

physical well-being of mankind. The Gospel of our Divine Teacher has been preached in the remotest parts of the earth; temperance in all things has become more than at any previous period an accepted rule of human conduct; more adequate provision has been made for suffering humanity; the administration of justice has been placed on a more humane and otherwise satisfactory basis; great advances have been made in science and the arts; and the literature of the Victorian era surpasses that of any former period in breadth of thought and general excellence as well as in volume and popular appreciation." These sentences describe well the experience of Canada in the period concerned and to reign during a time of such prosperity of the highest kind is as unique as it is satisfactory.

THE NEW MODERATOR.

The pride which the Church takes in her moderators is justifiable and desirable. The position or office is important. As the nominal executive head of the Church, her important interests may be favourably influenced by his actions, and as the presiding officer over her General Assembly he maintains the prestige and dignity of her highest legislative body. The Moderator is supposed to reflect in himself more or less the many-sided character of the church. The ministers look to him as an example to be followed and the members as the embodiment of clerical excellence. And the fathers who have occupied the highest seat in the Presbyterian Church in Canada maintain the traditions of the office admirably. It is only necessary to think of the names of past Moderators to see how well the best thought and character of the church have been represented in them. Than Dr. Gordon just retired it would be difficult to name one man combining in himself the better elements of the Canadian ministry. Cultured, dignified, urbane, scholarly, and clear headed, he is a man strong in many parts. Dr. Robertson, Dr. Mackay, Dr. Caven, Dr. Grant and others, whose names are household names in Canada, whose personalities are distinct and outstanding and whose tenures as Moderators have been distinguished by material service to the church, are examples of the care exercised by the General Assembly in making a choice. This year two names were prominent in advance, either of which would have worthily filled a line on the ever growing roll. Dr. Campbell has placed the church under many obligations by his devotion to her interests in one of the great departments of her work and it was quite natural that many friends should have thought the time had come when he and his work should be honored. On the other hand Rev. Dr. Moore has been for many long years prominent in the ministry, as a faithful and beloved pastor, an able preacher and a fine type of the active, successful minister. His election was unanimous and was a graceful tribute to a worthy man. His fitness for the office of Moderator is of course, beyond doubt. He is one of the best fitted men in the Church for the position, and his regime will no doubt be marked with success as has been that of any of his predecessors. We extend to him our hearty congratulations, in which we are safe in saying the Church as a whole cordially joins. Ottawa, the Capital of the Dominion, will be particularly well-pleased that her respected minister has been thus signally honored, and Ottawa deserves the honor through Dr. Moore for Ottawa has been a most loyal field for the Church.

Rev. Dr. Moore was born in Ireland on February 25th, 1838. His parents entered Canada in 1843—the Disruption year—after a brief stay in the United States. They settled at Ingersoll, where the future Moderator was educated. His theological course was taken in

Knox College, which he entered in 1860. He afterwards studied at Princeton, being two years under the teaching of Dr. Charles Hodge. From 1865, he has been in the Canadian ministry, having had several appointments, but since 1866, minister of Bank St. Church, Ottawa. There he has passed an active life, taking part in the founding of the Ladies' College, an institution which owes no small share of its success to him. He has served on many of the Church committees, notable that on Foreign Missions. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by the University of Hanover.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

We are glad to observe that Rev. Dr. Caven has brought the question of religious education before the General Assembly. The report having reached us too late for our report of the proceedings of the General Assembly we produce the motion here so that it may reach our readers this week. It is a commendable resolution on an all important question:—"The General Assembly, while fully recognizing the fact that the duty of imparting detailed and adequate instructions on the doctrines of the Christian religion devolves primarily and mainly on the parent and the church, yet the church regards it of exceeding importance that all instructions given in our Public Schools should be in harmony with the revealed truth, and that the Bible should have the place in our educational system which its incomparable excellencies and its Divine authority claim for it. In order to assist in giving effect to its convictions, on a matter so vital, the General Assembly appoints a Committee on Public education, whose duty it shall be to act in the name of the church in any of the Provinces of the Dominion in relation to the subject of religious instruction in the Public Schools, and also to co-operate with any Synodical committee of our church or any committee representing any other branch of the church, whose views on this question may be in substantial accord with those of the General Assembly."

CHURCH STATISTICS.

The columns of figures presented by Dr. Torrance may not be inviting to the general reader, yet in the figures piled up are the proofs of the great work being accomplished by the Church. No one is more systematic than the Church statistician, and great clearness as well as conciseness characterize his reports, so that they are easily understood by the average mind. A study of these figures ought to be made by every office-bearer, at least, and by every member who can do so. To be familiar with the whole work of the Church or rather with the tabulated results of the whole work can not fail to help the Church worker in local circles. Not only will inspiration be derived from them, but a knowledge of the facts will give an intelligible basis of work not otherwise secured.

It is gratifying to glean from the statistics that the growth of the Church is gradual and steady, and that the advance is in directions the most interesting and vital in the circle of effort.

AN INDEPENDENT NEGRO CHURCH.

The action of the Southern General Assembly as to an independent Presbyterian church for the colored people is of great interest. The action is not final, but appoints a committee, with the Moderator, Dr. Goetchius, as chairman, to confer with the Presbyteries of colored people, now in connection with the Church. These Presbyteries are themselves not at all unanimous in desiring the separation. The plan of our Church's