



AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE



Queen Alexandra.

HER MAJESTY.

IT is difficult to believe that Queen Alexandra has reached the age of sixty-four—but such is the relentless fact as stated by the professional chronicler. The consort of King Edward was the eldest daughter of the late King of Denmark and was given in baptism the imposing name: Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louisa Julia. The fairies, which are always near at the baptism of a princess, according to the tales of our child-

hood, were good to the "sea-kings' daughter" who opened her eyes on the first of December, 1844. Beauty, dignity and gentleness have ever belonged to this queen who, even unto to-day, seems to have preserved the grace of youth.

In the March of 1863, Princess Alexandra became the wife of the heir to the British throne and in 1901, on the death of Queen Victoria, the Danish princess became Queen Consort in the island realm which her ancestors had ardently coveted. Queen Alexandra has always shown womanly consideration for the unfortunate and suffering and has recently put forth special effort in behalf of the royal hospitals. She is exceedingly feminine, also, in her appreciation of pretty gowns and jewels and in her delight in an old-fashioned garden, to say nothing of a model dairy.

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THE UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE.

WHATEVER the student who lives two hundred years from now may think of the problems which vexed the world of 1908, he will come to the conclusion that the education of woman attracted a vast deal of attention in the years which stretch between 1878 and 1908. The girl with a university degree excites neither curiosity nor wonder in the Canada of to-day; yet it is not thirty years since the first woman graduate left the University of Toronto. Queen's University was earlier in the day of the woman graduate, but the Maritime Provinces declare, that the very first woman to carry off a "B.A." parchment from a Canadian university was a student in the East. That is right and proper, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are the academic acres of this broad Dominion and make a serious business of supplying college presidents for the uttermost parts of Canada and a few favoured spots in the United States.

The classes at our Canadian universities have increased so rapidly that the question of residence for this host of girl students has become a pressing problem. The conservatories of music and art schools are also attracting their hundreds and the matter of where these girls shall have a home, during the years of study, is one which must be considered. The needs of the business girl are also urging themselves upon public attention but the student is our present object of concern. At this point, some masculine reader may ejaculate: "What is the matter with the girls? Why can't they stay at home and learn from their mothers how to bake, sew and manage a house?" Whatever may be the force of such interrogation, we have to deal with the simple fact that hundreds of girls are not at

home but are filling the classes of universities and studios. We are not writing about Utopia, but about Toronto, Montreal or Winnipeg.

Have you ever been in the "average" boarding-house for university students? The girl who is in quest of the higher education must be very much in earnest when she endures four years of it. Again the critical reader may ask: "Why does she not attend a girls' college, where she will have the school residence?" Because, my inquiring sir, these girls wish to have a university education and have the courage of their ambition. Personally, I prefer the university for women, but such institutions as Smith, Wellesley and Bryn Mawr are to be found only in the United States, and Canada must wait many a year ere such universities adorn the provinces. We must make the best of existing conditions, while we hope for an ampler day.

Montreal has a fairy godfather, Lord Strathcona, who, in 1899 saw the opening of his gift college, the Royal Victoria, an institution which gives an opportunity of residence and college life to the women students of McGill University. There is a splendid solidity about this imposing grey pile, which distinguishes the city of Montreal and the woman visitor, as she passes from reception room to corridors, class-rooms and assembly hall, blesses the generosity of Montreal's most liberal citizen. However, the Royal Victoria College is much more than a residence, and to its wide halls we hope to return at a later day to learn more of its varied life.

The Canadian "Residence," which affords a college home for the greatest number of young women students is Annesley Hall, associated with Victoria College, Toronto. A recent luncheon in behalf of the Victoria Women's Residence at which women, prominent in educational and church circles of Toronto, discussed the necessity for such an institution, naturally gives rise to general interest in the history of Annesley Hall. In the year 1896 the will of the late Hart A. Massey bequeathed to the Board of Regents of Victoria University the sum of



Annesley Hall, Women's Residence, Victoria College, Toronto.

fifty thousand dollars to erect a residence for the women attending Victoria College. The next year, the women interested in providing proper surroundings for the women students formed themselves into an association whose object it was to collect the purchase money for a site. Mrs. N. Burwash, Mrs. Massey Treble and the late Mrs. George A. Cox were a trio whose firm belief in the project and financial support contributed largely towards its success. On October 1st, 1903, the Hall was ready for its students, who, by their prompt arrival in large numbers showed how urgent had been the demand for such an institution. A committee of management, consisting of earnest and public-spirited women has been in charge of the Hall since the opening, and is now making every effort towards extension and complete equipment.

