

Jane Austen's satire on class & rank in *Persuasion*

U3A Dunedin 2017



Sir Walter Elliot

- “Sir Walter Elliot, of Kellynch-hall, in Somersetshire, was a man who, for his own amusement, never took up any book but the Baronetage; there he found occupation for an idle hour, and consolation in a distressed one; there his faculties were roused into admiration and respect, by contemplating the limited remnant of the earliest patents.”
- John Debrett, *The Baronetage*, 2 vols. (1808)

The Baronetage

“There any unwelcome sensations, arising from domestic affairs, changed naturally into pity and contempt, as he turned over the almost endless creations of the last century—and there, if any other leaf were powerless, he could read his own history with an interest which never failed—this was the page at which the favourite volume always opened:”

“ELLIOT OF KELLYNCH-HALL.”

“Walter Elliot, born March 1, 1760, married, July 15, 1784, Elizabeth, daughter of James Stevenson, Esq. of South Park, in the county of Gloucestershire; by which lady (who died 1800) he has issue Elizabeth, born June 1, 1785; Anne, born August 9, 1787; a still-born son, **Nov. 5**, 1789; Mary, born Nov. 20, 1791” (ch. 1).

Sir Walter & Debrett's

“Precisely had the paragraph originally stood from the printer’s hands; but Sir Walter had improved it by adding, for the information of himself and his family, these words, after the date of Mary’s birth—‘married, Dec. 16, 1810, Charles, son and heir of Charles Musgrove, Esq. of Uppercross, in the county of Somerset,’—and by inserting most accurately the date of the month on which he had lost his wife” (ch. 1).

Elliot's

“Then followed the history and rise of the ancient and respectable family, in the usual terms ... serving the office of High Sherriff, representing a borough in three successive parliaments, exertions of loyalty, and dignity of baronet, in the first year of Charles II., with all the Marys and Elizabeths they had married;

“forming altogether two handsome duodecimo pages, and concluding with the arms and motto: ‘Principal seat, Kellynch hall, in the county of Somerset,’ and Sir Walter’s hand-writing again in this finale: ‘Heir presumptive, William Walter Elliot, Esq., great grandson of the second Sir Walter’” (ch. 1).

Elliot ancestry unimpressive

- “exertions of loyalty” = ancestor bought his baronetcy for cash
- 1660–1661: Charles II rewarded supporters by creating new baronets in return for money
- High Sherriffs often humble men who paid large sums for the small honour
- probably avoided expensive duties

Old & new creations

- Sir W's "pity and contempt" for "all the almost endless creations of the last century"
- Prime Minister William Pitt had created many new knights and lords to win support
- but Sir W's own creation is not much older
- Elizabeth Elliot calls *The Baronetage* "the book of books"
- but that = common title for the King James Bible (1611)

Sir Walter's vanity

“Vanity was the beginning and the end of Sir Walter Elliot's character; vanity of person and of situation. He had been remarkably handsome in his youth; and, at fifty-four, was still a very fine man. Few women could think more of their personal appearance than he did; nor could the valet of any new made lord be more delighted with the place he held in society.”

Sir W's vanity

“He considered the blessing of beauty as inferior only to the blessing of a baronetcy; and the Sir Walter, who united these gifts, was the constant object of his respect and devotion” (ch. 1).

Ecclesiastes 1:2

- “Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; vanity of vanities; all is vanity.”
- Sir Walter’s vanity of rank, property, appearance, age, situation, & gender
- reminder of mortality

Persuasion

- JA's last novel; written while she was dying of Addison's disease (?)
- “my Looks ... have been bad enough, black & white and every wrong colour” (23 March 1817)
- published posthumously, 1818
- still full of lively satire

“Dandy at his Toilette”

S. W. Fores (1818)



Rank, class, status, precedence, place

- class & property propped up British society
- JA radical to attack them
- baronetcy lowest of all heritable titles
- between barons & knights
- 1611, James I sold honours to raise money for war on Ireland

Deference to rank

- ““Lady Dalrymple, Lady Dalrymple,’ was the rejoicing sound; and with all the eagerness compatible with anxious elegance, Sir Walter and his two ladies stepped forward to meet her. [Elizabeth] looking at the broad back of the Viscountess Dalrymple before her ...” (ch. 20).
- Irish peerage = rank without privilege when conferred on English person without land in Ireland

“Irish, I dare say”

- JA on son & son’s wife of Irish Viscount at Lyme Regis: “he must be Irish by his ease ... bold, queerlooking people, just fit to be Quality at Lyme” (14 September 1804)
- Lady Dalrymple: Captain Wentworth is “A very fine young man indeed,” with “more air than one often sees in Bath.—Irish, I dare say” (ch. 19).

