

all the years of his service. He possessed head and hands also, which yielded themselves readily to all kinds of mechanical work. Tools were his delight, and he could easily design what should be done with them; so that his ability to build a house or file a saw, or do any kind of work that pioneer life demanded stood him in good stead, and oftentimes proved helpful to the people of his ministry. The pioneer farm has given capital training to many who have made their way to the front. It did good service for young Dempsey. Two conditions of youth principally leave their impress upon manhood—the one upon the physical and intellectual, the other upon the moral and spiritual natures. The environment of work and pastime develops the one, and that of the home atmosphere the other. The first condition we have already seen. In regard to the second, a few words will suffice. Mr. Dempsey's parents were rigid Presbyterians of the Cameronian type, very moral and very attentive to religious duties. Their attendance on public worship was constant. Sabbath observance was maintained with grim formality, and stated worship in the family was omitted only on rare occasions. God was feared and revered in the household; but that spiritual insight into His character and that heart appreciation of His word, without which love can scarcely be a constraining power, was conspicuously absent. Conversion, the realization of the Spirit's quickening power and the assurance of personal salvation, were matters that did not enter the home thought. Indeed things so entirely spiritual were looked upon as foolish fanaticism. The religion of the home consisted of the fear of God, obedience to the dictates of stern duty, and rigid integrity of life. In an atmosphere like this young Dempsey easily absorbed the main features of dead formalism. At six years of age he read his Bible and from his earliest recollection attended to the religious duties of his father's house. He was not, however, without deep spiritual impressions during his boyhood, but from the character of his religious instruction nothing peaceful could come of them. To him God was a God of terror rather than a God of love. He was impressed by His greatness and His justice. He was afraid of Him and revered with holy dread anything that pertained to His service. And so the boy continued until seventeen years of age, not a novice