

the measure had for its object the benefit of the laity, and not the ministry; no anxiety was felt as to the result; but contrary to all expectation it was vetoed. We have conversed with several leading laymen on the subject, and found none of them averse to the principles involved in the change; but their reason for opposing it, was the fear lest one encroachment should follow another, until some measure would be allowed to pass which the laity with a fair trial would not find for the best, and thus, as they had no voice in originating legislation, they would find it impossible to effect a remedy. We refer to the above merely to illustrate the position which we have taken. So far then from the present system practiced by the M. E. Church having a tendency to unite the wisdom of the ministry and laity for purposes of wise and good legislation, it has a tendency to array them against each other; the laity, especially, applying their sagacity more to watching all legislation lest their rights and liberties should be compromised, than to the origination of wise laws and rules. Perhaps some person will be ready to charge us with a want of charity toward the laity in assuming the above position, but so far from this we make full allowance for all the confidence the laity repose in the ministry, which, doubtless, is very considerable; but as self preservation is understood to be the first law of nature, we believe were the ministry placed in the same relation to legislation which the laity now occupy, they would be even more careful and jealous of their rights, and more ingenious in defending them, than the laity now are. Not only do we claim that laymen have a right to be represented in legislative and executive assemblies of the church, but we claim it to be for the best interests of all concerned to admit such representation. We believe that nothing would have so good an effect on the general finances of the church, as the proper association of laymen in their management. It is a notable fact that ministers are not generally financial men. That there are some good financiers among ministers we are free to admit; but we, at the same time, are free to assume