- many Catholic Irish = Jacobites, educated in France or Netherlands
- in movie, line makes Ciaran Hinds jump
- Ireland poor, as profits went to absentee English landlords
- Irishmen notorious fortune-hunters

Richard Newton, “An Irish Fortune-Hunter on the Road to Bath” (1795)



Thomas Rowlandson

“The Successful Fortune-Hunter, or Captain Shelalee Leading Miss Marrowfat to the Temple of Hymen” (1812)



Sir Walter & navy

[Mr. Shepherd] “if a rich Admiral were to come our way, Sir Walter—”

“He would be a very lucky man, Shepherd,” replied Sir Walter, “that’s all I have to remark. A prize indeed would Kellynch Hall be to him; rather the greatest prize of all, let him have taken ever so many before—hey Shepherd?”

Mr. Shepherd laughed, as he knew he must, at this wit” (ch. 3).

Anne & navy

“Here Anne spoke—“The navy, I think, have done so much for us, have at least an equal claim with any other set of men, for all the comforts and all the privileges which any home can give. Sailors work hard enough for their comforts, we must all allow.’”

Sir Walter & navy

““The profession has its utility, but I should be sorry to see any friend of mine belonging to it ... Yes; it is in two points offensive to me; I have two strong grounds of objection to it. First as being the means of bringing persons of obscure birth into undue distinction, and raising men to honours which their fathers and grandfathers never dreamt of; and secondly, as it cuts up a man’s youth and vigour most horribly; a sailor grows old sooner than any other man; I have observed it all my life.’”

[Sir Walter] “A man is in greater danger in the navy of being insulted by one whose father, his father might have disdained to speak to, and of becoming prematurely an object of disgust himself, than in any other line. One day last spring, in town, I was in company with two men, striking instances of what I am talking of, Lord St. Ives, whose father we all know to have been a country curate, without bread to eat; I was to give place to Lord St. Ives, and a certain Admiral Baldwin, the most deplorable personage you can imagine, his face the colour of mahogany and rugged to the last degree, all lines and wrinkles, nine grey hairs of a side, and nothing but a dab of powder on top.”

““In the name of heaven, I said, who is that old fellow?” said I, to a friend of mine who was standing by, (Sir Basil Morley.) ‘Old fellow!’ cried Sir Basil, it is Admiral Baldwin. What do you take his age to be?’ ‘Sixty,’ said I, ‘or perhaps sixty-two.’ ‘Forty,’ replied Sir Basil, ‘forty, and no more.’ Picture to yourself my amazement; I shall not easily forget Admiral Baldwin. I never saw such a wretched example of what a sea-faring life can do; but to a degree, I know it is the same with them all: they are all knocked about, and exposed to every climate, and every weather, till they are not fit to be seen. It is a pity they are not knocked on the head at once, before they reach Admiral Baldwin’s age.’”

“Anne, after a little pause, added—

‘He is rear admiral of the white. He was in the Trafalgar action, and has been in the East Indies since; he has been stationed there, I believe, several years.’

‘Then I take it for granted,’ observed Sir Walter, that his face is about as orange as the cuffs and capes of my livery.’”

Sir Walter & Admiral Croft

“[Sir Walter’s] vanity supplied a little soothing, in the admiral’s **situation of life**, which was **just high enough**, and **not too high**. ‘I have let my house to Admiral Croft,’ would sound extremely well; very much better than to any mere *Mr.*——; a *Mr.* always needs a note of explanation. An admiral speaks his own **consequence**, and, at the same time, can never make a baronet look **small**. In all their dealings and intercourse, Sir Walter Elliot must have **pre-cedence**” (ch. 3).

Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson (1758–1805)

Son of a country curate,
rose by merit, & was
knocked about a bit.



