

Reverend Horace Thomas Townsend [334]



Trinity College, Dublin



## Abbeystrewry Church



Abbeystrewry is said to have got its name from a Cistercian abbey, the ruins of which are situated on the river Ilen on the road to Ballydehob. A new site was found in the town and a new church was given a license for divine service on 11th April 1827.

The present church was opened by Canon Goodman on 18th December 1890 after extensive renovations at a cost of £3,000 of which he contributed £700 himself.

### Extract from Brady's Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Volume II 1863

**1850. August 2. HORACE THOMAS TOWNSEND, A.B.,** was admitted to the V. Abbeystrewry, vacant by death of R. B. Townsend, and certified to be of the annual value of £37 1s. 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d., and on the presentation of John Sealy Townsend, esq., dated 6th July, 1850. [D.R.]

1860. H. Townsend, Incumbent. The church, glebe-house, and offices, &c., in good order. 16 acres of glebe, let to a tenant. Divine service twice on all Sundays, once on the usual festivals, and on all Thursday mornings. Sacrament monthly and at Christmas; average of communicants, 58. The children are catechised on Sundays and one other day in the week by the clergyman. There are two Church Education schools, on the rolls of which are about 60 children. The Protestant population is 329. The tithes of the rectory are impropriate, and amount to £565 10s. The value of the vicarage is £18 tithe, £37 land, and £73 augmentation; total, £128.

H. T. Townsend (third surviving son of John Townsend, Recorder of Clonakilty, and brother of his predecessor), was ordained in 1840. He married on 16th April, 1845, Agnes, dau. of Richard N. Somerville, esq., of Baltimore, county Cork.

	<b>Curates</b>
Date	Name
1634	Hugo Scampe (Vicar Aghadown, 1635-1653)
1653-1666	Commonwealth and Protectorate Period
1669	John Godfery
1671	Zachary Braly
1688	Samuel Moreton
1692	Benjamin Bousfield
1709	Richard Baldwin
1745	Francis Dutham
1766	John Corkee
1771	Horatio Townsend
	<b>Curates Since the Diestablishment in Diocese Ross</b>
1883	William O'Neill
1887	Edmond Beatty
1892	Charles Tottenham
1898	William R. Cole
1900	Edward James
1911	Robert W.H Hadden
1914	Harold Hadden
	<b>No curates after H. Hadden until 1949</b>
1949	Phineas Bury
1950	Edward Rainsbury
1953	Leonard Buckley-Jones
1959	David Clarke
	<b>Vicars Rectory Improprate</b>
1781	William Robinson
1819	Richard Boyle Townsend
1850	<b>Horace Thomas Townsend</b>
	<b>Rectors</b>
1857	James Goodman
1896	Horace Webb Townsend
1915	Edwin Sikes
1951	Vivian William Darling
1963	Oliver Arther Pa

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## KILCOE AND CLEAR.

[The ruins of the ancient parish church of Kilcoe are situated on the very shore of the sea, close to the ruins of Kilcoe Castle, on Roaringwater Bay, which the Irish call "Lough Trasnagh, i. e., "lake lying crossways." Hence, I conjecture that name may be derived from "go," which in Irish is a word for "the sea," and in ancient MSS. was written "Co," from which, perhaps, "Kilcoe" may mean "the Sea Church"?

Cape Clear Island was called in old ecclesiastical records "Insula Sanctæ Claræ," and by the Irish, "Innish Damhy" (Dawhy).]

It was a parish in itself—a Vicarage—united to the Vicarage of Kilcoe.

There are 25 acres of glebe land on the island, on which are the ruins of the ancient church. A small church was built in 1849 by Revd. E. Spring, who was the first resident Curate of Clear.

1852. August 18. EDWARD SPRING, A.B., was admitted to the Vicarage of Kilcoe and Cleere (Brady).

Spring became V. Aghadown in 1864.

1864. JAMES PERCIVAL MYLES, V. Kilcoe and Clear, vice Spring.

Myles became V. Fanlobbus, Cork, in 1867.

