

MEN OF THE DAY. No. 303.

THE REVEREND JOSEPH PARKER.

FOUR-AND-FIFTY YEARS AGO a Northumberland stonecutter had a son. This son proved a clever and ambitious lad, and so early developed the assurance necessary to face an audience and the power of stringing many words together, that at eighteen he was found preaching a sermon in a sawpit on the village green. When he was barely one-and-twenty he was invited by Dr. Campbell to assist in the ministrations of the Moorfields Tabernacle; shortly afterwards he became a student at University College, while he still continued to preach in the old Barbican Chapel; and he was but three-and-twenty when he was ordained and made pastor of the Independent Chapel at Banbury. Five years later he removed to the Cavendish Chapel at Manchester, where he preached and wrote to such purpose as made him a most prominent man among the Nonconformists and a principal man among the Independents. While he was here he was dubbed a Doctor of Divinity by the American University of Chicago. But in 1869 he migrated from Manchester to London, where he was soon established in the City Temple, which for the last ten years he has made to resound with his oratory.

Dr. Parker will next month enter upon his duties as Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, which is a proof of the very high position he holds in the estimation of his fellow-Nonconformists. He is an active, able, and powerful man, and he has a flow of words and a direct, plain, moving manner of speech not at all diminished, but rather increased, by the evidence his speech and manner give that he is a man of the people. He owned and edited the *Christian Shield* and the *Fountain*, and now owns and edits the *Christian Chronicle*, and he is both in writing and in speaking a very considerable force.