

Pulpit Criticism.

A WEEKLY SHEET.

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ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH,

ST. PATRICK STREET.

That weekly masquerade which, from the earliest ages, has consisted in no inconsiderable section of the rogues and vagabonds of civilized communities "bowing the head like a bulrush" in Christian Churches, is happily by no means universal, and a visit to the little Church of St. Philip gladdened the heart of the writer, by illustrating the fact. He wended his way thither on the 21st instant, about half and hour before the service commenced. The unusually early hour at which the congregation began to assemble, was the first circumstance that struck him as remarkable, and the second was the manifest sincerity of the worship, as evidenced by the generality of the responses, and the demeanour of the majority of the congregation; he had no difficulty in tracing these circumstances to the healthy influence of the pastor, and it may be well if others should be led to reflect how greatly they may influence for good, or for evil, those toward whom they occupy the relation of pastor. The simple and unobjectionable mode of providing for the financial needs of this church meets one's gaze in the porch: this will be gathered from the

following quotation—"Required per Sunday, \$48.00, offertory last Sunday, \$50.00, deficiency to date, \$52.00." With regard to the service, as a whole, it may be permissible to remark, in the interest of the Episcopal Church, that the sooner it can disenthral itself from the liturgical results of state bondage, the better it will be for its chances of commending itself to the intelligent adhesion of the people; if, for instance, the several ministers and congregations had the option of reciting one, instead of two creeds during the morning service, of presenting the Lord's prayer once, instead of thrice, or of omitting the whole, according to their measure of light, something would be gained in the direction of Biblical intelligence. The hymns of most of the Churches afford lamentable proof of lack of Biblical intelligence on the part of their compilers, and they necessarily perpetuate the ignorance they indicate; "the Church hymnal," accredited though it be by the impress of that ornamental extinguisher, the mitre forms no exception to the rule; the rhapsody on the subject of the Lord's day, numbered 137 in the book, is a composition replete