Battle of Trafalgar (1805)



Sir Walter claims superiority

- by descent
 - (but baronetcy bought & ancestors undistinguished)
- by age
 - (but at 54, is older than Admiral Baldwin)
- by appearance
 - (but despises the weather-beaten and maimed sailors who risked their lives to save England from the French)

Sir Walter & appearance

- Sir Walter thinks “himself and Elizabeth as blooming as ever, amidst the wreck of the good looks of every body else; for he could plainly see how old the rest of his family and acquaintance were growing. Anne haggard; Mary coarse, every face in the neighbourhood worsting; and the rapid increase of the crow’s foot about Lady Russell’s temples had long been a distress to him” (ch. 1).

Superiority by gender

- “The worst of Bath was, the number of plain women. He did not mean to say that there were no pretty women, but the number of plain was out of all proportion. He had frequently observed ... that one handsome face would be followed by thirty, or five and thirty frights; and once, as he stood in a shop in Bond-street, he had counted eighty-seven women go by, one after another, without there being a tolerable face among them” (ch. 15).

Bath

- by 1810, Bath was “a sort of great monastery, inhabited by single people, especially superannuated females”
- access to warm baths free for the elderly
- many men maimed and impoverished war veterans
- JA scribbles in a margin, “How much are the poor to be pitied, and the Rich to be Blamed!”

Mrs. Clay = exception

“Mrs. Clay had freckles, and a projecting tooth, and a clumsy wrist, which [Sir Walter] was continually making severe remarks upon, in her absence; but she was young, and certainly altogether well-looking, and possessed, in an acute mind and assiduous pleasing manners, infinitely more dangerous attractions than any merely personal might have been” (ch. 5).

Mrs. Clay & freckles

- [Elizabeth] “That tooth of hers! and those freckles! Freckles do not disgust me so very much as they do him: I have known a face not materially disfigured by a few, but he abominates them. You must have heard him notice Mrs. Clay’s freckles” (ch. 5).
- Sir Walter advises Anne to use Gowland’s Lotion: “You see how it has carried away Mrs. Clay’s freckles” (ch. 16).
- Gowland = chemical peel developed for Miss Chudleigh, courtesan & bigamist

Superiority by property

- Sir Walter “was growing distressed for money ... The Kellynch property was good, but not equal to Sir Walter’s apprehension of the **state** required in its **possessor** ... It had not been possible for him to spend less; he had done nothing but what Sir Walter Elliot was **imperiously** called upon to do; but blameless as he was, he was not only growing dreadfully in debt, but was hearing of it so often, that it became vain to attempt concealing it longer.”

Sir Walter “retrenches”

- “He had gone so far as to say [to Elizabeth] ‘Can we retrench? does it occur to you that there is any one article in which we can retrench?’”
- [Elizabeth proposes] “to cut off some unnecessary charities, and to refrain from new-furnishing the drawing-room; to which expedients she had added the **happy** thought of taking no present down to Anne, as had been the usual yearly custom.”

Primogeniture

- “There was only small part of his estate that Sir Walter could dispose of; but had every acre been alienable, it would have made no difference. He had condescended to mortgage as far as he had the power, but he could never condescend to sell. No; he would never disgrace his name so far. The Kellynch estate should be transmitted whole and entire, as he had received it” (ch. 1).

Tail male

- “strict settlement” kept an estate intact
- Sir Walter only tenant for life; cannot alienate or dispose
- when a son came of age, he settled on his father, then on his own son in “tail male”
- daughters might get “portions” when 21

William Walter Elliot

- Sir Walter's nephew William Walter will inherit
- WW can bar the entail & dispose of whole estate
- [Mrs. Smith] “I have often heard him declare, that if baronetcies were saleable, any body should have his for fifty pounds, arms and motto, name and livery included.... [he will bring Kellynch] with best advantage to the hammer” (ch. 21).

