



UNIVERSITÄTS-  
BIBLIOTHEK  
PADERBORN

## **Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn**

### **Remarks On The Life and Writings Of Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin**

**Orrery, John Boyle of**

**London, 1752**

Reasons humbly offered to the Parliament of Ireland, for repealing the  
Sacramental Test in favour of the Catholics.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-49109](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-49109)

AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 181

great extravagancies; in those of morality, into no less; but in politics, into the greatest of all. Our inclinations are so apt to hurry us into inconsiderate actions, that we are afterwards inclined to flatter ourselves they are right, only because they have proceeded from our own thoughts and directions. Thus SWIFT, when he had once established the rule of *Vive la bagatelle*, was resolved to pursue it at all hazards. I wish his thoughts had taken another turn. The lower classes of mankind pass on unnoticed; the great only are censured. They ought to be particularly attentive to every step they take. The Dean of St. PATRICK'S should have known himself, as *Rex idem hominum, Phœbique sacerdos*, and should have remembered, that kings and priests are extremely liable to be censured. Poor SWIFT! why did he sink below himself before he was deprived of reason? Forgive him that error, my HAMILTON, and draw a veil of oblivion over certain excrescencies of wit and humour, you will then admire him, as an honour to the public, and a scourge to all the knaves and fools of his time.

Three pamphlets, relating to *Ireland*, successively follow the *Directions to Servants*. The first is entitled, *Reasons humbly offered to the Parliament of Ireland, for repealing the Sacramental Test in favour of the Catholics*: The second, *Some Reasons against the Bill for settling the Tythe of Hemp, Flax, &c. by a Modus*: The third, *Some farther Reasons against the Bill for settling the Tythe of Hemp, Flax, &c.* The subject-matter of these pamphlets may perhaps be little worth your consideration; but their style will always command your attention.

They are very much misplaced, and, in any more methodical edition of the Dean's works, ought to appear with such other pieces, as have been composed by him against the dissenters. The first tract is written under the assumed character of a Roman catholic, by which means the author attacks his adversaries with a great advantage. He freely acknowledges the several atrocious crimes of the papists; but at the same time palliates them so skilfully, that, from that very acknowledgment, he enables himself to aim the heavier blows at the presbyterians. A paragraph extracted from the pamphlet will exemplify my meaning. "*We allow, says he, the CATHOLICS to be BRETHREN of the Dissenters; some people, indeed (which we cannot allow), would have them to be our children, because we both dissent from the church established, and both agree in abolishing this persecuting sacramental test; by which NEGATIVE DISCOURAGEMENT we are both rendered incapable of civil and military employments. However, we cannot but wonder at the bold familiarity of these schismatics, in calling the members of the national church their BRETHREN and FELLOW-PROTESTANTS. It is true, that all these sects (except the CATHOLICS) are BRETHREN to each other in faction, ignorance, iniquity, perverseness, pride, and (if we except the QUAKERS) in rebellion. But, how the churchmen can be styled their FELLOW-PROTESTANTS, we cannot comprehend. Because, when the whole BABEL of sectaries joined against the Church, the King, and the Nobility, for twenty years, in a MATCH AT FOOT-BALL; where the proverb expressly tells us,*" that

AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 183

“that ALL ARE FELLOWS; while the three kingdoms  
 “were tossed to and fro, the churches and cities, and royal  
 “palaces, shattered to pieces by their BALLS, their BUF-  
 “FETS, and their KICKS; the victors would allow no  
 “more FELLOWS AT FOOT-BALL: but murdered, seque-  
 “stered, plundered, deprived, banished to the plantations,  
 “or enslaved, all their opposers who had LOST THE  
 “GAME.” The greatest art, and the keenest strokes of  
 irony, display themselves throughout the whole composi-  
 tion: and the conclusion of it is drawn up with a mix-  
 ture of serious and ironical arguments that seem to defy  
 all kinds of refutation.

The two next pamphlets for settling the Tythe of Hemp,  
 &c. by a Modus, are entirely adapted to the clergy of  
 Ireland; but I cannot avoid observing in those papers, a  
 greater fund of calmness, not a less degree of spirit, than  
 in many other of SWIFT'S political writings.

The remainder of this volume is like a garden over-  
 run with docks and thistles, among which some rose-  
 trees accidentally make their appearance. The scythe  
 of time, or the weeding-knife of a judicious editor, will  
 cut down the docks and thistles, but the beauty of the  
 roses will particularly appear in some sermons that are  
 curious; and curious for such reasons, as would make  
 other works despicable. They were written in a careless,  
 hurrying manner, and were the offspring of necessity, not  
 of choice: so that you will see the original force of his  
 genius more in these compositions, that were the legiti-  
 mate sons of duty, than in other pieces, that were the na-  
 tural sons of love. They were held in such low esteem