

lished. Since there is power in numbers, surely a great company of the women of the Dominion, of every race and creed, banded together, with one common aim—the uplifting of humanity and the alleviation of suffering—cannot but be a potent factor for good. Some idea of the extent of the work attempted by the National Council of Women may be gained from a perusal of the report which the Countess of Aberdeen prepared, at the request of the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, for distribution in the Canadian section at the Glasgow Exposition. The practical bent of Lady Aberdeen's mind is seen in the formation of the Aberdeen Association, having as its object the supplying to isolated districts, logging camps and mining districts, periodical literature of a high stamp. The many excellent magazines, which, once read, have served their day, may have their term of usefulness extended by being sent to one of the centres of this excellent association. The difficulty in many places of procuring any reading matter makes the monthly box sent by some branch of the Aberdeen Association a valued gift, the more welcome because the periodicals are not of earlier date than the month preceding the current issue. During the sojourn of Lord and Lady Aberdeen at their ranch in the Okanagan district they had been keenly observant of the needs of those residing in places remote from populous centres, and the effort to supply one need was the outcome of their stay in the shadow of the Rockies.

Very closely connected with the work of the National Council of Women was the inauguration of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, the national memorial of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. All that the Countess of Aberdeen has done to further this work of mercy will never be really known, but through her untiring efforts a royal charter was secured for the order in 1898, and permission received from the Queen herself for the Victorian nurses in Canada to wear the same uniform and the same badge (with the addition of the word "Canada") as worn by the Queen's nurses in Great Britain.

The order has already given proof that it exists to supply a much-felt want, especially in the remote and outlying districts, where the nurse is welcomed as a veritable angel of mercy. The gift

by Senator Cox to Lady Aberdeen, as President of the order, of a furnished house in Ottawa, to be used as the headquarters of the order, removed one difficulty, and as its excellent work becomes more widely known the Victorian Order of Nurses will be regarded as a memorial, not only worthy of the beloved Queen, whose name it bears, but also of the zeal of its noble foundress.

In all her efforts to encourage woman's work, Lady Aberdeen has never failed to recognize that woman's chief mission is found at home, though she rightly thinks that the keeping in touch with the thought and life of the world does not detract from the charm of the home, from which should radiate all that is best and noblest and most stimulating in our "onward and upward" way.

Of Lady Aberdeen's great kindness of heart many incidents might be given. On one New Year's Day her Excellency, feeling profoundly the position of the inmates in one of the female refuges in Toronto, in the spirit of the Master she



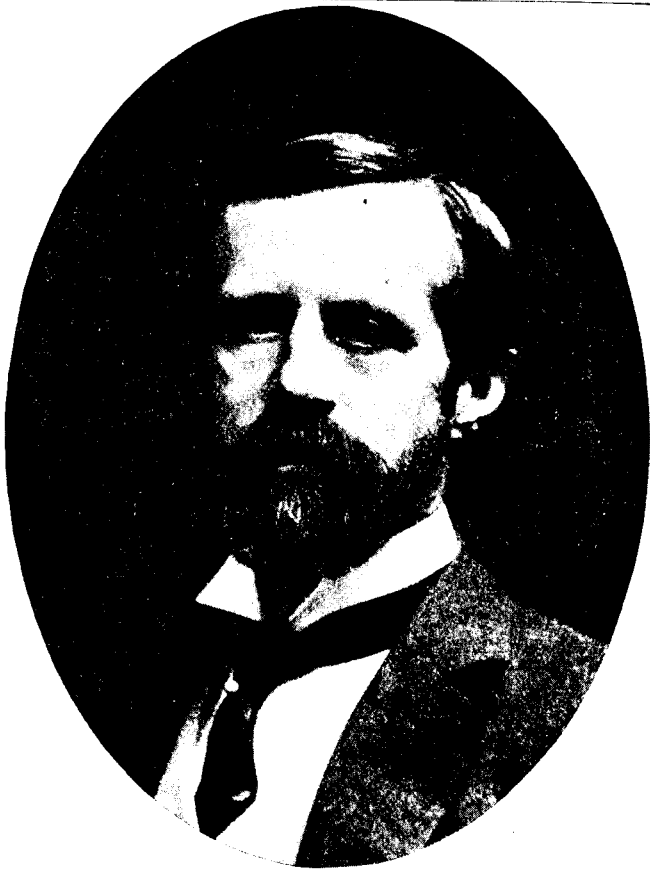
Marjorie A. Gordon.

—Photo by Lafayette, London.

ceremony, is not known, but so strenuously and continuously did she manifest her opposition that her removal from the sacred edifice followed as a matter of course. At the conclusion of the service the Vice-regal carriage was driven to the home of the protesting infant, that her Excellency might be reassured as to the health of the little one, who, it appeared, however, was suffering from nothing more serious than a sort of stage-fright.

As may be supposed, Lady Aberdeen is passionately fond of children, who are quite shrewd enough to recognize in the gracious Countess a firm friend. A touching little instance of the mother's faithful memory will be remembered. A well-known florist, very proud of a beautiful new rose, requested her Excellency to honor him by naming it. The rose was very beautiful, and Lady Aberdeen asked to be allowed a day to think of a suitable name. On the morrow the name was given, the "Lady Dorothea," the name of her Excellency's little daughter, who had died in infancy.

Lady Marjorie Gordon the only surviving daughter of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, has from her childhood been well known in connection with the popular children's magazine, "Wee Willie Winkle," of which Lady Marjorie was the youthful editor. Very charming and very earnest, she promises to follow the



THE EARL OF ABERDEEN

—Photo by Elliott & Fry, London.

serves, visited the institution and addressed the assembled women appealingly, pityingly, and encouragingly, recalling to them earlier and purer days, and entreating them on this day of the unblemished year to cast away the past and to begin a new life. On many faces there were evidences of a powerful struggle, while on others the tears, welling up from eyes unused to weeping, showed that the sympathetic, earnest words had touched a tender chord. God grant that it be vibrating still!

A homely incident, illustrating Lady Aberdeen's thoughtful consideration for others, may be cited. Her Excellency had honored a very youthful baby by expressing her wish to act as the baby's godmother, and in due time the rite of baptism was solemnized at the church. Whether the baby questioned the orthodoxy of the officiating clergyman, or on general principles disapproved of the



The Hop Yards, Coldstream Ranch



Coldstream Ranch House, B. C., on Lord Aberdeen's Ranch.