Sir Walter & the Prince Regent

- In 1787, prince owed £210,000.
- slowed down building of Carlton House
- & sold some horses
- In 1789, borrowed 350,000 golden guilders from Jewish bankers in the Hague, and never paid them back
- In 1790, owed a further £300,000 to the duc d'Orleans, who died in the French Revolution

Prince Regent's debts

- In 1795, Commons settled debts of £552,000 in return for his agreeing to marry Caroline of Brunswick
- In 1803, prince wrote off £650,000 more.
- By 1812, the regent's refusal to retrench threatened to cause revolution.
- cf. Bourbons in France

“Retrench” = code for regent

- Lady Russell “draws up plans of economy”
- marks out “a scheme of retrenchment”
- “the person who has contracted debts must pay them”
- pointed reference to the Prince Regent:
- “What will he be doing, in fact, what many of our first families have done—or ought to do?” (ch. 1)

Anne & debt

- To Anne, it is “an act of indispensable duty to clear away the claims of creditors, with all the expedition which the most comprehensive retrenchments could secure, and [she] saw no dignity in any thing short of it” (ch. 1).
- JA wrote *Persuasion* 1816–1817.
- many contemporary attacks on the Prince Regent’s extravagance

Economy & retrenchment

- 1816, George Cruikshank, *Economy*
- Lord Chancellor Brougham to regent:
- “Retrench, retrench! Reflect on the distressed state of your country, & remember the Security of the Throne rests on the happiness of your People ... the throne’s lustre does not rest on finery.”

Economy?

- regent: “D—n such Economy, why I might as well turn to eating husks at once ... have I not recommended *Economy*? Have I not enforced *Precept*, by *Example*? *Have I not discharg’d four of my footmen*? What more would you have?”
- Sir Walter “retrenches” by moving to Bath with only a butler and a footboy (ch. 3)

Retrench! Retrench! ~~Retrench~~ ~~Retrench~~, reflect on the distressed state of your Country, & remember the Security of ~~the~~ Throne, rests on the happiness of ~~the~~ People. that its lustre does not consist in fire, or in fur blown Dragons - neither is its stability consulted by treating its Supporters with contempt. - "Veniens Occidit Merito" - meet the evil; take it mildly, & wisely. be retrench, before it be too late.

Have we not turned away a number of jolly clerks & supernumeraries? what other retrenchment will these Grandees wish for?

D-n such Economy say I, why I might as well turn to eating husks at once.. what the devil do you want? have I not recommended Economy ~~to you~~? have I not enforced peace, by Example? Have I not discharged four of my footmen? what more would you have?!!

