

BIOGRAPHY OF

"Opportunity comes to some men more frequently than to others but there are very few it does not visit at some time or other."

Here we have the recognition of a fact which is apparent to every student of life, namely, that much depends on opportunity. Grey in his "Elegy" fills the rural graves of the country churchyard with those who, had fortune favored them, might have been different:—

"Some village Hampden that with dauntless breast
The petty tyrant of his fields withstood,
Some mute, inglorious Milton here may rest,
Some Cromwell, guiltless of his country's blood."

There is such a thing as, what we call, luck and it plays a considerable part in the destinies of men. Indeed some go so far as to say that success is largely a matter of accident, and that, no matter how well one may be qualified, if he have not the opportunity he cannot succeed. That has enough truth in it to qualify our judgment of those who have not succeeded as we might have hoped, but it is not wise, especially for youth, to lay too much stress upon it. It is true that some have more opportunities than others. But it is equally true that all have an opportunity some time, and failure is due, not to lack of opportunity, but to the neglect of it. The Roman Cardinal was right who said, "There is nobody whom Fortune does not visit once in his life; but when she finds he is not ready to receive her, she goes in at the door, and out through the window." That is the secret—to be ready for it when it does come. The careless, slow, unobservant fail to see it, or clutch at