

OVERTURE *RE* ELDER-MODERATOR.

POINTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
CANADA (UNOFFICIAL).

The Reverend

DEAR SIR,—

Please receive, with my compliments, two copies of the following tract which I have gone to the expense and trouble to prepare, one for yourself, and the other for the representative Elder of your congregation. It flashed on my mind, at the last General Assembly, that the brethren generally had not at their disposal the means of fully informing themselves on the historical bearings of the question, and so I withdrew my amendment, and resolved to do what I am now doing.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT CAMPBELL.

68 St. Famille Street, Montreal,
November 12th, 1918.

To avoid confusion and misunderstanding, it is necessary at the threshold of the discussion, to call attention to the fact that the Westminster divines recognize, in their "Form of Church Government," which is part of our charter, only one class of Presbyters (Elders), and these are ordained Ministers; while they as stoutly maintain that "Christ hath furnished some in His Church, beside the Ministers of the word, with gifts for government, and with commission to execute the same when called thereunto, who are to join with the Ministers in the government of the Church." These are spoken of not as Elders but "Church Governors" or "ruling officers," "which officers," they Remark, "reformed Churches commonly call Elders," although they do not endorse the propriety of the title. The scriptural equivalent of these officers is "*helps, governments,*" mentioned by the Apostle Paul. In the discussion which follows, while for the sake of convenience, the term "Ruling Elder" is employed, it is in this qualified sense.