

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."

Johnston's greatest work, "Chrysal, or the Adventures of a Guinea," appeared in four volumes during the years 1760 to 1765 and showed that Johnston must have been more than intimate with most of the society intrigues and scandals of the day. It created a sensation by revealing many political secrets and exposing the profligacy of several well-known public men who had formed themselves into a club of hell-fire rakes. In the words of a contemporary, it was the "best scandalous chronicle of the day."

Other works of Johnston's, although they never attained the success of "Chrysal," were "The Reverie, or a Flight to the Paradise of Fools," published in two volumes in 1762; "The History of Arbases, Princes of Betlis," in two volumes (1774); "The Pilgrim, or a Picture of Life," in two volumes (1775); and "The History of John Juniper, Esq., alias Juniper Jack," in three volumes, 1781.

Walter Scott, who called Johnston "a prose juvenal" on account of his satirical powers, thought highly of him. He wrote:—"His language is firm and energetic, his power of personifying character striking and forcible, and the persons of his narrative move, breathe and speak in all the freshness of life. His sentiments are in general those of a high-minded and indignant censor of a loose and corrupt age; yet it cannot be denied that Johnston, in his hatred and contempt of the more degenerate vices of ingratitude, avarice and baseness of every kind, shows but too much disposition to favour Churchill and other libertines who thought fit to practise open looseness of manners, because, they said, it was better than hypocrisy.

Tiring of the artificiality of life in London, Johnston set out for India in May, 1782, and was nearly drowned on the voyage. For a time he worked for a Bengal newspaper under the pseudonym "Oneiropolos" but eventually became joint-proprietor of another journal in the same province and is said to have acquired considerable wealth. He died near Calcutta in the year 1800.

PATRICK WESTON JOYCE

Patrick Weston Joyce, educationalist, scholar, historian and musician, was born at Ballyorgan, County Limerick, in the year 1827. After education in private schools he became a national school-teacher in 1845, and gradually improved his position until 1860 when he was made Principal of the Marlboro' Street Model Training Schools in Dublin. His work in Dublin gave him the opportunity of attending Trinity College, and he graduated here, B.A., in 1861; M.A., in 1864, and was granted the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1870. In 1863 he was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy, and from 1906 to 1908 he was President of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.