…on his cranium a… don," soon rose far… dwelling and the wilds o… came o'er the spirit of his dream…

In sober prose, the traveller w… unconscious of the duration of his flight, and encountered nothing till he found himself sitting "cheek by jowl" with his former companions of the cottage, in a spacious wine cellar of London. Each of the witches (for so on earth call we them) sat jollily on a cask, quaffing the juice of Burgundy, and discoursing about their "cummers of the glen.—Our traveller, nothing loth, set to after the same fashion, and speedily forgot all his hardships and mishaps in copious libations of the generous liquid. At length, the ladies having gratified their hearts' desires, once more mounted their caps and exclaiming "Off for Kintyre," disappeared in a twinkling. The traveller went to follow their example, but alas! his cap was no where to be found. He looked about him in all directions, fumbled in his pockets, searched every where, but all to no effect. He fell asleep, morning came, and with it came the master of the wine vaults. What could our poor friend say for himself? Large quantities of wine had been abstracted (for the witches could carry as well as drink) and here evidently was one of the felonious Bacchanals, caught in the very fact.

He was committed to "durance vile," tried and condemned. His judge unfortunately was no believer in witchcraft (it had not been Sir Matthew Hale), and no hope was held out to the unlucky man of the mountains. At length the fatal day came, cold, drizzling, and foggy, and the lanes and alleys of the city sent out their motley crouds to witness the "throw off." At this critical juncture our traveller happened to pull out his handkerchief, when, lo! the magical cap also appeared. He said nothing, but when that celebrated personage Jack Ketch was crawling about him like a hugh spider intent upon his duty, he modestly requested to die with his own cap on.—Assent was instantly given, when the culprit, duly accoutred, roared out. "Off for Kintyre"—and away he went, gallows and all, over the uplifted heads of the wondering Cockneys! Whether this last chapter be found in the Newgate Calendar we know not; all we can say is, that it is firmly believed in Kintyre.—*Inverness Courier.*

FOREIGN NEWS.

Latest from England.

The packet ship Napoleon arrived at New-York on Tuesday from Liverpool, sailed on the 24th, and brought regular files of London papers to the 23d and Liverpool to the 24th of December. We are indebted to our correspondents of the Mercantile Advertiser, and the editors of the Evening Papers for the annexed extracts.—

The intelligence from the seat of war, the experience of the past will of course put the public on their guard, especially in the absence of all official documents. It is probably true that the Russians have raised the siege of Shumla, or Silistria, or both, and retired into winter quarters, and possibly, that they were more or less harrassed in their retreat. But we have yet to learn that they are not as well able to endure cold and storms as their enemies, and prefer to wait for further advices, before we consider them driven to such extremities as some of the accounts would indicate.

Journal of Commerce.

LONDON, Dec 12.—The reports of divisions in the cabinet is received this afternoon. It is stated that the Duke of Wellington having no confidence in the financial talents of Mr. Goulburn, is desirous of bringing in Mr Huskisson; but the latter has insisted upon the return of Lord Dudley as *sine qua non* in the proposed arrangement. The Duke may at length be driven to the sad alternative of infusing some talent into his "tesselated" administration, or of permitting it to fall in pieces.

Weekly Press.

[The Editor of the London Courier in noticing the rumours of differences of opinion in the British Cabinet—of changes of Ministry, reports of negotiation with Mr. Huskisson, states that they are entirely without foundation.]

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

The editor of the Evening Post remarks that the papers do not make any important additions to the intelligence received by yesterday's arrival except the confirmation of the reverses suffered by the Russian army, along with some additional details of its retreat. Whatever abatements are to be made from the accounts lately received from that quarter, there is but one conclusion to be drawn—namely, that the campaign which has just ended has been on the whole extremely disastrous to the Russians. In the shock which has dashed against each other the two great despotisms of the East of Europe, the Russians have evidently suffered the most. Its army of 800,000 men—drawn from the various provinces of an empire containing forty-four millions of souls, differing in language, manners and degrees of civilization—is half destroyed. Their superiority in tactics & discipline, has been met on the side of the Turks by the enthusiasm and obstinacy so often found in men fighting for their native land and the predominance of their own religion. We do not know whether we ought to regret the event. Our sympathies are naturally in favor of Russia because her government, although a despotism like Turkey, is tempered by a further advance in civilization, and is therefore on the whole better for the countries under her dominion—Russia, however, instead of attempting to enlarge her empire by new conquests which she does not want, should have occupied herself in the work of civilizing her inhabitants, of diffusing the blessings of education, and introducing improvements in agriculture and the arts.

