

such notion was repudiated as intolerable presumption. There was no one within six miles who owned to having met with a change of heart; and so the young man had his struggle without sympathy and alone. And a hard battle it was against many allurements to win him away from his fanaticism and back to his former fashion of life. But God held his hand. And then being a Christian and conscientious, and with simple heart having resolved to follow God's word, he began to take on strange notions in regard to the church, its government and ordinances. Baptists he had never heard of till a year before, and heard of them then only as a poor, despised people. Nevertheless he found his New Testament to be a Baptist book, and could find nothing within its pages to justify the teaching in which he had been reared. Here was now a new subject of anxiety. Not only must he differ from his father in his view of salvation, but also now in regard to the church and its ordinances. His father, at some trouble and expense, procured for him three books upon the matter in controversy. The young man hoped his father might be in the right, and was certainly more inclined to adhere to the views and traditions of Presbyterianism. It was no easy thing to leave cherished beliefs, and suffer the ridicule of all who knew him and the anger of a fond though determined father. But he must obey God rather than man; and, after his struggle had continued six months, not knowing that he should be permitted within his father's house again—he sought baptism at the hands of Mr. McPhail. Mr. Dempsey does not speak of the persecutions which fell to his lot during the first year of his Baptist life. His record simply is, "No one knows what I endured."

And now yet another conflict must be recorded before Mr. Dempsey's life was allowed to flow easily along its God-appointed channel. He heard God's call to preach the gospel, but he did not desire to serve in that department of work. He was very willing to occupy any other position. Although forbidden to speak of salvation in his own home, he gladly embraced every other opportunity that presented, and few of his companions escaped his earnest appeals. Yet he had such a poor estimate of his own qualifications, and such an exalted view of the, to him, awful and to be dreaded calling, that he refused to think of the ministry. He