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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

That, true humour and decency ought always to go together.

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The sixth chapter ^a is full of severity and fatyr. Sometimes it is exerted against the legislative power : sometimes against particular politicians : sometimes against women : and sometimes it degenerates into filth. True humour ought to be kept up with decency, and dignity, or it loses every tincture of entertainment. Descriptions that shock our delicacy cannot have the least good effect upon our minds. They offend us, and we fly precipitately from the sight. We cannot stay long enough to examine, whether wit, sense, or morality, may be couched under such odious appearances. I am sorry to say, that these sort of descriptions, which are too often interspersed throughout all SWIFT's works, are seldom written with any other view, or from any other motive, than a wild unbridled indulgence of his own humour and disposition.

He seems to have finished his voyage to LAPUTA in a careless hurrying manner, which makes me almost think, that sometimes he was tired with his work, and attempted to run through it as fast as he could ; otherwise why was the curtain dropped so soon ? or why were we deprived of so noble a scene as might have been discovered in the island of *Glubdubdrib* ^b, where the governor, by his skill in necromancy, had the power of calling whom he pleased from the dead ? I have not time by this post to write to you my thoughts upon a subject, which I confess awakened, but by no means satisfied my curiosity. I lamented to find so many il-

^a Page 223.

^b Chap. 7. Page 252.

lustrious ghosts vanish so quickly, and so abruptly from my sight, many of whom were of the brightest characters in history. In my next letter I shall endeavour to detain them a little longer in *Leicester-fields*, than SWIFT suffered them to stay in the island of Sorcerers.

I am,

My dear HAMILTON,

Your affectionate Father,

O R R E R Y.



LETTER XIII.

My dearest HAMILTON,

I Believe it would be impossible to find out the design of Dr. SWIFT, in summoning up a parcel of apparitions, that from their behaviour, or from any thing they say, are almost of as little consequence, as the ghosts in GAY's farce of the *What d'ye call it*. Perhaps, SWIFT's general design might be, to arraign the conduct of eminent persons after their death, and to convey their names, and images to posterity, deprived of those false colours, in which they formerly appeared.