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Remarks On The Life and Writings Of Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin

Orrery, John Boyle of

London, 1752

Swift's works from 1714. to 1720. are few and trifling.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-49109](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-49109)

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sum specified. These halfpence and farthings were to be received by those persons, who would voluntarily accept them. But the patent was thought to be of such dangerous consequence to the public, and of such exorbitant advantage to the patentee, that the DEAN, under the character of M. B. DRAPIER, wrote a letter to the people, warning them not to accept WOOD's halfpence and farthings as current coin. This first letter was succeeded by several others to the same purpose, all which are inserted in his works.

At the found of the DRAPIER's trumpet, a spirit arose among the people, that, in the eastern phrase, was *like unto a tempest in the day of the whirlwind*. Every person of every rank, party, and denomination, was convinced, that the admission of WOOD's copper must prove fatal to the commonwealth. The Papist, the Fanatic, the Tory, the Whig, all lifted themselves volunteers under the banner of M. B. DRAPIER, and were all equally zealous to serve the common cause. Much heat, and many fiery speeches against the administration, were the consequence of this union: nor had the flames been allayed, notwithstanding threats and proclamations, had not the coin been totally suppressed, and had not WOOD withdrawn his patent.

This is the most succinct account that can be given of an affair, which alarmed the whole *Irish* nation to a degree that in a less loyal kingdom must have fomented a rebellion: but the stedfast loyalty of the *Irish*, and their true devotion to the present royal family is immoveable: and although this unfortunate nation

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tion may not hitherto have found many distinguishing marks of favour and indulgence from the throne, yet it is to be hoped, in time they may meet with their reward.

The name of AUGUSTUS was not bestowed upon OCTAVIUS CÆSAR with more universal approbation, than the name of THE DRAPIER was bestowed upon THE DEAN. He had no sooner assumed his new *cognomen*, than he became the idol of the people of *Ireland* to a degree of devotion, that in the most superstitious country scarce any idol ever obtained. Libations to his health, or, in plain english, bumpers were poured forth to the DRAPIER as *large* and as *frequent* as to the *glorious and immortal memory of K. WILLIAM the third*. His effigies was painted in every street in *Dublin*. Acclamations and vows for his prosperity attended his footsteps wherever he passed. He was consulted in all points relating to domestic policy in general, and to the trade of *Ireland* in particular: but he was more immediately looked upon as the legislator of the weavers, who frequently came in a body, consisting of fifty or sixty chieftains of their trade, to receive his advice, in settling the rates of their manufactures, and the wages of their journeymen. He received their addresses with less majesty than sternness, and ranging his subjects in a circle round his parlour, spoke as copiously, and with as little difficulty and hesitation, to the several points in which they supplicated his assistance, as if trade had been the only study and employment of his life. When elections were depending for the city of *Dublin*, many corporations

corporations refused to declare themselves, till they had consulted his sentiments and inclinations, which were punctually followed with equal cheerfulness and submission. In this state of power, and popular love and admiration, he remained till he lost his senses: a loss which he seemed to foresee, and prophetically lamented to many of his friends^a.

I have now conducted the Dean through the most interesting circumstances of his life, to the fatal period wherein he was utterly deprived of reason. If your curiosity leads you to enquire into the particulars of that misfortune, it must be the subject of some future letter: for, at present, I think it is time to indulge myself in assuring you, that I am with an inexpressible warmth of heart, my dear HAMILTON,

Your most affectionate Father,

O R R E R Y.

^a See Letter XXI.

L E T.