



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

The conclusion.

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

AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 213

answerable to the laws ; and, if his orders are disputed, he is unhinged ; if they are disobeyed, he is undone, unless he has artfully brought his adversaries to a greater degree of corruption than himself ; and, in that case,—— But I must remember the boundaries of a letter, and must consider, that, having already finished my most material observations upon the life and writings of the Dean of St. PATRICK'S, it is time to draw towards an end. I originally chose the topic, my dearest HAMILTON, because few characters could have afforded so great a variety of faults and beauties. Few men have been more known and admired, or more envied and censured, than Dr. SWIFT. From the gifts of nature, he had great powers, and, from the imperfection of humanity, he had many failings. I always considered him as an *Abstract and brief chronicle of the times* ; no man being better acquainted with human nature, both in the highest, and in the lowest scenes of life. His friends, and correspondents, were the greatest and most eminent men of the age. The sages of antiquity were often the companions of his closet : and although he industriously avoided an ostentation of learning, and generally chose to draw his materials from his own store, yet his knowledge in the ancient authors evidently appears from the strength of his sentiments, and the classic correctness of his style.

You must have observed, my dear son, that I could not submit to be confined within the narrow limits of biographical memoirs. I have gone into a more extensive field, and, in my progress, I wish I may have thrown out such hints, as shall tend to form your mind

214 REMARKS ON THE LIFE, &c.

to virtue and learning: the ultimate end of all my wishes, and all my cares. Heaven grant, my HAMILTON, that I may deserve from you, the honour which HORACE pays to his father (*Insuevit pater hoc me, ut fugerem exemplis vitiorum, &c.*), when you drop a filial tear over the grave of

Your most affectionate Father,

your sincerest Friend, and

your happy Companion,

*Leicester Fields,
August 28, 1751.*

ORRERY.

The E N D.