

OUR BRASS BAND.

SOLO BY REV. DR. WILD.

Such of our readers as saw the early numbers of "Pulpit Criticism" will not have forgotten the pleasure they experienced in listening to the lofty strains of the gentleman above-named. They will doubtless be prepared to cheerfully *entore* them. The Rev. gentleman will therefore repeat his performance, with such variations as may be deemed desirable, on the present occasion. The eminent soloist is one of several who appear to have concluded that the limits of a certain asylum in the West are co-extensive with the Queen City, and that such of us as are without the gates of that institution are located in isolated wards; he, therefore, shortly after he was attracted to this city, by his self-sacrificing commiseration for the Bond Street congregation, by his reverential love for the British Flag, and possibly by other unselfish considerations, performed the solo, some portions of which we now repeat. No one can doubt that this performance served its advertising ends, and that the dupes it was intended to secure have yielded to the seductive manipulation of the musician. In a biography of the Rev. Dr. Wild, published anonymously in this city, and announced by placard throughout it, we learn that "the mother of Joseph was a woman of vigorous mind, somewhat stern in her family government; the father was of a gentle and generous disposition. In the son these two qualities are prominent. They are apparently anchored in his nature by the hereditary sternness of his mother," "When quite young" (says this performer of himself) his comprehensive grasp of intellect, and his retentive memory marked him out as a boy of no ordinary promise." The mode in which he tickles the vanity of those he addresses is amusingly characteristic; the family of which he is so shining a light, is related to have lost property and *caste* in England; "This sorely fretted Joseph" and led to his declaring that he would go to America, and redeem the family, in a country where a man has a chance, and where a man can have honor and position if he earns and deserves them." Joseph is likely to be "honored," we should say by those whose profound ignorance leads them to believe him, and whose unsophisticated condition accounts for their accepting whatever trash he may please to propound; "he was not without honor," he tells us, when playing the part of local preacher among the Primitive Methodists of Lancashire, and they who know the *caste* of the Primitives of Lancashire will not dispute the probability. We perceive that he was at one time, "moved to enter the ministry," and after being "long known in his native place as the Boy Preacher," he was likewise "moved to engage in the practice of engineering." Joseph appears to have decided that his talent lay in ecclesiastical engineering, and he became "the subject of unmis-takeable impression," *this* time "that it was his duty to devote himself exclusively to preaching"—at "Jeremiah's visit to Ireland," etc. "*Being convinced of his call,*" he was apparently educated again and again, until we find him "distinguishing himself as an able minister and a ripe scholar." This mature scholar whose acquaintance with even the vernacular tongue is calculated to remind one of the Primitives of Lancashire, "in addition to *his former degrees,*" whatever they might happen to be, received that of Master of Arts, "*after examination,*" from the Genesee College, and that of Doctor of Divinity, from the Ohio Wesleyan Univer-

sity. Whether these ostensibly learned bodies received a \$10 bill in exchange for their respective bits of parchment, we are not informed, but we suppose a button-top from which the shank has been severed, would adequately represent the value of the degrees. As Joseph is wont to fish in deep waters, we should have expected him to develop with bran-new degrees, such as Z.A.N.Y.; this probably would have produced a more profound impression in Bond Street, than such stale, and hackneyed degrees as M. A. and D.D.; wisdom was manifested by Joseph, however, in this autobiography, in placing the D.D. first, for his illiterate friends might otherwise have read the letters consecutively—M.A.D.

It is pretty evident, when piping his horn in relation to his supposed proceedings at Belleville, that he availed himself of one of Mr. Claxton's "Elastic Rim Mouthpieces," for he tells us that in addition to his other performances, he was "Professor of the Orientals in the University" of that place; the trifling consideration of there being no students there at the time, presented no bar to his affirming that "the chair of the Orientals has rarely been filled in any institution with more thorough efficiency." The dimensions of *The chair* it appears were adequate to the physical conformation of this learned divine. At this period, he informs us that he "preached to a crowded house; Professors, and students—the townspeople and strangers, were wont to vie with each other for the opportunity to hear him." "The work done during these seven years *present* him in giant-like proportions. The poor of Belleville had in him a true friend. In this feature he stands pre-eminent in reputation." A few more flourishes of this Wild trumpet must suffice: "The whole Church centered their hopes on him." "The Doctor is a man of fine personal presence, and very genial in the social circle, where he is thoroughly acquainted." "In deportment he is genteel and boldly polite." "He is a fine, diligent student." "In memory he is said to be a prodigy." "In attitude, gesticulation, and elocution he is very fine." "As a pulpit orator, the City of Churches, which can boast of so many eminent divines, had just cause to feel proud of him." "Although he never aims at rhetorical effort, yet occasionally, under the inspiration of his subject, he takes flights in oratory that would do credit to the most brilliant imagination." "The Doctor speaks as one having authority." "The Doctor's classical acquirements are extensive and very thorough. He is especially familiar with the Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, and Latin. He is also conversant with the Natural Sciences, excelling in geology and chemistry. He is a finished logician, and when a conclusion comes from his brain, it is stripped of all vulnerability, and supported by all the concomitants of demonstrative argument." After all this, who would not endorse the modest climax—"Few men are as complete in their calling and station as he." Such is the solo performed by the individual commonly known as the Reverend Doctor Wild, and published in this city in the year of grace, 1881! We need not stop to contrast it with the spirit and teaching of the Book of which he would have us regard him as an exponent.

The least that we ourselves can do, in relation to this unique performance, is to accord the distinguished soloist a prize, in the form of a sheet of foolscap paper, which his ingenuity can arrange in the form of a mitre (to which, we gather from his autobiography, he once aspired); or it can, if he please, be folded as a conical cap.