

Margaret MacDonald and Mary Campbell Healed

On the opposite shores of Clyde, in the little town of Port Glasgow, dwelt a family distinguished, like these two young Campbells, for a profound and saintly piety, which had marked them out from their neighbors, and attracted to them many friends out of their own condition. The leading members of this household were two brothers, according to all report, men of the soberest steadfast life, quietly laboring at their business, and in no way likely to be the subjects of ecstatic emotion. But with results more startling and wonderful still, the newly awakened power glided over the loch and river to the devout and prayerful house of the Macdonalds.

Touching first upon an invalid sister, it then burst upon the elder brother with an impulse more extraordinary than any mere utterance. James Macdonald had returned from the building's yard, where he pursued his daily business, to his midday dinner, after the calm usage of a laboring man. He found the invalid of the household in the agonies of this new inspiration. The awed and wondering family concluded with reverential gravity that she was dying, and thus accounted to themselves, for the singular exhibition they saw. "At dinner time James and George came home as usual," says the simple family narrative, "whom she then addressed at great length, concluding with a solemn prayer for James, that he might at that time be endowed with the power of the Holy Ghost. Almost

instantly, James calmly said, 'I have got it.' He walked to the window, and stood silent for a minute or two. I looked at him, and almost trembled, there was such a change upon his whole countenance. He then, with a step and manner of the most indescribable majesty, walked up to —'s bedside, and addressed her in these words of the 20th Psalm 'Arise, and stand upright.' He repeated the words, took her by the hand, and she arose."

After this wonderful event, with inconceivable human composure, the homely record continues, "we all quietly sat down and took our dinner;" an anti-climax to the extraordinary agitation and excitement of the scene just described, which no fiction dared attempt, and which nothing but reality, always so daring in its individual opposition to recognized laws of nature, could venture to have added to the description. The young woman was not merely raised from her sickbed for the moment, but cured; and the next step taken by the brother so suddenly and miraculously endowed, was to write to Mary Campbell, then apparently approaching death, conveying to her the same command which had been so effectual in the case of his sister. The sick ecstatic received this letter in the depths of languor and declining weakness, and, without even the hand of the newly inspired to help her, rose up and declared herself healed. I do not pretend to account for these extraordinary circumstances.

Whatever natural explanation they may be capable of, I do not believe it possible to account for them by supposing any thing like trickery or simulation beneath. They take their place among the many other irresolvable wonders, which have from time to time perplexed the world; but, whatever the cause, the result was real. Mary Campbell, who before this time had been confined to bed, from this moment, without any interval, returned to active life; became, as was natural, the centre of double curiosity and interest; spoke, expounded, gave forth the utterances of her power in crowded assemblies, and entered into the full career of a prophetess and gifted person. The Macdonalds, less demonstrative and more homely, went on upon their modest way, attracting crowds of observers, without being thereby withdrawn from the composed and sober course of their existence; and thus a new miraculous dispensation was, to the belief of many, inaugurated in all the power of apostolic times by these waters of the West.

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