DAILY DEMOCRAT.

SOME MORE.

Although the DEMOCRAT has already given considerable on the Evangelical church trouble, by the earnest request of members of the Bowman faction, it presents the following personal statement of Bishop Bowman, in reference to his suspension :

Whereas rumors have been industriously circulated on this coast, that the undersigned, who has been one of the bishops of the Evangelical church for fifteen years, had been "suspended" from his official functions, a brief explanation ought probably be given to the public in justification of myself and those who have acted with me.

The general conference of our church, which is composed of delegates elected by the different annual conferences, is the highest tribunal in the church. Its decisions on all questions is authoritative and final, there being no higher court of appeal. This body fully represents the church, its delegates being elected by ballot in accordance to the numerical strength of the conference represented. The last session of this body was held in 1887, in Buffalo, N Y. With the findings of the same, in a certain case coming up for adjudication, a number of delegates were dissatisfied, and instead of accepting its decision and working peacefully in harmony with the church, organized an independent publishing company,and have since published a paper of their own, in opposition to the official publication of the church. In this paper fierce assaults have been made upon the general conference and especially upon the officers elected by that body, but more particularly against me.

This paper continued its assaults upon me and my character so persistently,and in such coarse and vulgar language, that it was believed to be necessary to make an inquiry into the correctness of their assertions, in accordance with the directions of the discipline of our church. This court,after a thorough examination, gave me the following verdict:

"As a result of our investigation, made agreeably with the foregoing facts, we state

1. That we are fully convinced that said rumors and accusations, one and all, are unfounded and utterly unjust.

2. That there is therefore no cause whatever for any further investigation or trial of Bishop Bowman concerning such rumors or accusations."

These proceedings in accordance with the law of our church, as well as the generally accepted law, that a person can be tried on the same charges but once,ended all further proceedings until the next general conference, to which I am amenable,and which meets in 1891.

However, the dissatisfied faction above mentioned, notwithstanding these undoubted legal proceedings, constituted another court of individuals in sympathy with their ends and purposes, and cited me for trial upon the very same accusations from which I had been fully exonerated. I took no notice whatever of their proceedings. I could not have done so even if personally inclined,as I had no right to set aside the findings of a legal ecclesiastical court, whether favorable or unfavorable to me,but must abide by the verdict rendered, until reversed by a higher court.

Since this sham trial has been held,the findings of which I have only discovered by reports published in the public press. not having received from the so-called trial conference any notice of their action, a large number of annual conferences have been held, all of which denounced the illegal action of these parties in strong language,as a gross slander upon me and an outrage upon the church. Two of the participants having been suspended from all their official functions,and one deposed from office and expelled from the church, by the annual conferences of which they were members. Moreover, these conferences, since in session, have unqualifiedly endorsed me in my position, and requested me to proceed in my work, and give no heed whatever to the so-called suspension. This I have been doing, and shall continue to do.

It was our purpose to avoid all friction in our local societies as much as possible, guarding, of course, all property rights, until our general conference has decided the questions at issue. A large majority of the annual conferences having already given expression to their sentiments it is easy to forsee what that decision will be. At any rate, my mind is quite calm and undisturbed, while,however,I very much regret the trouble the "seceders" have given themselves and us, and our people.

THOMAS BOWMAN.

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Attest: M B WILDS, President.

PRES B MARSHALL, Secretary.

E. J. McCAUSTLAND,

Civil, Sanitary and Hydraulic Engineer.

Consulting engineer for Gold Mountain and Dry Gulch Consolidated Gold and Silver Mining Co.

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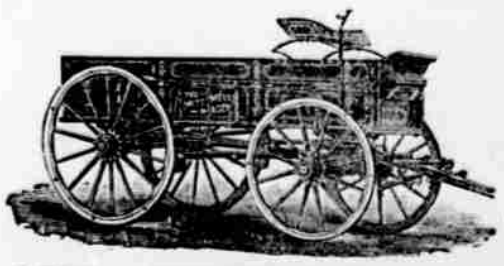

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