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MR. AND MRS. GLADSTONE BIDDING FAREWELL TO LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN ON THE DAY OF THEIR DEPARTURE FOR CANADA.
(From a Kodak taken by Lady Aberdeen.)

somewhat of the more genial and brighter joy of the larger hope.

In all questions connected with education and of the multiplication of opportunities of social enjoyment and of humanized intercourse they have, in England, been in the forefront, and their transfer to the New World will open up new fields to their untiring activity. Lord Aberdeen is president of the Boys' Brigade, an admirable institution by which it has been found that the interest of youths in the most critical period can be excited by the substitution of a little discipline and drill for the usual methods of the Sunday school. Both Lord Aberdeen and his wife have taken a great part in the formation and maintenance of the Parents' Educational Union. With them, as with all those who really think, the family is the real unit with which all amelioration must begin, and in emphasizing the responsibilities of parentage and in carrying on the propaganda in favor of more home training they have done and will do a great deal of good.

To the directly political action which a Governor-General can take it is not necessary to refer here. As Lord Dufferin remarked, when times are smooth and things go well there is little for a Governor-General to do beyond lubricating the machinery, but when storms arise and the machinery gets out of gear there are plenty of opportunities for a Governor-General to develop the higher qualities of statesmanship. In Canada there is a widespread conviction, confined by no means to the Opposition, that we are on the verge of a transformation of power from the Conservatives who have succeeded to the heritage of Sir John Macdonald's prestige to the Grits or Liberals, who are confidently looking forward to gaining a majority at the coming general election. It is not likely that the majority which will change the reins

of power from Sir John Thompson to those of Mr. Laurier will be large, unless, of course, the tariff proposals of Mr. Wilson should lead to a great accession of strength to the advocates of a reformed tariff in the Dominion. It is by no means impossible that if the tariff bill is carried the advocates of reciprocity between Canada and the United States may be able to establish themselves in power at Ottawa, with instructions from the electors to minimize the curse of a custom house which impedes the free interchange of commodities between the United States and Canada. If such a contingency should arrive it is obvious that there would be plenty of work for the Governor-General to do, and it is satisfactory to know that Lord Aberdeen is certain

to use all his influence in the direction of maintaining good relations between the Empire and the Republic.

There is another thing which it is impossible to pass over entirely unnoticed, although it is unnecessary to say more than a word about it. When I was going through Ottawa Jail Mr. McGreevy, a well known director and Member of Parliament, who had for years past been the friend and ally of the leading ministers of the Dominion, was sent to jail for a year on the charge of corruption in the matter of contracts which had got mixed up with election funds. The gangrene of corruption, which undoubtedly prevails to some extent among politicians in Canada, is one of those frauds against the commonwealth which call for the unceasing vigilance of the Governor-General. In what way it may be possible for Lord Aberdeen to take action in the matter it is impossible to say. Two things, however, are certain: first, that he will loyally abide within the limits of the constitution, but not less certainly, if an opportunity arises by which he can within these limits strike a blow at the malady which afflicts the commonwealth, no personal considerations will for a moment stand in the way of any action, which will be all the more resolute because it will be heralded by no flourish of trumpets or preliminary parade.

I have left myself but scant space in which to speak of the Aberdeens at home. It is a wide subject; for not only have they many homes, but they are at home everywhere, and they have the faculty of making everybody feel at home where they are. Whether it is a ranch in British Columbia, at the family seat in Aberdeenshire, in Lord Shaftesbury's house in Grosvenor Square, which they rebuilt for their own use, or at Dollis Hill, the suburban retreat which has so often afforded Mr. Gladstone a welcome oasis of leis-