1867. HORACE THOMAS TOWNSEND, V. Kilcoe and Clear, vice Myles.

Horace Thomas Townsend was third son of John Townsend, Recorder of Clonakilty, and Sovereign of that

town, by Eleanor, dau. of Richard Townsend, M.D., of Dublin. He grad. B.A., T.C.D., in 1839; and was ordained in 1840. He was Curate of Hilltown, dio. Dro-more; Curate of Annalong, Co. Down. This was under the patronage of Lord Newry, and was called "the exempt jurisdiction of Mourne." He left Annalong about 1843 or 1844, and was appointed to the curacy of Seagoe, Co. Armagh, where he remained till January, 1846, when he became Curate of Kilbarron, Co. Donegal, where he remained till the autumn of 1846, when he became Curate of Drumholme, dio. Raphoe. He became P. C. of Rossnowlagh, in that diocese, in 1847, until, in June, 1850, he was appointed to the Vicarage of Abbeystrewry, Ross, on the death of his brother, the Revd. Richard Boyle Townsend, and continued there till 1867, when he became Vicar of Kilcoe and Clear, which post he held till 1891, when he resigned and retired, owing to failing health; and the parish of Kilcoe was then joined to Aghadown, and that of Clear Island to Tullagh (q. v.).

Revd. H. T. Townsend married, on 16th April, 1845, Agnes, dau. of Richard N. Somerville, of Baltimore, Co. Cork, by whom he left two sons—(1) Horace Thomas Edward, in holy orders, is chaplain to the Islington Infirmary, London; and (2) Bryan Charles, M.D., now at Ilford, Essex; and four daughters—(1d.) Letitia; (2d.) Eleanor, m. to Thomas Murphy, then of Deal—she died in 1894, leaving issue; (3d.) Agnes; and (4d.) Helen, m. to Joseph Lodge, who resides at Eastbourne, and has issue.

Revd. H. T. Townsend died on the 12th of February, 1892, in his 85th year. His widow now resides at Kilcoe Rectory.

Horace Thomas<sup>33\*</sup> son of John Townsend  
 (Meriden) & Eleanor Townsend was the younger  
 of the family - his mother died when he  
 was very young - this, or some cause led to  
 his education being greatly neglected by his  
 father. He never was sent to any good school  
 only for a short time to a very inferior one - after  
 repeated entreaties to have something done  
 for him Horace's father promised to bind  
 him to the late Dr. Edward Townsend of  
 Cork & he was to have been sent to India  
 after Dr. E. T. but the loss of <sup>the</sup> West  
 India man caused Dr. T. to return to  
 Cork & never to go to India & the idea  
 of binding Horace to him fell through.

He was allowed to grow up in idleness,  
 until at length when he came to the  
 age when he should have been ready for  
 ordination he implor'd his father to let him  
 study for the Church & so through Trinity College.  
 His father consented, on condition

that Horace should be no expense  
to him except the bare going through  
T.C.D. Horace set to work un-  
-aided - borrowed books from any  
one kind enough to lend - actually  
prepared himself - without any help  
but a Science Master for about two  
months, who gave him a couple of  
hours in the evening (He was the father  
of the late Father Davis) - Horace went  
through Trinity, never was cautioned;  
once was taken in for honours - at  
his Divinity final examination he  
failed for the first time - through sheer  
nervousness - then he stayed at his  
brother John's for a few weeks & read

with the Reverend Cadwallader  
Wolsley - He then passed most  
creditably and succeeded just as  
well at the examination for Deacon  
and Priests Orders - the first in Lincoln  
in 1840 - when he was 33 years old  
& the last at Hollywood - Belfast.  
When Bishop Mant said he was  
the best answerer present - & asked  
if he were related to Mr. Chamber  
Townshend of Derry - Grace was  
curate in various parts of Ulster  
in Down - Anagh - & Donegal  
until June 1850 - when he was  
appointed to the Vicarage of  
Abbey Shrewsbury - Kesh - vacant



by the death of his brother Richard  
Boyle Townsend there he  
remained until 1867. When he  
was appointed by the late Bishop  
Gregg to the Parish of Kileo  
where he died in February 1892

### Agnes Townsend's Diary

#### Introduction

## AGNES TOWNSEND'S NOTEBOOK

contributed by her grand-daughter, Mrs Crookshank

On 16th April 1845 Agnes, second daughter of Richard Neville Somerville of Ballymore, Co. Cork (by his wife Letitia, daughter of Thomas Hungerford of the Island) married the Rev. Horatio Thomas Townsend, third son of John Townsend, Recorder of Clonakilty. The Rev. Horatio Thomas (1808-1892) was then curate of Rossnowlaugh, Co. Donegal; from 1850 to 1867 he was Vicar of Abbeystrewry, Co. Cork, and from 1867 to 1891 Vicar of Kileo and Clear. He and his wife had thirteen children, of whom six survived: Letitia Mary, Horace Thomas Edward, Bryan Charles, Eleanor Anne, Agnes Henrietta Alicia Judith Anna Maria Somerville, and Helena Mary.

