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Toronto, June 20, 1895.

The New Moderator.

THE election of Rev. Dr. MacKay's successor to the moderator's chair illustrates the dominant idea of church work at the present time. Dr. MacKay's election last year was not only a fitting tribute to a man whose singular success in the Foreign Field had drawn upon him the eyes of the civilized world, but a reflection of the enthusiasm with which the cause of Foreign Missions had stirred the heart of the church as a whole. Foreign Missions were in the ascendancy and Dr. MacKay's furlough coincided with that fact. Now, the moving spirit, the great worker in pioneer fields in the Home Mission department, Rev. Dr. Robertson of Winnipeg, has received the highest honor of his church and the fact is significant. It shows that the Presbyterian Church is wedded to the cause of Missions and that the importance of the work in the Home Field is not lost sight of. Without doubt Dr. Robertson's arduous labors have been taken into account in his election. His personal qualities and his energy, zeal, and solid abilities have endeared him to the church and on whatever position he might have been called upon to fill he would have risen high and be a fit occupant of the Moderator's chair. But with esteemed fathers such as Dr. Gregg and Dr. Warden available, Dr. Robertson will attribute his election to the aroused interest which is being taken in the vast territory over which he exercises a superintending care and the necessities and possibilities of which he has made familiar to the church from sea to

sea. In this work Dr. Robertson has been singularly successful. He has given his strength to his charge with a devotion and a wisdom rare even in a leader of men, and has combined with those qualities of heart and head which are necessary for the gentle management of agents and people, a knowledge of business and a shrewd judgment which have come to the aid of settlers in their civil affairs.

Dr. Robertson has been in the ministry since 1869 and was appointed Superintendent of Missions in the North West in 1881, from Knox Church Winnipeg of which he was pastor. He is a Gaelic speaking Highlander, a Perthshire man grafted on Canadian stock and is typical of the best grade of the Kelto-Canadian. As illustrating the difficulties encountered in the western stations the following extract from a letter in the Free Church of Scotland Monthly may be given:—
"One of the missionaries in the great North-West, writing rejoicingly of the completion of a church building valued at \$1,500 (£300), free of debt, says: 'The work of the building, laying foundations, hauling lumber, etc., was furnished by the ranchers and the pastor. Not a cent was paid out for the work of building the church. One made the doors, and well made they were. Another, with his two sons, plastered the walls and built chimneys. Others did all they could, and the few really interested deserve the greatest praise for giving all they could of what they did possess. It is the first plastered building for 100 miles, so far as we can learn, and the only church within 200 miles on the Canadian side, and nearly 150 on the American side. It is twenty-two by thirty-three feet, will seat 150 people, and we have a stove that will warm it comfortably. I have been enabled to get another horse in place of the one we sold to buy shingles. I did most of the hauling of lumber for the church. All the week previous to the opening I was up till twelve and two o'clock to get the church finished inside, so you may believe I was tired on the Sabbath of opening. I had no brother minister with me; but of this I am sure, there could never have been a more thankful man than I was on that occasion. I was so glad to face the valley people in our very own building. I cannot tell how thankful we are to the kind friends who have aided us in its erection.'"

With people of such a calibre no obstacle will prove insurmountable. Now that the leader of the West is placed at the head of the church we shall expect that the claims of his field will be kept conspicuously before the people and that the response shall be worthy of the work and of the men who labor so earnestly in the cause of Christ in that portion of the vineyard, and who on the showing of the report submitted by the Home Mission Committee, are often allowed to suffer for the want of sufficient help. By