

DEAN SWIFT,—THE WOOD HALF-PENCE.



THE Drapier Letters by Swift, in abuse of the Wood Coinage 1722--23, are matter of history, but as we believe that many of the present generation have not read the letters, so as to gain a knowledge of their violent abuse, we give "Letter No. 1," from an edition published at Dublin in 1730.

To the Tradesmen, Shop-Keepers, Farmers, and Common-People in General, of the Kingdom of *IRELAND*.
Brethren, Friends, Countrymen, and Fellow Subjects,

What I intend now to say to you, is, next to your Duty to God, and the Care of your Salvation, of the greatest Concern to yourselves, and your Children; your Bread and Cloathing, and every common necessary of Life entirely depend upon it. Therefore I do most earnestly exhort you as Men, as Christians, as Parents, and as Lovers of your Country, to read this Paper with the utmost attention, or get it read to you by others; which that you may do at the less expence, I have ordered the Printer to sell it at the lowest rate.

It is a great fault among you, that when a person writes with no other intention than to do you good, you will not be at the pains to read his advices: One Copy of this Paper may serve a Dozen of you, which will be less than a farthing a-piece. It is your folly that you have no common or general interest in your view, not even the wisest among you, neither do you know or enquire, or care who are your friends, or who are your enemies.

About four years ago, a little Book was written, to advise all people to wear the manufactures of this our own Dear Country: it had no other design, said nothing against the King or Parliament, or any man, yet the poor Printer was prosecuted two years, with the utmost violence, and even some