Lord and Lady Aberdeen Character Sketch by Mr. W. T. Stead.

man or starter, and occasionally being permitted to drive the engine. He still remembers as one of his proudest days of his life how, when he had finished oiling the life how, when he had finished oiling the engine when at full speed, the old engine-driver said to him:—"John I think I must apply for a day's holiday and let you take charge." From that time forward Lord Aberdeen has never lost touch with the locomotive engineers; no one is more popular with the railway servants in the old country, and nothing but the lack of acquaintance with the road and the signals stands in the way of his being able to take a Canadian Pacific express right across the whole con-



DR. CAMERON

tinent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He is certainly the first Governor-General who-was also an engine driver. Engine driving, in fact, may be considered as one of his favorite hobbies, and one of the things which he looked forward to in the new world was that of making a study of the engines of America, as complete as that which he has made of the locomotives of England and Scotland. It was this boyish passion which first introduced him to public life. Lord De la Warr had moved for a select committee into railway accidents, and in support of his motion Lord Aberdeen, when a very young man, made his maiden speech in the House of Lords. There is no more difficult audience to address than the Peers, but his knowledge of the subject and the enthusiasm with which he explained the technicalities of railway management. and the enthusiasm with which he explained the technicalities of railway management and the mysteries of fly-shunting to the Peers won him high praise, and when at a later period a Royal Commission was constituted in order to inquire into railway accidents he was immediately nominated as a commissioner. Of this commission the Duke of Buckingham was the first Chairman, but on his appointment to the Indian Presidency, Lord-Aberdeen, although one of the youngest members of the commission succeeded him as Chairman. It was a remarkable elevation for so young a man, and one of which he made the most to the interest of the railway servants. The commisone of which he made the most to the interest of the railway servants. The commission reported in favor of the block system, continuous brakes, continuous foot beards, and of many other improvements which the railways have for the most part introduced of their own accord. As the commission was not unanimous, Lord Beaconstield shirked the duty of legislation. Few questions are of more importance in the new world than that of reducing the unnecessary slaughter of railway employees, which in the United States attains dimensions far in excess of that of any other civilized country. excess of that of any other civilized country There is probably no man west of the At-lantic with whom those who are working in lantic with whom those who are working in this matter could more property take coun-sel than the Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, whose sympathies with the workmen are by no means circum-scribed by parallels of latitude or mountain

range or sea.

Lord Aberdeen's second appointment was somewhat similar, inasmuch as it concerned the prevention of the loss of life on the part of the working population. The agitation initiated by Mr. Plimsoll concerning the wholesale destruction of sailor's lives by the wholesale destruction of sailor's lives by the sending of coffin ships to sea, in order to realize a profit for the owners, led to a prolonged and angry controversy in which Mr Chamberlain, who was then President of the Board of Arade, took a very strong line against the ship owners. After considerable recrimination, during which feeling on both-sides became extremely heated, it was at last decided to appoint a Royal Commission which both parties could be represented to take evidence and report. The commission was a strong one. Mr. Chamberlain was one of its members, and the sented to take evidence and report. The commission was a strong one. Mr. Chamberlain was one of its members, and the leading representatives of the ship owners were also there in force. It was no easy task presiding over a tribunal in which the chief disputants sat as judges, and it was a singular tribute to the rapidly rising reputation of the young Earl that he was selected as chairman, a position which somewhat resembled that of Aeolus in the cave of the winds. However by the judicious dining

Character Sketch by Int. W.

supposed to be-long to the peers of an indepen-dent mind who identify selves the Queen in re ply to the royal speech. Even speech. Even then he gave an ndication of how oosely he regarded the party

tie by taking press his object ion to the Royal

Titles bill, a measure which was strongly supported in august

It was soon vident, how-ver, that the sympa es of they addition to this, two influences of different de grees of importance, were telling

action. One was

in the same direction. One was the influence of his wife, who was strongly Liberal, and the other the natural reaction against the follies and courses of the Jingo period which marked the close of Lerd Beacontield's administration. His first overt act or rebellion against his party was when he felegraphed from Brindisi his adhesion to the popular protest which was being signed against the Afghan War. That this was no mere caprice he made abundantly evident when he spoke in the debate against the Ministry, thereby maintaining the traditions of his ancestor in his devotion to peace and conciliation. In 1879 he indicated his transference of political allegiance by supporting Mr. Gladstone's first Midlothian campaign, having accepted Lord Rosebery's invitation to form one of the house party at Dalmeny on that memorable occasion. The follow-

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN



ing year, on the very day on which Lord Beaconsfield dissolved Parliament, Lord Aberdeen took his seat for the first time on the Liberal side of the House. He had burned his boats and definitely east his lot with Mr. Gladstone on the eve of an election which, in the opinion of society, was certain to result in the return of Lord Beaconsfield to power. Society, as usual, as wrong, the elections went with a rush against—the Jiugoes, and Lord Aberdeen found himself embarked on the winning side.

