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Rev. Norman McLeod Rev. Wm. Millar Rev. Peter McLean Rev. Murdoch Stewart
Rev. John Stewart Rev. James Fraser Rev. Matthew Wilson Rev. Hugh McLeod
tion concerning the special topic under considera? tion could possibly be acquired
previously to its announcement by the propounder; therefore, ample evidence of
the mental ability of the speakers, as well as of their familiarity with the Bible and
with Christian experience, was given in the elo? quent extemporaneous
presentation of argument, for? tified by quotation and authority from Scripture in
abundance, in which these men expressed their most profound thoughts and ideas.
On Saturday afternoon, at the conclusion of the preaching service, the candidates
for Sacramental admission presented themselves for examination as to their
knowledge of the Church doctrines, as to their personal experience of the saving
power of the Gospel of Christ, and as to their performance of religious duties. Many
and trying were the ques? tions put and answered, and sorrowful indeed was the
mental condition of the poor person "sent back" for another year. Those who were
considered satis? factory became the happy recipients of the "token," which they
were allowed to retain in their posses? sion until the following day, when it was
given up to one of the attending elders as the communicant took his or her place at
the Lord's Table. Matters reached their culmination on Sunday, when the
Sacrament was dispensed in the open air. No? body, however flippant, could gaze
upon the slowly advancing men and women, mostly past middle age, who rose from
their places on the ground and pro? ceeded, while a psalm was being sung, to the
white- covered Communion Table--I say nobody could gaze upon these people
without being impressed with their sincerity and seriousness, with the convic? tion
that their experience was a blessed reality and not a vanishing dream. It was one of
the grand? est and most sublime sights the world ever beheld, and compelled one
to think of Him who preached to the multitude on the shores of Gennesaret, with
the ripple of the waves on the strand as the under? tone of the words of life that fell
from His lips. In this connection I desire to supply an extract from a report made on
the Sabbath Day exercises of the Open Air Communion in Cape Breton as observed
in 1872, by Rev. Prof. McKerras, of Queen's Col? lege, Kingston, Ontario:-- "Here we
witnessed a genuine Highland Sacrament of the olden time What a crowd was there
drawn to? gether from all directions by the time-hallowed as- Let Us Fill Your Next
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