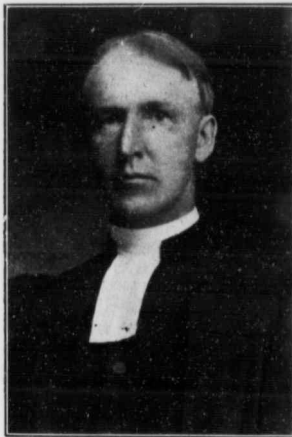


MELVILLE CHURCH, FERGUS

It was during Mr. MacVicar's pastorate that the new Melville Church was built on a site nearer the centre of the town. The corner stone was laid in 1899 by Mrs. Smellie, now far advanced in years, but rejoicing that she had lived to see the congregation provided with a more commodious and well equipped place of worship.

The Church was opened in May, 1900, and here Mr. MacVicar continued his ministrations for some years, and attracted hearers of varied types by his preaching which was of a very high order characterized by scholarship and spirituality. It was with deep regret that the congregation in 1908 accepted Mr. MacVicar's resignation. The state of his health demanded a long rest from ministerial work, and although urged to take an unlimited holiday, he thought it wiser



Rev. R. W. Craw, B. A.

that the tie should be finally broken, and in August the pulpit was declared vacant. After a year spent in Scotland, shorter pastorates followed in New Glasgow, N. S., and St. John's, N. B., where Mrs. MacVicar died to the great sorrow of friends everywhere. After a time her husband returned to the field in China in which they had both been so deeply interested, and where he still labors in the proclamation of the Gospel.