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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**

The Drapier's Letters, and a full and true Account of the solemn procession to the Gallows at the Execution of William Wood, Esq; and Hard-ware-man.

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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.

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of different conditions. Then follows the procession, most humourously described. The whole is a piece of ridicule too powerful for the strongest gravity to withstand.

The next tract is, *A short view of the state of Ireland, written in the year 1727*<sup>a</sup>. Of this I need take little notice, since the present state of *Ireland* is, in general, as flourishing as possible. Agriculture is cultivated: arts and sciences are encouraged: and in the space of eighteen years, which is almost the full time that I have known it, no kingdom can be more improved. *Ireland*, in relation of *England*, may be compared to a younger sister lately come of age, after having suffered all the miseries of an injured minor; such as law suits, encroachments upon her property, violation of her rights, destruction of her tenants, and every evil that can be named. At length, time, and her own noble spirit of industry, have entirely relieved her, and, some little heart-burnings excepted, she enjoys the quiet possession of a very ample fortune, subject, by way of acknowledgement, to certain quit rents, payable to the elder branch of her house: and let me add by experience, that *take her all in all*, she cannot have a greater fortune than she deserves.

I shall not make any comments upon *An Answer to a Paper called A Memorial of the poor Inhabitants, Tradesmen, and Labourers of the Kingdom of Ireland, written in the year 1728*<sup>b</sup>. The pamphlet which comes next in

<sup>a</sup> Page 240.

<sup>b</sup> Page 251.