

In 1713 he arrived at Cadiz, and here his kinsman, Father John O'Honan, a Franciscan priest and chaplain to the Irish Brigade, persuaded him to enter the Spanish Navy. He did so, entering as a private and, as he said himself, "tugging against wind and tide" until he had attained the post of Admiral.

About the year 1753 he was put in command of the Spanish Fleet which was then stationed at Ferrol, and he was appointed Military Governor of that town. Honan spent a long and arduous career in the service of Spain, and although he many times asked permission to take his well-earned retirement and return to Ireland, this was not granted until the year 1766. Honan was by then close on seventy years old—too old to return to Ireland, as he desired—so he settled in the more equitable climate of Cadiz and probably died there shortly after.

In all Honan's long residence abroad, he never forgot his native Clare or his kinsmen there. In the year 1756 he presented a chalice to his native parish of Killaspuglenane, where it is still in use, "a decent, solid piece costing £7 10s.," and inscribed in Latin: "The illustrious man, Sir Daniel O'Huony, who recently held the post of Governor of Ferrol under His Catholic Majesty, and who at various times commanded several ships of the same King, gave this chalice to his native parish of Killaspuglenane in the year 1756."

During his life in Spain he kept up a regular correspondence with his Clare relatives, the Lysaghts; sent them money from time to time, and received three of them in Spain in order to help them to a career. The latter service was not entirely voluntary, and in one of his letters he asks that his aunt, Brigett Loyd, be disabused of "ye extravagant notion she has of my riches and grandeur," lest she send any more impoverished relatives to him in Spain. One of the latter, George Lysaght, his grand-nephew, was so rich when he returned to Ireland that he built the mansion of Ballykeal, near Kilfenora, and was known locally as *Seoirse-an-air*.

Honan also retained his love and knowledge of his native language, and in one of his letters, written after thirty-seven years' absence on the Continent, he wrote the old proverb, again dissuading his relatives from coming to sponge on him: "Is mor adharcha na mbo abhfad on bhaile." Foreign cows have long horns.

SIR VERE HUNT, BART

Sir Vere Hunt, Bart, of Curragh Chase, County Limerick, and Glangoole, County Tipperary, was born at Curragh Chase in the year 1761, son of Vere Hunt of Curragh and Anne Browne of Newgrove, County Clare. He was a soldier by profession and raised three infantry regiments as well as being very prominent in the Irish Volunteer movement. For these services he was created a baronet on 4th December, 1784.

In the previous year he married Elinor Pery, daughter of Lord Glenworth, the Bishop of Limerick, and obtained by the marriage some property in Limerick, including a house in John's Square and a share in the Assembly Rooms in Charlotte Quay. The latter gave him an interest in the theatre and, forming a company of his own, he ran the theatre in Limerick for two years, as well as taking the company on tour to the principal Munster towns.

Hunt was an active landlord and spent a lot of money in developing his property at Glangoole, on which there were coal mines. He built the town of New Bermingham there but the coal seams fizzled out and the venture was not a very great success. Another of his picturesque speculations was to purchase Lundy Island off the coast of Devon. The King's writ did not run here and it was a convenient place for retiring to when his creditors pressed him, either in England or Ireland.

Hunt was a member of the Limerick and Tipperary Grand Juries and served as High Sheriff of the former when a young man. In 1799 he purchased the parliamentary seat of Askeaton, a rotten borough, for £5,000, but was unlucky enough to lose it in the following year by the passing of the Union Act. As compensation he was rewarded with the weighmastership of Cork, a sinecure of £600 per annum.

He was a dabbler in literature and left, among his papers, a musical play and a most interesting personal diary, giving a vivid description of his times and leaving no doubt as to where his son, Sir Aubrey de Vere, or his grandsons, Aubrey Thomas and Sir Stephen de Vere, got their literary ability. He died on 11th August, 1818, and was succeeded by his only son, Sir Aubrey de Vere Hunt, who, on 15th March, 1832, assumed the surname and arms of de Vere.

CHARLES JOHNSTON

Charles Johnston, novelist, was born of a Scottish family at Carrigogunnel in the year 1719, his father being Thomas Johnston of Drumfrieshire and his mother Miss Sharpe. He was educated at the Limerick Diocesan School under the Rev. Mr. Cashin and the Rev. Mr. Ingram, and afterwards spent two years at Trinity College, Dublin. Later he entered himself as a student at the Middle Temple, London, and although called to the Bar, was prevented by deafness from ever practising, except as a chamber lawyer.

Johnston's first essay in literature was a version of the Song of Solomon, and this was so much appreciated by Lord Lyttleton that he became Johnston's warm friend and patron. He gave Johnston a house to live in and continue his writings, and continued to help him until the latter married a "lady with a good fortune and retired to live in a village near London."