

SKETCH OF MRS. CURZON'S LIFE AND WORK.

BY LADY EDGAR.

Read at the Meeting of the Women's Canadian Historical Society, November 16th, 1886.

I wish to-day, in this closing hour of our year, to speak of one whose earthly work is done, Mrs. Curzon, the first President of our Society, who, as you know, passed away last week.

I think you would all like to have some account of her life and work, and it is fitting that, at this annual meeting, we should speak of one who just three years ago did so much to found this Society, and became, by unanimous vote, its first President.

Sarah Anne Curzon was an English woman by birth. She was born in Birmingham in 1833. Her father, George Phillips Vincent, had a large glass manufactory there, was a man of good education, and particularly interested in chemistry and physics. He devoted himself to his family, read and talked with his children and instructed them in all the public questions of the day, and also allowed them as often as possible to meet the scientific men who gathered at his house.

Dr. Charles Baker, one of the principal physicians of Birmingham, and his brother, a well-known divine and author, were cousins, also Edward W. Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1858 she married Robert Curzon, and came with him to Canada in 1862. For more than thirty-five years she has lived among us in Toronto, and by her pen and personal influence has done much for our intellectual and national life. Beneath a frail form and gentle bearing dwelt a brave spirit, and with many disadvantages of health and fortune she accomplished much.

With all her strength she fanned and kept alive a true Canadian spirit in our midst, and fostered also an intense love for the motherland, believing that Imperial Federation was the best system of colonial development.

From 1872 she contributed, by essay, fiction and verse, to the *Canadian Monthly*, the *Week*, the *Dominion Illustrated*, *Grip*, the *Evangelical Churchman*, the *Canadian Magazine* and many English and American papers, and for two years she edited a woman's page in the *Canada Citizen*.