

who are quite equal, both as to natural ability and education, to any we have in the ministry. Indeed, we have men in the laity at whose feet many, if not all of us, can sit and learn, not only in temporal matters, but also in spiritual. Then the above objection can have little weight, except on the supposition that only an average of the laity, as to ability, can be delegated to the conference. All that is necessary, therefore, is to adopt some measure for the appointment of lay delegates that will secure the selection of the best men for that office. As our brethren in the laity are as much interested in the selection of proper delegates as ministers can be, it cannot be supposed that, as a general thing, wrong men will be appointed to represent them, if a proper method for the election of such delegates can be adopted. All that is required to secure such men as delegates, is to throw proper safeguards around their selection. In order to this, two things are essential to be observed—to guard against all electioneering intrigues, and, at the same time, avoid the danger arising from delegates being too sectional in their views and feelings. It cannot be denied, that laymen are more exposed to this than ministers. Ministers, being constantly changing, bear a more general relation to the church at large than laymen; and, hence, are less in danger of becoming infected with sectional feelings. The election of delegates by the several societies on the respective circuits, and sending one layman from each circuit and station, must have a tendency to increase this sectional feeling. Every delegate has his instructions from the circuit or station which he represents, and is expected to do all in his power to get such measures adopted as their instructions set forth. Of course these measures have been settled upon before the appointment of the delegate, and, consequently, the societies look for a man whom they can trust to manage such matters. The result is, the aim of each delegate is more to secure action suited to the peculiarities of his own constituency, than to secure the adoption of measures best suited to all, and, as a consequence, a great deal of the practice of