The advantages of the residence for university students are so great that their mere consideration should inculcate a desire to aid in its foundation and

extension. Trinity College, Toronto, and the Provincial University, itself, have residences which must some day be greatly enlarged; but Annesley Hall, owing to the energy and munificence of those who established it, has exceeded all others in attendance and equipment. From the report of 1906-1907, as presented by the Dean, Miss M. E. T. Addison, we learn that the Hall was so filled with undergraduates that a new house called the Annesley Hall Annex was opened, to receive the overflow students. The Hall accommodates fifty-four students, the Annex twenty-three. The year before Annesley Hall was opened, there were in attendance at Victoria College forty-seven women undergraduates. In the year 1906-1907 there were in daily attendance ninety-five, of whom fifty-seven were in "residence" at Annesley Hall.

The university girl who is living in the ordinary city boarding-house is in great danger of neglecting physical exercise. The "residence" rules, mild as they are, allow no such ignoring of the demands for basket-ball, tennis, skating or gymnasium practice. On a winter night, one of the brightest corners in Toronto is the rink near Annesley Hall, where the student is in no danger of forgetting the exercise which is to preserve Miss Canada's rosy cheeks. Heaven preserve us from the ultra-athletic young woman! We desire no feminine "Longboat," to develop muscle at the expense of brains and common-sense. But it is essential that our university girls should have opportunity to exercise lungs and limbs, while they are steadily pursuing their way towards a degree.

The domestic science development of college life has appealed strongly to many of the Annesley Hall residents with happy results. From the address delivered by Principal Hutton at the Annual Meeting of the Victoria Women's Residence and Educational Association last March, may be quoted this characteristic and felicitous paragraph:

"Should not the same scientific ardour inspire the votaries of domestic science? Should not the same intellectual zeal be competent utterly to burn up and consume the weariness which otherwise attends the creation of those lesser works of art—so ephemeral, alas, and needing to be so continually renewed—which proceed from the kitchen oven and from the laundry tub? Then, in that glorious day which is to be, the cook in the kitchen, standing over her scientific cooking-stove, the maid in the garden, hanging out the scientifically laundried clothes, the queen in the parlour, testing scientific honey, each and all in their vocations supreme, will be unconscious of and indifferent to heat and black-birds and sticky aprons: household science will have healed all the present petty miseries of the house-keeper's life."

The Canadian woman who visits the United States cannot but be impressed by the interest taken by our sisters to the South in the education of women and by the generosity with which they come to the financial aid of college or academy. We have not the wealth of Chicago, Philadelphia or New York. But from such store as we have, of bullion or of brains, let us give more lavishly that the Canada To Come may claim more than a century for her own.

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A CRITICAL ALDERMAN.

ALDERMAN HALES, a worthy citizen of Toronto, took a trip to Hamilton the other day and made an impressive speech to the people of the Mountain Town, in the course of which he remarked that Toronto women are given to tarrying long at the cocktail and playing the game of bridge to an unhealthy extent.

It is true that in every city of the Dominion there are women who are gamblers and drunkards. That Toronto, with a population close on three hundred thousand, has more than her share of these undesirables, may be doubted. Such women may always be found where there are empty heads and weak wills and it is questionable whether they are worth much discussion.

While there may be women of Toronto's slums or "new rich" set who are bridge fiends and drunkards, the mass of women in Toronto, as in other Canadian towns, are sober and sensible. The drunken minority will soon destroy itself and is hardly worth indignation or sympathy. It is not going to overturn the Dominion, the Province or the City.