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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

Of Descartes.

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AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 115

“ his friends, admired by his scholars, and honoured by
“ the Athenians.” Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE imputes this
injustice “ to the envy, and malignity of the Stoics, and
“ to some gross pretenders, who assumed the denomination
“ of that sect : who mistook his favourite principle”
(THAT ALL HAPPINESS CONSISTED IN PLEASURE) “ by
“ confining it to sensual pleasure only. To these succeeded
“ the Christians, who esteemed his principles of natural
“ philosophy more opposite to those of our religion than either
“ the Platonists, the Peripatetics, or even the Stoics them-
“ selves.” This is the opinion, and these are almost
the exact words of the great Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE.

SWIFT equally explodes EPICURUS, and the more
modern philosophers DESCARTES and GASSENDI.

DESCARTES was a knight errant in philosophy, per-
petually mistaking windmills for giants ; yet by the
strength of a warm imagination he started some opini-
ons, which probably put Sir ISAAC NEWTON, and
others, on making many experiments that produced
most useful discoveries.

GASSENDI was esteemed one of the greatest orna-
ments of FRANCE. He was a doctor of divinity, and
royal professor of mathematics. He was born in *Pro-
vence* in 1592, and died in 1655. With great industry
he collected whatever related to the person, and to the
philosophy of EPICURUS, the latter of which, he has
reduced into a compleat system.

I have now, my HAMILTON, cursorily gone thro-
ugh the characters of such ghosts, as are nominally
I 2 specified