

Pulpit Criticism.

A WEEKLY SHEET.

BY DAVID EDWARDS.

Published on Saturday, and sold at "The Citizen" Office 57 Adelaide Street East

PRICE \$1.00 PER ANNUM.

Copies of any single number can be had, in quantities, at 15 cents per dozen.

"THE MEN BEFORE ADAM."

Inasmuch as a certain potentate whose deeds are dark, and whose aspect is reputed so to be, has been permitted to instruct the readers of the Bible as to the application of Ps. xc. 11, 12, ("He shall give His angels charge over thee, etc."), there would appear to be no reason why another dark personage, with "dark sayings" to match, should not instruct the writer of "Pulpit Criticism" in the science of advertising; hence he has taken his position at the feet of the prophet of Bond-St., in order to gain an introduction to "the men before Adam." On referring to the passage chosen by the occupant of the Bond-St. pulpit, on an occasion when "the church was crowded to its utmost capacity," we read "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men, which were of old, men of renown."—Gen. vi. 4. No sooner had the preacher delivered his text, than he informed his hearers that "the age in which we live is a *critical age*." Whether, in this oracular utterance, we can credit him with having forecast the birth of "Pulpit Criticism" some ten months before that bantling saw the light, may be left to his admirers to determine;

but inasmuch as he acknowledged that the age is "justly" critical, "because it is progressive," he will doubtless accord us the privilege of treating "pulpit criticism" as one of the *applied sciences*. We will, therefore, avail ourselves of a group of sentiments expressed in somewhat bewildering succession by Dr. Wild, on the occasion of his descanting on "The men before Adam." (1.) "We need all the improvements (of the age) for religion." (2.) "The Church is now losing up and keeping pace with science." (3.) "The Bible and Christianity are equal to all true developments." (4.) "The pre-historic races and remains are *cognized* in the Bible." It would not be easy to determine the relation of any of the foregoing statements to the passage which immediately follows them—"There were giants in those days"), did not the learned gentleman, who tells us that "he excels in geology," leap at a bound from the mention of "the giants," to what he terms "*pre-historic races and remains*," in relation to which, he adds that "their fossil evidences had been put forward by sceptical geologists as an evidence of the falsity of the Bible." We have, therefore, no sooner had an historic passage brought to our notice, than we find our-