

sentative in Lady Aberdeen, who from her position in the inner arcana of British rule may be able to do more for her country in the council chamber than any of her stalwart ancestors were able to achieve for Erin in the tented field.

Apart from the associations of legend and of romance that cluster round the family history of the Governor-General and his wife in the dim twilight of the remote past, it is interesting to note that the associations between the Gordons and the American continent date back for two centuries, to a period antecedent to the great schism by which George the Third rent the English-speaking world in twain. John Gordon, of Haddo, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles Stuart, King of England, and the baronetcy is one among the many titles borne by the Earl of Aberdeen.

Sir John Gordon was a Cavalier of the school of Montrose. When the Scottish people were signing the Solemn League and Covenant with their heart's blood Sir John was fortifying his castle and sharpening his sword, and mustering his fighting men to help the King to govern by right divine. The fates and the Scottish people were, however, too much for Sir John and for his royal master. When the Marquis of Argyre besieged him in his castle of Kellie his Scottish artillerymen, having no stomach for the cause, deserted to the army of the Covenant and Sir John was compelled ingloriously to surrender. There was short shrift in those days for the vanquished. Sir John Gordon was carried as a prisoner to Edinbro, and in the same month of July that Oliver Cromwell on the moor of Long Marston gave the royal army the foretaste of the quality of his Ironsides Sir John Gordon was judiciously condemned to death and publicly executed. The lesson was a severe one, but the effect seems to have been most salutary. From that time to this, although his descendants may have described themselves as Royalists, Jacobites or Tories, they have always been true to the cause of liberty, of justice and of progress.

Of this a more conspicuous example was afforded in the person of the first Earl of Aberdeen. Five years after the first Nova Scotian baronet went to the headsman's block the axe of the executioner was employed on the neck of Charles Stuart, but after a time the whirling of time brought about its revenge, and the son of the beheaded king, having come to the throne, made the son of the beheaded baronet first Earl of Aberdeen and Lord High Chancellor of Scotland. Argyre went to the scaffold, and the Cavaliers, once more in the saddle, pursued their old enemies without ruth. They found, however, that their Lord High Chancellor brought too much conscience to his work to serve as the tool of mere proscription. The Privy Council, finding some difficulty in striking at the heads of some of the Whigs, issued orders that husbands and fathers should be held responsible by fine and imprisonment for the opinions of their wives and daughters. Lord Aberdeen, to his credit be it spoken, declared from the judgment seat that the orders of the Privy Council could not be carried out under any

existing law. Then speaking as Minister he declined to propose any alteration in the law to enable this monstrous iniquity to be legalized. The Stuarts were a stubborn race, and instead of recognizing the justice and integrity of Lord Aberdeen, the King drily ob-



LADY ABERDEEN.

served that he would be served in his own manner and according to his own measures. Lord Aberdeen at once resigned. He was too loyal to the dynasty to consent to serve King William when James was sent packing across the seas, and he spent