## My Debutasa Villain.

The company was billed to play my new tragedy, "The Dripping Dagger, or the Maiden Martyr of Tank-\$5.50, the entire amount in the treasury of the concern! What was to be done about it? It was too late to advertise for another heavy villain; and besides, there were very few of them in the states at that time, bein Montreal. We had a consultation, and decided that something must be done. I suggested that as a last resort, the part of the villain might be left out, and the heroine might make away with herselfat the proper time; but as there really did not seem to be any reason why she should commit suicide in the circumstances, we concluded that it might detract from the impressiveness and destroy the unity of the play, and that on the whole my suggestion was not just the thing. Finally the heroine asked me if I wouldn't play the part of the villain! I reminded her that my contract with the company expressly provided that I should be exempt whetever for acting, and might become embarassed and forget my part, or do something else equally as unfortunate. But she persisted that I was just the man for a villain-cut out for the part, asit were, by nature; and as for getting stuck in my lines; in a wooden manner which fairly to help me out of that difficulty herself, as she knew every word of the play by heart, and could easily result was that the fair heroine-to the head with a hen pear of the vinblind-prevailed upon me, and scene in the lonely dell. I think

the part to memory. I then rehearsed for the first time with the mation of the play. company, in costume, and succeeded in getting as far as the stabbing more as I came on in my sable cloak scene without losing my cue. Here I and soliloquized before the dreadful could not remember whether the vic- deed. tim shrieked first or I, in deep bass a very undramatic hubbub. The en-

cerned) as the second. when the time came.

properties in shape. By 8 o'clock we when the stamping of feet and whistlace in all our splendor. I should state, however, that before our splendor became fully revealed, there was some levity among the audience, rose at first only at one corner, revealing a large brown jug standing by a painted haycock-which, taken in of which it formed a part, was well enough, of course, but was rather incongruous, appearing, as it did, without the necessary scenic support.

The first scene passed off very smoothly, as neither of the principal characters, neither myself nor the heroine, appeared. In the second scene I was to come upon the stage in a sort of dark lantern fashion. wrapped in mystery and a long black cloak, introduce myself to the audience in a few half audible and occult remarks to one of the actresses and then disappear as abruptly as I had gathering twilight. I had performed this feat very successfully at all the rehearsals, and thought I was ripe for it on the present occasion. In fact, it was the only thing in the role which I felt confident of performing to perfection.

As I came upon the stage, dark, saturnine, forbidding, with one corner of my cloak thrown over my left shoulder, a hush of awe fell up-on the assembled audience. My heart swelled with triumph, and I felt the inspiration of which my tellow actors had spoken thrilling to my very finger tips. The lady to whom I was to address my mysterisudden crash that resounded through I wife could.

every part of the building, and the next instant I was flat on my back, wrestling with the fore-ground of the twilight scene, which had topped over upon me, while roars of laughter pealed from the delighted audience. To add to the ridiculousness of the perville," at Willowtown, on Tuesday formances the scene shifter tried to let night, when suddenly our heavy vil- the curtain down with dispatch, but lain absconded, taking with him only the end opposite to me would descend and in doing so very unexpectedly it left one of our farm laborers on the outside, near the footlights. This seemed to increase the amusement of the audience.

By the time the shifter got my end of the curtain down I was so exhausted with my emotions that I cause the small-pox was not raging had to be carried bodily into the dressing room. Brandy and other seductive restoratives were administered, and I finally came to sufficiently to wipe the perspiration from my brow and groan. Meanwhile the unfeeling audience was clamoring for the play to proceed. All the members of the company gathered around all that. and besought me tearfully not to give up at this important juncture. They assured me that the accident was by no means an uncommon one; that the play need not be spoiled by it if all else went well; and they suggested that the audience would be more than willing to pardon an episode which had furnished so much old crier stands at one end of the innocent merriment not down on the Finally, when the heroine, the lovely heroine, had cast herself at my feet and clasped her clammy hands in my own, pleading with irresistible from histronic duties, and, further-more, that I knew I had no talent to struggle through the remainder of the play and then and there close my histrionic career forever.

