

head and pierced side which proved his love, this representative and ambassador for Christ carries a power over the hearts and consciences of men with which nothing can compare. The paper or the book is cold and tame after the fervour, the feeling, and the fire; after the singing of psalms, the outpouring of hearts in one prayer, and the terrors and the tenderness which issued from the chair of truth.

Wise and good men will neither disparage the influence and importance of the Press nor of the Pulpit. The Lord hath need of the Press, and the Church hath need of it, as well as the world. The Press has rendered, and is still rendering, the most valuable services to Christianity. By means of it the Bible is being translated into every tongue, and put into the hands of every man. And by means of it, scholars extend their light and their labours over the world, instruct our ignorance, combat our errors, charm us in our hours of ease, and cheer us in the night of sorrow. The Press can never supplant, but it should support, the Pulpit, and the friends of truth have ever been the foremost to use it; and, by the power with which it arms us, they have sought to extend the conquests of the Saviour, and plead the cause of humanity. There is no speech nor language where its voice is not heard. Its line is gone out through all the earth, and its words to the end of the world.

But to return to *the Pulpit*. There are complaints in certain quarters that is falling behind the age. It can never do this while it truly and powerfully proclaims that message of love which is for all ages. Whilst science is advancing and new discoveries are being made from year to year, the Gospel of Christ was fully and finally revealed by God 1800 years ago, and we dare not add to, or take away from, the words of the Holy Book which contains it. To the philosophers who listened to Paul, on Mar's Hill, it was a "new doctrine." But to the Church of Christ it is no longer new. New things cannot be true in theology. The Gospel is so *precious* we must not take from it, and so *complete* we cannot add to it.

The Athenian spirit is sometimes condemned, but the truth is, it is the spirit of every man and woman. We all like to tell, or to hear some new thing. The love of variety is deep and strong in man. And the God who has worked this into our very being, has furnished abundant materials to gratify it in nature. No two landscapes are alike, no two sunsets, no two faces. What variety in the fishes of the sea, the fowls of the air, the flowers of the field, and the stars of heaven! And as there is such a variety in God's world, there is a variety in God's Word. And the minister who is master of that variety, and who illustrates divine truth after the manner of the ancient prophets, the blessed Jesus, and the most popular and powerful preachers of all ages, must always interest. The momentous importance of the message commends itself to the consciences of men, even the worldliest and the worst; and when the Preacher shows that he dare say, "We believe, and therefore speak," his holy boldness, his heartfelt earnestness, his zeal for Christ, and love for souls, will give him an eloquence which the schools could never teach and never match. And the noblest triumphs of oratory will be his, in consciences reached and roused, in hearts melted, and souls saved; and the world will say, "These are the servants of the Most High God, which show unto us the way of salvation."

It may boldly be asserted that there never was a time when there was more talent in the pulpits of Scotland than there is now. Yet it may be granted that some preachers are more talented than telling; their discourses are addressed more to the intellect than to the heart; they are more doctrinal than practical and persuasive. Some seem more concerned to make us theologians than to make us Christians. Some give us an epitome of truth in every sermon, and, whatever the text is, the main topics handled are the same. This is preaching made easy, and made uninteresting at the same time. See how Christ and his Apostles varied their discourses, threw their whole heart and soul into their discourses, fetched in whatever was fairest and loveliest from the heavens and from the earth to set forth the truth; they uttered lofty thoughts in language fit and