She has chosen, however, a different policy; now after an immense waste of her wealth and the lives of her subjects finds herself no further advanced than when she set out, save the capture of an inconsiderable town on the shores of the Black Sea. In the mean time, it is not improbable that the war disastrous as it is to Russia, may prove fortunate for Greece. In the late attempts of the Allied Ambassadors to fix the boundaries of the newly emancipated nation, it is said that the Russian minister hesitated to assign a boundary so far to the north as was proposed by the others. He was probably thinking of the province of Thessaly, as an addition to the domains of his master. The result of the present campaign we should think must by this time have removed any scruples of this sort. The two contending nations have weakened each other by the war, and have rendered it more easy for France and England to mediate a peace. With respect to the two latter powers, it is not to be supposed that either of them would be willing to see Russia "indemnified for its expenses in going to war" by the possession of some of the finest parts of the Ottoman territory. Austria it is certain, looks with extreme jealousy upon the designs of Russia, and dreads her aggrandizement, and the little compact kingdom of Prussia cannot wish to see her powerful neighbors made more powerful. Under these circumstances, it seems probable that great endeavors will be made during the ensuing winter to effect an accommodation between the parties to the war. Nothing but pride will prevent Russia from acceding to it She will have the war to begin again in the spring; a new drain to make upon her ex…

…ollowing from … Oct. 17… 10:

"Accord…g to the gene… operations, the third corps of … the 15th its march from Shumla. Up to the 19th it was not in the least disturbed by the enemy: inconsiderable marauding parties, which showed themselves from time to time in the rear, did not venture to attempt to impede the movements of the troops. But on the 19th, when the troops were to pass a woody defile, near the village of Acdochela, the rear guard was attacked by the enemy, who had come from Shumla with 8,000 chosen cavalry and a detachment of infantry and artillery:

"Notwithstanding all his attempts, he was defeated, with great loss on his side, and the march of the 3d corps to the place of its destination was continued without any interruption from the enemy, though the badness of the roads, in consequence of the cold and rainy weather, which set in remarkably early for that country rendered the march every day more difficult.—This weather also checked very much the progress of the siege of Silistria, yet they were proceeding as quickly as possible; but when from the incessant torrents of rain, the ground in which the trenches were to be made was entirely under water, and the arrival of materials rendered not merely difficult, but impossible, the Commander-in-Chief, General Wittgenstein, resolved on the 3d November to change the siege into a bombardment, which was kept up with success two days and nights.

Meantime the cold increased to 8 deg. Reamur, or 18 deg. Farinheit below freezing, a heavy snow covered all our batteries and the clay huts of the soldiers, and large flakes of ice appeared in the Danube. In this manner nature itself, by the commencement of a winter of extraordinary severity, even in the northern countries, interrupted the progress of our operations before Silistria, and then threatened to cut off the communication between the left and right banks of the Danube, and to stop the supplies of provisions and ammunition from the besieging corps. The blockade of Silistria, was therefore discontinued, and on the 10th of Nov. the troops of the second and third corps began their march to the winter quarters assigned them in Moldavia and Wallachia, in two columns one of which passed the Danube in vessels belonging to the flotilla on that river, near the village of Kallarsch; and the others at Hirshova, except the sixth division of infantry, which, with the cavalry and troops of the Don, covered this movement.

"To observe the garrison of Silistria, a strong division of the fleet remains opposite that fortress. The village of Kallarsch, on the left bank, is being fortified, and redoubts erecting at suitable places opposite the fortresses still in the hands of the enemy. According to reports from Varna and its neighbourhood, nothing particular had occurred there, and the enemy had no where shown himself.