was almost one of unexampled difficulty. There was no popular demonstration when Lord and Lady Aberdeen began their Vice royal duties. The popular party of Ireland stance, boycotting the Castle, as they had boycotted it for years past; and as the Loyalists, so-called, regarded the new Administration as a band of traitors and renegades, the lot of the new Viceroy was anything but a happy one. From this position of isolation they were recued by a happy experience, which

they had boycotted it for years past; and as the Loyalists, so-called, regarded the new Administration as a bard of traitors and renegades, the lot of the new Viceroy was anything but a happy one.

From this position of isolation they were rescued by a happy experience, which turned the tide, and was the first conspicu-

The only appointment which he received from the Government of that day was the chairmanship of the Commission on Shipping, to which I have already referred. It should be mentioned, however, that Lord Aberdeen was, during these years, entrusted with the duty of acting as Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland. The Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland. The Lord High Commissioner is the representative of Her Majesty and he mast be present at the opening of what many be called the Parliament of the Scotch Church at Edinburgh. In this capacity Lord and Lady Aberdeen held most royal court at Holyrood Palace. This was a kind of preliminary apprenticeship qualifying them for their subsequent viceroyalty in Dublin and their Governor-Generalship in Canada. Lord Aberdeen, in this and other positions which he filled in the cause of philanthropy and religion, had proved that he not only possessed capacity, but also that his capacity was recognized and appreciated inmost influential quarters. Hence, no one was astonished, unless it was the Earl himself, when, on the formation of the Gladstone Ministry in 1886, he was sent for by the Fenne Minister and offered The following cell withing shorts of Lords and Lord Marchesia taken from an experiment of the commissioners to their large shorts and Lord Marchesia taken from an experiment of the commissioners to the theory and the event of more properties of the commissioners to get through with a confidence of the commissioners t

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

ture history. They had arrived, andhence forth their position among the first half-dozen families in the empire was clear. In the foregoing pages repeated reference has been made to Lady Aberdeen. I must now deal for a brief space with one who might well afford a subject for a separate sketch. Lady Aberdeen is the danguter of Sir Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, since created Lord Tweedmouth, of a staunch old Whig border family, and who himself represented the "good town of Berwick-one." Tweed" for twenty years as a Liberal. The family scat is in Berwickshire, but little is lishelf's home was in Guisachan, in Inversessire. It was a wild and romantic spot. The country seat nestled at the head of Davely mountain strath twenty-three miles from the nearest railway station or telegraph office. In this mountain solitude the young firl grew up a strong and sturdy Scotch lassie, passionately fond of reading and the vigorous outdoor life of the mountain child. Her father, the son of the-well-known Mr. Edward Marjoribanks, (who, up to the age of ninety-four, transacted all the heavy duties falling to the lot of the senior partner of such a bank as Coutts',) combined with his hereditary business instincts, strong literary and arristic tastes, and say a spent and natural history. L. was, this which led him in early manhood to settle himself in the wilds of Invernesshire, and there to create a very paradise, in the mids which he lived the life of an ancient patriarch amongst hisretainers and his ghillies to the great benefit of all the glen.

Lady Tweedmonth, a woman of great beauty and talent, was the daughter of Sir James Hogg, one of the mainstays of the old of the senior patriarch amongst hisretainers and his ghillies to the great benefit of all the glen.

which presently blossomed into full force under the friendly in fluences of Mr. Gladstone.

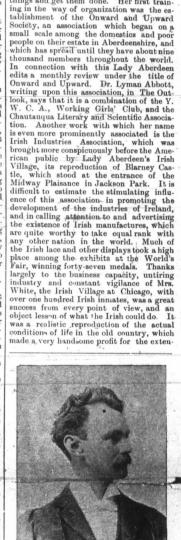
to accustom her religious creeds. In her native glen the great majori ty of the people were Celtic Roman Catholics, whilst the minority consisted of strong Free Church folk, with a sprinkling of a sprinkling of adherents of the Auld Kirk, amongst which were her own family. She and her white pony were at home amongst them were at amongst all, and all, and many were the stories she heard and she heard and the sympathies that were evoked as she learned to spin or bake "cakes" by the side of the old Highland "wi-fies." or to watch or to watch for the deer and the grouse with her father's game-keepers. It is keepers. It is curious to note how those early experiences trained the young girl for her fu-ture connection with the Roman Presbyterian populations of Ireland, and it

is a strange coin-cidence that circum stances should have acbeen touched to its depths. Everywhere in the streets banners were waving, and flags flying, and, strangest of all, for the first time in recent years, the Irish National Band played "God Save the Queen." It was a great moment, and one which made

