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# Pulpit Criticism.

WITH

ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS TO THE BIBLE

A WEEKLY SHEET.

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## THE NEW JERUSALEM TEMPLE.

The circumstance of a minister having found his way to this Church, since the writer was last present in it, and the further consideration that the writings of the community represented by the church are industriously circulated on the usual assumption that they "are the people," led the writer to endure a second sitting within its pale. It may be well to premise that no one need approach this, or any kindred assembly, unless he or she be ready to assume that all they have ever previously read or heard in relation to scripture is erroneous; the centuries until the birth of Emmanuel Swedenborg are supposed to have rolled by, only to leave the race as benighted as they found it, and it was the lofty mission of Swedenborg, first to ascend in vision to the abodes of bliss, and then to disseminate the light thence obtained. An element, and some will regard it as an important element, in these considerations is that Swedenborg is acknowledged to have been, during a portion of his life a sufferer from mental aberration; we are not disposed to enquire too minutely at what period this malady is supposed to have manifested itself,

and when it is believed to have been overcome; that which to our mind, is far more serious, and saddening, is the consideration of the number of intelligent persons who accept this man's writings, as authoritative, and who speak of them in relation to scripture as "the writings and the word." In endeavoring to convey some idea of the impression received while attending the morning service at this "temple," one must make bold to assume that one was in possession of one's faculties on the occasion, and it may be permitted to remark parenthetically, that how long one might retain the said faculties if condemned to be repeatedly present, it would be hard to foretel. The first object which would strike any unenlightened observer, on entering this "temple" would undoubtedly be the copy of the dialogue which faces one on entering, and this accompanied by the 14th verse of Rev. xxii; "Blessed are they who do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." The writer, for his part, must decline to stultify himself to such an extent as not to maintain his capa-