"In Little Wallachia, the fort of Kallafat has fallen into our hands. Baron Geismar took advantage of the terror caused by the fall of Varna and by the defeat of the Pacha of Widdin at Bajalischt, and resolved to attempt an attack upon Kalafat. After a march of 50 wrests (nearly 31 miles) in one night he appeared before the fortress, and the terrified garrison abandoned it with the greatest precipitation, flying in heaps to Widdin, in which retreat many were drowned in the Danube. As soon as our troops had got possession of the fort, they immediately began to erect additional works on the side next the Turks and Kalafat, was put in a state of complete defence against any hostile attack.—The possession of this fortress is so far important to us, as Little Wallachia is thereby protected against incursions from the right bank of the Danube.

"Accounts from Teflis, of the 4th November, relate various successes obtained over the Kurds in their attempts to intercept some hundred waggons with provisions, &c."—Prussian State Gaz. Dec 10.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Queen of Portugal was presented to the King at Windsor Castle, on the 22d, "with all the honors due to a crowned head." Most splendid equipments were prepared to convey her to Windsor with her suite. She was dressed in a superb white lace robe and was decorated with the Portuguese and Brazilian orders. She wore a splendid portrait of her Father, the Emperor of Brazil, suspended by a diamond necklace, and studded with diamonds.

The embarkation of the Portuguese troops of the line did not take place as was intended, but they were to embark on the 24th when the transports would be ready to receive them. It was supposed they would sail about the 30th inst. Gen. Saldanha, had arrived at Plymouth, and taken command of the first division, with which he was to sail.

The Courier announces a further decline of the Wheat market, making it five shillings a quarter lower than on Monday of the preceding week. Malting Barley was dull of sale. Grain had also declined in the German markets.

The British packet Tyrian, which sailed from England for Gibralter with Dr. Pym, sent by the government on a special investigation to that fortress; connected with the origin and fatal progress of that infectious malady, which has carried away, in one fell swoop, so many gallant men, and so many public characters, civil and military, had touched at Cadiz, and sailed again for the place of her destination. A letter from Cadiz of Dec. 25d says:—

"The Tyrian took out a supply of bedding and blankets for five thousand men, which cannot fail to be very acceptable; for those who are encamped on the Neutral Ground are since the rains especially in a most wretched condition; and to add to their misery the dysentary has attacked them. So dreadfully contagious or infectious has been the fever at Gibraltar, that there is not one single spot that has been exempted from it; even to the signal station on the very summit. Almost all the medical men have had it severely. Dr Hannan, Chief Medical Officer, dead; universally acknowledged is a man of great talent and devotion to his professional duties, and deeply regretted by all on the Rock. The disease is on the decline or rather, there are a fewer cases daily; but that is, because there are fewer subjects left to be attacked by it, and the season is now too cool to favor the extension of this dreadful malady. Algesiras, Malaga, Tarifa, Cadiz, and all the adjacent towns and cities, continue quite healthy, so prompt were the measures for cutting off the communication with Spain; it is said that not a single person was permitted to escape from Gibraltar after the Spanish Physicians had seen the first case of the fever."

A grandee and peer of Spain has latterly been breaking stones on a high road in the neighbourhood of London at the rate of 1s. a day to support his wife and three children.

It is stated in the Mentz Gazette, of Dec. 9th, that during the late gales the English packet Bathurst, bound to Amsterdam, was lost, and that every soul on board perished. Seventeen barrels of gold constituted part of the cargo all of which was lost.

The packet Joseph-&-Molly, was lost near Cork Harbor, and every soul on board perished. Nothing was saved but the masts and bowsprit, which drifted ashore with four bodies attached to them.

