## Reverend Philip Townsend [106]




## Trinity College, Dublin



**Holy Trinity, Cork**



**Ruined Church at Aghinagh**



**Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837**

**LISCLEARY,** or LISLEY COLERIGGE**,** a parish, in the barony of KERRICURRIHY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 2 ½ miles (W) from Carrigaline, on the south side of the river Awinboy; containing 2804 inhabitants. It comprises 4217 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act, and valued at £4025 per ann., and is divided into two parts by the intervening parish of Carrigaline. The surface is undulating and the soil in general good; besides lime, seaweed and sand brought from Carrigaline are used for manure, and the system of agriculture is gradually improving. Limestone exists near the border of the adjoining parish of Killanully, but lies too deep for profitable working, especially as an abundant supply is obtained from that parish. The seats are Ballea Castle, the residence of F. Hodder, Esq.; and Rathfeen House, of T. Dorman, Esq. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Cork; the rectory constitutes the corps of the prebend of Liscleary in the cathedral of Cork, and the vicarage is held in sequestration by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Of the tithes, amounting to £210, five-ninths are payable to the prebendary and the remainder to the Commissioners. Divine service is regularly performed in the parochial school-house. In the R. C. divisions the parish forms part of the union or district of Ballygarvan and Douglas. The parochial school is partly supported by the prebendary, and partly by the Cork diocesan association; and about 70 children are educated in a private school.

1707. Feb. 11. PHILIP TOWNSEND, V. Holy Trinity, per resignation of Synge. [D.R.]

1712. Jonathan Serrie, of Cork citty, gentleman (will dated 30th May, 1709, and proved 12th Sept. 1712), leaves his "body to be buried in my owne burying place or sepulchre in St. Maries' Isle, in Christchurch, in Cork;" also, "twenty shillings sterling worth of bread to ye English Protestant poore of each of ye two parishes of Christchurch and Shandon, to be distributed ye next day after my burial." [Cork Wills.]

1713. Nov. 16. At a vestry held this day, it was announced that John Perry, late of Youghal, esq. had bequeathed to the poor of Christchurch parish, £100. And the minister, Philip Townsend, being in England, is requested to examine the will and receive the money. [Par. Reg.]

1720. Nov. 27. The first sermon in the new church was preached by Rev. P. Townsend on this day. [Smith's Cork, vol. i. p. 378.]

Philip Townsend, sixth son of Colonel Richard Townsend, of Castletownsend, was born in 1664 at Kilbrittain Castle, near Timoleague, county Cork, and entered T.C.D. as a Pensioner on 20th June, 1684. He at first adopted the military profession, and was a captain in the army, but subsequently entered into Holy Orders, and in 1706 was admitted by Bishop Dive Downes to the Prebend of Lisclery, and by Bishop Crow, of Cloyne, to the R. V. Aghinagh, in Cloyne. These livings, together with the important Vicarage of the Holy Trinity, which he received in 1707, he held until his death. He was buried at the Holy Trinity on the 26th May, 1735.

He married, circa 1705, Helena, dau. of John Galwey, esq. and by her had issue two daughters, Elisabeth (born 1709, died sp.); and Mary, born in 1710 (whom her father calls in his will his only child), who was wife to John Becher, esq. of Aghadowne, near Skibbereen, son of Colonel Thomas Becher, Governor of Sherkin Island, county Cork. Considerable estates were settled on that marriage, which now belong to the present Sir Henry Wrixon Becher, bart. of Ballygiblin, and Creagh, and Castlehyde, county Cork.

Colonel Richard Townsend, the father of Philip Townsend, was descended from the ancient family of that name in the county of Norfolk; and, having settled himself in Ireland, became the founder and common ancestor of the Townsend family in the county of Cork.

In the reign of Charles I. he was a Colonel of Infantry. In the civil wars of that period he would seem to have joined the army which served from 1642 to 1645, under the Earl of Essex, in support of the Long Parliament; but refused to unite himself to that new model of the army which was formed at Cromwell's instance early in 1645. He acted, however, with detached forces, which belonged to Sir Thomas Fairfax's army, in the south-west of England, in the summer of the following year, 1646. He served at that time at the siege of Pendennis Castle, Cornwall, under the immediate command of the Honourable Colonel Richard Fortescue; and was one of the commissioners who were appointed on the part of the besiegers to treat about a capitulation, and who received the surrender of the castle, the 16th August. (See Sprigge, "Anglia Rediviva, History of Army under Sir T. Fairfax," pp. 302–304 (London, 1647; or pp. 306–313, Oxford University Press, 1854); Rushworth, "Historical Collections," part iv. vol. i. p. 295 (London, 1682–1701).

When the House of Commons caused troops to be forwarded to Ireland in the following year, 1647, Cromwell so arranged matters that only those who were opposed to his projects in England were sent thither. Accordingly, upon the 15th June, the Parliament "ordered that Colonel Townsend's regiment be hereby required and commanded forthwith to be shipped and transported into Ireland, for the service of that kingdom. (See Journals of the House of Commons, 1647, p. 211.) On the 13th of the following November, Colonel Townsend commanded the main body of the English infantry at the great battle of Knockninoss, west of Mallow, in the county Cork, which was fought under the Earl of Inchiquin, against the Irish under Lord Taaffe. Subsequently, the English army being in great distress from the want of proper supplies, he united with Lord Inchiquin and others in a "Remonstrance," which was sent to the House of Commons early in the following year, 1648, and which is given by Sir Richard Cox, "History of Ireland," part ii. Appendix, No. 39, p. 140, London, 1689–90; and by Rushworth, "Historical Collections," part iv. vol. ii. p. 1041. And Inchiquin having shortly afterwards renounced his allegiance to the English Parliament, differences upon that subject of a serious character ensued between Colonel Townsend and that nobleman. (See Cox, Ibid. part ii. Charles I. pp. 198–202.)

