

Major Edward Townsend [620]



Extract from Slater's Directory 1846

ROSSCARBERY DISTRICT RELIEF COMMITTEE

Name	£.s.d.	Name	£.s.d.	Name	£.s.d.
Allen, Francis, Esq.	2.0.0	Fitzgibbon, Dr.	3.0.0	Molony, Mr.	3.0.0
Allen, Major	2.0.0	Fitzpatrick, Rev. Mr.	2.0.0	Morris, J., Esq.	1.0.0
Aylmer, A.P., Esq.	10.0.0	French, Mr., Cusquinny	10.0.0	Morris, W., Esq., jun.	3.0.0
Baldwin, Wm., Rev.	4.0.0	Galway, Hen., Esq.	5.0.0	O Hea, John, Esq.	3.0.0
Barry, J. R., Esq.	5.0.0	Galway, Major	2.0.0	Powel, Major	3.0.0
Beamish, R., Esq.	2.0.0	Galway, Mr., Kilkerran	5.0.0	Sandes, Geo., Esq.	5.0.0
Cahill, Dr.	3.0.0	Hamilton, F.S., Rev.	5.0.0	Sheehan, J., Rev., PP	3.0.0
Carbery, Lady	80.0.0	Hungerford, Mrs., Farley	1.0.0	Sheehy, P., Rev., PP	5.0.0
Connor, R.L., Rev.	3.0.0	Hungerford, T., Esq.	10.0.0	Smyth, Rich., Esq.	5.0.0
Constabulary in Ross	1.0.0	Hungerford, T, Esq., Island	5.0.0	Starkie, Capt.	3.0.0
Croker, Eyre C., Esq.	1.0.0	Jennings, Wm., Rev.	3.0.0	Starkie, Robt., Esq.	3.0.0
Curtis, Wm., Esq.	1.0.0	Jervois, S., Esq.	2.0.0	Starkie, Wm., Esq.	3.0.0
Donovan, Mrs.	3.0.0	Jones, Mrs.	3.0.0	Steward, H., Rev.	5.0.0
Donovan, P., Rev.	2.0.0	Limrick, Dr.	3.0.0	Townsend, CC, Rev *	5.0.0
Donovan, R., Esq.	5.0.0	Molesworth, W., Rev.	5.0.0	Townsend, Major **	2.0.0
Elliott, E. G., Esq.	1.0.0	Molony, J., Rev., PP	5.0.0	Travers, J., M., Esq.	5.0.0
				Walshe, Rev. Mr.	2.0.0

* *Rev Chambre Corker [5D01]*

** *Major Edward Townsend [620]*

Transcript of some of Edward's letters from Canada & India

This letter is of considerable interest as the 'armed banditti' to whom Edward refers were those involved in the Patriot Rebellion 1837-38. Of those that were not hanged 91 were transported to Tasmania (then Van Diemen's Land) where Sir John Franklin was the Governor General at the time and 58 others were sent to New South Wales.

January 1st 1839.

Kingston, [Canada]