…and Scotland in favor of … led.—The chosen deputies … of excuse, and "Mr. O'Connel … ding them, declared the mission at an end…

The Freeman's Journal in noticing the rumour of Lord Anglesea's resigning the Lieutenancy of Ireland, has a chain of reasoning to show that some misunderstanding has taken place betwixt him and the Cabinet on the Catholic claims. He is not ill; the newspapers have not abused him; the people of Ireland do not hate him, &c. and therefore he must be out with the Premier, and he is more a friend to the concession of the Catholic claims than the Ministry. Perhaps, however, the rumour of his lordship's resignation may be all smoke, and this induction goes for nothing. It would not, however, surprise us, were this event to take place for this is plain that unless Ministers are inclined to make unlimited concession to the Catholic, Ireland must be governed by a strong hand.

FROM FRANCE.

Letters from Paris, received in London on the 23d Dec. do not give any countenance to the report that it is the intention of the Bank of France speedily to reduce the rate of interest on discounts. French Rentes, however, maintain the price of 107. In Northern Bonds there had been little or nothing doing: Russian fell from 91¼ a 91½

The London Sun, of the 20th Dec. says, the French papers have at length arrived, but their contents supply little of importance from the East of Europe. The sickness in the French army in the Morea has considerably abated. It is supposed that the majority of the committee; to whom the proposal for reducing the interests from four to three per cent was referred, is against it.

The commerce of Marseilles was much less in vessels and merchandize in 1828 than in 1827, 56,428 bales of cotton were imported from Egypt—in 1828, only 29,200 bales. The total importations of cotton into France in 1828 present a diminution of 58,372 bales.

FROM SPAIN.

A letter from Madrid, of Dec. 8, says.—"The Russian Ambassador and the United States Minister at our Court, have, within these few days, had several conferences with M. Salmon, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. It is believed that these two diplomatists endeavour to renew the question of the independence of the rebel States of America."

An article from Barcelona, Dec. 10, says:—

"The rage of the Apostolicals is not yet appeased. Sixteen other Constitutionalists in the dungeons of the citadel are looking for their last hour, and perhaps the execution will take place this day. Persecution is the order of the day in Catalonia; all passports for foreign countries, and particularly for France, are refused. Travellers who arrive from the other side of the Pyrenees, have both the day and the hour fixed by the police at which they must leave this place. Our fine city is begun to be depopulated, and very soon it will become an inhospitable spot—thanks to the rage of an emigrant Frenchman, and to a Spanish Priest, his counsellor, who is the most immoral man in existence."

FROM PORTUGAL.—Despatches from Lisbon to the 13th inst. we received at the Foreign Office. The government had expressed a readiness to meet the views of the British Government and to attend to the remonstrances made by the latter upon the subject of British persons arrested and in prison. Don Pedro the Fourth, which was supposed to have been lost, had arrived outside the Bar. The bulletins relative to Don Miguel's health, from the 6th to the 12th, are drawn up in the same words.

"His Majesty continues without any change."

The Decree of the 31st of July last, against persons taken with arms in their hands, and having committed acts of hostility against the authority of Don Miguel, is to be applied to robbers on the highway, who assemble in bands & infest the provinces, particularly the province of Minho.

GREECE.—The Ambassadors of the Allied Powers were at Poros on the 17th November. Their last conferences are said to have related to the boundaries of the new Grecian state,—which have not yet been settled.—The accounts from Toulon state,—that orders have been received for the return of the troops, which have been followed by other orders directing the embarkation of fresh troops. [A Naples paper of Nov. 21 states, that a palace on the promontory of Possilippo, is said to have been prepared for the reception of the Ambassadors from Poros, during their performance of quarantine.—The Courier says:—"We are rather inclined to believe that when the Ambassadors quit Poros, Naples will not be their destination."

The last accounts from Constantinople state, that rain continued there for three weeks, to the great annoyance of the Sultan and the troops under exercise.

Since the arrival of Count Capo d'Istrias, and since the Greeks see such perseverance in the conduct of the Cabinets, every thing is improving in a very sensible manner.

The deliverance of the Poloponnesus has brought back the inhabitants to their homes.—Not only are they coming down from the mountains enfeebled by hunger and misery, but they are also returning from the neighboring islands, where the more wealthy had taken refuge and are beginning to repeople the towns. Twenty thousand families have returned from Zante and the environs, and are settled at Patras and Corinth. Egina being no longer subject to the laws of quarantine, there is a great stir among the population.

