
PULPIT ORATORY.

Accustomed as we are to good speaking in this country, let any one saunter some Sunday into (for example) a Presbyterian Church. After hearing the *choir* sing a hymn or two, and one very short, and one enormously *long* prayer, the preacher commences the main service of the occasion. He is boxed up in the pulpit. He would think it sacrilege if he omitted to take a text, and accordingly a text he takes, applying naturally, or in the way of a conceit, to his subject. With this placarded thus in imagination above him, and which, according to his taste, he recurs to constantly as a sort of *refrain*—he launches out into his discourse, which will be sensible, or decorous, or fanciful, or vapid ; but always formal. The sermon is *written out*. The speaker has come there with a discourse in his pocket, and its apothegms and its appeals he gives over to his auditors whenever he can lay his finger on them. On their part, the congregation come to hear a sermon ; yes *they come to hear a sermon* ; a certain amount is to be dispensed, and a general assent to be returned, and the Church breaks up, and all go home. The sermon is criticized ; the sentiments may be applauded ; and it is considered very good advice ; and there the matter ends.

Not one heart has been touched—not one emotion awakened—not one resolution adopted. Not a human being it may be, but has assented to or admired the sermon ; not one, who, especially, and with a personal application, has grappled with its thoughts in his heart.

—Exchange Paper.

POWER OF PRAYER.

Trace Whitefield, or Pierce, or Nettleton, or Payson, in their career, and it will be seen that the road between the pulpit and the closet was well beaten. No grass grew in that path. They, like Moses, dwelt much of their time in the mount of communion with God ; and when they came to the people, they were radiant with glory upon which they had been gazing—not only with radiant glory, but also clothed with power. The same may be said of others who have attained to eminence as successful preachers of the gospel.

☞ We designed noticing in this Number an article in the “*Prophetic Expositor*” of last month. Something of the kind may yet be expected.

D. O.