

*“Charleston Observer.”*— In giving some account of the arrests that have taken place in the Cherokee territory during the present year, under a late law of the State of Georgia, the editor of the *Observer* has taken occasion to indulge in a short tirade against the constituted authorities of his country, and concludes his article as follows :

“ If policy like this is to be pursued— if Missionaries of the Cross are to be chained and imprisoned on such grounds as these, the liberties of which we boast is after all, a mere phantom, an empty name. Indians are arrested without knowing the cause; and others on the charge of using violent language to the guard. To what extent these measures will yet be carried, cannot be predicted. Like other acts of which we read, they may yet prove millstones upon the necks of their advocates and defenders.”

We must confess that we read the above extract with some surprise, knowing that heretofore the *Observer* has advocated the cause of Georgia on the subject of Indian sovereignty and the rights of the State. But this fact only goes to confirm the opinion, almost universally found to be true, that men can reason very rationally on a subject where their interests or private feelings are not concerned; but touch them on that chord, and cool judgement bears the sway no longer—they vibrate to a different tune. This seems to be the case with the Rev. editor of the *Observer*. He acknowledges the right of Georgia to extend jurisdiction over the whole of her territorial limits, and he probably approves of a peaceable, yet effective plan for accomplishing the object; but when his brethren are the offenders, he thinks the law arbitrary, cruel and unjust, and that it is calculated to make our liberties “ a mere phantom, an empty name.” Why are the Missionaries entitled to greater privileges than other men? Are they not of the same flesh and blood, and do they not receive the same protection from government that others do? Why then should they not yield obedience to the laws, and if they are refractory, receive the same punishment as other men? Let the Rev. gentleman answer these questions.

The Missionaries are sent by their respective denominations, not to preach homilies upon politics, but to enlighten the minds of the ignorant sons of the forest in the truths of the gospel. To that sphere they should confine themselves, and when they prostitute

the sacred character of their office, and descend to the grovelling business of creating personal and political discord, the strong arm of the law should take cognizance of their offences. The Missionaries undoubtedly exert over the minds of many of the natives, an almost unlimited control; and we believe it can be satisfactorily proven that that influence has been used to encourage them to persist in their idle pretensions to the right of self-government. As long, therefore, as they are suffered to remain where they now are, without acknowledging the supremacy of our laws, the ends of Government will be thwarted, its requirements disregarded, and the government itself remain a dead letter.

The release of the Rev. Mr. Thompson, who was a few weeks since arraigned before the Superior Court at Gwinnett, we regard as peculiarly unfortunate. It has since been ascertained officially, that the General Government does not regard a Missionary as its agent, and some may in consequence find, that trusting to their final release on the ground sustained at that Court, may have been induced to remain too long for their advantage. If a prompt example had been made of him, others would undoubtedly have taken warning, and escaped the punishment which must now be inflicted. It is severe we know, but not more than adequate to the injury that might result to us from disobedience; and it is very probable that it was presumed its severity might have the effect to deter every one from incurring it, either through stubbornness or neglect.

We almost universally find that there is "magic in a name," and it is unfortunate that such is the fact, for the influence it has upon the feelings too often seems to blind the understanding. The Observer has seen fit to make use of the appellation "Missionaries of the Cross," evidently with the intention of arousing the sympathies of the people in favor of that particular class of men, without examining at all into the nature of the charges against them; as though they were infallible. We object not to the title, but to the manner of applying it. The effort will not take; nor will the idea held out by the Missionaries themselves, that they are suffering persecution for righteousness' sake, avail them any thing with a discerning public, or make their conduct more acceptable to their God. The oath that is required of them does not interrupt or prevent the performance of any moral or religious requirement, and if they refuse to take it or leave the state, it is not because it interferes with their duty to their Maker, but because they are obstinate in a wrong and dangerous course. An embargo would be laid upon their tongues, and they could not then, as now, abuse the laws under which they live, or create enmity and discontent among the Indians, by the promulgation of their injurious doctrines. We wish no harm to either of them, but would be rejoiced to see them adopt the practice of good citizens, and, conforming to legal requirements, spend their time in inculcating the precepts of our venerated and holy religion, nor suffer their mistaken ideas of justice, to place them where they cannot benefit those they were sent to instruct and enlighten.