Katherine Jane Townsend [638]



Transcript of a letter from Katherine's father Edward Hume Townsend [626] to John Townsend [622] concerning the death of Katherine's son Edward

[in small black edged envelope to "Capt. Townsend, Weston Lodge, Clonakilty." *]*
[black edged, embossed heading.]

July 30th 1875. Cuilnaconartha, Clonakilty,

My dear John,

A letter of your's dated Dec'r 20. has been in my letter case since that month, the cause of which was, that in a very few days after the receipt of your letter, I heard of the sudden death by a fall, of my little Grandson - Edward Gahan: this intelligence carried me off to Donegal, to see our dear Katherine *([638])* & to comfort her for this sad loss of her eldest child. The journey & its concomitants, drove current events out of my head, - and I am only now beginning to remember sundry letters rec'd at that time - yours among the rest. ……We have nice pleasant weather here, and thus far have not suffered from storms or floods, of which we hear so much from France, England & America: our hay is all brought in, and we are now busy weeding the green crops. Ireland is very quiet, at present, and all that we want from England now, is permission to shut our public houses, on Sunday. … I hope that when you next visit our little island, we shall have room to receive you & yours: believe me dear John - very affectionately your's - **E.H.Townsend.** -

Marabeg, Donegal ca1891



Left to right

Walter Henry, Horace Stirling, Beresford Horatio, Susannah Isabella, Fredrick George and his wife Winifred Waters, Fredrick and Katherine (with dog), Reginald Hume

REV. H. S. T. GAHAN

The Rev. Horace Stirling Townsend Gahan, who has died in hospital at the age of 88, was chaplain (Colonial and Continental Church Society) of Christ Church, Brussels, from 1914 to 1922, and it was he who told the world in an historic memorandum of Edith Cavell's last hours.

He was admitted on the evening of Monday, October 11, 1915, by special passport to the prison of St. Gilles, where Edith Cavell was confined. He described how "perfectly calm and resigned" she was. She told him she had no fear nor shrinking. "I have seen death so often," she said, "that it is not strange or fearful to me," and later, "They have all been very kind to me here. But this I would say, standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

Later Gahan administered the Sacrament and at the close of the service began to repeat the words "Abide with me," in which Edith Cavell joined.

He said good-bye and she smiled and said, "We shall meet again." She was shot the following day.

After leaving Brussels in 1922 Gahan was appointed rector of Brooksby and vicar of Thrussington, Leicestershire, and there remained until his death.

Obituary of her son Horace Stirling Townsend Gahan