

Edward Henry Townsend [411]

Whitehall

The house has the most wonderful view over Roaring Water Bay but has been spoilt by the modern windows



The Front door





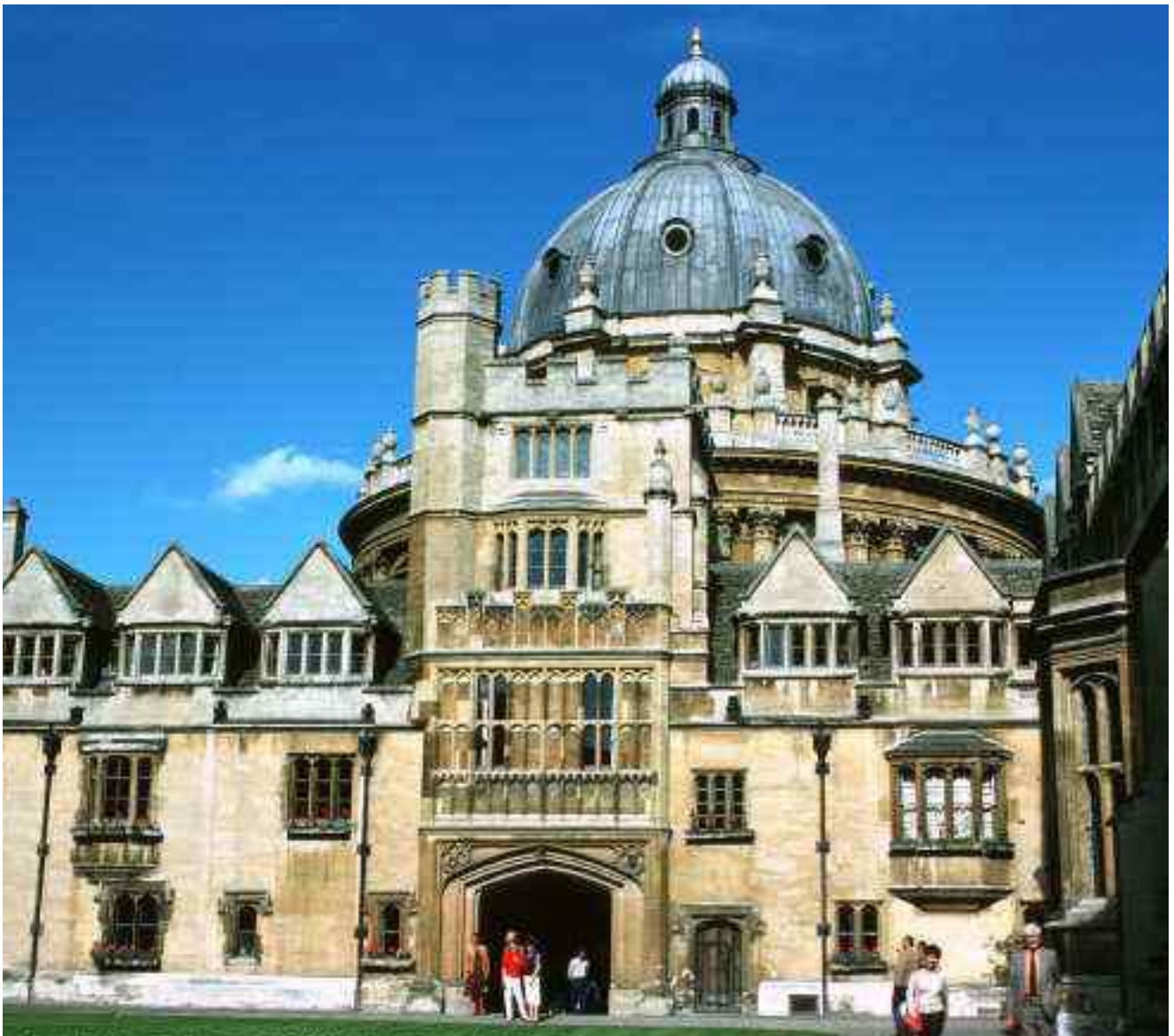
Prospect Villa



Monkstown, Cork



Brasenose College, Oxford



Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

MONKSTOWN, a parish, in the barony of KERRYCURRIHY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, on the new line of road from Passage to Cork, and on the western shore of the river Lee, at its confluence with the sea in Cork harbour; containing, with part of the post-town of Passage-West, 2199 inhabitants, of which number, 698 are in the village of Monkstown. The parish is bounded on the east and south-east by the Lee and the harbour of Cove; it comprises 1546 statute acres, of which about 100 are scattered woodland and ornamental grounds, 60 rock, and the remainder arable and pasture; the annual value is about £1500. The land is moderately well cultivated, though at a great expense and the soil being fertile is productive of good crops of corn and grass. The rocks are of clay-slate, and, near Carrigmahon, are precipitous and interesting; the steepest is called the Giant's Stairs, being a rocky promontory with receding ledges of rock, having the appearance of a rude staircase when viewed from the opposite bank of the Lee. There are several quarries of a red and brown stone, useful for many purposes, the former being chiefly used for lining limekilns. The river Lee affords every facility for water carriage, and here is excellent anchorage for vessels of all sizes. The village, which has a penny post to Cork, comprises a great number of detached villas and cottages, many being new and very handsome, particularly twelve beautiful marine villas recently built close to the shore; they are constructed in the pure Elizabethan style, and are chiefly occupied by respectable families as bathing-lodges, for which purpose the village is most favourably situated. It is built on the sides of a deep glen, which is thickly clothed with beautiful and thriving plantations, much increasing the natural beauty of the scene: the prospect is very extensive, taking in the woods of Ballybricken, Rostellan, and Prospect; the islands of Haulbowline, the Rock, and Spike, with their numerous forts, depots, arsenals, and magazines; Ringaskiddy, crowned by its Martello tower; and the numerous vessels in the harbour. Among the elegant residences scattered over the parish are Monkstown Castle, that of R. B. Shaw,

Esq.; Rock Lodge, of J. Galwey, Esq.; Carrigmahon, of De Courcy O'Grady, Esq.; Rockville, of J. Taylor, Esq.; Bellevue, of N. S. Parker, Esq.; and the glebe-house, of the Rev. Alex. Stuart, besides several very beautiful houses in the portion of the town of Passage that is in the parish, which, by means of the new road, has become one place with Passage. This road was designed by Robert Shaw, Esq.; it winds round the base of all the bold and wooded hills, only a few feet above the level of the highest tides, uniting Cork, Douglas, Passage, Monkstown, Carrigaline, and Kinsale: the estimated cost was £2700, one-third of which was to be paid by the barony, the remainder by the county.

