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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

His disappointment of a bishoprick.

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30 REMARKS ON THE LIFE

with the appearance of enjoying ministerial confidence. He enjoyed the shadow: the substance was detained from him. He was employed, not trusted; and at the same time that he imagined himself a subtil diver, who dextrously shot down into the profoundest regions of politics, he was suffered only to sound the shallows nearest the shore, and was scarce admitted to descend below the froth at the top. Perhaps the deeper bottoms

were too muddy for his infpection.

By reflexions of this fort, we may account for his disappointment in an English bishoprick. A disappointment which, he imagined, he owed to a joint application made against him to the Queen by Dr. Sharpe, Archbishop of York, and by a Lady of the highest rank and character. Archbishop Sharpe, according to Dr. Swift's account, had represented him to the Queen, as a person who was not a Christian; the great Lady had supported the aspersion; and the Queen, upon such assurances, had given away the bishoprick, contrary to her Majesty's first intentions. Swift kept himself indeed within some tolerable bounds, when he spoke of the Queen: but his indignation knew no limits, when he mentioned the Archbishop, or the Lady.

Business and ceremony, (two commanders, that I hope you will list under, much more willingly than I can) call me away from my letter, although nothing can ever call away my thoughts from you, or interrupt the tenderness with which I am, dear Hamilton,

Your affectionate Father,

ORRERY. LET.