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Pulpit Criticism:

WITH

ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS TO THE BIBLE.

A WEEKLY SHEET.

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THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

BERKELEY STREET.

Primitive Methodism too nearly resembles the Methodism of Wesley, to have accommodated itself to the high-flying members of society, to any great extent, but to judge from the circumstance of an anthem having been sung by three persons in Berkeley Street, of whom the organist himself was one, the disposition to be accommodating in such matters is not very remote. The service was conducted by the Reverend T. Sims, on the 27th ultimo, and in more respects than one was commendable, for no one would be likely to doubt the sincerity of conviction on the part of the minister; as little could any doubt that he was quite at his ease in the discharge of his onerous duties; if they were just, they could not fail to perceive that he has little enough, in a worldly sense, to attach him to his present course; it appears to the writer that nothing short of a high sense of duty towards God and man, could induce such an one to persevere in his career; but if, to quote the gentleman's own words, one is to "exercise one's

reason on what the Lord says"—a process which most persons are content to do by deputy—one is apt to arrive at conclusions widely apart from those of the reverend gentleman. He selected the sixth chapter of Matthew's gospel, as the portion to read, in the first place, and subsequently to dilate on. As the ministers are few who do not imbibe their views traditionally, it is not remarkable that this gentleman should have failed to apprehend that what the translators have been pleased to style "the sermon on the mount," is nothing less than a code of laws given by the Messiah to his disciples in his capacity as king, and those laws, in certain cases, in expressed contrast with the laws of Moses. They were given to the disciples moreover, as distinct from "Gentiles," see ch. vi. 32. Persons who maintain that the whole of this portion is applicable to believers of the present dispensation, will have so far to "exercise their reason on what the Lord says," as to reconcile the petition "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," with the