

speak out in earnest remonstrance against the spiritual declension of which she regards this occupation as the evidence. In the spirit of an ancient prophetess she seized the cards and threw them into the fire, and solemnly warned the players of their danger and their duty. Under a divine influence she went straightway to the house of their cousin Philip, Embury, and "falling prostrate" before him, she appealed to him to be no longer silent, "entreating him with tears." With a keen sense of the spiritual danger of the little flock, she exclaimed, "You must preach to us or we shall all go to hell together, and God will require our blood at your hand."



EMBURY HOUSE.

"I cannot preach, for I have neither house nor congregation," he replied.

Nevertheless, at her earnest adjuration, he consented to preach in "his own hired house," and this mother in Israel sallied forth and collected four persons, who constituted his first audience. Its composition was typical of the diverse classes which the vast organization of which it was the germ was to embrace.

"Small as it was," says Dr. Stevens, "it included white and black, bond and free; while it was also an example of that lay ministration of religion which has extended the denomination in all quarters of the world, and of the agency of woman to which an inestimable proportion of the vitality and power of the Church