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*The Works of Jonathan Swift, D.D Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin; Containing Additional Letters, Tracts, and Poems, Not Hitherto Published; With Notes, and a Life of the Author by Walter Scott Vol. 6 The Letters of William James by William James.*

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Biography Youth This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. October Learn how and when to remove this template message Jonathan Swift was born on 30 November in Dublin , Ireland. His maternal grandfather, James Ericke, was the vicar of Thornton, England. In the vicar was convicted of Puritan practices. Some time thereafter, Ericke and his family, including his young daughter Abilgail, fled to Ireland. He said that there he learned to read the Bible. His nurse returned him to his mother, still in Ireland, when he was three. Swift graduated in , when he was The four-year course followed a curriculum largely set in the Middle Ages for the priesthood. The lectures were dominated by Aristotelian logic and philosophy. The basic skill taught the students was debate and they were expected to be able to argue both sides of any argument or topic. Swift was an above-average student but not exceptional, and received his B. He had retired from public service to his country estate to tend his gardens and write his memoirs. He was appointed to the prebend of Kilroot in the Diocese of Connor in , with his parish located at Kilroot , near Carrickfergus in County Antrim. Swift appears to have been miserable in his new position, being isolated in a small, remote community far from the centres of power and influence. While at Kilroot, however, he may well have become romantically involved with Jane Waring, whom he called "Varina", the sister of an old college friend. Temple died on 27 January This failed so miserably that he accepted the lesser post of secretary and chaplain to the Earl of Berkeley , one of the Lords Justice of Ireland. However, when he reached Ireland, he found that the secretaryship had already been given to another. He had abundant leisure for cultivating his garden, making a canal after the Dutch fashion of Moor Park, planting willows, and rebuilding the vicarage. As chaplain to Lord Berkeley, he spent much of his time in Dublin and travelled to London frequently over the next ten years. In , he anonymously published the political pamphlet A Discourse on the Contests and Dissentions in Athens and Rome. Writer Swift had residence in Trim, County Meath , after He wrote many of his works during this time period. Although the tone of the letter was courteous, Swift privately expressed his disgust for Tisdall as an "interloper", and they were estranged for many years. During his visits to England in these years, Swift published A Tale of a Tub and The Battle of the Books and began to gain a reputation as a writer. Swift became increasingly active politically in these years. He found the opposition Tory leadership more sympathetic to his cause, and, when they came to power in , he was recruited to support their cause as editor of The Examiner. In , Swift published the political pamphlet The Conduct of the Allies , attacking the Whig government for its inability to end the prolonged war with France. The incoming Tory government conducted secret and illegal negotiations with France, resulting in the Treaty of Utrecht ending the War of the Spanish Succession. Swift was part of the inner circle of the Tory government, [24] and often acted as mediator between Henry St John Viscount Bolingbroke , the secretary of state for foreign affairs "15 , and Robert Harley Earl of Oxford , lord treasurer and prime minister " Swift recorded his experiences and thoughts during this difficult time in a long series of letters to Esther Johnson, collected and published after his death as A Journal to Stella. The animosity between the two Tory leaders eventually led to the dismissal of Harley in With the death of Queen Anne and accession of George I that year, the Whigs returned to power, and the Tory leaders were tried for treason for conducting secret negotiations with France. Swift has been described by scholars as "a Whig in politics and Tory in religion" and Swift related his own views in similar terms, stating that as "a lover of liberty, I found myself to be what they called a Whig in politics But, as to religion, I confessed myself to be an High-Churchman. Swift furnished Esther with the nickname " Vanessa " derived by adding "Essa", a pet form of Esther, to the "Van" of her surname, Vanhomrigh , and she features as one of the main characters in his poem Cadenus and Vanessa. The poem and their correspondence suggest that Esther was infatuated with Swift, and that he may have reciprocated her affections, only to regret this and then try to break off the relationship. Their uneasy relationship continued for some years; then there appears to have been

a confrontation, possibly involving Esther Johnson. Maturity Jonathan Swift shown without wig by Rupert Barber, , National Portrait Gallery, London Before the fall of the Tory government, Swift hoped that his services would be rewarded with a church appointment in England. However, Queen Anne appeared to have taken a dislike to Swift and thwarted these efforts. Her dislike has been attributed to *A Tale of a Tub*, which she thought blasphemous, compounded by *The Windsor Prophecy*, where Swift, with a surprising lack of tact, advised the Queen on which of her bedchamber ladies she should and should not trust. Much of the material reflects his political experiences of the preceding decade. During his visit he stayed with his old friends Alexander Pope , John Arbuthnot and John Gay , who helped him arrange for the anonymous publication of his book. First published in November , it was an immediate hit, with a total of three printings that year and another in early French, German, and Dutch translations appeared in , and pirated copies were printed in Ireland. Swift returned to England one more time in and stayed with Alexander Pope once again. The visit was cut short when Swift received word that Esther Johnson was dying, and rushed back home to be with her. Swift could not bear to be present at the end, but on the night of her death he began to write his *The Death of Mrs Johnson*. In he wrote *Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift*, his own obituary published in In , his good friend and collaborator John Gay died. In , John Arbuthnot, another friend from his days in London, died. In Swift began to show signs of illness, and in he may have suffered a stroke, losing the ability to speak and realising his worst fears of becoming mentally disabled. To protect him from unscrupulous hangers on, who had begun to prey on the great man, his closest companions had him declared of "unsound mind and memory". However, it was long believed by many that Swift was actually insane at this point. In his book *Literature and Western Man* , author J. In , guardians were appointed to take care of his affairs and watch lest in his outbursts of violence he should do himself harm. In , he suffered great pain from the inflammation of his left eye, which swelled to the size of an egg; five attendants had to restrain him from tearing out his eye. He went a whole year without uttering a word. Then on 19 October , Swift, at nearly 80, died. Aitken and from other sources. Jonathan Swift wrote his own epitaph: *Hic depositum est Corpus.*

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### 6: Jonathan Swift - Wikipedia

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