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Mr. James Vaughan

Vanity Fair

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MEN OF THE DAY. No. 486.

MR. JAMES VAUGHAN.

Bow Street has always been famous for the excellence of its police law; and never was it more so than when Ingham, Knight, and Vaughan and Flowers, Esquires, were its three Magistrates. And of these three there is but this one left.

He is the son of one Richard Vaughan, of Cardiff; and though his origin is lost in the dimness of early history, it is recorded that he was keeping terms at Oxford very nearly sixty years ago. There he was made a Bachelor of Arts; but presently he developed into a son-in-law of Jacob Bright, of Rochdale. He got himself called to the Bar at the Middle Temple; and, having served as Chairman of two Election Commissions under the old régime, he received his reward precisely a quarter of a century later. He has now sat at Bow Street for six-and-twenty solemn years; outliving many of those whom unkind circumstances have compelled to face him there. He is Deputy-Lieutenant for Chorley, and Justice of the Peace for five counties; and he has been twice married.

He is a very kindly man, as well as an excellent Magistrate; and it is only the most hardened offender who is unable to entertain some respect for him. The casual tippler knows him, and appreciates the grave kindness of the well-known phrase, "Don’t come here again," so highly that he very often does go there again.
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