

THE NEW DAY.

preaching to an imaginary congregation of a hundred or a thousand years ago, reviving ancient and forgotten errors that he may repeat the old refutation of them, seeking to defend Christianity by methods which recent discussion has discredited and fresh apologists have discarded—in short, behind the times in every point and failing to commend the everlasting Gospel to his people. The wise preacher will address his own people and his own times,

“Not clinging to some ancient saw,
Nor mastered by some modern term,”

but carefully, lovingly, and with a supreme desire to do men good, adapting his methods of preaching the unchangeable Gospel, his forms of thought, his modes of speech, to the currents and tendencies of the day.

Our age is intelligent, practical, self-conscious, and very restless; we must not ignore its peculiar demands. Congregations need by judicious presentation of the great Christian arguments to be fortified against the current forms of doubt. But it is vastly more prudent to discuss general principles and present positive grounds of belief than to debate each fresh topic as it comes up in book or magazine, to attempt to answer skeptical arguments which your congregation have never heard, and to advertise books and give currency to doubts which you perhaps are not able to refute. It has been remarked that some “clergymen may be described by an interrogation point. They are endlessly starting questions in the minds of their hearers