

of synodical action in the United States, where the authority of the Bishop is simply that of the *presiding chairman*, in all the dioceses with the exception of one; but he produces a few stale extracts from the Fathers, perfectly irrelevant to the subject of Diocesan Synods. The prophet Jeremiah adviseth us better, "Trust ye not in * * * * * words that cannot profit." Yielding to none in reverence for the great divines of our church, which are quoted in the "Reasons," we must protest against the practice of extracting brief sentences from voluminous writers, and endeavoring by means of excerpts taken apart from their context, and without reference to the times or circumstances in which the works were composed, or to the objects which the writers had in view, to bring the weight of their great authority in support of the "Autocracy," which it is sought at the present day to establish for the Episcopate.

As however, St. Ignatius and St. Cyprian, both holy martyrs, seem principally relied on, we shall quote counter extracts from their writings, to show the undue weight to which the episcopal office was magnified, even at that early period of the Church, and to prove that no reliance should be placed upon their opinions in matters affecting our own ecclesiastical polity. Take the following from the short epistles of Ignatius, a contemporary of the Apostles, "Be ye subject to the Bishop as to Jesus Christ." (*Ad Trall. c. 2.*) "Follow your Bishop as Jesus Christ the father, the Presbyters as the Apostles, reverence the Deacons as the Ordinance of God." (*Ad Smyr. c. 8.*) And in the writings of St. Cyprian, Epist. 75, we find the following passage claiming the full apostolic authority for the Bishops. "*Potestas peccatorum remittendorum apostolis data est ** et episcopis qui eis vicariâ ordinatione successerunt.*" Shall we be bound by such dicta as these? Nay,