



UNIVERSITÄTS-  
BIBLIOTHEK  
PADERBORN

## **Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn**

### **Remarks On The Life and Writings Of Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin**

**Orrery, John Boyle of**

**London, 1752**

A letter from him to his uncle, William Swift, dated in the year 1692.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-49109](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-49109)

AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 11

Moore Park, Nov. 29, 1692.

S I R,

**M**Y sister told me, you was pleased (when she was here) to wonder, I did so seldom write to you. I been so kind, to impute it neither to ill mann

respect. I always thought that sufficient from one, who has always been but too troublesome to you: besides I knew your aversion to impertinence, and God knows so very private a life as mine can furnish a letter with little else: for I often am two or three months without seeing any body besides the family; and now my sister is gone, I am likely to be more solitary than before. I am still to thank you for your care in my Testimonium, and it was to very good purpose, for I never was more satisfied than in the behaviour of the University of Oxford to me. I had all the civilities I could wish for, and so many

favours, that I am ashamed to have been more obliged in a few weeks to strangers, than ever I was in seven years to Dublin College. I am not to take orders till the King gives me a Prebendary: and Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, tho' he promises me the certainty of it, yet is less forward than I could wish; because, I suppose, he believes I shall leave him, and upon some accounts, he thinks me a little necessary to him

If I were entertainment, or doing you any satisfaction by my letters, I should be very glad to perform it that way, as I am bound to do it by all others. I am sorry my fortune should

should

## 12      REMARKS ON THE LIFE

*should fling me so far from the best of my relations, but hope that I shall have the happiness to see you some time or other. Pray my humble service to my good aunt, and the rest of my relations, if you please.*

You do not see in these few lines, the least symptoms of that peculiar turn of phrase, which afterwards appeared in all his writings; even in his most trifling letters. Neither his learning, nor his genius were yet arrived to any degree of ripeness. Or perhaps the letter was rather the effect of duty than inclination, and in that case, the style of it must be illaborate, and void of all freedom and vivacity. It is dated from *Moore Park*, near *Farnham* in *Surry*, where *Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE* then resided.

*SWIFT*, as soon as he had quitted the University of *Oxford*, lived with *Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE* as his friend, and domestic companion. When he had been about two years at *Moore Park*, he contracted a very long and dangerous illness, by eating an immoderate quantity of fruit. To this surfeit I have often heard him ascribe that giddiness in his head, which with intermissions sometimes of a longer, and sometimes of a shorter continuance, pursued him till it seemed to compleat its conquest, by rendering him the exact image of one of his own *Struldbruggs*, a miserable spectacle, devoid of every appearance of human nature, except the outward form.

In compliance to the advice of his physicians, when he was sufficiently recovered to travel, he went into *Ireland*, to try the effects of his native air: and he