LIVERPOOL CORN EXCHANGE,—Dec 23

The imports of Wheat since Tuesday have considerably exceeded those of the previous week, and the supply is increased by the arrival of two or three cargoes of foreign; it is however, still below the quantity actually leaving the market. Of Oats, Oatmeal, and Flour the imports continue small. 3000 or 4000 quarters of Indian Corn have arrived from the United States, the quality very fine; also about 100 Barrels sweet Flour from the same country, and a cargo of Flour from the north of Spain. The increased demand for Wheat last Tuesday, occasioned by the purchases of the interior millers, ceased with the day, and the sales since have been on a very moderate scale; a few speculative purchases were effected in the early part of the week, at or near our rates; but on Saturday, both here and in the surrounding country markets, the trade was dull and the prices rather lower.

The transactions in Oats have been extensive, and at full prices, but mostly on speculation.—Some large parcels of Oatmeal have also been taken on the same account. Both these articles brought rather more money at the close of the week, in the Manchester market. Prices of Barley, Beans, and Peas, are unaltered; for the first article there has been a little more inquiry. It is estimated that 5,000 or 6,000 quarters of Indian Corn have changed hands within the last few days, and it is now generally held for an advance of 2s per quarter.

This morning's market was extremely dull, & the few sales effected in Wheat were at a decline of fully 4d per 80 lbs. Oats supported the quotations of last Tuesday, the transactions in them were, however, very limited. Flour was offered fully 2s per sack lower, but prime Oatmeal being scarce brought quite as high rates.

…ority, it has uniformly acted, and the … regulations" thus formed, have al… and still have, the binding effect of … much so as the laws of any community. … our brethren say, they have no 'strictly legislative powers.' There is but one meaning therefore, that can be given to their present claims, which is, that the Great Head of the Church, in giving a code of laws, both moral and civil, conferred upon the itinerant preachers divine authority to expound them, and under the sanctions of a 'moral obligation,' to enforce their own decisions. If this be a fair interpretation, which we think cannot be doubted, the prerogatives now assumed, being of a judicial character, are more dangerous by far to Christian liberty, than the right to legislate without responsibility. The General Confernce, therefore in attempting to escape from what they themselves appear to have considered objectionable and dangerous—(the power to legislate for those who are not represented,) have claimed powers no less at war with the practice of the apostles and early Christian Ministers, than they are with all those feelings which characterize us, as American republicans, and enlightened Christians.

We will next call your attention to that part of the report in which our itinerant brethren declare themselves to be divinely authorized to ordain what are "gospel doctrines, and ordinances,' and what is its 'moral discipline,' and consequently to fix a standard of faith, and rules of practice in all their variety of form and modification.

As the Reformers have not in any respect, controverted the present doctrines of the church nor any of its rules for the promotion of piety and morality, we should have considered it useless to say a word upon this subject, if it were not necessary to shew, that such prerogatives are highly dangerous, and that they lead to an entire, unlimited control, over the conscience and judgement of every individual under the pastoral care of the itinerent ministry.

If they really possess, by divine right, these powers, they may ordain their own infallibility to be a "gospel doctrine." and that all their decisions must be according to truth. They may ordain, that those passages, "let him that is taught in the word communicate to him that teacheth in all good things," and 'the workmen is worthy of his meat,' mean, that every member shall give a tithe of his substance for the support of the Ministry. They may decide, that the sacraments of "confirmation, penance, and extreme unction,' are duties which must be attended to. They may prescribe a rule of civil and political conduct, for the members; and ordain that a non-compliance with any of these injunctions, shall constitute an offence requiring the exercise of 'moral discipline.' They may place the property of the Church (have they not already done so?) under their own control, though built by the people, for their own benefit; and, in short, they may do any thing, and every thing which their own judgments, or even caprice may suggest; all which, the local preachers and lay members are bound to believe and obey, at the risk of their eternal welfare: for it would be an absurdity to say, that the people have a right to refuse obedience to their authority, if it be of divine origin.