Once more the curtain rose and the play went on. Like a man in a dream I came and went, mumbling my lines and going through my part she said that she would guarantee made the audience frantic. But hissing and groans moved me not; I was past caring for criticism either favorable or adverse. Only once did I parprompt me in a tone that would not tially wake up, when a small boy in be heard by the audience. Well, the the audience struck me on the side of whose charms I was not altogether tage of 1814. At last came the stabagainst my better judgment I con- never prepared to kill a person with sented to take the part of the villain. so much delirious pleasure as I pre I devoted four days to committing pared to put that heroine out of the way, and thus hasten the consum-The audience seemed to be slightly impressed once

The fatal moment arrived. The tones, exclaimed: "Aha! disdainful heroine approaching through the one, prepare to die!" The result was forest buried in the sweet thoughts that we both gave utterance to our of innocence and love. I hid behind emotions at the same time, creating the mossy trunk of a tree and awaited her coming. Suddenly my tire company broke down and head whirled and my mind became a laughed for several minutes. But we total blank! I could not for the life got through the rest of the tragedy of me recall the tragic words with all right, and the second rehearsal which to preface the bloody deed. went off better still. We had time The heroine approached, passed the for just one more rehearsal before tree, stopped for a moment in surour appearance at Willowtown; but prise, and then kept on. I did not this rehearsal strange to say, was step forward. I still crouched benot as good (as far as I was con- | hind the tree. She passed me again. and as she did so gave a slight ahem On Tuesday we took the afternoon to wake up her delinquent train for Willowtown. I was rather assassin. Then I sprang out and nervous all the way down, but the grasped her by the hair. I ought to leaving his card, and incidentally try- and your wife are lying here bound rest of the company cheered me up have known better, but I was not in ing to discover if any of the outside and gagged. The nigger coachman and assured me that the inspiration a condition to know anything or papers had referred to his sermon. has been disposed of. Some bundles of appearing before an audience would | care for anything. The stage direct | Indeed, he said that he had been told | of only rags have been judiciously take all my trepidation away. Thus tion was: "The villian grasps the encouraged, I made up my mind not lady by the throat." To be to worry, but to do the best I could grasped by the hair was evidently as far from the expectation of the hero-We arrived in Willowtown just in ine as anything could possibly be, time for supper, and, after refreshing for, with the most natural feminine ourselves, we went immediately to be gesture in the world, she threw back given, and got our limited scenery and both her hands, uttered a little scream of horror and grasped at the were all on deck, in costume, and, departing wig! There I stood with my should be gory hand filled with ling among the audience warned us store hair, while my right hand that it was time for the curtain to go clutching the bright knife, hung up, we gave the signal to the shifter, sleeveless at my side. There was a and burst upon the assembled popu- moment's awful hush, and then the pathos of the scene burst upon the audience and the barn was filled with thunders of applause and demoniac yells. I did not wait for the curtain owing to the fact that the curtain to fall; in fact, it did not fall, as the scene shifter was not in a condition to perform his accustomed functions. I rushed for the dressing room and connection with the harvest scene, hid myself under a pile of costumes. Since that dreadful night I have never been inside a theatre, and the very sight of a barn makes me turn

## The Muskrat in Delaware.

pale.-Drake's Magazine.

The muskrat is naturally a wary animal, but when passed by hunger is quite venturesome and often viscions when disturbed. They seldom exceed 5 pounds in weight in this State. They live in burrows or holcome, by a well executed and rapid low logs, on the margins of streams, backward movement, as though I seldem venturing out for food until had melted mysteriously into the nightfall. On the marshes their towns resemble the famous "dog towns" of the western prairie. They are found both near salt and fresh water. They subsist chiefly on water mollusks. They are most numerous Kent County. Many persons living near marshes bordering on Deleware Bay buy large quantities of marsh land and devote their time solely to muskrat farming. The sale of the hides when cured is quite renumerative, while the flesh finds a ready sale in the local markets.

