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GULLIVER'S TRAVELS *BY JONATHAN SWIFT

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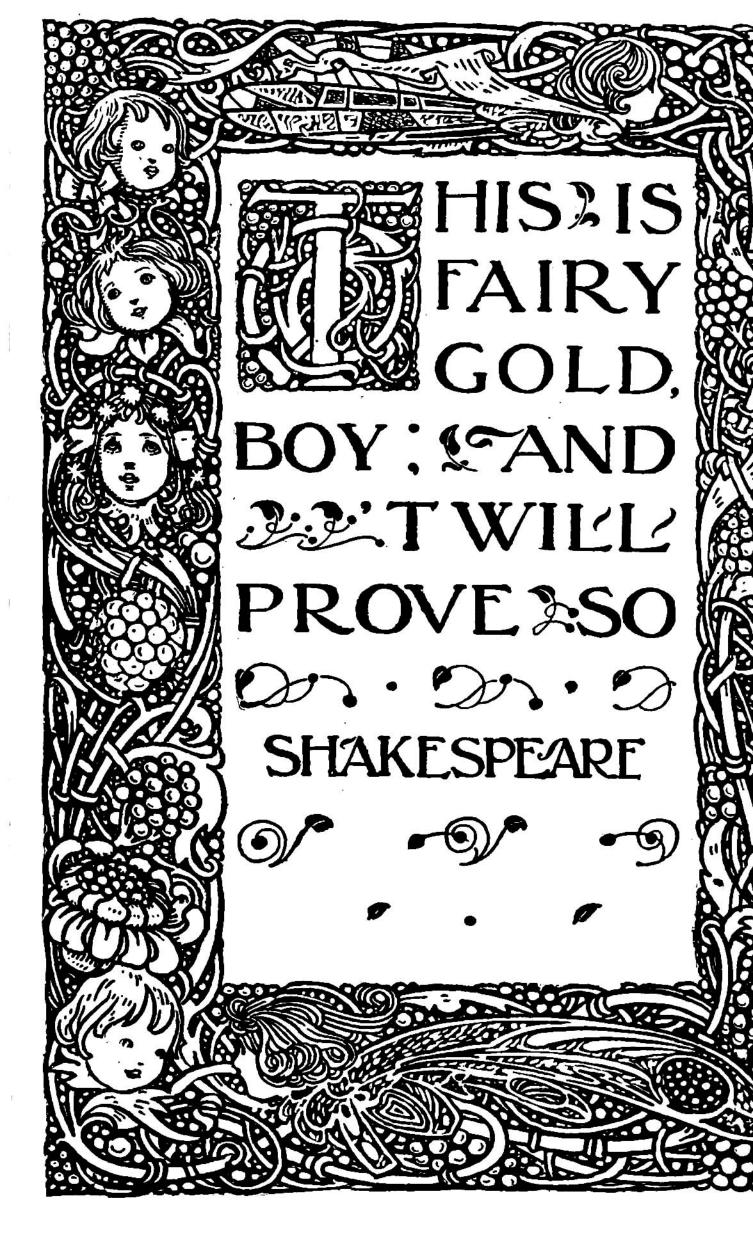
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EDITOR'S NOTE

DEAN SWIFT, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin, had written many books on many subjects, and preached many sermons, before he wrote "Gulliver's Travels." The book appeared first in the year 1726, when he was a man of sober age. few of his friends, poets and wits-Pope and Gay and Bolingbroke-knew at first that he was the author of this strange history of travels into strange regions, a work that was a romance and a fairy-tale, a satire and a sermon, all packed into one cover. If you ask how he ever came to write such a book, you must go back to the time of his boyhood, when he was poor and proud, and given to think of the many things he would like to do if he had his own way when he was a man. Although his sharp wit and desperate pen made him feared by other men, he never quite had his own way, however, unless it was in the imaginary world of Gulliver. And even this, like other fanciful places, was partly a picture of a real world, English and Irish. story of the monkey who carried off Gulliver and left him on the ridge-tile is taken from the story of an ape that once carried off a babe who became ancestor to the earls of Kildare. This ape, it is said, took the babe from the cradle, and carried him to the steeple-top of the great church of Hence the two monkeys on the crest of the family, Tralee. now merged in that of the Duke of Leinster. It may seem that his fellow-men sometimes seemed to Swift too much like apes, or like horses; but at heart he must have loved them much to have so often laid the lash on them for their own good. Swift, when first considering the scheme of "Gulliver's Travels," spoke of it as taking the form of "very extraordinary

