

against the Holy Ghost is grieving the Spirit once too often."

We may well imagine the feelings of surprise created in the minds of his friends by the announcement of his sudden reformation. Many were inclined to sneer at what they considered a passing impression, and to prophesy that he would soon return to his old ways. Others thought that the lunatic asylum was the only fit place for him. Even Christian people stood aloof from him, fearing that the change was not genuine, and that he would bring discredit on the name of Jesus. By God's grace he was enabled to continue steadfast, but not without undergoing fierce temptations. Again and again the hellish darts of Satan were hurled at his perplexed and anxious soul, and again and again did the Holy Spirit give him strength to battle against the powers of darkness. Doctrinal doubts and difficulties arose in his mind. At one time he is in deep trouble about the divine and human natures of Jesus Christ; at another he is tempted to doubt the existence of God altogether, and only after the severest struggle enabled to grasp again the truth of God's existence. Few of God's children are called upon to pass through the trying ordeal with which Brownlow North was afflicted, and few indeed are called to the work for which he was now being fitted. In passing through this fiery trial the dross was being consumed, and he came out of the furnace purified and reflecting the image of his Divine Master. At length his difficulties passed away. In speaking of this time, he says: "I had risen from my bed in my soul agony, for I was many months in trouble about my soul, though I need not have been as many hours, if I only had faith to believe in Jesus Christ, and to make my own heart a liar; but my own heart told me that I was the chief of sinners, that Paul, who called himself the chief, was not to be compared—no, neither was he—to me, and that there could be no hope for me; and for months I believed my own heart. One night, being unable to sleep, I had risen and gone into my closet to read the Bible. The portion I was reading was the 3rd chapter of Romans, and, as I read the 20th and following verses, a new light seemed to break in on my soul. 'By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in God's sight.' That I knew. But then I went on to read, 'But now, *now* the right-

cousness of God *without the law* is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ *unto all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference.*' With that passage came light into my soul. Striking my book with my hand, and, springing from my chair, I cried, 'If that scripture is true, I am a saved man! That is what I want; that is what God offers me; that is what I will have.' God helping me, it was that I took: *The righteousness of God without the law. It is my only hope.*" As soon as Brownlow North had found peace, he sought to lead others into the same paths. Having tasted of the "water of life" and experienced its refreshing and strength-giving powers, he earnestly longed to guide others to the fountain, and bid them drink and live, but, like many another, he hesitated how to begin. After turning the matter over in his mind, he decided to make a beginning by distributing tracts, although he felt sure all the people he met would laugh at him. But he tells us he determined to try, and, putting some tracts into his pockets, started out. The first person he met was an old woman, who accepted his tract without laughing at him, at which he was greatly surprised, and felt much encouraged. Soon he met another old woman, who accepted his tract with thanks, and then a policeman, on receiving one, said politely, "Thank you, Mr. North." Thus encouraged, he continued to give away tracts, although he often found it a great trial so to do. He soon began to hold cottage meetings, and earnestly exhorted his hearers to come to Jesus. The people in the neighbourhood of these meetings flocked to hear him, and frequently even a large loft, which had been engaged for the purpose, was filled to overflowing. Many of his hearers were touched in their hearts and led to trust in Christ as their Saviour. Though his preaching had thus far been so successful, he nevertheless had many doubts and misgivings as to whether he was not taking upon himself duties which belong only to the ministry, but the way continually opened before him, and he went on in the path which God made plain. Not long after this Mr. North was asked, in the absence of the pastor to address the congregation at the Free Church at Dallas. At first he refused, but, after much urgent pressure, finally agreed that if the el-