

them superannuated,—which the Conference has a right to do, when, in its judgment, they are unable efficiently to serve the church in the capacity of a bishop. With regard to the power of ordination we remark :—A Methodist bishop has no right to ordain any man to the office of elder or deacon, unless he is first recommended by the Annual Conference to fill such office. It is true, the Discipline provides for his succeeding to ordain on certain conditions, but only when some valid objection is made, and then only until such times as the case has been investigated. On this point the venerated bishop Hedding, whose authority none will dispute, says :—“ The superintendents now have no power in the church above that of elders, except what is connected with presiding in the Conferences, fixing the appointments of the preachers, and ordaining. They have no voice in any question to be decided by vote in any Conference,—no vote even in making the rules by which they themselves are to be governed. They are the servants of the elders, to go out and execute their commands. At the same time they are held rigidly responsible, not only for their private conduct, but also for their official acts. The General Conference may expel a bishop, not only for immoral conduct, but for improper conduct, if they see it necessary. Improper conduct, in our discipline, means a small offence below a crime ;—and though the preachers and private members may be expelled for that kind of offence, when it is persisted in after repeated admonitions, yet no one but a bishop, not even a child, or a slave, can be expelled for the first improper act of that character. And if a bishop be expelled there is no appeal.” Much more might be adduced on this head, did we think it necessary, but we believe the foregoing to be sufficient to convince any candid man that a Methodist Bishop is not such a monster as many have supposed him to be ; but on the contrary, that he is as dependent as any other minister ;—his dependency being, not on a bench of bishops, but on a body of elders. If his acts are oppressive at all, they must be on the ministry. for Methodist Bishops have no