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INTRODUCTION

THERESA, LADY LONDONDERRY PAPERS

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Theresa, Lady Londonderry Papers, (D2846)

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Summary

The Theresa, Lady Londonderry Papers comprise c.4,600 papers and 15 volumes of diaries, scrapbooks, etc, 1858-1919, mainly of Theresa, Marchioness of Londonderry (1856-1919), wife/widow of the 6th Marquess, but including some papers of the 6th Marquess himself, of and about his mother, Mary Cornelia, widow of the 5th Marquess, and of his brothers Lords Henry and Herbert Vane-Tempest.



Theresa, Lady Londonderry's career

The most recent account of Theresa, Lady Londonderry's career is to be found in H. Montgomery Hyde's *The Londonderrys: A Family Portrait* (London, 1979); the following extracts are taken from pp 63-69, 72-78, 83-85, 92, 94, 111-114, and 136-137.

'Lady Theresa Susey Helen Chetwynd Talbot, who married the 6th Marquess of Londonderry when he was Lord Castlereagh, was born on 6 June 1856 at Ingestre, the Talbot family seat in Staffordshire. Her father, then Viscount Ingestre, MP, succeeded his father as 19th Earl of Shrewsbury and 4th Earl Talbot in 1868. The Talbots were among the oldest families in the country, an ancestor, Richard de Talbot, being mentioned in Domesday Book, while the Earldom of Shrewsbury, dating as it did from 1442, ... made Theresa's father the Premier Earl of England. ...

Lady Theresa Chetwynd Talbot and Lord Castlereagh were engaged to be married in the summer of 1875. The match was arranged in the sense that their respective families approved of it; ... it is doubtful whether they were deeply in love with each other. ... [Following their marriage in October 1875], the Castlereaghs took Kirby Hall at Bedale in Yorkshire as a country house and also a London house at 76 Eaton Place. Their first child, a girl called Helen Mary Theresa, but always known in the family as "Birdie", was born on 8 September 1876 On 13 May 1878 the Castlereaghs had a son, Charles Stewart Henry, who was born in Eaton Place. And, in the same month, Lord Castlereagh was returned after two expensive and unsuccessful attempts to get into parliament, the first for Durham in 1874 and the second for Montgomery in 1877, as Conservative MP for Co. Down in a by-election in which he defeated his Liberal opponent by a large majority.

Shortly afterwards, both being keen riders to hounds, the Castlereaghs acquired a house called The Hall at Langham, near Oakham, in the Cottesmore country. Here their second son and last child, Charles Stewart Reginald, was born on 4 December 1879. It was rumoured at the time, and it has been generally acknowledged since in the family, that Reginald's father was not Lord Castlereagh, ... but his wife's brother-in-law, Lord Helmsley [who died young in 1881]. ...



Lord and Lady Londonderry in politics and society

[Lord Castlereagh's succession to the Marquessate of Londonderry in 1884] naturally involved his taking his place in the Upper House, where he sat as Earl Vane, although he was customarily referred to by the superior title of his Irish peerage. Then, just as his father had added the surname Tempest to that of Vane, so the 6th Marquess by Royal Licence dated 3 August 1885 further added the original name of Stewart to that of Vane-Tempest for himself and his children, thus becoming Vane-Tempest-Stewart, although his brothers remained Vane-Tempest. ...

He was a wealthy man of property [even] by the standards of his times ..., and he and Theresa were particular favourites of the Prince and Princess of Wales, later King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, whom they entertained in state [at their three country houses] no less than eight times between 1890 and 1903, six at Wynard, once at Machynlleth and once at Mount Stewart, not to mention sundry banquets and other parties at Londonderry House [Park Lane]. By all accounts the 6th Marquess was friendly, simple and unaffected, with a fine sense of public duty, and with none of his wife's [celebrated] hauteur. ...

"Lady Londonderry was a wonderful woman, with her masculine brain and warm feminine temperament", wrote ... Lady Fingall. "The best and staunchest friend in the world, she would back you up through thick and thin. In love with Love, she was deeply interested in the love affairs of her friends, and very disappointed if they did not take advantage of the opportunities she put in their way. She used to say of herself: 'I am a Pirate. All is fair in Love and War', and woe betide any one who crossed her in either of these." At her house parties at Wynard the bedrooms were conveniently allocated in the interests of her female friends and their lovers. She is easily recognisable as "Lady Roehampton" in Vita Sackville-West's novel *The Edwardians*. ...

Although she was the leading Tory political hostess of her day, Theresa Londonderry had friends among the Liberals, particularly [Sir William] Harcourt who often came to the house to discuss literature as well as politics; Theresa besides being widely read had literary pretensions of her own which were to find expression in an excellent short book on her husband's [collateral] ancestor the great Castlereagh, an abbreviated version of which had originally appeared in the *Anglo-Saxon Review* under the editorship of Lady Randolph Churchill. ...' Against this background, it is not surprising to find a great many important figures in literature, the arts, the army, the navy, the law and the church, and nearly every important figure in politics (particularly Tory politics) and High Society, of the period 1890-1919 among Theresa, Lady Londonderry's correspondents.



The Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, 1886-1889

'... On 25 July 1886, Lord Salisbury became Conservative Prime Minister for the second time, following the rejection of Gladstone's Home Rule Bill for Ireland by the House of Commons in the previous month. ... Among the more important appointments which the new Prime Minister had to make was that of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, ... [and he] offered the post to the thirty-four-year-old Marquess of Londonderry, ... [who] accepted it The Lord Lieutenant received a salary of £12,000 a year, on which it was impossible for a Viceroy without private means to live in view of the levées, receptions, garden parties, lunches and dinners which he had to give. ... Londonderry with his amply private means was an ideal choice. He also created a precedent by being the first member of an Irish family to hold the office: hitherto it had been held by an English or Scottish peer. On the other hand, his Castlereagh title was not likely to endear him to the Nationalists, who could be expected to regard a descendant of "Bloody" Castlereagh, the hated architect of the Act of Union, with the reverse of affection. ...

... Londonderry performed all the duties of his office punctually and fairly, but with a Cabinet Minister [Sir Michael Hicks-Beach] as Chief Secretary he felt that it was his duty, apart from his ceremonial obligations, to leave the actual government of the country to Hicks Beach and not to allow any possible divergence of political view to become apparent. ... However, it was not long before the Lord Lieutenant found himself at odds with the Chief Secretary, who was suspected of favouring the Nationalists at the expense of the landlords, not least because Londonderry was himself a considerable landlord in Co. Down. ...

[When Hicks-Beach had to resign, because of] acute eye trouble, the Prime Minister appointed as successor ... his nephew, thirty-eight-year-old Arthur James Balfour, the author of several works on philosophy, whose delicate appearance had earned him the nickname of the "Tiger Lily" among his fellow MPs at Westminster. ... [His Crimes] Act, which became law in July 1887, ... [and] the rigour with which the new law was enforced, showed Balfour's determination to combat political crimes; and under its operation about thirty Nationalist MPs were sent to prison. The new Chief Secretary's role soon resulted in him being generally known to the Nationalist camp as "Bloody Balfour"

At the time he accepted the appointment of Viceroy, Londonderry had made it clear to the Prime Minister that, on account of the needs of a growing family and his interests as a landlord and colliery owner, he did not wish to serve beyond three years. Salisbury agreed and accepted Londonderry's resignation three years to a month from the date of his acceptance. Meanwhile his devotion to duty had been recognised by his being created a Knight of the Garter in 1888. ...

Lady Fingall ... [wrote of Londonderry's term of office as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland] that, while Londonderry was not an exceptionally clever man, he always "did the right thing by instinct". As for Theresa ... "Hers was a most dominant personality. She had

the proudest fact I have ever seen, with a short upper lip and a beautifully shaped determined chin". This opinion is certainly borne out by contemporary photographs, as well as by her portrait in middle age painted by John [Singer] Sargent.



Later political offices

In 1893, Londonderry was prominent in opposing Gladstone's Second Home Rule Bill, which was rejected by the House of Lords, and he presided over the great meeting at which the political alliance between the Conservatives and the Liberal-Unionists led by Joseph Chamberlain was formally ratified. When the Conservatives returned to power two years later, Lord Salisbury offered Londonderry the post of Lord Privy Seal. This was declined, since Londonderry wished for an office with departmental responsibilities. In 1900 he entered the government as Postmaster-General, and in 1902 he joined the Cabinet as first President of the Board of Education, although he felt diffident about his capacity for the post. ... He did not give up Education when he became Lord President of the Council, but contrived to combine both posts Theresa Londonderry took a keen interest in her husband's departmental work, particularly when it affected Co. Durham



The death of Lord Reginald Vane-Tempest-Stewart

[In 1899, she suffered a heavy personal loss, about which there is much documentation in her papers, in the death of her second son and third child, Lord Reginald]. "Reggie" ... had been a sickly child, afflicted with a painful hip disease, so that it was evident from an early age that he would never be able to walk naturally [Then he] was stricken by another malady, tuberculosis. In 1897, a London specialist ... recommended a voyage to a milder climate. Consequently the end of the year found him in Tenerife, which in those days was regarded, quite wrongly, as most suitable for consumptives. But Reggie's health did not improve, and ... he was despatched to the Kimberley Sanatorium where he spent the greater part of a year, after which he stayed with [Cecil] Rhodes as his guest In May 1899 his mother journeyed out to South Africa to bring him home. On their return to England they went to Seaham Hall [yet another Londonderry seat, in Co. Durham], since the mistaken view still prevailed that sea air was beneficial to consumptives. ... [Reggie died there in October 1899.]



Home rule

During the Home Rule struggle [of 1912-1914] Theresa naturally spent more time than usual at Mount Stewart - normally a few days at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun were all she and her husband managed. ... By September 1913, it was obvious that it was only a matter of time before the [Home Rule] Bill became law. Accordingly 500 delegates of the Ulster Unionist Council met in the Ulster Hall in Belfast to approve the setting up of an Ulster Provisional Government, as soon as the Bill reached the statute book. ... The Council, with Londonderry in the chair, proceeded to delegate its powers to a Provisional Government consisting of seventy-seven members, with an executive "Commission of Five", of whom [Sir Edward] Carson was Chairman.

