

was visited by the Spirit of God. The character of the Holy One appeared to him, and his own vileness in contrast so dismayed him that he suffered agonies of contrition such as but few experience. He said nothing to any one of his heart experience but sighed and wept in secret, carrying his burden of guilt for two long years, and all this time doing what he thought might be done towards getting release from his terrible burden. He made the Bible his constant companion, and availed himself of such other literature as he thought might be helpful. He attended all the religious meetings within reach, often walking miles in the hope that he might hear something that would bring deliverance. There came no light however, and the conviction was gradually settling upon him that either he was outside the pale of God's elect or that he had committed the sin against the Holy Ghost. This dark experience was not without the knowledge that Jesus Christ was the Saviour of sinners, and that qualification for the Saviour's mercy he knew he very manifestly possessed. But he possessed also a heart so hard and a will so unbending! If he could only be softened in some way! And then he strove for weary months to beget within himself a feeling such as he thought ought to be there, hoping that if he could but succeed in that endeavor he might have something upon which to base his plea for God's mercy. But the months passed on, and no light came. Then the fancy occurred that his convictions of sin were not deep-seated enough, and his failure to get relief through the process of blackening his already dark conviction was signal of course. At last in utter hopelessness he gave up the struggle, and told the Lord that if ever he might taste of His salvation, it must come as a free gift to a poor hell-deserving sinner. He could do nothing more, and that finished the two years' agony. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest," never came more sweetly upon human ears, and his soul went out in gratitude and love as he then realized the substitution of Christ.

Strange it may seem, but Mr. McEwen's conviction of duty in the matter of preaching the gospel developed long before his conversion took place. During his school days and farm work, the thought did not leave him. After his conversion, naturally the conviction of duty intensified; but on account of poor health