

# VANITY FAIR - Volume XXVI

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

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## Cartoons and selected excerpts

20. *Nov. 12, 1881*

### NOTES

Since our flag was saluted at Yorktown there has been a vast amount of most pleasant talk passing between us and the Americans. We love them ; they have forgotten the old quarrel. We sympathise with them ; they have forgiven our former misunderstandings. But, in spite of this love, they will not withdraw their damaging tariff. Oh ! Love for a year, a week, a day ! Then we admire American institutions. Their great cities are captured by scoundrels who use the taxpayers' money to buy votes. We admire that. Wall-street is a scandal to the round world and all that therein is. We admire that. New York Society is the most corrupt and immoral in the civilised world. Republican virtue has died a violent death. We admire that. There is comfort in seeing so much hearty admiration bestowed on various forms of excellence. In this hagridden old country we are still remarkable for absence of jealousies.

### STATESMEN—No. CCCLXXX

“the kirk of Scotland” by T

The Earl of Rosslyn.

Lord Rosslyn is descended from the House of Mar. The branch of Erskines from which he springs had long been a race of soldiers. At the end of the last century one of them married a Wedderburn, and when Alexander Wedderburn, the great Chancellor who defended Lord Clive, died childless, it was an Erskine who succeeded to this peerage of Rosslyn.

The present and fourth Lord Rosslyn was born forty-eight years ago, went to Eton and to Oxford, and took his degree at nineteen. He travelled in Africa and on the shores of the Black Sea. He contested seats in Parliament, and he developed a pretty knack of writing sonnets, which remains with him to this day. As a young man he became, what he always remained, the attached friend of Lord Beaconsfield, and a Tory of the most radical kind. He also developed a love of horses ; but though he has trained many he has never won a great race with any. He was once sent as Ambassador Extraordinary to Spain on the marriage of the King, and he is the Lord

High Commissioner of the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland. Indeed he loves all things that are pretty, and has a considerable knowledge of all the decorative arts. He possesses a happy knack of flinging about careless epigrams in a resonant voice. He is a good man of business, and can make a bargain ; he is cheerful and well content with life ; he has a lordly air. At thirty-three he made an excellent marriage ; he is still very youthful, and he is one of the best known of men about town.

JEHU JUNIOR

### **VANITIES.**

There is a vast quantity of nonsense being talked about the expense of electric lighting. The truth is that the light will be supplied at about three-fourths the cost of gas within a very short term of years. At present the various companies which have been started to supply the different lights are hampered by two causes : firstly, the impossibility of procuring sufficient numbers of workmen capable of making the new apparatus ; and secondly, the enormous prices which have had to be paid to inventors. The companies are only feeling their way. One syndicate gave Mr. Swan £50,000 for his light. Well, considering that Mr. Swan worked thirty years at his invention, this is not extravagant ; but still, £50,000 is an amount on which it is difficult to pay a decent dividend, especially when want of workmen obliges you to be content with executing one-tenth of the orders in hand. In a little while things will settle down, and people will begin to look on gas as a superannuated agency. There will be a few careless servants damaged at first, and then everybody will be used to the simple mechanism of the new light. At present, it is far too early to talk about cost.



Vincent Brooks, Day & Son, Lith.

"the Kirk of Scotland"