

ment; they have used their money and means without one particle of discretion, for the advancement of their individual sectional views and ends; animated by what to them may have appeared the best of motives, the propagation of what they believed to be true and good. But in so doing they have been led into the commission of crimes and excesses that we to-day shudder to read of, all the time doubtless believing that they were doing God service.

Now, if we open this door in this country, we will find that, with all the powerful machinery that ministers of the gospel can bring to bear on all men, especially during their last moments, they will not hesitate to take away property from a man's wife, and from his children, and to absorb all that a man can alienate into the hands of the church, whether the church needed it or not. There never has been an instance, in all the length and breadth of this land, where a church was necessary, that money was not given in abundance to build it. There have been built about five times as many churches as are actually needed. It has now got so that churches are built for the purpose of sustaining ministers, which, in many instances is serving the Almighty with shucks, for they could not make a living in any other walk of life. As church property accumulates the religion of churches goes down. There is certainly less religion among the masses now than there was in the days when our fathers established our Government. The churches have grown rich; they have waxed fat and they have kicked. Our churches now have more money than they need.

The whole principle of the support of the true and proper system of religion is that the people should receive religious instruction and pay for it day by day voluntarily; not be forced to give money, not be induced by threats of retribution hereafter to give of their means to support the church; they should be left free to give exactly what they think it is right for them to give from day to day, for the support of the man who preaches to them. Let your churches accumulate property, permit your ministers to become vested with great wealth, and, as ministers are but human, they will grow lazy, indolent and luxurious, and become disregardful of the obligations they have taken upon themselves, and true religion will die out. Religion has always best thriven in this country when the ministers have gone out poor men, where the churches or denominations who employed them have been poor, hardly able to pay their ministers enough to feed and clothe them. Those ministers who have gone out as itinerants, trusting to the morrow to provide for itself, have founded some of the most prosperous churches in the land. But whenever they have accumulated great wealth, their property has generally been so used as

to retard the advancement of true religion. But where they have been poor, influenced by a sole desire to spread the cause of religion, they have most prospered and been most successful in so doing. Wherever they have obtained gifts, lands, and other chattels, they have forsaken the best means to accomplish the ends of true religion, and have tried to use the money of the church as a power in the land. We all of us know instances of attempts made by ministers to wrest from dying men the property that belonged to their families. I never heard of a church that needed money that did not get quite as much as was good for it, and the only church in which the ministers are not paid at all is the church which has been the most successful.

Mr. THOMAS asked the yeas and nays upon the question of striking out the article; and they were ordered.

The question being taken, by yeas and nays, upon the motion of Mr. Stockbridge to strike out, and resulted—yeas 3, nays 54—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Daniel, Hatch, Stockbridge—3.

*Nays*—Messrs. Abbott, Baker, Barron, Bond, Brown, Clarke, Cunningham, Cushing, Davis of Washington, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Henkle, Hodson, Hopkins, Hopper, Horsey, Jones of Cecil, Jones of Somerset, Keefer, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Larsh, Markey, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Noble, Nyman, Parker, Ridgely, Robinette, Russell, Schlosser, Scott, Smith of Carroll, Smith of Worcester, Sney, Stirling, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Todd, Valliant, Wickard, Wooden—54.

The motion to strike out was accordingly rejected.

Mr. HENKLE moved to strike out the word "five" and insert the word "fifty," so that it would read "any quantity of land not exceeding fifty acres, for a church," &c.

The question being taken on the amendment it was not agreed to.

Mr. BROWN. I move to amend by inserting after the word "Legislature," the words "subsequently obtained," so that it will read "consent of the Legislature subsequently obtained, shall be void," &c. As the article now stands, it is ambiguous whether the consent of the Legislature shall be a condition precedent or a condition subsequent.

Mr. STIRLING. I would suggest to the gentleman that his amendment will require that the assent of the Legislature be obtained subsequently, and will prohibit the Legislature from giving their assent in advance. I would suggest to the gentleman to so modify his amendment so as to require the prior or subsequent assent of the Legislature.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I would suggest to the gentleman from Queen Anne, (Mr.