[The Home Rule Bill] was due to become law in September 1914, but the outbreak of the Great War put it into cold storage for the duration. ... Most of the [Ulster] Volunteers now flocked to join the colours; ... [the Londonderry's elder son, Charles, Lord] Castlereagh, for instance, went off to France with the British Expeditionary Force. Theresa and her daughter-in-law [Edith, Lady Castlereagh] also plunged themselves into war work. ... Things did not go well for Lord Londonderry during the following months. He grew very despondent on account of the war and the turn events had taken in Ulster. Also the fact that his only son and heir had gone off to the front preyed on his mind and he was convinced that he would not return. In January 1915, ... he caught influenza which quickly turned to pneumonia

Charles, 6th Marquess of Londonderry, died on 8 February 1915 at Wynyard aged sixty-two and was buried three days later in the family vault at Long Newton. Carson, who went to the funeral, subsequently described him as "a great leader, a great and devoted public servant, a great patriot, a great gentleman, and above all the greatest of friends". These words were echoed by his widow. "I don't think there was anyone more beloved or thought more of in the two counties in which he lived", she wrote afterwards. ...



Theresa, Lady Londonderry's widowhood and death

When the time came for her to leave Wynyard, Theresa rented Lumley Castle, near Chester-le-Street in the same county, from Lord Scarbrough, moving in just before Christmas, which she spent there alone, since she found that "when one is terribly unhappy it is much better". ... Unfortunately, she was obsessed with the idea that she had become extremely poor, whereas her husband had left her legacies in his will totalling £100,000. ... "You are under the impression you are a pauper", ... [her son, the new Marquess of Londonderry] wrote to her on 23 April 1915; "I wish I could put the idea out of your mind. ..."

[Theresa, Lady Londonderry died on 15 March 1919.] "A great figure gone, a real true friend", wrote Colonel Repington when he heard the news. "A grande dame of a period which is passing; one of the most striking and dominating feminine personalities of our time, terrifying to some, but endeared to many friends by her notable and excellent qualities. She was unsurpassed as a hostess, clear-headed, witty, and large-hearted, with unrivalled experience of men and things social and political, and with a most retentive memory and immense vivacity and joie de vivre. ..." She was sixty-two, the same age as her husband when he died ...'.



The arrangement of the archive

A word of explanation is required concerning the arrangement of the papers. Those which constitute D2846/1 were deposited in August 1972 and were then loose and unsorted and therefore amenable to arrangement into coherent groups according to either writer or subject matter. Those which constitute D2846/2 were deposited in August 1976 and were already arranged according to a scheme of Theresa, Lady Londonderry's devising. This arrangement has been preserved. However, there is so much overlap between the two that, if a correspondent or topic occurs in one, it is next-to-certain that he, she or it will also occur in the other. The contents of D2846/3, although papers not of Theresa, Lady Londonderry, but of other members of the Londonderry family, were part of the second deposit.

For the sorting and calendaring of D2846/1, PRONI is indebted to Mr A.B. Cooke, then a research fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University, Belfast.



D2846/1 section

The D2846/1 section of the archive begins with 158 letters to Theresa, Lady Londonderry from Sir Edward Carson, afterwards Lord Carson, 1903-1919, many of them about the opposition to the Third Home Rule Bill, and a significant proportion of them written from Bad Homburg and other German spas and revealing that Ulster's 'strong man' had very poor health or else was a decided valetudinarian.

There follows: 36 miscellaneous Unionist papers of Theresa, Lady Londonderry, 1910-1935, including a memorandum headed 'The Ulster Crisis and the Plot that failed' (1914), an account of an anti-Home Rule demonstration in Antrim (1913) and a copy of a report by the Ulster Unionist delegates to the Irish Convention (1918); 12 letters to Theresa, Lady Londonderry from Sir James Craig, Bt, afterwards 1st Viscount Craigavon, and his wife Cecil, 1912-1919; 11 letters from Walter H. Long, afterwards 1st Viscount Long of Wraxall, 1912-1914; 9 letters from Arthur Bigge, 1st Lord Stamfordham, Private Secretary to George V, 1912-1914; and 24 letters from various Conservative politicians, 1912-1914, arranged alphabetically: Leo Amery, Gerald Arbuthnot (MP for Burnley), the 5th Earl Cadogan, R.B. Finlay (MP for Inverness), Andrew Bonar Law, Henry Chaplin, the Hon. Harry Lawson (MP for Tower Hamlets), Reginald Lucas (former MP for Portsmouth), Ian Malcolm (MP for Suffolk), the 2nd Lord Newton, Samuel Roberts (MP for Sheffield), J.S. Sandars (secretary to A.J. Balfour), F.E. Smith (afterwards 1st Earl of Birkenhead), A.P., later Sir Arthur, Steel-Maitland (MP for Birmingham), and Lord Edmund Talbot (MP for Chichester).



