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good men or bad men, this majority could act, however tremendously important the issues involved, without appellate control, or regard to ought save their own particular ends; that under the guise of an exalted Christianity and pure discipline it could poise a deadlier shaft and wreak a more terrible wrong; that, in fine, a Church which should aspire in its government to realize the status of a pure theocracy, could assume the functions of the worst religious despotism. Isolated though the case of Dr. Pryor might be, one naturally asked himself what guarantee had he that the next victim to this tyranny might not be himself or his neighbour. Must there not be some thing wrong, some thing radically wrong, in that religious system which became a jeopardy to the reputation and usefulness of its members instead of a safeguard;—was a question I found myself unable to get rid of by means of any previous study or conclusion. I frankly confess that for the first time in my life I opened my Bible with a great concern to know what were its exact teachings on the subject of Church government. That I should have failed earlier to traverse with care Scripture ground so important as this, was assuredly an omission of duty greatly to be blamed and deeply to be regretted, but an omission which, viewed in the light of my religious education, will not occasion you the surprise that it might many others. You know how little importance Baptists attach to creeds,