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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

Lord Bolingbroke's letters.

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that opinion; we may compound therefore to lose satyr and raillery, when we gain humanity and tenderness in their stead: yet, even in some of his highest scenes of benevolence, his expressions are delivered in such a manner, as to seem rather the effects of haughtiness than of good-nature: but you must never look upon him as a traveller in the common road. He must be viewed by a *camera obscura* that turns all objects the contrary way. When he appears most angry, he is most pleased^b; when most humble, he is most assuming^c. Such was the man, and in such variegated colours must he be painted.

The letters from Lord BOLINGBROKE, which are inserted in this collection, are written with an elegance and politeness that distinguish them from all the rest. We see they were not intended for the press; but how valuable are the most careless strokes of such a pen?

GAY's letters have nothing in them striking or commendatory. His sentiments are those of an honest, indolent, good-natured man. He loved SWIFT to a degree of veneration: and the friendship was returned with great sincerity. SWIFT writes to him in the same strain as he would have written to a son; and seems to distinguish him as the correspondent to whom he has not the least grain of reserve. In the several accounts which he gives of his situation at *Dublin*, and the idle manner of

^b See his letters to GAY, and to the Duchess of *Queensborough*, in Vol. VII.

^c See his letter to Lord PALMERSTON, Vol. VIII. page 373.