

by any means, in the externals of religion, but a stranger to God nevertheless. His home training, though not decidedly spiritual, was not without its religious value upon his after life. The knowledge of God's word which he then gained was a priceless acquisition, and served him well throughout his ministry; and the fear of God then implanted and reverence for holy things preserved him throughout from levity of thought or of manner into which perhaps mother-wit and native light-heartedness might have otherwise betrayed him.

Now came the experience of his life. At seventeen years of age God found him and called him to Himself. The experience of one who has been used of God in bringing many to righteousness ought to be not only interesting, but also helpful to the many who are similarly engaged; for certainly what has taken hold upon personal heart-life, will be the foundation upon which all subsequent teaching is builded. Mr. Dempsey's own conversion colored the preaching of his ministry, and if we speak of it at large we shall do even then, but poor justice to the centre piece of his life and character.

At the time of which we now write Mr. Dempsey had left home and was living in Mountain, boarding with a Presbyterian family. Mr. McPhail had settled in Osgoode and was now upon one of his evangelistic tours preaching and baptizing. As usual when he was so engaged there was no small stir among the people, and his work was the theme of conversation in every household. He was to come one day and take dinner with the family with whom young Dempsey resided; the knowledge of which fact set the heart of the lad a-quaking. The pastoral visit of that day perhaps differed somewhat from present custom, at least it surely did when Mr. McPhail was the pastor. It was a religious visit and it meant the probing of every heart and conscience. There was tender solicitude for the salvation of every soul and there was the gospel preached in love and personally. Young Dempsey, as did many another, dreaded the ordeal. He endeavored to avoid the meeting. He did not go to dinner at the usual hour. But he was not to escape thus, for when he arrived he found Mr. McPhail still there waiting for him, and he had to face the inevitable. Strange to say, however, the deep probing which he expected, and for which he had prepared him-