

**JOURNAL OF THE VERY REV.  
ROWLAND DAVIES, LL.D. DEAN  
OF ROSS, FROM MARCH 8,  
1688-9 TO SEPTEMBER 29, 1690**

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September 29, 1690 by Richard Caulfield

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**RICHARD CAULFIELD**

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ROWLAND DAVIES, LL.D. DEAN  
OF ROSS, FROM MARCH 8,  
1688-9 TO SEPTEMBER 29, 1690**



JOURNAL  
OF THE  
VERY REV. ROWLAND DAVIES, LL.D.  
DEAN OF ROSS,  
(AND AFTERWARDS DEAN OF CORK.)  
FROM MARCH 8, 1688-9, TO SEPTEMBER 29, 1690.

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EDITED,  
WITH NOTES, AND AN APPENDIX,  
AND SOME ACCOUNT OF THE AUTHOR AND HIS FAMILY.  
BY  
RICHARD CAULFIELD, B. A.  
MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NORMANDY, &c.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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Dr. Rowland Davies, the author of the ensuing *Journal*, was born at Gille Abbey,\* near Cork, in 1649, and, having received the rudiments of his education in that city under the care of Mr. Scragg, then an eminent teacher, entered the university of Dublin on Feb. 23, 1665. He seems from the present *Journal* to have been first bred to the medical profession. On the 9th April, 1671, he received priest's orders, and on the 11th May following was admitted to the prebend of Kilnaglorry, diocese of Cork. Oct. 26, 1673, he was collated to the prebend of Iniscarna, diocese of Cloyne, and in 1674 he exchanged his first preferment for the prebend of Iniskenny, diocese of Cork. Feb. 10, 1679, he was instituted by the Archbishop of Cashel as Dean of Ross, when he presented the bell to the cathedral of Cloyne, which, until very recently, hung at the top of the adjacent round tower. To these benefices was added also the prebend of Lisleary, to which he was collated Oct. 20, 1679.

The pedigree of the Dean's family was entered at the Visitation of Herefordshire made in the year 1683. From this and other sources it

\* Or Gill Abbey Castle, according to a family memorandum. Fitzgerald's *Cork Remembrancer* records as follows: "1735. Gill Abbey Castle fell down after 980 years standing." It was probably the tower of the abbey, to which a house may have been attached, as is now the case with respect to the tower of the Red Abbey in Cork.

appears that he was son of Rowland Davies by a daughter of Scudamore, and that Rowland his father had settled in Ireland. It is stated in the "Liber Munerum Hiberniæ," that Richard Scudamore and Rowland Davies obtained a grant of the office of Customers of Cork for their lives, by a patent dated at Westminster 30th July, 1660, which was afterwards surrendered. There can be no doubt that this Rowland was the Dean's father. His mother was a widow when she married Mr. Davies, who then resided at Bandon in the county of Cork. The marriage licence bond, dated 3rd April, 1643, designates him as of that place, and styles her Mary Smith, widow. Among the depositions of sufferers in Trinity College, Dublin, is one by Mary Smith of Gille Abbey, widow, dated 8th Oct. 1642, which states that she lost by burning of houses to the value of 275*l.*, and that she was deprived of an interest in land of 9*l.* per annum. The pedigree of 1683 is given at the end of this Introduction.

In March, 1689, the Protestant inhabitants of Ireland were awakened to a sense of their danger by the intelligence that King James had already embarked, and was daily expected to land in the country. Every circumstance contributed to increase their alarm. The tragic scenes enacted during the insurrection of 1641 were painted in too lasting colours to be so soon obliterated from memory, and so general was the panic that on the 8th of the same month our author, with one hundred and forty fellow-passengers, embarked on board the *Mary of Cork*, and effected his escape to the sister island. Just four days had elapsed after his departure when James landed at Kinsale. The storm that had been so long gathering now burst, but the subsequent history of this period is too familiar to every one to require further observation.

On landing in England, Dr. Davies's object was to obtain some appointment in his sacred profession, and his first application was to his countryman Dr. Parr, of whom a biographical notice is given in p. 2. The church of Camberwell, where Dr. Parr was Vicar, became the first scene of Dr. Davies's ministerial labours in England; and, though now depending entirely on his own exertions, and privately encountering many difficulties, we find him discharging the duties of his office with faithfulness and care.

About this period many of the Irish prelates and nobility had arrived in London. The presence of his fellow-countrymen inspired our author with new energy. He exerted himself to acquire the means of living, but his numerous appeals often resulted in disappointment. Cheerless must have been the condition of the Irish Protestants in London at that time, although a fund was instituted for relieving their more pressing wants. Davies endeavoured to procure a nomination to the new church at Plymouth, and subsequently applied for St. Stephen's Walbrook, which was vested in the Grocers' Company. Both these openings failed; but he was shortly after, through the interest of friends, appointed to a lectureship at Great Yarmouth by the corporation of that town. There he remained from the 2nd July until the 21st Oct., enjoying the hospitality and goodwill of a numerous circle of acquaintances. His resignation of this appointment was displeasing to his friends, and among others to the Archbishop of Tuam, who considered the step highly injudicious. It was out of their power then to provide better for him, and on Nov. 14th we find him in the coach again retracing his steps to Yarmouth. On the 16th he arrived once more at his old lodgings in the hospitable residence of Alderman Ellis. When King William visited Ireland Dr. Davies