

the rest of his life in retirement. He was, however, sufficiently free from Jacobitism to take the oath of allegiance when Queen Anne came to the throne. He was said to have been the solidest statesman in Scotland, the first of a line of which the present Governor-General is no unworthy representative.

It would be a mistake, however, to imagine that the Aberdeens descend solely from the conservatives or aristocrats of the world. Lady Aberdeen owes her family name of Marjoribanks to the grant of certain lands made by King Robert the Bruce to his daughter, Marjorie, who married the High Steward Johnstone, whose family in time substituted the name Majoribanks for their own more prosaic one. But not only is Lady Aberdeen associated by her ancestors with the patriot hero of Scottish history, there is in her family story one of the most romantic incidents which occur seldom far from that mystic borderland of old romance which divided England from Scotland. Among her ancestors she counts the famous Grizel Cochrane, whose reckless daring saved her father's life. It was in the last years of King James' reign and Grizel's father, Sir John Cochrane, of Ochiltree, was lying in Edinbro under sentence of death. All efforts to secure his pardon failed. The death warrant, signed in London, was forwarded by mail to Edinbro; on its arrival Sir John was to die. Despair gives courage to the most timid, and Grizel Cochrane, seeing that there was only one chance left, seized it with intrepidity. Disguising herself as a highwayman she waylaid the Royal mail, and clapping a pistol to the driver's head compelled him to give up the death warrant. As soon as she possessed herself of the fatal document she rode off and soon had the pleasure of thrusting it into the fire. Whether out of consideration for the heroism of the exploit or because of the Revolution is not stated, but Sir John was ultimately pardoned.

Lord Aberdeen also boasts a Grisell among his ancestors, who, by the way, makes him a direct descendant of John Knox. Among all men born on Scottish soil there is none greater or more universally esteemed than the great Reformer. Lady Grisell Baillie married the son of Robert Baillie, the martyr, who was John Knox's great grandson. Lord Aberdeen's grandmother was Lady Grisell's great granddaughter. Robert Baillie was one of the martyrs for Christ's Crown and Covenant, whose sufferings have done so much to glorify the history of Scotland and to dignify the Scotch character. It is a very pretty story, that of Lady Grisell and of her visits to the martyr as he lay in the Tolbooth waiting for death. It has features which suggest that Grisell was the original of Robert Louis Stevenson's latest heroine. Grisell played her part faithfully and nobly. She could not save Robert Baillie, but her heroism and beauty won the heart of his son George, whom she married after the Revolution of 1688 had made it safe for honest folks to marry and be given in marriage. Lady Grisell was a poet as well as a heroine, and fragments of her minstrelsy to this day enliven the hours of the Scottish peasants.

## II. THE PRIME MINISTER.

The most notable name among all the ancestors of the Governor-General is that of his grandfather, Earl of Aberdeen, Prime Minister of the Queen in the middle of the present century. How great and good, how ideally perfect a character he was has but recently been revealed to the world. In the useful and interesting series of the Queen's Prime Ministers which Mr. Stuart Reid is editing the most interesting volume is that which Sir Arthur Gordon has devoted to the story of the Earl of Aberdeen. It is a narrative which tends to deepen and reassure our faith in human nature, and especially in the native virtues of the English-speaking race. The discovery of a great personality is to the historian what the finding of a nugget is to the miner who is prospecting for gold. To come upon a pure lump of metal lying in an out of a way place is of much more importance than the intrinsic value of the particular nugget. Its importance arises from the fact that it suggests the presence of other nuggets of equal value which have not yet been discovered, but may be revealed in that gold bearing stratum. You rise from the perusal of Sir Arthur Gordon's monograph feeling that the world, and especially the British public, is richer in human worth and almost ideal goodness than you suspected before you turned over its pages.

Lord Aberdeen as Prime Minister closed his official career amid the dark clouds and sombre discouragement of the Crimean War. Owing to that unfortunate circumstance by which he was overwhelmed in a catastrophe that he had in vain endeavored to avert, his real merits as a statesman were overshadowed, and it was not until his son's biography appeared that men began to appreciate the greatness of Lord Aberdeen as an imperial statesman. The memory of such a man and the story of the services which he was able to render the Empire is a perpetual incentive to his grandson, whose shoulders are not unequal even to the burden of the heritage of so great a name. Lord Aberdeen before he was 30, had to play a part in the history of Europe which is without a parallel. He was sent as special emissary from England to the camp of the allies when coalesced Europe was rising to throw off the tyranny of Napoleon. During the whole of the campaign which culminated in the Battle of Leipsic and the triumphal entrance of the allies into Paris Lord Aberdeen was the intimate adviser and trusted confidant of the Emperor of Austria and of most of the crowned heads of Europe. Seldom had a young man so great a rôle to play, and seldom has any one fulfilled so difficult a part with so brilliant a success. Nature and education had alike fitted him for the position. A rare scholar, familiar with modern languages, at home equally in court and camp, of a transparent sincerity and simplicity, which enabled him to command the confidence of the sovereigns and statesmen with whom he was thrown into constant contact, Lord Aberdeen contributed as much as any man to the success of the great European revolt against Napoleon. In his son's pages we catch glimpses from time to time of this high spirited, chiv-