

## PROFESSOR ROBINSON'S RESIGNATION.

THE resignation of Professor George L. Robinson will be laid before the Board of Knox College on Tuesday next.



PROF. GEO. L. ROBINSON, PH.D.

The news will come as a surprise to the Church, and will be received with much regret. During his short tenure of the professorship Dr. Robinson has endeared himself to those who have come in contact with him, and as an able teacher and tactful scholar, he has taken high rank. Scholarly and skillful, he has made a distinct impression on his class and won the esteem and confi-

dence of the students in a marked degree. He brought the teacher's instinct, the student's habit, the activity of youth and a gentlemanly grace of manner to bear on his work with results as satisfactory as they were to be expected. As a preacher he has also won golden opinions, and his withdrawal will remove a pulpit-power from the church, which has been as welcome as it has been readily given. A representative of the *PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW* was accorded an interview by Professor Robinson, from which we are able to give our readers a full statement of what has led to the professor's resignation.

"I was called," said Dr. Robinson, "on the same week on which I was called to Knox College, two years this coming June, to an Assistant Professorship in McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, with the promise that after two years satisfactory trial, I would be promoted to the full professorship with full salary, the chair being the same as that now at my disposal. That call, though it came on the Monday of the same week as that from the Canadian General Assembly, it was too late in point of priority for me to honorably consider it, for I had distinctly and explicitly told the McCormick authorities, two months previously, that unless their offer should be made before the 1st of June of that year, I would not have sufficient time to deal with the offer of the Board of Knox College, so that that Board would have an opportunity to act before the meeting of the General Assembly. I therefore came to Toronto, and came very willingly, having always had the desire to teach, and here I wish to say that I have spent at Knox two of the most delightful sessions in my life; sessions I have enjoyed, in every way, immensely.

"In July last," continued Dr. Robinson, "when in London, I had a letter from Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick, in which letter he asked if I would be willing to re-open the proposition of going to McCormick at the end of the second year, stating also that they could offer me now a full professorship with full salary. This proposition also included a secondary proposition that if I could come before the end of my second year here, so much the more would they be pleased. The second proposition I declined at once. The primary proposition I discouraged, but added the words, 'I really don't know why or what led me to do so, that to go to them at the end of the second year did not lie outside the range or circle of possibility, but that I had no good reason for laying down my work in Toronto, that the work at Knox College had been very satisfactory to me.

"During summer and autumn I revolved the question in my mind, contemplating it from every standpoint, looking at the relative importance of the two positions—the number of students in each, the strategic position of McCormick, etc., and I have steadily come to the conclusion that in McCormick, with its upwards of 150 students, there undoubtedly lies a sphere of greater usefulness and possibility, and that I honestly and conscientiously feel to be the controlling motive in wishing to make the change.

"As a young man I feel that I ought to be willing to go and stand where the social currents are against me, and in Chicago there is a greater need than in Toronto. The chair there, too, has been vacant for nearly four years—since the time of Dr. Bissel. They have had one assistant or Associate Professor but only temporarily. About the middle of December last I wrote to Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick, as president of the Board, giving him permission to go forward

in prosecuting a call if they saw fit, adding that I was still very contented in my work here, and that they could do as they chose. In connection with my letter the Board met on the 13th July and passed the following resolution:

Resolved: That the Board hereby expresses its preference for Rev. George L. Robinson, of Toronto, Canada, for the vacant chair of Old Testament Literature and Exegesis, and its purpose to elect him as Professor in said chair when he shall have transferred his Presbyterian membership to the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

Signed, "WALTER L. RANKIN,  
Secretary."

"In addition," said the professor, "I received a private communication from Mr. C. H. McCormick, to the effect that the salary of a full professor was \$3,500, and a home, and stating that all moving expenses would be defrayed. On the basis of this communication I handed in my resignation to Mr. W. Mortimer Clark, M.A., Q.C., on Friday of last week, and in doing so feel that I have laid down a most delightful work here in order to take up what I conceive to be a heavier burden in Chicago. The year there is seven months instead of six months here, and the number of students is more than 150. There are nine professors and associate professor and lecturers, some of the faculty being Dr. Herriek Johnson, Dr. Wilis Craig, Dr. Lenos, Dr. A. S. Carrier, Dr. Marquis. The seminary is endowed with about \$1,250,000, it is a rival with Princeton in point of numbers and importance."

"Did the McCormick authorities bring pressure to bear on you in connection with the vacancy?"

"No," replied Dr. Robinson, "they merely laid the case before me, cordially, and unmistakably in earnest, but there was no pressure. During the summer and autumn months I carefully considered the offer without consulting friends, feeling that such a question as I had before me should be solemnly decided and that by myself alone. I feel just as sincerely called to Chicago as I felt called in 1887 to go to Beirut, Syria, or in 1895 to go to Roxbury, Boston, or in 1896 to Knox College, here. My experience in these changes has been rather peculiar in view of the fact that I do not like the idea of changing, but of settling down to my life work, but the question is, where shall I put in the next years of my life? The thought has been in my mind that by refusing to go to Chicago I should be yielding selfishly to a preference which I always honestly had, not to live in the city of Chicago, rather than following the path of duty.

"I wish to affirm with all the honesty of my soul that I feel called there, and regret severing my connection with Knox College. My relations here with the faculty and the students have been such that I feel loth to go, and were it not for the sense of duty I would not go. But I am like a soldier sent to another station by the Great Commander, and did I not realize this I would not dare to give up my present work.

"My last word in going will be that I have been thoroughly happy here and most courteously treated by all my acquaintances in Toronto. My desire and prayer is that the Board, Alumni and the Church may soon make a happy choice for the vacancy which my retirement will create."

The last sentence of Professor Robinson's frank and interesting interview contains the kernel of the situation caused by his retirement. The College Board will have a difficult duty before them, more difficult than it was to fill the vacancy before Dr. Robinson's appointment, for his abilities have set a standard which must at least be maintained. But names occur even now which would adorn the faculty roll, and the prudence and good judgment of the Board may be trustingly depended upon to give wise direction as to the decision of the Assembly when the proper time comes.

Many reports of annual meetings of congregations have had to be held over owing to pressure on space. These will appear next week, and until all shall have been published.