

MELVILLE CHURCH, FERGUS



HISTORY of Melville Church would be incomplete without a tribute to Mrs. Smellie, the loving and beloved help-meet of its first minister. A daughter of the manse, she was eminently fitted for the position she so ably filled. Whether as mistress of the Manse, superintending the Ladies' Association, or in Sunday School teaching the Bible Class, or training the little ones in the Infant Class, of which she was the first teacher, or presiding at a W. F. M. S. meeting, she was always the energetic, conscientious leader, earnest in her efforts to instill into the minds and hearts of those under her care the great truths of the Bible.

Mrs. Smellie's influence spiritually, intellectually and socially has been far-flung for it has been transmitted to the third and fourth generation by those, far and near, who were under her watchful care, and the whole community has been the better for it. Hers was a strong personality, and yet so tender and sympathetic that many have gone to the Manse sore distressed and come away uplifted and rejoicing because a little talk with their friend had helped to ease the load.

The Manse was ever open; an outstretched hand and a sunny smile were

ever ready to greet any who entered the portals of that hospitable home. We recall happy evenings spent there when fun and frolic held sway, though held in check by the gentle restraint of the gracious hostess. At not too late an hour, on bended knee, God's blessing was invoked on all. What a fitting ending to a pleasant evening! All came away thinking "It was good to be there".

Mrs. Smellie had the cause of Missions very much at heart and was one of a little band of women who met and organized "The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society", which under a new name has grown to be such an important branch of the work in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Though dead, she still lives in the Auxilliary of Melville



Mrs. Smellie