services of one so advantageously known by the fidelity and zeal with which his various duties were performed. This was evinced by an *unanimous agreement* at a meeting on the 10th June, 1824, to give him a call, the acceptance of which is held, in similar circumstances, as a *complete*

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*investiture.* To this call, however, was, by the influence of some person or persons, the condition appended, that a *whole year's notice* should be given by Mr. Renny, should he have it in view, at any future period, to relinquish his charge at Halifax. Considering that by the laws of the Church of Scotland, every vacancy must be filled up, at least a Minister presented, within six months, he felt that twelve months' premonition must quite preclude his acceptance of a living in his native land. Subsequently an offer of six months' notice so conciliated the body of the Congregation of St. Matthews, that a call on these terms was soon after drawn up, and subscribed by 80 Pewholders out of 109 qualified voters. Certain individuals, had influence, notwithstanding, to prevent said instrument—this call—from being delivered to Mr. Renny, whose application to obtain possession of it, was negatived by a narrow majority at a meeting of 48—scarcely exceeding in all, half the number of those who had sanctioned the said call by their signatures. Mr. Renny judged it his duty to retire, protesting against the defeating his just rights by art or violence.

The Presbytery of Paisley beg to join in protesting against such acts of oppression, and authorise their Moderator and Clerk to subscribe this document, in testimony of what is above set forth, this eighth day of April, 1830.

(Signed) JOHN MONTEATH, *Moderator.*  
ROBERT DOUGLAS, *Pres. Clk.*

XXIII.—*Certificate in favour of Mr. Renny, by the Magistrates of Greenock.*

From the Rev. Mr. Renny having resided for a considerable time in this town and neighbourhood, I have had occasion to hear the particulars of his case, and abundant opportunities to judge of his character and general deportment. His case, I humbly conceive to be one of great hardship; and his character, I can safely affirm, stands in every respect perfectly unimpeachable.

(Signed) JOHN FAIRRIE, Chief Magistrate.

I concur in what has been stated above by Mr. Fairrie.

(Signed) ROBERT BAINE, Jun. Magistrate.

GREENOCK, 11th APRIL, 1830.

XXIV.—*Deliverance by General Assembly, 1st June, 1830.*

At Edinburgh the first day of June, One thousand eight hundred and thirty. The Commission of the General Assembly took up the Petition of the Rev. Ebenezer Renny, who was ordained by the Presbytery of Linlithgow, on the eighth day of September, 1823, as Minister of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, but who, after having officiated in that capacity nearly two years, was under the necessity of relinquishing the appointment, because the Congregation insisted on his subscribing an obligation; by which he would have been restrained from accepting a presentation to any church in

Scotland, without giving twelve months' notice previous to his removal, a condition of which he had never heard before, and one which was altogether impracticable, unless he had renounced all hope of ever being admitted as a Minister in his native country.

The Commission of the General Assembly having heard Henry Cockburn, Esq. Advocate, as counsel for Mr. Renny, and having very deliberately considered the whole circumstances, unanimously find that this is a case of great hardship, and agree to recommend Mr. Renny to the favourable consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Extracted from the records of the Commission of General Assembly.

(Signed)

JOHN LEE, Cl. Eccl. Scot.

*Corresp*

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## APPENDIX.

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*Correspondence with His Majesty's Government, connected with  
the case of the Rev. E. Renny.*

(No. 1.)

GREENOCK, 25th OCTOBER, 1830.

SIR,—The peculiarity of my case, in connection with the Congregation of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, was several months ago brought under your notice by Mr. Campbell of Blythswood, M. P. Sir Michael S. Stewart, the Member for the County, has been so good as to say that he will forward this letter to you on this occasion; and without entering into detail on this subject, with the principal circumstances of which, you are, I believe, already in some measure acquainted, I beg leave to subjoin the deliverance of the last General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, as it may have escaped your attention.—*Copy of Deliverance of the General Assembly, 1830.*

I would only add, that during the two years that I remained at Halifax as Minister, I officiated as Chaplain to the Presbyterian Troops which attended this Church; and as £100 is allowed to the Minister of Saint Matthew's Church, and my Senior Colleague, Dr. Gray, is now deceased, I would respectfully represent, that some redress is due to me in a case, in which, as is proved by the documents formerly transmitted by Mr. Campbell of Blythswood, I have been treated with such flagrant injustice and oppression.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

E. R.

The Right Hon. Sir GEORGE MURRAY.

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(No. 2.)

DOWNING STREET, 16th NOV. 1830.

SIR,—I am directed by Secretary Sir George Murray, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, complaining of the injustice which you have experienced from the Congregation of St. Matthew's, Halifax, and to express his regret that he has no means of affording you any relief.

The claim which you urge, on account of your services as Chaplain to the Presbyterian Troops at Halifax, should be addressed to the Secretary at War.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,

R. W. HAY.

The Rev. E. RENNY, Greenock.

(No. 3.)

GREENOCK, 2d DEC. 1830.

SIR,—I beg leave to bring under your notice my case connected with the Congregation of St. Matthew's, Halifax. The Minister of that Church receives £100, as Chaplain to the Presbyterian Troops which attend this Church.—The nature of the case is explained in the documents which are herewith transmitted.

Prefixed is also a copy of the letter received from Sir George Murray; in answer to that which Sir M. S. Stewart, Member for the County, was so good as to forward to Sir George; and having been directed to apply for redress to the Secretary at War, I sincerely hope that the application now made, will not be in vain.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,

E. R.

The Right Hon. the Secretary at War.

(No. 4.)

