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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**

Some reflections upon the variegated character of Dr. Swift.

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In the course of my correspondence, my dear HAM, you may possibly observe some seeming contradictions, as I am pursuing the Dean through the mazy turnings of his character. But, they will easily be reconciled, when you consider, that, of all mankind, SWIFT perhaps had the greatest contrasts in his temper. He often put me in mind of that wild opinion, which PLUTARCH says was entertained by the sages of old, "That we  
 " are subject to the influence of two principles, or  
 " deities, who are in constant opposition to each other:  
 " the one directing us to the right hand, and through  
 " the right road, the other driving us astray, and op-  
 " posing us from pursuing the track pointed out by his  
 " adversary." The Manichean heresy, you know, has been built upon this hypothesis: and it is not impossible (as the doctrine itself was propagated before the time of MANES) that some antient speculative philosopher may have invented such a kind of mythology, merely to solve the various contradictions which he found fluctuating within his own breast.

You will possibly expect from me a collection of apophthegms, which the Dean may have uttered upon various occasions. But, the witty records of table-talk in my mind seem too minute and over curious; at least I must wish to treat with you upon subjects of more importance. I mean such subjects as will teach you to follow some moral virtue, or to shun some moral evil.

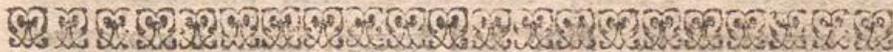
Forgive me too, if I am now and then guilty of repetitions. In reviewing the same person so often, the  
 same

same thoughts, if not the same expressions will inevitably occur. But, excuses for these kind of errors, are, I hope, unnecessary. Candour and truth are the chief points that I have had in view, knowing them to be coincident with your own manner of thinking.

You are now sufficiently prepared for that particular edition of SWIFT'S works, which I intend to pursue: and I shall undertake the performance with great pleasure and alacrity, because I flatter myself it may be acceptable to you, as it comes from

*your most affectionate Father,*

ORRERY.



## LETTER VIII.

**I** Was very glad to be interrupted, by your unexpected visit. The sight of you, and the happiness which I constantly receive in your company, are recollected by me in your absence, with such a kind of inexpressible pleasure, as the warmest affection and the truest tenderness inspire: and as I am always earnest to