

# VANITY FAIR - Volume XXVI

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

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## Cartoons and selected excerpts

21. *Nov. 19, 1881*

### NOTES.

There is certainly no English statesman, and there are few foreign statesmen, who have so much blood on their heads as Mr. Gladstone. He must be held responsible for the encouragement he has given to the base descendants, not of the Greeks of Marathon, but of the Greeks of the Lower Empire, for the frequent risings of these brigands against Turkish rule. He is equally responsible for the Afghan War, which would never have taken place had Lord Lawrence, Lord Mayo, and Lord Northbrook not been ordered to play fast and loose with Shere Ali. Had not Lord Beaconsfield been hampered by the factious opposition of Mr. Gladstone, the Russo-Turkish War would have been much less sanguinary than it really was, or perhaps would never have taken place at all. Had Mr. Gladstone been firm and patriotic with the Czar, the recent campaigns against the Turcomans would not have occurred. Finally, had he not deceived the Boers, we should not have had a war full of disgrace with them. This is pretty well for an eminent Christian.

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A girl has escaped to Cape Coast Castle and has reported that the King of Ashanti has put to death two hundred young girls in order to use their blood in mixing the mortar for one of his state buildings. Here is an opportunity for an English Governor to make a display of his humanity. He should lose no time in denouncing Ashanti atrocities, cut off the connection of Coomassie, if any remains, with the coast of Elmina, and exterminate the Ashanti savages as an atonement to suffering humanity. He will be supported by the noble British people and by the Press which has caught up the news like wildfire. No time should be lost ; the expedition should be sent out at once. When the Ashantis are exterminated or expatriated (either will do), a Royal Commission may be sent out to inquire into Ashanti customs. To inquire into the truth of the story beforehand would be superfluous. Even under the delusive influence of West Indian and Virginian slavery, no negro girl ever told a lie—much less would she do so in her native Africa. March, and let the foul blood of the enemies of mankind moisten the furrows of their fields.

The Right Hon. Lord Blackburn

Colin Blackburn was born eight-and-sixty years ago, passed through Eton, distinguished himself at Cambridge, and went to the Bar. Here he soon became known for a dry vein of Scotch humour, and for a great capacity for work. He was known to be a staunch Conservative, yet he was regarded as being so good a lawyer that a Liberal Ministry made him a judge. He proved a keen and upright judge, and in 1876 a Conservative Government made him a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and a Judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature. With this he became a limited Peer, entitled to sit and vote with the Lords as long as he holds office. His title is not hereditary ; but he is an old bachelor.

JEHU JUNIOR



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"a lord of appeal"