Ulster and Irish Unionists

There follows a quantity of letters to Theresa, Lady Londonderry from Ulster and Irish Unionists. The first category comprises 55 letters from various Irish Unionists, 1912-1919, arranged alphabetically as follows: the 3rd Duke of Abercorn, Thomas Andrews, the Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Dawson Bates, Lord Charles Beresford and his wife, Walter Carson (son of the Unionist leader), Lord Clanwilliam, Lord Crichton, L. Cope Cornford (editor of various Unionist publications), the Bishop of Down, the 2nd Baron Dunleath, H. Plunket Greene (a professional musician), the Rev. Charles Grierson, Frank Hall (Secretary to the Unionist Council), Sir George Holmes (Chairman of the Irish Board of Public Works), R.J. Lynn (editor of The Northern Whig and Unionist MP), Sir John P. Mahaffy of T.C.D., John Mulhall (Vice-chairman of the Irish Prisons Board), Arthur Pakenham (defeated Unionist candidate at Londonderry), Edward Saunderson (eldest son of the Unionist leader), R. T. Sharman-Crawford, the Rev. Dr W. Wright of Newtownards (an Ulster Volunteer), and Sir William Whitla.



President of the Women's Unionist Council

The next category comprises: 78 letters received officially by Theresa, Lady Londonderry as President of the Women's Unionist Council, 1912-1919, arranged chronologically, chiefly from individuals involved closely with her in the running of the Council, such as Richard Dawson Bates, Lady Dufferin (Vice-President), John Hamill (Secretary of the W.U.C.), Mrs Mercier-Clements (Treasurer), and Edith Wheeler (a member of the Executive of the W.U.C.). Among the various topics discussed, the following loom large: fairly routine administrative problems, such as the timing of Council meetings and the organisation of its central office; major amendments to the constitution of the W.U.C. in 1912 and 1917, which enlarged the role of the Council; the question of whether the W.U.C. should operate during the war, and if so, exactly what it should do; reactions to Lloyd George's unsuccessful attempt to solve the Irish problem by partition in 1916; and the representation of the W.U.C. on the full Unionist Council after the war.

In addition, there are letters from: Mary, wife of the 2nd Duke of Abercorn, about her resignation as president of the W.U.C. (1912); Rosalind, wife of 3rd Duke of Abercorn, accepting the vice-presidency (1913), agreeing to the postponement of a Council meeting (1916), commending the changes in the constitution (1916), and expressing regret on Lady Londonderry's resignation as president (1919); Mrs Venie Barr of the Ulster Women's Gift Fund about the visit of some Scottish Unionists (1914); Mrs Dunbar-Buller of Woburn, Donaghadee, 30 January 1914, giving her husband's view that letters sent to the newspapers should be anonymous 'as he thinks it might be imagined the movement was essentially promoted by the landed interest'; Lady Erne about the shortcomings of the women Unionists in Portadown (1912); Florence Hall of Rostrevor about the inefficiency of the W.U.C. central office (1912); Mrs Ker of Portaferry stressing her determination to set up a branch of the W.U.C. in her locality despite threats of a boycott from Catholic shops (1914); Mrs Kennedy of Craigavad about Lady Londonderry's resignation (1919); Mrs King-Kerr and Mrs Finlay, the first secretary of the W.U.C., about their petty squabble which led to open warfare at a Council meeting (1912); Miss A. Macauley, branch secretary in South Belfast, about minor administrative matters (1914); Ronald McNeill about the representation of the W.U.C. on the full Unionist Council (1918); and Mrs Evelyn Montgomery of Grey Abbey, Co. Down, offering a small donation (1914).



Letters from women Unionists

The next category is 47 letters from various women Unionists, 1912-1919, arranged alphabetically. These are not addressed officially to the President of the W.U.C. (although the distinction between official and unofficial is fine). The correspondents, in addition to those who have already featured, are: 'A distressed Ulster woman', Lady Antrim, Miss Jean Victor Bates, Mrs C.C. Craig (organiser of the Ulster Aid Ambulance Corps in London), Lady de Ros, M.W. Irvine, Olive Guthrie, Lady Kilmorey, Lady Leslie, Lady Massereene, Lady Mayo, Helen Shaw, E.M. Waddell, Alice H. Walker, Elizabeth A. Whartam, and W.H.G. Willis.

The letters relate to a number of subjects, including the following: the Ulster Women's Gift Fund formed during the First World War for the benefit of the troops, but in strong competition with the Irish Women's Association; Unionist propaganda in Britain; the UVF; the Ulster Aid Ambulance Corps formed in London in 1914; the UVF Hospital and Nursing Corps; Unionist Party organisation; Churchill's controversial visit to Belfast in 1912; the Curragh incident; trouble at Antrim Castle, home of Lord Massereene, in 1913 and 1914; and the Co. Down branch of the Red Cross.



Miscellaneous letters

Other, more miscellaneous sub-sections include: 9 letters, 1912-1919, to Theresa, Lady Londonderry from the journalists Arthur Baumann, James E. Freeman, H.A. Gwynne, Geoffrey Robinson and J. St Loe Strachey; 11 letters from various English friends and acquaintances, 1912-1919; 14 letters from various members of her family, 1912-1914; 130-page quarto volume containing typed copies of her letters to various members of her family, 1915-1917; and two envelopes of tradesmen's accounts, 1916 and 1917.



D3846/2 section

The D2846/2 section of the archive comprises 36 box-files of correspondence, 1874-1919, numbered 1-36 in Theresa, Lady Londonderry's original filing-system.