We have the evidence of history for saying, that an older church than ours, (using that term in a familiar sense,) was corrupted by an improper exercise of the powers, now for the first time claimed by the Methodist itinerant ministry. But how far they will follow this example, or with what pace they will travel into those errors and improprieties, which brought about this melancholy state of the Church, is beyond the ken of mortals: but if we may be permitted to draw conclusions from that kind of philosophy which 'teaches by example,' so sure as the time to fulfil prophecy must arrive—so sure as every effect is produced by a cause—so sure in our opinion, must the Methodist ministry degenerate, if they are permitted to exercise the powers which they now hold, and with which they declare themselves to be vested by divine appointment:—powers so contrary to reason, and so hostile to those opinions which have for centuries been the glory of Protestants, that nothing short of the most unequivocal language of scripture should have induced any body of men to lay claim to them.

We do not wish to be misunderstood upon this point. We mean then, that where the ministry are vested with great power in any church, allurements are held out to seek clerical employment therein, from motives of ambition and the love of control—the natural tendency of which is, to jeopardize the best interests of the church of Christ, lower the gospel standard of ministerial piety, and introduce into its general administration, either laxity or oppression, as interest or ambition may suggest. For, in the language of a late distinguished Methodist preacher "as the prerogatives of the laity were diminished, and priestly assumption succeeded, corruption of Christianity obtained." That our itinerant brethren have no "intention or desire" to bring about such unfavorable results, we charitably hope: they can, however, only speak for themselves. They know not what may be the views of those who may come after them: and in any event our argument is, that the powers claimed and exercised by them, must in their very nature, and from the inevitable connexions of causes and effects, tend gradually perhaps, yet not less uncontrolably, to the results which we have mentioned." For, as expressed by the Rev. John Emory, Beverly Waugh, Gerard Morgan, & Alfred Griffith, we should "remember the tenacious grasp with which power is held when once acquired. Its march is ever onward, and its tremendous tendency is to accumulation:" and as we are acting, "not only for the present age, but for posterity," we would entreat our brethren, both ministers and laymen, to look with calmness and candor to the influences which these "tremendous" powers may have upon them and the church, "and to the aspects with which they will be exhibited upon the page of future history," if supported and encouraged much longer.

These being some of the dangerous consequences of clerical domination, we may fairly infer, that it cannot be of divine appointment. But we are not left to our own imperfect reasonings upon this interesting subject. We have the light of revelation, which has conducted us to conclusions very different from those of the General Conference.

The first Christian assembly ever held to decide upon points of religious duty and belief, is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles: and we have the authority of ecclesiastical history, as well as Mr. Wesley and Mr Benson, in their commentaries, for saying, that that Conference or Council, was composed of both ministers and people. And we have the further authority of the former for saying, that, "in those early times, every Christian church consisted of the people, their leaders and the ministers—The *people* were undoubtedly the first in authority; for the apostles shewed by their own example, that nothing of moment was to be determined without the consent of the assembly," who enforced "moral discipline," by excommunicating "profligate and unworthy members and restored penitents to their forfeited privileges."

Is it not, therefore more rational to conclude, that the form of church government just referred to, being approved of and sanctioned by the example of the apostles, should be esteemed of divine institution, than that a part of the ministry alone, should be considered divinely authorized to act in their own right for the whole church, in opposition to apostolic example? Our right, therefore, to representation, though not 'acquired in consequence of our becoming Christians,' is clearly illustrated and enforced

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NEW-YORK, Feb. 2.

STILL LATER FROM ENGLAND.

The fast sailing ship *George Clinton*, arrived below on Saturday morning from Liverpool, having sailed on the evening of the 27th Dec. Capt. Rawson has favored us with papers to that date inclusive.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, Dec. 27.

"Our Corn market continues very flat and prices almost nominal. The little doing in Flour is, at 42s. and by retail at 44s a 45s.; Indian Corn, 36s a 39.—The average of Wheat per returns to day, 74s 7d, aggregate 74s 5d. Aggregate of Barley 39s 2d—of course the duty remain the same.