The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Cork and in the patronage of Lord De Vesci: the income of the vicar is £50 per ann., payable out of the estate of Monkstown, and secured by the two noble proprietors. The glebe-house, with three acres of land, formerly the residence of Mich. Westropp, Esq., is held by lease for ever from Robt. B. Shaw, Esq., at £25 per ann., derivable from Primate Boulter's augmentation fund. The church, which stands on a picturesque elevation, is a cruciform edifice in the early English style, with a tower and spire, 70 feet high, at the east end: it was built of hewn limestone, in 1832, at an expense of £950, raised by subscriptions from the patrons and others; S. Hollingsworth, Esq., contributed £350, and the noble proprietors of the estate £100. It contains a fine organ and gallery: the west window is of stained glass, exhibiting the armorial bearings of the principal subscribers. The parochial and infants' schools are in Passage; they were founded by subscription in 1836, on land presented by W. Parker, Esq., to be held so long as they shall continue scriptural

AUGHADOWN, or **AGHADOWN**, a parish, in the East Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 3 1/4 miles (W. S. W.) from Skibbereen; containing, with several inhabited islands, 5419 inhabitants. This parish is situated on the north bank of the river Ilen, and comprises 7063 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, and valued at £5400 per annum. Its surface is very uneven; in some parts, especially towards the north, it is rocky and unproductive; but near its southern boundary, towards the Hen, the land is good and produces excellent crops. About two-thirds of it are under cultivation; the remainder is rocky ground and bog, of which latter there is a considerable extent near Newcourt. The state of agriculture is not much improved; the old heavy wooden plough is still used, and some of the land is cultivated by spade labour; the fences are everywhere much neglected. Several good roads intersect the parish, one of which is a new line from Skibbereen to Crookhaven, likely to be of considerable advantage. The Ilen is navigable for vessels of 200 tons' burden nearly to its eastern extremity: a quay and storehouses have been constructed at Newcourt, but are entirely neglected, and the harbour is only frequented by a few sand boats, which discharge their cargoes there for the convenience of the farmers. The principal seats are Aughadown House, that of H. Becher*, Esq., occupying an elevated site in the midst of flourishing plantations, and commanding a fine view of the western coast; Lake Marsh, of Hugh Lawton, Esq.; **Whitehall**, of **S. Townsend***** (*Samuel Townsend [405]*) Esq.; Newcourt, of Becher Fleming**, Esq.; the glebe-house, the residence of the Rev. T. D. Moore; and Holly Hill, of the Rev. J. Copinger, P.P. . Fairs for the sale of cattle, sheep, pigs, &c., are held on May 6th and Oct. 2nd. A manor court is held monthly by a seneschal appointed by Lord Carbery, for the recovery of debts under 40s; and here is a constabulary police station. The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the patronage of the Bishop; the rectory is partly impropriate in Lord Audley and partly forms the corps of the archdeaconry of Ross. The tithes amount to £600, of which £300 is payable to the impropriator and appropriator, and £300 to the vicar. The church, situated on the margin of the river, is a small neat edifice with a square tower, and was built by aid of a loan of £500, in 1812, from the late Board of First Fruits. The glebe-house is handsome and commodious, and is situated on a glebe of 45 1/2 acres. In addition to the parochial schools, there are schools at Whitehall and near Newcourt, also a pay school. In the demesne of Whitehall are the ruins of Rincolisky castle, built by the O'Driscols in 1495; and on the grounds of Lake View are some picturesque remains of an ecclesiastical edifice, called by the people of the neighbourhood the Abbey of Our Lady.

