

their steps to Syria and Persia, instructing the youth of Greece, civilizing the Indian of the western forests, and traversing the prairies of Missouri and Illinois. Her revenues for the propagation of religion are constantly increasing; and through the operation of systematic benevolence, will soon enable her to enlarge her efforts and extend her privileges to thousands, who now scarcely know her name. Her numerous periodicals are circulating religious and ecclesiastical intelligence throughout her widely spread communion, and scattering the seeds of truth where the minister of God is seldom heard. Her four Theological Seminaries send forth more clergymen every three years than the whole church possessed thirty years ago. If it be asked now has all this been effected, the answer is, by the blessing of the great Head of the Church upon the wise councils and strenuous exertions of her children. If it be inquired what were the chief means used, I reply, the faithful preaching of God's word; unity of purpose and action; the adoption of canons suitable for the state of the country, and binding upon all; and the active assistance of their laity. The conventions provided for by their constitution have been the *instruments*, under God, by which this wonderful change has been effected. The conventions are of two kinds—the general, representing the whole church in the Union; the diocesan, only the church in each diocese. In the former, such matters as regard the whole church are settled, as the ordering of public worship, the laws for the trial of delinquents amongst the Bishops and inferior clergy, &c., &c.; in the latter, such measures are adopted as concern each diocese in particular. The general convention is composed of two houses, the first styled the House of Bishops, where all the Bishops in the Union have a seat; the second, the House of Clerical and Lay Delegates, elected thereto at the previous diocesan conventions in each diocese, which conventions are composed of the Bishop as its president, and clerical and lay delegates from each parish in connection with the convention. By the power lodged within them and by the influence they exert over all the members of the church, these conventions give her at once order, unity and strength. In them the laity, as is acknowledged on all hands, have proved most useful, especially in matters partaking rather of a secular nature, for which they are evidently better fitted than the clergy can be. Taking part in her councils, they have given to the church that energy and ability which we so greatly need. Interested in her welfare, they have been led to study her distinctive principles, and thus have learned to love her more and more, and at the same time obtained such knowledge as enables them, when asked, to give a reason of the hope that is in them, so different from many of our people, who, if asked why they are churchmen, could only answer that their parents happened to be church people, and that therefore