

## DE BLAQUIÈRE Jean Baron I

Several members of the De Blaquiere family were buried at Glasnevin [Irlande]. They were amongst the nearest relatives of Lord de Blaquiere. As Sir John Blaquiere, he played an important part as Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Member of the Irish Parliament. He had been also active from 1768 as Secretary to the British Embassy in Paris, and a mass of papers dealing with the movements of the Pretender, Prince Charles Edward, were sold by Blaquiere's relatives to the Foreign Office in 1850.

Of this fact the late John de Blaquiere informed Mr. W. J. FitzPatrick; and added that he was obliged to sign a document pledging himself not to publish copies of any of the papers thus bought. Lord Cornwallis states that Sir John governed Ireland for years. [Cornwallis' Correspondence ii, 456.] Sir Jonah Barrington, in his « Personal Sketches, » thus describes him at the time of the Union : - « Sir John Blaquiere was a little deaf of one ear, for which circumstance he gave a very singular reason : his seat, when Secretary, was the outside one on the Treasury Bench, next to the gangway, and he said that so many members used to come perpetually to whisper to him, and the buzz of importunity was so heavy and continuous, that before one claimant's words had got out of his ear, the demand of another forced its way in, till the ear drum being overcharged, suddenly burst; which, he said, turned out conveniently enough, as he was then obliged to stuff the organ tight, and tell every gentleman that his physician had directed him not to use that ear at all, and the other as little as possible. »