

Reverend Philip Townsend [613]



Betsborough or Fernhill



BETSBOROUGH, OR FERN HILL.
(Photo by Colonel Grove White, May, 1909.)

1808. Sept. 12. PHILIP TOWNSEND, R. V. Kilcorney, *vice* Francis Hewit, resigned. [D.R.]

1834. Protestant population, 0.

1837. Kilcorney, a rectory and vicarage, with cure, 2 miles long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad, containing 8,606 acres. Gross population, 1,257. No Curate employed. Tithe composition, £147 13s. 10d. 12 acres of demised glebe, valued at 25s. per acre. Subject to visitation fees, 8s.; diocesan schoolmaster, 5s. No glebe-house. Incumbent is non-resident; he resides in the adjoining parish of Clonmeen. No church. The benefice is a rectory. The Incumbent holds also the stipendiary cure of Kilbrin. [Parl. Rep.]

P. Townsend (fifth surviving son of Rev. E. S. Townsend, V. Clonmeen, q. v.), was ordained Deacon on 12th July, 1807, and Priest on 21st Sept., same year, both at Cloyne.

He was licensed to the curacy of Clonmeen and Roskeen on 17th April, 1810; and held that curacy, along with Kilcorney rectory, for some time.

He married, on 30th Nov., 1824, Helena, eldest dau. of Rev. Arthur Keily, of Bellevue, near Youghal; she died on 7th March, 1840, and was buried at Castlemagner. He married, secondly, on 12th Sept., 1846, Elizabeth, dau. of Sandford Palmer, esq., of Ballyknocken Castle, King's county. He had no issue by either of his wives. He lived for many years at Gurtmore Cottage, in the parish of Clonmeen; and afterwards at Fernhill or Betsborough, near Mallow. He died, aged 73, in Oct., 1853, and was buried at Castlemagner.

The benefice of Kilcorney is suspended.

Gurtmore Cottage



GORTMORE COTTAGE.

(Photo by Col. Grove White, May, 1907.)

Burned down July, 1911.

Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

CLONMEEN, or **CLOONMEEN**, a parish, in the barony of DUHALLOW, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 2 miles (S. S. E.) from Kanturk; containing 5344 inhabitants. The parish is situated on both sides of the river Blackwater, and on the new Bogra road from Kanturk to Cork: the new Government road to King-William's-Town and Castle Island passes through that part of Clonmeen which lies to the north of the Blackwater. It comprises 20,815 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, and valued for the county cess at £7632 per annum. The land consists partly of reclaimable mountain pasture and bog, and partly of arable land, which latter produces wheat of a superior quality. Culm exists at Drumcummer, but is not worked; and there is a valuable limestone quarry near Rosskeen bridge. Gurtmore rock, on the south side of the Blackwater, rises to a considerable height, and contains several large caverns. The seats are **Gurtmore House**, the residence of the **Rev. P. Townsend** (*Rev Philip Townsend [613]*) and Gurtmore, of E. Foote, Esq.

The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Cloyne, and with part of the rectory is episcopally united to the vicarage of Rosskeen, forming the union of Clonmeen, in the patronage of the Bishop; the other portion of the rectory is appropriate to the economy estate of the cathedral of St. Colman, Cloyne. The tithes amount to £415. 9. 3.; and the gross value of the tithes of the benefice is £369. 4. 7 1/2. The church is an old dilapidated building, without a tower, and was the burial-place of the O'Callaghans: it has been recently condemned, and it is expected that a new one will shortly be erected. In the R. C. divisions that portion of the parish lying north of the Blackwater forms part of the union or district of Castle-Magner; the remainder is the head of a union or district, comprising also the parish of Kilcorney, and containing two chapels, one in each parish; the chapel of Clonmeen, at Bantyre Cross, is a large edifice lately built, and adjoining it is a commodious house, erected by the late Rev. Myles Bourke, parish priest, who bequeathed it for the benefit of his successors. A parochial school has been recently built and is supported by subscription; and there are several private schools, in which are about 250 children. On one of the Gurtmore rocks, on the south side of the Blackwater, stand the remains of the castle of Clonmeen, near which several cannon balls have been lately discovered.

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KILCORNEY, a parish, in the barony of WEST MUSKERRY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 3 miles (E. S. E.) from Millstreet, on the Bogra road to Cork; containing 1257 inhabitants, and comprising 8606 statute acres, of which 3474 consist of good arable land, and the remainder of mountain pasture. In 1651, a desperate battle was fought at Knockbrack, or Knockiclashy, on the borders of this parish, between the parliamentary forces under Lord Broghill and those commanded by Lord Muskerry. Towards the south and south-east the parish is mountainous, and on the east borders on the Bogra Moors: good building stone is found in several places. Kilcorney House, the residence of H. Sherlock, Esq., is an old mansion to which was formerly attached an extensive and finely wooded demesne. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Cloyne, and in the patronage of the Bishop: the tithes amount to £147. 13. 10. There is neither church nor glebe-house, but a glebe of about 13 acres. About 80 children are educated in two private schools. Some vestiges of the old church still exist in the burial-ground.

ROSKEEN, or **RUSHEEN**, a parish, in the barony of DUHALLOW, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 3 miles (S. E.) from Kanturk, on the road to Mallow; containing 591 inhabitants. It is bounded on the south by the river Blackwater, which is here crossed by a stone bridge of ten arches. Near this bridge commences the new Government road, which at Clonbanin branches off on the right to King-William's-Town

and Castle-Island, and on the left towards Killarney. The parish comprises 1795 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act; the land is in general good and chiefly in tillage, and the state of agriculture has of late years undergone considerable improvement. On the lands of Pallis, the estate of Robt. Phayre*, Esq., are several beds of culm, which have not yet been worked; limestone is also found on that estate, and brownstone adapted for ordinary building purposes is found in other parts of the parish. The Blackwater is here very rapid and subject to floods, but at ordinary times is fordable in several places. Roskeen House, the residence of Pierce Power, Esq., is pleasantly situated near the river and commands a fine view of the majestic mountain of St. Hilary. It is a vicarage, in the diocese of Cloyne, forming part of the union of Clonmeen: the rectory is impropriate in Robt. Phayre, Esq. The tithes amount to £80. 10. 7., of which £55 is payable to the impropriator, and the remainder to the vicar.

* *He must be a descendant of Robert Phayre, Col Richard's [100] Lieutenant Colonel when they were ordered to Ireland in 1647.*