amongst you; and we cheerfully and unanimously comply with your request again to appoint him as your President.

The year which has now transpired has been one of extraordinary trial to our Connexion. Shortly after our last Conference, a suspended Preacher and certain of his partizans, who had been long known to be disaffected to genuine Wesleyan Methodism, formed themselves into an Association, the constitution of which we deem to be contrary to all sound principles of ecclesiastical government, directly opposed to the spirit and precepts of the Gospel, and in open violation of the laws of Methodism. They then commenced, and have since prosecuted with no ordinary zeal, plans of agitation and strife of a most unchristian and revolutionary character. In open defiance of all order, and in contempt of all our local authorities, they intruded themselves into Circuits with which they had no right of interference whatever,—convened together large masses of people,—grossly traduced the characters of individual Preachers, and of the Conference generally,—declaimed with great bitterness against our long-established Discipline,—silenced those who attempted the defence of the absent, or the vindication of the impugned system,—and then formed as many of the members of our Society as they could delude and ensnare into combinations for the purpose of controlling our regular jurisdictions, and effecting a revolution in our whole economy.

A primary object of this Association is to divest the Christian pastor of all that spiritual rule in the Church with which the New Testament, as well as the laws of Methodism, entrust him, and to reduce him, as it respects official authority, to a condition below that of our subordinate officers. They seek to deprive him of this authority under the avowed pretext that he cannot safely be trusted with its exercise; and thus they attempt to establish a system of church polity based upon the odious principle, that the Ministers of Jesus Christ are not men to be revered and confided in, but to be