Circular.

At a Meeting of the Laymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in New Jersey, held at Princeton, on the sixteenth day of June instant, for the purpose of adopting some efficient means for placing the payment of the Bishop's salary on a sure basis, and relieving the Parishes from future assessments, it was resolved to raise, by voluntary subscription, Fifty Thousand Dollars, to be added to the present Bishop's Fund, and invested for the payment of his salary.

But one sentiment pervaded this Meeting. All were agreed in the propriety and justice of the measure. All were awake to its importance, and confident of success. A Subscription was commenced; and, as evidence of their earnestness, ten of those who were present, at once subscribed seven thousand five hundred dollars. A Committee was appointed to take immediate measures for sending a Subscription Book into all the Parishes, with this Circular, expressive of the sense of the Meeting.

The provision for the Bishop's maintenance should be ample; that he may be relieved from all embarrassments, and enabled to meet his necessary expenditures without annoyance, and in a manner becoming his exalted position. It should be certain; that no probable contingency would deprive him of support; or dwarf his energies in carrying out the great work committed to his care; or subject him to dependence upon temporary or personal supplies. It should be permanent; because his relation to the Diocese is permanent—dissoluble only by death.

In the opinion of the Meeting, the present is an opportune time for accomplishing this object. The Rev. Dr. Odenheimer, recently elected, has the entire confidence of the Churchmen of the Diocese. His election was effected with a degree of unanimity and good feeling, rarely equalled, and never, perhaps, excelled in any similar Convention. All are not only willing, but anxious to welcome him among us. A happy sentiment of unity prevails, that the Church and the Churchmen of the State should be united:—united among themselves; and united in confidence and love to their Bishop. To enable him to meet the high expectations excited by his election, his acceptance of the office should be as cheerful, as the election itself, was cordial. This can only be expected, by removing all apprehensions about his support. Success is the creature of confidence.

Looking to the prosperous condition of the Diocese, and to the ability of the Churchmen in it, the Meeting believe that the desired sum can be raised without material sacrifice or inconvenience. The Subscription adopted, postpones the payment of any money until the first day of April next; and then leaves it to the option of each subscriber to pay, either in cash, or by a bond conditioned for the payment of the interest, semi-annually, and the principal at any time he may desire. This Subscription will be circulated in each Parish, that every friend of the Church in the State, may have an opportunity of aiding in the matter; and forever hereafter, relieving themselves and their Parishes from all burden in supporting a Bishop.

_Dated, June 16th, A. D. 1859._

F. B. CHETWOOD, 
Chairman.

J. L. N. STRATTON, 
Secretary.