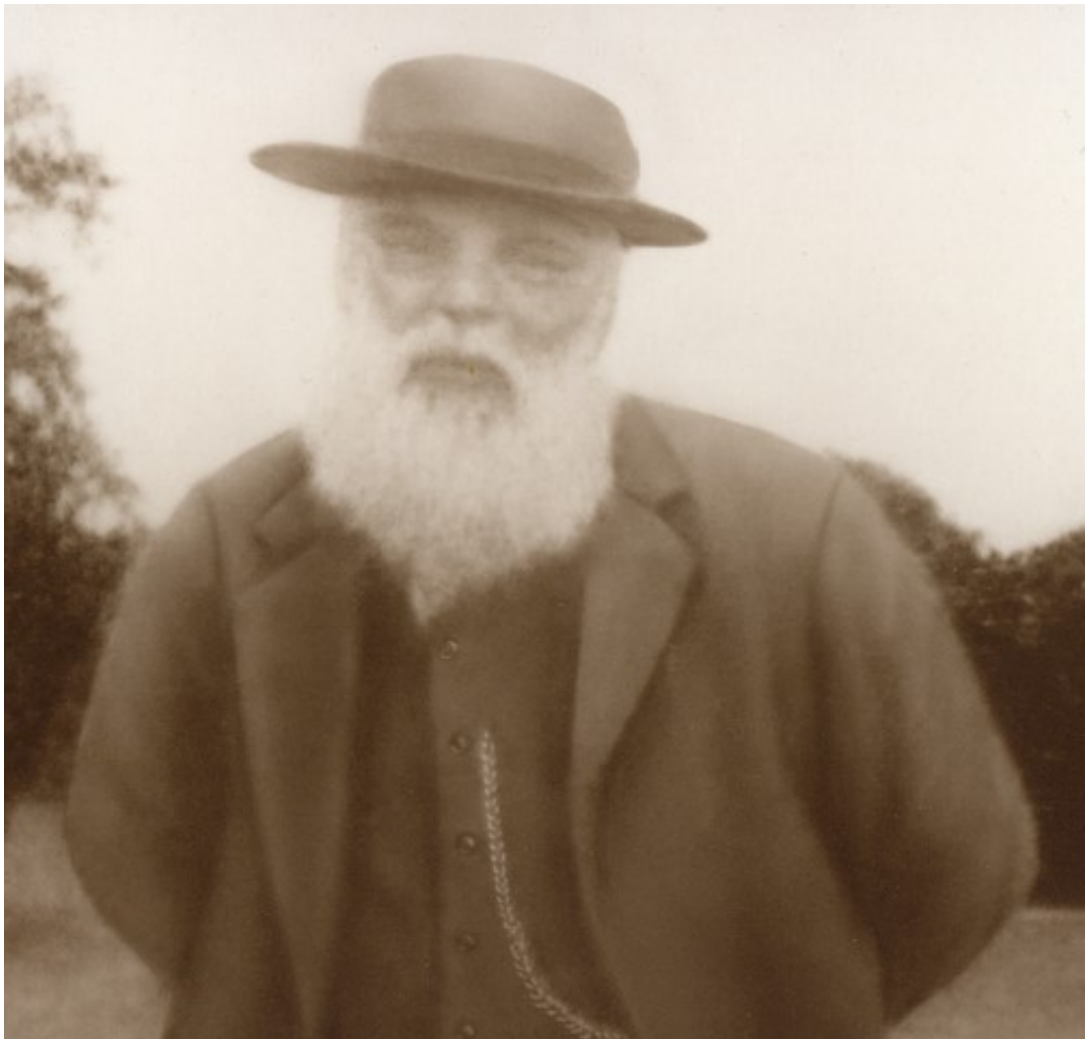
Richard Townsend [254]

