

THE CHURCH.

IN the last number of the Magazine, mention was made of the lamented death of Bishop Hopkins, presiding Bishop of the Church in the United States. We now gather from the American papers a few of the principal events of the late Bishop's life and labours. His ministry began late in life, as it was not until he had risen to considerable eminence at the bar, that, in consequence of the conviction that his talents ought to be devoted to the sacred ministry, he resolved to forego all the prospects before him of wealth and fame, and give up everything to devote his life more immediately to his Master's service. He was at this time thirty-two years of age, and in spite of the remonstrances of his friends, who urged upon him the greatness of the sacrifice which he was intending to make, for he was at that time receiving a large income from his provincial labours, and might fairly have looked forward to the very highest political honours, he did not flinch from his noble resolve, but received ordination, and was soon afterwards elected Rector of Trinity Church, Pittsburg. At that time there was no church in the District, and the pastor's earliest labours were devoted to erecting a suitable building. He furnished, himself, the working plans for its construction, and superintended the workmen, and thus succeeding in erecting the first church built in Gothic architecture in the country. In 1832, when Vermont was made an independent diocese, being cut off from the "Eastern Diocese," which then comprehended the whole of New England except Connecticut, Mr. Hopkins, without his own knowledge or consent, was elected to be its first bishop; with much reluctance he accepted the Episcopate, and was consecrated in St. Paul's Church, New York, by the venerable Bishop White, by whom he had been previously ordained successively, Deacon and Priest. Bishop Hopkins, after his consecration, removed at once to Burlington, where he was elected Rector of St. Paul's Church in a parish which had been organized only the year before; at once he entered upon the work of his parish and diocese with that energy and vigour for which his whole life has been pre-eminently remarkable. A systematic plan of Church schools had long been a cherished scheme in his mind, and now that the providence of God had given him the opportunity of starting upon them with fair prospect of success, he proceeded to develop his plans, and to carry them into execution. For this purpose he purchased an extensive property in the south part of the village, and erected three large buildings upon it, investing in the enterprise all his own private means. He soon gathered round him a large school of boys, which thus gave employment to a number of teachers who