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## The Presbyterian Review.

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### The New Moderator.

IT has been said that Presbyterian Churches never make a mistake in the selection of a moderator. However this may be with respect to all the branches of the Presbyterian Church it will hold with respect to Canada. A glance at the roll, now drawing near to a quarter of century in length, will show not only the fitness of the men called upon to occupy the chief place in the Church, but also their eminence in the various departments of work to which they devoted their strength.

Following those men Rev. Dr. Gordon can boast a lineage of which any church might well be proud. And to them he will prove a worthy successor. He occupies the chair with great ability; in fact is an ideal moderator. The tact, the personal impressiveness and magnetism so necessary are manifest in his every action—in his very restraint. His grasp of the business is thorough. He is master of the position and the wheels move smoothly and expeditiously under his direction. The Assembly can be very heartily congratulated on its choice, and the moderator on the harmony and fine feeling which prevailed during his presidency.

A few facts regarding his career will not be out of place here. He is 51 years of age and was born in Pictou, N. S. He received his education in Scotland at Glasgow University, from which University he graduated at an early age, taking the degree of M. A. He continued his theological studies in the same place, taking the degree of B. D. He returned to Canada, and about 1866 became minister of St. Andrew's church, Ottawa. He remained in that church until 1882, when he was called to Knox church, Winnipeg. In 1887 he was called to St. Andrew's church, Halifax, remaining there until 1894, when he was appointed to the chair of systematic theology and apologetics at the Presbyterian College, Halifax, the degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by his alma mater, Glasgow University.

### The Chair's Filled.

In one respect Friday's session furnished a surprise. It was not expected by many that the two vacant chairs at Knox College would be filled, the idea having gone abroad that probably one of them would be filled and the other kept open for another year on account of the state of the college finances. Then, it was not generally supposed that the Board would bring forward Mr. Ballantyne's name,

Mature thought will endorse the course followed in making both appointments, for it will be admitted that a complete staff will strengthen the college and the better enable its friends to work in its behalf to place the funds where they ought to be. Many will regret that Rev. Dr. Somerville was not made the occupant of the chair of Apologetics and Church History. He would have been a strong acquisition to the college faculty in many ways and his appointment would have been popular. He has been a devoted son of Knox, and has rendered invaluable service to his theological Alma Mater, and had the choice fallen upon him, he would have brought an enthusiasm for her to his work, as well as ability, which would be of great value. But, while still in the prime of life, it is more than probable that he was passed over on account of his having passed the meridian. It is held by educationists that specialists must take up their special lines at a comparatively early age so as to become thorough masters in them; hence the tendency to the appointment of young men as professors, noticeable in this decade. Of course the appointment of Mr. Ballantyne will give the utmost satisfaction. He was chosen after the greatest care had been bestowed upon the available list and his selection is only an additional testimony to his high attainments. He has still the freshness and susceptibility of youth. He is a graduate of Toronto University and of Knox College, and studied in Scotland, and Germany, paying special attention to Church History. He is also a good linguist and has the promise of growing in scholarship with his years. He is minister of Knox Church, Ottawa, and is a son of Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, ex. speaker of the Ontario Legislature.

His Colleague, Rev. Dr. G. L. Robinson, was decided upon by the College Board in April, and he is the unanimous choice of the Assembly. He has a brilliant record. He is a young man, having graduated from Princeton College in 1887. The following biographical sketch, copied from the Presbyterian Review of April 9th last, has appeared in the press: Dr. Robinson is a graduate of Princeton and on taking his degree there he spent three years in Beirut, Syria, as an instructor in the Protestant College in that place. He was thus brought into contact with the Orient and conceived a special taste for Oriental studies. This was particularly marked during his course of study in the Theological Seminary here from 1890 to 1893. While he stood well in all the departments of study in this institution, he showed a marked fondness and aptitude for Hebrew and the cognate languages, and for the Old Testament generally in its criticism and interpretation. During the summer vacations he attended the summer school at Chautauqua under the direction of Dr. Harper in order to perfect himself yet more in these favorite studies. His proficiency and quickness attracted the notice of President Harper, who offered him a fellowship in Chicago University. He preferred, however, to obtain his honors at Princeton, where he competed for the fellowship in Old Testament literature which was awarded to him upon his graduation. This carries with it an income of \$600 and the privilege of spending a year at some foreign university in Old Testament study. This was continued to him for a second year, a