

to pervert, to fawn at the feet of Mammon, and sell his country and his race for his daily bread, or for what is about the same, his salary. You know this, and I know it, and what foolery to be toasting an 'Independent Press.' We are all the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are jumping jacks. They pull the string and we dance. Our time, our talents, our lives, our possibilities, are all the property of rich men."

I know nothing of the man who thus speaks, but I fear too many newspapers are conducted very much as he describes. God save the world from the gospel of such men. Yet they do vaunt themselves loudly. No wonder that with such the Ministry of the Gospel is lightly esteemed.

Again, like the work of the oxen, the work of the ministers of the Gospel is

#### LABORIOUS.

Many think otherwise; many think their life one long holiday. Not a few grumble at them, as if they were only drones in the human hive. When I have listened to such grumblers, I have often felt inclined to deal with them as the farmer's wife did with her grumbling husband, who was forever saying he could do more work in one day than she could do in three, and I am pretty sure that if I did so, the result would be exactly the same. Yet, still it must be acknowledged, that a man whose heart is not in the work may be a great idler on the Gospel threshing floor. Just as some lazy ox, instead of treading out the grain, would lie down on the threshing floor and gorge itself to repletion, so have I seen and heard of sleek ecclesiastics, who have thought that the great end for which the church existed was to keep them in ease and comfort. Such faithless ministers, like lazy oxen, are a sheer incumbrance, and the sharper the goad of contempt and scorn with which their hides are pierced, the better for the work of the Lord. Yet, notwithstanding, to the true minister of Christ, this work is very laborious. In innumerable ways his thoughts, his sympathies, and his activities are continually drawn forth, and yet there is a sameness in his work, like the ceaseless round of the ox upon the threshing floor, which is very apt to produce weariness and the merely mechanical performance of the highest functions. Oh, it is no easy work for the minister of the Gospel to do all he