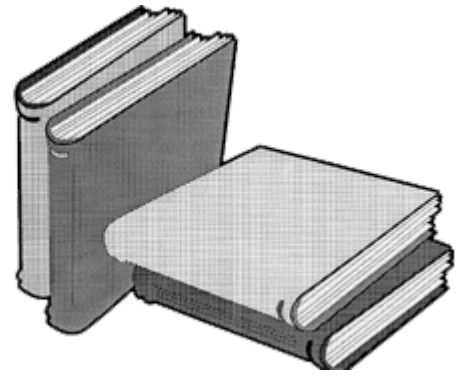


# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,  
Collected by Dean Brown



Issue 950

## **Robert Murray M'Cheyne; Tried to Break this Northern Iron.**

M'Cheyne (1813-1843) preached in several churches [after his education] until November 1835. On November 7 he began as an assistant minister ... in the united parishes of Larbert and Dunipace. Larbert was a town of miners and iron workers, and Dunipace was a quiet hamlet of farmers. ... He would preach in each on alternate Sundays.

During the week he was responsible for visiting among the approximately six thousand residents of the parishes. ... True to his training under Thomas Chalmers, M'Cheyne was tireless in home visitations and kept detailed records of his visits. Here are a few entries [for the same day] from a notebook he kept of his visits.

Alexander Hunter, No. 39. Intelligent man. Met with wife in Robert's (No 20). Decent-like family; boy and girl; have lost three, spoke of Davy's lamp. Visit, 21 July. *Treasure Hid*<sup>1</sup>. He recommended prayers for the workers underground.

Widow Hunter, No. 40. Wicked face, but old lady has had much trouble. Daughter lame. Visit 21 July. *Lost sheep*. Spoke plain. She spoke grateful things, but felt them not. Invited me not to pass the door [without stopping in].

Peter Rae, No. 44. Ill-looking man. Hard, hard woman. A large family of mocking lasses. Visit., July 21. *One thing needed*, pardon and a new heart. Tried to break this northern iron.

David Beaty, *An All Surpassing Fellowship: Learning from Robert Murray M'Cheyne's Communion with God*, Reformation Heritage Books 2014, (\$11.00), p 16.

<sup>1</sup> Phrases in italics are Scripture references.