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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**

Some Arguments against enlarging the Power of Bishops in letting Leases.

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AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 125

the chasm to be filled up? I imagine, by GULLIVER'S travels. Such a work must, in all likelihood, have engrossed his leisure, during five or six years. When that was finished, he found an opening to indulge his love of politics, and to commence a patriot for *Ireland*: and he made use of the opportunity, by encreasing the natural jealousy which the lesser island constantly entertains of the greater. His *treatise*, or *proposal*, immediately raised a very violent flame. The printer was prosecuted: and the prosecution had the same effect, which generally attends those kind of measures: it added fuel to the flame. But his greatest enemies must confess, that the pamphlet is written in the style of a man, who had the good of his country nearest his heart, who saw her errors, and wished to correct them; who felt her oppressions, and wished to relieve them; and who had a desire to rouse, and awaken an indolent nation from a lethargic disposition, that might prove fatal to her constitution.

To the proposal, in favour of the Irish manufactures, succeed, *Some Arguments against enlarging the Power of Bishops in letting of Leases*. This is too serious a pamphlet for your perusal, nor shall I detain you with any farther account of it, than to say, that it is intermixt with those masterly strokes of irony, which so often appear in SWIFT'S works.

But the general subject of the pamphlet leads me to recollect a circumstance much to the Dean's honour. He could never be induced to take fines for any of the chapter lands. He always chose to raise the rents, as the method least oppressive to the present tenant, and

most advantageous to all future tenants and landlords. He constantly refused to give charity out of the chapter funds, which he alledged were scarce sufficient to maintain the necessary repairs of the cathedral. I have already told you <sup>a</sup>, that, among his prebendaries, the *vox Decani* was the *vox Dei*.

We are now come to THE DRAPIER'S *Letters*, those brazen monuments of his fame. They were written in the year 1724. I have said so much in one of my former letters <sup>b</sup> of the cause which gave rise to them, and of the effect which they had upon the nation, that I need say no more in this place, than to recommend them to your perusal, for the style and conduct of their manner: but, lest they may appear too grave to so young a man, and one who is so little interested in the present, and much less in the past affairs of *Ireland*, you will find a paper at the end of them that will excite your risibility, or I am mistaken. It is entitled, *A full and true account of the solemn procession to the Gallows at the execution of WILLIAM WOOD, Esq; and hard-ware-man* <sup>c</sup>. The author makes the several artificers attend WILLIAM WOOD (represented by a log of timber) to the gallows, and each tradesman expresses his resentment in the terms of his proper calling. "The COOK will  
" BASTE him. The BOOKSELLER will TURN OVER A  
" NEW LEAF with him. The TAYLOR will fit IN HIS  
" SKIRTS;" and so on, through a number of people

<sup>a</sup> See Letter V.

<sup>b</sup> Letter VI.

<sup>c</sup> Page 233.