Must that Broom be always accompanying a smothering of opposition as



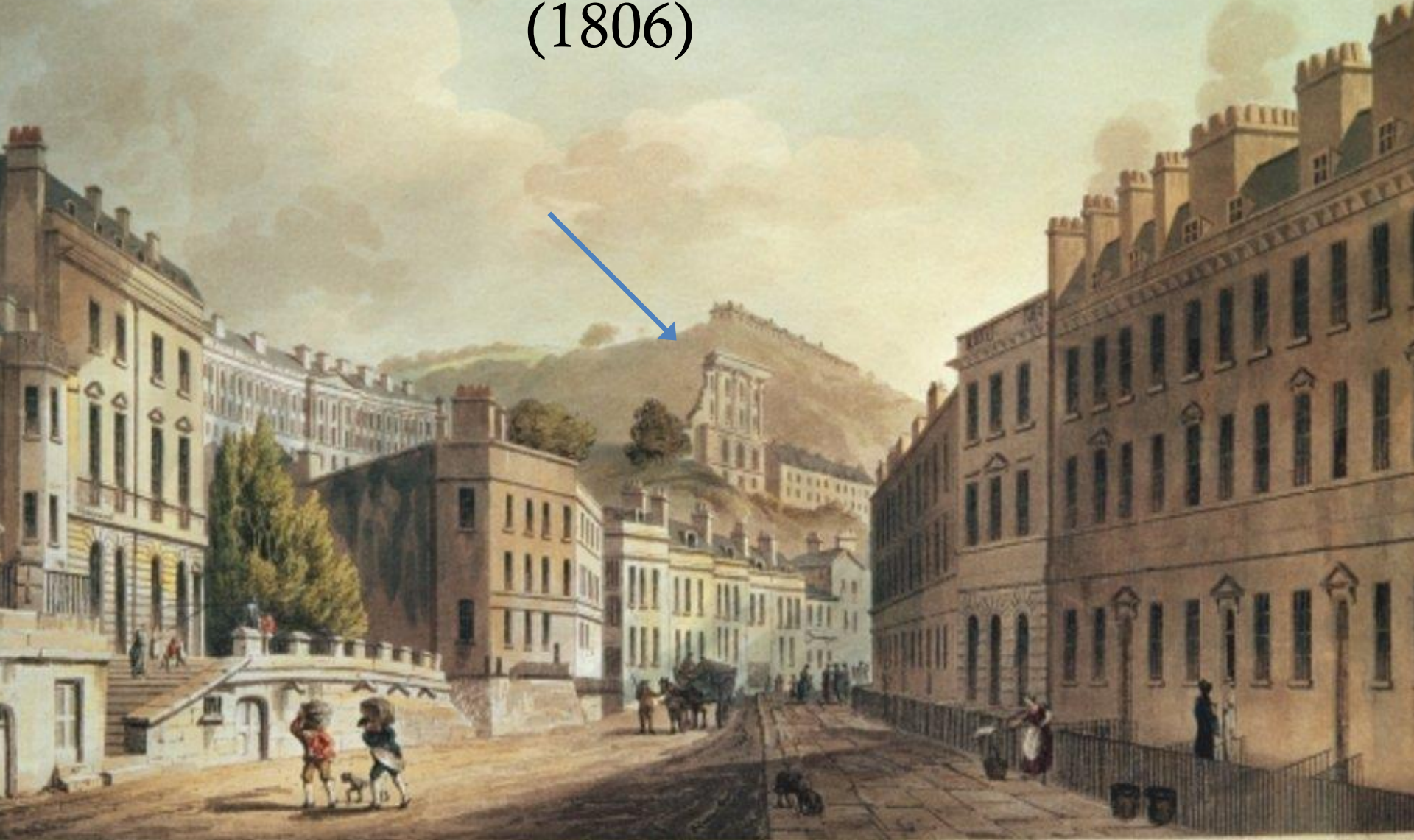
Sir Walter & regent

- “What! Every comfort of life knocked off! Journeys, London, servants, horses, table,—contractions and restrictions every where. To live no more with the decencies of a private gentleman! No, he would rather quit Kellynch-hall at once, than remain in it on such disgraceful terms” (ch. 1).
- echoes King Lear
- but never achieves self-knowledge

Camden Place

- Sir Walter proud to rent in Camden Place
- “a **lofty, dignified situation**, such as becomes a man of **consequence**” (ch. 15)
- but landslides
- west wing never completed
- home to *nouveaux-riches* & nabobs

John Nattes, “Axford & Paragon Buildings”
(1806)



Camden Place

- rank/class matches elevation in Bath
- Lady Russell in Rivers St.
- (not as high as Sir Walter)
- Crofts in Gay St.
- (not too high and not too low)
- Lady Dalrymple in Laura Place across river
- (new development, with new-fangled WCs)

Rank matches height

- Col. & Mrs. Wallis in Marlborough Buildings
- “in very good style,” says Sir Walter (ch. 16)
- William Walter Elliot a mystery
- dines at Lansdown Crescent, above Sir Walter, but where does he live?
- Mrs. Smith in Westgate Buildings at low end of Bath near baths

Marlborough Bdgs. Bath



Royal Crescent, Bath





Lansdown Crescent, Bath



G. Kneller 1766

Sir Walter & Mrs. Clay

- Mr. Shepherd's daughter
- of lower rank, flatters & charms Sir Walter
- if she has a child by Sir Walter, William Walter Elliot will lose inheritance
- therefore William Walter moves in on Mrs. Clay

JA's satire on royal succession

- on 6 November 1816, deaths of Princess Charlotte & stillborn son
- ugly race among dukes to sire a legitimate heir
- in 1819, Duke of Kent would win—with Victoria

William Walter & Mrs. Clay

- “Mrs. Clay’s quitting [Bath] likewise, soon afterwards, and being next heard of as established under his protection in London, it was evident how double a game he had been playing, and how determined he was to save himself from being cut out by one artful woman, at least” (ch. 24).

White Hart Inn, Bath





South Colonnade, Pump Room

Sir Walter & Mrs. Smith

[Sir Walter] “and who is Miss Anne Elliot to be visiting in Westgate-buildings?—A Mrs. Smith,—and who was her husband?—One of the five thousand Mr. Smiths whose names are to be met with everywhere. And what is her attraction? That she is old and sickly.—Upon my word, Miss Anne Elliot, you have the most extraordinary taste!”

