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

Orrery, John Boyle of

London, 1752

Dr. Swift's fruitless attendance at Whitehall.

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L E T T E R III.

I Join with you entirely in thinking STELLA one of the most unfortunate of her sex. Her catastrophe was such as might have drawn pity from a breast less susceptible of that passion than yours. Injurious treatment, disappointed love, a long lingering illness, were all circumstances of the melancholy kind. Be not surprized, my HAMILTON, when I tell you, that he never spoke of her without a sigh: for such is the perverseness of human nature, that we bewail those persons dead, whom we treated cruelly when living. But, I am making reflections, when I intended to write memoirs. Let us return to SWIFT.

Upon the death of Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE he came to *London*, and took the earliest opportunity of delivering a petition to King WILLIAM, under the claim of a promise made by his Majesty to Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, "That Mr. SWIFT should have the first vacancy, which might happen among the prebends of *Westminster* or *Canterbury*." The promises of kings are often a kind of chaff, which the breath of a minister bloweth, and scattereth away from the face of a court. The petition had no effect. It was either totally forgotten, or drowned amidst the clamours of more urgent claims. From this first disappointment, may probably be

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be dated that bitterness towards kings, and courtiers, which is to be found so universally dispersed throughout his works.

After a long and fruitless attendance at *Whitehall*, SWIFT reluctantly gave up all thoughts of a settlement in *England*. He had dedicated Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's works to the King. The dedication was neglected, nor did his Majesty take the least notice of him after Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's death. What then was to be done? honour, or to use a properer word, pride hindered him from staying long in a state of servility and contempt. He complied therefore with an invitation from the Earl of BERKLEY (appointed one of the Lords Justices in *Ireland*) to attend him as his chaplain and private secretary. Lord BERKLEY landed near *Waterford*, and Mr. SWIFT acted as secretary during the whole journey to *Dublin*. But another of Lord BERKLEY's attendants, whose name was BUSH, had, by this time, insinuated himself into the Earl's favour, and had *whispered* to his Lordship, that the post of secretary was not proper for a clergyman, to whom only church preferments could be suitable or advantageous. Lord BERKLEY listened perhaps too attentively to these insinuations, and making some slight apology to Mr. SWIFT, divested him of that office, and bestowed it upon Mr. BUSH. Here again was another disappointment, and a fresh object of indignation. The treatment was thought injurious, and SWIFT expressed his sensibility of it in a short, but satirical copy of verses entitled *The Discovery*.