

## I HOLD IT.

J. H., son of a farmer, had been brought up in gross ignorance, or rather had through neglect been allowed to grow up in that state. At the age of twenty-five his health began to fail in such manner as to leave no doubt that he had been attacked by a fatal malady. When he spoke of death it was always with astonishing indifference, in his ignorance he imagined that he had never sinned enough to deserve punishment or to have risked the salvation of his soul. Alas! he did not know that he was a sinful man, and of a fallen race. He did not know that all his life had been a continuous state of rebellion against God. The wickedness of the human heart was many times explained to him, as well as the claims of God's law upon him and the judgment which it threatened, as well as the scriptural way of salvation, but up to that time not a ray of light had reached his conscience, the only indication that he began to be sensible of the eternal danger he was incurring was that "he would endeavour to do his best to merit the favour of God, and that he would pray to Jesus to pardon his sins." He could not see more than that.

But time passed. His strength failed from day to day, and it was apparent that he was nearing his end. Apparently his future was full of sorrow and despair, "but God is rich in mercy," and He soon revealed to this soul so darkened, His marvelous love