

20. "I received your circular, etc., and have been thoughtfully considering it. I fully coincide with all that the pamphlet contains. It will be a great advance in bringing the lay element of the Church in closer communion with the powers that be. What struck me very forcibly the first time I attended Synod, a decade ago, was that lay delegates, especially those from rural parishes had but a small share in the proceedings of the House. The discussions were all confined to the clergy and a few city laymen, who, being by their professions used to addressing public audiences readily took part in debate with the clergy. Many delegates from rural districts do not like to rise before a large body of talented men to give expression to their views, but meeting together as laymen, they would have more self-possession and confidence than in attempting to address the whole Synod. That I am not alone of that opinion I know, because some of my friends have declined to act as delegates as they could not speak if they went to the Synod."

"I believe the proposed scheme will be the means of infusing new life into the laity. It will bring them into closer relation with His Lordship, and the rulers of the Church. I have given much earnest thought to the paragraphs 15 and 16, and fully concur in what is therein set forth. I believe it will be the means to teach our people to have more energy and enterprise in the cause of the Church."

21. "I have carefully read your circular letter and proposal, and in my opinion feel that as an auxiliary, the House of Laymen will do much good. Sec. 11 of the Proposal is particularly true, and if only the House of Laymen could remedy that, it would have served a good purpose."

22. "Your circular and pamphlet duly received. In reply: The composition of Convocation, and our Synod being so unlike, makes me conclude, that what may be advantageous there might be quite the contrary here. I have also several objections to the argument in favor of and the plan for carrying out the 'Proposal.' The speaking power of the laity is but little, if any, inferior to that of the clergy. We have many clever business men whose besetting fault is speaking too often, and on every matter brought up. Again the small majority of the clergy vote vanishes when the voting is not by orders, as is generally the case."

"As regards the plan as proposed, the Tuesday evening at present is taken up with the opening service, and Wednesday night is devoted to the missionary meeting, therefore there is no available time, but on the Monday, and as there were objections raised to the 'opening service' being held at that time, the same objections would hold good to a meeting of the 'House of Laymen.'"

"I think everything might be discussed with advantage in Synod if we had more time, and *certainly evening sessions for the Synod should be the rule* and not the exception, so that we might have more time for real church work, other than routine 'business.'"