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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 deanery of Derry intended for Dr. Swift.

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I need not tell you, that a strict residence at *Laracor*, was not in the least suitable to his disposition. He was perpetually making excursions not only to *Dublin*, and other parts of *Ireland*, but into *England*, especially to *London*. So rambling a disposition, occasioned to him a considerable loss. The rich deanery of *Derry* became vacant at this time, and was intended for him by Lord BERKLEY, if Dr. KING, then Bishop of *Derry*, and afterwards Archbishop of *Dublin*, had not interposed: entreating with great earnestness, that the deanery might be given to some grave and elderly Divine, rather than to so young a man; "because (added the Bishop) the situation of *Derry* is in the midst of presbyterians, and I should be glad of a clergyman, who could be of assistance to me. I have no objection to Mr. SWIFT. I know him to be a sprightly ingenious young man; but instead of residing, I dare say, he will be eternally flying backwards and forwards to *London*, and therefore I entreat, that he may be provided for in some other place."

SWIFT was accordingly set aside on account of youth, but, as if his stars had destined to him a parallel revenge, he lived to see the Bishop of *Derry* afterwards set aside on account of age. That Prelate had been Archbishop of *Dublin* many years, and had been long celebrated for his wit and learning, when Dr. LINDSEY, the Primate of *Ireland*, died. Upon his death, Archbishop KING immediately made claim to the Primacy, as a preferment to which he had a right from his

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his station in the see of *Dublin*, and from his acknowledged character in the church. Neither of these pretensions were prevalent. He was looked upon as *too far advanced in years* to be removed. The reason alledged was as mortifying as the refusal itself: but the Archbishop had no opportunity of shewing his resentment, except to the new Primate Dr. BOLTER, whom he received at his own house, and in his dining parlour, without rising from his chair, and to whom he made an apology, by saying, in his usual strain of wit, and with his usual sneering countenance, "My Lord, I am certain your Grace will forgive me, because, *You know, I am too old to rise.*"

In the year 1701, SWIFT took his Doctor's degree, and towards the latter end of that year, or according to our absurd way of reckoning, in the year $17\frac{0}{2}$ King WILLIAM died. Queen ANN's reign will open a new scene, and will probably afford me materials for more letters than one. The more the better, when in each of them I can assure you, that your behaviour, as well as my own inclinations, oblige me to be,

Your affectionate Father,

O R R E R Y.

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