Family correspondence

These begin with a box-file containing: 5 letters, 1874-1899, to Lord Londonderry and Theresa, Lady Londonderry from his father, the 5th Marquess, and mother, Mary Cornelia; letters, 1874-1899, to Lord Londonderry from Theresa, Lady Londonderry; and letters, 1874-1899, to one or other of them about their engagement, the birth of the future 7th Marquess, etc. Then follows another whole box-file of letters to Theresa, Lady Londonderry from Lord Londonderry, 1874-c.1912.



Letters from 'royals'

There are 3 box-files of letters from 'royals': from the Prince of Wales/King Edward VII, 1896-1908 and N.D., mostly condolences, birthday wishes and racing news; from the Princess of Wales/Queen Alexandra, the Dukes of Cambridge and Connaught, etc, c.1891-1918, some of them (like the Kaiser and Prince Henry of Prussia) foreign; and from the Duke and Duchess of York/George V and Queen Mary, 1892-1918.

There then follow a series of box-files of letters from alphabetically arranged correspondents, sometimes gathered together according to some theme, sometimes (apparently) not.

The first of these, which is definitely miscellaneous, comprises: letters, 1896-1915, from: the Aga Khan (2), the Countess of Antrim (10), Beatrice, Lady Brownrigg (5), Lady Florence Dixie (1), Herr von Eisendecker (5), Mrs Nigel Harrison (8), Mr J.R. and the Hon. Mrs Maguire (4), and the Marquess and Marchioness of Zetland (38). One of Mrs Maguire's letters is written from [Cecil Rhodes's house] Groote Schuur, Cape Town, and refers to G. Peel's views on the Jameson Raid, etc, 1898; Lady Brownrigg's letters refer to in-fighting at the Admiralty between Lord Fisher and Lord Charles Beresford (c.1907), and to Japan and the Navy Prize Bill (1911).

Next comes a box-file of letters, 1894-1918, from Sir Arthur Davidson (2), A. Akers-Douglas, 1st Lord Chilston (1), Sir Robert Horne (2), Dr Jameson of the Jameson Raid (1), H. Lawson, 1st Lord Burnham (18), the Rt Hon. Ian Macpherson and his wife (7), Sir John P. Mahaffy (26), Mme Merry del Val (2), Sir Frederick Milner (1), Walter H. Page (1), Lord Pirrie (2), the Rt Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett (15), R.E. Prothero, 1st Lord Ernle (2), Colonel Repington (2), Cecil Rhodes (12), Sir William Sutherland (1), and Henry White (2).



Letters from soldiers and sailors

The next box-file seems to be naval and military in its personnel. It contains letters, c.1914-1918, from Admiral Sir F. Bridgeman (5), Admiral A.E.F. Grant (3), General A. Haldane (7), Colonel Cyril Hankey (7), Lady Jellicoe (2), General Neville Lyttleton (1), Capt. J.H. Morgan (6), Capt. Ryan (2), General Henry Stracey (12), Sir Frank Swettenham (5), and Sir Donald Wallace (2).

Another box-file contains letters, 1894-1919, mainly from generals: Sir John Cowans (1), Sir John French, Earl French (6), Sir Douglas Haig, Earl Haig (5), Sir Ion Hamilton (2), Sir Alfred Keogh (3), Earl Kitchener (20), Sir John Maxwell (9), W.P. Pulteney (17), Earl and Lady Roberts (8), J.C. Smuts (1), Sir Charles Townsend (1), the 1st and 2nd Lords Tweedmouth and their wives (12), Viscount and Lady Wolseley (5), and Sir Evelyn Wood (1).



Letters relating to Co. Durham

Then come letters, 1893-1919, all apparently relating to Co. Durham - from successive Bishops and Deans of Durham, Speaker Lowther (1st Viscount Ullswater), and Durham University (Lady Londonderry's gift of a scholarship in 1919), etc.



Miscellaneous letters

The next 3 box-files contain fairly miscellaneous letters from friends and family, but with considerable political content. These comprise: letters, c.1901-1918, from Sir George and Lady Murray (77); letters, 1875-1918, from various members of Theresa, Lady Londonderry's own family, the Talbots/Shrewsburys, and from her Vane-Tempest-Stewart grandchildren; letters, c.1907-1917, from Lord and Lady Allendale (Lady Allendale was Theresa, Lady Londonderry's sister-in-law), Capt. and the Hon. Mary Beaumont (8), Lord Cawdor, (4), the 16th and 17th Earls of Derby and their wives (7), Lord and Lady Ebrington (5), Lady Elcho (6), Sir Gerrard Lowther (1), the Duke of Northumberland (3), Lord Percy (2), and Capt. Adolphus Vane-Tempest and his wife, Mr Charles, Mr Ernest, and Mrs Florence Vane-Tempest and Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest (32). Lady Elcho's letters concern speeches by A.J. Balfour and criticisms of Austen Chamberlain, November-December 1907, and Balfour and 'the conference', November 1910; Sir Gerrard Lowther's letter concerns the Young Turks and the Sultan, January 1909; and one of Lord Cawdor's, the 'Swansea case' and the death of Arnold Forster, March 1909.

