

he went to reside in Elgin, where he employed himself in reading; but beyond the distribution of tracts, attempted nothing for the service of God until November (a year after his first awakening.) At that time a woman, who carried letters, sent a request that he would come and visit a dying niece. Being thus solicited, he went. This was the first visit of the kind that he ever paid. He spoke to the girl, and found that she was a Christian in a dying state. As soon as he began, she said, "O, sir, never mind me—but say something through me to my father, for father is a bad man." Thus invited, he tried to speak to the father; and what with the dying child, Mr. North's words, and different circumstances, the man seemed evidently impressed, and also his wife. At that time, two careless persons witnessing the impression made, went back again and again, and were evidently interested in the case. The father himself became perfectly reformed. The neighbours, hearing of this, came in, and Mr. North's visits became a signal for gathering around the dying girl's bed. After Mr. North had been for some time there, a woman came to him and said, "O, sir, I wish you would come and speak to my husband, as you are speaking here; for he is a bad man too, and I think you might do him good." Thus asked, he went; and this man also listened attentively, and seemed impressed, so that when Mr. North was about to leave him, he asked him to come back, saying, that he would get ten or twelve fellow-workmen (journeymen shoemakers) to come and hear him, and that this might do much good. This man has since died rejoicing. Mr. North went and found about twelve persons assembled, who listened very attentively, and when he had finished said that they would come again, if he would again come and speak to them. He went back at their request on an appointed evening, and found the little room crowded with about fifty or sixty persons.

"Another then applied, and then another, until in a short time Mr. North found himself giving about eight or nine lectures in a week; the largest locality being a granary, which held about two hundred. As he had been brought up and continues to be an Episcopalian, strong doubts as to the lawfulness of what he was doing constantly crossed his mind—increasing in proportion to the extent of his sphere of labour. These he, from the first, laid before God in prayer, and asked Him not to permit him to go on if this work were not in accordance with His will. The answer he received to this prayer was an increasing number of applications for him to go and address the people; and also the seeing and hearing of a still greater number of persons being seriously impressed by what he was enabled to say to them.

"Matters went on in this way until the following May, 1856, when being quite exhausted, and his voice completely gone through over-exertion, he was ordered by the doctor to leave Elgin, and felt relieved and happy in doing so, as he saw, in his departure the breaking up of a work, as to which he could not altogether succeed in persuading himself that he was not taking too much upon himself by carrying it on; and he imagined that, as he had never offered himself to do anything, but only consented to do what was asked, and what, when invited, he did not dare to refuse, he would not, in a strange place, at a distance from Elgin, find any one who could ask him to do anything. His astonishment, therefore, was great, when, after about ten days' residence in the country at Dallas, the excellent Free Church Minister, Mr. Davidson, came to him, and said that he was going from home, and that, consequently, there would be no service in his church unless Mr. North would undertake the duty. Mr. North looked upon the proposal as an absurdity; but Mr. Davison pressed him earnestly, and asked if the statement which he had heard was true, that he never offered to do anything, but never refused, when invited to undertake what could be done. When Mr. North told him that he was not ordained, he replied, 'That is my affair,' and expressed his firm opinion that Mr. North, as a Christian man, was bound to avail himself of every door that was set open before him; and it was ultimately agreed that if one of the elders prayed and read the chapter, and called on him to give an address, Mr. North would do what he could. When the Lord's day arrived, this agreement was carried out.

"On the following morning there was a great flood in the river, and two little