

**CHEROKEE MISSIONARIES.**—The following article from the Washington Spectator, will be read with interest by all who love the great cause of human liberty, and admire the moral courage exhibited by its asserters in every age. It is from no vain-glorious ambition of appearing in the character of martyrs, that these ministers of the gospel of peace are now enduring the lot appointed for felons, but which casts no shade of ignominy upon them. They must else have yielded the point, and with it abandoned, for the sake of shunning personal privation and sufferance, the cause in which they enlisted, and which honor, philanthropy and religion forbade them to desert.

*From the Washington Spectator.*

**THE CONVICTS.**—The Rev. Mr. Hotter, a Missionary to the Cherokees, who recently passed through this city, informs us that he saw Messrs. Worcester & Butler, a few days ago, in the penitentiary at Milledgeville. He says they are cheerful and happy. This we expected. We have often read of others devoted to the same pursuits, and inspired with the same sentiments, singing and rejoicing amidst the flames that devoured them. We are glad, however, to learn that they are treated with even the respect due to convicts, though they were denied that which is due to citizens and clergymen. They were equipped in the coarse uniform of the prison, with the usual badges of criminals attached.— One of them is employed in making Bedsteads, and the other in turning a large wheel—grinding, like Sampson, in his prison house. We propose that they should furnish each of the leaders in this disgraceful drama, with a ground razor and a tottering bedstead, so that their midnight reflections, the fear of their throats, may bring them to repentance.

Putting them to the hardest labor in the Prison, accords with the instruction of Gov. Gilmer, to inflict upon them the penalty of the law, in its utmost severity. But it should be remembered that these subjects of Egyptian oppression have been mostly accustomed to sedentary pursuits. Their minds it is true are trained to severe labor and strenuous exertion—but their bodies, and even the health of one of them, are on that account comparatively delicate and feeble. To the barbarity of their treatment, under such circumstances, must be added the violent deprivation of their liberty—their confinement within the narrow limits, and foul, gloomy precincts of a prison; their being associated with thieves, robbers and murderers, and the wicked attempt to brand their memories forever with the name and infamy of criminal convicts. On this latter point, however, Georgia is mistaken.— She has got in her own hand the hot end of the branding iron, and her mad cupidity is inflicting on herself a mark of disgrace which will dishonor her name till the sun itself shall be blotted from the heavens. Already is public indignation stamping its ban upon her conduct: we had almost said, upon her forehead.

We rejoice to perceive that the papers throughout the country advert to the persecution of the Missionaries in the severest terms of reprobation. Even the leading administration papers, which have heretofore upheld the course that the Georgians have taken, on account of the part which the administration has acted in aiding and abetting them, are struck dumb; and one of them has even ventured to quote some severe animadversions upon Georgia. We learn, too, that in the immediate vicinity of Georgia, in Alabama and Tennessee, the mass of the people are very much excited.— At this we are not surprised. We are persuaded that still greater indignation animates the breasts of those more distant, though it is not likely to be manifested by the exhibition of military prowess. The Georgia oppressors do indeed deserve to be treated as outlaws; still we believe they should ever be found among the friends and fellow citizens of the abused and persecuted Missionaries, they will be ashamed with better treatment than that which they have inflicted upon the innocent subjects of their malignity.

At a meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, held at New-Haven on the 7th inst., the subject came up, and we extract the resolutions adopted in relation to it. They are such as it was proper for this board to pass; but we look with anxiety to see the legal question brought before a competent authority, and disposed of on the ground of strict right. It cannot be that there is no mode of doing this; and from the zeal shewn by the counsel of the Missionaries on their trial, we presume that they will not abandon either their clients, or the principles for which they now suffer.

The Hon. Jonas Platt, Rev. Drs. M'Auley and Spring, Professor Goodrich, and Hon. Wm. Reed were appointed a Committee to report on the expediency of memorializing the Government of the United States in behalf of the Missionaries among the Cherokees, now imprisoned. This was a subject of much interest to the Board, and one which called forth the deep feelings of their hearts. But little time, however, was occupied in discussing it. The following is the report of the Committee:

The Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the present state and prospects of the missionary stations among the Indians in the south western part of the United States, would respectfully report the following preamble and resolutions for the adoption of this Board.

Whereas this Board, with the consent and approbation of the President of the United States, and in conformity to the laws thereof, did establish missionary stations in various parts of the south western territory of this country, and particularly among the Cherokee nation of Indians, then under the acknowledged jurisdiction of the United States as qualified by treaties;

And whereas the state of Georgia has recently laid a claim to an exclusive jurisdiction over the said Cherokee territory, and enacted laws which are represented to the missionaries of this Board by able counsel, to be contrary to the constitution and laws of the United States, and subversive of their rights as citizens of the same;

And whereas SAMUEL AUSTIN WORCESTER, and ELISUR BUTLER, missionaries of this Board, have chosen to consider themselves as being and remaining under the protection of the United States, until the question of jurisdiction shall be definitely decided by the highest legal tribunals thereof; and have therefore declined either to take the oath of allegiance to the state of Georgia, and obtain a license from the Governor to reside in said territory, or to depart therefrom, and are in consequence now under sentence of imprisonment for the term of four years, in the Penitentiary of said state, therefore,

Resolved, 1. That as far as the facts of the case are now before this Board, this Board do approve of the conduct of their missionaries under these trying circumstances.

Resolved, 2. That the Prudential Committee be directed to prepare and publish a concise statement of facts respecting the mission established by this Board among the South Western Tribes of Indians; comprising a notice of the circumstances of those tribes prior to, and at the commencement of our missionary operations among them, with a view of the progress of social, intellectual, moral, and religious improvement among the Indians, and of the aid, sanction, and encouragement originally, and from time to time, extended to those missions by the government of the United States; with estimates of the monies expended in the establishment and progress of those benevolent operations, and all the essential particulars respecting the state and prospect of these tribes, and of the several missions among them, in connection with a statement of the proceedings of the United States' Government, and of the State of Georgia, affecting the rights of the Indians, and finally interrupting missions and arresting and imprisoning some of the missionaries.

Resolved, 3. That the Prudential Committee be, and they are hereby directed to address a respectful memorial to the President of the United States, claiming the protection of the Executive Government for the missionaries of the Board among the South Western Indians, and at their discretion, to present a memorial to Congress on the same subject.

Resolved, 4. That it be recommended to the churches, to make the present condition and the trials of these suffering imprisoned missionaries of the Board the subject of special prayer to Almighty God, and particularly in the monthly concert on the first Monday in December next, that this dark dispensation may be overruled, to the extension of the Gospel and the ultimate prosperity of the missionary cause.