Richard circa 1900



Dunbeacon Cottage circa 1900





Now known as Mulroe Cottage



Shorecliffe





Transcription of Various Letters from John Henry Townsend [238] to Donald McLean

Donald McLean Esq [1], Protector of Aborigines, Taranaki, New Zealand

Adelaide, South Australia
14th February 1845

My Dear McLean

If you have not heard previous to the receipt of this that I have left New Zealand, no doubt you will be surprised to get an epistle from me dated from here, but as I am a roving blade my next may possibly be from Canton or 'God knows where'. I had not two hours to make up my mind as to whether I should go to Sydney or Hobart Town the day I left Auckland, but a letter from my nephew [2] (who had been a middy on board the Diductive (?) a 50 gun ship) who had left her in Tahiti had induced me to go to H Town and when I got there the young rascal (?) was off to the admiral to Ceylon on the East India station – curse all nephew s. Well old fellow how are you getting on and how do you and the Tangata Maoris, not a word about the wahines [3], agree. I was on the point of going down to Taranaki to see you and, flighty as I always am, here am I now in South Australia. You'll see me again I think in New Zealand and if I do not go myself I shall most undoubtedly, immediately I hear from home, send to Mr Donald or Doctor Davis (I am indebted to them both) a draft on the Australian Bank in Sydney, enough to pay every fraction I was obliged to leave unpaid in New Zealand. Tell no one of my intentions and many who now doubtless think me an unprincipled fellow, or in plain words a damned rogue will have cause to alter their opinions. I drew on home from H Town, through the branch of the Australasian Bank there, and as there is a branch xxxx I am here, my next letters will bring me the needful. Now for myself. I had no money when I landed and was glad to take anything. I am now on a sheep establishment forty pounds a year. Everything I want xxxx xxxx (xxxx) tobacco – an old horse with only three good legs and he will soon have one less, a good deal of knocking about, no women, xxxx or wine and 13000 head of sheep to look after. The men you are among are all free in this colony some of them I assure you very free indeed. Except a few emigrants they have mostly come from Sydney and Hobart Town. As they are answerable for their sheep they are more careful than the men in the other colonies but they are truly great scoundrels. We had a fearful passage from Auckland to H Town 31 days on eighteen days allowance was by no means agreeable but thank God that I have weathered that and worse. I need not tell you how happy I shall be to hear from you and that I shall expect a long letter. I saw when in Hobart Town some of old McLeod's former acquaintances. The story of his being £2000 short in managing the branch of the bank at Campbell town is true. I pity the poor old fellow, but by Jove when men do dishonest things they must suffer for it. You have every cause to feel thankful that you got out of the Mootonow partnership. Let me know if a fellow taking trade to Taranaki (blankets, prints etc) could do any good with it. Also if he could rent a small farm (say 30 acres) if it would pay. Don't fail to write, direct Adelaide, South Australia. I have a thousand things to tell you & questions to ask but the policemen waits & can wait no longer so must conclude by telling you I am and always shall remain your sincere friend
JH Townsend - Tho' this is dated from Adelaide it is written 100 miles up the country.

[1] McLean, Donald (Sir), 1820-1877. Administrator, runholder, politician and provincial superintendent. Crown Protector of Aborigines, Native Land Purchase Commissioner and Minister of Native Affairs. Appointed KCMG in 1874. Father of Sir Robert Donald Douglas McLean (1852-1929). (See DNZB 1990, Vol 1, 1769-1869, p255-258).

[2] *This is Richard Townsend [254] who would have been 16 at the time and who was the son of JHT's brother Jonas Morris Townsend [237] who emigrated to Australia in 1828.*

[3] *Maori woman.*

His Honour, The Superintendent, Hawke's Bay, Napier, New Zealand

Shorecliffe, Leap, Glandore
July 29th 1853

My Dear old Friend

Your letter of the 28th of last April was really very welcome and your high position coupled with your recollection of past scenes and kind remembrance of myself much enhanced its value. Your career has been prosperous, but not beyond your deserts, and long may you enjoy the results of that ability and attention which has characterised your life. I should have written long since if it were only to thank you for having an eye on

