

**Elizabeth Townsend [444]**

**Transcript of Elizabeth's letter to John Townsend [622] concerning the engagement of her daughter**

March 17th. 1863.

3 Via Maggio, 1o. Piazza,  
Firenze, Italia.

My dear John,

It is so long since we have heard from either you or dear Minnie, that I know not for certain where you may be - but be where you may, we will do our part to inform you, that my Isie (*her daughter*) is about to be married to Mr. L. Stocco, a Calabrian by birth. I do regret his being a foreigner, yet in character I am sure he is more like an Englishman, his family on both sides a very high one, and were originally English. Their estates are at Nincastro in Calabria, and they appear to be a very united family, their Uncle General Stocco was mentioned in all the public despatches, that the name even here appeared well known, & their Nephew Antonio, was Garibaldi's Colrt (?). She has seen him constantly for many months, and I do hope & pray that he is worthy of the choice he has made. At all events it has not been consented to hastily, for he was first taken with her on accidentally seeing her as far back as last June, and time and patience has given him the victory over her heart. Often have I wished that you & Minnie were likely to come abroad this summer, and that both could be present at the ceremony, but I know your own dear little ones keep you at home. So may dear John write & tell me all about yourselves. Whether you consider Minnie's health stronger, and how she really is feeling daily. Then inform me how my noble boy, your eldest is. Is he as handsome as he was when we left England, that noble look, the promise of future good - tell me about him, and of the dear babe of whom we could hardly say who he would be like. My affectionate love to Minnie, assure her we wish she could be with us for the marriage. We remain here three months, that is to say till early in June. I am going to give a line to Aubrey, tho' my head is so aching that I hasten to subscribe(?) myself.

Your affectionate Cousin, Elizabeth Smith.

**Transcript of a letter from Elizabeth Townsend [5D18] to John Townsend [622] concerning the state of health of Elizabeth and Isa**

May 28. 1876

Villa Belvidere,  
Castellaviare di Stabia,  
Nr. Naples.

My dearest John,

I must not longer delay thanking you for yr. last letter with promise of a remittance, & congratulating you & dear M. & Ned on the good news about dear J..... We had intended going to the island of Capri, but so fell in love with this little place on Thursday, that we hastily changed our plans. It is only five minutes walk from your people, the Stoccos, just between them & the sea, to which we shall be close. We drove down there to call upon them & they as well as others praised it so highly we soon made our decision. We found all at home except the Count or Colonel, I forget which he is, or both! He was away in Calabria, on business. An uncle of his, General S. has just died, leaving John the eldest son, his heir, - to how much I do not know. He looks a pretty boy of 14 - not like 17 - & very pleasing in manners & appearance. So is the eldest girl of 15 who looks instead more like 17, a bright nice lively girl, they spoke good English. The 5 younger ones we saw little of as they were just going out, - but they are all rather pretty I think & have the same frank simple pleasant manners. No doubt we shall soon be great friends, we are

to have bathing & nice country rambles together. They all seemed highly delighted at the prospect of having us close by. And I think we shall enjoy being with them & it will be amusing to see something of Italian private life. They have the top flat of a furnished Villa, with such a lovely sea view. Not the one we found them in years ago. Mrs. I. S. (*Isa Stocco*) & her daughter gave us the most cordial hearty welcome possible, embraced us each so affectionately & again & again expressed such pleasure, we could not but feel it was genuine. And of course far away in a foreign land it must be a real pleasure to see the belongings even of one's home relatives. The enquiries for you & M. each of the 'boys & girls' & Aubrey, were endless & they seemed to take a real interest in hearing of you all particulars we gave & sent no end of messages of love - & said they wd. write at once to tell of our visit. Mrs. Smith (*Elizabeth Townsend [444]*) is extremely changed, at a glance I should not have known her, years & her illness have wrought upon her so. She is a bent worn old woman, shrunken in face & figure & has lost nearly all her teeth. The same fine eyes, but so softened in expression, as is her whole face, & with pretty soft grey hair resting in simple natural lines about it, instead of that horrid front & curls, no cap even - you can hardly believe the change for the better it was. All pomposity of manner gone, & in place of it the simple gentle ways of an old lady. We quite took to her, and she seemed cheerful & happy with her grandchildren round her tho' so much of an invalid as to be only able to stroll about the flat & balcony a very large one & has never been out of doors further than it, but the air was so charming. She chatted easily & much, but I noticed slight failure of memory at times. "Isa" has grown quite stout & rubicund, lost her good looks & her lovely hair almost gone, but the last 3 all owing to a recent sharp attack of erisepalus (?) in her head, from which she has not recovered. The stoutness may continue, but not the rest it is to be hoped. - So she looked widely different from old days & has grown more foreign in manner & accent. But I was glad to see her evidently so happy, & so loving to her children & they to her. Her whole face expressed I thought real happiness now, & long ago I remember feeling sadly the reverse. There was not a trace of the old look of a weary troubled life, so I hope things are, as I believe different now.....

Love to all fr. yr. affec. sister **E.S.T.**

**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**

January 1st 1875.

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 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 (*Geraldine?*) Pension also of about 600 a year ceases so Gendie will have to lower a flag. I had not heard of Mrs. Smith's (*Elizabeth [444]*) 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 legible. I hope you are well this cold weather, which has killed a most Magnificent Persian Cat, that belonged to my darling brother & now I have no Pet & am longing for a little Toy black & Tan Terrier which must be small as I am not strong enough to carry anything heavy. My last was 18 years old when he died. Sam had such a Knack of picking out thoroughbreds.....I 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 affectionally yours E.F.T.