

MEN OF THE DAY. No. 48.

DR. CHARLES JOHN VAUGHAN, D.D.

WHO does not remember Herr Teufelsdröch's illustration of the slight honour attached to the schoolmaster's craft in these days? "As yet," exclaims the Professor, "though the soldier wears openly and even parades his butchering tool, nowhere, as far as I have travelled, did the schoolmaster make show of his instructing tool; nay, were he to walk abroad with birch girt on thigh, as if he therefrom expected honour, would there not, among the idle class, perhaps a certain levity be excited?"

Possibly we may have improved since Mr. Carlyle wrote thus. Arnold of Rugby is better remembered than half the statesmen of his time. Among the good citizens whom his healthy training gave to England Dr. Vaughan is not the least worthy. As a boy he is said to have been a favourite of his illustrious master, and no wonder, for at Trinity, Cambridge, where he went after leaving Rugby, he carried everything before him. Craven University Scholar, Porson Prizeman, Browne's Medallist, he wound up, in 1838, as Senior Classic, being bracketed with Lord Lyttelton.

Dr. Vaughan is not a keen partisan; he is not fond of snubbing and humiliating bishops; he can preach a sermon without treading on several Orthodox corns at once. But for all that he has done good work. Harrow was nowhere on the list of great schools when he became its head-master in 1844. Fifteen years of silent laborious care made it equal to Rugby and Winchester. The popular idea of a head-mastership is a lucrative sinecure held by a very old man. But whatever the salary may be, there is no doubt about the work. The modern schoolmaster is expected to know everything, to be able to form his pupil's minds at will, to diffuse an all-persuasive benevolence in his waking and sleeping hours. If it were not for the holidays, which are long, few men could stand it. Dr. Vaughan, though appointed when under thirty, could only endure it for fifteen years. In 1860 he became Vicar of Doncaster—a modest benefice, worth £469 annually, with a population of 6419 souls. He had already refused the bishopric of Rochester, offered him by Lord Palmerston-Shaftesbury. For the fact is bishoprics are at a discount just now. Some time ago the bishopric of Lichfield positively went begging; the present prelate refused before he accepted it.

Dr. Vaughan signalled his tenure of Doncaster vicarage by a sensible and manly protest against the annual vote of £2000 made by the Town Council for the promotion of gambling. Of course the Town Council took no notice of it. In 1851 the Queen showed her sense of Dr. Vaughan's merits by appointing him one of her Chaplains-in-Ordinary—an office which confers more glory than gain, the stipend being only £30 a-year. In 1869 he quitted Doncaster to become Master of the Temple, and worthily fills the pulpit once occupied by the judicious Hooker. He is a preacher of the most eloquent and persuasive order, gentle, earnest, scholarly, tolerant. He is of the Broad Church, and in politics rather a Liberal than a Conservative—Liberal-Conservative or Whig would about describe him. When Harrow subscribed to offer him a testimonial he suggested that the money should be spent in the erection of a boys' library. This has been done, and a portrait of the good Doctor may be seen in the building which is called by his name.