

MARY'S LITTLE SKIRT.

Every Time She Gets Inside She's
More Than Half Way Out.

The Rev. Dr. John Roach Straton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, preached last night on "Music, or the Beauty of Harmony With God." The music Dr. Straton had in mind was indicated by the sentence: "Despite all discouragements at a given time, despite the darkness that may surround us and the ruggedness of the way, nevertheless hope sings its music to the heart, and we are glad in anticipation of a better day."

Among other things Dr. Straton said: "Last Sunday evening in the sermon from this pulpit, setting forth the need for regeneration and conversion, by way of illustration I outlined the contents of one day's issue of a current newspaper, showing the awful prevalence of rapine and murder and robbery and lust and war among the children of men.

"I notice that the editor of THE TIMES in his review of my sermon seemed to think that my passing reference to the ladies' dresses meant that I advocated a return to the old, unsanitary style—the street-sweeping skirts of a former day. Not at all. There is a style for women's dresses which is in harmony with the laws of sanitation as well as the principles of modesty. I only cried out against the glaring immodesty of today, which is not in harmony with the higher things of life, but crashing discord. The only thing that saves us from the full effect of the dangers of present styles is the humor of the situation. One masterpiece is as follows:

"Mary had a little skirt,
The latest style, no doubt,
But every time she got inside,
She was more than half way out!"

"Yes, I believe that there is a good time coming when maidenly modesty, instead of brazen sex assertiveness, will prevail, and we live in hope of the harmony of that better day when the principles of purity and womanly sweetness and grace will be triumphant."