

THE USE OF THE OX IS ANTIQUATED,

not so the minister of Christ.* So long as the human heart is stained with sin and weighted with sorrow, so long will it need to hear the old, old story of Jesus and His love. Whatever our advances in education, civilization, power, wealth, we cannot do without the ministry of the Gospel. The inventive brain of man will more easily find substitutes for air, water, and light than it will for the Gospel of God's grace. Nothing has ever been invented that can take the place of those, and nothing that can supersede this. Many things have been tried, have failed, and are forgotten. Many things are being tried, and will share the same fate, for, as has been well said, they are nothing more than "new balloon routes to empty heavens and obliterated gods." The more we see the good effects of the old Gospel on the hearts and lives of men, the more confidence have we in its power. Nothing else is needed to give peace to the conscience and purity to the life; nothing else on this earth is working constantly for righteousness. For a holy life, for a triumphant death, for a glorious eternity, how necessary, and yet how sufficient, is the ministry of the Gospel of God's grace.

Yet, like the work of the ox, the work of the minister of the Gospel is *humble*. There is nothing in it outwardly attractive. Though they have done more for the good of the world than any other class of men, as a rule,

THEIR SERVICES ARE IGNORED,

and their work lightly esteemed. We have often heard of titles and decorations being granted for the killing of bodies; whoever heard of their being given for the winning of souls? Yet this above all other noble deeds deserves reward, and when all earthly honours shall have vanished into thin air, they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars, for ever and ever.

* I met with two gentlemen, who told me that in the earlier days of settlement in Canada oxen were used for this purpose. One said that to get on with them at all you had to feed them well; the other said you must treat them kindly. Let us join the two statements—"Feed them well, and treat them kindly." Good advice for the oxen on the Saviour's threshing floor.