
VANITY FAIR.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 26, 1906.

MEN OF THE DAY.

NO: MXXXIII.—THE BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS.

THE RIGHT REVEREND EDGAR JACOB, Bishop of St. Albans, is not a scholar nor a preacher of peculiar eloquence; but he is a man of broad views, of financial capacity, and of indomitable energy. He is the son of the late Venerable Philip Jacob, Archdeacon and Canon of Winchester, and was educated at that school and at New College, Oxford. It was not until after his appointment as vicar of Portsea that he acquired his reputation as a man of system. His was a gigantic and neglected parish. He built up therein probably the most complete parochial organisation then existing in England, erected a magnificent church at the cost of some £30,000, and established the full complement of parochial buildings.

In these labours he exhibited two gifts which both Newcastle and St. Albans have had subsequent reason to admire. He interested in his enterprises the men who could pay, and saw to it that they subscribed in proportion to their sympathy. From the late Mr. W. H. Smith, for example, he obtained £20,000 for his building schemes at Portsea. In the second place, he never allowed a penny to go astray from want of management, and the laymen who sent him their cheques had the pleasant feeling that their subscriptions would be expended to the full advantage of the Church.

He is the best business man on the Bench of Bishops, for which reason the Archbishop was anxious to get him near London that he might advise the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and those who control Queen Anne's bounty. He has a strong physique, a powerful voice, and considerable confidence and force. He has a useful memory for faces, and can arouse enthusiasm. He can check the impetuous and unwise without offending them, and has displayed admirable tact in bringing stray ritualistic sheep into line. He discovered that the Inland Revenue had the advantage of the Bishops in the matter of income tax; and the Revenue suffered. The Church owes him a debt—in greater things than money.

JEHU JUNIOR.
