

## Appendix

The letter refers to the “outrageous despotism of the modern daily press” – implying the conflict is not with any denominational publication, since none of them appeared more often than weekly. The New York *Christian Advocate* for August 10, 1882, however, gives insight into this “contemptible matter” in the following extended article appearing on page 504. It was reprinted from the *Northern Christian Advocate*, which was based in Syracuse NY and approved as an official denominational publication in 1844. Orris H. Warren (1835-1901) was that periodical’s current editor.

### Bishop Peck and His Critics

[from *Northern Christian Advocate*]

#### NOTE RESPECTING THE SLANDER

We deemed it sufficient last week to deny in general but positive terms the allegations made in the *Cincinnati Inquirer* against Bishop Peck. We should deem any further allusion to the matter unnecessary were it not that a number of papers have indicated their expectation that the Bishop himself would meet the allegation with a counter statement of facts.

We are quite sure that the Christian public desires nothing of the kind, but prefers that he should assume that he still enjoys its undisturbed confidence. The following personal note will set at rest all curiosity respecting the Bishop’s defense, and the publication is due as an acknowledgement of the many expressions of sympathy and confidence which this matter has called forth.

Geneva, NY July 28, 1882

Dear Dr. Warren,

I thank you for your strong words in response to the slanderous attack upon me in relation to the case of my beloved sister.

I cannot be induced to make any vindication of myself. If my life for fifty years will not defend me, I am sure words cannot. In my consecration to God I did not except any part of my property nor my reputation. I can suffer in silence any wrongs which may be inflicted upon me, though in extreme weakness, after a protracted illness, I am not in a condition to do it.

But if the Church of Christ should be harmed by this vile slander nothing can console me. It would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. If I could in some way thank my kind friends for their words of sympathy and confidence without undertaking to answer their letters, and without endeavoring to satisfy the tender anxieties of so many good people, it would, in my feeble condition, be a very great relief.

Yours as ever,  
Jesse T. Peck

#### HIS SUBSCRIPTION TO THE UNIVERSITY

We take this occasion to correct the erroneous statements that a number of papers have made in their notices of this matter, respecting his subscription to the Syracuse University. We do this by giving the *exact facts* concerning it.

At the first Syracuse Convention, when this University was founded, Dr. Peck subscribed conditionally \$25,000, that being literally all he was worth. This has been paid in real estate deeded with a life lease to the aged Bishop and his wife.

Subsequently Mrs. Peck subscribed \$25,000 more, the amount of a life insurance. Of this, \$15,000 was lost in the failure of the Asbury<sup>1</sup>. The Bishop and Mrs. Peck had transferred, but not guaranteed, these policies, only on consenting to keep up these assessments, and had the receipts of the trustees of the University in full for the whole \$50,000. Since the failure of the Asbury, Bishop Peck being too old to be again insured, they, at Mrs. Peck's suggestion, have resolved to be their own insurers, and to make up for this misfortune, so that the University may not suffer the loss. This they have been straining every nerve to do, and will doubtless succeed.

The Bishop pays, in the interest of the University, \$500 insurance and \$500 a year for current expenses, met by avails of the property deeded and from salary, with no other available income. The other unnumbered demands upon his small means, and the tender care of a few family relatives, *no man has a right to parade before the public*. Those who know his habits are assured that he literally expends all that he saved by the strictest economy of himself and wife in acts of benevolence.

This habit has probably given rise to the idea of his immense wealth. He has literally given away all he has, principal and interest, income, salary and perquisites, excepting only an economical subsistence.

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<sup>1</sup> The Asbury Life Insurance Company was based in New York State. Obsolete certificates bearing that name and issued in 1870 are available from dealers in paper ephemera, but that is about all that is known about the company. It appears to have had Methodist connections, or else was very well known in its day, for the Christian Advocate simply calls it "the Asbury" – although a likeness of James Madison appears on the certificates offered for sale.