my nephews [1] and I now hope that for my sake anything that may give them a push up the ladder will on your part not be omitted. I believe they have had rough times of it and if you can mitigate their hardships my best acknowledgements and I am sure theirs also shall ever be ready and I thought until the receipt of your letter that the far south was the chief scene of your operations. I mean the country bordering on Taranaki. Hawke's Bay I thought was merely an agricultural district and not possessing any land fit for sheep or horned cattle. Indeed until within a very few years I thought the whole of the Northern Island was of the same character from Auckland to the Thames. I was never a mile further south than Coromandel Harbour. I was aware of the country being divided into provinces, and the latter having Superintendents which office I hold to be similar to that of sub governor (within certain districts) but the post that brought your letter also brought me the Hawke's Bay papers which show that, as you justly observe, the office of Superintendent is not to be despised. Your landed property astonished as much as pleased me, but you cannot use the language (or words rather) of Abraham to Lot for you appear to possess the whole land, and as I before said long may you enjoy it. When at the Great National Exhibition last summer in London I passed very many hours in the New Zealand department everyday, thinking it possible someone who had recently arrived from that country might be in attendance. On one occasion I was told a gentleman holding a high office from NZ was in a few minutes before. The description was exceedingly like yourself and you may rest assured I left my card & address with the man in charge and very sincerely hoped it might be you, and on going every day after to enquire, could hear no more of the NZ gentleman. Now looking over some of the productions of the country reminded me of past days and how I was astonished at the various displays. I am pleased you see a likeness in my nephew Richard to me or rather to what I was for old time has made a great change. I could not with conscience give a lock of my hair to a sweetheart, neither would I relish a piece of tough meat, however well I performed my part when it was taken from a xxxx Maori on the banks of the Thames in the days of auld langsyne. Otherwise I have occasion to put my maker & dentist into requisition. I fear this letter will find New Zealand in a disturbed state & the natives should I think be taught to feel the strength of England. The news of the murder of the officers and men of the 57th near Taranaki is very bad, and I trust if we are again compelled to draw the sword that we shant stop to parley, but convince them that their destruction will follow if they persevere. A little well timed severity will in most cases prove a mercy in the end. Great as has been the progress of the country it would be far beyond what it is if confidence could be restored or the laws enforced. In saying all this I am not ignorant of the many good qualities that the natives possess and none would regret more than I should if evil befell them, but their conduct is too bad. I see a few names in the Almanac of persons whose appearance I was familiar with in New Zealand. Auckland the harbour & the country round about I have as vividly before me this moment as if looking on it. I think that I could steer a boat from the Soldier's Point, past Brown's Island and down to xxxx or the Sand Spit Passage, if I were blindfolded. I often see the Auckland papers – Major Nixon an old brother officer of Major Herbert (my brother in law) frequently sends the news. Were I a few years younger it would not be very hard to tempt me out again, for increased expenses, some losses and deficient securities have worked a change in my finances, and a good position and low funds don't agree, but I shall not bore you with my troubles. I am delighted with the amount in the Hawke's Bay Herald of your prorogation of the Council, your dinner and speeches, so much to the purpose and indeed eloquent. I shall DV (*God willing*) write soon again. Except my nephews I suppose many I knew are gone, so I must confirm my regards to them and of all things if you should see any of my old friends "The Chiefs" tell them Honi Jontin (?) wishes them well. Believe me most faithfully & sincerely

John H Townsend - If Donald Walsh is alive and that you keep up any acquaintance with, I should be obliged by your letting him know I do hope and trust he and his family are well. Poor fellow his lot up to the time I last saw him was a hard one.

[1] *This is the first mention of nephews and one can only assume that Richard [254] had been joined by his brother Thomas [255].*

Shorecliffe, Leap, Glandore
November 1st 1863

My Dear McLean

I wrote so recently you will perhaps be taken by surprise at hearing from me so soon again, but this is a mere business letter, so in pity towards you shall not inlict you with a long epistle. I greatly fear from the newspaper

accounts that New Zealand is in a bad state. I always fought for the Maoris when hearing them condemned but in the present instance I apprehend they are the aggressors and must be made to feel the power as well as the blessings of British rule and as far as forbearance goes I think that they have had a very fair share. A young friend of mine, the son of my cousin [1], is anxious to emigrate and though very young is just the fellow suited for a settler's life, and most clever amongst horses and cattle. His habits are perfectly steady, but he is more of a practical than book learning youth. I showed his father Mr de Burgh your letter of 30th of last April, and he would be very glad to place him under your wise counsel for a year if you would take him. Of course he would do all and everything you required during his year of probation and at the end of that time he would be sent out some money to work on with, on his own account. The boy's taste lies in horses and cattle although his family on both sides are second to none in respectability I assure you he is as competent and would be as willing to do any of the duties attending bush life as any youth I know. It is for you just to say if you would wish to take the lad on the terms that I have said, and I make no doubt if you do, that the benefits will be reciprocal and that both parties will be pleased. I did not hear from my nephew Richard but I suppose the monotonous life he leads offers no subject to write on. Should you see him would you kindly let him know that the young person I have recommended to you in this letter is Maurice de Burgh, now a fine steady and active lad. It is very kind of you to notice my nephews for I know your position is a very high one and the more honourable as merit placed you in it. I got the papers which gave your closing and opening address to the Provincial Council and one of the Judges of this Country [2] to whom I showed them, assured me he never heard from the lips or read from the pen of any statesman a more able address. I also showed your letter and only it would have the semblance of a breach of faith would have it published. I think yet I shall do so. If I was certain of a small addition to my present income by going out I think I would leave my bones in New Zealand. May I hope you will write soon and remain as I always shall yours most truly.

