

themselves as legislators. The General Conference plan of legislation secures the church against all these, by allowing the opportunity of legislation to occur only once in four years; thus when any person gets over anxious to distinguish himself as a legislative genius, he must wait four years before he can exhibit his ability in that capacity. His zeal thus gets an opportunity to abate, and generally disappears. We are told that the annual plan of legislation has an advantage in facilitating important enactments without having to await the return of a quadrennial Conference. Good laws, it is true, can never be obtained too soon, and bad ones can never be deferred too long. As human judgment is weak, and extensively liable to err, it becomes prudent to weigh well every subject upon which we are called to take action. We therefore consider the General Conference plan well adapted to our natures and circumstances. As there is far more danger in too precipitate action, than there is in too great delay, we conclude the weight of argument is in favour of the four years plan. Again, new laws always require more care in their execution than old ones, and therefore, at first, are seldom as well executed. This leads many to suppose them to be inferior to those previously in force, and, if the opportunity is presented, an effort will be made to effect *another change*, thus condemning a measure without giving it an impartial trial. We are decidedly opposed to any change in ecclesiastical polity, excepting on mature reflection it is considered for the best; and then when such changes are made, we are of the opinion they should have a fair trial, by continuing them in existence long enough to test fairly their utility.

The wisdom of this plan of legislation may be farther seen in the fact, that the M. E. Church in the United States, although as large, numerically, as all the non-Episcopal Methodist Churches in the world, and properly the oldest of all in a separate existence, has had only about one-half the number of secessions from her ranks that the Wesleyans have suffered; and yet she has multiplied with more astonishing