

LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN.

BY J. CASTELL HOPKINS.

SINCE Lord Dufferin initiated the policy of making the Vice-royalty of Canada a popular link in the silken chain which binds the Dominion and the Mother—land together, we have been singularly fortunate in the distinguished men who have occupied that increasingly important position. In the long range of pro-consuls who have filled great offices abroad, as representatives of the monarch of Great Britain, hardly one can be named who achieved such immense and enduring popularity as the present Marquis of Dufferin. By his eloquence when here, and his speeches upon many occasions since, he has done Canada great and valuable service, besides gaining for himself international renown. Hence the difficulty which faced his successors in office. But Lord Lorne and H.R.H. the Princess Louise did much to promote the sympathetic relations between Great Britain and Canada, which Lord and Lady Dufferin had helped to develop, whilst the Marquis of Lansdowne won wide popularity and a reputation which transferred him eventually to the charge of the vast Indian Empire. And the present Earl of Derby, by his unaffected friendliness and his skilful administration of a by no means easy post, has maintained the best traditions of the order to which he belonged, and the British statesmanship in which he had held a prominent place.

Like his predecessors, the Earl of Aberdeen comes to Canada with some experience in the administration of affairs; with a reputation already made to a certain degree, but still capable of expansion; with the prestige of a great name, a long rent-roll, and considerable wealth. Like them, also, he has voluntarily given up many of

the pleasures and privileges enjoyed at home by a British nobleman of high reputation, in order to assume duties which involve many perplexities and which must at times be irksome. Nevertheless, he cannot fail to recognize, as all connected in the past with the Government of Canada, have recognized the greatness and the responsibilities attaching to the position of Governor-General. As the connecting link between the different countries of a world-wide empire, as the symbol of its unity, and as the representative of the sovereign's person, standing high above all partisan considerations and dictation, and holding a position which gives unlimited scope for the promotion of the noblest principles of philanthropy, religion, social progress and moral reform, the Governor-General of Canada possesses functions and opportunities which the best men in the British realm might well be proud to hold. And if we may judge by an extract from His Excellency's reply to the Ottawa Civic Address, on Sept. 18th, Lord Aberdeen fully appreciates the importance of the duties which lie before him:

"If, and because, your Governor-General is in the service of the Crown, he is therefore also in a literal and absolute sense in the service of Canada. In other words, aloof though he be from actual executive responsibility, his attitude must be that of ceaseless and watchful readiness to take part by whatever opportunities may be afforded to him, in the fostering of any influence that will sweeten and elevate public life; to observe, study, and join in making known the resources and development of the country; to vindicate, if required, the rights of the people and the ordinances of the constitution, and lastly, to promote, by all means in his power, without reference to class or creed, every movement and every institution calculated to forward the social, moral and religious welfare of all the inhabitants of the Dominion."

The career of the New Governor-General has been of a nature to well