The next 2 box-files contain a mixture of family, Boer War and other letters. They contain letters, 1896-1915, from the 1st Earl of Feversham and his wife, and the 2nd Earl of Feversham (54 all told), and Sir Redvers and Lady Audrey Buller (46); letters, 1897-1916, from Moreton Frewen (1), Reginald Lucas (22), Ronald McNeill (Lord Cushendun) and his daughter (41), and Lord Milner (26).



Letters mainly about Queen's College, Belfast

The next box-file seems more homogeneous in content. It contains letters, 1904-1919, from various people, including Lord Aberdeen and Edmund Gosse, about Theresa, Lady Londonderry's appointment as a Senator of Queen's College, Belfast, and other matters connected with the College (12), and from the Rev. Thomas Hamilton of the College (18), Sir George W. Holmes (10), and Sir Reginald and Lady Talbot (47), together with copies of letters from Lady Londonderry to Sir Reginald Talbot.



The Duke and Duchess of Leeds and W.F. Monypenny

The next 2 box-files contain: letters, 1906-1917, from the Duke and Duchess of Leeds about health, fishing, yachting, etc, except for one reference to the Education Bill, 1906; and letters, 1907-1913, from W.F. Monypenny, biographer of Disraeli, and about Money Penny's death in November 1912.



Letters from courtiers

The next box-file seems to have 'courtiers' as its common denominator. It contains: letters, 1890-1919, from Sir Douglas Dawson (2), Sir Fleetwood Edwards (1), Sir Almeric Fitzroy (1), Lord Knollys (22), Lord Lathom (1), and Lord and Lady Stamfordham (64).



Letters from politicians

Politicians, both Conservative and Liberal, dominate the next 2 box-files, which contain: letters, 1891-1918, from Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman (1), Lady Gwendolen and Lords Hugh and Robert Cecil (25), Joseph and Mrs Chamberlain (3), Lord Randolph and Winston Churchill (5), Lord and Lady Crewe (4), W.E. Gladstone (3), Lord Goschen (1), Lord Harcourt (1), Lord Hardinge of Penshurst (3), David Lloyd George (1), James Lowther (1), Lord Morley (4), Lord Peel (3), Whitelaw Reid (1), Lord Rosebery (18), the 3rd and 4th Marquesses of Salisbury (12), and their wives (17), and George and Guy Wyndham (11); and letters, 1892-1919, from Margot Asquith (4), A.J. Balfour and his wife, and letters concerning Balfour, (18), Earl Grey (5), Viscount Grey of Fallodon (2), Sir Arthur Hardinge (1), Sir Michael Herbert (2), Andrew Bonar Law (35), F.E. Smith, 1st Earl Birkenhead (8), and Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland (3).



Miscellaneous letters

The next 4 box-files are very miscellaneous. They contain: letters, 1897-1918, from the Earl of Durham (20), Earl and Countess Fitzwilliam (8), Baron and Baroness de Forest (7), the Hon. F. W. and Lady Anne Lambton (4), the Marquess and Marchioness of Lansdowne (20), Viscount Lascelles (4), the Duchess of Marlborough (10), and Lord and Lady Edmund Talbot (25); letters, 1893-1917, from Earl and Countess Brownlow (8), the Rt Hon. Sir Charles Darling (1), the 8th and 9th Dukes of Devonshire, with notes relating to the 8th Duke (5), and their wives (3), Sir William Harcourt and his wife (15), Lord Hindlip (3), John Mulhall of the Irish Prisons Board (but writing from Eden Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin), and his wife (31), and Lord Redesdale (11); letters, 1903-1917, from Henry Chaplin, Viscount Chaplin (9), Lord and Lady Farquhar (18), the Hon. John and Mrs Fortescue (26), Sir Alfred Frigg (1), Philip A. de Lazlo (1), Sir Claude Phillips (2), Sir Dighton Probyn (5), and from Charlotte Knollys about Probyn (1), Sir William Richmond (2), John Singer Sargent (9), J. Thursfield (33), and Sir Frederick Treves (3); and, letters, 1894-1917, from Sir William Anson and his sister (8), Admiral Sir David and Lady, subsequently Earl and Countess Beatty (16), Baroness Burdett-Coutts (3), M. Cambon (1), Mr and Mrs Henry Cust (3), Lord and Lady Desborough (4), Lords Esher (23), Fisher (3), Herschell (2) and Iveagh (1), Lord and Lady Lurgan (6), Prince Metternich (1), Sir Hedworth Meux (2), Lord Newton (7), J.S. North (3), Sir Henry Ponsonby (1), Lord Rothschild and Alfred Rothschild (2), the Earl and Countess of Scarbrough (3), F.G. Selons (1), and Mme Waddington (1).



Letters from authors

There follows a box-file of letters, 1908-1919, mainly from authors: A.A. Baumann (3), C. Moberly Bell (3), J.F. Benson (2), G.E. Buckle, the continuator of Monypenny's *Life of Disraeli* (10), John Galsworthy (1), J.L. Garvin (1), Elinor Glyn (7), Edmund Gosse (27), F.C. Gould (1), H. A. Gwynne (14), Thomas Hardy (5), W.E.H. Lecky and his wife (4), H.W., later Sir Henry, Lucy (1), Sir Herbert Maxwell (4), Arnold Morley (1), Lord and Lady Northcliffe (4), Ouida (1), Geoffrey Robinson (11), Sir Owen Seaman (1), J.A. Spender (1), J. St. Loe Strachey (5), and Filson Young (1).



