

determined to discourage their marrying persons who do not come up to this description.

43. In general, no young woman should marry without the consent, much less without the knowledge, of her parents or natural guardians. Nevertheless, there may be exceptional cases, as when they refuse to allow her to marry at all ; or when they refuse to allow her to marry any Christian. But even in such cases she should seriously consult with those competent to give godly counsel.

SECTION VII.

On Dress.

44. While the New Testament gives no specific directions in regard to dress, yet its spirit is manifestly against the use of costly or gaudy apparel, and the wearing of needless ornaments ; therefore, let all our ministers discourage in the Church whatever, in this respect, is contrary to Christian simplicity ; and in order to do this, let them read the thoughts upon dress at least once a year, in every society where such counsels seem to be needed.