

that it is but a small proportion of them who can lay claim to such a reputation. Many men, who are now successful ministers of the Gospel, have proven themselves to be utterly incapable of transacting temporal business: some there are among us whose failures have been signal, and yet it so happens that these have the most to say and do in the management of the financial affairs of the church. It is our candid opinion that if our laymen had more controul in our church finances they would be in a more healthy condition than they now are; for it is a fact, that many of the laymen of the church are the best financiers the country affords. Then again, if the laymen had a representation, and a voice in the management of the church, they would be more ready to respond to her calls for pecuniary aid. As it is, the conference lays certain amounts on the circuits, to be raised by them for connectional purposes. The members do not think themselves properly assessed, and as they had no hand in the assessment, by representation or otherwise, they do not feel so strongly bound to assist in making up the amount. In proof of the correctness of this position, we would just refer to the fact, that denominations having laymen extensively connected with the ministers in the management of their finances, raise the most money for the support of their various institutions. Should any person doubt the correctness of this assertion, we just invite them to examine the statistics of denominations having a mixture of lay element, and take those statistics as their guide in forming their conclusions. We are sometimes met with the objection, that the introduction of laymen into our conferences, will have a tendency to lower the intellectual status of that assembly. We do not for a moment contend that as a whole the laity are equal to the ministry in intellect and education; for the ministry is taken from the higher class intellectually, and receive an education quite superior to the average of the laity. But while we are free to admit the superiority of the ministry to the average of the masses, we at the same time claim many men in the laity