The Brazilian Ambassador at London, has sent a note to Lord Aberdeen to say that the Island of Terceira, being *de facto* in the hands of the Queen of Portugal, he intends to send there the Portuguese refugees now at Plymouth.

[For the Easton Gazette.]

MR. GRAHAM:—

As the Report of a Committee of the late Convention of Reformers held in Baltimore, contains a "true exposition" of the controversy now so much the subject of conversation, and a correct view of the grounds on which the Methodist Reformers (as they are called,) have acted in seceding from the Methodist Episcopal Church, the facts therein stated not being generally known, I have no doubt you will gratify many readers of your useful paper, by publishing it entire.—you will at all events oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

"The Committee to whom were referred the Report of the Committee of the General Conference, in answer to the petition of Reformers in the Methodist Episcopal Church, having examined the same with much care and attention offer the following report:

In order to a proper understanding of the subject it was deemed necessary to refer to the memorial prepared by a Convention of Reformers, which was held in this city, the 15th Nov. last; that document being more particularly alluded to, in the report under consideration; from which we ascertained that four distinct objects were presented to the consideration of the General Conference.—A lay representation in the law making department of the church—a modification of the rule respecting "endeavouring to sow dissensions"—an alteration in the mode of trying members, so as to secure to them the right to a fair trial—and lastly, to vest in the Annual Conferences the right of electing their own Presiding Elders. Two of these points only—the two first, were noticed by the General Conference. Why the others were not, we will not presume to offer a conjecture.

It is due to the importance of the subject to say, that our minds have been arrested, and most solemnly impressed with some of the sentiments contained in the report referred to us; a candid examination of which, must awaken in the minds of every unprejudiced individual, the most alarming reflections and forebodings.

Whilst a representation in the General Conference was opposed by those in power, on the ground of expediency alone, we had no cause to fear the consequences of their uncontrolled prerogatives, as such a defence was an acknowledgment in fact, that the modifications asked for would be granted, when the voice of the church should demand it. But the sentiments avowed by the last General Conference assumes so much the air of infallibility on their part, if we understand the terms they use, that the local preachers, and the laity, must be considered as sinning highly, to oppose their decisions, whatever they may be.

That we do not err in this matter, we think it will be plainly seen by the following quotations from this very extraordinary document:—"The great head of the church himself, has imposed on us the duty of preaching the Gospel of administering its ordinances, and of maintaining its moral discipline, among those over whom the Holy Ghost in these respects has made us overseers. Of these also, viz. of gospel doctrines, ordinances, and moral discipline, we do believe, that the divinely instituted ministry are the divinely authorized expounders; and that the duty of maintaining them in their purity, and of not permitting our ministrations in these respects to be authoritatively controlled by others, does rest upon us with the force of a moral obligation." And in the next paragraph it is declared,—"we arrogate no authority to *enact* any laws of our own, either of moral or of civil force. We claim no strictly legislative powers, although we grant, that the terms legislature, and legislative, have been sometimes used even among ourselves. In a proper sense however, they are not strictly applicable to our General Conference"

These extraordinary sentiments being advanced in answer to a memorial of the local preachers and lay members, for only a moderate share in the enactment of those rules and regulations by which they are governed, it must be apparent to every one, that our itinerant ministers claim a divine and exclusive right to govern the church according to their own views; a right which is not contended for by the ministers of any other church in the protestant world.

This opinion has not been formed in haste, but after the most mature reflection. It will not be denied we presume, that the phrase, divinely instituted ministry," is used as synonymous with, and intended to apply particularly to the itinerant ministry: it can mean nothing else

The last sentence of the quotation when first read, having excited in our minds a considerable degree of astonishment, we have deemed it proper to notice it out of its regular order.—"We arrogate no authority to enact any laws of our own, either of moral or of *civil* force. We claim no strictly legislative powers." This, we confess, is as new as it is surprising, and affords additional proof that we live in an age of *improvement.*

Our discipline however, says, "The General Conference shall have full powers to make rules and regulations for our church;" under

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