A Kansas farmer was recently bitous remarks started and cringed as ten by a rattlesnake, when he made a I appeared suddenly before her. The break for a drug store, where he comdehral sentences were spoken. I menced to pour down whisky. He raised my hand warningly and be- was very cool about it, but expressed gan to melt away in the twilight; but, the regret that his wife had not been alas! I had misenleulated the loca- hitzen instead of himself, since, as it tion of the opening through which I was the busy season, he could not be was to evaporate. There was a well spared from the farm, while his

#### The United States Supreme Court.

New York Graphic,

The opening of the Supreme Court is one of the stage accessories to official life at Washington. Any one who has ever been present will never forget the scene. The room is a stuffy one at best and is rather an owlishlooking place. One placid-faced negro sits at the door with a string in his hand to help him open it without trouble. Another but a white-haired son of Africa sits inside to aid him. Neither one of them would demean himself by pulling the string for any one less than a Senator or a member of the House. Ordinary citizens must push their way inside unaided. No one must carry a newspaper openly within the sacred precincts, for the rule is absolute that no reading of taken -the official reporter is to do

Once inside suppose the clock over the door is striking noon. If it is striking at all that is the hour one matter is it never was a case that hears, for it never sounds save to call the court together. Behind the long curtains that hang in the rear of the bench the Judges are formed, dressed in their silken robes. The grave faced | had just been introduced into Lusicourt and then looks sternly around to note if all are in proper state to receive their honors. Then, with an elevated chin and a lond voice, he announces, "The Honorable the Chief Justice and the Associated Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States!" The audience rises, the curtain parts, the Judges step forward and, bowing low, stand an instant facing those present, who return the A score or so of messages were dissalutation. "Oyez' oyez," says the modulated voice of the erier; "all hours. They contained such impor-Parorable the Supreme Court of the United States are admonished to draw near for the court is now in How is my sweetest? Well, to save glance around to see that no unregenerate citizen has yet dared, to be seated, the official adds, impressively, "God save the United States and this honorable court." The business has begun.

#### A Washington Sensational Preacher.

The nation's capital has a young out as the most sensational pulpit orator in this part of the country. He bears the peculiar name of Ed Hez Swem, and is at present in charge of one of the Baptist churches. Hegave notice a few weeks ago that he would astonished millionaire. commence a series of Sunday evening sermons on Washington wickedness. His opening shots were scattering, as if he wanted to be certain that his new style of preaching would take other. with the press and the people. In a general sort of way he told his hearers in effect that the Capital city was worse than ancient Babylon, and well, promised details later. Only one paper noticed his sermon. The parson ance. A few days after his first effort he was around on Newspaper Row that one of the London papers had tributed about the house, ready to an account of his first sermon. He be ignited." was told that no London publisher telegraph a Washington sermon. The last effort of Rev. Ed Hez Swem was aimed directly ateditors, correspondents and reporters. He pictured them disappear from the telephone withas a horrible class of citizens, and out acceding to it, I shall set fire to said that the reporters would gladly the house. It's no use applying to lie for their editors and that they got the police for we'd be too quick for their orders from their superiors. The them. You will see, Mr. Maxwell, Post has taken hold of this clerical that you are completely in my power. stripling, yearning for notoriety, and has published one of his letters mak- to listen to my proposal and to agree ing a request that a reporter be sent | to it. without fail to write up his sermon. Such a man as this can't last long as a preacher, and when he pictures the millionaire, mad with rage.
Washington as being worse that any "But you know you haven" other city of its size he simply dosen't the town" and find out something.

## A Conspicuous Arrival.

From the Boston Courier.

The brutality with which newly married people are treated by their jesting friends is constantly receiving office safe, fresh illustration. At a recent Bos- "You'll ton wedding a couple of sportive atrocious ushers discovered the train on which less reply. the bridal couple were to leave town and what baggage they had. Driv- to whom?" ing swiftly to the station they confided their plan to the baggage master, and, with his connivance, they affixed to each handle of the trunks of the bride and an enormous bow of the watchword agreed to between us, and in some cases the clothing, will did not blaspheme when he saw the once, decorated trunks deposited in the hall of the hotel to which he went, he may take the rank of Job for patience.

# Uneasy Lies the Head.

A thoroughly well-authenticated anecdote, illustrating his great tact, was told of Dispacii soon after he was created Earl of Beaconsfield.

It appears that not long after his transplantation to the House of Lords, Disraeli met a brother peer in the street, who asked him how he

liked the change. "Like it!" exclaimed Disraeli, forgetting himself for a moment, and blundering out with the truth, "like it! I feel as if I were dend and buried Then, seeing the expression of discomfiture on the peer's face, he added hastily, with a courtly and "Do right and interfere not!" joy- be protected in the same way from irresistible smale, "And in the land of fully shouted Mr. Maxwell through the flies which sometimes nearly

### Burglary by Telephone.

Chiengo Herald.

