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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

The different tempers of the Archbishop of Cambray and the Dean of St.
Patrick's.

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AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 107

I am in some doubt, whether CATO the *Censor* can fairly claim a rank among so choice a groope of ghosts. He justly indeed condemned the luxury of the Romans, and he punished their vices with an impartial severity: but herein he seems to have indulged his own natural temper rather than to have acted absolutely from a love of virtue: he was a declared enemy to poetry, painting, and all the politer arts: he was proud, vain, and morose: but above all, he was so extremely avaritious, that RHADAMANTHUS in the Archbishop of CAMBRAY'S dialogues of the dead, after expressing some regard to his merits, tells him, as he was an usurer he could not be admitted into the Elysian fields: and therefore orders him to keep the gate as porter: in which situation, he might gratify the censoriousness of his disposition, by examining every ghost that attempted to come into *Elysium*, and by shutting the door against all those, who were not qualified for admittance. RHADAMANTHUS then gives him money to pay CHARON for such passengers, who were not able to pay for themselves, and at the same time declares, that he will punish him as a robber, if he offers to lend out that money upon usury. How very different, you will say, are the sentiments of Archbishop FENELON, and of Dr. SWIFT in their judgement of CATO. The one, thinks him unworthy of a place among millions in *Elysium*, while the other, distinguishes him among the greatest men of antiquity. From this dissention of opinions may be traced, perhaps, the particular temper both of the Archbishop and of the

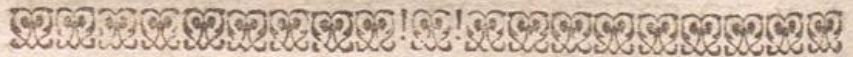
Dean,

Dean, and from thence may be deduced the reason, why the *Censor* was esteemed by the latter, and condemned by the former.

GULLIVER, after having taken a transient view of numberless illustrious persons, whom he does not name, closes the chapter, and gives me an opportunity of finishing my letter. Late, very late, may you become a ghost! And when one, may you equal any of SWIFT's *sextumvirate*, and may his ghost (grown less cynical and better instructed) rejoice to admit you into the company, from which he has so arbitrarily excluded all future generations. So wishes, so prays,

Your affectionate Father,

O R R E R Y.



LETTER XIV.

GULLIVER, tired of heroes, changes the scene in the eighth chapter of his voyage to *Laputa*, and becomes curious to know the situation of poets and philosophers, who, in their turn, have as eagerly contended for fame, as CÆSAR for power, or BRUTUS for liberty. He desires, that HOMER and ARISTOTLE may make their appearance at the head of their commentators.