

SPECTACLES
FOR THE
FREEMEN
AND
FREEHOLDERS
OF THE
CITY of *DUBLIN*,
RESPECTING

Their present Election of a fit Person
to represent them in Parliament,
in the Room of Sir *Samuel Cooke*,
Bart. deceased.



D U B L I N:
Printed in the Year M,DCC,LVIII.

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FOR THE
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AND
FRESHBORN
OF THE
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Their present Election of a Member
to represent them in Parliament
in the Room of Sir James O'Connell
Bar. deceased.



DUBLIN
Printed in the Year 1800.

SPECTACLES

FOR THE

Freemen and Freeholders

OF THE

CITY of DUBLIN.

Fellow Citizens, and Brethren ;

AS by the Death of your late worthy Representative Sir Samuel Cooke, Bart. you are called upon to supply the Vacancy occasioned thereby ; so, it is hoped, you will duly consider of a Person proper to represent you in his Stead.

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As,

As, for several Years past, I have been disengaged from Trade and Business, I am the less liable to be prejudiced by Motives or Suggestions which too frequently govern, or influence such as are occupied in depending Dealings : So my Experience in that Situation, for a long Course of Years, furnishes me with Helps for weighing Questions of this Nature in a just Balance.

Now, though I might instance as well in *England*, as here, many affecting Disorders that have been most rashly, and often deliberately committed on such Occasions, I choose to confine myself to two, which, as they happened among ourselves, and stand upon the Memories of Numbers of my Readers at this Day, will, I conceive, be more admissable Grounds for what I shall offer, and, consequently, be more suitable to my present Purpose than others more remote, or prior to them.

The former of these Instances was in the memorable Competition of *Fownes* and *Tucker* with *Burton* and the Recorder, by which so great a Degree of Malevolence was raised, that no Considerations of Affinity, Connexion, or Religion could restrain the infatuated Partizans from the most violent Outrages, and ruinous Prosecutions. But a little Recollection of the critical Condition of our Constitution both in Church and State, at that unhappy Period, will supply us with the real Cause why those Animosities and Disturbances so generally prevailed : The Succession to the Crown, and, consequently, the Maintenance of the Reformation had been rendered precarious ; if not
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by the then reigning Queen, undoubtedly by her infamous and villainous Ministry; whose execrable Schemes set them on raising Parties, and fomenting Divisions among the unwary Subjects of these Realms, under the odious Distinctions of WHIG and TORY: The latter whereof had the Countenance and Patronage of those Miscreants at the Helm; but, by the gracious Interposition of Providence, all their traiterous Projects were seasonably defeated, and the Conspirators condignly punished by Deaths, Forfeitures, and Proscriptions, upon the joyful Accession of the illustrious Protestant Elector of *Hanover*; under whose truly wise Administration a general Acquiescence with his Government most signally obtained. For, though the immediate Antagonists of those Times of Confusion held an invariable Enmity to each other, yet, through the wise and mild Measures of his Majesty, there was a happy Coalition established among their Descendants, notwithstanding the Prejudices they had derived from their too sanguine Ancestors.

For a long Time after, the People were of a quiet and agreeable Temper, so that whatever Successes, or Misfortunes, happened in the national Affairs, all concurred in the Rejoicings, or Concern, that those different Events demanded of them. During which glorious Space of Time it may, with much Propriety, be said, “ That every Man sat contentedly under his Vine, and under his Fig-tree: And that Peace and Plenteousness were within our Walls, and Palaces.”

But

But this pleasurable State of our City, which it is truly to be wished had all along continued, was most strangely broken by the late shameful Animosities and Excesses which were created and committed upon the Election of *Lucas* and *Latouche*, in opposition to *Cooke* and *Burton*, two of our Aldermen. The two former of these had taken a great deal of Pains to expose and vilify the whole Board of Aldermen; and indeed, as the Conduct of some of that Board had been arrogant and unjustifiable, the Addresses and Speeches of those two specious Champions for Redress of Grievances, and Restoration of Liberty, easily excited a considerable Majority in their Interest, while they kept within the Bounds, which, at their first setting out, they had persuaded their Votaries they would confine themselves to, and strictly persevere in: But, whether fortunately, or otherwise, I need not now say, the Heats against the Board daily increased to such a Degree, that the two Champions' Addresses were constantly return'd by clamorous Plaudits, and their Persons perpetually followed with triumphal Huzzas; insomuch, that by Means of their consequent Intoxication, they deviated from the plain and easy Path they had set out in, and most wildly, and indiscriminately carried their Batteries against the highest Dignitaries and Orders of our Government; nay, against our legal, and constitutional Subjection to, and Dependence on *Great Britain*.

