

VANITY FAIR - Volume XXVI

“A Weekly Show of Political, Social, and Literary Wares.”

Issues published in the half-year, from July 2, 1881 to December 31, 1881.

Cartoons and selected excerpts

4. *July 23, 1881.*

STATESMEN—No. CCCLXV

Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., M.P.

“Ex-official” by Ape

Sprung from a family of property and repute in Northumberland, Sir Matthew Ridley was born nine-and-thirty years ago, went to Harrow and to Oxford, where he took a first-class, adopted Conservative principles, and at one-and-thirty married the eldest daughter of Sir Dudley Marjoribanks. In 1868 he had been elected to Parliament for North Northumberland which he still represents, and he became sufficiently remarked to be made Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department under the late Conservative Government. He is a person of some importance in the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, and he would, if obliged to give an opinion, confess that Sir Matthew Ridley is a man of great and varied ability. Neither extremely dashing in debate nor absolutely indefatigable, he has a clear head and a considerable capacity for work, and is a thoroughly honest and trustworthy gentleman.

JEHU JUNIOR

VANITIES.

The Bishop of Manchester last Sunday preached one of his spiciest sermons at the Abbey; an address calculated to send away the fashionable audience he addressed sadder and wiser and much out of conceit with their fine clothes. “Society is marching to its doom.” “Outraged morality never fails to have its Nemesis.” “Priests seem to charm in vain.” “The last landmarks of social morality are being washed away.” “National plagues” are rife and no sacerdotal influence seems to avail to stay them. Such were the plain words of Dr. Fraser. The world wants more of such teachers and prophets. Why should it be left to me to point out the infamy of cheating at cards, or the scandal of the elopements of married men and women? The Bishop dealt with these subjects trenchantly from the pulpit, and for all I know many a Felix or an Infelix present trembled.

The preacher hit the nail hard when he dwelt on the personal responsibility of Society, and in doing so doubtless he shielded the priesthood from attack. But had we men in the pulpit, preachers and not drivellers, prophets and not panderers to sensuous passions as teachers, Society would not march to its doom as quickly so the Bishop indicates.

When Dr. Fraser concluded this great effort by a pathetic and almost obituary notice of Dean Stanley—asking all present to pray for the Dean—a general stir was noticeable. It was evident the announcement was a surprise.



Vincent Brooks Day & Son Ltd.

* Ex-official *