Letters from the higher clergy

Then come letters, 1893-1918, mainly from the higher clergy: Archbishop Alexander of Armagh and his daughter (8), Archbishops Crozier (22) and D'Arcy (3) of Armagh, the Archbishop of Canterbury (2), the Bishops of Jarrow (3), Lichfield (3), London (1), Ripon (2), and Southwark (3), Cardinal Vaughan (1), Archdeacon Watkins of Durham (2), the Bishop of Winchester and Mrs Talbot (8), and the Archbishop of York (35).



Irish and miscellaneous

Then come a series of box-files with miscellaneous, including a fair amount of Irish, content: letters, 1900-1919, from Sir George Armstrong (10), T. Gibson Bowles (8), Miss Magdalen Ker (8), Hon. Schomberg McDonnell (9), St John Brodrick, 1st Earl of Midleton (20), Thomas Sinclair (8), and John Tweed (29); letters, 1893-1918, from Viscount and Viscountess Boyne (10 and 16 respectively), and the Duke and Duchess of Portland (53) - the Duke's letters include discussion of making Ulster's position better known in England, 1913-1914, comments on Home Rule and the government, 1914, reports on visits to the Fleet and the battlefield of Ypres, 1918, etc; letters, 1915-1916, from Lord and Lady St Aldwyn - this box-file is almost empty: a note states that the missing letters, 1898-1915, were handed to Lady I[ichester]; letters, 1900-1918, from Lady Annesley (8), Lord and Lady Cadogan (4), Lord Dunraven (2), Lord Granard (1), Lady Grosvenor (13), Sir Francis Jeune and Lady St Helier (4), Lady Gwendolen Little (54), Lady Ormonde (9), the Marquis de Soveral (1), and Sir George and Lady Julia Wombwell (16) - one of Lord Cadogan's letters refers to 'Finance [as] the rock ahead' and to Ireland, 1907, and an undated letter from Lord Dunraven refers to Ginnell in prison and criticizes Birrell as Chief Secretary for Ireland; letters, 1890-1919, from Lady Balfour of Burleigh (1), Lord Cranbrook (2), Lord Curzon of Kedleston (20), Lord Dufferin (6), Mr and Mrs W.J. James of Portmarnock, Co. Dublin (15), Prince Lichnowsky (1), Sir E. Lockwood (2), the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough (3), A[lbert] Mensdorff (3), Sir Robert Morant (30), A. H. Pollen and his wife (17), Lord and Lady Ridley (8), and Sir Henry Drummond Wolff (2).



Becketts and Duncombes

Then come letters, 1899-1916, from sundry members of the Beckett and Duncombe families (confusingly, as Duncombe is the Feversham family name and the Fevershams are in a different box-file): Sir Gervase Beckett (23), the Hon. Mrs Mabel Beckett, née Duncombe [his first wife] (33), Lady Majorie Beckett [his second wife] (12), Miss Marian Beckett [his daughter] (2), Colonel William Duncombe (3), and Muriel, Lady Helmsley (sister of Theresa, Lady Londonderry, mother of the Hon. Mrs Mabel Beckett, and mother-in-law of Lady Majorie Beckett] (28). Sir Gervase Beckett's letters refer to his post as military secretary to Plumer, November 1914, and to Home Rule, Lloyd George and the Unionist Party, N.D.



More family correspondence, and miscellaneous

Finally, there are: more letters, 1902-1917, from Theresa, Lady Londonderry's Vane-Tempest-Stewart grandchildren; letters, 1917-1918, 'from and about soldiers'; and, a précis of letters to Theresa, Lady Londonderry, compiled c.1920 under the sponsorship of the Londonderry family, consisting of typescript pages stapled together with a paper cover.



D2846/3

D2846/3 comprises letters and papers of members of the Londonderry family other than Theresa, Lady Londonderry.



The 5th Marquess of Londonderry and his wife

These begin with: 3 letters, 1879 and 1883, to the 5th Marquess from Disraeli about the Lord Lieutenancy of Co. Durham, etc; a volume containing bound-in and indexed telegrams of condolence to Viscount Castlereagh, now 6th Marquess of Londonderry, on the death of his father, the 5th Marquess, November 1884; a volume containing newspaper cuttings about the death of the 5th Marquess, November 1884; letters and addresses of condolence to Mary Cornelia, widow of the 5th Marquess, November 1884-February 1885; a volume of newspaper cuttings about the death of Mary Cornelia, widow of the 5th Marquess, September 1906; and a volume containing c.350 letters and telegrams of condolence on Mary Cornelia's death in September 1906, to her sons, the 6th Marquess and Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest, and newspaper cuttings and photographs about the funeral at Plas Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire, together with a dozen letters to Mary Cornelia from Queen Victoria, the Prince and Princess of Wales, King Oscar and other dignitaries, 1866-1886.



