

heart of another child of his grace twelve miles distant, to remove his difficulties. He had chosen the one to preach his gospel, he had called upon the other, to whom he had given the means, to help in the needed human preparation. Guy Richards of St. Andrews, a wealthy merchant, a godly man, a Presbyterian, saw that the great need of the country was a devoted, consecrated, evangelical ministry. A few ministers there were at distant points, but some of them only usurped, profaned, disgraced the sacred office. The great majority of the people were deceived by the unintelligible mummeries and superstitions of popery. The Protestantism of the time was in most places wrapt in the ceremonies of a dead formalism. Mr. Richards had heard of the piety and Christian activity of young McPhail, especially in connection with the late revival. He knew him by sight, but determined to seek a nearer acquaintance. He would find out if possible what was in him, to what he looked forward, and his plans for life if he had any. When Daniel one day came into his store to make some purchase, Mr. Richards asked him into the house for a little conversation. The invitation was as unexpected as unusual, and the young man followed, wondering what the conference might mean. Mr. Richards skilfully drew from him his Christian experience, his views of the foundation doctrines of Christianity, and some facts about his Christian work in Chatham. He found in him a depth of piety and knowledge of the Bible, which he thought unprecedented in so young a man with so few advantages, with a force and keenness of intellect which promised great usefulness. He asked him if he had ever thought of devoting himself exclusively to the ministry, or felt that to be the service God required of him. In reply he said he had often thought and prayed anxiously over it, but that between his impressions and desires on the one side, and his circumstances on the other, it seemed impossible to determine the path of duty. His mother was a widow with a large family and he was the eldest. The payments on the land were not all made, and there was no other way of meeting them than for him to cut down timber, burn it into ashes, and boil the ashes into black salts. That even apart from this, he did not see how the family could be supported without him. But if these obstacles were out of the way, there was still a difficulty he could