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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**

Sir William Temple's death.

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found so much benefit by the journey, that in compliance to his own inclinations, he soon returned into *England*, and was again most affectionately received by Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, who had now left *Moore Park*, and was settled at *Sheene*, where he was often visited by King WILLIAM. Here SWIFT had frequent opportunities of conversing with that Prince; in some of which conversations, the King offered to make him a captain of horse: an offer, which, in splenetic dispositions, he always seemed sorry to have refused; but at that time, he had resolved, within his own mind, to take orders, and during his whole life, his resolutions, like the decrees of fate, were immoveable. Thus determined, he again went over into *Ireland*, and immediately enlisted himself under the banner of the Church. He was recommended by Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE to Lord CAPEL, then Lord Deputy, who gave him the first vacancy, a prebend, of which the income was about an hundred pounds a year. SWIFT soon grew weary of this preferment: it was not sufficiently considerable, and was at so great a distance from the metropolis, that it absolutely deprived him from that kind of conversation and society, in which he delighted. He had been used to very different scenes in *England*, and had naturally an aversion to solitude and retirement. He was glad therefore, to resign his prebend in favour of a friend, and to return to *Sheene*, where he lived domestically as usual, till the death of Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, who, besides a legacy in money, left to him the care, and trust of publishing his posthumous works.

As

## 14 REMARKS ON THE LIFE

As during my friend SWIFT's residence with Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, he became intimately acquainted with a Lady, whom he has distinguished, and often celebrated in his works, under the name of STELLA; I cannot think, my HAM, that it will be improper, to give you at once her history, although, according to the rules of biography, I ought perhaps to have delayed the account, till we arrived at that period of his life, when he married her: but as I may have occasion to speak of her in various parts of SWIFT's works, and as his manner of living with her will shew you, how much he deviated from the common order of men, I shall fill up the rest of my letter with her extraordinary story.

STELLA's real name was JOHNSON. She was the daughter of Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's steward, and the concealed, but undoubted wife of Dr. SWIFT. Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE bequeathed her in his will one thousand pounds, as an acknowledgment of her father's faithful services. I cannot tell, how long she remained in *England*, or whether she made more journeys than one to *Ireland* after Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's death; but if my informations are right, she was married to Dr. SWIFT in the year seventeen hundred and sixteen, by Dr. ASHE then bishop of *Clogher*.

STELLA was a most amiable woman, in mind, and person. She had an elevated understanding, with all the delicacy and softness of her own sex. Her voice, however sweet in itself, was still rendered more harmonious by what she said. Her wit was poignant without severity.