voyages into very extraordinary nations"; and it was to "manifest the most distinguishing marks of a philosopher, a politician, and a legislator." The advantage of it as a fable for all time is that children as well as philosophers may read it, and, in their own way, understand it.

The following are the chief works of Jonathan Swift (1667-1745):

A Tale of a Tub, to which is added an account of the Battle between the Ancient and Modern Books in St. James's Library, 1704; The Predictions of, Answer to, and Vindication of Isaac Bickerstaff, Esq., 1708, 1709; Miscellanies in Prose and Verse, including "Meditations upon a Broomstick," 1711; A Proposal for Correcting, Improving and Ascertaining the English Tongue, 1712; A Proposal for the Universal Use of Irish Manufactures, 1720; The Drapier Letters (concerning the brass halfpence coined by Mr. Woods), 1724; 6th and 7th in "Works," 1735; Cadenus and Vanessa (poem), 1726; Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, in four parts, by Lemuel Gulliver, first a surgeon and then a captain of several ships, 2 vols., 1726; Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift, written by himself, 1731; Sermons: On Mutual Subjection, On the Conscience, On the Trinity, On the Difficulty of Knowing One's Self, 1744.

Swift contributed to the "Tatler," 1709, 1710; and to the

"Examiner," 1710, 1711.

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GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

PART I

CHAPTER I

My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire; I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emanuel College in Cambridge, at fourteen years old, where I resided three years, and applied myself close to my studies; but the charge of maintaining me (although I had a very scanty allowance) being too great for a narrow fortune, I was bound apprentice to Mr. James Bates, an eminent surgeon in London, with whom I continued four years; and my father now and then sending me small sums of money, I laid them out in learning navigation, and other parts of the mathematics, useful to those who intend to travel, as I always believed it would be some time or other my fortune to do. When I left Mr. Bates, I went down to my father; where, by the assistance of him and my uncle John, and some other relations, I got forty pounds, and a promise of thirty pounds a year to maintain me at Leyden: there I studied physic two years and seven months, knowing it would be useful in long voyages.

Soon after my return from Leyden, I was recommended by my good master Mr. Bates, to be surgeon to the Swallow, Captain Abraham Pannell, commander; with whom I continued three years and a half, making a voyage or two into the Levant, and some other parts. When I came back, I resolved to settle in London, to which Mr. Bates, my master, encouraged me, and by him

I was recommended to several patients. I took part of a small house in the Old Jewry; and being advised to alter my condition, I married Mrs. Mary Burton, second daughter to Mr. Edmund Burton, hosier, in Newgate Street, with whom I received four hundred pounds for a

portion.

But, my good master Bates dying in two years after, and I having few friends, my business began to fail; for my conscience would not suffer me to imitate the bad practice of too many among my brethren. Having therefore consulted with my wife, and some of my acquaintance, I determined to go again to sea. I was surgeon successively in two ships, and made several voyages for six years to the East and West-Indies, by which I got some addition to my fortune. My hours of leisure I spent in reading the best authors, ancient and modern, being always provided with a good number of books; and when I was ashore, in observing the manners and dispositions of the people, as well as learning their language, wherein I had a great facility by the strength of my memory.

