

MELVILLE CHURCH, FERGUS

One of the greatest spiritual events in the history of the congregation was the Carroll and Russell revival in the years 1869-70. It was accompanied by a remarkable awakening in Galt, Elora, and Fergus, and for some time afterwards throughout the countryside a strong impulse was given to the holding of meetings for the deepening of



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spiritual life. It was a time to which many look back as an epoch in their lives, and none rejoiced in it more than the minister and his wife to whom it came as "a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

In Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-Five, Mr. Smellie's long and faithful services were fittingly recognized by Queen's University, who conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, and several years later these services were still further recognized by a special jubilee demonstration under the auspices of the Presbytery of Guelph. This was the first jubilee

of ordination celebrated in Ontario.

During his long pastorate he had the joy of seeing a pioneer church with its wide domain of influence become a settled centre of worship surrounded by other strong charges which looked to Melville as their mother church. As one generation passed on, the younger grew up under his ministrations in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to carry worthily the burdens their fathers had laid down. During the first twenty-five years of his ministry, over a thousand children were baptized into the Church of Christ by this much venerated under-shepherd of the flock. He preached the Gospel, not only by the strong word of faith and conviction on the Sabbath day, but also by the powerful, silent testimony of an earnest and consistent life of consecration and service.