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RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS ETC.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

ON THE CONSTITUTION OF CHURCHES.*

The following points connected with this subject have been for some time under the consideration of the Committee appointed by the Synod to report upon them. 1. What is the proper course to be pursued in the election of a Minister? In particular who ought to be the electors? Whether the right of voting should be confined to members of the church in full communion or extended to all promiscuously connected with the congregation? 2. What is the best mode of electing elders? and 3. How the temporalities of the church should be managed, and whether the spiritual and temporal departments of the church should be kept distinct. Queries were sent by order of the

Synod to the different congregations, bearing upon these points and requesting information on certain matters of fact, such as the proportion of communicants as compared with the number of other classes connected with congregations, and the number of organized congregations within the different Presbyteries. Answers have been returned by a part of the church only. Enough however is before me to enable me to open the question, leaving it to be afterwards better and more fully discussed.

1. Respecting the election of the Minister. From the answers returned it appears that all are agreed that it should, according to the present practice of the church, be conducted under the moderation and direction of the Presbytery. Regarding the right of voting, and description and qualifications of the voters,

*Extracted from the Report of a Committee appointed by the Synod on this subject.