The last of these voyages not proving very fortunate, I grew weary of the sea, and intended to stay at home with my wife and family. I removed from the Old Jewry to Fetter-Lane, and from thence to Wapping, hoping to get business among the sailors; but it would not turn to account. After three years' expectation that things would mend, I accepted an advantageous offer from Captain William Pritchard, master of the Antelope, who was making a voyage to the South-Sea. We set sail from Bristol, May 4th, 1699, and our voyage at first was

Sept 1707 1702 very prosperous.

It would not be proper, for some reasons, to trouble the reader with the particulars of our adventures in those seas: Let it suffice to inform him, that, in our passage from thence to the East-Indies, we were driven by a violent storm to the north-west of Van Diemen's Land. By an observation we found ourselves in the latitude of 30 degrees 2 minutes south. Twelve of our crew were dead by immoderate labour, and ill food, the rest were

in a very weak condition. On the fifth of November, which was the beginning of summer in those parts, the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock, within half a cable's length of the ship; but the wind was so strong, that we were driven directly upon it, and immediately split. Six of the crew, of whom I was one, having let down the boat into the sea, made a shift to get clear of the ship and the rock. We rowed, by my computation, about three leagues, till we were able to work no longer, being already spent with labour while we were in the ship. We therefore trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves, and in about half an hour the boat was overset by a sudden flurry from the north. What became of my companions in the boat, as well as of those who escaped on the rock, or were left in the vessel, I cannot tell; but conclude they were all lost. For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me, and was pushed forward by wind and tide. I often let my legs drop, and could feel no bottom: but when I was almost gone, and able to struggle no longer, I found myself within my depth; and by this time the storm was much abated. The declivity was so small, that I walked near a mile before I got to the shore, which I conjectured was about eight o'clock in the evening. I then advanced forward near half a mile, but could not discover any sign of houses or inhabitants; at least I was in so weak a condition that I did not observe them. I was extremely tired, and with that, and the heat of the weather, and about half a pint of brandy that I drank as I left the ship, I found myself much inclined to sleep. I lay down on the grass, which was very short and soft, where I slept sounder than ever I remembered to have done in my life, and, as I reckoned, about nine hours; for when I awaked it was just daylight. I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir: for as I happened to lie on my back, I found my arms and legs were strongly fastened on each side to the ground; and my hair, which was long and thick, tied down in the same manner. I likewise felt several slender ligatures across my body, from my arm-pits to my thighs. I could only look upwards

the sun began to grow hot, and the light offended my I heard a confused noise about me, but, in the posture I lay, could see nothing except the sky. In a little time I felt something alive moving on my left leg, which advancing gently forward, over my breast, came almost up to my chin; when bending my eyes downward as much as I could, I perceived it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver at his back. meantime, I felt at least forty more of the same kind (as I conjectured) following the first. I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud, that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them, as I was afterwards told, were hurt with the falls they got by leaping from my sides upon the ground. However, they soon returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill but distinct vice, Hekinah degul: the others repeated the same words several times, but I then knew not what they meant. I lay all this while, as the reader may believe, in great uneasiness; at length, struggling to get loose, I had the fortune to break the strings, and wrench out the pegs that fastened my left arm to the ground; for, by lifting it up to my face, I discovered the methods they had taken to bind me, and, at the same time, with a violent pull, which gave me excessive pain, I a little loosened the strings that tied down my hair on the left side, so that I was just able to turn my head about two inches. But the creatures ran off a second time, before I could seize them; whereupon there was a great shout in a very shrill accent, and after it ceased, I heard one of them cry aloud, Tolgo phonac; when in an instant I felt above an hundred arrows discharged on my left hand, which pricked me like so many needles; and besides they shot another flight into the air, as we do bombs in Europe, whereof many I suppose fell on my body (though I felt them not), and some on my face, which I immediately covered with my left hand. When this shower of arrows was over, I fell a groaning with grief and pain, and then striving again to get loose.