"It is a well known fact that no other section of the population avail themselves more readily and speedily of the latest triumphs of science than the criminal class," said Inspec- into his buggy and drove to his house tor Bonfield recently. "The educational criminal," he continued, a catastrophe became. But as he "skims the cream from every new invention, if he can make use of it. ing out of the way. He sprang up No sale has yet been constructed the stairs, two at a time, and entered No sate has yet been constructed that keeps out the shrewd and determined burglar, and that's the way in everything. But I don't recall a case in which the truth was more voice. brilliantly demonstrated than the Maxwell case.'

journals is allowed in the court, Nor old newspaper man present, "I darling!" must any notes of the proceedings be don't recollect of ever hearing of it before."

"No, I suppose, you don't said Mr. Bonfield, musingly. The fact of the properly belongs to the department, but I can speak of it now. You see it was at the time when the telephone ness and private use. George Maxwell-that's not his real name, but it will do as well-was at that time one of the most successful speculacurrently reported to have some time ago tipped the scale which marked the million. He was a young and handsome man, and he had just married a charming woman. It was an out-and-out love match. patched every day during business persons having any business with the tant queries: "2:10 p. m. How are session." And, with a quick, sharp expenses and to increase the facilities of communication, Mr. Maxwell connected his office with his home on and gentlemanly-quite as much as Ashland avenue by private telephone wire. He was one of the first men in Chicago to do so. About five out of six business hours were now spent by him at the 'hello.

"One day just before the close of business there was a ring at the telephone. The devoted husband, with preacher who is trying to blossom a jump, was there. 'What does my sweet pet wish?' he murmured.

"Tim no pet. You mistake me, sir!' came the reply, in an unmistakeably masculine voice, a voice gruff and rasping, but very distinct. " 'Who are you, then?' asked the

" I'm Thomas Jefferson Odell, the accomplished burglar, if you want to know

'Repeat, please,' gasped the

"'Odell, the burglar, came the answer over the wire.

" 'The devil!' exclaimed Mr. Max-

" 'No, only one of his faithful servants. But, now, listen. I have no is young, and has a dudish appear- time to fool away. I and two of my pals have gained access to your house. The cook, the chambermaid

" You bloody scoundrel?' shouted had become crazy enough to order by the agonized husband, whose eyes were bulging during the recital.

"'Don't excite yourself. Now, sir, here is my proposal. If you should The only sensible thing you can do is

"Oh, I wish I had my hand at your throat, you infernal villain!' shouted

""But you know you haven't, so what's the use of talking that way! know what he is talking about; and Let us talk business instead. I need according to the common expression a loan of \$20,000 cash. I need it at so often heard, he ought "to take in once. If you are inclind to lend me that sum without guarantee I shall leave your house with my pals in exactly the same condition in which I found it."

You are ruining me," groaned Maxwell. "And I don't think I have that much money in cash in the

"You'll force me to commit an atrocious deed," came the remorse-

"All right then-yes, I'll pay, but

"It is now 5:15 exactly. At this

"Mr. Maxwell turned around. stranger of pleasant mein, dressed in summer by minute enemies. We know him. Said the visitor: "I have called | even of their own gardens on this acto collect a little matter of \$20,000 | count. Clothing is an imperfect pro-

"Correct!" replied Mr. Maxwell, and handed the money to the stranger. The latter ascertained that the

'Do right and intrefere not!" re plied the burglar's confederate with latter smells strongly. This may a great deal of dignity, and strode readily and with perfect safety be ap-

Maxwell.

the telephone. 'And now you'le leave | madden them.

my premises, Mr. Odell, won't you?

And To for my wife " 'Have no fear, Mr. Maxwell,' re plied the man at the other end. 'You have to deal with a burglar and a

gentleman. "Mr. Maxwell locked his office, got at a Maud S. pace. The more closely he approached the keener his fear of stopped at the gate he noticed noththe pretty boudoir of his prettier wife She was quietly reading.

"How you must have suffered, my angel!' he cried, and a sob shook his

'The young wife looked up astonished, suffered? I?'

axwell case."
"That burglar, you know-it must have been awful. Oh, you poor

"'Why, George, dear, what is the matter? You speak in riddles.

