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Strange and Remarkable

Prophesies and Predictions,

Of the Holy, Learned, and excellent

James Usher,

Late L. Arch-Bishop of *Armagh*, and Lord Primate of *Ireland*.

Giving an Account of his Foretelling

I. The Rebellion in *Ireland* Forty Years before it came to pass.

II. The Confusions and Miseries of *England*, in Church and State.

III. The Death of King *Charles* the First.

IV. His own Poverty and Want.

V. The Divisions in *England* in matters of Religion.

Lastly, Of a great and Terrible Persecution which shall fall upon the Reformed Churches by the Papists, wherein the then Pope should be chiefly concerned.

Written by the Person who heard it from this Excellent Persons own Mouth, and now publisht earnestly to perswade us to that Repentance and Reformation which can only prevent our Ruin and Destruction.

And the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham *the thing which I do?* Gen. 18. 17.

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Strange and Remarkable Predictions of that Holy, Learned, and excellent Bishop, James Usher late *Lord Primate of* Ireland.

THE Author of the Life of this Excellent and Worthy Primate and Arch-Bishop, gives an Account, that among other extraordinary gifts and graces, which it pleased the Almighty to bestow upon him, he was wonderfully endued with a Spirit of Prophecy, whereby he gave out several true Predictions and Prophesies of things a great while before they came to pass, whereof some we have seen fulfilled, and others remain yet to be accomplished. And though he was one that abhor'd Enthusiastick Notions, being too Learned, Rational, and knowing, to admit of such idle Freaks and Whimsies. Yet he profest, 'That several times in his Life he had many things impress upon his mind, concerning future Events, 'with so much warmness and importunity, that he was not 'able to keep them secret, but lay under an unavoidable 'necessity to make them known.

From which Spirit he foretold the *Irish* Rebellion Forty years before it came to pass, with the very time when it should break forth, in a Sermon Preached in *Dublin* in 1601. where from *Ezek.* 4. 6. discoursing concerning the Prophets bearing the iniquity of *Judah* forty days, the Lord therein appointed a day for a year: he made this direct Applycation in Relation to the connivance at Popery at that time. *From this year* (says he) *will I reckon the sin of* Ireland, *that those whom you now imbrace, shall be your Ruin, and you shall bear this Iniquity.* Which Prediction proved exactly true, for from that time 1601, to the year 1641, was just Forty years, in which it is notoriously known, that the Rebellion and Destruction of *Ireland* happened, which was acted by those Popish

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Popish Priests, and other Papists, which were then connived at. And of this Sermon the Bishop reserved the Notes, and put a Note thereof in the Margent of his Bible; and for 20 Years before, he still lived in the Expectation of the Fulfilling thereof: And the nearer the Time was, the more confident he was, that it was near Accomplishment, though there was no visible appearance of any such thing: And (sayes Dr. *Bernard*) the Year before the Rebellion broke forth, the Bishop taking his leave of me, being then going from *Ireland* to *England*, he advised me to a serious Preparation; for I should see heavy Sorrows and Miseries, before I saw him again; which he delivered with as great Confidence, as if he had seen it with his Eyes: Which seems to verify that of the Prophet, *Amos* 3. 7. *Surely, the Lord will do nothing, but he will reveal it to his Servants, the Prophets.*

From this Spirit of Prophesie, he fore-saw the Changes and Miseries of *England* in Church and State; for having in one of his Books, (called *De Prim. Eccl. Brit.*) given a larg account of the Destruction of the Church and State of the *Britans* by the *Saxons*, about 550 Years after Christ: He gives this among other Reasons, why he insisted so largely upon it; That he fore-saw, that a like Judgment was yet behind, if timely Repentance and Reformation did not prevent it: And he would often Mourn upon the Fore-sight of this, long before it came.

From this Spirit he gave Mournful Intimations of the Death of our late Soveraign, *Charles* the First; of whom he would be often speaking with Fear and Trembling, even when the King had the greatest Success: And would therefore constantly pray, and gave all advice possible, to prevent any such thing.

From this Spirit he fore-saw his own Poverty in worldly things; and this he would often speak of, with admiration to the Hearers, when he was in his greatest Prosperity; which the Event did most certainly verify.

