

R E P L Y

OF

BISHOPS MEADE, M'ILVAINE, AND BURGESS

TO THE

ARGUMENT PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF  
NEW JERSEY,

TO

THE COURT OF BISHOPS,

IN SESSION AT BURLINGTON

FOR THE

TRIAL OF BISHOP DOANE.

---

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY T. K. AND P. G. COLLINS.

1852.

## R E P L Y.

---

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

THE BISHOPS CONSTITUTING THE PRESENT COURT:

BRETHREN: The undersigned who have appeared before you in the most painful and responsible position of Presenters of our brother, the Bishop of New Jersey, for a trial before you, feeling ourselves called on by all the imperative considerations of solemn duty to God and His church which moved us to that act, to place on your record a reply to the argument which you have permitted a Committee of the Diocese of New Jersey to present, would now respectfully solicit your attention thereto.

But first allow us to say, that we deeply realize the very painful relation to this court in which our presentment has placed, of necessity, our brother, the respondent in this case; and we feel the duty, and will endeavor most truly to fulfil it, of treating the subject in hand in as much abstraction from him personally, and his feelings, as its just argument will permit. We think we know enough of our own hearts to be enabled confidently to say that we entertain no other than the kindest feelings towards him; that, beyond our official duty as Bishops and Presenters, we have no interests enlisted in the further prosecution of this issue; that to see him cleared by a faithful sifting of evidence, according to the mode prescribed by the church, from the charges we have felt constrained to bring, so that he and the honor of the church may be vindicated in the eyes of all well judging men, would be to us the same matter of joy and thankfulness that it would be to all of you; and consequently that if, in the course of our present argument, we should seem to be led to the expression of thoughts, or the use of words more painful to the feelings of the respondent than the merits of the subject demand or the law

