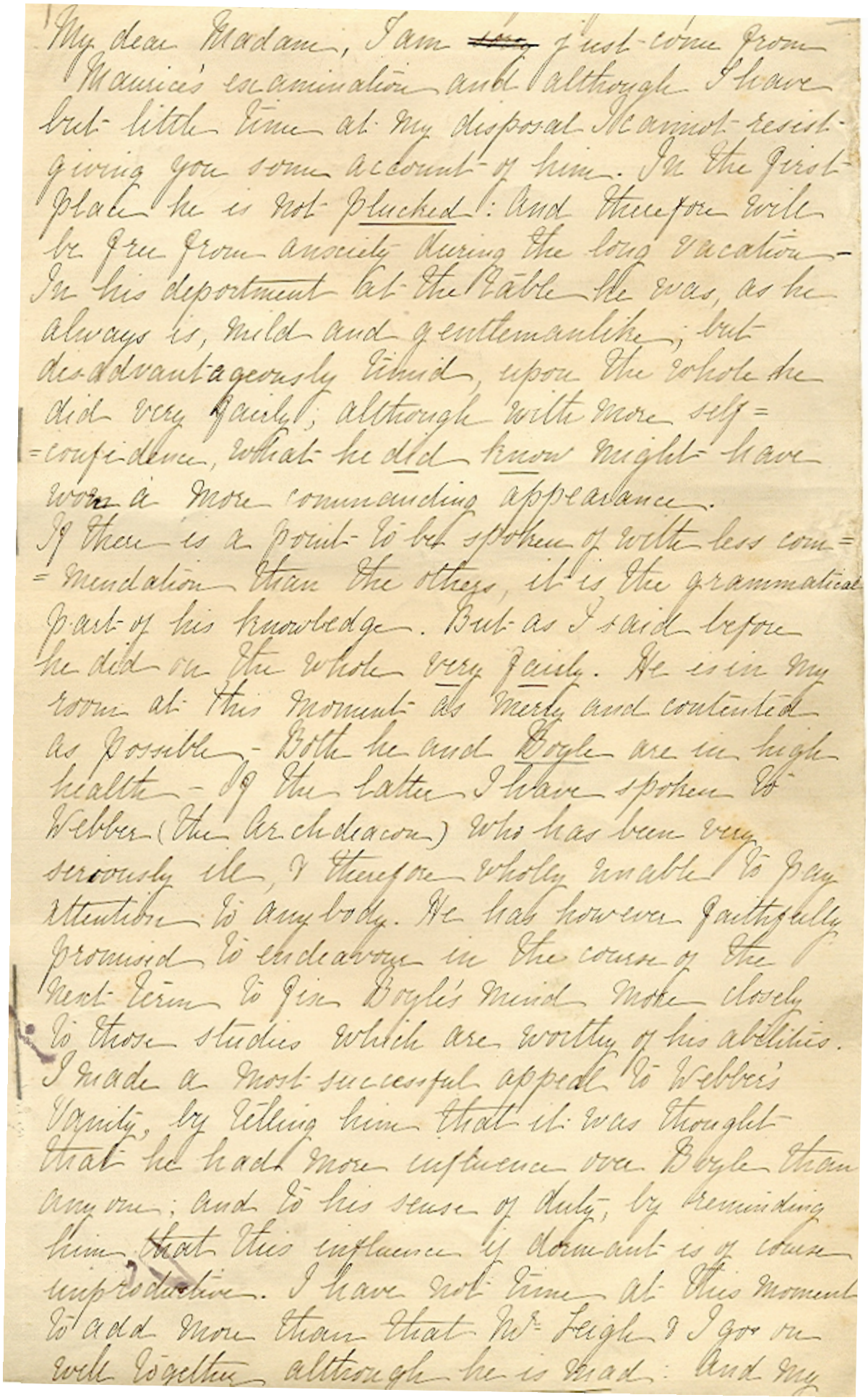
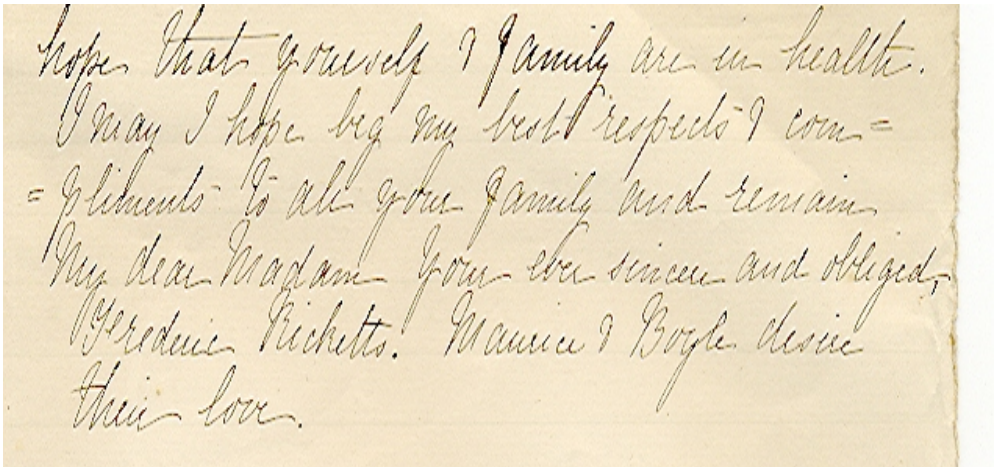
Reverend Abraham Boyle Townsend [233]