* *Becher connections with Horatio Townsend [104] and Richard Townsend [201].* ** *Fleming connections with John Sealy Townsend [333], Eliza Townsend [5D05] and Horatio Townsend [6B05].* *** *Edward's father. Edward inherited Whitehall in 1836.*

Flatley and friend view £2m seaside hideaway

by Tommy Barker

The all-singing, all-dancing and very much All Cash Michael Flatley, flew into Skibbereen in Cork over the Bank Holiday weekend to view a £2m seaside home up for sale. He dropped from the skies courtesy Celtic helicopters, on Sunday to meet with a local auctioneer and visit the most expensive house to come up publicly for sale outside Dublin, historic Whitehall House on Roaringwater Bay.

The world-class property, owned for many years by a German family, has its own beaches, a ruined castle, the 16th century Rincolisky Castle, and 100 acres of land as well as two walled gardens. The house has six bedrooms, separate staff quarters, a farm yard, a stunning setting with sea views around the headland from Baltimore, a jetty and moorings - but does not have a ballroom.

The former Riverdancer, who grossed more than \$100m with Lord of the Dance, has said on several occasions he wants to buy a home in Ireland. The £2m asking price on Whitehall will hardly bother the dancer, who last year claimed he was making £1m a week. He already has a base in Dublin and houses in the US, in London and in France, along with a 131' yacht called the Lord of the Dance.

Boston-born Flatley, now in his early 40s, touched his precious size 8 feet down on West Cork soil lunchtime Sunday, and was then seen getting into the almost humble VW Passat of Skibbereen auctioneer Charlie McCarthy. Mr McCarthy is a joint agent on the house with Ian Finnegan of Finnegan Menton of Dublin. Last summer, Mr Finnegan bought the £3m Reen na Furrira estate near Sneem in Kerry for a client.

Whitehall House has portions dating back to the early 1600s, but most of it is 19th century and is in excellent repair. The vendors are the Schmitz family from Cologne, who bought it in 1962.

Mr Flatley was accompanied by a young woman companion who was not identified. He spent about one hour visiting the house and flew out in the early afternoon from Ilen Rovers GAA grounds.

A Short History of The Royal Cork Yacht Club

Sometime in the early 1600s, the idea of sailing for private pleasure started to take root in the Netherlands. Later that century, whilst in exile in the Netherlands, Charles II became aware of this new and exciting pastime. In 1660 after his restoration to the English crown Charles was presented with a yacht called *Mary* by the Dutch, which he sailed enthusiastically on the Thames. At about the same time private sailing started to become popular in Cork Harbour quite possibly encouraged by the King. By 1720 interest in the sport had progressed so much that William O'Brien, the 9th Lord Inchiquin, and five of his friends got together to formalise their activities and in so doing established "The Water Club of the Harbour of Cork".

They based themselves in a castle on Hawlbowl Island, the lease of which Lord Inchiquin held. From that castle they regulated their sailing, membership and dining affairs according to a set of rules known to us today as "The Old Rules".

In the early years the majority of club sailing activity took the form of sailing in various formations, copying the manoeuvres of the navies of the day. They communicated with each other by means of flying different flags and firing cannons. Each display and sequence of flags or guns meant something and every yacht owner carried a common signal book on board, which allowed them to communicate with each other.

Shortly before 1806 the club moved to the nearby town of Cobh as the British Admiralty decided that they had need for Hawlbowl Island. The American Revolution and later the French Revolution, would have been significant factors in the Royal Navy's decision to build up their presence in the safe and strategic harbour of Cork.

During the 1820s, following the fashion of the few other clubs that had emerged by then, the club changed its name to the Cork Harbour Yacht Club. Later on that decade it dropped "Harbour" and became the Cork Yacht Club. In 1831 King William IV granted the club the privilege of using the prefix "Royal" and it became known as the Royal Cork Yacht Club.

By the middle of the 19th century membership was keenly sought after and club records show that many candidates were disappointed. One who was fortunate to be admitted was Prince Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria, later to be Emperor of Mexico. Prince Ferdinand was a brother of Emperor Franz Joseph and was the founder of the Imperial Austrian Navy. A special meeting of the General Committee was convened on 30th November 1858 to consider his application as it was felt by many of the members that "the admission of Foreigners" into the club might cause the Lords of the Admiralty to withdraw some of the club's privileges. One of the very first sporting heroes, Sir Thomas Lipton, who challenged for the America's Cup sailing his famous series of yachts called *Shamrock* was admitted to the club in 1900.

In 1966 the Royal Cork and the Royal Munster Yacht Clubs agreed to merge and the Royal Cork moved to its present premises in Crosshaven assuming the title "The Royal Cork Yacht Club, incorporating the Royal Munster Yacht Club".