

in the Conference, by which all the business was managed ; and neither its pecuniary affairs, nor those of the mission-house were satisfactorily conducted. Ministers, superintendents, stewards, and class-leaders, all grumbled ; but "the knot of magnates" as they are called, continued to act as they chose.

The "Flysheets" then began to be published ; a kind of Methodist "Tracts for the Times," without author's name, printer's name, or any clue to the writers, who yet must, from their intimate and accurate knowledge of what was taking place in the interior management of the Wesleyan body and its mission house have been members ; and a weekly newspaper called the *Wesleyan Times*, whose attacks upon the persons and proceedings of the recognized leaders of Methodism were quite in the "free and easy" style of its great metropolitan prototype. The Conference for a while disregarded all this ; but the effects of accusations, reiterated and unrefuted, began to be felt throughout the Wesleyan body. Distrust took the place of confidence, suspicion succeeded absolute faith, and concord was superseded by division. Then the Conference took up the matter ; pronounced the attacks reckless and malicious calumnies, but did not prove them so, nor refute them ; adopted a course that gave a handle for saying : "The Conference is annoyed, not that what has been said of it is true, but that it has been said at all ; its object is to silence its accusers, not to reform itself." It required a categorical answer to the question, "Are you or are you not the writer of the articles in the Fly-sheets" and *Wesleyan Times* ! Treating the articles as criminal, deserving expulsion from the ministry and deprivation of bread, they ask, "Are you the author ?" Thus improving upon the old saw, "Confess *and* be hanged," by substituting, "Confess *or* be hanged : " the punishment being the same in either case ; confess, or confess not, hanged you shall be : something like the course pursued in Scotland under Charles the Second. When acts of overt or constructive treason could not be established, the question was, Do you approve of the Sanquhar Declaration ? Or, Was the killing of Archbishop Sharpe murder ? Answer, or no answer ; it was all the same, you must be hanged.

Messrs. Everett, Dunn, and Griffiths refused to answer, and were expelled ; and they have held meetings in Exeter Hall, London, and in Bristol Manchester, and other large towns ; upwards of forty circuits have "pronounced" their expulsion, as equally at variance with the ancient rules and established usages of Methodism and the principles of the New Testament ; and an organization is widely set on foot for adopting means to bring the proceedings of the Conference into harmony with the principles of civil and religious liberty, and hindering them from pursuing a course of intolerance and exclusiveness, dangerous to the best interests of the connection. The expelled ministers declare, that though Mr. Everett has labored in the ministry 43 years, Mr. Dunn 30, and Mr. Griffith 20 ; though driven from the ministry, excommunicated from the Society, deprived of church privileges, stripped of their income, and thus publicly condemned, neither for preach-