For many years Mrs Townsend kept a small notebook (7½" x 4¾") recording the births, deaths and marriages that took place amongst her friends and relations. She began the good work in 1842, three years before her own wedding (which she entered as laconically as that of a relative), but there is a gap between 1852 and 1868. From the latter date she continued her labours unbroken up to within a few days of her own death in 1904. Her sphere of interest took in much of West Cork and her genealogical information is remarkably reliable: many of the details she supplies are difficult to obtain: some may even be unobtainable.

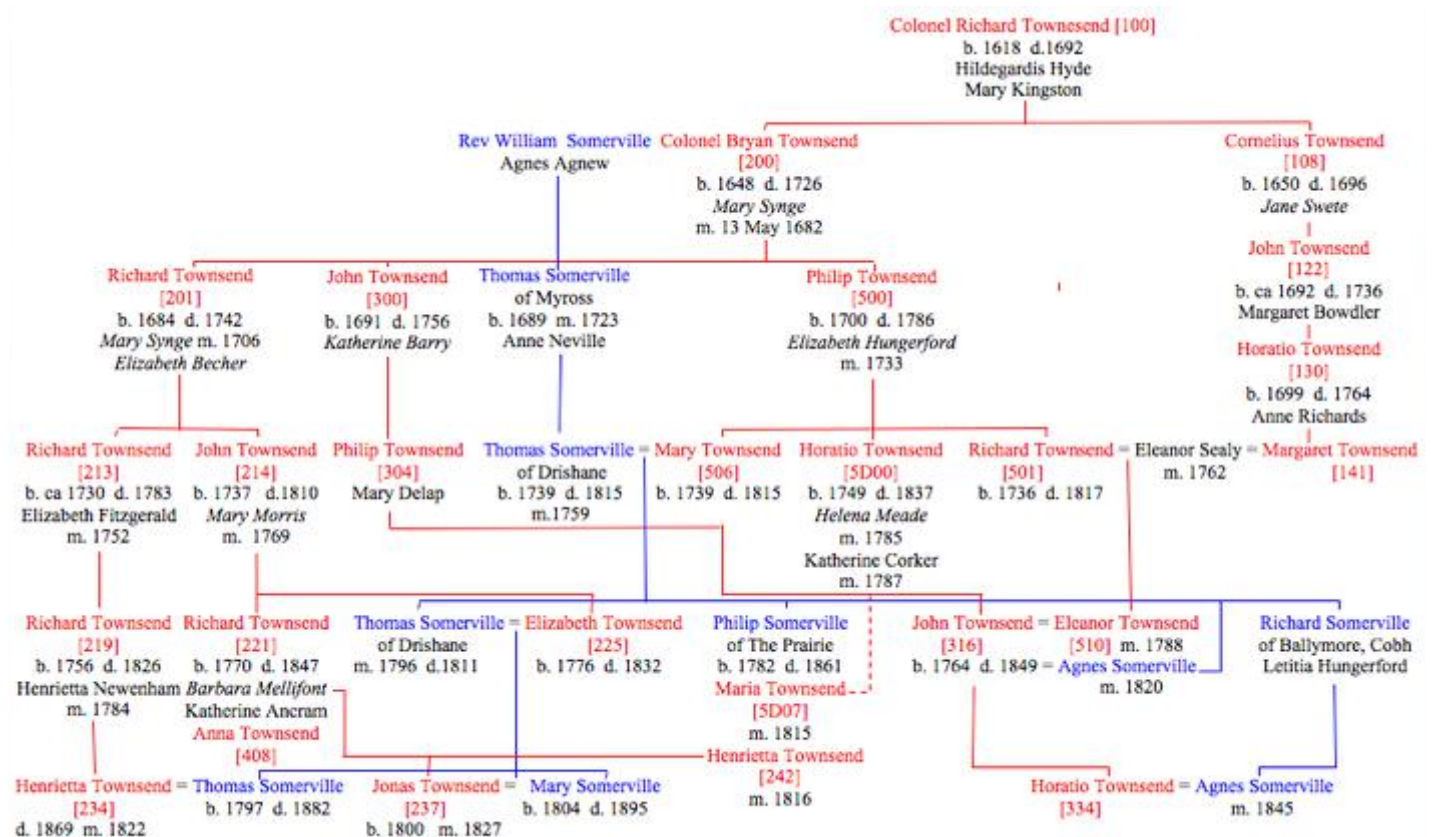
When used to represent a surname the initial H means Hungerford, T means Townsend and S means Somerville.

