

*The Missionaries.*—A considerable portion of to-day's paper is devoted to the discussion of the Missionary question, in which we have endeavored to give the cream of what has appeared on both sides. We have done this, in order that our readers may act understandingly in their censure or applause of Gov. Lumpkin, for his participation in the affair. Not being among the number of those who always censure the acts of our opponents, right or wrong; and, with such lights as were before us, believing the discharge of Messrs. Worcester and Butler from confinement, to be a measure not only justifiable but expedient, we hesitated not to express our approbation. Since then, circumstances have transpired, which leave some doubt in our minds about the matter. The Missionaries assert that they were urged by gentlemen in the confidence of the Governor, to desist from the attempt to obtain release by force, coupled with the "assurance of unconditional release," if they would do so. This assurance came, they say, without any solicitation, overture or compromise on their part. If this be true—if the executive of the State condescended to beg of them to receive a pardon—if he has compromised the honor and dignity of the State by an abandonment of any principle for which we ought to contend—let him receive the scorn and contempt of an indignant people. But if, on the contrary, the statement of Col. Mills can be relied on—if the apparent motives which actuated the Governor were honorable to the State, charity and good will—nay, strict justice itself, demands us to withhold our censure.

Notwithstanding the sacred garb which the Missionaries have assumed, an intimate knowledge of their proceedings for a few years past, convinces us that much caution should be exercised, before their veracity is admitted in all cases. Corrupt as we cannot but believe them to be, and surrounded by so many motives to make an independence and firmness on their part, manifest to their friends, we think that a superabundance of charity is requisite in the public, before it place an implicit reliance on their assertions. We may hereafter give our reasons more fully for this opinion. In the mean time we trust our readers will investigate the subject thoroughly, and without partiality let the odium fall where it is due.