““Every thing that revolts other people, low company, paltry rooms, foul air, disgusting associations are inviting to you. But surely, you may put off this old lady till tomorrow. She is not so near her end, I presume, but that she may hope to see another day. What is her age? Forty?”

‘No, Sir, she is not one and thirty’” (ch. 17).

Sir Walter & Mrs. Smith

“A widow Mrs. Smith, lodging in Westgate-buildings!—A poor widow, barely able to live, between thirty and forty—a mere Mrs. Smith, an every day Mrs. Smith, of all people and all names in the world, to be the chosen friend of Miss Anne Elliot, and to be preferred by her to her own family connections among the nobility of England and Ireland! Mrs. Smith, such a name!”

Mrs. Smith & Mrs. Clay

“Mrs. Clay ... now thought it advisable to leave the room.... [Anne] left it to herself to recollect, that Mrs. Smith was not the only widow in Bath between thirty and forty, with little to live on, and no surname of dignity” (ch. 17).

Westgate Buildings, Bath



What's in a name?

- “Mr. Wentworth, the curate ... You misled me by the term *gentleman*. I thought you were speaking of some gentleman of property; Mr. Wentworth was nobody, I remember; quite unconnected; nothing to do with the Strafford family” (ch. 3).
- Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford (1593–1641)
- advisor to Charles I, condemned to death
- Charles signed death warrant
- Strafford executed

Thomas Wentworth

1st Earl of Strafford

1693–1741



Wentworth Woodhouse (1611)

- family one of most ancient of England's landed aristocracy
- prime ministers, marquesses, & earls
- Wentworth Woodhouse (Yorkshire) biggest stately home in England
- 600-foot Palladian façade, longest in Europe; 365 rooms, 1000 windows
- “guests were given confetti of different colours to strew so that they could find their way back to their rooms”

Wentworth Woodhouse (sold 2017 for £4m)



Wentworths & Straffords

- In 1711, Anne Johnson married Lord Strafford of the 2nd creation, Thomas Wentworth, became Lady Anne Wentworth.
- In 1799, death of Frederick Wentworth, last Earl of Strafford.
- Captain Frederick Wentworth landless, & *not* a Strafford
- but name more distinguished than Sir Walter Elliot's
- fine deeds match fine name

Duke of Monmouth

- James Scott (Crofts)
- 1st Duke of Monmouth (1649–1685)
- illegitimate son of Charles II
- started revolt against uncle, James II
- landed at Lyme Regis

James Scott (Crofts)

Duke of Monmouth

1649–1685



Lady Henrietta Wentworth

- Monmouth's mistress Lady Henrietta Wentworth (1660–1667)
- sold her jewels to fund the uprising
- Monmouth defeated, executed
- Bloody Assizes at Taunton
- JA stayed at Lyme Regis in 1801
- as late as 1835, old lace-makers in Lyme Regis were still speaking of “their darling Monmouth”

Lady Henrietta Wentworth

1660–1687



Lady Henrietta Wentworth & Monmouth

- On the scaffold, Monmouth “renewed his pledges of devotion to Henrietta,” calling her a “religious, godly lady” who had redeemed him from a “licentious and empty life.”
- “His last act was to ask a memento of him to her.”
- She died, some said, of a broken heart the following year.

Sir Frederick Wentworth?

- If Captain Wentworth were to be knighted, &
- Henrietta Musgrove married him > Lady Henrietta Wentworth.
- If Captain Wentworth were to be knighted, &
- Anne Elliot married him > Lady Anne Wentworth.
- Tennyson at Lyme Regis (1867): “Don’t talk to me of the Duke of Monmouth—show me the spot where Louisa Musgrove fell.”

