

laid before the Annual Conference. In this way the delegates from the several district meetings would, to a great extent, lose their sectional feelings, as no particular sectional matters would be officially intrusted to them: the real and apparent design in their appointment would be to serve the church, and not a particular section of it.

As the best possible plan of governing the church should demand our attention, we crave a careful investigation of the foregoing thoughts. We believe, from what light we have been able to obtain on the subject of church polity, that the only true method of procedure is by mixed legislation.

We have already referred to the General Conference as a legislative body. This assembly should, we think, continue to be held once in four years, as at present in the Methodist Episcopal Church, at such time and such place as shall be fixed upon by an act of its last session. The advantages of this court are not strange to all Methodists of other branches of the church, but, doubtless, are to many, if not most of them. As a consequence, it will be necessary for us to set forth its composition, powers, and general advantages. As we have already said, the Annual Conferences of other denominations of Methodists are legislative assemblies, while those of the M. E. Church are only executive: they possess no law-making powers, but all their acts are confined to executing the laws of the General Conference, and the transacting of business in conformity therewith. One prominent advantage of quadrennial legislation is the securing of the church against that excessive legislation which is so pernicious in its effects, and to which annual legislation has so great a tendency. Frequent changes in the rules and regulations of any organization are always injurious in their effects,—the public always fearing that association which is always changing; so that what we find them to be to-day, we can have no expectation of finding them to-morrow. Again, when such favourable opportunities for frequent legislation present themselves, there will never be wanting those who are anxious to distinguish