In the following year, 1649, early in November, Cromwell having invaded Ireland, and taken the towns of Drogheda, Wexford, and Ross, the English garrisons in the county of Cork, in number about 2,500 men, not being able to "endure the thought of joining with the Irish against their own countrymen," united themselves to Cromwell, and proved to be of great service for the general subjugation of Ireland. In this important movement Colonel Townsend, acting with Lord Broghill, Colonel Courtney, Sir Percy Smith, and Colonels Gifford and Warder, took a leading part. (Cox, Ibid. part ii. Charles II. p. 12; "Life of Cromwell," p. 140, London, 1731). Cromwell writes, in particular, at that time, to Speaker Lenthall, that Colonel Townsend had come from Cork, in the "Nonsuch" frigate, to convey to him the submission of the English garrison and Protestant inhabitants of that city; and was with him at Ross (county Wexford), November 14, having, with others, "been very active for the return both of Cork and Youghal to their obedience." (See Despatch of that date in "Letters and Speeches of Cromwell," edited by Carlyle, vol. ii. pp. 94–96; London, 1846.)

After the Irish war, about 1652, Colonel Townsend, it would seem, for a time went back to England. Subsequently he returned to Ireland; and, both during the Protectorate, when so many Irish estates were for sale, and after the restoration of Charles II. in 1660, he made extensive purchases of land. He was seated for a time at Kilbrittain Castle, in the county Cork, and was Member for Baltimore in the Irish Parliament, which met at Chichester House, Dublin, 1661. At the instance of the Earl of Orrery, President of Munster, he was appointed Commander of Militia by the Duke of Ormonde, 1666. (See Orrery's "State Letters," pp. 156, 166, 170, folio, London, 1742); and Smith, "State of the County and City of Cork," vol. i. p. 58, Dublin, 1774). And his purchases were confirmed to him by three several patents, in 1666, 1668, 1679. He finally settled himself at Castle Townsend, in the barony of West Carbery. That site is mentioned in the patent of 1666 by its ancient name, Sleughteige. He became High Sheriff of the county Cork on 12th March, 1671.

His son, Horatio, Captain of the "Lynor," sloop of war, greatly distinguished himself at the siege of Cork by the Duke of Marlborough, which took place in the reign of William III. September, 1690. (See Story, "Impartial History of the Wars in Ireland," p. 141 ; London, 1693 ; Smith, Ibid. vol. ii. p. 207). Shortly afterwards, in the same year, November 23rd, an attack was made by a Jacobite party of 500 men, under Colonel O'Driscoll, upon Colonel Townsend's mansion-house at Castle Townsend, which Colonel Townsend, with a garrison of thirty-five men, repelled, with considerable loss to the attacking party. (Story, Ibid. p. 151 ; Sir Richard Cox, MS. Narrative in Smith, Ibid. p. 211 ; Miscellany of the Celtic Society, edited by O'Donovan, note, pp. 396–7, Dublin, 1849.)

Colonel Richard Townsend was married, and had issue eight sons and four daughters. Nearly two years after the assault upon his house he died, July, 1692, aged about 84 years, and was buried in Castle Haven churchyard. His will is in the Prerogative Court of the diocese of Ross.

His eldest son, John, had, in 1666, married Lady Catherine Barry, daughter of Richard, second Earl of Barrymore, by the Earl's first wife, Susan, daughter of Sir William Killigrew, knight. John Townsend died before his father, and left a daughter, Susannah. (*See Scull, Cork, the Rev. Richard Townsend*) ; and a son, Richard Fitz-John (see Colonel Townsend's will), who died after his grandfather's death, a minor, without issue.

Colonel Townsend's second son, Bryan, had, in 1666, been appointed Cornet of Militia Cavalry (see references above to Orrery's State Letters, and Smith's County Cork.) Bryan married, about 1680, Mary, daughter of Edward Synge, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, and sister of Edward Synge, Archbishop of Tuam.

In the reign of William III. in 1689, Bryan Townsend's name, together with the names of his brothers, Francis and Kingston, appeared in the list of proscribed persons appended to the great Act of Attainder, which was passed by the Irish Parliament under James II. (See the Act, with list, in Archbishop King's "State of the Protestants of Ireland," appendix, p. 348, Cork, 1768 ; and Macaulay, "History of England," chap. xii. William and Mary, vol. iii. pp. 216–220, London, 1855.) It is not unlikely that Bryan Townsend may have been present at the battle of the Boyne, for we find him at Belfast in 1690, May 21st, only three weeks before the landing of William III. in Ulster, and six weeks before the battle ; and in that year he was made Colonel of Militia. (See Diary of Richard Davies, Dean of Cork, edited by Caulfield, Camden Society, p. 115 ; London, 1857.)

Five years later, in 1695, Colonel Bryan Townsend became Member for Clonakilty in the Irish Parliament. Upon the demise of his nephew, Richard Fitz-John, as above, he inherited the family estates. He had nine sons and five daughters, who have left numerous descendants. And, the male issue of Colonel Bryan Townsend's younger brothers having failed, the Townsends of the county Cork trace their descent from his father, Colonel Richard Townsend, in the *male* line only, through the male issue of Bryan. He died at Castle Townsend in 1726, aged about 78 years, and was buried at Castle Haven.

The Rev. Maurice Fitzgerald Townsend, of Castle Townsend, Vicar of Thornbury, Gloucestershire, is the present head of the family of Townsend in the county of Cork.

See Burke, "Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland,"