

General Officers and Conveners of Committees

International Council of Women

ABERDEEN, COUNTESS OF, Ishbel Maria Marjoribanks; was born March 14th, 1857. By parentage on both sides she comes of a notable and vigorous ancestry; on her father's side, that of the well known Border family of Marjoribanks of Berwickshire, Scotland, and the de Latours of France; and on her mother's side, that of the Swintons, of ancient Scottish lineage, and the Hoggs, who through intermarriage with the O'Neills, trace descent from that Clan of Irish Mediaeval fame.

Much of Lady Aberdeen's childhood was spent in the Scottish Highlands, her father having acquired the beautiful Estate of Guisachan, Strathglass. Of this region one of the old-fashioned guide books truly declares that—"the traveller here finds an assemblage of rock, wood and water, on a scale so extended and magnificent that the far-famed scenery of the Trossachs and Loch Katrine sinks into insignificance beside it."

To the dwellers in these romantic glens there was for years no more welcome sight than that of this young girl, who on her beautiful Arab pony could traverse the steepest and most rugged of mountain paths, and who soon became at home in every cottage in the locality; while the large attendance at her Sunday School gave early proof of the power to attract and interest children. During all this period also she was brought into acquaintance with a constant succession of guests at the Manor House, many of them being prominent in the world of politics and public life. Amongst these was the late Mr. Gladstone; and between him and the young

girl a friendship was then formed which continued with ever increasing strength during the remainder of the great statesman's life.

Ishbel Marjoribanks was married in 1877 to the seventh Earl of Aberdeen. After a trip to Egypt, the young couple took up their abode in Lord Aberdeen's country home, situated in the agricultural part of the East of Scotland. The family estates are extensive, and being divided into numerous holdings, the population thereon must be fully six thousand.

Amongst these, and especially amongst the young, Lady Aberdeen's activity and resourcefulness soon found beneficial scope, the first organization founded by her being the "Onward and Upward Association" which brought "mistress and maid" into a fuller and mutually helpful relation. This society continues to thrive.

The first public and official position with which Lady Aberdeen was connected, was that of the Representative of the Sovereign (Lord High Commissioner) at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to which Lord Aberdeen was appointed in 1881, and which he filled on four or five successive occasions. During his official residence in Edinburgh, the Lord High Commissioner occupies the ancient Palace of Holyrood; and here Lady Aberdeen showed those gifts of the hostess, and the capacity for organization, which have since so often and so successfully been called forth.

In 1886, Lord Aberdeen was appointed Viceroy of Ireland. The duration of Lord and Lady Aberdeen's official stay in Ireland at that time was only about six months, but the period was eventful and