

of this kind of concentration of power, or the way in which it would place the many at the mercy of the few. It has been sometimes said that if we could find an infallibly wise and perfect despot, a despotism would be the most perfect form of government. This may be true, but so long as men are liable to be warped by the prejudices and partialities common to humanity, it is far better that even the best men be held in check by the direct controlling power of the whole brotherhood, than that we should have no guarantee of satisfactory administration but our confidence in the goodness and infallibility of a human head. In the American Methodist Episcopal system, which a few among us desire to imitate, the bishops are practically irresponsible for their administration; for although the General Conference is the supreme court to which they are nominally responsible, as it meets only once in four years, their administration for that period is irrevocable history when the General Conference meets; and unless there should be some grave crime laid to their charge, no redress could be obtained for the most arbitrary and unjust acts of ordinary administration. In my opinion, those among us who fancy that our ministers and people are ready to give up our present liberal and successful form of government for any such system, miscalculate the spirit and sentiments which prevail in our Church. The thorough and loyal working out of the system we have, which is an historic outgrowth of our Church life, is far more essential to our permanent power and progress than doubtful experiments in altering those methods and agencies, which have vindicated their fitness by most gratifying practical results.

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

LEAVE behind thy faithless sorrow,
And thine every anxious care;
He who only knows the morrow
Can for thee its burden bear.

Leave behind the doubting spirit,
And thy heavy load of sin;
By thy mighty Saviour's merit
Life eternal thou shalt win.