

MELVILLE CHURCH, FERGUS



On November 14th, 1896, the first pastor of Melville Church passed away. At the time of his death, Dr. Smellie was in Toronto, but his remains were brought to Fergus and interred with all honor.

Dr. Smellie was succeeded in the pastorate in 1889 by Rev. R. M. Craig, B. A., whose faithful ministry and untiring services continued until 1895 when, for the sake of his health, he accepted a call to First Church, Santa Fé, New Mexico. Here he and Mrs. Craig exhibited the same energy and devotion in their work as had characterized them in Fergus, and as Mr. Craig grew stronger his fervent spirituality, his missionary zeal, and his ability as an organizer won the recognition, first of his own synod of which he was elected Synodical Missionary, and then of the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church North, by which he was chosen as Superintendent of Mission Schools over a field extending from Alaska to New Mexico the duties of which he discharged enthusiastically and efficiently, even through failing health, until his death in 1910. His widow still lives in Ottawa and in the kindly remembrance of her old parishioners.