Dearest Mother,

I have been till now, in much occupation arising from the recent events, & postponed replying to your, having lately written, until there wd. be something new to say. I long to hear of my letter having arrived, written in early October, after receiving the sad intelligence, so long expected, but so faintly realized. Making all allowances for adverse winds & waves, I hope there may not be a loose screw at the N.Y. Post Office. My last to Hatfield & Kinsale, (to the latter I wrote, & sent newspapers, including a long sheet to Aunt Mary, giving her a long story about Niagara.) described the events which have disturbed our usual tenure, the unspecified aggression by armed banditti from the restless neighbouring republic, and the capture or destruction of the greater number. Since then a Militia General Court Martial has been sitting at Fort Henry on 150 of them, pursuant to whose sentence six of the most guilty have been hanged, & warrants have arrived for the execution of six more on Tu. 4 inst. two of whom have since been reprieved. It is a sad but too necessary a measure, putting these creatures to death; all levity having failed, being ascribed to fear, the only remaining alternative was to exert the strong arm of the Law, or suffer the loyal industrious inhabitants of this province to be exposed year after year to piratical attack, their facilities beggared, & their lives sacrificed in defending their houses from a set of miscreants who assume every crime to be lawful, because forsooth they commit their atrocities in the name of "liberty". Neither are these deeds perpetuated by mere outcasts of Society; occurrences are constantly coming to light, implicating men in the U.S. whose station, years, & it might have been hoped Education also, ought to teach them to discourage, (admitting, what is very doubtful, their inability to prevent,) such proceedings; in which. it now comes out, that Judges of the Law, & the so called Ministers of Religion are concerned. A Man of 60, named Wingar(?), now in the Fort, stated that a Sectarian preacher told him, the cause of Canadian freedom was the cause of Heaven, embarking in which. would procure him pardon of his Sins. The Irish Priests could hardly go further. Lawton, one of those to suffer on 4 Jan is a preacher of some sect. The minds of people here are much excited, & they surely have much cause; but they are growing calmer, as it is seen that the Executive is firm in the determination to put down piracy & rebellion. A more subdued tone is also perceptible in the U.S. newspapers. How needful these retributive measures were, may further be judged by the circumstance, that so little were the Pirates discouraged by the signal failure at Prescott, that even while the Court Martial was sitting here, another gang crossed Lake Erie at Sandwich near Amherstbury, battered the Barracks, committed atrocious murders, & were preparing for further mischief, when the Militia attacked them, and they shared the fate of their fellows in iniquity. A Court Martial is now sitting at London, & capital convictions will no doubt ensue. In the Lower Province, Martial Law is proclaimed, under which. a Court Martial is now sitting at Montreal, to try 400. A dreadful state of things, the natural result of Whiggery & Republicanism. I had charge when they reached Ft. Henry of the Prescott prisoners, which. has caused my being much occupied since in giving Evidence before the C. M. There could not be fitter instruments of mischief. The greater No. had not been baptised, & tho' all able to read & write, & many to argue in their own defence, they evince strange ignorance of the first principals of right & wrong. Mr. Castionset, a Clergyman here, has made them frequent visits, which. they appear to have taken in good part, & been civil to him, but he is much shocked at what he has seen & heard. The leader, Von Schultz, who was the first to pay the forfeit of his life, was of much superior stamp to the rest. He was a Swede of good family in Finland, & of polished manners, & evincing much of a better tone of feeling than the rest. His deportment during his confinement, & when before the C. M. where he at once pleaded guilty, and lamented his offence, was highly becoming, and attracted much notice & commiseration. He was a R.C. & died such. He owned some property in the U.S. &

bequeathed £400 to the widows & orphans of those who fell on our side at Prescott; a redeeming trait which. it is pleasing to record amid so much that is the reverse. In the U.S. while the lamentation is loud for those who have fallen into our hands, who are spoken of, & interceded for, as "misguided youths", and money raised for their maintenance in Prison, (not wanted since they are treated with all humanity by the Sherrieff;) not a syllable of compassion is breathed for the Canadian families, whom their wanton wickedness has plunged into affliction, nor a dollar of their money contributed for their relief. I had treated Von Schultz with decent civility, & procured him some trifling comforts during my stay in the Fort, & the grateful wretch thanked me in his will, bequeathing me a Gold Pencil Case, which. I shall preserve, in the hope of it's being some day honoured by a place in yr. Pocket Book. It is the second legacy I have received.

Jan. 8. We are in the midst of Winter; and cold enough it is; but by no means equaling my anticipation. The River is frozen over, & the face of the deep is as with a Stone, Lake Ontario being a sheet of Ice, farther than the eye can reach; Sledges skimming away in every direction. I never see Ice without it reminding me of the earliest event within my memory, when I was 2 or 3 years old - your taking me to the basin in Green Park, & showing & explaining to me a pair of skates. Tho' cold, the weather is no way chilly, but dry & bracing, and the spirits of men & beasts have been high, ever since the Frost set in. New year's day, & that before Xmas day, were the beau ideal of Winter weather. Hard dry frost, brilliant sunshine and the sky without a speck. I shall not soon forget the surpassing loveliness of one night, when I crossed the ice to visit some Guards across the River; I believe I was star-gazing the entire time. The glorious vault above, showed an intensity of blue I never saw equalled, arising from the reflection of the snow w'h covered the Earth. None of the Planets were visible, but several of the greater stars happened to be above the Horizon; there they shone in their beauty. Sirius, Arcturus, Orion, the Pleiades, as they shone 4000 years ago to the first observers in the plains of Chaldea.

