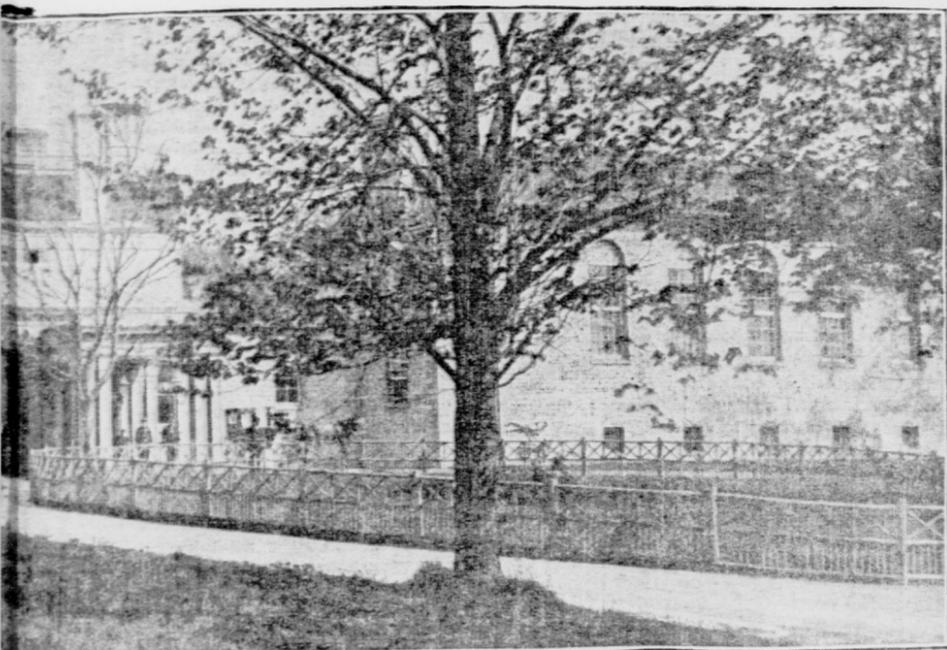


MINTO AS GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA? STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED



GOVERNOR GENERAL, VIEWED FROM THE GARDEN.



LADY MINTO.
Wife of the Governor General of Canada.

her position. There was one of their ex-husbands in the household. He had been graven in the tomb. Recently saw in the paper, one of the boys burst with joy to remember his father's career. The man in even-temperament, four-in-hand, and flowers. The lady made his bow.

The Earl of Minto first came to Canada as military secretary to Lord Lansdowne in 1853. He was then Lord Melgund. Three years later he served on the staff of General Mittleton in the Northwest Rebellion and distinguished himself by his bravery. He was sent back to England for slapping the face of the colonel of a Montreal regiment with whom he had a disagreement.

"All I can say about the 'G. G.' is that he's a dead game sport," is the way a hunting companion spoke who was asked for anecdotes about him. One of the household brought out another trait in his character in this comment: "Now, I'm not saying this because I ought, but just because I mean it. His 'Ex' is a man it's

a pleasure to serve because he is so human."

The Countess of Minto is even more popular with Canadians than her husband. She is a pretty woman, almost as young looking as her grown daughters, and she sets the women of the Dominion many neat fashions. She is short, with charming figure, dark hair, brilliant color and expressive eyes. When the Prince and Princess of Wales, at that time Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, visited Canada a garden party was given for them at Government House. It fell upon Lady Minto to conduct them about the grounds and select those who should be presented. Her selections were not all made from those who considered themselves most fit, as this pretty story shows.

"This old gentleman was once an officer in the navy," she said, pausing the prince beside a bent old man.

The old officer's hat came off in a jiffy, and he insisted on standing bareheaded in the presence of his future king. Though the prince asked him to put on his hat, he did not do so until Lady Minto placed her hand on his arm and seconded the request of royalty with one of her smiles.

During a recent official visit to Montreal Lady Minto visited most of the charitable institutions in that city, and at all the babies' homes spent so much time playing with the little ones that the aides-de-camp whose duty it was to accompany her were in a humorous state of revolt. During her visit to the Montreal Maternity Hospital she was taken over the building. In one of the wards she discovered a negro baby two days old. It was as ugly as possible, and insisted on crying until it seemed all mouth. The little atom of humanity appealed to her excellency, not only from curiosity, for she had never seen one before, but simply on the grounds that it was a baby. In a twinkling that chocolate colored infant was out of the nurse's arms and into her excellency's, where he made the prettiest possible picture curled up among the delicate laces and embroideries of her gown. The contrast between the white fox fur of Lady Minto's wraps and the face of the baby was ludicrous. The baby appreciated the honor done him and ceased to cry.

The Governor General has an interesting son, Lord Melgund, who is now in Eton, after a course at a boys' school near Ottawa. At the time of the big fire in that city about two years ago he drove to the scene of the disaster with

his father and mother. In the confusion surrounding their arrival the lordly youngster slipped out of the carriage and was off through the ruins on a personal tour of investigation.

Just about the time his mother was beginning to worry he returned much worse for his explorations. His face was dirty, his clothes torn and, strangest of all, he was without his shoes.

"Where are your boots, Melgund?" his mother demanded when she noticed him picking his way along in stocking feet.

"Found a fellow who needed them more than I do," he explained, with characteristic boyish frankness.

A little later they had to check his generosity to keep a coat on his back. As an immense number of persons lost all they possessed in the fire, he would have disposed of his entire wardrobe had he not been checked.

