

IT HAS been remarked by several Ottawa correspondents that it is rather unusual that neither the Premier nor the Leader of the Opposition is married—and, therefore, the social receptions held by these gentlemen are not graced by the presence of a châtelaine. Mr. Bennett, however, is aided by his sister, Miss Mildred Bennett, in the discharge of social duties; but Mr. King occupies the spacious Laurier House in solitary state. All Mr. King's Toronto friends can recall the dainty grace of his mother, the



THE LATE MRS. JOHN KING  
Mother of the Premier of Canada.  
—From a portrait by J. W. L. Forster.

late Mrs. John King, who rejoiced in the success of her distinguished son. Mrs. King, known in her maiden days as Isabel Grace Mackenzie, was the youngest daughter of that well-known journalist and politician, William Lyon Mackenzie, who played such a stirring part in the early history of Toronto. Mrs. King was educated in that city, and spent her married life there, having a wide circle of admiring friends. She was, indeed, a womanly woman, whose ambition was to make her home a centre of the higher interests. While essentially feminine in her talents and aims, Mrs. King had a sympathy with the world of literature and music, and was always welcome in gatherings of the young. Through the courtesy of the Premier, we are allowed to reproduce this photograph from a portrait by Mr. J. W. L. Forster. It was painted at Mr. King's summer home, Kingsmere. His mother is holding the third volume of Morley's "Life of Gladstone," a work which she and her son read together during the holidays. To his mother, Mr. King owes much of his appreciation of the arts and all the finer achievements of poets and singers. While not aggressively interested in political strife, Mrs. King, as might be expected from one of her sturdy ancestry, was wholly in sympathy with her son's political ambition—and was deeply gratified by his success.

Mrs. King had a flowerlike charm of manner and speech, rare in these days of rush and clamour. She was readily noticed in any gathering for her old-time dignity and distinction, and greeted warmly by friends, old and new. The last time I saw her on a social occasion was at a tea given in honor of a young bride. Mrs. King entered the tea room leaning on the arm of a stalwart young officer, who was proud, indeed, of playing the squire to this dainty lady. We often refer to one who has this grace of manner as "a lady of the old school." May the schools of our land send forth daughters worthy of such ancestry!

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● King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG  
26 J 7 volume 16 ) Mrs. (Isabel) John  
● King - re: Death of Isabel King -  
● Correspondence n.d., [1917]-1939

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