

TO THE REV. JOHN HOWARD,  
*Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church,  
 for the Milledgeville District.*

SIR—I perceive by your letter to the editor of the *Macon Advertiser*, that you have had a correspondence with Governor Gilmer, relating to the treatment of the Missionaries, ministers employed in that part of this State occupied by the Cherokee Indians. I admire the zeal for the cause of Christianity, that, on your part prompted this correspondence, your course must be approved by every enlightened understanding. As one, under your pastoral charge, I thank you for your early interference in this business.

In the whole range of the district over which you preside you have not a warmer advocate, for that efficient, talented and able manner in which you inculcate the doctrines forming the creed of the Methodist Church, or one that listens to you, with more satisfaction, than I do! but while I entirely approve of your ministerial labors, in general, and your interference in the cause of the persecuted Missionaries, in particular, and am willing to be placed under and continue under your guidance in ecclesiastical matters, I must be permitted, nay will determine for myself in all political affairs.

That part of your letter to Mr. Slade to which I object, is in these words "we all believe him (Governor Gilmer) to be a *wise and humane* benefactor." I do not know whom you would represent when you say *all*, if you mean all the people of the State which I cannot suppose, you cannot be more mistaken in the understanding of any fact, of which you will shortly have the most indubitable evidence; if you mean all the societies, under your pastoral care, you widely misunderstand their sentiments in this regard. I will not object to your ministering to your charge in holy things, of your manner in these matters I have no complaint to make, but when the influence, thus acquired is to be wielded, either for the support of a favorite or against an opponent, I, for one must, will dissent. Whatever rights you may have to regulate my religious conduct, you have none in my political conduct, and I look upon every attempt to regulate the latter as an usurpation.

I am not, I will not be understood to be among the ALL that acknowledge Governor Gilmer *wise, humane* or a benefactor. Indeed, Sir, nothing is easier than proving the converse of your conclusion. Ask the Rev. Mr. M'Leod, the Rev. Mr. Trott, the Rev. Mr. Worcester, and Dr. Butler and their associates, who have lately experienced the *humane* treatment of Governor Gilmer's agents what they think of Governor Gilmer's *humanity*, and a history of their sufferings will make your heart bleed. The Methodist reads, now with the big tear-drop in his eye, the sufferings of the immortal Wesley and Asbury and Garretson, although it is the tale of gone-by years, but their recurrence in this enlightened day, is and will be viewed, by the Religious of all denominations, as an *outrage upon christianity*, and those directly and indirectly concerned, must answer the insulted Throne of Heaven for it.

What think you, sir, of Governor Gilmer's charity, when he says of the Rev. Mr. M'Leod? his statements, concerning the orders given to the guard, are wholly destitute of truth," is this language becoming the executive officer of a State, is it *decorous*, is it such as should be used to a Divine? this is the language used to you, sir, by Governor Gilmer. What think you of Governor Gilmer's benevolence, when he says of the Rev. Mr. Worcester and the Rev. Mr. Trott, in his letter to Col. Sandford, "the flagrantly criminal conduct of those two men induced me to discredit them?" Do you not perceive in this conduct of his Excellency, much of that spirit that actuated the persecutors of the primitive Methodists; but I will not enter in detail, into these matters now.

I fear, sir, you have permitted your zeal for Governor Gilmer's re-election, to get the better of your discretion. I see, or think I see, a little too much Troupism in your belief, and in this sweeping conclusion of yours; I think you are too easily satisfied with his excellency's *wise and humane* course in this transaction. How much better off we (Methodists) should be, if we would adhere to the lectures of the faithful. "Alec," in matters of politics. Look around you, do you not see that the Troup party, have greatly succeeded in connecting their cause with Methodism, and that Church in this State, do you not know that that Church has almost become subservient to that party, how this state of things has been brought about and how long they will continue, I will not undertake to say, but the fact is too apparent to be denied. I have heard you with the most pleasing emotions, from the pulpit, urge a return to primitive methodism, but I doubt much whether there ever will be a return of those happy times, so long as the Methodist Church makes the political sentiments of any party, the passport and qualification of its members, to office. In religious matters I would as soon choose you as any one, to represent me, but in matters purely political, as a native Georgian, as one that insists upon her sovereignty, as one that prides in her high character and dignity! as one that will at all times risk all to preserve her character and dignity; as a member of the Methodist Church, satisfied with the creed, order and doctrines of that Church, I protest against being included in that asseveration of yours "we all believe Governor Gilmer to be a *wise, and humane* benefactor.

I pray you sir, believe, "there is nothing extenuate, or set down aught in malice."

C.