



Government House, Melbourne.

III.—LORD AND LADY BRASSEY AT HOME.

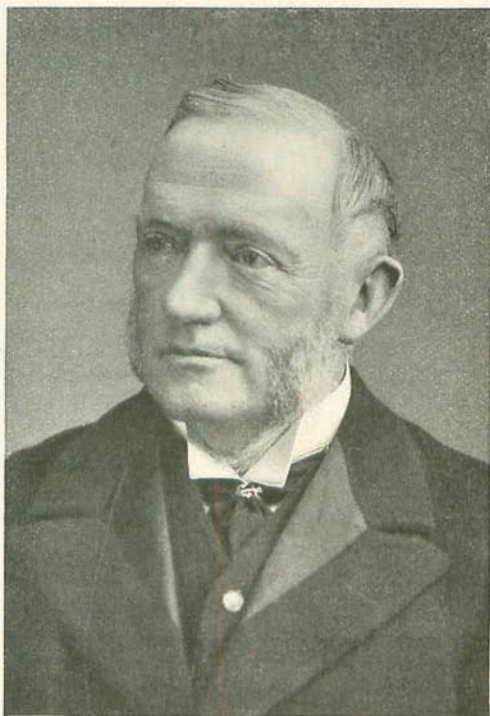
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA.

LADY BRASSEY has been for five years associated with all the official and social duties required of the Governor who represents Queen Victoria in this important Colony of Australia; and now that Lord Brassey's term of office is drawing to a close, one hears on all sides how greatly he and Lady Brassey will be missed, for in every sense of the word the present Governor and his wife have made a home in the beautiful city of Melbourne.

Lady Brassey was a daughter of the late Viscount Malden, and is sister to the present Earl of Essex; she married Lord Brassey in 1890. It was in 1895 that the vacant governorship of Victoria was offered to and accepted by

Lord Brassey. Accompanied by several members of their family, the party sailed for Melbourne in the *Sunbeam*, that beautiful vessel which had already been seen in various ports of Australia. During Lord Brassey's governorship of Victoria his yacht has remained at Melbourne, and many trips have been taken to other parts of Australia.

The Governor's House at Melbourne is a perfect palace, and situated in the midst of lovely scenery. Lord and Lady Brassey dispense their hospitalities right royally, entertaining at all seasons, while guests from the mother country have almost always been found paying long visits to the Governor and his most popular



From a photograph by the London Stereoscopic Company.

LORD BRASSEY.

wife, whose portrait we give. Lady Brassey is very tall and graceful, and always dresses with great taste. Above and beyond the demands upon her time and attention which social duties demand, Lady Brassey has always identified herself with the important interests of the vast colony over which her husband presides; and the enrolment and departure of the Australian Contingent going to South Africa called

much to the meetings and lectures held under Lady Brassey's auspices. The Blind Asylum was in a bad way in 1895, burdened with a very heavy debt, which has been entirely cleared off by the great exertions of Lady Brassey.

Every one has heard of the great Cup Week in Australia, when the Melbourne Derby is run, and there is no event in any of our Colonies which equals the scene on the Melbourne racecourse, when thousands of spectators are assembled round the vast amphitheatre which encircles it, and the Governor and his party attend in some state. The meeting is always held in November, and at this time Government House is always filled with guests, all



THE BOUDOIR.

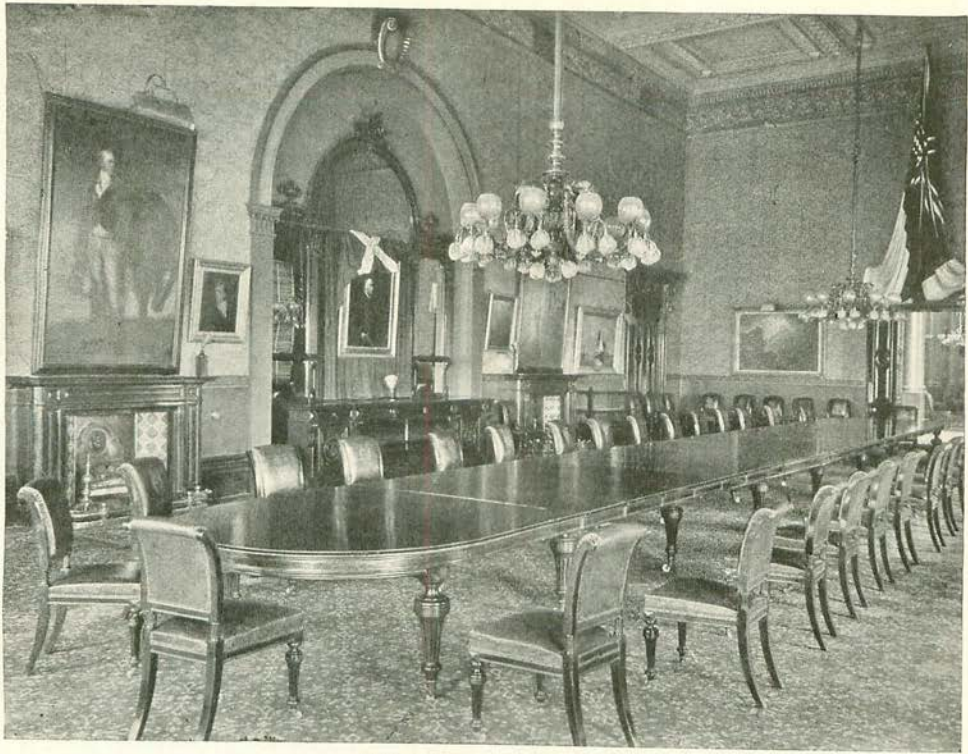
forth the utmost sympathy and practical assistance from both Lord and Lady Brassey, and will be a very memorable incident of their sojourn in Melbourne.

