

VANITY FAIR - Volume XXVI

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Cartoons and selected excerpts

19. *Nov. 5, 1881*

STATESMEN—No. CCCLXXIX

“a fine old Tory” by Spy

Sir Rainald Knightley, Bart., M.P.

The Knightleys have long represented South Northamptonshire, and the present Baronet took up the family seat when his father vacated it. He was born two-and-sixty years ago, and meandered creditably through Eton, White’s, Boodle’s, The Turf, and the Carlton, into the family faith of high Toryism and matrimony.

Sir Rainald Knightley is one of the most creditable and uncompromising specimens the age has produced of the English country gentleman. He is very high-minded, very honourable, very prejudiced, and very clever ; his judgment is good, and if it is sometimes warped by preconceived notions, his conclusions are always honest. He speaks not infrequently in the House of Commons, and, although he is not an orator, he is always listened to with attention and respect. He is indeed regarded as a guide and almost as a leader by the few old-fashioned politicians who have not learned to change their principles as they change their coats.

He was one of the deadly enemies of Lord Beaconsfield, whom he regarded as a dangerous adventurer. In his manners he shows all the best signs of good breeding ; and he is one of the finest whist players in England.

JEHU JUNIOR



Vincent Brooks, Day & Son, Lith.

"a fine old Tory"