JHT - de Burgh is able to break in and ride a horse with any man.

[1] *Maurice, the son of JHT's cousin Louisa Townsend [249] who married 1 May 1844, as his first wife, John Hamilton Hussy de Burgh (d. May 1887) of Drumkeen House and Kilfinnan Castle, near Glandore, Co Cork.*

2] *Another of JHT's cousins. Judge John FitzHenry Townsend [250], Judge of the High Court of The Admiralty in Ireland.*

Extract from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

SCHULL, a parish, their territories and those of the O'Donovans. The parish forms the eastern portion of a peninsula extending from Dunmanus Bay, on the north, to Roaring Water Bay on the south, and comprising 84,000 statute acres, of which in the Western Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 11 1/2 miles (W. S. W.) from Skibbereen, on the road to Crookhaven; containing, with several inhabited islands in Roaring Water bay, 15,252 inhabitants, of which number, 385 are in the village. It is exceedingly wild and uncultivated, and appears in the earlier periods of Irish history to have been regarded as of very great importance from its numerous defiles and strongholds amidst its rocks; and in later times, from the erection of several castles by the various native sects, which from their situation and great strength would appear to have been impregnable. The castles of **Dunbeacon** and Dunmanus, on Dunmanus bay, were built by the sect of O'Mahony; the former to protect the boundary and pass between 24,204 are applotted under the tithe act, and valued at £7898 per annum. The surface is rocky and very uneven, rising in some parts into mountains of considerable elevation; the highest in a chain extending from east to west is Mount Gabriel, 1145 feet above the level of the sea; the whole are of the schistose formation, in some places passing into all the varieties of transition rock. About one-third of the land, consisting principally of small patches between the rocks, is under tillage; but the system of agriculture is in a very backward state, and spade husbandry is in general practice. There are some tracts of mountain which afford tolerable pasturage to numerous herds of young cattle; but the greater portion presents only a bare rocky surface, and appears to be wholly irreclaimable. There are also considerable tracts of bog, producing a good supply of peat, part of which might be reclaimed at a moderate expense. The principal seats are Ardmanah House, the residence of Major J. Wynne; Lemcon House, of R. E. Hull, Esq.; Rock Cottage, of J. O'Callaghan, Esq.; Gortnagruach, of R. Swanton, Esq.; Audley Lodge, of Capt. Forster, R. N.; Greenmount, of Capt. Long; Ballydehob Cottage, of the Rev. J. Barry, P. P.; and Ardirivema, of the Rev. L. O'Sullivan. The islands within the limits of the parish are Long island, Goat island, Castle island, Horse island, Dunmanus, Ballydehob, Carbery island, the Three Calves, and the islands of Carty and Moan. The largest of these is Long island, but the most valuable is Horse island, abounding with copper ore of good

quality, which is found also in other parts of the parish. Some very extensive mines have been opened on the summit of Cappach hill by the proprietor, Lord Audley; they were subsequently worked by the Irish Mining company, but are now rented by the West Cork Mining company, who have for a time suspended their operations here while they are working the mines in Horse island, about a mile and a half distant; the ore found at Cappach and Horse island is very pure. The same company, in 1835, opened very extensive slate quarries at Audley's Cove and at Tilemuck, in this parish, in which 500 men are constantly employed; the slate is of excellent quality, compact, hard, and durable; and great quantities have been already sent to London and other English markets, where it is in great demand.

Letter about the death of Richard from Francis Fitzmaurice

FRANCIS FITZMAURICE.
SOLICITOR
AND LAND AGENT.
TELEGRAMS—
"FITZMAURICE, DUNMANWAY."

DUNMANWAY, Co. CORK,
26th. January 1912.

Richard S. Townshend Esq.,
Barraba House,
Barraba,
New South Wales.

Dear Sir,

It is with very great regret I have to inform you that your Father,(and my dear friend,) Richard Townshend, died at Friendly Cove yesterday about 1 o'clock. He was confined to his bed for nearly three weeks before his death, suffering from Rupture, and passed peacefully away yesterday.
On the 10th. inst. I received a wire from him "Come at once; dangerously ill" and I went down (with my Clerk) to Friendly Cove, and on his instructions I drew a Codicil to his Will. I enclose two copies of the Will and Codicil. You will see that I am appointed sole Executor. Kindly send one copy to your Sister; I do not know her address.

