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leal abstractions, contemplation of which brought exquisite joy to some hearts and unspeakable terror to others. But, in either case, the exercise was good in preparation for the sermon which followed and continued for 1h or 2 hours in some cases, in course of which all the sins commonly known, or generally recognized, were fearlessly exposed, analyzed, and prescribed for. Nor was there hesitation in referring to particular moral faults in special districts within the jurisdiction of the ministerial charge! The occurrence of such misdemeanours in any particular division of the congregation as called for public correction from the pulpit was regarded as a great reflection on the elder in that section, and invariably led to intensive efforts on his part in subsequent moral supervision. In addition to the sermon, which was delivered without notes or memoranda of any kind, but was accentuated by much vociferation and pulpit thumpings, the service of praise occupied much time and was conducted with much form and glory. Seated within an enclosure at the foot of the elevated pulpit were the precentors • the leaders of the music. No pipe organs or gowned choirs were to be heard or seen in the days of which I write: the only approach to anything spectacular was furnished by the precentors. They were selected for their Whale Cruises Capt. Bill Crawford, Cheticamp Boat Tours, P. O. Box 10, Grand Etang, N. S. (902X224-3376 honorable calling by the Session, and were always regarded as men of exemplary conduct in their daily walk and conversation, besides being the possessors of melodious voices. A special pre-requisite for popularity and commendation in a precentor was his ability to "put out the line" with a saving unction • that is, to chant previously the line of the psalm that the congregation was to sing. To see one of the leaders, on a special occasion, smartly dressed in his frock coat, his bushy head tossed to one side and eyes heavenward bent, and to hear his sonorous voice rolling out the words with as many twists and twirls as are given today by a base-ball pitcher, was indeed capable of creating a thrill in the feelings of all the unsophisticated. When the last word of the line was uttered with more than usual quavering, the whole assemblage joined together in the singing, and the effect was certainly enrapturing. To the uninitiated, who did not understand the Gaelic language and who did not comprehend the genius of the simple Scottish folk, this musical performance suggested the wailings of departed spirits; but to the participants no more inspired music or inspirational melody ever emanated from human throats. And the same sentiment was engendered by the exercise of prayer. Many of the old people found it difficult to believe that the Supreme Being could be sufficiently addressed with becoming respect in any other language than their adored Gaelic. Indeed, it has been actually asserted by scholars, whose knowledge of the Gaelic tongue has been equal to their proficiency in other languages, that in none of the latter was there such capacity Matheson Hearing Aid Service Testing & Fitting at Home, Anywhere in Cape Breton! BILL MATHESON, CERTIFIED HEARING AID AUDIOLOGIST, Grand River, Richmond County, N. S. BOE IMO " Call 587-2229 any time for appointment \* The agricultural challenges of tomorrow are being taught



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