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Toronto, June 21, 1894.

The New Moderator.

THE selection of Moderator is at all times a matter of interest. The position carries with it onerous duties. It is the chief office in the Church and in point of responsibility as well as honor is *facile princeps* among the higher positions of dignity which the Church has at her command. This is all the more in that the chief requirement is that personal influence and prestige which stirs the sentiment and moves to confidence and admiration of the people at large. The duties ought not and seldom do cease with the Sederunts of Assembly. Although not clearly defined in some respects, they are displayed in the course of the year in various ways, and on their successful and happy discharge very much indeed depends. It is thus seen that the Moderator's personality is of great importance and that in making a choice a careful selection is necessary. Thus it is also that the roll of Moderators contains only the names of distinguished fathers of the Church. A glance at that roll since 1875, when the Presbyterian Church in Canada emerged from the chrysalis, reveals the singularly good fortune of the Church in possessing such excellent men—and the equally singular wisdom displayed in the choice. Not a name that does not stand out prominently adorns the list.

The name added last week has a distinction quite unique. The first missionary Moderator of the Church, Dr. MacKay is her greatest representative abroad, a man around whose labors and personality there shines a halo of honorable renown, and who has drawn to himself the loving interest of the Church. It was as happy

an inspiration as it was unanimous that led to his nomination and election. For the full period of his ministry this far he has labored in Formosa, having left Canada in 1871 for that field. In these years he has been blessed with marvellous success, and his return on furlough in a year when the cause of Foreign Missions was enchaining the thought of the Church with unwonted power, it seemed most natural that his name should be on every lip as the man whom the Church delighted to honor. No doubt the year thus inaugurated will prove a great missionary year, and seldom has the need of such a stimulus as Dr. MacKay will prove, been felt, as in these stringent times, a view which clearly points to the hand of Providence in the choice made.

Dr. MacKay is in the prime of life. He is a great student as well as a great missionary. His eloquence is magnetic and his appeals on behalf of his beloved Formosa seldom fail in good results. His life being entirely devoted to his sphere of labor, his energies are absorbed chiefly in planning and working for that field, but his sympathies are wide, and while missionary effort will receive great attention from him as Moderator no interest of the Church will suffer at his hands. The graceful words in which he thanked the Assembly when he assumed office indicate his mind as to the broad character of his duty and the scope of the office to which he has been called, and it is safe to say that the general interests of the Church never were in safer hands.

Family Worship.

A distinguished English statesman made a tour of Scotland early this century and placed his impression on record. He was greatly surprised to hear in the one town, on a Sabbath morning, the voice of praise issuing from almost every house on one of the streets. His enquiries showed that family worship was prevalent in the town and that not only on Sabbath mornings, but every morning and evening in the week. In many towns and countrysides could the same state of things be found. Burns' Cottar was typical of the Scottish peasantry of the past generation, and no better mark of deep piety could be found than this daily worship at the family altar. It is the corner stone of religious life in any land. In Canada the church has always given much attention to this matter and no portion of the report on the State of Religion presented to the General Assembly is more interesting. The reference to family worship is worthy of the best consideration of our readers:—"For many years the Assembly has not failed to urge upon all concerned the importance of the matter and of definite information regarding it, but still many of the reports of session are, as the Synods say in chorus, "very vague." One session says distinctly that it is unable to give the information asked. Not much more satisfactory are fears that family worship is much neglected or very irregularly observed or not altogether