From this Spirit he Predicted the Divisions and Confusions in *England* in Matters of Religion, and the sad consequences thereof; some of which we have seen fulfil'd: And

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I pray God, the reſt which he feared, may not alſo be accompliſhed upon us.

Laſtly, From this Spirit he fore-told, That the greateſt ſtroke upon the Reformed Churches was yet to come; and that the time of the utter Ruin of the See of *Rome*, ſhould be when ſhe thought her ſelf moſt ſecure: And as to this Laſt, I ſhall add a brief Account from the Perſons own hand, who was concerned therein; which followeth in theſe Words:

The Year before this Learned and Holy Primate, A. Biſhop *Uſher* dyed, I went to him, and earneſtly deſired him, to give me in Writing his Apprehenſions concerning Juſtification, and Sanctification by Chriſt; becauſe I had formerly heard him Preach upon thoſe Points, wherein he ſeemed to make thoſe great Myſteries more intelligible to my mean Capacity, than any thing which I had ever heard from any other: But becauſe I had but an imperfect and confuſed Remembrance of the Particulars, I took the boldneſs to importune him, that he would pleaſe to give a brief account of them in Writing; whereby I might the better [illegible] them in my Memory; of which he would willingly have excuſed himſelf, by declaring his intentions of not writing any more: Adding, That if he did write any thing, it ſhould not exceed above a Sheet or two: But upon my continued Importunity, I at laſt obtained his Promiſe.

He coming to Town ſome time after, was pleaſed to give me a Viſit at my own Houſe; where I failed not to challenge the Benefit of the Promiſe he had made me: He replyed; *That he had not writ, and yet he could not charge himſelf with any Breach of Promiſe: For* (ſaid he) *I did begin to write; but when I came to write of Sanctification, that is, of the New Creature, which God forme th by his Spirit in every Soul, which he doth truly Regenerate, I found ſo little of it wrought in my ſelf, that I could ſpeak of it only as Parrots by Rote, & without the knowledge & underſtanding of what I might have expreſt; & therefore, I durſt not preſume to proceed any further upon it.*

And when I ſeemed to ſtand amazed, to hear ſuch an Humble Confeſſion from ſo great and experienced a Chriſtian, he added; *I muſt tell you, We do not well underſtand what Sanctification*

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tification and the New Creature are; It is no less then for a man to be brought to an entire Resignation of his will to the will of God, and to live in the Offering up of his Soul continually in the flames of Love, as a whole burnt Offering to Christ, and how little (says he) *are many of those who profess Christianity experimentally acquainted with this work on their Souls.*

By this Discourse, I conceived he had very excellently and clearly discovered to me that part of Sanctification which he was unwilling to write.

I then presumed to enquire of him what his present apprehensions were concerning a very great Persecution which should fall upon the Church of God in these Nations of *England, Scotland,* and *Ireland,* of which this Reverend Primate had spoken with great confidence many years before, when we were in the highest and fullest state of outward Peace and Settlement. I asked him whether he did believe those sad times to be past, or that they were yet to come, To which he answered, *That they were yet to come, and that he did as confidently expect it, as ever he had done,* adding, *That this sad Persecution would fall upon all the Protestant Churches of Europe*; I replyed, That I did hope it might have been past as to these Nations of ours, since I thought, that though we, who are the People thereof, have been punished much less than our sins have deserved, and that our late Wars had made far less devastations, then War commonly brings upon those Countries where it pleaseth God in Judgement to suffer it; yet we must needs acknowledge, that many great Houses had been Burnt, Ruined, and left without Inhabitants, many great Families impoverished and undone, and many Thousand Lives also had been lost in that bloody War, and that *Ireland* and *Scotland*, as well as *England*, had drunk very deep of the Cup of Gods Anger, even to the overthrow of the Government, and the utter Desolation almost of a very great part of those Countries.

But this Holy man, turning to me, and fixing his Eyes upon me with that serious and ireful look which he usually had when he spake Gods word and not his own; and when the Power of God seemed to be upon him, and to constrain him

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him to speak, which I could easily discern much to differ from the countenance where with he usually spake to me; He said thus.

