



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

Dr. Swift quits Oxford, and lives with Sir William Temple.

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

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

AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 13

found so much benefit by the journey, that in compliance to his own inclinations, he soon returned into *England*, and was again most affectionately received by Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, who had now left *Moore Park*, and was settled at *Sheene*, where he was often visited by King WILLIAM. Here SWIFT had frequent opportunities of conversing with that Prince; in some of which conversations, the King offered to make him a captain of horse: an offer, which, in splenetic dispositions, he always seemed sorry to have refused; but at that time, he had resolved, within his own mind, to take orders, and during his whole life, his resolutions, like the decrees of fate, were immoveable. Thus determined, he again went over into *Ireland*, and immediately enlisted himself under the banner of the Church. He was recommended by Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE to Lord CAPEL, then Lord Deputy, who gave him the first vacancy, a prebend, of which the income was about an hundred pounds a year. SWIFT soon grew weary of this preferment: it was not sufficiently considerable, and was at so great a distance from the metropolis, that it absolutely deprived him from that kind of conversation and society, in which he delighted. He had been used to very different scenes in *England*, and had naturally an aversion to solitude and retirement. He was glad therefore, to resign his prebend in favour of a friend, and to return to *Sheene*, where he lived domestically as usual, till the death of Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, who, besides a legacy in money, left to him the care, and trust of publishing his posthumous works.

As