" 'But didn't he gag you?' heasked. " 'Now, see here, George, I wish you would talk sense. What do you

"After Mr. Maxwell had finished the recital of his adventure he asked: Wasn't there somebody here using my telephone?

"Why, yes there was,' replied Mrs. axwell. 'A young and well-dressed Maxwell. young man, looking like a successful business man, came, introducing himself to me as "Mr. Thomas Jefftors on the board of trade, and was erson Odell, a speculator," and requested permission to make use of your private telephone to send you a message. Of course, I gave him permission. He used the telephone but a couple of minutes and then came back into the parlor, thanked me for the favor I had done him and went away, saying the telephone was a very useful invention-it facilitated business so much.'

"'And that was all?' asked Mr. Maxwell, 'he didn't gag you and the servants? He was alone? He didn't offer violence to you?

"'Why, no! He was very polite you are at this moment, George!

'Oh, the devil!' exclaimed George, with a wild outburst. 'What an infernal ass I've made of myself! Exuse me, pet, but I can't help it. I'll drive over and tell the police about

"That's what he did," concluded Bonfield, "and that's the way I came to know about it. But after talking the thing over with me, and after consulting with the smartest detectives we had at the time, we came to the conclusion that there was no chance of recovering the money. The pair were too slick. And in spite of all we've done since then we've heard nothing more of the \$20,000, nor of Mr. Thomas Jefferson Odell and his pal.

### Flowers in the Hat.

It is the custom in the Tyrol for a man, when he is engaged to be married, to wear a bouquet in his hat. The damsel gives him, every day or two, a fresh bouquet, picked from the flower-pots in her window. Should she prove fickle, and jilt the swain, the other young men of the village assemble under her window and throw down the flower-pots. A stranger wonders, on seeing so many men with bouquets stuck in their hats, why they do not marry, especially as not a few of them are what we call "old bachelors." The explanation is that the village cominune will not allow any person to marry unless he can show that he has laid by a sum of money sufficient to support a family.

A lady, traveling through Tyrol in a stell-wagon, a cross between a dilligence and an omnibus, overheard the driver talking to a man at his side on the box, and complaining of his occupation. He had worked hard for many years, he said to get know that you have not the heavenly money enough to marry; but the spirit, the life and spirit of God. You do sum was far below what it must be not belong to that kingdom, for you are workers of iniquity. Depart from me, for before the commune would give him permission to marry the woman to whom he was engaged. It increased so slowly that he did not know if he should ever get the coveted permission. Sometimes a dozen or more of engaged young men and women, despairing of ever geting money enough to secure the commune's permission, go on a pilgrimage to Rome, begging their way on foot. When there, they are married; but, on their return to the native village, they are fined as a punishment for breaking the law.

## Protection From Insect Bites.

The London Lancet says: Many people do not know how easily they can protect themselves and their very moment my pal has entered children against the bites of gnats pour office to receive the money, and other insects. Weak carbolic You will pay him and he will tell you acid sponged on the skin and hair, white satin ribbon. If the groom which you will telephone to me at drive away the whole tribe. A great many children and not a few adults | are tormented throughout the whole the height of fashion, stood before persons who are afraid of picnics and for a friend of mine, Thos, Jefferson tection, for we have seen a child whose foot and ankle had been a whose foot and ankle had been stung through the stocking so seriously who went to the safe, took from it two that for days she could not wear a bundles containing \$10,000 each, leather shoe. All this can be averted. according to our experience, and that we believe of many others, by earbolic amount was correct, then placed the acid judiciously used. The safest "And the watchword?" queried Mr. The solution should not contain more than six or seven per cent., and it may be added to water until the dezza of a Spanish hidalgo. "'Do right and interfere not!" joy- be protected in the same way from

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSON I, APRIL 5-SIN'S WARN-ING-LUKE 13:22-30.

Golden Text: "Strive to Enter in at the Strait Gate"-Luke 13:24-Jesus the Indefatigable Worker for Spiritual and Temporal Good.



