

of every intelligent Wesleyan, and is essential to the peace, purity, and usefulness of every society, whether civil or religious, namely, that the body should be fairly represented in its councils, and should be governed according to the wishes of the majority of its members.

The New Connexion sprang into existence in England in 1797, about six years after Mr. Wesley's death, under a Mr. Kilham, who was a fellow-townsmen of that good man, and had been an active co-labourer with him in the same cause. It is well known that Mr. Wesley was a pious, god-fearing man, but, withal, he was a bigotted High Churchman almost to the day of his death. He or his coadjutors at first wanted his followers to abide under the government of State Bishops, to take the Sacraments only at the hands of State Priests, and to meet for worship only in the interim of the hours of service in the State Churches. Mr. Kilham, by his intelligent advocacy of truth, removed this servile spirit, and led to an independent and a purer enjoyment of Christian ordinances. Subsequently, also, when the Preachers grasped at supreme power, after Mr. Wesley's death, he came out as the champion of Christian liberty—of the rights of all Christians, according to Scripture, to an equal voice in the direction, controul, and regulation of the affairs of their Societies: for this he was unjustly expelled by the early usurpers—the first “LORDS OVER GOD'S HERITAGE” among the Methodists. Many of his preaching brethren and professed friends forsook him in that period of trial; but himself and Messrs. Thorn, Eversfield, and Cuminis—“THESE FOUR MEN,”—preachers in the body, with about 5,000 members, began a Reformation, which, though at first small and despised, has continued to progress for about half a century, and is now extending its blessings to the remote parts of the earth. The following is a brief outline of the principles which distinguish this body from the *irresponsible and anti-Christian juntos* which in general “Lord it” over the Methodist people:—

- 1st. That popular representation is rational, just, scriptural, and essential to good government: was always practised in the early Churches under the Apostles, although universally contemned in the modern Churches by all usurpers.
- 2nd. The Conference of the New Connexion is composed of the Treasurer of the body, the Superintendent Preachers of Circuits, and one Delegate, chosen by the members in each Circuit; all of whom are recognised as brethren, having equal rights and privileges.
- 3rd. The Quarterly Meetings are composed of Preachers, Officers of the Circuit, and popular Representatives, chosen quarterly by the Classes: all are upon an equality.
- 4th. The Leaders' Meetings are composed of Preachers, Leaders of Classes, and Stewards: all are equally entitled to discuss any question, and to vote thereon, while the majority in every case decides.
- 5th. Preachers must always be first approved by the Societies to which they belong; they must be recommended to Conference by their respective Quarterly Meetings, and must in all cases be approved before they can travel on a Circuit.

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