

rocks shut them in. Mr. McPhail's concern for their salvation might be termed agony. His mother observed that he often went out evenings not saying where. This became so frequent that not only curiosity, but anxiety wanted to know where. The mother would make sure of where her boy was, in what company, what doing. Were all mothers like her the world would soon see a higher style of men. She did not give voice to her thoughts, but determined to watch his movements and learn for herself. One evening when he went out she noted the direction. He did not take the road leading through the settlement, but went toward the rear of the farm. In a little time she cautiously followed. Nearing a rock at considerable distance from the house, she heard a pleading voice, broken by the emotions it was struggling to express. It was the voice of her Daniel, pouring into the ear of God the agony of his soul for the salvation of the young people. God heard, though the answer was delayed for some time. It tarried, he waited for it not in vain.

In 1834 the late Rev. John Gilmour, then pastor of the Baptist church, Montreal, preached the word a few days in the village of St. Andrews. Mr. McPhail's home was twelve miles distant, but he sought an interview with Mr. Gilmour, to induce him if possible to visit Chatham. Mr. Gilmour inquired about the church, its position and prospects, but could not go at that time. He could only promise that as soon as duties at home would allow, he would give a few days to preaching the gospel, to the people about whom he saw Mr. McPhail so anxious. That visit was earnestly, anxiously, prayerfully waited for. In January, 1835, Mr. Gilmour wrote he would be in Chatham that month. He came and along with him the Rev. William Fraser, of Breadalbane. Mr. Gilmour preached the first sermon from the words, "For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Meetings were held daily, people flocked to hear, but the hardness gave no visible indications of a break. Mr. McPhail and some other members of the church were in distress. What if this time to which they had looked forward, should pass without the blessing for which they had waited and prayed? What if the people would only become more hard and impenitent, under the appointed means to soften and save? They began