



Madame Royal.

and no doubt in time this barren bit of prairie will "blossom as the rose."

The green-houses, and gardens are in and out of season a mass of bloom; the furnishings and appointments of Government House are of the costliest and

daintiest sort; presided over by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and Madam Royal with exquisite grace and winning simplicity of manner they have won a popularity unknown before to this western vice-regal court.

The "At Homes" held at stated intervals are delightful crushes of humanity; everybody goes and everybody is made welcome; assisted by her daughter (Mrs. Capt. Gagnon a *petite* blonde,) Madame Royal diffuses hospitality most graciously, and has during her stay among us given to society that deft touch sacred to the daughters of France alone.

A military spice is added to social enjoyments through the influence of the little "square" known as the Barracks. The Barracks has its own little world of fashion; and shall I confess it? the very slightest (angelic of course) bit of rivalry exists between the "Town" and the "Barracks!" rivalry for precedence, or power of pleasing, which?

Commissioner Herchmer lives with his large family in a very handsome house, and Mrs. Herchmer—formerly Miss Sherwood of Ottawa—is distinctly the leader in this small military world.

The "Musical Rides," amateur theatricals, and drill, to view which the courtesy of invitations are always extended to the town, and the dress balls, really delightful affairs, where the gay uniform weaves bright bits of colour amid gay cobwebs spun by fashionable *artistes* in costumes from London, Paris, and our own nearer



A Bit of Prairie.