

confutation of all who are labouring to make the impression that we are only "a rope of sand?" If the North-West, or any other portion of our mission work requires special oversight, there is nothing to prevent us efficiently providing such supervision, without any radical change of organization. Why then attempt "to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"

One of the most questionable arguments urged against our present organization, and in favour of an episcopal system, is that "our present system of election to most offices is a vicious system, is too often the result of electioneering and bargain," etc. This is a grave charge; and though I have no doubt it is made in good faith, I cannot accept it as a true representation of what takes place in connection with appointments to office in our Church. It is surely no crime for brethren to exchange views with frankness respecting the fitness of a brother for any office. This is the only "electioneering" I have ever known. Brethren who were so hungry for office as to "electioneer and bargain" I have never met during over thirty years in the ministry of the Methodist Church.

A movement for the concentration of power in the hands of one person, or a small number of persons, is nothing new, either in Church or State. It has been often tried, and whatever temporary success it has won, the ultimate result has not been such as to invite imitation. This objection, based on the strife and other evils incident to elections, seems a good deal like the objection urged against free institutions, by the advocates of despotism of every kind. No doubt it saves a great deal of trouble and disturbance, to vest the supreme authority in one person, and dispense with appeals to the people. And yet, we prefer free institutions, with all their incidental disadvantages, to any form of one-man power, whether in State or Church. Leaders may despise the clamour of the democracy; but neither in affairs of Church nor State can they go faster or farther than they are sustained by the intelligent sympathy and co-operation of the people whom they represent.

I have not attempted in these remarks, which merely suggest a line of reply, to gather up the statistics of progress in our Church which contravene the depreciatory allegations to which I have adverted; neither have I depicted the serious evils