I confess myself to have been influenced, and drawn into the stupid Delusion: but, since the Abatement of those mad Feuds, it is with great Satisfaction I can now reflect, that one of those dangerous

dangerous Incendiaries was, by the Wisdom of the Legislature, voted an Enemy to his Country, and thereupon proscribed; and that the other was rejected from holding a Place in that august Assembly: And the rather, as I am perfectly convinced that the two Gentlemen, who, in Fact, represented us there, were better qualified for, and intitled to, that Honour than their audacious, and hair-brained Competitors; and as it was a happy and wise Measure of that Honourable House to correct the Exorbitancies of those two Candidates, and to check all factious Proceedings in future Cases of the same Kind.

From my intimate Acquaintance with, and certain Knowledge of, many Persons who had ran headlong into the Clamours and Tumults of the Time I have just mentioned, but have since withdrawn themselves, by a prudent Disavowal of those seditious Proceedings, I was led to hope that the Spirit of that turbulent Party had sufficiently subsided: but whilst I also know how next to impossible it is to recover some low and bigotted People to a Sense of their Errors; and withal the utter Impossibility of bringing such obstinate, and tenacious People to a Confession of those Errors; and when, besides these, I know that a few among them, like *Demetrius* and the Craftsmen, are deeply interested in keeping Life in their baffled Cause; that the same Leaven still works among them, stimulating the Minds of weak and unwary Citizens; and when I see, undeniably, the same Spirit collecting Numbers for the Purpose of carrying on their present darling Scheme of Confusion and Disturbance, I am at a Loss how to express my Concern on so affecting an Occasion.

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There is for ever something so enchanting in the trite Cry for Liberty, and Redress of Grievances, that upon every Alarm given thereof by the Trumpeters, which are kept in Pay for that Service, Legions muster from their several Cantonments, and, at a Breath, make themselves ready for Battle: then, and there, are they in fear where no Fear is: And a troubled Sea, when it cannot rest, but its Waters cast up Mire, and Dirt, is a lively Emblem, or Representation of the real Temper of these People.

It is, however, very unaccountable, from this true State of them, that they should be directed by a Hit of Fortune (which, in others, would be termed Prudence) to select a Person, who, on very many Accounts, is a worthy, and unexceptionable Citizen for representing this City: I know him to be a great, and a good Man; and am thoroughly persuaded that his Goodness is founded on good Principles: I wish with my Leisure that I had a Capacity for giving a just Detail of his excellent Services for, and Usefulness to, the Publick: but as this admits of no Contradiction, and that the Gentleman who stands in Competition with him, ingenuously represents him as worthy to be a Candidate (and here I will observe, that their Ingenuity and Candour are reciprocal) it will be thought unnecessary for me to expatiate upon his Character, when exhibiting him in this short Sketch would, perhaps, stand freer from Objections than any laboured Panegyric in my Power.

But,

But, under this just Sense of his high Merit, I cannot refrain from expressing my hearty Concern at his being so unfortunate as to be set up by the very Party that had rendered itself obnoxious to the Legislature by their Excesses on Occasion of the last Elections in this City. If that honourable Body shall see (and their Inspection is very penetrating) that the same Engines and Springs are employed, which were used for creating and fomenting those Commotions, it is justly to be apprehended, that no Regard will be had to the Suffrages of a People who combine in the chimerical, and ridiculous Clamours of unconstitutional Oppression, and usurped Dependency.

Sedition is an Evil that Authority will ever exercise itself to discountenance, and suppress: And by how much the more popular it becomes, by so much the more deep is its Root, and consequently, the immediate and effectual laying to of the Ax becomes proportionably necessary.

