

you get the ~~worst~~ worst people at the top, it is practically impossible for a good man to ever get to the top. And so it is a system which we see in the ~~history~~ history of the Methodist church, its great advantages and its great terrific disappointments.

Now, this system, incidentally, is the same system which was introduced in the Salvation Army, and that is one reason why the Salvation Army has had such a tremendous influence in such a tremendous ~~growth~~ growth. I don't know if it has ever been anything like the force in this country that it has been in Europe, but in England the Salvation Army forty years ago had a tremendous influence all over the country. It was almost the church of the poorer classes in England. And its influence was tremendous all through the British Isles, and in many countries on the continent. And the Salvation Army was formed as an army with the head of it as the leader, and the officers under him, and they did what he said. It has great advantages as a method of going forward, but great disadvantages and tremendous dangers also.

Another organization that has the same sort of the system and it has contributed greatly to its tremendous growth and accomplishment, is the China Inland Mission. The China Inland Mission was founded by that great man of God, who was over to China and started his great work almost single-handed, and his insight was tremendous, his understanding was great, his knowledge of the Word was prodigious, he was a very very consecrated holy man, and he recruited others to work with him, and they were under his thumb and they did what he said. And I had a little experience, a little contact at second hand, with the development of it, twenty years ago. When I found that the representative in this country, at that time, the head for North America, had absolute control here. He had a commission of fifteen men, advisory board, they were strictly to advise, they didn't have a word to say. He had absolute control. And the head of the mission in China had absolute control over the American officials. He could remove them at will, he could change them at will, he could change anything at his will, he was absolutely in control. And that was the system, which in the China Inland Mission, went