

the Laity; but it would be useless to attempt to constitute such a body on this side of the Atlantic, and we should deprive ourselves of one of the principal benefits anticipated from these Meetings, if the lay members of the Church were to be excluded. The Clergy without the Laity no more form the Church than the Laity without the Clergy, and I am always anxious to enlist the services of the Laity, and to find suitable employment for all who desire to be useful. There are many matters in which they can act more effectively than the Clergy, who ought to be relieved from the necessity of giving to temporal affairs, the time and attention which should be devoted more exclusively to the Ministry of the Word. And we hope that, through their attendance on these occasions, and participation in our discussions, they will become more interested in the affairs of their Church, and better acquainted with its system and its principles. They will thus have the opportunity of thoroughly examining each measure proposed, and if, after hearing the arguments on either side, they are not satisfied, they have full power in themselves to reject it, even though it should be agreed upon by the Bishop and Clergy. In like manner, if the Bishop and Laity should agree upon any measure, the Clergy have the power to defeat it, if a majority of them deem it objectionable, and lastly the Bishop has the same power as the Clergy and Laity respectively and *no more*. He can reject, but he cannot adopt, any measure without the consent of both of the other Orders, and practically, the effect of the right of "veto," thus exercised by *each order*, will be merely to check any rash decisions, and to prevent too hasty an adoption of propositions requiring caution and protracted deliberation.

Many attempts have been made to excite prejudice and suspicions, by the use of the obnoxious word "Veto," and by suggestions of consequences likely to result from the exercise of that right by the Bishop, but these alarmists cannot be ignorant that, supposing the right to exist in the most extensive signification of the term, and to be arbitrarily exercised, its effect must be in every case simply to leave things as they are, and therefore it should be highly prized by those who are afraid of changes and protest against any alterations. It may be observed moreover that, with reference to one class of business, this principle has been already established