

(3). As to the *Work* of the Church, it is, our text saith, the preaching or *proclamation* of "the everlasting gospel."

Now, we all know that a proclamation can be made in two ways. There is the mode adopted by the ancient herald, the old English town-crier, or Scotch bell-man, giving authoritative announcement with the sound of the living voice; there is also the mode common amongst populations the large majority of whom can read, uttering governmental proclamations by means of writing and printing. This last, so largely honoured by the Holy Spirit, is the method employed by the Church in delivering her message of divine mercy through the British and Foreign Bible Society. Thus to proclaim the gospel to every nation, tongue and people, to put into the hands and bring before the eyes of every child of Adam in his own language, the message of divine grace, to circulate amongst every family of fallen humanity this divine Word as the royal proclamation of the King of heaven, is the work, the important business, the splendid and gigantic enterprise of the one living Church of Jesus Christ in her united effort through the instrumentality of the British and Foreign Bible Society—thus the Church fulfils her great apostolic commission: "Go into all the world, and proclaim the good news to every creature."

II.—THE SUBJECT OF THE ANGEL-CHURCH'S MINISTRY IS "THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL."

Not good news merely, like the cry of "A sail! A sail!!" on board the drifting raft where a dozen poor creatures are famishing, or the distant sound of the bag-pipes falling on the ears of the besieged in Lucknow, but *everlasting glad tidings*." If it be demanded what is this "everlasting Gospel!" we answer, The story of Jesus Christ, of what He was, of what He did and said, suffered and promised, of how He died, and why, of where He went and how He will return again,—this old, simple story is essentially "the Gospel," the everlasting glad tidings. But more,—this entire book, called pre-eminently the Bible is the Gospel, for Adam of whom it tells, was the figure of Him who was for to come, the second Adam the Lord from heaven, Eden was the figure of the paradise of God, which blooms in everlasting beauty: Eve was the figure of the Bride, "the Lamb's wife"; Noah and his family saved in the floating ark, a figure of souls saved forever; and every other portion of the Bible points directly or indirectly to Christ, and so is "the Gospel"—the "coming event casting its shadow before"; the patriarchal sacrifices and hopes, the varied levitical ritual, the sweet psalms of David, the history of the judges and the kings, and the wars of Israel, the visions of seers, and the mysterious predictions of prophets—all these constitute "the everlasting Gospel," because all these point to and terminate in Jesus Christ. And of this I for one feel sure that the circulation of the entire Bible is absolutely demanded in these our days, it never before. In these days of unblushing and blatant heresy when professed ministers of the gospel can subscribe creeds with mental reservation; when scientific atheism and rationalistic scepticism dare to arraign both God and nature at their bar, and to assert anything feasible or plausible in tones whose presumption is amazing; when, without either scruple or apology, men can lay the rudest and most familiar grasp on everything sacred, and find public and respectable support while they do so—in these days it is more than ever needful that people be made familiar with the whole Bible, from the cosmogony of Moses to the apocalyptic visions of John. In these days, when the apostate church of Rome is re-arrogating her ancient place in Protestant lands and Protestants are quietly tolerating her arrogance—denying the records of authentic history, pointing with unblushing confidence to her hoary traditions, and demanding universal including political submission to priestly power and papal infallibility,—in these days when even in professedly Protestant churches ungodly and unspiritual men, having intruded themselves into the Christian ministry, are substituting ritualistic ceremonies for the