

of the Scottish Covenanters, so she naturally inherited characteristics that have made her a successful worker in the mission field. When little Helen arrived a special welcome awaited her, and she began her career as a veritable home missionary, bringing light and gladness into hearts over which death had so often cast its shadow, for, though she had one brother, about three years of age, two others and a sister had been called home in early infancy. When Helen was about five years of age Mr. Melville was called to a pastoral charge in the United States, and it was there that she received the greater part of her education. He returned, however, with his family to Toronto later.

As Helen grew older she took an active part in the Sunday school, Christian Endeavor, Mission Band and other branches of Christian work in connection with Olivet Congregational Church, Toronto, of which she was a member.

For some time she had been praying for guidance in the taking up of some special work for Christ, and, as every detail of our lives can be used of God, in the carrying out of His purpose, so it came to pass that the visit of Mrs. Mair, an old schoolmate of Mrs. Melville's, proved to be a direct answer to the prayer. This lady had labored as a missionary in Africa for thirty years, and as she spoke of the people, and what the knowledge of Christ's love had done for many of them, Helen's heart kindled with enthusiasm, and she realized that her life-work was made plain. Filled with a desire to carry the glad tidings to that dark land, she pondered as to the best method of preparing herself for such work. Praying meanwhile that the way might be opened, and God, who "sees the end from the beginning," again answered her prayer, though apparently blocking the way completely. Three years passed, and the fulfillment of her desire seemed as far off as ever, indeed, circumstances transpired that plainly revealed her work to be at home and faithfully she did it. A stroke of paralysis not only rendered her father incapable of discharging his duties in a public capacity, but so enfeebled him, physically and mentally, that the strong man became as a little child in the home. A few years later, after a brief illness, Mrs. Melville passed away, and during the eight months which intervened before Mr. Melville's death the continual care and tender motherly attention which his helpless condition called forth brought to a decision Helen's half-formed desire to qualify herself as a trained nurse. Shortly after her father's death, which occurred in May, 1889, she entered the Toronto General Hospital, graduating two years later. Application was at once made to the American Board for admission to the foreign field. After an anxious waiting time