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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 remainder of the volume compared to a garden overrun with docks and thistles, among wich Swift's three sermons appear as roses.

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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

in his own thoughts, that some years before he died, he gave away the whole collection to Dr. SHERIDAN, with the utmost indifference: "*Here, says he, are a bundle of my old sermons; you may have them if you please: they may be of use to you, they have never been of any to me.*" The parcel given to Dr. SHERIDAN consisted, as I have heard, of about five-and-thirty sermons. Three or four only are published; and those I have read over with attention. The first is upon *Mutual Subjection*, and that duty which is owing from one man to another. A clearer style, or a discourse more properly adapted to a public audience, can scarce be framed. Every paragraph is simple, nervous, and intelligible. The threads of each argument are closely connected, and logically pursued: but in places where the Dean has the least opportunity to introduce political maxims, or to dart an arrow at the conduct of princes, he never fails to indulge himself in his usual manner of thinking, as you will judge from the following quotations: "*A wise man, says Dr. SWIFT,*
 "*who doth not assist with his counsels; a great man with*
 "*his protection; a rich man with his bounty and charity;*
 "*and a poor man with his labour; are perfect nuisances in*
 "*a commonwealth. Neither is any condition of life more*
 "*honourable in the sight of God than another; otherwise*
 "*he would be a respecter of persons, which he assureth us*
 "*he is not: for he hath proposed the same salvation to*
 "*all men, and hath only placed them in different ways or*
 "*stations to work it out. Princes are born with no more*
 "*advantages of strength or wisdom than other men; and,*
 "*by an unhappy education, are usually more defective in both*
 "*than*