Ever Y'r. affec'te Edward.

Christmas 1849.

Camp Poona,

My dearest Mother,

Just one year passed away since we met. How this anniversary brings up the recollection of this time 12 months, - the sudden order for India - the hurried preparations the short little Fortnight of leave - the busy week in London & the last, last flyaway week in Bath. Now, at the other end of the World, keeping Christmas amid dust & heat, instead of Ice & Snow. How rapid have been the Wings of Time. I can hardly realise that a year has flown away since last Christmas at Bath. Since I last wrote, I have been away for a month, being ordered to Ahmednuggan(?) on Court Martial duty. The weather being fine I rode the whole way, making 5 days journey, & sleeping at the Dack(?) bungalows, built by the Government at each stage. I set out, with 2 other officers, on Eve'g of Nov. 15. in the cool of the Evening, forded the river Moota Moola at Kurmadee 6 miles hence and reached the Bungalow at Lonee, 13 miles, soon after dark. Here we found one servant who had been dispatched in the morning with the bullock carts, containing portable bedstead & bedding, Tables, Chairs also eatables and drinkables; for the Bungalows, like Turkish caravanserais only afford shelter, tho' the people will provide meals, but bad and expensive. Nov 16. Sent servant &c. on after breakfast, & followed in the Evening, to Koadipoor 14 miles, passing the Beema river at Coniganne ferry, close to the obelisk erected to commemorate the Battle of Coniganne. Nov 17. on 13 miles halted there. Nov 18. Sunday. This is the Canton.... the Poona irregular Horse, commanded by Major Tapp, with whom we dined, & breakfasted next day. Nov 19. to Loopa 15 miles - & on Nov 20. to Ahmednuggar 17 miles. I had letters to Mr. Spooner, Collector of Ahmednuggar and Dr. McKenzie of the Artillery. The former was away; but I stayed with the latter, from Nov 26. till I left. The Court sat on 26. Nov. but having to send the proceedings to Bombay for Sir W. Cotton's confirmation, occasioned our delaying till Dec'r. 10. when returned, reaching Poona on Dec 13. I rather enjoyed the trip, both as a change, and as showing what Indian travelling is. The place, too, is worth a visit. The Fort is spacious, & an interesting specimen of Oriental fortification. It was captured by the Duke of Wellington and a large Tamarind Tree is shown under which His Grace's

tent was pitched. The Arsenal has many curious objects. A 100 pounder Cannon, & several other Guns, many of them early Trophies of the Great Duke; whose deeds are fresh in the recollections of the natives, on whom he seems to have made a lasting impression. A Newspaper mentions poor Uncle Sam's death. At first I did not believe it, till it occurred, that there might very likely have been delays in communicating the intelligence to relations, (the date in the paper is Oct. 21.) & it might not therefore reached Bath till after the last mail had closed. When last in Town, a year ago, I called in Walcot Place, but did not see him. It occurred to me then, from the tone & appearances of matters, that some alarm existed, tho' I did not like seeking for information. I hope no delay took place in some one writing to Sam. There is no call in calculating for the mail, now due four days, will no doubt tell all that is to be told. The Steamer is the "Aukland", a slow vessel, & I fear we shall not have letters in time to answer by the departing steamer of January 3.

January 5. 1850. The sluggish "Aukland" arrived at last, & yesterday brought the long delayed Mail, with your letter of November 3. confirming the Newspaper account. It seems though, Sam not having been written to sooner, but I suppose danger was not apprehended till the last. The will seems a very fair & proper one. The last time I saw him was January 1846 (about the same time when I was at Chicherley for a few days,) when in Town from Bath. I called but was told he was ill with Gout, and could not see anyone; he wrote a note however, wishing to see me, & I called again & saw him. That was the last time I was in Town till Christmas 1848, when I again called, but did not see him.

