

**GULLIVER'S TRAVELS: A
VOYAGE TO
LILLIPUT, A VOYAGE TO
BROBDINGNAG, PP. 1-220**

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Gulliver's Travels: A Voyage to Lilliput, a Voyage to Brobdingnag, pp. 1-220 by Jonathan Swift & Maria L. Kirk

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**GULLIVER'S
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BY
DR. JONATHAN SWIFT

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS IN COLOR BY
MARIA L. KIRK

SPLENDIDE MENDAX—HORACE



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INTRODUCTION

BEFORE becoming absorbed in these wondrous adventures of Gulliver, please give just a few minutes to making the acquaintance of the man behind the book, Dr. Jonathan Swift, or "Dean Swift," for this is the title by which he is better known.

You will realize that any kind of lecture or address, no matter how fine it might be, would lose half its interest if it were delivered through a phonograph instead of coming straight from the lips of the lecturer. And this is the same with a book if we know nothing about its maker.

Well, you may think of Jonathan Swift as having a very bright mind with keen sense of humor, but a sharp tongue which was always getting him into trouble. He was too apt to "look on the dark side of things," as the saying is, but perhaps the unhappy circumstances of his birth had much to do with this fault.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, November 30, 1667; sad to relate, he never saw his father, who had passed away only a short time before. This loss so affected the boy's early life that as his birthday anniversaries came around he was never willing to make merry like other children, but was especially gloomy on those days.

After the present war is over, if you should go to Dublin you may see the house where the author of "Gulliver's Travels" first saw the light; and then if you also visit the little town of Kilkenny—where those famous but cruel cat-fights of the Hessians took place so long ago—you will find in an old school-house the name of Jonathan Swift carved on his desk by his own hand. To us in the United States it seems strange to find these things preserved for over two hundred years and in good condition, but in those older lands this is not unusual.

After his school course at Kilkenny, Swift returned to Dublin and entered the University, where, in honesty it must be admitted, he failed to win any honors. It was only by special favor that he obtained his degree of Bachelor of Arts.

College ended, Swift now stayed at the home of Sir William Temple, a relative of his mother's and an accomplished scholar. There Swift met "high society," even royalty itself. The story goes that it was King William III who taught him the Dutch way of eating asparagus, that is, to eat both head and stalk.

The new connection seemed to spur the youth's ambition to study, and after a time he determined to enter the Church of England. He was later appointed Dean of Kilroot, where he remained until he

met a brother clergyman whom he thought needed it more than he did; so he resigned in his favor.

Then he went back to Sir William Temple as his secretary, but after a time changed back again to the Church, and it was after this return, in 1701, that he published his first work, an *Essay on the Dissensions in Athens and Rome*. This was followed by *Tale of a Tub* and numerous other books.

In 1727 "Gulliver's Travels" was published and aroused a storm of applause. It was admired by people generally for its entertaining story, and politicians were delighted at its clever satire on the times—with the many sly allusions to prominent people.

Now having given you this very brief account of the writer, we leave you to enjoy the wild adventures of Gulliver the sailor, first in Lilliput, the land of pygmies, "who were never higher than six inches; their tallest trees the size of an average man and the town itself looking like the painted scene of a city on a theatre stage."

Judge, then, of the contrast when he went from there to Brobdingnag, where lived giants and where a cat was three times the size of an ox and purred so loud that Gulliver thought the sound came from a mill wheel.

LOUISE R. BULL

PHILADELPHIA