The 6th Marquess of Londonderry

Letters and papers of and about the 6th Marquess of Londonderry, Theresa, Lady Londonderry's husband, comprise: a volume containing bound-in and indexed telegrams, May 1878, concerning the stormy election of Viscount Castlereagh, later the 6th Marquess, for Co. Down, vice William Sharman Crawford and in opposition to William Drennan Andrews; a volume containing newspaper cuttings on the same subject, May-July 1878; letters, 1886-1912, to the 6th Marquess from Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales, A.J. Balfour, Joseph Chamberlain, the Marquesses of Salisbury, Lansdowne, Ripon and Crewe, the Duke of Devonshire, J.S. Sandars and others, about the Viceroyalty of Ireland and the other major political offices held by the 6th Marquess, Tory party politics, Home Rule, tactics in the House of Lords, etc; papers about the 6th Marquess's will, 1881-1921; 3 envelopes of newspaper cuttings and other printed matter, February 1915, about the death of the 6th Marquess; and a volume containing newspaper obituaries of the 6th Marquess, February 1915.



Lord Henry Vane-Tempest

The papers of and about Lord Henry Vane-Tempest, second son of the 5th Marquess of Londonderry and younger brother of the 6th, comprise: 4 volumes of Lord Henry Vane-Tempest's diary (1874-1876, 1886-1888, 1889-1891 and 1901-1903); and a volume containing newspaper obituaries of Lord Henry Vane-Tempest, January-February 1905.



Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest

The letters and papers, 1858-1920, of Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest, third son of the 5th Marquess of Londonderry, are mainly about the affairs of the Garron Tower, Carnlough, Co. Antrim, estate he inherited from his grandmother (Frances Anne, wife of the 3rd Marquess) and the Plas Machnylleth estate he inherited from his mother, Mary Cornelia, Lady Londonderry.



Theresa, Lady Londonderry's sons

There are also: letters and papers, 1889-1915, of the 6th Marquess of Londonderry and Theresa, Lady Londonderry, about their elder son, Viscount Castlereagh, subsequently 7th Marquess, including some papers of the 7th Marquess about his youth, and a letter (returned to the 7th Marquess in 1942) from Theresa, Lady Londonderry, describing an anti-Home Rule demonstration in Belfast to the Queen, [1893]; and nearly 500 letters and papers, c.1891-1899, of and about Lord Reginald Vane-Tempest-Stewart, second son of Theresa, Lady Londonderry, and younger brother of the 7th Marquess, and his death in 1899.



Family ephemera

In addition, there is a folder of newspaper cuttings, engravings, photographs, franks, letters, etc, 1772-1903, relating to the Londonderry family, some of them highly entertaining, many critical and satirical (i.e. this is my no means a dull compendium of eulogies); and an album containing water-colour sketches, engravings, photographs, visiting cards, printed political cartoons, etc, c.1855-1900. One of the water-colours is signed 'E Vane-Tempest' [presumably Lord Ernest, fourth son of the 4th Marquess of Londonderry, who died in 1885].

The other components of the Londonderry papers in PRONI are as follows:

D654 The Londonderry Estate Office Papers, including the business papers of Alexander Stewart and Sir Robert Cowan, merchants in Belfast and Bombay respectively

D665 The Galway, McIlwaine & Seeds Papers, a Belfast solicitor's archive including title deeds, legal papers, accounts and testamentary papers relating to the estates of the Marquesses of Londonderry in Co. Down, 1812-c.1880, with particular reference to the settlement of the affairs of the 2nd Marquess following his death in 1822

D714 and D3232 The Cleland Papers, principally of the Rev. John Cleland, perpetual curate of Newtownards and Londonderry agent, mainly about 'the Saintfield informer', Nicholas Magin, United Irish activity, the '98 Rebellion in Co. Down, the Rathgael yeomanry, estate management, etc, 1797-1803

D1088 The Cassidi Papers, including those of the Rev. Mark Cassidy, 1810-1839, as perpetual curate of Newtownards and, apparently, a trustee for Londonderry family settlements, about local charities, Co. Down elections, c.1810-c.1820, etc

D2977 The Antrim Estate Papers, including agent's correspondence and reports, 1840-1865, about Lady Londonderry's Co. Antrim estate

D3030 The Castlereagh Papers consisting of the bulk of the political and personal papers of the 2nd Marquess, of which only a small quantity are in Durham; and such correspondence of his half-brother, the 3rd Marquess, and the 3rd Marquess's wife, Frances-Anne, as are not in Durham

D3084/C The H. Montgomery Hyde Papers, containing some Londonderry Papers (Hyde was private secretary to the 7th Marquess, and biographer of members of the Londonderry family)

D3099 The Londonderry Papers, consisting of the bulk of the papers of the 7th Marquess, and his wife, Edith Helen, the rest of which are in Durham; together with the papers of Lady Londonderry's father, Henry, 1st Viscount Chaplin

D3984 The H. Montgomery Hyde Papers, including some original Londonderry correspondence (Hyde was private secretary to, and biographer of, members of the Londonderry family)

D4127 and D2784/19 The Stewart-Bam/Stewart of Ards Papers, 1771-1849, deriving from a junior branch of the family and closely linked with D654 and D3030.

