

## WOMEN HISTORIANS.

### Meeting of the Canadian Woman's Historical Society—Interesting Papers Read—The Organization Prospering.

Since the formation of the Woman's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto last September there has been a steady increase in the membership, and its proceedings have been of a very interesting nature. It is the idea of the promoters of the society to have branch bodies all over the Dominion of Canada, and it is expected before long that this will become an accomplished fact.

The regular meeting of the society was held in the Canadian Institute on Saturday afternoon. Two papers were read—"Some Notes on Canadian Pottery," by Miss Bulk, and "Early Schools in Niagara," by Miss Carnochan, President of the Historical Society of Niagara, read by Miss Edith Curzon.

After briefly referring to the early history of pottery among the ancient nations of Europe and Asia, Miss Bulk dwelt upon that belonging to the American continent, more particularly that of Canada, pottery made by the Huron and Iroquois tribes being comparable in tastefulness of design and excellence of workmanship with that of any other in the world. Patience and perseverance were stamped upon their work, many specimens having occupied intervals of years or a lifetime in manufacturing and constructing. The Hydal Indians of British Columbia excelled in making a kind of coarse pottery, and there was no doubt that the women made the earthenware vessel. A specimen of exquisitely fine workmanship in black pottery was loaned by Dr. Boyle of the museum as an illustration of this fact, it being one of six bowls made by an aged Indian woman, the last of a western tribe who possessed the knowledge of the art. It resembled many fragments found in ossuaries in many parts of Canada. From the material used it is possible for archaeologists to tell if the man who made the pipe has mixed his own clay or has stolen it from his wife. Specimens from the Erie shore, Wentworth County, York Township, Brant County, Perth, Lanark County, Hastings County, Balsam Lake, Notawasaga and the rock cleft in the divide between the waters flowing into the Ottawa or the Bay of Quinte were described. Fragments found in Manitoulin Island when put together formed a jar remarkable for gracefulness of outline and design. The reader closed her interesting paper with the suggestion that a visit to the museum and an hour's study of the specimens of pottery in the valuable collection there would result in a wider knowledge of the subject than any paper could convey.

"Early Schools in Niagara" dealt

with the teachers in the district during the early part of the century. Accounts were given of the fees charged, the salaries paid and the subjects taught. Some amusing details of school notices and advertisements were also given.

Letters from the following authors who have done good work for Canadian historical literature were read by the Secretary, the writers acknowledging the compliment paid them by the society in electing them honorary members:—Rev. Drs. Scadding and Withrow, Wm. Kingsford, F.R.S.C., Wm. Kirby of Niagara, Rev. Canon Bull, Sandford Fleming, C.M., O. A. Howland, M.P.P., David Boyle, D. B. Read, Q.C., Col. G. T. Denison, Gilbert Parker and Mrs. C. P. Traill, the aged authoress of "Pearls and Pebbles." The last excited much interest, the writer being in the fifth month of her 95th year, and the letter showing no sign of weakening intellectual ability. All expressed interest in the aims and objects of the society, Gilbert Parker particularly asking that the society would command his services and give him an early opportunity to do anything in his power to strengthen its influence.

The first publication of the society was distributed to the members, and may be had on application to the Secretary, Miss Fitzgibbon, 63 Huntley street. The photographs of Cartier, Laval, Champlain, M<sup>me</sup>. de la Peltrie and Jeanne Mance presented by Miss Lefroy at a previous meeting were framed and laid on the table. Delegates to the Pioneer and Historical Association annual meeting in Hamilton on June 3rd were appointed, and other members invited to attend. The meeting then adjourned to meet again on June 6th.