Lady Henrietta Crofts

Duchess of Bolton

Monmouth's
daughter, named after
his beloved Lady
Henrietta Wentworth

d. 1730



JA's devotion to Stuarts

- JA knew Bolton descendants living at Hackwood House near Steventon
- JA always pro-Mary Queen of Scots: “She was executed ... to the everlasting reproach of Elizabeth”
- “that disgrace to humanity, that pest of society, Elizabeth” (*History of England*, 1791)

Capt. W.'s proposal

- Sir Walter “thought [it] a very **degrading** alliance; and Lady Russell ... with more tempered and pardonable **pride**, received it as a most **unfortunate** one. Anne Elliot, with all the claims of **birth**, beauty, and mind, to throw herself away at nineteen; involve herself with a young man, who had but himself to **recommend** him, and no hopes of attaining **affluence**, but in the **chances** of a most uncertain **profession**, and no **connexions** to secure even his farther rise in that **profession**...”

Anne & proposal

- [Lady Russell argues] “Anne Elliot, so young; known to so few, to be snatched off by a **stranger** without **alliance** or **fortune**; or rather sunk by him into a state of most wearing, anxious, youth-killing dependence!” (ch. 4).
- [Anne wishes she could be eloquent] “on the side of early warm attachment, and a cheerful confidence in futurity, against that over-anxious caution which seems to insult exertion and distrust **Providence**” (ch. 4).

Class (passive) v. luck (active)

“Captain Wentworth had no **fortune**. He had been **lucky** in his **profession**, but spending freely, what had come freely, he had realized nothing. But, he was confident that he should soon have a ship, and soon be on a station that would lead to every thing he wanted. He had always been **lucky**; he knew he should be so still. Such confidence, powerful in its own warmth, and bewitching in [its] wit ... must have been enough for Anne; but Lady Russell saw it very differently.”

Lady Russell & Capt. Wentworth

“His sanguine temper, and fearlessness of mind, operated very differently on her. She saw in it but an aggravation of the **evil**. It only added a **dangerous** character to himself. He was **brilliant**, he was **headstrong**.—Lady Russell had very little taste for ...any thing approaching to **imprudence** She deprecated the **connexion** in every light” (ch. 4).

Conclusion

“Captain Wentworth with five-and-twenty thousand pounds, and as **high** in his **profession** as **merit** and **activity** could place him, was no longer **nobody**.”

“He was now considered quite **worthy** to address the daughter of a foolish spendthrift baronet, who had not principle or sense enough to maintain himself in the situation in which **Providence** had placed him, and who could give his daughter at present but a small part of the share of ten thousand pounds which must be hers hereafter” (ch. 24).

Lady Russell & rank

Lady Russell was “rational and consistent—but she had **prejudices on the side of ancestry**; she had a value for **rank** and **consequence**.... Herself, the widow of only a knight, she gave the **dignity** of a baronet all its **due**” (ch. 2).

Musgrove girls & rank

“Mary’s complaint, that Mrs. Musgrove was very apt to not give her the **precedence** that was her **due** And she did not see any reason why she was to considered so much at home as to lose her **place**.”

[Miss Musgrove], “after talking of **rank**, people of **rank**, and jealousy of **rank**, said, ‘I have no scruple of observing to *you*, how nonsensical some people are about their **place** ... but I wish ... Mary would not be always putting herself forward to **take place** of mamma’” (ch. 6).

The Navy List

- *Steel's Original and Correct List of the Royal Navy* = alternative way of ranking by **merit**
- rather than by **birth**, as in Sir Walter's favourite book, Debrett's *Baronetage*
- Captain Wentworth “could not deny himself the pleasure of taking the precious volume into his own hands and statement of [the *Laconia's*] name and **rate**, and present non-commissioned **status**” (ch. 7).

Class & rank in Navy List

- published monthly during war
- ships listed in six ranks, from flagships to sloops
- First, Second, & Third rate = Battleships
- Fourth, Fifth, & Sixth rate = Cruisers
- classification, number of guns, officers, ships captured, prize money
- rise of meritocracy meant a young man could make, rather than inherit, a fortune

Captain James Cook

See also famous
naval names
Dalrymple, Elliot,
Wallis, & Carteret
in *Persuasion*.



Russell Crowe

Master & Commander
(2003)

Patrick O'Byrne
(1969)



Iaon Grufford

C. S. Forester

Hornblower series

(1937–1967)



Regency time of change

- class system under attack
- critique of undeserved wealth & power
- rise of meritocracy
- rising status of professions

JA and modernity

- moves to abolish the slave trade
- demands for (male) franchise
- women call for education & a public role
- women writers *write*

Thank you,
Jane Austen!

