

legislation ; but we are unable to see the point for the following reasons :—The restrictive rules are properly confined to five points only, so that the general conference may legislate as it pleases on all matters except those especially referred to, and no layman has a right to say why do ye so. And then again, we deny that the restrictive rule gives the laity any power to legislate. That they have a power over legislation on those points is a fact ; but that power is about the same as the veto power which the Governor General exercises over the legislation of the province. If there is any advantage in their relation, it is on the side of the Governor, for he has the right, when he delivers his message at the opening of Parliament, to ask for whatever legislation he may think best calculated to serve the interests of the country. In this way he is enabled not only to set before the members of parliament his views, but to set them equally before the country ; while the laity of the church enjoy no such privilege. The constitution does not give the people a right to send a message to the general conference, setting forth their views of the legislation required to meet the necessities of the church, but simply to acquiesce in that which does not conflict with the restrictive rule, and to veto that which does. So far from this plan uniting the laity and ministry in a legislative point of view, it merely secures the laity against oppressive legislation on the part of the ministry, without giving them the slightest degree of power or liberty in originating legislation. This has, to some extent, arrayed the laity and ministry against each other in matters of legislation. Several instances have fallen under our own observation, which serve to confirm us in this matter, one of which is very fresh in our memory, and no doubt is in the memory of all the ministers who have a care for these matters. The last General Conference past a law for the adoption of a systematic plan for the reception of members into full connection, by which much disorder would be prevented. As it effected the conditions of membership it had to go before the quarterly conferences for their sanction. As