

Louisa Jane Townsend [249]



Transcription of a letter from John Henry Townsend [238] to Donald McLean concerning Louisa's son Maurice

Shorecliffe
Leap, Glandore
November 1st 1863

My Dear McLean ^[1]

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 inflict 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 ^[2], 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 ^[3] 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 ^[4] 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] *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] *Maurice*

[3] *Maurice's cousin Richard Townsend [254]*

[4] *Judge John FitzHenry Townsend [250], Judge of the High Court of The Admiralty in Ireland.*

Extract from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

GLANDORE, a small but rising village, in the parish of KILFAUGHNABEG, Western Division of the barony of EAST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 3 miles (S. W.) from Rosscarbery; containing about 200 inhabitants. This seems to have been a place of some importance at an early period, as appears from the erection of the castles of Glandore and Kilfinnan; for many years it continued in a very impoverished state, but it has again become a place of considerable note through the spirited exertions of its present proprietor, J. Redmond Barry, Esq., who has within the last few years expended upwards of £10,000 in various improvements. It is situated on the eastern side of Glandore harbour, which affords secure anchorage to vessels of large size; and is navigable to Leap, a village on the Cork and Skibbereen mail road. The scenery at the entrance of the harbour is extremely picturesque, and is remarkable as having formed the subject, of a Latin poem, called "Carberiae Rupes," written by Dean Swift, who spent some time in the neighbourhood. A pier has been recently constructed near the village, which affords protection to about 20 fishing yawls of three tons each; fish of every kind is abundant in the bay. Many elegant houses and a comfortable hotel have been erected, and from the beauty of its situation and the salubrity of the climate, the village has become a favourite place of residence, and much frequented during the bathing season; baths have been erected and every accommodation afforded for the convenience of visitors. The principal residences are Glandore Castle, the seat of P. Morris, Esq.; Glandore House, of J. Redmond Barry, Esq.; Glandore Cottage, of **JFH. Townsend*** (*Judge John FitzHenry Townsend [250]*) Esq.; Glandore Lodge, of R. Adams, Esq.; Stone Hall, of Major T. Allen; Westview House, of Major Edw. Allen; Chateau Maria, of F. Allen, Esq.; **Kilfinnan Castle****, of T. Raneland, Esq.; Prospect House, of John Morris, Esq.; Glenville, of Capt. E. Hart; Union Cottage, of Mrs. Donovan; and Cliff Cottage, of the Rev. Mr. Walker. A school-house capable of containing 600 children has been lately erected by Mr. Barry, with the aid of the National Board of Education; the boys receive instruction in agriculture and trades from competent teachers, and a model farm and carpenters' workshop are connected with it. The management of the girls' school reflects the highest credit on Miss Adams, the acting patroness, who most benevolently devotes her time to its superintendence: an infants' school has also been established.

* *First cousin to Jane.*

** *Bought by the de Burgh family sometime between 1837 and 1844.*