



PRINCESS LOUISE'S SKETCHING BOX.

at New Edinburgh, which stands near the grounds (the rector of which is chaplain for Rideau Hall), while the Marquis of Lorne comes into the city, and is a regular attendant at "the kirk." Her Royal Highness has always taken an active interest in church affairs, and to her the little church is indebted for a fine chime of bells. The children of the Sunday-school are regularly entertained at the Hall with a Christmas tree and party. She visits hospitals, schools, and convents, and carries on all the work of a charitable lady in private life. Much of her good work is done in a quiet, unostentatious manner, which fully carries out the Biblical injunction; but a princess can not hide from the public the work of one hand, even if she can keep it a secret from the other, and so we from time to time catch a glimpse of her true, kind heart.

All of these public duties do not interfere with those of a more domestic character. She, of course, has a small army of servants. There is a *chef*, and an *garçon de chef*, and I would be afraid to say how many more *pour faire la cuisine*; there are maid-servants and men-servants

for each particular kind of work, and a housekeeper to oversee them all. But, in spite of much aid, the Marchioness of Lorne is at the head of her establishment. She does not think it beneath her dignity to go into the laundry and instruct the maids concerning their duties, or to give an occasional eye to the marketing when it is brought in. A story I have just heard about her makes her quite rival in housewifely attainments the queen of good King Stephen, who, from the "peek o' barley meal," concocted that historical pudding so well known to the student of Mother Goose. A friend of mine was lately dining at Rideau Hall, and during the dinner she remarked upon the excellence of the oyster *pâtés* to one of the ladies in waiting to the Princess. "Yes," she replied; "they were made by her Royal Highness."

The immediate household at Government House consists of two or three ladies in waiting and several aides-de-camp. The military secretary and his wife occupy a handsome house near by, where the Princess often calls informally, or takes a five-o'clock "school-room tea" with the secretary's children.

Rideau Hall in every part shows itself to be the home of an artist and a poet. An air of culture and refinement pervades it, and whichever way you turn you are delighted by some pretty conceit, or tasteful fancy successfully carried out. Here are old tapestry hangings, as rich with history and associations as color and skill. Exquisite ornaments are scattered about in profusion, but not with that riotous plenty which simply suggests money. The "blue parlor" is, to my taste, one of the most charming rooms I can recall. It is a large and handsome apartment, and is furnished upon the happy meeting ground of classical severity and elegant luxuriousness. It is essentially feminine in its taste, and you at once say to yourself, "It is the expression of the *artist*." About you you feel much of its presiding genius. Here is a panel of flowers, and here a door decorated by her brush; an unfinished study hangs in one corner, and rare paintings glow upon the walls. Sitting before the bright coal fire on a winter day, you can look out through the warmly draped windows upon a driving snow-storm, or, if you turn slightly, you can look into the fairy-land of flowers, for the conservatory opens from this room.