Helena Herbert Townsend [619]



Views of Kinsale





Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

KINSALE, or KINGSALE, a sea-port, borough, and market-town, in the barony of KINSALE, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 14 miles (S.) from Cork, and 140 (S. W.) from Dublin; containing 7823 inhabitants, of which number, 6897 are in the town. The town is pleasantly and advantageously situated near the mouth of the river Bandon, which here forms a capacious and secure harbour. The streets rise in a singular and irregular manner on the acclivity of an eminence called Compass Hill, the houses ranging tier above tier, most of them on sites excavated in the solid rock, or placed on the level of some projecting crag; the descent is dangerously steep, and they are inaccessible to carriages except from the summit of the hill, or from the main street, which takes an irregular course along the shore of the harbour. The total number of houses, of which many are well built and of handsome appearance, including the village of Scilly, was, in 1831, 1266. The town is indifferently paved, but amply supplied with good water from numerous springs. It is much frequented during the season for sea-bathing, and several villas and handsome cottages have been built in the village of Scilly and in the Cove, for the accommodation of visitors. The environs embrace some fine views of the sea, the harbour, and the estuaries which indent the adjacent country; the banks of the river are embellished with thriving plantations and with several gentlemen's seats; and around the summit of Compass Hill is a pleasant walk, commanding a splendid view of the harbour and the windings of the Bandon. On the east of the town is Charles Fort*, commanded by a governor and fort-major, and containing barracks for 16 officers and 332 non-commissioned officers and privates. The trade of the port, from its proximity to that of Cork, is but inconsiderable in proportion to its local advantages; it consists chiefly in the export of agricultural produce, and the import of timber from British America, and coal, iron, and salt from England and Wales. The staple trade is the fishery, in which 87 small vessels or large boats, called hookers, of the aggregate burden of 1300 tons, are constantly employed, exclusively of several smaller boats. Sprats and herrings are taken in seines within the harbour and bay, as far as the Old Head; haddock, mackerel, turbot, gurnet, cod, ling, hake, and larger fish in the open sea; and salmon in almost every part of the river. The value of the fishery is estimated, on an average, at £30,000 per ann.; the Kinsale fishermen have long been noted for the goodness of their boats and their excellent seamanship: their services in supplying the markets of Cork and other neighbouring towns, and their skill as pilots, procured for them exemption from impressment during the last war. The harbour consists of the circling reach of the river and a broad inlet which separates the town from the village of Scilly; and though much less extensive than that of Cork, is deep, secure, and compact, being completely land-locked by lofty hills. It is defended by Charles Fort, nearly abreast of which is a bar having only 12 feet of water at low spring tides.

In the town is a large ale-brewery and malting establishment; and in the neighbourhood are several large flour-mills. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday; and fairs are held on May 4th, Sept. 4th, and Nov, 21st, for horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, farming utensils, friezes, coarse flannels, and other articles. Two mails from Cork and one from Bandon pass daily through Kinsale. A chief constabulary police force is stationed in the town.

The charter of incorporation granted by Edw III was confirmed and extended by subsequent sovereigns to the time of Elizabeth, who by patent dated May 10th, in the 31st year of her reign, confirmed all former privileges and possessions. The corporation at present consists of a sovereign and an indefinite number of burgesses and freemen, assisted by a common-speaker, recorder, town-clerk (who is also clerk of the crown and peace), chamberlain, two serjeants-at-mace, a water-bailiff, and other officers. The sovereign and all other officers of the corporation are elected by the court of D'Oyer Hundred, consisting of the members of the corporation generally; and the burgesses and freemen are chosen solely by the council, which consists of the sovereign, common-speaker, and burgesses. The Sovereign, who is a justice of the peace for the borough and for the county, and also coroner for the borough, is chosen annually on the 29th of June and sworn into office on the 29th of September; and the other officers, as vacancies occur, on the first Monday after Michaelmas-day. The borough comprises the whole of the parish of Kinsale or St. Multose, and a small portion of the parish of Rincurran. The former contains only 234 acres, principally in demesnes; the scenery is highly interesting and strikingly diversified. The chief seats are Garretstown, that of T. Cuthbert Kearney, Esq.; Ballymartle, of W. Meade**, Esq.; Ballintober, of the Rev. J. Meade***; Rathmore, of J. T. Cramer, Esq.; Knockduffe, of Lieut.-Gen. Sir T. Browne, G.C.B.; Snugmore, of C. Newenham, Esq.; Heathfield, of H. Bastable, Esq.; Fort Arthur, of W. Galway, Esq.; Nohoval glebe-house, of the Rev. W. R. Townsend *(Rev William Robinson Townsend [6B02])*; Knockrobbin, of Capt. Bolton; Pallastown, of S. Townsend *(Samuel Philip Townsend [6A03])* Esq., and the glebe-house, of the Rev. J. T. Browne. The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Cork, and in the patronage of the Bishop; the rectory is impropriate in T. C. Kearney, Esq. The tithes amount to £33. 2. 6., half payable to the impropriator, and half to the vicar, whose income is augmented by an assessment for minister's money, at present amounting to £87. The glebe-house, which is near the church, was built by a gift of £400 and a loan of £360 from the late Board of First Fruits, in 1812. The glebe, situated on the western side of the town, comprises 3 acres. * *See John Sealy Townsend [507].*