Letter dated June 29th 1810, from Frederic Ricketts, Christ Church, Oxford, to Abraham's mother Mrs Townsend, 8 Montague Square, London. Transcript below.



My dear Madam, I am ~~late~~ just come from Maurice's examination and although I have but little time at my disposal I cannot resist giving you some account of him. In the first place he is not plucked: and therefore will be free from anxiety during the long vacation. In his deportment at the Table he was, as he always is, mild and gentlemanlike; but disadvantageously timid, upon the whole he did very fairly; although with more self = = confidence, what he did know might have worn a more commanding appearance. If there is a point to be spoken of with less com = = mendation than the others, it is the grammatical part of his knowledge. But as I said before he did on the whole very fairly. He is in my room at this moment as merry and contented as possible. Both he and Boyle are in high health. Of the latter I have spoken to Webber (the Archdeacon) who has been very seriously ill, & therefore wholly unable to pay attention to anybody. He has however faithfully promised to endeavour in the course of the next term to fix Boyle's mind more closely to those studies which are worthy of his abilities. I made a most successful appeal to Webber's Vanity, by telling him that it was thought that he had more influence over Boyle than any one; and to his sense of duty, by reminding him that this influence if dormant is of course unproductive. I have not time at this moment to add more than that Mr Leigh & I got on well together although he is dead: and my


hope that yourself & family are in health.
I may I hope beg my best respects & com-
-pliments to all your family and remain
My dear Madam Your ever sincere and obliged,
Frederic Ricketts. Maurice & Boyle desire
their love.

My Dear Madame

I am just come from Maurice's examinations and although I have but little time at my disposal I cannot resist giving you some account of him. In the first place he is not plucked (?); and therefore will be free from anxiety during the long vacation. In his deportment at the table he was, as he always is, mild and gentlemanlike; but disadvantageously timid, upon the whole he did very fairly; although with more self confidence, what he did know might have worn a more commanding appearance. If there is a point to be spoken of with less commendation than the others, it is the grammatical part of his knowledge. But as I said before he did on the whole very fairly. He is in my room at the moment as merry and contented as possible. Both he and Boyle are in high health. Of this latter I have spoken to Webber (the Archdeacon) who has been very seriously ill, & therefore wholly unable to pay attention to anybody. He has however faithfully promised to endeavour in the course of the next term to fix Boyle's mind more closely to those studies that are worthy of his abilities. I made a most successful appeal to Webber's vanity by telling him that it was thought that he had much more influence over Boyle than anyone; and to his sense of duty, by reminding him that this influence if dormant is of course unproductive. I have not time at the moment to add more than that Mr Leigh and I go well together although he is mad: And my hopes that yourself & family are in health. I may I hope beg my best respects & compliments to all your family and remain my dear Madame your ever sincere and obliged Frederic Ricketts. Maurice and Boyle desire their love.

Christ Church College, Oxford

Tom Quad



Extract from Brady's Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Volume II 1863

TOWNSEND, ABRAHAM BOYLE, A.M. Deacon on the 5th, and Priest on the 19th December, 1819, both at Cork.

The Rev. Abraham-Boyle Townsend was the third son of Richard-Boyle Townsend, of Castle-Townsend, who was the head of the family of Townsend in the County Cork, and who died November 26, 1826. Richard-Boyle was the only son of Richard Townsend, by Richard's wife, Elisabeth, daughter of Maurice Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry. Richard Townsend was Member for the County Cork in the Irish Parliament, 1759, 1761, 1768, and was Colonel of its Militia. He was the second son and heir of Richard, who was the eldest son and heir of Bryan, who was the second son and heir of Colonel Richard Townsend. See Vol. I., 114.

Easthampstead Church

