

tion here lay the utmost stress, This is a vital point, in the maintenance of which we, as a people, stand or fall. In the establishment of this position allow me to borrow the light of an illustration.

In considering some time ago that beautiful text, "All things work together for good," I found the apostle explaining in a chapter, *how* the "all things" worked. He says, "tribulation *worketh* patience, and patience experience and experience hope," Now, sir, it occurred to me that these things all worked to a delightful result, after the manner of *wheels* in beautiful co-operation, as in Ezekiel's vision. *Tribulation* may be compared to the great *iron wheel*, where, by the divine blessing, the gracious power is first felt and attained. To this great *iron wheel* there is attached a smaller *brazen wheel*, which we may denominate patience, and as the great iron wheel moves around *lo*, the brazen wheel begins to move, also to this we see a *bright silver wheel*, which is styled *experience*, which moved by the two former, commences and continues its bright and rapid revolution; and yet beyond all these there is a *splendid golden wheel*, which is fitly styled hope, and over this is thrown the gospel rope of exceeding precious promises, upon which, if a man hold fast and never let go, it will wind him up to glory. Now, sir, let us apply this to Methodism. The great iron wheel is the system of Itinerancy, and truly it grinds some of us most tremendously; the brazen wheel attached and kept in motion by the former, is the local ministry, the silver wheel, the class leaders, the golden wheel the doctrine and discipline of the Church, in full and successful operation. Now, sir, it is evident that the entire movement depends upon keeping the great iron wheel of Itinerancy constantly and rapidly moving round. But to be more specific, and to make an application of the figure to American Methodism. Let us carefully note the admirable & astounding movements of this wonderful machine. You will perceive there are 'wheels within wheels,' First there is the great outer wheel of Episcopacy, which accomplishes its entire revolution once in four years. To this there are attached twen-