

The Marchioness of Townshend

Alexander Walker

MARCHIONESS OF TOWNSHEND, THE.

Walker: *A Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Marches, &c., 1866; No. 30, pg. 12.*

Scottish, Strathspey. A Minor, AAB.

i. Gordon Coté, cassette, c.1994.



Elizabeth Clementina (nee Duff), Marchioness of Townshend
National Portrait Gallery, London

The Marchioness referred to in this tune is Anne Elizabeth Clementina (née Duff), who married John Villiers Stuart Townshend, 5th Marquess Townshend on 17 October 1865.

Anne Elizabeth Duff (b. 16 Aug 1847, d. 31 Dec 1925) was the second daughter of James Duff, 5th Earl Fife and Lady Agnes Georgiana Elizabeth Hay. Her brother Alexander William George Duff, 1st Duke married Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Princess Royal of the United Kingdom, and Queen Victoria's daughter.

The Marquess of Townshend is a title in the Peerage of Great Britain held by the Townshend family of Raynham Hall in Norfolk. Anne and 5th Marquess lived at Balls Park in Hertford. The estate and house are set in over 63 acres of parkland and the estate and house are believed to have been the inspiration for some of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

The marriage of the John, the 5th Marquess and Lady Anne, was unfortunately, a failure. Townshend was a member of the House of Commons, and, when he acceded to the title, the House of Lords. He was known in his time as a "liberal crank", who championed a number of humane causes "far in advance of his time," often for the welfare and protection of the poor. He was not discerning, however, and his bills, while sometimes well considered were at other times considered

hopeless and even useless. His political reputation a shambles, he determined around 1870 to devote himself to private philanthropy and took up a number of causes, both deserving and non-deserving. Vanity Fair said of him in February of 1870: *'He is the prey of impostors, his generous efforts produce much lasting harm with only a little transient good, he is thwarted and laughed at by glib respectability, but he is a refreshing phenomenon in a selfish age, for he is the Beggar's friend.'*

All of his activity apparently led him to neglect his home life, and, in 1872 Lord Edward Thynne called upon the Townshend home in London in the Marquis's absence, and absconded with a willing Clementina (Anne) to France. Townshend was despondent but did nothing until nearly eight years later when the Marquis caught up with Thynne on the road between Salisbury and Laverstock and soundly horsewhipped the miscreant lord. Arrested for the assault, tried and convicted, Townshend pleaded that it was no more than Thynne's just deserts, and while popular opinion sided with him, it was a death-knell for his social standing. The Marquis was forced to pay a fine to avoid prison, and he died at the end of the century with very little to his name, having given away most of his fortune.

Alexander Walker Connection

Anne Elizabeth Clementina, the daughter of the Earl Fife, the owner of Duff House in Banff and Mar Lodge Estate, was well known to the Forbes family and Alexander would have played at Balls when Anne was present. In fact the Forbes associated with the Townshend's included rather exalted company.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales gave a dinner party on the 9th inst., being the anniversary of their wedding. The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland were present at the dinner. Their Royal Highnesses had an evening party after dinner. Among those who received invitations were the Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Lady Caroline Gordon Lennox, the Marquis and Marchioness Townshend, Lord Henry Gordon Lennox, Lord Algernon Gordon Lennox, Lord and Lady Cecilia Bingham, General Sir Hope Grant, Mr and Mrs Chas. Forbes of Newe

Tuesday 17 March 1868