Fool not your self with such hopes, for I tell you, all you have yet seen, hath been but the beginning of sorrows to what is yet to come upon the Protestant *Churches of Christ, who will ere long fall under a sharper Persecution than ever yet has upon them*; and therefore (said he to me) *look you be not found in the Outward Court, but a worshipper in the Temple before the Altar, for Christ will measure all those that profess his Name, & call themselves his People*; & *the Outward worshippers he will leave out, to be trodden down by the Gentiles. The Outward Court* (says he) *is the formal Christian, whose Religion lies in performing the outside duties of Christianity, without having an inward Life & Power of Faith and love, uniting them to Christ, and these God will leave to be trodden down, and swept away by the Gentiles*; *But the worshippers within the Temple and before the Altar, are those who do indeed worship God in Spirit and in Truth, whose Souls are made his Temples, and he is honoured and adored in the most inward thoughts of their hearts, and they Sacrifice their Lusts and vile affections, yea, and their own wills to him*; *and these God will hide in the hollow of his Hand, and under the shadow of his wings*; *and this shall be one great difference between this last, and all the other preceding Persecutions*; *For in the former, the most eminent and spiritual Ministers and Christians did generally suffer most, and were most violently fallen upon, but in this last Persecution, these shall be preserved by God as a Seed to partake of that Glory which shall immediately follow and come upon the Church, as soon as ever this storm shall be over*; *for as it shall be the sharpest, so it shall be the shortest Persecution of them all*; *and shall only take away the gross Hypocrites and formal Professors, but the true Spiritual Believers shall be preserved till the Calamity be over-past.*

I then asked him by what means or Instruments this great Tryal should be brought on. He answered, By *the Papists*; I replyed, that it seemed to me very improbable they should be able to do it, since they were now little countenanced, and but few in these Nations, and that the hearts of the People were more set against them then ever since the Reformation.

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mation. He answered again, 'That it would be by the 'hands of *Papists*, and in the way of a suddain Massacree; 'and that the then Pope should be the chief Instrument of it.

All this he Spake with so great Assurance, and with the same serious and concerned Countenance, which I have before observed him to have, when I have heard him foretell some things which in all humane appearence were very unlikely to come to pass, which yet I my self have lived to see happen according to his prediction, and this made me give the more earnest attention to what he then uttered.

He then added, 'That the Papists were in his Opinion the '*Gentiles* spoken of in the 11th of the *Revelations*, to whom 'the outward Court should be left, that they might tread 'it underfoot; They having received the *Gentiles* worship 'in their adoring Images, and Saints departed, and in 'taking to themselves many Mediators; And this '(Said he) the *Papists* are now designing among them-'selves, and therefore be sure you be ready.

This was the Substance, & I think (for the greatest part) the very same words which the Holy man spake to me at the time beforementioned not long before his death, and which I writ down, that so great and notable a Prediction might not be lost and forgotten by my self nor others.

This gracious Man repeated the same things in Substance to his only daughter the Lady *Tyrril*, and that with many tears, and much about the same time that he had expresst what is aforesaid to me, and which the Lady *Tyrril* assured me of with her own mouth, to this purpose.

That opening the Door of his Chamber, She found him with his Eyes lift up to Heaven, and the tears running a pace down his Cheeks, and that he seemed to be in an Extasie, wherein he continued for about half an hour, not taking the least notice of her, though she came into the Room, but at last turning to her, he told her, That his thoughts had been taken up about the Miseries and Persecutions that were coming upon the Churches of Christ, which would be so sharp and bitter, that the contemplation of them had fetch'd those Tears from his Eyes, and that he hoped he should

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live to see it, but possibly she might, for it was even at the door; *Therefore take heed* (says he) *that you be not found sleeping.*

The same things he also Repeated to the Lady *Byssse*, Wife to the present Lord Chief Baron of *Ireland*, but with adding this circumstance, That if they brought back the King, it might be delayed a little longer, but (sayd he) *It will surely come, therefore be sure to look that you be not found unprepared for it.*

To conclude in the words of Dr. *Bernard*, speaking of this Excellent Person. 'Now howsoever I am as far from heed-'ing of Propheſies this way as any, yet with me it is not 'Improbable, that so great a Prophet, so sanctified from his 'youth, so knowing & eminent throughout the Universal 'Church, might have at some special times more then Or-'dinary Motions and Impulses in doing the watchmans part, 'of giving warning of Judgments approaching.

FINIS.

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