

CHEROKEE MISSIONARIES.—The arrest of the Cherokee Missionaries is a fruitful theme of declamation in all the federal papers, and is made the occasion of unmeasured abuse upon the President and the administration. These transactions are exclusively the proceedings of the government of Georgia, and whether just or unjust Georgia is alone responsible; nor is the general government deserving of any more censure in consequence of the Georgia law which forbids the residence of the Missionaries in the Indian country without licence, that it is for the laws of New-Hampshire, which tolerate imprisonment for debt, and which disfranchise the believers in a certain religious creed, from holding an office under our State government. These are exclusively municipal regulations of the States, with which the general government has nothing to do. But even treating the subject exclusively upon its merits, we cannot see that the Missionaries have the least reason to complain. Whatever difficulties they have encountered, are voluntary on their part; if they have suffered hardships, they have run upon them with their eyes open—if they have met with persecution, they have courted it. It matters not whether the laws of Georgia in relation to the Cherokees are just or unjust, so far as regards the the conduct of these Missionaries—they *knew what these laws were*, and it was obviously their duty “to render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar’s.” It was not their province to sit in judgment upon the laws of a State, but to observe and obey such laws. If the laws prohibited them from visiting the Cherokees without a license, why did they not obtain licence, or keep out of the way; and not with the fool-hardiness which they manifested, subject themselves to difficulties after they had been repeatedly warned of their danger, and some of them had been several times before arrested? It has been with manifest reluctance, that the laws of Georgia have been enforced against them—not until they had repeatedly trespassed: and if they were determined to defy the laws of a state, they must take the consequences, nor are they entitled to a particle of sympathy. Had their offence been committed through ignorance, it would be different; but so far from that, it seems to have been the determination of these men to stand out in opposition to a law, the existence of which they were well acquainted with, and to try how far they could violate it with impunity. With those who would place the clerical character above the law, the Rev. Mr. Worcester will doubtless find abundance of sympathy; but for us, who can see no peculiar excellence in a black coat or a flowing surplice, and who look upon clergymen as neither better nor worse than other men, we have no crocodile tears to mingle with theirs; and we would advise the Rev. Mr. Worcester, if he would avoid difficulties in future, to obey the laws, without first stopping to ascertain their justice.

N. H. Patriot.