

ions came proclaiming their gracious message, the members of this household gave earnest heed, and, having been prepared by their reading and study of the Holy Scriptures to receive and understand the tidings, they all three became believers. There were others in the same town with whom the truth of the message prevailed, and all who accepted the doctrine taught by these men joined themselves together as a society or church for mutual encouragement and instruction.

A few years later two preachers again passed through the same remote district, proclaiming the same loving message to the ignorant, and further teaching and helping those who already believed. One of the two had taken part in the previous journey, and had then been, as he still continued to be, the leader and the chief preacher. When they reached the town where this household dwelt, they found the youth grown into manhood's estate and highly spoken of by his fellow believers for his pure life and noble faith. The leader saw in him one who might do much for the cause they both had so greatly at heart, knowing as the young man did both the ignorant superstitions of the heathen, and the reasoned prejudices of the race that knew God but would have none of this new Gospel. The leader accordingly urged this young man to leave home and accompany him on his journeys hither and thither, helping to pass on to others the message he himself had received with joy. The young man felt himself to be the preacher's son in the faith, and obediently consented. But before they set out together as companion-messengers, the young man had to undergo a certain rite. Though he had been taught the religion of his mother, yet he had not, from various circumstances, fulfilled all the requirements of that religion, and there had been neglected one rite in particular—a rite on which special value was laid by members of that race. But now this rite was duly performed, so that those who belonged to that race might have nothing to say against the young man, but rather might be forced to acknowledge that he was indeed

one of themselves. Thus would his influence with them be all the greater.

And so the young man left his home, being set apart for the work by "the laying on of hands." He went forth into the world to tell men of the joy that filled his heart, and to persuade them to accept the same blessing; but though we know this general fact, we do not know very definitely much more about him. We know that he visited many cities in company with his leader or with others of the same faith; we know that he was very highly esteemed and trusted by this leader, and was sometimes sent by him as his messenger to various places; we know that he was the companion of this leader when that noble preacher and faithful friend was in prison. This leader was a great letter-writer; and two of his letters were addressed directly and specially to this young man, while several other letters either include greetings from this young man as being then present with the writer, or make mention of him in some way. We know further that at an early age this man was set in charge of some church; we know that he was imprisoned and set free again. So much we know; and for the rest, is it not enough to believe that he "fought the good fight of faith," that he endured afflictions, did the work of an evangelist, made full proof of his ministry?

Church of Scotland, Morning Rays

#### What It Did for One Man

A writer in the Sunday-School Times pleads for the Home Department, and gives an instance of what it did for a godless and profane farmer in Wisconsin:

The results following the adoption of the Home Department are so immediate and so apparent that it makes fast friends wherever it is fairly tried. But almost every time, when opportunity is given for questions after the work has been presented, someone will venture the remark that they do not believe that one who has not "gumption enough" or "sufficient interest" to attend the sessions of the main school will be apt to receive much benefit from study at home.