

The Preaching of the Cross.

"The Preaching of the Cross."—1 Cor. i., 18.

"We preach * * * Christ Jesus the Lord."—2 Cor. iv. 5.

"They ceased not to teach and preach Christ Jesus."—
Acts v., 42.

PAUL acted as a man who had a purpose in life. As an ambassador from the Court of Heaven, bearing a message of reconciliation, he had been commissioned to do a great and important work. He was sent as an Apostle and servant of Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest "*the Cross of Christ*" be made of none effect. The Cross of Christ must not be hidden with wreaths of mere human decoration, nor concealed by the wordy utterances of oratory. Christ Jesus the Lord must be held up before the faith of men, that "whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life." Paul had not come to Corinth to make fine speeches, or give eloquent orations. You could never suppose such a one letting himself down to the popular taste, seeking to satisfy those itching ears ever eager to hear some new thing.

He came to preach the Gospel with the demonstration of the Spirit, determined rather to speak five words with the understanding, than five thousand in an unknown tongue; and all true preaching consists in making disclosures of Christ's unsearchable riches, and pointing sinners to One in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily.

I.—The Minister's Distinctive Work—Preaching.

The PREACHING of the Cross—"We *preach* Christ Jesus the Lord."

The Ministry exists for the grand and blessed functions which it has to exercise, the noble and gracious ends which