

SIN COOKE, HOWARD

GG launches autobiography

THE LAWNS of Kings House was the sight of history on Monday night. It was not the first visit of any foreign diplomat or royalty, but it still drew nearly 300 persons.

Governor-General Sir Howard Cooke became the first Governor General to publish an autobiography; the aptly titled "They call me Teacher"; The life and times of Sir Howard Cooke. There were no balloons, confetti or fireworks. Instead, there were representatives from all sectors of Sir Howard's life and they all showered him with their accolades. He received commendation from the Diplomatic Corps, the

Opposition, the Government and from his alma mater, Mico Teachers' College. The Mico School Music Group even paid tribute to him in song.

The styles of oration may have been different but the intent to praise him was the same. While being applauded for touching many lives and being an "icon of the profession", Sir Howard must have blushed brightly enough even for those at the back to see.

Representing the Prime Minister, Dr. Peter Phillips said that Sir Howard's autobiography was timely because it is easy to lose sight of

those who helped to build the nation.

Sir Howard was quite humble in his reply. He reflected on times when he doubted whether he would become a teacher or not. He seemed genuinely surprised at the number of persons who showed up. As the speeches ended, it was time for everyone to congratulate the man personally for his contribution to society. Guests then flocked to the outside tents to get their copies early and then to have them signed by Sir Howard.

The Jamaica Military Band provided music for the occasion.