

The first noticeable feature in Dr. Thomas' ministrations may be said to have been his making the correction, "take no *anxious* thought," in reading v. 25 of Matt. vi, and overlooking the far more important consideration of reading v. 27—"Which of you by taking thought can add a span to his life;" this, to our thinking, is too much like "straining *out* a gnat, and swallowing a camel;" neither can we pretend to be in sympathy with a mode of speaking of the Almighty, which finds its expression in such phrases as "the Great Being,—the Majestic Power, etc.," or with "persons being cast down by reason of influences which enter into the heart by reason of bereavement," "lead us into a large place of realization, etc.;" all of which sentences are calculated to remind one of such brief Biblical phrases as "sounding brass," and "tinkling cymbal."

Another feature of the service which was particularly distasteful to the writer, was the "singing or saying" (it is hard to say which) the Lord's prayer by the choir, immediately after the minister had concluded a lengthened and wearisome act of prayer; this was performed in something between a whine and a whisper; it was the first time we had heard anything of the kind, and we trust it will be the last. The sermon was based on Matt. xviii. 2, 3, "And Jesus called a little child to him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say to you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Dr. Thomas omitted to point out that this passage is peculiar to Matthew's gospel, and that the same may be said of the phrase "The kingdom of heaven;" it would probably have been inconvenient to him to dilate on the meaning of that phrase; the leading thoughts of the sermon however were simple and good, albeit the disquisition as a whole was spoilt, for the writer, by the distressing attempts at the æsthetic which accompanied it; a sunflower in the rev. gentleman's button-hole was all that was lacking to make the thing complete; as specimens of the "pictures of silver" which encased the "apples of gold," we learned that the "music" of a Christian home was an "anthem," "its fragrance an oblation," and this, "however imperial the rule" of the parents might be; "on the banks of our pellucid lake, we see the (reflected orbs of) heaven trembling therein, etc.;" when we need an emetic, we may possibly send for Dr. Thomas, that he may administer "the banks of a pellucid lake," under the circumstances, and we shall entertain no doubt as to the result; not a few of the ministers of the day appear to conclude that they are addressing fools or old women; how far they may be correct in this assumption, it is not for us to affirm, but that Albert Hall and kindred institutions should flourish under the circumstances, is not to us surprising.

The continuation of this criticism will appear in the next number.

A REAL TEAR.

We believe a tear of sorrow, unconnected with a leek, escaped the Rev. Dr. Hunter while in the ante-room at the Police Court on the 27th ult., for the rev. gentleman there learned that there was no prospect of the defendant withdrawing a word that he had published in the alleged libel of the 20th ult.