WAR OFFICE, 23d DEC. 1830.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, and to acquaint you, that the allowance of £100 a year to the Minister of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia, to which you allude, not being issued under the orders of this office, the Secretary at War cannot take cognizance of your claim to a portion of it.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,

L. SULIVAN.

Rev. E. RENNY, Greenock.

Having addressed the Right Honourable Lord Goderich, requesting to be informed from what office the sum of £100 to the Minister of St. Matthew's was issued, the following is a copy of His Lordship's answer.

(No. 5.)

DOWNING STREET, 29th JANUARY, 1831.

SIR,—I am directed by Viscount Goderich to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 5th instant, that Sir George Murray referred you to the

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Secretary at War for a decision of the claim which you brought forward,  
 "as Chaplain to the Presbyterian Troops at Halifax."

Lord Goderich has no knowledge of £100 allowance to the Minister of  
 St. Matthew's Church, Halifax. A salary of £75 per annum, is granted on  
 the Parliamentary Estimate, to the Minister of the Church of Scotland,  
 which is appropriated under the authority of the Lt. Governor, to the pay-  
 ment of the salary of the Minister of the Church of Scotland, who is entitled  
 to receive it.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. W. HAY

The Rev. E. RENNY, Greenock.

(No. 6.)

GREENOCK, 9th FEBRUARY, 1831.

SIR,—I had the honour to receive your letter of the 22d Dec. 1830, No.  
 37, 336, and I beg leave to inclose a copy of a letter from Viscount God-  
 rich. His letter intimates, that my claim as Chaplain to the Presbyterian  
 Troops at Halifax, was referred by Sir George Murray for your decision;  
 and as your letter only states that the allowance to the Minister of Saint  
 Matthew's Church, is not paid from the War Office, I take the liberty of  
 again soliciting your attention to the subject.

My case is declared, in the deliverance of the General Assembly of the  
 Church of Scotland, formerly forwarded, to be "one of great hardship, and  
 they agree unanimously to recommend me to the favourable consideration  
 of his Majesty's Government."

Inclosed is a list of the Pewholders of St. Matthew's, while I held the  
 appointment of Junior Minister, in 1824 and 1825; and in this list are  
 found the names of several Members of His Majesty's Council, including  
 not only his Honour the President, Hon. Michael Wallace, but likewise that  
 of Lt. General Sir James Kempt, now in this country, and to whom I was  
 well known during the period I remained at Halifax.

Under these circumstances, I respectfully request that relief, whether by  
 some appointment of a permanent nature, or in any other way that may be  
 deemed advisable, will be afforded.

By £100, was meant £100 currency.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

E. R.

The Right Hon. W. W. WYNNÉ, Sec. at War.

*List of Pewholders of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax.*

Doctor Hume,	William Annand,	James Wilkie,
James Kidston,	John Farquhar,	Captain Rumford,
Mrs. Hall,	William Patterson,	Joseph Hamilton,
Enoch Wiswell,	James H. Donaldson,	Mrs. Grinton,
James Fullerton,	William Duffus,	Thomas Mudie,
Mr. Lloyd,	Alexander Fiddes,	Alexander M'Dougall,
Joshua Lee,	William Kidston,	George Mitchell,
William Cleaveland,	Joseph Wiswell,	Andrew Mitchell,
David Muirhead,	— Callander,	James Smith,
Mrs. Peeples,	Archibald Sinclair,	John Hosterman,
Mrs. Clunis,	Mrs. Grassie,	Doctor Stirling,
Mrs. Curry,	Rufus Fairbanks,	William Goreham,
Hon. Enos Collins,	Charles R. Fairbanks,	C. West,
Joseph Allison,	John E. Fairbanks,	Alexander Mitchell,
James Fraser,	Capt. James M'Kenna,	Samuel Mitchell,
Charles C. Hill,	Duncan Black,	Mrs. Hogg,
John F. Salter,	Andrew D. Russell,	A. M'Michael,
John Barron,	Adam Esson,	Nicholas Vass,
John Dempster,	William Minns,	David Smillie,
James Foreman, sen.	John Ross,	Charles Esson,
James Foreman, jun.	S. G. W. Archibald,	Alex. A. Ferguson,
William Merrick.	Israel Allison,	James Cruickshank,
John Boyd,	Peter M'Nab,	James Dechman, sen.
Richard Best,	James M'Nab,	James Dechman, jun.
Hon. Charles Hill,	John Howe, jun.	William Strachan,
William M. Allan,	Peter M'Nab, jun.	Robert Smith,
Thomas C. Allan,	Lt. Gen. Sir Jas. Kempt,	William Story, jun.
Mrs. Cochran,	James Romans,	Alexander Phillips,
Thomas Wallace,	Peter Lynch,	Mrs. George Donaldson,
George N. Russell,	Mrs. Henry,	William Stairs,
Archibald Stewart,	David Fletcher,	John Thompson,
Miss Salter,	Thomas Gentles,	John Fraser,
James Bain,	William M'Kenzie,	William Forsyth,
Hon. Mich. Wallace,	Mrs. Knox,	Daniel Grant,
Alex. Murison,	Mrs. Hunter,	Robert Anderson,
John Brown,	George Thompson,	George T. Filles,
Robert M. Brown,	Mrs. Fry,	Doctor Avery,
Thomas Williamson,	Patrick Ross,	John Filles,
John Williamson,	Samuel Story,	Robert Noble.

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(No. 7.)

WAR OFFICE, 24th FEB. 1831.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to acquaint you that the existing regulations do not enable the Secretary at War to grant you any allowance as Chaplain to the Presbyterian Troops at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. SULLIVAN.

Rev. E. RENNY, Greenock.

THE END.

