

one, and that one should be himself. No doubt from his own standpoint, however, he was abundantly justified; and for the general interests of the Empire we cannot but rejoice that Lord Aberdeen should have been provided with a sphere of influence immeasurably more important than that which he would have had as a Viceroy at Dublin.

At first there seemed some doubt as to whether they would have gone to India or would accept the Governor-Generalship of Canada. During the Conservative administration he had traveled together with Lady Aberdeen over the whole of the British Empire, including India. There is scarcely a colony or dependency which they did not visit. But apart from Ireland there was no post in the Empire more congenial to Lord and Lady Aberdeen than the Governor-Generalship of the Dominion of Canada. Canada reminded them in many points of their own native land, and they had been very much impressed with the future of the country. A few years ago they had established a kind of country seat for themselves in the ranching lands of British Columbia. There they retired from time to time away from the incessant round of duties which occupied them at Dollis Hill and at Haddo House. They had repeatedly visited the country, and, as an eminent official said to me, they brought to the Governor-Generalship more personal knowledge of Canada than most Governor-Generals are able to acquire in the course of their office.

The term of office of Lord Stanley, the present Earl of Derby, did not expire till last midsummer. As soon as he retired Lord Aberdeen was appointed. Lord Stanley as Governor-General was somewhat colorless. Lord Stanley, although respectable and honest, has left no definite impress upon his contemporaries either in London or in Canada. But to Lord Stanley has succeeded a Governor-General of a very different stamp, and nothing could have been more auspicious than the welcome with which he has been received in the Dominion. The post is one of considerable difficulty in difficult times. But when everything goes smoothly the only difficulty is to reconcile the existence of an establishment so regal in a democracy so simple as that of the Canadas. Lord Aberdeen, however, had hardly landed upon Canadian shores before it became evident that he was much more than a mere Governor-General. He was a living man with wide and catholic sympathies, who recognized that while it was necessary to abide strictly within the constitutional limits in all political questions, in non-political questions, which after all occupy three-fourths of human interest, he was in a position which placed upon him and his family the obligation of exercising all the influence which any highly placed and cultured citizen is bound to exercise. On his landing, in reply to an address of welcome, he sounded the keynote:

"It is indeed an office of high honors, as well as of grave and serious responsibility. But, gentlemen, does the honor and dignity of it exclude the holder from the common lot, the common heritage of service? Nay, it implies, it includes, it conveys this privilege, this grand principle and purpose of life. If

and because your Governor-General is in the service of the Crown, he is, therefore, in a literal and absolute sense, in the service of Canada. In other words, aloof though he be from actual executive responsibility, his attitude must be that of ceaseless and watchful readiness to take part, by whatever opportunity may be afforded to him, in the fostering of every influence that will sweeten and elevate public life; to observe, study and join in making known the resources and development of the country; to vindicate, if required, the rights of the people and the ordinances of the constitution, and, lastly, to promote by all means in his power, without reference to class or creed, every movement and every institution calculated to forward the social, moral and religious welfare of all the inhabitants of the Dominion. Such, gentlemen, I venture to assure you is the aim and purpose which, in dependence on the one ever effectual source of help and strength, we desire to pursue."

There is in this brief speech the keynote of the whole of Lord Aberdeen's life. He has succeeded, it is true, to a peerage and office of great usefulness and of high position, but he has also succeeded to what he finely calls "the heritage of service." As the servant of the Crown he is also the servant of Canada. It is the old principle which led the Pope, the most highly placed of all mortals, to describe himself as *servus servorum*. There is no doubt but that Lord Aberdeen will find ample opportunity of proving himself a servant in deed as well as in name. There is plenty to be done in Canada, and few men are so capable of doing it as is Lord Aberdeen. Traditionally and personally a Protestant, he has always cultivated the most friendly terms with Catholics, and one of the first and most significant of his actions in the Dominion of Canada was to overcome by a little kindly diplomacy the obstacles which have hitherto prevented the friendly meeting of the Governor-General and the Cardinal of Quebec. It may pass the wit of man to invent any way by which the French Canadian and the Orange Protestant can be prevailed upon to recognize that each are brothers in Christ as well as subjects of the Queen. If it could be done the Aberdeens are the people to do it. Lady Aberdeen, as I happen to know of old time, was regarded with affection and esteem by the late Cardinal Manning. "She is a good woman," I remember he said to me, with great emphasis, on one memorable occasion when her kindly woman's heart was the means of getting him to stretch out a helping hand to save a poor soul that was tottering blindly on the verge of the abyss.

Nor is it only in tending to assuage the rancor of contending creeds that the Aberdeens have plenty of work before them. As intimate friends with Professor Drummond, they are thoroughly in sympathy with the more liberal spirit which finds expression in the higher and more Christian thought of the closing century. In that direction their influence can hardly tend but to sweeten the theological atmosphere and to bring to those who are bowed down beneath the shadow of an austere and repellent faith