

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.



H.R.H. THE PRINCESS LOUISE,
DUCHESS OF ARGYLE.
Taken by Topley when the Princess
resided in Ottawa.

The Vice-Regal residence, officially known as Government House, but better known as Rideau Hall, nestles among maple, pine and cedar trees on rising ground on the east side of the Rideau river. Its quaint chimneys, its odd corners and low lines of grey walls may be clearly seen from any part of the opposite shore when the trees are leafless in winter, but in summer the chimneys and flagstaff are alone distinguishable.

The original house was built by the Hon. Thomas McKay, the contractor for the Rideau Canal locks. It has been considerably added to since it was purchased from the McKay estate, and the varied styles of architecture which successive Governors-General, with a taste for expansion, have added, give to the entire mansion a picturesqueness worthy of study.

On close inspection Rideau Hall may not prove so impressive as when seen from afar, but because it is the official residence of the representative of Royalty it is always interesting. This place is not only the centre of official life, but it is also the Mecca of Canadian social ambition. In what is called "the season," the brilliant social functions held here are a copy of British court life in the Old Land.

Since Confederation this Vice-Regal residence has been associated with the careers of many distinguished noblemen, namely, Lord Monck, Lord Lisgar, Earl Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earls of Derby, Aberdeen and Minto, and the present distinguished representative of the King, Earl Grey.