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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 eighth volume of Swift's works.

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Even in so serious a composition he cannot help indulging himself, in leaving legacies that carry with them an air of raillery and jest. He disposes of his three hats (his best, his second best, and his third best beaver) with an ironical solemnity, that renders the bequests ridiculous. He bequeaths "to Mr. JOHN GRATTAN a silver box, to keep in it the tobacco which the said JOHN usually chewed, called pigtail." But his legacy to Mr. ROBERT GRATTAN is still more extraordinary. "Item, I bequeath to the Reverend Mr. ROBERT GRATTAN, Prebendary of St. Audeon's, my strong box, on condition of his giving the sole use of the said box to his brother, Dr. JAMES GRATTAN, during the life of the said Doctor, who hath more occasion for it." These are so many last impressions of his turn, and way of thinking: and, I dare say, the persons thus distinguished look upon these instances, as affectionate memorials of his friendship, and as tokens of the jocular manner, in which he had treated them during his life-time.

His monumental inscription, written by himself, and inserted at the beginning of his *Will*, may confirm to you the observation which I made in a former letter, that he was not an elegant writer of Latin. An harsher epitaph has seldom been composed. It is scarce intelligible; and if intelligible, is a proof how difficult a task it is, even for the greatest genius, to draw his own character, or to represent himself and his actions in a proper manner to posterity.

I am now drawing towards the last scene of his life. The total deprivation of his senses came upon him by degrees.