

brethren, and consequently left them no claim whatever, to the appropriation of the title, *Priest*. It appeared on all the premises, that the Roman Clergy, have as much reason to claim, and as much right to wear exclusively, the designation *Christian*, as that of *Priest*.

The question, *What serves the Christian Ministry?* Was answered first negatively, without controversy and without discussion. It was agreed, that it pertains not at all, to priestly things, or functions. That there is a Christian Ministry in the Christian Church, or that there are officers in every organized Christian community essential to its perfection, was also without discussion, or debate, most promptly and cordially conceded by us both. Happy to agree so far, it was with fear and trembling, I saw you casting an eye askance, towards the question of *succession* in the Christian Ministry. Though I expected as much candor and as much manly sense, and independence of mind from Bishop Otey, as from any Episcopal dignitary on earth, still I could not but regard myself, in attempting a discussion on the question of Episcopal succession with you, the Diocesan Prelate of the state, in the same light, as I would contemplate a republican debating with the reigning king of France, on the divine right of kings. Nothing could have emboldened me, on my own responsibility, to have introduced such a topic at such a time.—But, sir, the good natured, frank, and candid manner in which you introduced that subject, and the most perfect familiarity which characterized our whole interview on all topics, authorized me to answer all your questions, without the fear of marring in the least the good and friendly feelings displayed and reciprocated in all our communications.

Not at all attempting to go into any of the details of that happy evening, either on this subject, or on any of the various and numerous points on which we communed, and on most of which we so happily agreed, I only design to discharge an obligation arising from the favor you conferred on me, by presenting me at the close of the evening with a copy of "*Episcopacy tested by Scripture—by the Right Reverend Henry U. Onderdonk, D. D. Assistant Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. New-York. Printed 1833.*" It afforded me much pleasure to see that Bishop Onderdonk had inscribed upon the title-page of his well-written tract, the motto, "*To the law and to the testimony.*" This disposed me to give his pamphlet a very candid and impartial hearing. "*To the law and to the testimony,*" I always make my appeal. Finding this learned Bishop, agreeing with me in the premises, in the court to which the parties should appeal, and the judges before whom the cause should be tried, I determined to accompany him; and should judgment be given in his favor, I was prepared in mind for all the consequences. But when the Bishop opened his cause