Hitherto I have only considered him in his private Capacity; in which, I imagine, all his present Party are most desirous that he should be represented; for, as to his having been of the Board of Aldermen, and having concurred in several of their Measures, contrary to the peculiar Schemes of this Party, it would not stand with their Liking, at this Juncture especially, that he should be mentioned in that Light; only where it may be serviceable to their Cause to remind us, that he was set aside by the Board from serving in the Station of Lord Mayor of this City. Whereas, that was done from a very just Apprehension of great Partiality

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tiality in his Administration at that Time of too general Distraction. The Indignity that was offered to them, through Alderman *Dunn*, on that Occasion, was a sensible and severe Stroke to their favourite Cause, insomuch that nothing less than invincible Pertinacy, grounded on the Suggestions of a few of the Party, whose Interest demanded the utmost Perseverance, could have supported them under. All the mighty Hopes that they had conceived upon his Election to preside at the Board, and his choosing Returning Officers for their Purpose, were so unexpectedly dashed thereby, that, had not the incessant Harangues of those few self-interested been accepted as a full Counterpoise, both the Party, and their Cause, had been totally kicked up during the present Generation.

As upon that fatal Disappointment, and according to the Sense of the Legislature, the two Aldermen succeeded to the vacant Seats in the Honourable House of Commons, nothing remained to the Malecontents but Murmurs, and Invectives against those good Measures: And, through the Force of that Dishumour, their Thoughts were turned away from considering that a future Occasion, for carrying their darling Point, might ever occur again: They never once thought, that to be in Readiness for another Opportunity should be their proper Care. They only had a gnawing, and vindictive Retrospect, without providing themselves with any Requisites on any future Occurrence; nor could they ever hit on the important Expedient of engaging Alderman *Dunn* to resign his Aldermanship till Sir *Samuel Cooke's* Death. I am not inclined to think so very unfavourably, perhaps injuriously, of Alderman *Dunn*, as to charge him with fostering Resentment so long as
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from the Time of his being rejected for bearing the Rod, &c. to the tenth or eleventh of *February*, 1758, is, (the Time in which he resigned;) and, in my Apprehension, the Advertisements issued on the ninth of this Month, purporting a Desire, that the Citizens of *Dublin* (by whom, as appeared by that Meeting, was only meant those that affect to term themselves FREE-CITIZENS, in Contradistinction to all other CITIZENS) would meet at the *Tbolfel* on the following Day, to consider of a proper Person to represent them in Parliament, with a *N. B.* that he must be a Trader, and not an Alderman, was in haste and surprize cooked up, to give the more plausible Face to their crude but fortunate Resolves that Alderman *Dunn* should quit the Purple; and to exclude every other Person, who was not of their Party. Indeed the express Exceptions were only against the Aldermen, or any one that was not a Trader: But there is an imply'd Exception in the Words (and not an Alderman) that manifestly were levelled at the Recorder; who, as a most worthy, dignified Officer of this City, has a most fair and undoubted Pretension: And tho', with all Candour, I acknowledge that Mr. *Dunn* would be a very proper Person to represent this City, were he clear of the Charge of being connected with the Troublers of our Peace, the FREE-CITIZENS; and on another Account, that I shall hereafter consider; yet I rely upon this, that the Recorder, both from the Dignity of his Office, which gives him an intimate Acquaintance with all the Rights and Occasions of this City in particular; and from his Knowledge, by his Profession, of our Constitution in general, as well as by Reason of his Rank as a Gentleman, and a good Lawyer, which would give his Applications to the rest of the Honour-

able House of Commons the more Weight, I say, he would upon all those Accounts, as well as many others that might be particularized, be incomparably more proper to represent this City, than any other that can be proposed.

Had Alderman *Dunn* quitted the Board at the Time that he received the Affront, sure I am, that he would then have done so with a much better Grace than at present : Because his Resignation then, would have justified his Resentment in a Manner that very well would have become him : Whereas, his Resignation now, is a plain Indication that he took the Affront lightly to Heart, and that he would not have resigned yet, if the present Vacancy had not yet happened.

But, tho' it be undoubtedly certain that Mr. *Dunn*, on Account of his good Character, was the most proper Person of that Party to fix upon, to set up in Election, in Opposition to the Board of Aldermen and the Recorder, yet, I conceive, they have failed of proposing one that stands unexceptionably qualified with respect to his religious Profession : However it was, there were but three Persons in this boasted great Body of FREE-CITIZENS that were in Contemplation on this Occasion ; and those three were all of that Profession : By which it would seem, as if such of them as were of the Established Church, were very inconsiderable for Understanding, or Fortunes, or, perhaps, were observed by these not to go Head and Shoulders into their Measures, and Views ; or had been over-ruled, or implicitly acquiesced with the confident Proposal of those three : But, be that as it may, if Mr. *Dunn* had not agreed to throw off his Purple, it was unanimously

mously determined that one of the other two Dissenters should be put in Nomination, notwithstanding the one, that would probably set up, had already experienced how successful his Attempt was, tho' his Interest was grafted upon a very popular Stock; it being notorious, that *Lucas*, before his doleful Departure, had pathetically recommended him to all his Partizans.

