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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

His clerk Roger.

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20 REMARKS ON THE LIFE

However, during the government of the Earls of Berkley and Galway, who were jointly Lords Justices of Ireland, two livings, Laracor and Rathbeggan, were bestowed upon Mr. Swift. The sirst of these rectories was worth about two hundred, and the latter about sixty pounds a year, and they were the only church preferments that he enjoyed 'till he was appointed Dean of St. Patrick's, in the year seventeen hundred and thirteen.

As foon as he had taken possession of his two livings, he went to reside at Laracor, and gave public notice to his parishioners, that he would read prayers on every Wednesday and Friday. Upon the subsequent Wednesday the bell was rung, and the Rector attended in his desk, when after having sat some time, and finding the congregation to consist only of himself, and his clerk Roger, he began with great composure and gravity, but with a turn peculiar to himself, "Dearly beloved Roger, the scripture moveth you and me in sundry places." And then proceeded regularly through the whole service. I mention this trisling circumstance only to shew you, that he could not resist a vein of humour whenever he had an opportunity of exerting it.

As I have given you a particular example of his humour, let me give you a particular instance of his pride: especially as it comes in properly enough in point of time.

Whilst Swift was chaplain to Lord Berkley, his only fister, by the confent and approbation of her uncles