



**THE BATTLE
OF THE BOOKS
AND OTHER SHORT PIECES**

JONATHAN SWIFT

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BOOKS
AND
OTHER SHORT PIECES

BY
JONATHAN SWIFT

The Battle of the Books and other Short Pieces By Jonathan Swift.

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There are few countries which, if well cultivated, would not support double the number of their inhabitants, and yet fewer where one-third of the people are not extremely stinted even in the necessaries of life. I send out twenty barrels of corn, which would maintain a family in bread for a year, and I bring back in return a vessel of wine, which half a dozen good fellows would drink in less than a month, at the expense of their health and reason.

A man would have but few spectators, if he offered to show for threepence how he could thrust a red-hot iron into a barrel of gunpowder, and it should not take fire.
