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erlain and his colleagues as a "piece of patronage belonging to the colonial office, for the reason that the appointment of all governors of colonial dependencies and Crown colonies, appertains to the patronage of the colonial office. This results in the appointment, sometimes of a suitable man, and sometimes of a man who is not suitable. As to what constitutes a suitable person for the office there will be difference of opinion. It would evidently be a mistake to appoint an important and experienced man. The essential qualification is a man who will know enough to do what he is told to do, and if that is an insignificant person, it is the only person who will fill the office properly. We pay the man to do what he is told, and that is all there is to do. We give him a house and furniture and all the glasses he requires and he has an opportunity of enjoying life in a dignified position for five years. The Duke of Marlborough might do as well as anybody else. The fact that his wife is an American should not detract from his application, if he is an applicant for the office. The fact that the Duchess of Marlborough would have her friends over here from the United States would probably be welcomed by the trades people of Ottawa as the sign of a large expenditure of money instead of becoming a question of politics. In England complaint has been made that the court was remaining away from London too long, a matter affecting the trades people, and their complaint was thought by the British government to be a reasonable one. If the establishment or enlargement of a court at Ottawa meant a large expenditure of money there are a great many people who would regard the appointment of the duke with favor and the arrival of the duchess with pleasure. The British government appointed as governor-general to India a man who had an American wife. Of course India was a little further away for frequent visits from the Dutch aristocracy in New York, but we see no objection to frequent visits to Ottawa by the old aristocrats of New York, or even by the new rich.

If the governor-general of Canada is de-

barred by our system of government from active participation in politics, he can at least devote himself, with his wife, to social entertainments and to the upbuilding of charities, and even, as on one occasion, to the support of religion, by the employment of a chaplain and the erection of a chapel. The wife of the governor-general probably takes more interest in dressmaking and millinery than in politics, and as a rule she takes an interest in the poor and the promotion of deserving charities, in the cultivation of music and in many other laudable movements. The fact that she happens to be born in the United States should not militate too much against her.

Since writing the above it has been definitely announced that Earl Grey has been appointed to succeed Lord Minto as governor-general of Canada. When it was rumoured some time ago that Lord Grey was to be the choice, we said then that in our opinion he would make an excellent officer to administer the government of Canada. He is somewhat familiar with the country, and had, what we deem to be essential, a training in the House of Commons in England, where he would become acquainted more closely with the system of government, with the relations of ministers to the House, on the one hand, and the Crown on the other. In English politics he is a Liberal.

Lord Minto arrived in Canada in the month of November, and will probably take his departure during the coming November.

Albert Henry George Grey, 4th Earl of Grey, Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, was born on November 28, 1851, being the son of General the Hon. Charles Grey, and Carolina, daughter of Sir Thomas Harvie Farquhar, Bart. He was educated at Harrow School, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his senior in the law and history trips in 1873. He represented Northumberland in the House of Commons from 1880 to 1886 in the Liberal interest.

He formed a close friendship with the late Cecil Rhodes, and was administrator of Rhodesia during the two stormy years of 1896 and 1897, since when he has been