

# THE IRISH TIMES

## **BATTLE OF BOYNE 12<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATIONS & ORANGE ORDER DECLARATIONS: TÓG É GO BOG É**

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**The Twelfth of July declarations by the Orange Order that it will fight to maintain its “cherished position within the United Kingdom” and that there must not be an Irish language act, confirm that its leaders have advanced very little from the time when Edmund Burke first warned of Protestant parades and celebrations that reopened wounds of conquest and humiliation. Today’s Orange Order declares “King William’s victory at the Battle of the Boyne ‘cemented liberties’ that all citizens can enjoy.”**

**Burke wrote regarding celebrations of Cromwell and King William: "One would not think that decorum, to say nothing of policy, would permit them [Protestants] to call up, by magic charms, the grounds, reasons and principles of those terrible confiscatory and exterminatory periods when they established their rule." He saw these traditional celebrations as little more than revisiting the scene of a crime and had little sympathy for triumphalist versions of Britishness which sought to trample on the rights of other cultures**

**The Orange Order states its desire to “cultivate good relations with our neighbours in the Republic of Ireland...but let no one confuse talking over the fence with taking away the fence”. When similar strident sounds were heard in the Republic of Ireland in the 1920s, W. B. Yeats remarked to Lady Gregory of the inhabitants of the North and of their politics: "I have always been of the opinion that if such disagreeable neighbors shut the door, it is better to turn the key in it before they change their minds.**

**Perhaps a visit “from the Pope” or "God’s Holy Spirit” might inspire the Orange men and women to march to the beat of a different drummer, and in the ancient words of wisdom: Tóg é go bog é, glac é go réidh, (Take it easy, steady on there now).**