



Courtesy National Portrait Gallery

St George's Church, Hanover Square, London



Harrow School, London



Princess Eugenie



Farndish Church, Northamptonshire



Chicheley Church, Buckinghamshire



Kensal Green Cemetery



Transcript of a letter from Samuel's Townsend's [443] wife, Elise, to Rev Aubrey Townsend [621] concerning the relationship between Samuel and his sister Elizabeth [443]

January 1st 1875. *[black edged]*

5, Harley Place,

Dear Aubrey,

Your letters are very kind and soothing, and you must add another favour by dropping the formality of Mrs Townshend for the more cousinly one of 'Elise', as John and Minnie ([622]) have done for many years, according to Sam's Wish. I shall be glad to see you, and perhaps we may find some souvenir of my darling which may please you - besides his large collection of sermons, which I should not like to fall into the hands of the indifferent. I have received a letter from Mrs. Smith (Elizabeth [444]), which I hastened to answer. Sam's determination not to see her held out to the end. I lost no opportunity of pleading for peace and good-will and a souvenir of some sort which would gratify their feelings from 'entre tombe', and which soften so much discord. But he invariably said 'Certainly not,' and abruptly changed the conversation. She now asks for her grandfather's and father's picture. It pains me so much to be placed in so delicate a position, but I cannot give away what my dear husband valued most. She is now beyond the threescore and ten, which is the boundary line of man's life; and that honoured portrait would pass into the hands of a Garibaldian, and cease to be a treasure in the family. By way of claim she writes thus, 'When papa gave it to him, he wrote me a word of the same, and that I should possess it the first time he died.' Do you recognise our dear Sam's style and grammar in those last inserted words? She annoyed her brother by writing to announce her daughter's marriage, with a huge coronet on the seal, and she favours me with one so heavy and large, that the postage was doubled. She adds, 'They neither can interest greatly Mrs. T.' - On the contrary, I consider them part and parcel of my own individuality as Sam's wife. I consider them part of himself, and I shall only leave them to those who loved him the most, who will help me to do honor to his memory, and who will hand them down to posterity - not to be sold to help a mad Italian in his crazy views

of regenerating his country by lowering it. Mr. Stocco was a Garibaldian volunteer, General Stocco, is a Baron, which in Italy is as common as our English Esquire, and not so good. Many thanks for the card, and the good wishes it heralds.

Always, dear Aubrey, Your affecte cousin Elise.

**Transcript of a letter from Elise, wife of Samuel Townsend [443], to Aubrey Townsend [621]
concerning Isa's inheritance**

[undated. black edged with printed address.]

147, Harley Street, W.

Dear Cousin Aubrey,

I had seen the death of Pip Mundy in the Morning post [1889]. It removes one Candidate for the Throne of Castle Townshend. And Gendes' (*Geraldine Townsend [252]*) position will now be materially altered as the two boys come in to 10 Thousand Pounds each a present from McKintock to her Stepfather(?) for his life, after which it was settled on his two boys. The Gel (?) Pension also of about 600 a year ceases so Gendie will have to lower a flag. I had not heard of Mrs. Smith's death, & thank you for the information as it enables me to write a letter of Condolence to her daughter who will now inherit the £10,000 my husband made over to his Sister. I believe she also came in to £6,000 at her Mother's death but Mrs. Stocco has eight children & Italians, particularly Garibaldians have little or nothing. I have copied the address on your letter but it was not very legibleI hope you have not had a return of faintness & take great care of yourself, Johnson's Bovril is very strength giving for those who cannot eat Meat.

Always affctionally yours E.F.T.

**Transcript of a letter from Marianne Townsend [5D16] to her son, Edward Mansel Townsend [630]
concerning Elise's will**

December 27th. 1897(?)

22 Corso Umberto,

Naples, Italy.

My dearest Eddie,

I was truly thankful to hear from you that dearest May has written so kindly & pleasantly about money matters & that she wishes to have it all divided equally The storms here have been very heavy for six weeks past, on & off, with calm days between, & I had a good passage across on the 9th. I am sorry Mr. Barber behaved so badly. He must be a disagreeable man. I hear John Stocco met him at Elise's house in her life time, & didn't like him. She told John Stocco just when she was making her will - (he saw her when she was very ill in bed) that she "wished to leave him the plate, but must ask her solicitor whether she had the power to do so." I don't believe she ever asked any one whether she had the power to deal with it. Had they looked up her husband's will they must have seen that she had not. But I do think when she had nearly about £50,000 to leave (including value of house & jewels &c) that, as £30,000 of that was her husband's, she ought to have left all his money to his relations, not to her own friends or cousins. Those two young men Maurice & Hubert have next to nothing I believe, & she only left them £1,000 each. Do you know that the old place of Castle Townshend has been sold! & sold to a self made man, a rich Cork merchant, Sir John Arnott. An iron foundry man I think, & he & his family are settling down there now! It was greatly in debt I believe, but I suppose some of the property remains to the family - I do not know any thing more. The whole property was entailed on Mrs. Mundy & her sister Mrs. Vernon, & after that, was to

go to Maurice & Hubert I thought. I think Mrs. Mundy is still living, & her sister also I want you to explain to me about Law Nugent (*Samuel Nugent [432]*). Who told you that he is not married? I want to know all about it, & I write to tell you that a lady who passed as his wife stayed with him at cousin Elise's (*wife of Samuel Townsend [443]*) home, while May (*[632]*) was there, & she & Law were both very kind to May. If Elise found out that he was not married, though living with that lady, surely she would never have left him all the family pictures? Please explain clearly about this, in a letter, not on a card. Cards are very convenient & cheap, but you never ought to write any private business matters on them. It is most unwise to publish your affairs, & wrong to publish those of other people. Here in Italy it matters very little because the Italians don't understand English, but any where else it would never do.

Kisses many & much love to you both with best wishes for the New Year, from yr. loving Mother, M.O.T.

**Transcript of a Telegram from Samuel Nugent Townsend [432] to Edward Mansel Townsend [630]
concerning the sale of Elise's property after her death**

4th December 1898.

TELEGRAMS: "UNVARIED, LONDON."

City of London Club,
Old Broad Street. E.C.

My dear Edward,

I was glad to hear from you last evening. History is history, and we cannot recall the past, much as most of us - at any rate you & I - have been "done" out of many things. We must only be thankful for what we have, and have got, for although the old Lady (*Elise*) often promised me her pictures in the presence of large dinner parties, of which she always requested me to take the head of the table, I must say I never believed she would leave me any of them or anything else, or any one of our family anything..... I don't think I shall go to the old lady's sale,.....at any rate it would only vex me to see the black and white and other sketches of the family which I should have got as its head and by the old lady's will sold. The reason I did not oppose the will (though I was anxious to upset the codicil) was that if the upsetting of the latter involved the upsetting of the former, and the old lady proved illegitimate the whole estate would revert to the Crown, General and all (*the Gainsborough portrait of Samuel [403]?*) and all this would be a specially bad blow for her branch of the Whitehalls, for of course you know that the property of an illegitimate person dying intestate goes to the Crown. My eyes are not good so excuse more from yours always sinc'ly **S.Nugent Townshend.**