## Typical Entries

A25 2 Mr Waldo's son married to Miss Baggeley  
 4 Sam H Townsend Queenstown died  
 14 George Sweetnam's third daughter born  
 Easter day 28 Doctor Robinson died  
A39 April 13 Rev J T Jones married to Annie Townshend  
 29 Rev E Spring died  
 June 8 Miss Jessie Despard married to Mr John Stevenson—Liverpool  
 17 Widow Marmion died—79 years old  
 27 Mrs F Samuels had a second son  
256 June 11th Lizzie McMasters (Townsend) died in Australia—6 weeks after being married  
 Aug 7th Mr Fisher died in Dublin  
 May 7 Mrs Ed M D Spring had a son in Australia  
 Sept 18 Charlie Spring had a son at Raleighs house Macroom  
 Sept 23 Robert Hadden married to Miss Webb  
 Sept Doctor Fitzgibbon Rosscarbery died  
 Oct 7th Mr E J O B Croker married to Miss H Odium  
363 Nov 15 Lionel Becher Somerville Townshend born  
 was absent in England for months  
 1881 about March Mrs Sargint died

Jany 28 John Henry Townshend died 236  
 31st Katie Parker (W D E P's) Married Mr R N Parker  
 about Jany or Feby Margt O Grady had a son  
 Feby 9th Jemima Taylor married Dr S G Levis  
 Feb Tom Limrick died  
 May '6 Lord F Cavendish & Mr Burke murdered—Mrs Marmion died  
 9 Mr De B. married to Mina H  
 19 Tom Somerville Drishane died  
 20 Poor Bessy Beamish was Killed  
 June Major Robinson died  
 Mr Bence Jones died  
 Abraham Hayes died  
 Aug 8 Tom Warren married to Miss Cole  
 Sept 2 R. H. H. Becher died  
 Oct 12 Mrs Carson (E Fisher) died she had a son a few days before  
 Oct 29 Horace's daughter Agnes Mary 366  
 Helen born  
 Mr Sweetnam died  
 Nov 1 Sam Connell died  
 4 Poor Mrs Sweet died  
 16 Mr Carew O Grady Married to Miss Mary Florence Hingston  
 Jemima (Taylor) Levis had a son  
 20 Mrs George Sweetnam had Pattv her

### Townsend – Somerville Connections



Medal struck to commemorate the loss of the East Indiaman 'Kent'  
1<sup>st</sup> March 1825



Obverse: Starboard broadside view of the brig 'Cambria' (right) hove-to and starboard-quarter view of the three-masted East Indiaman 'Kent' on fire (left), two boats plying between the two vessels. Exergue: '1 . MARCH, 1825'.  
Reverse: Legend, 'FROM FALMOUTH, TRURO, HELSTON, PENRYN AND ST IVES'. Inscription: 'TO COMMEMORATE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE KENT EAST INDIAMAN BY FIRE, IN THE BAY OF BISCAY; AND THE RECEPTION ON BOARD THE BRIG CAMBRIA, WILLIAM COOK, MASTER, OF 547 PERSONS, THUS PROVIDENTIALY DELIVERED FROM DEATH.' Inscription (on edge): 'JOHN MACKENNY'. 50 or 60 of these medals were struck in silver for issue to specific individuals and an unknown number in copper and white metal were sold as souvenirs.

### Thomas' Headstone in Kilcoe Graveyard



Sacred to the Memory of  
The Reverend  
Horace Thomas Townsend  
for 25 years rector  
of this parish  
died on 12th Feb 1892  
in his 85 year

### Agnes' Headstone in Kilcoe Graveyard



In Loving Memory of  
Agnes  
wife of  
Rev. Horace Thos Townsend  
who died Jan 9 1904

