

Church History Senior S 6

society so that about thirteen hundred Unitarians dispossessed thirty-nine hundred orthodox Congregationalists of property to the value of more than \$600,000. Now get the implication of that. He says, "Through skillful management the Unitarians gained control of the society so that about thirteen hundred Unitarians disposes thirty-nine hundred orthodox Congregationalists of property to the value of more than \$600,000. Eighty-one congregations in Massachusetts lost their church property." Thus the situation which we have gone through in the Presbyterian church in recent years is nothing which is new in America. With a different type of organization, with different details the same thing occurred nearly one hundred and fifty years ago, when in church after church there the societies voted the overwhelming majority of the church members out of control of their churches. There was a case over in Collingwood, New Jersey not so many years ago when in a church of a thousand members nine hundred and ninety-six, I believe, wanted to stay with the pastor and five or six were opposed to his view and the courts gave the church to the five or six and took it away from practically a thousand. This is similar to the situation which existed at that time, except that the organization is different, the legal details are different, but the same sort of thing was done. Mr. --?

(Student) Which one do you mean? (Student) Well, of course in this case it's altogether different from the Congregational system there. In the system there, the church belonged to the community, to the town, or the society, which included everybody in the town, and the church members were those who were particularly interested in carrying on the work of the church, but at meetings for financial matters, the whole town took part and the whole town was expected to keep the church in order. Then the town claimed control over the church and they simply voted in a Unitarian minister and the other people had to withdraw and start from scratch, having lost everything. Now in the case of the Presbyterian church in the U. S. A., the church is considered as one organization, as one body, and as one body in the eyes of the law, all the property in