

GOSPEL PREACHING.

FOR CHRIST SENT ME NOT TO BAPTIZE, BUT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL: NOT WITH WISDOM OF WORDS, LEST THE CROSS OF CHRIST SHOULD BE MADE OF NONE EFFECT.—I Cor., i: 17.

THE Gospel had not yet been introduced into Corinth when Paul, soon after his ever-memorable discourse to the Athenians on Mars' Hill, proceeded thither. His apostolic labours in this new field were eminently successful, and a Christian Church was ere long organized.

This was an event of no small moment in its bearing on the advancement of the Redeemer's cause.

The Corinth of that age was a city of recent growth, which had sprung from the ruins of the Corinth of ancient Grecian history, and which, originating in the planting of a Roman colony, had rapidly attained to a high degree of prosperity. Favoured by its peculiar situation it became a great seat of commerce—the well-known Isthmus on which it stood giving it the command of the intercourse by land between the Peloponnesus and the regions lying to the northward; while its harbours on either side, communicating respectively with the Ionian and Ægean Seas, received the traffic both of the eastern and the western worlds. It formed a central point in the direct line of travel between imperial Rome and her Asiatic Provinces; and its public games, of which, from the early times of Hellenic independence and renown, the Isthmus had been the scene, and which thence accordingly derived their distinctive name, attracted multitudes from afar to their triennial celebration. The fame of its schools of philosophy and art, moreover—