

now be able to write another five column letter to the *Advance*, and in default of better argument, couple Mr. Binney's name with that of Bishop Onderdonk, as a believer in "moderate episcopacy."

We are sorry, also, to differ from so high an authority on another point. We find neither in the Epistles to Timothy, the Acts of the Apostles, nor anywhere else in the New Testament, so far as we can discover, any trace of the "branch churches" to which Mr. Binney alludes. That is a kind of ecclesiastical nondescript which we cannot understand. Is the "branch" a separate organization, or is it not? If the former, why has it not as much right to independency as the parent church when first struggling into existence? If the latter, why not recognize it as a part and parcel of the "central" body?

We can understand how it may become necessary for the convenience of a large and scattered membership, to hold public services, statedly, in several localities, and to employ one or more co-pastors, somewhat after the manner of the Dutch Collegiate Churches. The thousands of members connected with the church in Jerusalem, were probably organized into several distinct congregations, though meeting occasionally, or periodically, in one place. But a small "branch" church, independent in name, and distinct in organization, while yet governed by a "central" church, is, to say the least, a great anomaly. Such a plan, in our judgment, has far more in it of the "rudimentary element of a moderate episcopacy," than anything contained in the Epistles to Timothy.

The natural and true plan, we believe, is for a church to "hive off," as soon as the parent stock is capable of suffering the loss without serious injury. Overgrown churches are seldom as vigorous and efficient, in proportion to their numbers, as smaller ones. The percentage of workers will generally be larger in a given membership, divided into two distinct organizations, than in one which embraces the whole. The new colony will, of course, if feeble, be practically dependent upon the parent church, in the same sense in which missionary churches are dependent upon the society which helps to sustain them. But the control will be less direct and arbitrary; the child, feeling the greater responsibility thrown upon it, will sooner be able to "go alone;" and above all, we shall maintain the principle of Independency, which, however diversely we may apply it, must never be lost sight of as one of the essential features of the New Testament polity.