

to the geologist than of profit to the farmer ; a place in which Hugh Miller would have found as much scope for his inquiries into the buried past, as he did in some of the Scotch quarries, and the mountains that shut in the highland glens. There in the woods, among the hills and rocks, young Daniel McPhail grew from childhood to manhood. His opportunities of education were exceedingly meagre. The schools of the time were a miserable apology for schools, attendance on which was little better than waste of time. Yet in his father's ability to teach him more than the common schools pretended to teach, young McPhail had the advantage of other young people of the place, an advantage to a great extent offset by the fact that from the time his labors could contribute to the family support, he had scant leisure for the pursuit of knowledge.

At about the age of sixteen years Daniel was converted, baptized, and became a member of the little church formed in 1826. His own mental structure, his peculiarities of temperament, and the character of the religious teaching under which he had grown up, made it certain that the transition from darkness to light would in his case be no short and easy conflict. Nor was it. His apprehension of sin as an evil, its enormity as committed against the author of our being ; the majesty, holiness, and sovereignty of God, and his uncompromising, inflexible justice, filled him with dismay. Before he saw the divinely open way from the dominion and consequences of sin, and the awful curse of a violated law he could and did use as descriptive of, and applicable to, his own case, the words of the Psalmist—“ The sorrows of death compassed me, the pains of hell gat hold upon me ; I found trouble and sorrow.” The birth throes of that new life in his own soul, colored and impressed themselves on his subsequent ministry. But when deliverance came through the blood of Jesus, it was clear and indisputable. The great barrier between God and him was gone. Instead of a God seated above him in lofty remoteness, regarding him only as a rebel against his government to be punished, and of whom every attribute was a terror, he saw the loving Father who had reconciled him to himself by Jesus Christ. He could now tell his young friends, that while God was righteous he was also gracious, that in boundless mercy he had saved him, and was ready and will-