

commencement of these missions? If there are any inviting new fields for missionary labour, and any reasonable ground to believe that the necessary funds to sustain them shall be raised, we have certainly all the necessary executive machinery to inaugurate such missions any day, without a bishop. But would it be wise or commendable to inaugurate such missions without fully counting the cost? Was there not a long period under the old regime, in which no new mission fields were entered? Why then should that time be unduly exalted, as if its missionary organization was far better adapted to promote missionary enterprise than our present organization? We confess we can see nothing to sustain such a conclusion.

It may be said, by the advocates of a superintendency, that there is no intention to imitate the extreme concentration of power in the hands of a few men, which exists in the M. E. Church of the United States. To this I reply, that if one long stride from our present position be taken in that direction, there is no security that this shall not be followed by other steps which shall bring us closer to the American system. But already the advocates of the superintendency, by finding fault with the powers of our chief Committees and Boards, and speaking of bishops as if they would do the work to be done by these Committees more efficiently than it is now done, evidently imply the introduction of a system of individual power, widely different from what exists amongst us at present. If the "bishop" is to render transfers more easy, enforce the laws of the Church, inaugurate new missions, as seems to be implied by those who plead for this new departure, then he must be invested with power and authority of a very extraordinary character, which few among us, we think, are prepared to bestow upon any man.

No such system of one-man power can be introduced without a radical change in our whole Church organization, to adjust it to this new mode of administration. Hitherto we have been a brotherhood, whose united judgment, as expressed in our General Conference, has been committed to responsible boards of chosen men, to be practically carried out. We are not without a "head." Under our present order, the General Conference is the supreme authority, and the Missionary Board, and Book, Educational, and other Committees the executive agencies to do the work of the Church which it assigns to them. In this way ample pro-