We are thinking of migrating to Mahabuleshwar for the hot months - i.e. those called par excellence hot. If leave can be had from about March 10. to June 10. The Bungalows there are tenanted only during the hot season, & rents are high in consequence; but I believe we are to take one conjointly with a Dr. & Mrs. Edwards, he the chief of the Doctors at Poona. Meantime, the General is taking advantage of the present cool mornings to have the Troops out for Brigade exercise once or twice a week.

Jan. 14. The Southampton Mail is about to close; so I come also to a close. Another home mail has been due here four days; but this steamer too is said to be slow, so that it will be impossible to reply by the return mail to any letters she may bring. The weather is good tho' still hot in the middle of the day, delightful in the Mornings and Evenings. We generally drive out in the Evenings. How I should enjoy driving you out in the Britzpa amid the strange sights, and strange figures which would interest you so much in this strange land; But such may not be, and it is no doubt well as it is; though I often imagine you close at hand, whether driving out, or seated quietly in this airy spacious Bungalow. Ever affly E.T.

February 5. 1850.

Poona,

My dearest Mother,

I prepare betimes for the mid-monthly mail, for time is now much taken up, not only with Brigade reviews twice a week, & Sunday interludes on other days, but E.H.T. (*Edward Hume Townsend* [626]) being here, halting after his Southern term, preparatory to his proceeding thro' the N. Districts. He pitched his Camp on the outskirt of Poona Tues. morning Jan. 26. when we breakfasted and shaped the day in his Canvas abode. He looks very well. i.e. 2/3 of him, the other 1/3 being invisible in a long beard & green spectacles. His first public appearance occasioned a report in Camp of Sir Charles Napier's arrival, whose pleasure it also is to wear beard & specs. He has not decided on what day to resume his march; and I am dying to prolong his halt, for a little intermediate idleness will do him good. It is a bad flaw, all work and no play.

We are expecting a State visit here from the Rajah of Barada; He is to be received with all the honours of a Crowned Head; and, as he comes in pale puff, with it is said 80 elephants, a train of Artillery, a force of Infantry and Cavalry, (fancy looking things no doubt,) & all his household, I daresay the whole "Suwassee" will be sticking enough, with "barbaric pearl & gold." The General is busy preparing for a review before His Highness, which I daresay will be a pretty sight, if only for the contrast between our Troops & those of H.H. How often I think of you, when seeing the strange scenes of this strange land, & wish you could be seated in the Britzpa to witness them. The Camels, the most Oriental of animals - the Elephants, those mountains of flesh, so mighty, yet so tractable &

gentle, how you would enjoy the sight of those strange & wonderful creatures. They never fail to bring back to memory the old days of Bewick, & Goldsmith's animated Nature. Then the scarcely less strange human beings, the bazaars, & shops, scenes I suppose but little changed since the days of the Patriarchs. Do you remember reading me the Arabian Nights' Entertainments when I had the measles in Quebec Street? The descriptions in them are constantly brought to recollection by the scene around, the never changing East. . *[one third page cut off.]*

May 6. 1850.

Mahabuleshwar Hills,

My dearest Mother,

Your letter of March 14 reached this place on April 27 having been I believe exactly a month between Southampton & Bombay! One of the quickest, if not the quickest runs ever known. We are still on these lovely hills, enjoying the scenery & climate, all the more because it was so much owing to your suggestion that we came here. In the plains the heat has been very oppressive, particularly during the hot winds, when doors & windows have to be kept closed. The late E. wind has rendered it hotter, even here, than was pleasant; but now it again is W. bearing with it a portion of freshness from the sea. This day month we are to be again at Poona, but the great heats will have subsided then. The refreshment of these delightful hills will no doubt enable us the better to bear the heat of Poona; but even here, an occasional increase of heat is trying, so that I am in no way sanguine as to India ever proving much otherwise than hereto. If at any time, it proves desirable to shift the scene, we are on the side of India the nearest to England, & whence the wings of steam would not be long in taking us to our native land. I find I cannot now give battle to a tropical climate as vigourously as I could a quarter of a Century ago.

Ever affly E.T.