There is nothing in which the countess takes more pride than in her own children. Her eldest daughter, Lady Eileen, was born during their first visit to Canada as Lord and Lady Melgund. Her other daughters are Lady Ruby and Lady Violet Elliott, and both are still in school. The youngest son, the Hon. Esmond Elliott, is a cheery and much admired youngster.

The Governor General has a degree from Cambridge. While in the university and while preparing at Eton he showed considerable prowess as an athlete. In Minto House there are exhibited several trophies of his skill in rowing, sculling and running. He rode in many races on the flat and across country. In 1874 he brought Captain Machell's Defence in fourth in the Grand National at Liverpool. At another time he won the Grand National Steeplechase of France at Auteuil. At the Lincoln Spring meeting of 1875 he passed the post first on five different mounts. He was known as a bold rider with the Duke of Grafton's, Lord Yarborough's and the Leicester hounds. All this served him in good stead during his career as an officer and war correspondent.

WHITE SPOT ON SATURN.

A Puzzling and Unusual Development on the Ringed Planet.

Professor E. E. Barnard, of the Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis., reports having seen a white spot on the planet Saturn a short distance north of the equator last week. As soon as the word was passed around among professional star gazers they began to speculate upon the nature of this phenomenon, and some of them probably proceeded to look for it themselves. Although no one can witness this exhibition without a reserved seat in some observatory, no doubt thousands of wide awake, thinking people will be curious to know more about the matter.

A similar marking was discovered in 1876 by Professor Asaph Hall, probably at the naval observatory in Washington, where there is a 26-inch glass. It was close to the equator. He followed it through sixty rotations, and thus was able to compute the time required for a rotation of the planet at ten hours, fourteen minutes and twenty-four seconds. The only previous estimate of Saturn's aerial movements was made by Herschel in 1794, and he put it at ten hours and sixteen minutes. Mr. Denning, an English amateur, obtained results closely conforming to Professor Hall's in May and June, 1891. For his study he had as many as ten spots, but they seem to have been less conspicuous than those seen at Washington and Williams Bay.

What has always made Saturn unique among the planets are the wide, thin rings which encircle that body. The surface is much

more uniform in brightness than most of the other members of the solar system. Jupiter and Mars are the most conspicuously marked of the lot, the former with alternating bands of light and darkness, parallel with its equator, and the latter by shadings suggestive of seas and continents and fine, straight lines resembling canals. The sun itself develops dark spots occasionally as well as bright ones, both being regarded as indicative of some form of eruptive action. Nothing of the sort is observed on Saturn, whose only superficial eccentricities are of the kind just mentioned.

From the fact that some of these white spots have apparently changed their positions at times, the suspicion is excited that the planet is not quite so solid as the earth. Inasmuch as these portions of the sun nearest its equator revolve more rapidly than the polar regions—one going around in about twenty-six days and the other needing twenty-nine—it may be inferred that the surface of a semi-fluid mass, or an atmospheric shell full of luminous clouds, is presented to the eye by that body. Only a slight inequality of the same nature has been observed on Saturn and Jupiter; but even this has led to the impression that perhaps these two planets were more nearly in a molten state than the earth, and hence more nearly allied to the supposed condition of the sun.

Miss Agnes M. Clarke mentions several reasons for thinking that Saturn is younger and hotter than its giant neighbor, Jupiter. One is that for its size it appears to be wonderfully light. Its density is less than that of water, or of any other planet. "It may be concluded," says she, "without much risk of error, that a large proportion of this bulky globe, 73,000 miles in diameter, is composed of heated vapors, kept in active and agitated circulation by the process of cooling."

Saturn is in the constellation of Capricornus at present, and rises at about 8 p. m. An hour or two later it may be identified as being a little to the eastward of Altair, then the brightest star in the southeastern skies. When the two are visible identification of the planet ought to be easy.

WANTED NO BETTER PLACE.

Sir Thomas Lipton's friend William Fife, the designer of Shamrock III, loves his country profoundly, and he never tires of singing the praise of Great Britain.

On his recent voyage over a number of Americans endeavored, in a humorous way, to prove to him America's superiority over all other countries. Mr. Fife, however, was not to be convinced.

"I love my land," he said. "I love it so well that I suppose, when I come to die, I'll be like old Peregrine Dagmas, the shipchandler. Old Peregrine, as he lay on his deathbed, hated to depart. He bemoaned his hard lot. He seemed to want to live forever.

"But, Peregrine," his wife said, 'you are going to a better place.'
"Ah," he answered, 'there's no place like old England.'"

FRENCH, AS SHE IS UNDERSTOOD.

Miss Maude Adams, on the Deutschland, had been describing the readings from Rostand she had given in French, which had caused an old gentleman to present her with an ancient Egyptian papyrus. Veering off a little, she continued:

"My French is imperfect enough, but it excels that of an Englishwoman whom I met in Cairo. She, at Shephard's Hotel, picked up a French menu and translated 'Ris de veau a la financière.' 'The smile of a calf at a banker's wife.' When she was told that this phrase meant merely sweetbreads, she was as much surprised as the American in Paris who was asked if he would have his eggs 'a la coq.' He answered: "No; a la hen, of course."



LORD MELGUND.
Son of Lord and Lady Minto.



LADY EILEEN ELLIOTT.
Daughter of Lord and Lady Minto.



LADY VIOLET ELLIOTT.
Daughter of Lord and Lady Minto.



LORD AND LADY MINTO AND THE LADIES EILEEN AND RUBY ELLIOTT, SURROUNDED BY BLACKFEET BRAVES IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY OF CANADA.