

this ratio would compose too large and unwieldy a Conference, the ratio may be decreased to suit the peculiar circumstances. In the United States' M. E. Church the ratio of General Conference Members is one in twenty-seven of all the members of the several Annual Conferences. We would here remark, that the larger the church, and the less the ratio of representation, the greater becomes the facilities for getting the right stamp of men to compose the General Conference, and the greater becomes the probability of securing their appointment; for if there is to be but a small number of men appointed from each Annual Conference, the members become more desirous and careful that the right kind of men should obtain the appointment. Whatever the ratio may be, let the delegates from the Annual Conference be appointed by ballot from among the elders who may be members of said Conferences. Let there be also an equal number of laymen chosen by the Annual Conferences from among those who may be members of that body, to be chosen at the same time and in the same manner as the ministerial delegates. This would secure the lay delegates against the sectionalism of which we have already spoken. Their appointment by the Annual Conference would have a tendency to cause them to feel that they were the representatives of the church, and not the representatives of isolated sections of it. This plan for the appointment of lay delegates would also have the advantage of securing the very best men as representatives of the laity in the General Conference. This, in our estimation, would constitute a General Conference adequate to any emergency of the church. This assembly would form a court of appeals from the decisions of Annual Conferences—would be the highest earthly court of the church, and her only legislative assembly. This Conference would possess the sole right of appointing editors and book