**ABBEYSTREWRY**, a parish, in the Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER; containing, with part of the market and post-town of Skibbereen, 5570 inhabitants. This parish is situated near the southern coast, on the road from Cork to Baltimore, and is intersected by the river Ilen. It contains 9362 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act; and is said to derive its name from a religious house, the ruins of which are situated close to the northern bank of the Ilen, one mile west from Skibbereen. About one-third is waste land or bog, the former consisting of rocky elevations which in some parts afford tolerable pasturage; the bog is only of small extent, and peat is becoming somewhat scarce. Generally the system of agriculture is not much improved: the heavy old wooden plough is still used. The substratum is entirely of the schist formation: there are quarries of excellent slate at Derrygoole, but not much worked; and throughout the parish is found clay-slate for building and repairing the roads. There are numerous large and handsome residences: the principal are Hollybrook, the seat of R. Becher\*, Esq.; Lakelands, of T. J. Hungerford, Esq.; Coronea, of Mrs. Marmion; Gortnamucalla, of H. Newman, Esq.; Carriganare, of Mrs. Evans; Laghartydawley, of A. McCarthy, Esq.; Mill House, of J. Clark, Esq.; Clover Hill\*\*, of J. Sweetnam, Esq.; Weston, of D. H. Clarke, Esq.; the glebe-house, the residence of the Rev. R. B. Townsend (*Richard Boyle Townsend [332]*); Abbeyville, the seat of G. Brenham, Esq.; and Rossfort, of J. Ross, Esq.; The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the patronage of J. S. Townsend (*John Sealy Townsend [507]*), Esq., the impropiator of the rectory: the tithes amount to £647, of which £200 is payable to the impropiator, £20 to the vicar (under an appropriation grant of the late Earl of Shannon), and the remainder to the lessees of Col. Townsend (*Colonel John Townsend [230]*). The church, situated in the town of Skibbereen, is a large edifice, in the early English style of architecture, with a lofty square tower at the east end: it was built on a new site in 1827, at an expense of £1200, of which £900 was given by the late Board of First Fruits; and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently granted £180 for its repair. The glebe-house, near the town, was built in 1824, by aid of a gift of £450 and a loan of £50 from the same Board, on a glebe of fifteen acres purchased by the Board and subject to a rent of £13. 7. per annum. The male and female parochial schools are situated near the church, and were built in 1825, at the expense of the vicar. An infants' school was built in 1835, and is supported by subscription; and there is a Sunday school for both sexes, under the superintendence of the vicar.

\* *Becher connections here with Philip Townsend [304] and Barbara Townsend [306]. \*\* Richard Townsend [310] died here in 1814.*

**SKIBBEREEN**, a market and post-town, partly in the parish of ABBEYSTROWRY, but chiefly in that of CREAGH, Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 42 miles (S. W.) from Cork, on the mail road to Bantry, and 167 1/4 (S. W.) from Dublin; containing 4429 inhabitants.

In 1691, an engagement took place in the vicinity between the forces of Jas. II and Col. Becher\*, who commanded about 500 of the militia, when the former were put to flight, with the loss of 60 men and a large number of cattle.

Three years afterwards, a party of 40 rapparees came into the town and plundered the custom-house, which belonged to the port of Baltimore, and killed two revenue officers. The town, from its situation in a wild, unenclosed part of the country, has frequently been the rendezvous of disaffected parties, but it has been much improved of late years, and is now a very flourishing place. It is situated on the southern bank of the river Ilen, and comprises seven streets; that part which extends into the parish of Abbeystrewry is called Bridgetown, and consists of three streets, one of which has been recently formed. The number of houses in the whole town is 1014, many of which, in the eastern part and in the parish of Creagh\*\*, are large and well built: the approaches have been much improved by the formation of new lines of road at each extremity. This place had formerly a very considerable trade, arising from the manufacture of woollen cloth, linen, checks, and handkerchiefs, which has altogether declined: it is, however, very advantageously situated for trade in an extensive and improving district; the tide from the harbour of Baltimore flows up to the town, and the river is navigable for vessels of 200 tons' burden to Oldcourt, two miles below Skibbereen. In the town are capacious storehouses for corn, and a considerable quantity of flour is also exported from the mills of Mr. J. Clark, on the bank of the Ilen, a quarter of a mile from the town. A porter brewery upon an extensive scale was established in 1809; it is the property of Daniel Mc Carthy, Esq., and is in full operation, many of the neighbouring towns being supplied from the establishment. The market days are Wednesday and Saturday, the former for the Bridgetown portion, and the latter, which is the principal market, for Staplestown.