OCATE the lesson in the life of Christ. reviewing the dia-gram given in the Review. Lesson XIII., of last Quar-

Read the whole chapter and also the passages referred to under "Light from Other Scriptures," so as to gain and give the deep im-pression which they produce by reiterat-

ing the one truth in many ways, and rom many sources. When one wishes to break a stone he strikes many blows upon the same spot. When a battery would break down a city wall, after shot is fired against the same place. The truth of this lesson should make a deep impression on the minds of the young, should help them to come to a determination to seek the kingdom of God

Time .- December, A. D. 29. Place .-Somewhere in Perea, Jesus, Thirty-three years old, a little more than three months before his crucifixion.

The full text of to-day's lesson is as follows: 22. And he went through the cities and

villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

23. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

24. Strive to enter in at the strait gath; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

25. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you. know you not whence ye are

26. Then shall ye begin to say, We have caten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught them in our streets.

27. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

28. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets. in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

29. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

50. And, behold, there are last which shall be first; and there are first which shall be last.

Some explanations to most ambiguous

passages are as follows: 23. Lord, are there few that be saved? Literally, "that are being saved" from sin and everlasting death. It does not seem to me that this question was asked out of idle curiosity, of which there is no bint; but that it came from an earnest soul in view of what he had observed, and heard, and felt. As a Jew, he had been that the coult the few wars asked for heard, and felt. As a Jew, he had been taught that only the few were saved, for faught that only the few were saved, for few became Jews where alone saivation could be found. In the second book of Esdras of the Apocrypha, which belongs between the Old Testament and the New, and with which he doubtless was familiar, this question is discussed, and it is as-sumed that few only will be saved. The most high hath made this world for many, but the world to come the few." (8.7) but the world to come for few" (8:1).
"There are many more of them which perish than of them which shall be saved: like as a wave is greater than a drop"

(9: 15, 15). 24. Strive to enter in at the strait gate, or narrow door of a palace or a city. "From the eastern custom of receiving petitions at the gate, 'the gates of the king' became a phrase, as we now say The Sublime Porte, for the Turkish govern-Scott and Liddell, the gate of the city or palace of God, the kingdom of God, and hence the gate to eternal life. On the other hand, there is given in Matthew the picture of another city, the city of destruction, with its wide gate, and a broad avenue leading thereto. 26. We have eaten and drunk in thy 26. We have eaten and draink in thy presence. They had been guests with him, when there was "the feast of reason and the flow of soul." They had been his companions, though not intimate, for they had listened respectfully while he taught in their streets, and knew about the gospel

and their duty. 27. And yet he shall say, I tell you, know you not whence ye are. I do not recognize you as my disciples, or as children of God. I see into your hearts and you do not belong with me. Go to your

own place. 28. There, where the workers of iniquity 23. There, where the workers of iniquity are, shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, "signs respectively of anguish and rage."—Cambridge Bible. "While most of the descriptions of this awful future state are figurative, all the figures point to a reality which is beyond description. Since the merciful Savior teaches most about this matter, we are not merciful if we omit it."-Revision Com. When ye shall see Abraham, etc., their ancestors, whom they refused to imitate, and yet expected to be with them in glory, because they were their children (Luke 3: 8). So the rich man in the parable, being in tor-ments, saw Lazarus in Aoraham's bosom (Luke 16: 19-31).

(Luke 16: 19-31).

30. And, behold, implying, "strange as it may seem," there are last which shall be utst, etc. "These words are said by the Lord, on at least three different occasions there and in Matt. 19: 30; and 20: 15)."—Sadier. Some who were first cailed shall be last in power and usefulness in the kingdom, as was true among the apostles, and still more true of the Jews and this Gentiles. Some who were first in privileges, opportunities, blessings, shall be last in the good that should result from them. There are first in zeal who grow oold, while others increase from small beginnings to burning and shining lights. There are children of drunkards that go ahead of some of the children of the best parents.

rents. The lesson is that no one can depond an The lesson is that he one can depend an his parentage, education, wealth, rank, or talent, without choosing and willing that which is good; and on the other hand those who have been most unfortunate in early surroundings and influences can rise and stand among the first if they will.

## RELIGION AND REFORM.

dishop Hall (Episcopa), of Vermont. who was recently taken ill in Boston, is recovering fast.

It is said that of the 50,000 Indians belonging to the Sioux tribe, 4,000 bylong to the Episcopal, Presbyterian and Congregational churches.

There are 17 different branches of Methodism in this country, each having a distinctive name, its own church property, its own organization, its own places of worehip, and its own body of memberablp.