** *Meade connections with Helena Townsend [209] and Susannah Townsend [604].*

*** *Meade connections with Grace Townsend [142], Henry Townsend [5A12] and Horatio Townsend [5D00].*

TRACTON, a parish, in the barony of KINNALEA, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 4 miles (S.) from Carrigaline, on the road to Roberts-Cove, and on that from Ringabella to Kinsale; containing 2838 inhabitants. The parish comprises 2558 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act. The land is very good, and is chiefly in dairy farms; about one-fourth is arable, producing mostly wheat and potatoes: the manure used is principally sea-sand, which is brought to Menane bridge, or Ringabella creek, in boats manned with three men each; where also sea-coal, the fuel mostly used, is landed. Near Tracton is a small bog. At Ahnacarriga, the property of the Earl of Shannon, are valuable lead mines, worked some years since but now discontinued. At Ringabella are very extensive works, conducted by an English company of miners, and employing upwards of 400 persons; the ore raised is very good. Not far from the church are rocks of excellent slate, but the quarries are very indifferently worked. The river is navigable for hookers up to Menane bridge, about three miles from the bay; it is very intricate on account of the serpentine course it takes, but not dangerous. A canal has been contemplated, to commence at the bridge and to continue through the valley to Belgooley, about ten miles, which would be very beneficial, as great quantities of manure are obliged now to be carried overland. The gentlemen's seats are Ringabella, the residence of S. A. Austin, Esq.; Gurtnagrenane, of L. Shea, Esq.; **Broomley, of G. Daunt*, Esq**.; and Fountainstown, of F. Hodder, Esq. The living is an impropriate cure, in the diocese of Cork, united to those of Kilmony, Kilpatrick, Ballyfoyle, Kinnure and Clontead, and in the patronage of the Earl of Shannon, in whom the rectory is impropriate: the tithes amount to £403. 10., wholly payable to the impropriator. The income of the perpetual curate arises from £25 from the Earl of Shannon, and £50 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The glebe-house was erected by aid of a gift of £450 and a loan of £50, in 1814, from the late Board of First Fruits; the glebe comprises 24 acres: both the house and land have been given up to the original proprietor from whom the Board purchased the land, although £650 had been expended in building and £500 as a fine, so as to reduce the rent of the land. The church, surrounded by a grove of trees at the bottom of a deep valley, forms a pleasingly picturesque object; it is a plain building, with a small tower and low spire,

erected upon the site of the ancient abbey, by aid of a loan of £1000, in 1817, from the same Board. About 200 children are educated in the parochial and two other schools. Inconsiderable remains of the old abbey may be traced; and numerous sculptured stones, scattered around the neighbourhood, afford some idea of the magnificent character of the structure. Tracton gave the title of Baron to James Dennis, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, in 1781, which title is extinct; a splendid monument of white marble has been erected to his memory in the cathedral at Cork. A chalybeate spring exists here, but is not now used.

Helena Townsend [619] married George Digby Daunt about 1810. George's Daunt's paternal great grandmother was Penelope Townsend [119]

Letter from Elizabeth Trelawney Townsend [410] about the death of Helena

Weston Lane
Bath

Nov'r. 14. 1846.

My dear Friend,

Your last fully prepared me for the event which Edward's few lines have since conveyed to me. While I mourn for the loss of one whom I have so long regarded with true affection, & who really loved me, I praise my God for his mercies in relieving the anguish of her body, & still more in giving rest & peace to her soul thro' the precious all sufficient atonement of our blessed Lord & Saviour. Oh! my dear David, how truly does his blood remove the bitterness of death, & even has power to tinge with joy that awful hour. I am thankful that you have been sustained & that while you deeply feel the blank which during so many years was filled by a faithful Partner, you can say "tho' flesh & heart fail, God is the strength of my heart & my portion for ever". May the Holy Ghost the Comforter vouchsafe to dwell with you, & greatly sanctify to you & all your house this afflicting bereavement. It is to me a lesson full of affecting teaching. Little did I calculate on surviving dear Helena. She, not only my junior by many years, but so full of vigour & energy that the idea of her frame breaking down before my feeble one, never passed across my mind. But we are poor calculators - "Our thoughts are not as God's thoughts" - May this conviction give us a more simple dependence on Him who condescends to bear with our foolishness, & to offer to all who ask for it, the guidance of his heavenly wisdom. I hope you will kindly let me hear from you very soon. I feel assured that the friendship of 30 y'rs between us will not slacken now. Affect'ly shall I ever be interested in whatever concerns you & y'rs. May the Lord bless & keep you & them. Aubrey desires his kind sympathy & affect'e regards - & I am ever dearest David, **E.T.Townsend.**

My especial love to dear Alicia, who will I doubt not, be a great comfort to you