

order to make these apparent, we will give the opinion of the bishops themselves on Methodist Episcopacy. The following are the views of Bishops Coke and Ashbury, as given in their notes on the discipline, which were prepared by them at the request of the General Conference:—"Nothing but an apostolic uninterrupted succession can possibly confine the right of episcopacy to any particular church. The idea of an apostolic succession being exploded, it follows that the Methodist church has every thing which is Scriptural and essential to justify its episcopacy." "Nor must we omit to observe that each diocese had a college of elders or presbyters, in which the bishop presided. So that the bishop by no means superintended his diocese in a despotic manner, but was rather the chief executor of those regulations which were made in the college of presbyters."—Ed. 1798; pp. 6, 7, 8.

"Here, then, lies the grand difference between Mr. Wesley's authority, in the present instance, and that of our American bishops. The former, as (under God) the father of the connection, was allowed to have the sole, legal, independant nomination of preachers to all the chapels; the latter are entirely dependant on the General Conference.—"But why does the General Conference lodge the power of stationing the preachers in the episcopacy? We answer, on account of their entire confidence in it. If ever, through improper conduct, they lose that confidence in any considerable degree, the General Conference will, upon evidence given, in a proportionable degree, take from it this branch of its authority. But if ever it betrays a spirit of tyranny or partiality, and this can be proved before the General Conference, the whole will be taken from them; and we pray God that in such case the power may be vested in other hands.....And we believe that if our episcopacy should at any time, through tyrannical or immoral conduct, come under the severe censure of the General Conference, the members thereof would see it highly for the glory of God, to preserve the present form, and only to change the men..... Mr. Wesley, as the venerable founder (under God) of the