I conceive it would surprize any Foreigner to be told, that out of the vast Numbers of sensible, and wealthy Inhabitants of the Metropolis of this Kingdom, of whom a vast Majority is of the established Religion of the Country, that yet a Person, of a scarce Sect, should carry an Election. I may venture to say, that it strikes the thinking Part of the Members of the established Church among ourselves in like Manner.

—*Tell it not in Gath.*

Before I dismiss this Point, I will acquaint my Readers, that, as of my own Knowledge, no Dissenter has been our Representative, so I enquired of several, whether they could recollect that any had in their Time? which was still answered in the Negative. If the Fact be so, I hope, for the Sake and Credit of the established Religion among us, that this Question will be unprecedented by the Result of the present Competition: But if Mr. *Dunn* will become a sincere Conformist, be the Issue ever so favourable for him, I shall take great Pleasure at his Success.

It will, no doubt, be objected by that Party, that my last Observation tends to disunite the Subjects of this Kingdom, and revive our former
unnatural

unnatural Divisions. Indeed, were it not a Matter manifestly known, that not only their Dealings are confined to themselves, but also, on the present Occasion, that they will, to a Man, use all their Interest, and give all their Votes for Mr. *Dunn*, except a few, perhaps, that are subject to unavoidable Influence. I say, if this were not the true Case at present, the supposed Objection would be of the greatest Force. Whereas, the Premises being certain, the Observation which I have raised thereon stands firm and unshaken.

However, still, as I do not presume to assign the Springs, and Motives which actuate the Hearts of Individuals, Mr. *Dunn*'s extensive Liberality, in every publick and private Exigency, abundantly acquits him of that too general Narrowness; and proves, against all Contradiction, that he has a more happy, and enlarged Soul; on which estimable Account, my hearty Wishes are, that he were a sincere and thorough Conformist to the established Religion of this Country, which, as it would not alter his benevolent Disposition, so would it give him a much fairer Title to those Voices that bear an incomparable Majority.

Now, having set Mr. *Dunn*'s personal Merits in as advantageous a Light as I was capable, I should not omit to do Justice to the publick and private Character of the Gentleman who is a truly worthy Candidate, and thoroughly qualified for the important Trust. But, as from a very familiar View of him in both Respects, even his Adversaries bear Testimony to his excellent Worth, and that his Competitor has most candidly and publickly made Declarations very favourable

favourable for him, I am, therefore; anticipated in my first Design of delineating him from the genuine Figure that he makes in the Community. But it is still left me to say, from the most material Parts of the Comparison, that his *Title* to the filling of the present Vacancy, should determine the Majority, which I have mentioned, to make it their favourite Point to carry into Effect.

Here I would have stopped, if I did not hear some senseless Objections made, on account of his being a Lawyer; and one set up by the Board of Aldermen. But though I think that those stupid Objections deserve no serious Answer, yet I shall not conclude this Piece till I shall have sufficiently obviated those Particulars.

Now, the first Remark I shall make is, that whenever any Person is set up, who, they apprehend, is for their Purpose, no Allegations of these Kinds are made use of by them. I instance in the Election of *Burton*, and the Recorder Counsellor *Forster*, who, though the one was an Alderman, and the other Recorder of this City, (in whose Interest, they are fond of having it believed, they voted,) no Exception was made then to them on either of those Accounts. When the Majority was fortunately for Counsellor *Howard*, who, for the short Time he enjoyed that Honour, behaved conformable to such an interesting Trust, no Exception of this Kind was ever used against him. And when Mr. *Bradstreet* set up in Competition with an Alderman, I do not recollect that any such Exception was used against him, or the Alderman who was his Competitor. And here I shall take Occasion to insist, that it
was

was wrong in the Majority not to have elected Counsellor *Bradstreet*; as by his Knowledge of our Constitution, and his Propensity to render Service to his Constituents, great Advantages would have accrued.

Since the unhappy Period of *Lucas* and *Latouche*, their Partizans have ran mad in these Respects; but need I say that Sir *Samuel Cooke's* single Worth was incomparably greater than ten thousand of such seditious Creatures? I shall conclude with referring you to the wise *Londoners*, who, from the best Considerations, always make choice of their Aldermen.

F I N I S.

