

Children of Vice-Royalty.

AN INTERESTING SKETCH OF THE YOUTHFUL LORDS AND LADIES OF RIDEAU HALL.

By Ella Walton.

THE love of children is a sympathetic link that binds together those who live under diverse conditions of life. That their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Minto, are very popular in Ottawa, is owing as much to the fact that they are seen and known in their social and family relations, as that they are the representatives of Imperialism.

At Rideau Hall are five children, so bright and bonny that they would attract attention anywhere, even were it not known who they were. Living a happy, joyous life, with a father and mother who take an interest in all their sports and pleasures, though full of life and spirit, they are polite and considerate of the feelings of others. To use the words of Orderly Rogers, who has held his position at Rideau Hall for 20 years, "they are the most lovable and best behaved children I ever knew."

Lady Eileen Elliot is the eldest. Canadians claim her as a daughter, for she was born a little over 15 years ago at Rideau Cottage, the residence of the Governor-General's military secretary, in the Rideau Hall grounds—Lord Minto, then Vicount Melgund, being at that time on the staff of Lord Lansdowne.

Lady Ruby Elliot is two years younger than her sister, and, like her, resembles very strongly the lovely and fascinating Countess of Minto, their mother.

Then there is Lady Violet Elliot, age, ten in years, but a hundred in wisdom. She is what is known as an "old-fashioned child" and has original and strong opinions of her own. Knowing how fond of skating the vice-regal people are, a lady at the last skating party asked Lady Violet, who was taking off her skates, if she liked skating. "No, I hate it," was the very decided answer given.

Lord Melgund is eight years old. He is a very bright, manly boy, indeed, and looks and appears much older than he is.

Hon. Esmond Elliot is four years old, and is as great a pet as any little child is who is the youngest of the family. He is known at home as "Commy," short for Commodore, Lady

Minto's pet name for her little boy. This was the "Major Bullbobs," who drilled the "Fusty Wusties," at the theatricals held at Rideau Hall in the winter. It brought down the house when Mr. Arthur Guise, A.D.C., who is six feet, three inches, in his socks, gravely saluted the little major, who never smiled, but took it all as a serious matter.

The four oldest children all ride remarkably well. Lady Eileen and Lady Ruby Elliot skate better than most Canadian girls of the same age, and are also very graceful dancers.

Three of the brightest, largest, and sunniest guest-chambers at Rideau Hall have been turned into a nursery and two schoolrooms. Five hours a day are given to study under the two governesses, one French and one German, so that life at Rideau Hall, as elsewhere, is not all play.

The photographs of the children of their Excellencies, the Earl and Countess of Minto, were taken for LIFE, for the above article, by Lancefield, Ottawa.



LADY EILEEN ELLIOT.



LADY VIOLET ELLIOT.



LADY RUBY ELLIOT.



HON. ESMOND ELLIOT and LORD MELGUND.