His remains are to be interred in the Churchyard at Durrus tomorrow at 1 o'clock. Of course I will attend the funeral. I was at Bantry attending Sessions yesterday, and returned here at 4 o'clock, and found a wire awaiting me that your Father was dead and to go down to Durrus at once, which I did last night, arriving there about 8 o'clock. I took up his Bank Book, Cheque Book, and some papers, and brought them with me. I returned to Bantry late last night, and this morning I called at the Provincial Bank (where he kept his account), and found that he had a sum to his credit there of £416 : 1 : 3. I have been acting as his Agent for some years, and the Rental of Dunbeacon is £137 : 5 : 6, out of which a Quit Rent of £5 : 10 : 5. is payable.

I assume you are aware that he sold Dunbeacon Cottage and about 94 acres of land to Mr. Verity Evans and his Wife on the 1st. December 1910 for £950.

I could find no cash in the house except 2/- or 3/-. He had portion of the lands of Dunbeacon in his own possession. I do not know the area. This is at present in the possession of Kate Leary, Widow, and Jeremiah Leary, Dairyman, under a Dairy Contract dated 29th. December 1911. This Agreement wont expire until the 30th. day of December 1912. I have ascertained that there are 10 cows on the Dairy farm. The Dairy rent is £5 : 10 : 0. for the produce of each in calf Dairy cow, and £3. for the milk of each Stripper cow. There is also some furniture in the house, but this is of very little value, and I fear not worth while selling by Public Auction.

Up to this, the above is all the property I can trace belonging to your Father. I shall make further enquiries tomorrow after the funeral.

When I get full particulars, of course I shall have to take out Probate.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Richard's Will and Codicil

THIS is the last Will and Testament of me RICHARD TOWNSHEND of Dunbeacon, Durrus, in the County of Cork, Esquire, Justice of the Peace. I leave to my servant Patrick McCarthy of Dunbeacon and his Wife Mary McCarthy the sum of Twenty pounds each free of duty and costs. I leave to said Patrick McCarthy my growing crop of potatoes, my two boats, gear, and all nets fishing tackle and every thing pertaining to the said boats. I also leave him the turf I have cut and whatever store of provisions that may be in my house and premises such as meat sugar tea flour &c. All the rest residue and remainder of my property real and personal that I may be possessed of or entitled to at my decease I leave devise and bequeath to my Son Richard Savage Townshend and my Daughter Mary Somerville Townshend both of Barraba House Barraba New South Wales absolutely share and share alike as tenants in common. I appoint Francis Fitzmaurice of Dunmanway in the County of Cork Solicitor sole Executor of this my Will and I wish him to be paid all his professional charges and also that he be paid his professional charges for managing the property I have hereinbefore disposed of IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunder set my hand this Fifteenth day of August One thousand nine hundred and three —— Richard Townshend. ————

SIGNED by the said Testator Richard Townshend as and for his last Will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time, who at his request, in his sight and presence, and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as attesting witnesses. ————

Michael Hurley, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, Law Clerk. ————

John Sweeney, Dunbeacon, Labourer. ————

Born 6th April 1829

THIS is a Codicil to the Will of me RICHARD TOWNSHEND, formerly of Dunbeacon, Durrus, now of Friendly Cove, Durrus, in the County of Cork, Esquire. I devise and bequeath to Mary McCarthy, my faithful servant for many years (Wife of Patrick McCarthy of Friendly Cove) + the field known as "The Boatman's Field" and old house thereon, being part of the lands of Dunbeacon in the County of Cork, and situate at the North side of the public road containing about One and a half acres English Statute Measure more or less, and another field part of the said lands of Dunbeacon, situate on the South side of the public road adjoining the Coastguard Station, containing about One and a half acres, English Statute Measure, more or less, for a term of Thirty one years subject to the yearly rent of Two pounds payable half yearly on every First day of May and First day of November. I also leave the said Mary McCarthy the cow I am milking at present. I leave the large Family Bible and the Family Pictures to Captain R. A. H. Townshend of Beach, Bantry, In the event of Metal frames being put into the Protestant Church of the Parish of Durrus within twelve months from the date of this Codicil I leave Five pounds towards the cost of doing this work. In all other respects I confirm my said Will.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunder set my hand this Tenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and twelve.—Richard Townshend.——

SIGNED by the said Testator Richard Townshend as and for a Cidicil to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us, present at the same time, who at his request in his sight and presence, and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as attesting witnesses.

John Heffernan, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, Law Clerk. ————————

Kate McCarthy, Friendly Cove, Spinster. ——