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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 rage of party in Ireland at Dr. Swift's arrival there, in the year 1713.

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AND WRITINGS OF DR. SWIFT. 31

LETTER V.

MOST people, my dear HAM, are fond of a fettlement in their native country: but Dr. SWIFT had little reason to rejoice in the land where his lot had fallen: for, upon his arrival in Ireland to take possession of the deanery, he found the violence of party raging in that kingdom to the highest degree. The common people were taught to look upon him as a Jacobite, and they proceeded fo far in their detestation, as to throw stones and dirt at him as he passed through the streets. The chapter of St. Patrick's, like the rest of the kingdom, received him with great reluctance. They thwarted him in every point that he proposed. He was avoided as a pestilence. He was opposed as an invader. He was marked out as an enemy to his country. Such was his first reception as Dean of St. Patrick's. Fewer talents, and less firmness, must have yielded to so outragious an opposition, sed contra audentior ibat. He had seen enough of human nature, to be convinced, that the passions of low, felf-interested minds, ebb and slow continually. They love they know not whom, they hate they know not why: they are captivated by words: guided by names: and governed by accidents. SACHEVERELL and the Church

REMARKS ON THE LIFE

Church had been of as great service to one party in the year 1710, as Popery and Slavery were to the other in the year 1713. But, to shew you the strange revolutions in this world, Dr. Swift, who was now the detestation of the Irish rabble, lived to be afterwards the most absolute monarch over them that ever governed men.

His first step, was to reduce to reason and obedience his reverend brethren the chapter of St. Patrick's: in which, he succeeded so perfectly, and so speedily, that in a short time after his arrival, not one member of that body offered to contradict him, even in trisles. On the contrary, they held him in the highest respect and veneration; so that he sat in the Chapter-house, like Jupiter in the Synod of the Gods. Whether fear or conviction were the motives of so immediate a change, I leave you to consider, but certain it is

Viro Phæbi chorus assurrexerit omnis.

Swift made no longer a stay in Ireland, in the year 1713, than was requisite to establish himself as Dean, and to pass through certain customs and formalities, or to use his own words,

Through all vexations,

Patents, Instalments, Abjurations,

First Fruits, and Tenths, and Chapter-Treats,

Dues, Payments, Fees, Demands, and — Cheats.

During