Milk and fuel are also exposed daily in the market-place for sale. The supply of provisions is very abundant, particularly fish and poultry: pigs and sheep are also sold in great numbers. The marketplace being small, and the market-house old and inconvenient, the articles brought for sale on the regular market-days are exposed in the public streets and in a place called the square. Fairs are held on May 14th, July 10th, Aug. 2nd, Oct. 12th, and Dec. 11th and 23rd; and petty sessions on Wednesdays. The sessions-house and bridewell is a large and handsome building in the Grecian style, occupying an elevated site near the entrance to the town from Cork. There is also an infantry barrack; and Skibbereen is the residence of the inspecting commander of the coast-guard stations of the

district, of which it is the head, comprising those of Milkcove, Glandore, Castle-Townsend, Barlogue, Baltimore, Long Island, Crookhaven, Dunmanus, and Whitehorse, and extending from Sheep Head to Rosscarbery. The parochial church of Abbeystrewry is situated in Bridgetown; it is a large edifice in the early English style, with a tower at the east end, erected in 1827, at an expense of £1200, towards which £900 was contributed by the late Board of First Fruits. Parochial schools for boys and girls were erected near the church, in 1825, by the vicar; and an infants' school was built in 1835. There is also a Sunday school under the care of the Protestant clergyman. Near the R. C. chapel are large school-houses, built by the late Dr. Collins, which are supported by the National Board. A dispensary is maintained in the customary manner. There are numerous large and handsome houses near the town, the principal of which are noticed in the description of Abbeystrewry.

*\* Col Becher was the father of Elizabeth who married Horatio Townsend [104]*

*\*\* Becher connections with Mary Townsend [121] and Edward [401].*

**KILCOE**, a parish, in the Western Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 5 miles (W.) from Skibbereen, on the river Roaring Water, and the road to Rock Island; containing 2316 inhabitants. It comprises 3232 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, and valued at £2030 per annum. The surface is rocky and uneven, and not more than one-third of the land is in cultivation; the remainder consists of bare rocks of clay-slate, intermixed with small tracts of bog; the land under tillage is chiefly in small patches amidst the rocks, and is generally cultivated by the spade; the manure is brought to it on the backs of horses, and the produce carried off in the same manner; some of the higher grounds afford tolerable pasturage for young cattle. The scenery is wild, and marked with features of rugged grandeur; the glen, through which the river rushes with furious impetuosity, forming numerous cataracts in its progress to the bay to which it gives name, abounds with young and thriving plantations, and is finely contrasted with the sterility around it. In this romantic glen is Roaring Water House, the residence of J. O'Sullivan, Esq., who has erected mills, corn stores, and quays on the banks of the river; and Greenmount, of Capt. Long. Two manorial courts are held here monthly, by the seneschals of the bishop of Ross and Thos. Hungerford, Esq., respectively. The parish is in the diocese of Ross; the rectory is partly impropriate in Lord Riversdale, and partly constitutes a portion of the archdeaconry of Ross; the vicarage is united with that of Cape Clear, and in the patronage of the Bishop. The tithes amount to £300, of which half is payable to the impropriator and the archdeacon, and half to the vicar. The church, a small edifice, for the erection of which the late Board of First Fruits gave £600, is nearly in the centre of the parish. There is neither glebe-house, nor glebe. About 60 children are taught in the parochial school, and there is a private school, in which are about 80 children. On a point of land at the head of Roaring Water Bay are the extensive remains of Kilcoe castle, built by the McCarty's, lords of Clandermot, and consisting principally of a large massive square tower, with a small turret.

**ROSSNOWLOUGH**, an ecclesiastical district, in the barony of TYRHUGH, county of DONEGAL, and province of ULSTER, 3 miles (N. W.) from Ballyshannon, on the west of the road to Donegal and on the sea coast; containing 1006 inhabitants. In the year 1830, nine townlands, comprising 2403 1/2 statute acres, were separated from the parish of Drumholm and constituted the ecclesiastical district parish of Rosstownlough. It is a perpetual curacy, in the diocese of Raphoe, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Drumholm: the gross value of the benefice is £108. 8. 9., of which £75 is paid by the vicar, and £25 from Primate Boulter's fund; the remainder is the annual value of the glebe. The church was erected in 1831, by aid of a gift of £800 from the late Board of First Fruits. About 360 children are educated in six public schools, of which one is supported by the trustees of Erasmus Smith's charity, one from Col. Robertson's endowment, and the remainder chiefly by subscription. There are also two private schools, in which are about 130 children; and two Sunday schools.