

*THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.*

A very small, but acrimonious portion of the Canadian press having permitted itself a most undignified reference to the Countess of Aberdeen, the Canadian Freeman, of Kingston, deals with the unmanful allusions to the noble lady in a style worthy the distinguished personage assailed and befitting the dignity of the Catholic press. The *Owl* learns with pleasure that the article is from the pen of an Alumnus of Ottawa University and is pleased to be able to reproduce it. EDITORS.

**O**F all the baseness that man may perpetrate, we know of none so dark and unforgiveable as that of attempting to belie and belittle a noble woman. To this unmanly and unchristian task a section of the Opposition press has for some weeks, with an assiduity and fervor worthy some noble cause, devoted itself, with one result, however, that of enthroning more deeply and lastingly in the national heart the illustrious lady who has without any fault of her own, excited such brazen, shameless and indecent hostility. Who is the lady assailed? None other than that eminent and most womanly of women, the distinguished and unselfish Countess of Aberdeen, a lady who, since her arrival in Canada, has devoted every thought and every purpose to the extending of the refining and elevating influences for good at her command, influences which this country, like all other countries, rejoices to see worthily brought into active exercise. We needed, and we need, let us say it with all emphasis, the amiable consort of His Excellency the Governor - General, in Canada, for know we not that

Woman's empire, holier, more refined,  
Moulds, moves, and sways the fallen yet God-breathed  
mind.  
Lifting the earth-crushed heart to hopes and heaven.

The vice-regal home in Canada has been presided over, in turn, by ladies who by every womanly gift and grace and charm have endeared themselves

to our people. but safe are we, in saying, that not one of these illustrious ladies, and to their merits no Canadian can afford to be in the least blind, has left such an impression of goodness, self-denial and unselfishness as Lady Aberdeen has already stamped upon our national life. No sooner had the Countess of Aberdeen touched our shores than she resolved to do all that in her sphere lay-- (and who will deny the extent and comprehension of that sphere)-- to benefit the women of Canada. Not upon this high purpose did she enter to becloud the memories of other noble ladies, her predecessors, but to give scope to sympathies and to activities peculiar, indeed, to womanhood, but to whose exercise not all women are adapted or even called. Lady Aberdeen felt, in her own noble soul, the call to these refining and delicate duties, whose accomplishment, in season and out of season, and in the face of difficulties that had tried and tired a less heroic heart, marked her out as one of Canada's richest and best benefactresses. The Countess of Aberdeen's whole course in this country, in all her efforts to enlarge our women's usefulness and solidify their influence, has acted as a true Christian woman, We hail her presence to this country as the beginning of a new social era. We are a young people. We have much to learn and from whom can we learn it better than from so gracious, so kindly, so tender and amiable a lady as the