

'Gulliver's Travels' as a political satire

Gulliver's Travels is very much political satire as well. It exposes the political corruption of its age. It presents the politics of its age. It presents the politics of its time as an aberration from what Swift considers to be an ideal political order. According to venerable theory, at least as old as Aristotle's reinforced by stoicism and christianity and Lockman's essential nature was his rational soul. The ideal state of nature there as Locke has said has the law of nature which is the law of reason to govern it. Man's affairs are rightly ordered when his institutions correspond to a true theory of nature. Swift stood for a compromise solution, a compromise between theory and practice, the ideal and the real. In Gulliver's Travels he sees the things with both the kinds of mirror namely concave and convex. Nothing is perfect. But a workable perfectness may be evolved out of those very imperfect perfectness.

Swift was in London from 1710 to 1713 and he worked as a chief publicity agent and adviser of the Tory minister of Harley and St. John. He saw at close quarters the activities of the courtiers and the politician and he was filled with disgust. He saw vain pride and absurd whims of the monarch, the stupidity of men of titles, the intrigue of the courtiers, the greed and corruption of the politician, the treachery and meanness of the court favourites. He attacks these things in this book in an allegorical manner.

Lilliput

Lilliput is in England. There we see the English court after the peace of 1713. George I was king and the corrupt Whigs were in power. The Tories, who brought peace to the country were in disgrace. Harley was in prison and St. John was in an exile in France.

In Lilliput the size of the people is small

but their vices are big. Blefuson is France. Gulliver is gigantic. St. Joan who has done much for the country but who suffers because of the treachery and ingratitude of the king and his ministers (the whigs). The Prime-minister and Treasurer of Lilliput was a fine-rope dancer. This alludes to Walpole. He was a steep slippery opportunist who could change his policies according to the need of the moment and the whims of the king's mistresses. In his picture of the Lilliputian Emperor, Swift satirizes the absurd ambitions and whims of kings. The minikin considered himself the delight and the terror of the universe. He had an insatiable desire for conquest. After Gulliver has destroyed the navy of Blefuson the Emperor wanted him to crush that country completely:

"So unreasonable is the ambition of the prince that he seemed to think of nothing less than reducing the whole empire of Blefuson a province and governing it by a 'vicaroy' so that he would remain the sole monarch of the whole world."

Here the satire is one of the universal and eternal weaknesses of the rulers. Ataxt Alexander and Tamburlaine including Napoleon, are some of them. In "Jonathan Wild" Fielding rightly but ironically said that greatness lies in destroying the things and goodness in restoring them. Shaw has also dealt with this theme in "The man of Destiny".

When Gulliver's refused to carry out the king's command to crush Blefuson completely, then he turned against him. In stead of being grateful to Gulliver for saving his country he wanted to put out his eyes and starve him to death.

Swift believed that political parties were at the root of all troubles in the state. In Lilliput there were two parties distinguished by high-heels

that tend to have no passion or emotion. They are a kind of robot. They also live in abstractions. This is also far from being ideal.

conclusion

Then what does Swift actually want to show? It is perhaps that there is no place in the world where there is an ideal order. The best thing remains to be done is to assimilate the best of all and apply them in the manner called for.

The language of Hard Times

Hard Times differs from the other novels of Dickens in respect of language. It is the reason that Dickens is compared to Shakespeare as he had ability to manipulate language for achieving certain special effects. In the case of Dickens these effects are generally comic or humorous. He uses varieties of language to individualize characters. The characters in Hard Times tend to be symbolic figures rather than individuals. Like the characters, the language too serves the controlling purpose of the novel.

The weaknesses of Hard Times
Great as Hard Times in conception and execution it suffers from a few flaws. The first of these is the unconvincing or rather misleading picture that Dickens draws of trade union leaders. The second charge that can be made is that he presents the union as being "exclusive and tyrannical towards workers who refused to join them." Still these defects do not affect the "melts and penetration". As F. R. Leavis has successfully shown, Hard Times has the strength of "a completely serious work of art."

(corresponding to the Tories) and Low-hells (corresponding to the Whigs). There were also differences regarding the end of which an egg should be broken. These were the Big-Endians (corresponding to the Roman Catholic) and the Little-Little-Endians (corresponding to the Protestants). This shows how the political parties quarrelled on trifles.

Barbic Brobdingnag

The king's final judgement on the political and the judicial system of England is delivered thus: "You have clearly proved that ignorance, idleness and vice are the proper ingredients for qualifying a legislator that laws are best explained, interpreted and applied by those whose interest and abilities lie in perverting, confounding and eluding them."

Third Book

Balinibarbi is Ireland and Laputa, England. Laputians exploit the people of Balin B. Balinibarbi. In its grand Academy the political parties make absurd schemes.

In the kingdom of Languedoc (which stood for England) the bulk of the people consisted of discoverers, witnesses, informers, accusers etc. etc. in the way of politicians.

Houyhnhm Land

In the Land of Houyhnhm we find the society of well-reasoned creatures. But there everything is very simple here. The society is simple. Man is so complex that such a name to formulate may not be adequate for him. The people of