

except one of the elders, the sexton and myself, a little boy, Archibald Alexander Hill, son of the Rev. W. W. Hill, D.D., approached me as I stood near the pulpit, and taking hold of one of my hands with both of his, looked up into my face with tears in his eyes, and said, calling my name:—"I would like so much to join the church, if you will let me." Observing his tears and earnestness, I found my own emotions deeply stirred. My elder and the sexton, who were near me, were equally moved by the manner and language of the child. Taking my seat on the platform, with my arm around the dear little fellow, I drew him to me and asked him the question:—"Why do you wish to become a member of the church?" His answer came promptly—"because I want to be known as a child of God." I said, "how old are you?" He replied "Seven years old to-day." I then inquired:—"My dear boy, what reason have you for thinking you are a Christian?" With great emotion, but without any hesitation, he answered "Because I love Jesus with all my heart, and because He loves me and died for me." His words went ringing through the very depths of my soul. I seemed to hear the voice of the great Teacher saying: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not." Then there came those other words of the Master, "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me." After a moment's silence I said, "Archie, you are very young. Do you think, if we should receive you into the church, you would so live as to show yourself to be a Christian, and not do anything calculated to injure the cause of Jesus, and make us feel sorry on your account?" Never will I, or those with me at the time, forget his reply to this question. "I could not do it by myself; but I could if the Lord helped; and He says He will do it if I ask Him." I did not press him with any further inquiries, but dismissed him with the assurance that I would give him an opportunity to come before the session in a few days. Subsequently I learned, in a conversation with his father and mother, that for more than a year he had frequently expressed a strong desire to unite with the church and publicly confess Christ. They had great confidence and hope in the genuineness of his conversion, and gave it as their opinion, that the prominent feature in his religious exercises was an unusual tenderness of love for the Saviour who died for sinners.

When he appeared before the session, two weeks after the event above mentioned, his answers were equally clear and satisfactory, and without a dissenting voice, amidst the tearful emotion of strong men, it was voted that he should be admitted to the fellowship of the Lord's