The home life is very busy and interesting. Before breakfast a merry party on bicycles are seen in the Albert Park or watching polo matches, while the attractions of boating on the lake induce some to go afloat. Golf and lawn-tennis are favourite amusements when the real day's work is over; but a large part of every day is devoted to public duties or philanthropic interests, every charity finding active support in Lady Brassey; and, among the many good works in which she has taken great personal interest, the cause of poor friendless children may be first mentioned, as the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children owes



THE HALL.

the other Governors in the neighbouring Colonies being included in the House Party, while balls and receptions are held with a good deal of state. The ballroom is said to be one of the largest and best-proportioned in the world, and is capable of holding such an immense number of guests that our readers will hardly believe that four thousand has been the number stated! Of course, this room is only used on state occasions, as the whole suite of reception-



THE STATE DINING-ROOM.



THE STATE DRAWING-ROOM.

rooms is very large, and under the present occupants has been fitted up most luxuriously. The large hall is especially attractive, with fine palms in various corners, luxurious seats, and a grand piano.

Lord Brassey holds levees, and also entertains all officials at state dinners, and during the season a very large garden-party is always given. Lady Brassey is fond of all sport, and, when the hunting-season begins in April, is often to be seen on horseback, very well mounted, of course. The House is full of pets, and among them a cockatoo with very quaint ways is often seen running after Lady Brassey.

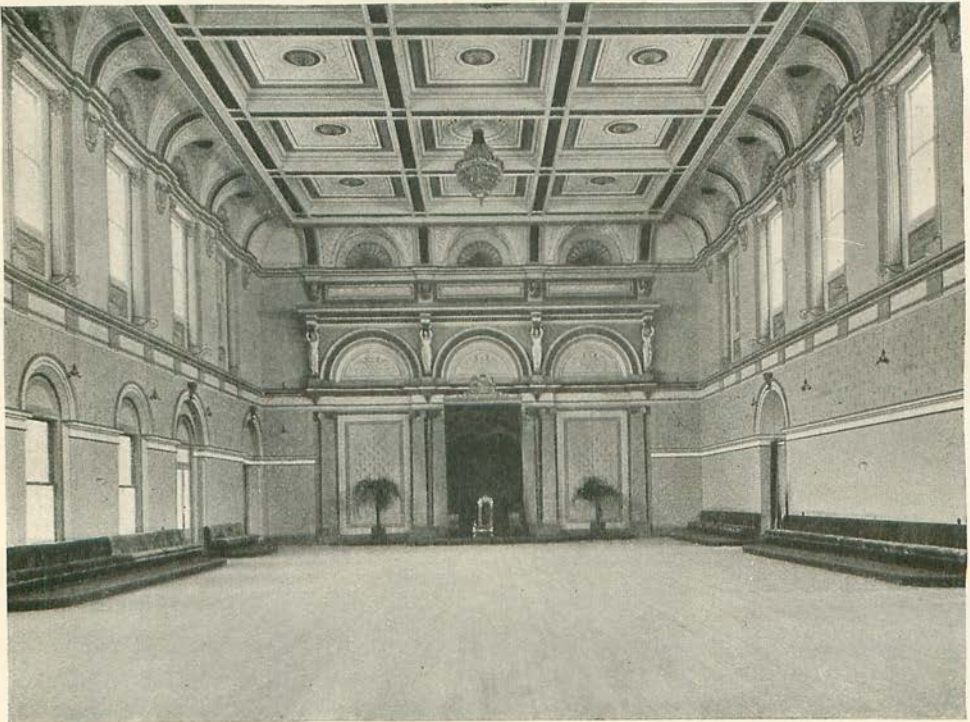
Since these lines were penned, Lord and Lady Brassey have left Melbourne, and the enthusiastic send-off which they received testified to their immense popularity, while the farewells were full of genuine regret from many who felt they were losing personal friends, as well as a Governor and his wife who have done so much for the Colony. At the Victorian Institute for the Blind, to which allusion has already been made, a brass tablet has been placed

in the entrance-hall, bearing the following inscription :

This tablet is erected in grateful commemoration of an appeal to the public of Victoria by Lady Brassey, whereby the sum of £5,745 was subscribed, and the large debt which for many years seriously hampered the work of the Institution was entirely removed.

The photograph of the dining-room gives a fair idea of its dimensions. On great state occasions more than a hundred guests have been entertained at dinner, and during the last two years the parties for the Cup Week have been much enlarged, seventy guests at dinner, in addition to the two balls, at which two thousand guests were present. Another popular entertainment instituted by Lord and Lady Brassey is the annual treat to about five thousand schoolchildren from the State schools in Melbourne (Form VI.), an example which Lord Beauchamp has followed this year in Sydney.

Lord and Lady Brassey left in the *Sunbeam*



THE BALLROOM



LADY BRASSEY.

with the intention of visiting other districts in Australia, also Ceylon, and possibly a short stay at the Cape before returning to England. Lord Brassey is a great authority on all naval subjects, and has written several

books on matters connected with the navy. He was Civil Lord of the Admiralty for three years, and then Secretary to the Admiralty for two more. A year later—1886—he was created a Baron.

May-Blossoms:

BY MRS. EVAN NEPEAN.

I.

SUNSHINE around and above you,
 Heaven as blue as the sea,—
 Surely the May-blossoms love you,
 Up in a tree!—
 Stoop from their place,
 Kissing your face—
 Kisses as sweet as can be!

II.

Life lies before. Shall I meet you?
 Since there's "a world full of men,"
 Paths pass apart. Shall I greet you—
 I wonder when—
 With the same grace
 Still in your face
 As you had then?