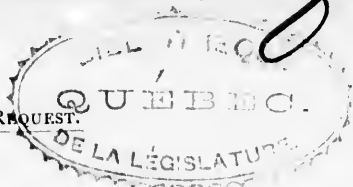# THE ELGIN PERIOD.

THE LATE HONORABLE MRS. ROBERT BRUCE—
INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

(Ottawa Citizen, 12th February, 1890.)

There has recently passed away at one of the Royal Palaces in London, a lady of the Queen's household—the Hon. Mrs. Robert Bruce-- whose loss will be keenly felt by Her Majesty, and by other surviving friends at home and abroad. In Canada, where Mrs. Bruce long resided, her memory will be pleasantly associated with a notable period in our domestic history—that covering the years when her noble kinswoman, the Countess of Elgin, ably supported by the lady now no more, graciously dispensed a munificent hospitality, first at "Monklands," then at "Elmsley Villa," and subsequently at the historic "Spencer Wood." Not a few of the friends of those days have preceded the lamented lady to the unknown land, but there are happily still with us a few to unite in paying a tribute, however inadequate, to departed worth and goodness. Our recollections of Mrs. Bruce go back to her, first as a young and happy bride. She was the daughter of Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart, 6th Baronet of Blackhall, and was married, in 1848, to Colonel Robert Bruce, of the Grenadier Guards, the singularly handsome brother of Lord Elgin, then Governor-General of Canada. The young couple came at once to Montreal, where the seat of Government then was, Colonel Bruce being appointed Military Secretary and Principal A.D.C. to his brother. Mrs. Bruce's fine personal appearance and cheerful and winning demeanour soon made her a particular favourite in society, and her praises were universal. The times became out of joint, however, for the practice, to any considerable extent, of the social amenities. There was mischief in the air. The passing of the Rebellion Losses' Bill by Lord Elgin threw the country into a ferment of excitement, and for a time there was a grand upheaval, social as well as political. The painful events following—the burning of the Parliament Buildings and the mobbing of the Queen's Representative, with other enormities—are fully set forth