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The Opening of Parliament.

THE Parliament of Canada was opened by the Earl of Minto, the Governor-General on Thursday. It seems so short a time since we had the esteemed members of both Houses in Ottawa last but they can never come too often, provided they spend as much of their indemnity as possible among us. There was the usual stir about The Opening, the civil service half holiday, the swagger officers in military uniform, the crowd on The Hill, the brave show of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards with their nodding plumes and shining helmets, the rolling up the drive-way of the Representative of the King, the presenting of arms by the Guard of Honor, the inspiring strains of the National Anthem, the appearance of Black Rod in the House of Commons, the crush in the Senate Chamber, the reading of the Speech from the Throne and, finally, the triumph of wealth over the merely well-to-do when at the Drawing Room on Saturday night some women were enabled to be presented to Their Excellencies in gowns different from that worn at The Opening on Thursday.

We have not mentioned that solemn and stately function of The State Dinner at Government House on Thursday night. We have never been there, but can imagine that all frivolity is banished for the occasion, and that a number of men who have to sit up very straight inside of brass buttons and a gold lace collar long for the hour to arrive when they can get home and get into their slippers. There is some compensation in the thought that the wine is probably of the best and the viands well cooked. And after all Rideau Hall is a home-like old place and its occupants usually unbend as far as they may without hurting their truly Vice Regal Status. If it was the Sergeant-at-Arms who gave a state dinner he would have to maintain a certain dignity.

By the way a curious thing about this State Dinner at the opening of Parliament, while deputy-ministers are invited, and even the Mayor of the municipal corporation of Ottawa, members of the Senate and members of the Commons are disregarded. It seems to us that a real state dinner con-