

which he retained of many amusing incidents in his boyhood days showed that he was not insensible to the humorous side of things. The eye that twinkled so merrily after life had cast its dark shadows upon his spirit was not dull when he was young; nor had he forgotten how to sympathize with the hilarity and pleasures of his youthful friends when years had bent his frame.

It must have been at an early period of his life that he came to the knowledge of his salvation in Christ; but at what age and under what circumstances this profoundly interesting experience came to him, we have not been able to learn. Those who knew him best bear testimony to the undoubted evidences of the operations of the Holy Spirit upon his heart.

Having removed to Edinburgh to follow his calling, he became a member of the Rev. James McGilchrist's congregation. Ample opportunities were soon presented to engage in Christian work. He joined the City Mission, and presently, dropping his trade, he was employed as colporteur and missionary. This step probably prepared his way for entrance into the ministry. It was about this time that his views regarding the mode and subjects of baptism changed; and, as an honest man was bound to do, he wrote his pastor a letter, which is still preserved, stating his convictions and his determination to practice them. This must have been a painful task for so kind and sensitive a man; but it was always known of him that he chose to maintain a conscience void of offence and to walk in the path of duty without hesitation or complaint, however rough it might be. He was baptized in the Charlotte Chapel in September, 1840, by Rev. Christopher Anderson.

In 1839 he had married Miss Jessie Sutherland, of Edinburgh, and now, undaunted by family cares, he set about preparing himself for the ministry. Among the distinguished men at whose feet he sat was Sir W. Hamilton, and nearly forty years after we find him reading, with sharp relish, the writings of his great preceptor. He pursued his theological studies in Bradford, England, where he attended the college for two sessions.

It was in the year that the saintly McCheyne was called up to look upon the face of his Lord, the year of the great "disruption," when Dr. Chalmers was in the zenith of his popularity