

whole Methodist society, governed without any responsibility whatever;—but the American bishops are as responsible as any of the preachers. They are perfectly subject to the General Conference. “We have drawn this comparison between our venerable father and the American bishops, to show to the world that they possess not, and, we may add, they aim not to possess, that power which he exercised, and had a right to exercise, as the father of the connection;—that, on the contrary, they are perfectly dependent; that their power, their usefulness, themselves, are entirely at the mercy of the General Conference.”—*Ibid*, 40–44. We have given the above extracts to convince the reader that, in the establishment of Methodist Episcopacy, the bishops themselves did not consider theirs a perpetual divine order, but an office which conferred on them a degree of authority, which was subject to be lessened at any time, and from which they were subject to be removed by the General Conference, should that body see it expedient for the welfare of the church. How, in the face of the statements of episcopacy, made by the the bishops themselves, any person can have the hardihood to charge the first bishops with arrogating to themselves despotic and arbitrary powers, we are unable to comprehend. We must conclude that those who make such assertions, do it without examining the subject, or, what is worse, that they mean to revile and vilify honest men. The first paragraph, which we quoted from the notes of the Discipline, must for ever put to rest the assertion, that Dr. Coke did not consider his an episcopal ordination. The bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church have no control over the decisions of either an Annual or General Conference—not so much as a veto power or even a casting vote. If there is a tie on any question, the bishop must decide it lost for want of a majority. Another evidence of their entire dependence is the fact, that if they cease to travel without the consent of the General Conference, they forfeit their episcopal functions, or, in other words, they must travel until the General Conference is pleased to pronounce