

poor, and the Duchess of Albany, who has shown a special care for the needy classes at Deptford and elsewhere.

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

Passing by these royal ladies, we come to one who has represented the sovereign in a viceregal position—I refer to the Countess of Aberdeen, who has left behind her in Canada so many happy traces of Christian words and deeds. A little while before the Earl and Countess sailed for Canada, they entertained Colonel John Hay, who is now Secretary of State in Washington. He was asked to write some verses in the visitors' book at Haddo House, and these are the lines he penned:

Ask me not here amid these storied halls,
Vowed to traditions of high strenuous
duty,
Where faces of dead statesmen deck the
walls
With righteous glory's ever living beauty:
Ask me not here to turn a careless rhyme,
It ill would suit the solemn place and hour
When Haddo's Lord bears to a distant clime
The Gordon conscience backed by Bri-
tain's power."

The "Gordon conscience" has always been a distinguished possession of both the Earl and the Countess of Aberdeen, and they carried out their duties of State in the great Dominion with the same high purpose that had made them so beloved in Dublin during the Earl's brief regime as Viceroy. Lady Aberdeen always attributes to Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone much of the impulse toward social service which has made her so earnest a worker. She said the other day: "I dare not speak much of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, for my husband and I have ever felt ourselves almost adopted children in their house. They are associated with the memories of us both in childhood—they were friends of both our parents—and Mr. Glad-

stone has often said that Lord Aberdeen's grandfather, the Premier, was the one statesman of his earlier years whom he loved. And as time went on, our lives became more and more closely associated with theirs, both from a public and a private standpoint. We spent our last night in the Old Country beneath their roof, and when I came home it was to Hawarden that I went first after landing, as a matter of course."

Perhaps next to the Gladstone influence, which made the Countess think seriously of the responsibilities of life, even when as a girl she rode on her pony beside Mr. Gladstone at Guisachan, came the strong and beautiful influence of Professor Henry Drummond. "The scientific religionist of the hour," as Professor John Stuart Blackie called him, had a special message to cultivated people who desired a fuller consecration of their powers, and he made a deep impression upon Lord and Lady Aberdeen, which has lasted to this day. These two distinct personalities point to the two aspects in which Lady Aberdeen has appeared to the public eye. She has been a keen believer in the right of women to take a hand in political affairs, but above and beyond this she has seen the opportunity which awaits all earnest women in the sphere of Christian work.

Lady Aberdeen has a warm place in her heart for poor children. Frequently when Dollis Hill was their home the Earl and Countess would entertain large parties of waifs, and nothing gives her greater pleasure than the sight of East End children dancing round the May-pole at one of those May Day festivals which the ladies at the settlements love to organize. When General Booth made his appeal on behalf of "Darkest England," the Earl and Countess were among the earliest donors of £1,000. The Ragged School Union,