

present system of General Conference jurisdiction, some such change as that authorized by the late General Conference must be resorted to, or the church resign itself to the virtual extinction of the representative principle, as an important element of government action.

"In establishing a separate jurisdiction as before defined and explained, so far from affecting the moral oneness and integrity of the great Methodist body in America, the effect will be to secure a very different result. In resolving upon a separate Connexion, as we are about to do, the one great and controlling motive is to restore and perpetuate the peace and unity of the church. At present we have neither, nor are we likely to have, should the Southern and Northern Conferences remain in connexional relation, as heretofore. Inferring effects from causes known to be in existence and active operation, agitation on the subject of slavery is certain to continue, and frequent action in the General Conference is equally certain, and the result, as heretofore, will be excitement and discontent, aggression and resistance. Should the South retire and decline all further conflict, by the erection of the Southern Conferences into a separate jurisdiction, as authorized by the General Conference plan, agitation in the church cannot be brought in contact with the South; and the former irritation and evils of the controversy must, to a great extent, cease, or at any rate so lose their disturbing force as to become comparatively harmless. Should the Northern church continue to discuss and agitate, it will be within their own borders and among themselves; and the evil effects upon the South must, to say the least, be greatly lessened. At present the consolidation of all the Annual Conferences, under the jurisdictional control of one General Conference, always giving a decided Northern majority, places it in the power of that majority to manage and control the interests of the church, in the slave-holding States, as they see proper; and we have no means of protection against the evils certain to be inflicted upon us, if we judge the future from the past. The whole power of legislation is in the General Conference; and as that body is now constituted, the Annual Conferences of the South are perfectly powerless in the resistance of wrong, and have no alternative left them but unconditional submission. And such submission, to the views and action of the Northern majority on the subject of slavery, it is now demonstrated must bring disaster and ruin upon Southern Methodism, by rendering the church an object of distrust on the part of the State. In this way, the assumed *conservative power* of the Methodist Episcopal church, with regard to the *civil union* of the States, is to a great extent destroyed; and we are compelled to believe that it is the *interest* and becomes the *duty* of the church in the South to seek to exert *such conservative influence* in some *other* form; and after the most mature deliberation and careful examination of the whole subject, we know of nothing so likely to effect the object, as the jurisdictional separation of the great church parties, unfortunately involved in a religious and ecclesiastical controversy about an affair of State—a question of civil policy, over which the church has no control, and with which it is believed she has no right to interfere. Among