

BETHLEHEM COLLEGE  
COOKE



Forrest photo  
IN HONOUR OF A GREAT LADY: Winnie Grandison member of the Bethlehem College Old Students Association (second left) presents a plaque to Her Excellency Mrs. Ivy Cooke, wife of the Governor General His Excellency Howard Cooke during a tea party held in her honour at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kingston, on Saturday. Mrs. Cooke is a past student of Bethlehem College.

# Honouring the First Lady

HER Excellency Ivy Cooke, wife of the Governor General of Jamaica. His Excellency Howard Cooke is proud of her humble upbringing.

She said she was coming from humble beginnings and although elevated to the position of "Her Excellency" she would always remember this.

Mrs. Cooke was speaking on Saturday during a Bethlehem Old Students Association Tea Party held in her honour at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kingston.

She told the past students of the Bethlehem Teachers College Association who were present, of some of the hardships she experienced during her early life after she left the College in 1939 and after she got married.

She said she regarded herself as an ordinary person called to do an extraordinary task.

"I never pushed myself to be anywhere I am. I have gone along life just doing what I can do to the best of my ability and made it a point of my life never to look down on anyone because I am coming from the grassroots of the country," she said.

In her message to the teachers in the society, Mrs. Cooke said, she was not against teachers demonstrating for more pay but a very good teacher at no time could ever be paid and there was a minority of these teachers who were still existing.

"To become a teacher in our time people looked up to us. What is it like today? Society has put up a position for teachers but is it the society or the teachers who have now changed the standard. The way they dress to go to school has deteriorated and the late hour they reach school is appalling," she said.

Mrs. Cooke said teachers were a very special set of people called upon to do a job that no one else could do and so urged that they be careful not to ruin the life or pros-

pect of a child.

She also urged teachers to remember that the very moment they enter a school the child the teacher are entrusted to their care and should be treated the same way they would have someone treat their own child.

"I would like to remind teachers

that they do not need more pay to teach a child discipline, manners, kindness towards one another. This they should do while clamouring for more pay," Mrs. Cooke said.

Mrs. Cooke, a past student of Bethlehem Teachers College spent 40 years in the classroom as a guidance councillor and subject teacher.