



LORD GREY.



LADY GREY.

## Canada's New Governor-General

Before this issue reaches all our subscribers the Dominion of Canada will have within its borders a new Governor-General. Lord Grey, who succeeds Lord Minto, was to set sail the first of this month, and should by this date be in office. The new Governor is a brother-in-law of the distinguished gentleman who has just vacated the chair, and comes to us with an exceedingly good record. The great journalist, W. T. Stead, says that Earl Grey is one of the Elizabethans, a breed which will never die out in England until the English race is extinct. He is one of the most charming of men. By birth an aristocrat, no one can be more democratic in his sympathies. An unfortunate antipathy to home rule alone shunted him into the Unionist camp. Otherwise it would have been difficult to find a stouter, sounder Liberal within a day's march. Nor is his Liberalism confined to party politics. He is Liberal in Church as well as in State; Liberal in the catholicity of his friendships and in the breadth and variety of his sympathies. A man more mentally alert and more physically active it would be difficult to find in a day's march. He turns up everywhere, whenever any good work is to be done, and seems to find time for every kind of social and political effort. Thirty years ago, he was interested in Church reform; to-day, he is enthusiastic over the work of the Salvation Army.

Albert Henry George Grey, the fourth

earl, was born on November 28, 1851. He came of notable lineage, his father having held positions of great trust in the British Court. His grandfather was Prime Minister of the Crown from 1830 to 1834. The new governor-general is not only the grandson of one of the most famous prime ministers of the nineteenth century, but he is son of a man who from 1849 to 1870 occupied a position which made him the personal friend and trusted confidant of the Queen in all the business both of Court and of State.

Mr. Albert Grey went to school at Harrow. He graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1877, he married Alice, the third daughter of Mr. Slayner Holford, M.P., whose residence in Park Lane is one of the most famous palaces in London.

In 1880 he entered the House of Commons, being elected Liberal member for South Northumberland. The wave of Gladstonian enthusiasm was then at its flood and Mr. Albert Grey was a Gladstonian. At the general election of 1885, Mr. Albert Grey elected to stand for Tyneside, one of the constituencies into which South Northumberland had been cut up. In the following year, Mr. Gladstone plunged for home rule. Mr. Grey refused to follow him, and his place in the Liberal party and the House of Commons knew him no more. He became a Liberal Unionist. He did not reappear in Parliament till his uncle's

death, in 1894, opened for him the portals of the House of Lords.

He was a friend of Mr. Rhodes, and is a Rhodesian to this day. Was successful administrator of Rhodesia in 1896-97. Took an active part in securing the Hague or Peace Conference. In home politics, Lord Grey has devoted himself with great enthusiasm to the course of co-operation and the cause of temperance.

Lord Grey's family seat is at Howick, in Northumberland, and he has twice visited the Dominion.

Lady Grey has never taken a prominent part in the political world. Her eldest son, Lord Howick, who was born in 1879, acts as his father's private secretary. Her eldest daughter, who excites enthusiastic admiration wherever she is known, will probably play a considerable part in the social life of Canada. They are in one respect admirably fitted for their new role. They are singularly free from the reserve that gives to some English peers an air of pride and aloofness that harmonizes ill with the freer life of a democratic colony. The journalist closes by saying that whatever else may be lacking in Government House during Lord Grey's tenure of office, of one thing we may be quite certain there will be no stint, and that is a hearty, sympathetic camaraderie with all comers, and eager, enthusiastic support of all that makes for the prosperity and greatness of the Dominion and of the empire of which it forms a part.

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## What Happened on Christmas Days.

Christmas was first celebrated in the year 98, but it was forty years later before it was officially adopted as a Christian festival; nor was it until about the fifth century that the day of its celebration became permanently fixed on the twenty-fifth of December. Up to that time it had been irregularly observed at various times of the year—in December, in April and in May, but most frequently in January.

Two notable coronations occurred on Christmas Day: that of Charlemagne, as Emperor of the West, in the year 800, and that of William the Conqueror, at Westminster Abbey, in 1066. Clovis, the first Christian King of France, was baptized on Christmas Day, 496.

Gilles de Retz, of France, the original "Blue Beard," was executed on Christmas Day, 1440, in atonement for a multitude of crimes, which included the killing of six wives, from which the popular nursery story is derived.

The Pilgrims, who condemned all church festivals, spent their first Christmas in America working hard all day long, amid cold and stormy weather, and commenced the building of the first house in Plymouth, 1620.

Sir Isaac Newton, whose grand discovery of the law of gravitation resulted from the simple fact of his seeing an apple fall to the ground, was born on Christmas Day, 1642.

It is a significant fact that no great battles were fought on Christmas Day. They have occurred on the twenty-fourth and the twenty-sixth of December, but the anniversary of the advent of Peace on Earth has ever been observed by a cessation of hostilities.

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