God fanned her with His ripening looks,

And heaven's rich instincts in her green As effortless as woodland nooks Send violets up and paint them blue.

been touched to its depths. Everywhere in the streets banners were waving, and flags flying, and, strangest of all, for the first time in recent years, the Irish National Band played "God Save the Queen." It was a great moment, and one which made the heart swell high with pride and gratitude that such an outburst of popular sympathy had been brought about by the simple talisman of helpful sympathy and profound respect. For the Aberdeens had learned to love the Irish people with a whole-hearted devotion which touched that emotional and appreciative people to the This Scottish girl, with her Gaelic name, ursed on tradition, on romance, and surrsed on tradition, on romance, and sur-unded from infancy with the sound of the notional and appreciative people to the



sion of the work of the association. They have now taken a place in Wabash Avenue, Chicago, where the products of Irish industry are on sale. Similar depots will probably be established throughout the whole world in time. A large measure of the expense for maintaining the machinery necessary to develope these industries into self-supporting concerns has been supplied by Lord Aberdeen, while the amount of labor which has been devoted to the task by the Countess is almost inconceivable. She has her reward, however, in what promises to be a thriving industry, or, rather, series of industries, which have begun already to contribute not a little to the amelioration of the condition of life in old Ireland.

Perhaps the most important work on a wide scale with which Lady Aberdeen has been connected was that which she undertook in the Wormer's Liberty in the second content of the wormer's Liberty in the second content of the wormer's Liberty Liberty in the content of the condition of the wormer's Liberty in the condition of the wormer's Liberty in the wormer's Liberty Liberty in the condition of the condition of the wormer's Liberty in the condition of the condition of the wormer's Liberty in the condition of the cond

been connected was that which she under-took in the Women's Liberal Federation, a body of eighty thousand women, of which she is at this moment President, although

been connected was that which she undertook in the Women's Liberal Federation, a body of eighty thousand women, of which she is at this moment President, although she will retire at the next general meeting. She was elected to the post in succession to Mrs. Gladstone, and the very strongest possible pressure has been brought to bear upon her to reconsider her determination to resign an office the duties of which she cannot discharge from Ottawa. The Woman's Liberal Federation, it is well to remark, is no more party caucus. There is no doubt that it was originally started by some wire the liberal party, who imaging it might be of good service to be writtenece a Liberal counterpart to the printenece a Liberal counterpart to the printenece a Liberal counterpart to the printenece a Liberal counterpart to the care with the liveliest feelings of resentment the careus managers and wirepullers to had assisted in bringing it into being the association has had a great and benefit allefted in stimulating women to take an telligent interest in politics, and to make that influence felt in all that rela'es in the oral and social improvement of society, me and again they have rendered invalue rervice to the cause of moral and social orm, and nothing can be further from the rk than to confound such an association nergetic, public-spirited women with a ce creature of the party whip. There women in Engand who imagine that reduty in politics is to canvass for a caute of their party, whoever he may be, they have formed a small cancus of rown, which is without numbers, without our political influits fills a very useful part in our political momy. Lady Aberdeen has not long use an instrument of political influits fills a very useful part in our political momy. Lady Aberdeen has not long use and summary and charity, monger religious, philanthropic and associations, giving all a chance of the work in every centre of population whole Dominion. It is hoped that body will promote unity and charity, monger religious, philanthropic and eas



face that they would never get over, and that the one thing which they should avoid above everything was the running of any risks. To all of which advice, although couched in the most diplomatic why, and pressed upon them with the greatest authority, they turned a deaf ear. It was an inspiration, and they did well upon it. upon it.

The news had got abroad that the was going to visit the Mansion Housan immense crowd was gathered in heighborhood to see the viceregal car In Dublin the representative of Her M more democratic co

would take it. As there is no omelet without

breaking of eggs, their Excellencies carried it through. Every individual whom they

all the authorities

adition of royal state more democratic con the Vicercy drove the Dublin to the Chief It with the usual can postillious and outral moment when the cau ont of the door of the residence and the Victed a meeting summ distress in the west of e distress in the west of teed to those who were pred quivered and hesitated, ther to hiss for cheer, wo the bhoys gave rein to his enthusissm, and broarly cheer. Another second was at an end. Amid to the like of which had no titud a vicerou in recent years. and a viceroy in recent years made his way into the meet-climax of the proceedings en Lord Aberdeen requested to Michael Davitt. When ex Fenian convict grasped ord Aberdeen there was a given and recognized by all ance of the Irish democracy as best in the popular party

ists, of course, were scandalizesentative of the Queen should with a man who had done his servitude in Portland Prison respective of party, who knew acter and stainless life of Mirojoised that such typical rejoit that work typical rejoit that work and of felet the eyes of the two nations. The Union