

THE MISSIONARIES.

Mr. Slade,—As an act of justice, to his Excellency Governor Gilmer, I beg that you will publish his letter herewith sent, it being an answer to one, which I had the honor to address him, on the 28th ultimo.

With the *political strife* of the country, I have nothing to do, nor did I for one moment contemplate the *elevation* or *depression*, of any candidate for office, when I solicited the publication of my communication in your paper of the 2d instant.

My *entire object* was to secure the character of my church from the censure which was likely to fall upon her, from a misapprehension of her policy, with regard to the appointment of her ministers—and to show my fellow countrymen, that I had inherited from my Father, a sense of my rights and privileges, as a freeborn citizen of the United States.

I strongly conceived, that the notice which Col. Sanford had taken of the Rev. Mr. Trott, in pronouncing that "*he had been discountenanced by his own Conference*"—and yet found at the time of his *arrest*, an accredited minister, under the supervision of the very *authority* by whom it is said he was *degraded*, was to me such an anomaly, in the history of Methodism, that in my humble view, it called for a speedy explanation.

I wished it distinctly understood, that if the Tennessee Conference had sent Mr. Trott to his circuit, as an accredited Missionary, knowing he was guilty of "*officious and overzealous interference in Indian politics*," and in the habit of preaching political sermons, that they had acted altogether without *usage*, and in direct opposition to the accustomed *practice*, of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The public has doubtless perceived by my letter already before them, that I never intended to advocate opposition in any form to the properly constituted authorities of the land, *but entirely to the reverse*—with the Chart of Methodism before me, I am constrained to witness, that *obedience to the powers that be*, is an *essential* too prominently laid down, to be overlooked by any of her patriot sons, and especially by men so sacredly related to society, as those, who minister at her *Altars*.

Col. Sanford I am sure will excuse me, for the use of his name, when his own sense of propriety, shall have scanned the motive which urged it upon me—to him I have intended no disrespect, and if I have been so unfortunate, as so to impress him; I am conscious my present declaration will rectify the *error*.

For the officers commanding the Georgia Guard, at the time of the Rev. Mr. McLeod's arrest, I still entertain the feelings of unbated reprehension, provided they have been truly represented, and if they have been slandered, I hope they will spare neither *time* nor *pains* in holding up their persecutors to merited indignation.

With Governor Gilmer's explanation contained in the letter herewith presented to the public, I am *fully satisfied*, and for myself I have no hesitation in believing that he is still entitled to the highest confidence of his fellow citizens.

With high respect I am, dear sir, your obedient friend,

JOHN HOWARD.