

Rev. J. P. ...

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# Pulpit Criticism.

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THE NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
CHURCH STREET.

The service at the above named church was conducted by the Rev. John Burton, on the 29th ult.

In Anglican London, the manufacturers are required to consume their own smoke, and it were much to be desired that a similar edict were extended to an order of gentlemen who are prone to emit literary fumes of a noxious character, and but too often, in volumes; fumes the tendency of which is to obscure "the brightness" of the Sun of righteousness. One is entitled to expect, in those rare instances, wherein a minister is conversant with the original language of the Old Testament, that he will remove obscurities from such portions of the volume as he happens to read in public; the 8th. and 9th. verses of chapter ii. of Proverbs, for instance, would be rendered more intelligible, if read thus, "He keepeth the paths of justice," and "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and justice, and equity." It is impossible also to hear the seventh verse of the lii. chap. of Isaiah, read or sung in the ordinary fashion, without regretting that the beauty of it is lost through it not being rendered, "How opportune on the mountains are the feet of him who bringeth good tidings,

who publisheth peace, who bringeth glad tidings of good, who publisheth deliverance, who saith to Zion, Thy God reigneth." The Messiah will arrive most opportunely, in a crisis of manifold suffering, but this is not apprehended by those who do not perceive that the crown is to be as literal as was the cross. The sermon on this occasion was based on Matt. xiii. 44, 45. In relation to it we must be allowed to observe that when the word "darnel," (v. "tares") is so pregnant with meaning, that meaning ought to find expression, at least, occasionally. The darnel so nearly resembles the wheat both in the blade, and in the grain, that it is eminently suited to indicate the too close resemblance between professors and possessors of Christianity. The ordinary perversion of the application of the symbol of leaven did not pass unobserved, but the character of the discourse as a whole, was of such a nature that it appears necessary to occupy one's self rather with what the reverend gentleman did not say, than with what he did. It may be well, in the first place, to present the former of the selected verses, in an amended form, and then to make some attempt to elicit their meaning; v. 44,