

Pulpit Criticism.

TRINITY COLLEGE CHAPEL.

QUEEN STREET, WEST.

A city tradesman has announced to his friends that "he has given up religion, and joined the Church of England;" in view of that numerous crowd who *put on* the cloak of religion for business and kindred purposes, *the throwing off the cloak*, on the part of this gentleman, for the like purposes, and joining the Church of England, is eminently refreshing to contemplate. Owing to the nature of this gentleman's vocation, there can be little doubt that the course he has pursued, has resulted in his having established the most friendly relations with the mammon of unrighteousness. There are those probably who will conclude that a man whose mental condition leads to his giving up religion, and joining the Church of England, should be ostracized, sent to the small-pox hospital, or possibly to the other hospital, where they are in greater need of *subjects*; and it is within the bounds of possibility that this living, and doubtless loyal subject of Her Majesty might be of greater benefit to the community in a dissected than in an undissected state; if the disorder of giving up religion should become contagious, we shall probably soon hear of it resulting in men relinquishing it, in order to join the Methodists; we must cherish the hope meanwhile that the Professor of Homiletics of this College, when he relinquished "the errors of Methodism," "in order to join the Church of England," did not necessarily at the same time "give up religion;" we trust also that the Editor of "Pulpit Criticism," although, so far as circumstances admit, he pays occasional visits to the Episcopal Church, has not on that account, necessarily "given up religion." One can hardly visit a College, the principal object of which is to educate men for the ministry of the Episcopal Church, without reflecting on the bearing of such an education on the students themselves, and on those among whom the students will ultimately mingle; in young countries especially, the bulk of the community may be said to have been largely educated by the circumstances, in the midst of which they move; "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Prov. xxvii, 17. In proportion as this may have been the case, will men realize that the effect of a College education is to alienate and estrange the recipients of such an education from themselves; they for their part, owing to the enchantment which distance lends to views are prone to *assume* that the education of a College is something prodigious, and the graduate, if he be replete with nothing else, is generally bloated with conceit; the practical outcome of such a condition of things appears to be an ever-widening breach between the class of Divinity students, and all classes who have been taught to take their estimate of men and things, by daily experience. The test of the value, or the worthlessness of a College curriculum which is afforded by *the teachings* of the College-taught,