

disturb the good order, peace and safety of Society." For this purpose we summed up the facts connected with the history of our organization, which all show, that without the smallest reference to any State or political principles or measures, we were and are intent solely upon maintaining the truth and purity of Christian doctrine & practice.

We did not claim immunity from the pains and penalties attaching to crime against the State. We set up no "Higher Law" beneath which we might find shelter from the operation of the civil power.

We were careful to set forth our recognition of, and obedience to the "higher powers", and thought ourselves entitled in all righteousness, to the protection in our worship guaranteed under these powers.

Thus, Sir, your own references, besides the entire spirit of your communication, justify the recital of those facts and show their "bearing upon the subject of our complaint."

We regret to see the misconstruction of those facts in your reply to our statement; Referring to the action of our Body you say, "I think it is greatly to be regretted, that, continuing as you seem to have done, in an unaltered membership of the Church, and in fellowship with the Baltimore Conference for nearly two years after the adoption of the Buffalo Chapter, and fully one year after the proceedings of the two Conventions to which you refer, and of the Conference of 1861, you should in March 1862 for the first time have practically sundered your Church connections."

Will your Excellency be pleased to revert to the facts in the case? The jurisdiction of the Buffalo General Conference was thrown off by the large majority of the Baltimore Conference, immediately after the action referred to; or more properly that jurisdiction was never admitted. Its discipline was not received; that of 1856 being adhered to and the membership by an overwhelming majority, declaring their resolve no longer to accept the leadership of the Church in the North — in matters of faith or practice.

The voice of the people was heard in the Convention of December 1860 — the earliest practicable moment; and again in March 1861. In obedience to that voice and their own convictions, the session of the Baltimore Conference in March 1861, being the first after the aforementioned action of the General Conference — declared its absolute independence of the jurisdiction of the General Conference, and its connections therewith dissolved. It was no prospective separation — it was an act accomplished, and so announced in the Pastoral Letter afterwards issued by the authority of the Baltimore Conference.

At the instance and for the sake of the minority, certain additional resolutions were passed, whose design was to prevent an immediate divisions in the Conference, and to give the minority opportunity to appeal to the Annual Conferences in the North for redress, they being pledged in case of the failure of that appeal to side with the majority.

Thus, Sir, we did not remain in "unaltered connection with the Church" in the North. By the authoritative action of the Conference, we were completely separated therefrom. We should otherwise have abandoned our connection with the Baltimore Conference.

And it happened through the mere accident of the times that we were driven from "the time honored edifices" in which we were wont to worship. The minority taking advantage of