

Edward Hume Townsend [626]



Edward aged 19 painted just before he left for India in 1822



Edward's wife Susan painted in 1831 just before she left for India



Westminster School, London



Map of Konkan, Satara, Kolhapur and Belgaum

**Places visited underlined in red**

Extract from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Directory 1837

CLONAKILTY, or **CLOUGHNAKILTY**, an incorporated sea-port, market and post-town (formerly a parliamentary borough), in the parish of **KILGARIFF**, East Division of the barony of **EAST CARBERY**, county of **CORK**, and province of **MUNSTER**, 25 1/2 miles (S. W. by S.) from Cork, and 151 1/2 miles (S. W.) from Dublin; containing 3807 inhabitants. The town is situated on the Gorar or Farla River, which falls into the bay close to the principal street, and in a pleasant fertile valley environed by hills of moderate elevation, which descend to the harbour. It consists of four principal streets diverging at right angles from the centre, and is well supplied with water from two public pumps erected by the Earl of Shannon. It has been much improved recently by the erection of several good houses and a spacious square, the centre of which is planted and laid out in walks, so as to form an agreeable promenade. Some excellent roads have also been made in the neighbourhood. A public library was established by a body of shareholders, in 1825: there are also three news-rooms and a lending library for the poor. Balls are occasionally given in the rooms over the market-house, during the sessions week. There are commodious infantry barracks for 4 officers and 68 privates. The staple trade of the town is the linen manufacture, which furnishes employment to 400 looms and 1000 persons, who manufacture to the amount of £250 or £300 weekly, but when the trade was in the height of its prosperity, the weekly sales were frequently £1000. The cotton-manufacture also employs about 40 looms. A spacious linen-hall was built some years since by the Earl of Shannon: it is attended by a sworn salesman and three deputies, by whom all the cloth brought to the hall is measured and marked. The corn trade is carried on chiefly by agents for the Cork merchants, who ship it here and receive coal as a return cargo. There are 14 lighters of 17 tons burden each regularly employed in raising and conveying sand to be used in the neighbourhood as manure. The harbour is only fit for small vessels, the channel being extremely narrow and dangerous, and having at the entrance a bar, over which vessels above 100 tons can only pass at high spring tides: large vessels, therefore, discharge their cargoes at Ring, about a mile below the town. It is much used as a safety harbour by the small craft for several miles along the coast. The market is held on Friday, and is amply supplied with good and cheap provisions; and three fairs are held under the charter on April 5th, Oct. 10th, and Nov. 12th, and two subsequently established on June 1st and Aug. 1st, all for cattle, sheep, and pigs; the Oct. and Nov. fairs are noted for a large supply of turkeys and fowls. A spacious market-house has been built, at an expense of £600; and shambles were erected in 1833, by the corporation, on ground let rent-free by the Earl of Shannon, who is proprietor of the borough. A chief constabulary police force has been stationed here.

By the charter of Jas. I. the inhabitants were incorporated under the designation of the "Sovereign, Free Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough of Cloughnakilty;" and Sir Richard Boyle was constituted lord of the town, with power to appoint several of the officers, and to a certain extent to superintend the affairs of the corporation, which was to consist of a sovereign and not less than 13 nor more than 24 burgesses, assisted by a serjeant-at-mace, three constables, a toll-collector, and weighmaster. The sovereign is annually elected by the lord of the town out of three burgesses chosen by the corporation, and the recorder is also appointed by him. Vacancies among the burgesses are filled up by themselves from among the freemen, who are admitted solely by favour of the corporation. The sovereign and recorder are justices of the peace within the borough, the limits of which extend for a mile and a half in every direction from a point nearly in the centre of the town, called the Old Chapel. The charter conferred the right of sending two members to the Irish parliament, which it continued to exercise till the Union, when the £15,000 awarded as compensation for its disfranchisement was paid to the Earl of Shannon, a descendant of Sir Richard Boyle. The sovereign and recorder were empowered to hold a court of record, for the recovery of debts and the determination of all pleas to the amount of £20 late currency; but since the passing of the act limiting the power of arrest to sums exceeding £20, it has been discontinued. A manorial court is held every third Wednesday by a seneschal appointed by the Earl of Shannon, which takes cognizance of debts and pleas not exceeding 40s.; and the sovereign and recorder hold courts of petty session in the market-house, every Monday. Petty sessions are also held every Thursday by the county magistrates; and the general quarter sessions for the West Riding of the

county are held here in July. The county court-house is a neat edifice of hewn stone, ornamented with a pediment and cornice supported by two broad pilasters, between which is a handsome Venetian window. Connected with it is a bridewell, and both were erected at the expense of the county.

The parish church of Kilgariff is situated in the town, on an eminence to the north of the main street: it is a plain edifice, with a square tower at the west end, and was rebuilt in 1818, at an expense of £1300, of which £500 was a loan from the late Board of First Fruits, and the remainder was contributed by the Earl of Shannon and the Rev. H. Townsend (*Rev Horatio Townsend [5D00]*). A classical school was established in 1808, under the patronage of the Earl of Shannon, who has assigned a large and handsome house, with land, for the residence of the master: there are more than 60 boys on the establishment. A dispensary, a house of industry, and a benevolent society have been established, which have been found highly beneficial, and are liberally supported by the Earl of Shannon and the inhabitants generally. The late Michael Collins, D. D., R. C. Bishop of Cloyne and Ross, who was author of several tracts on the state of Ireland, and was examined before a committee of the House of Commons, in 1825, was a native of this place. About a mile north of the town is a tolerably perfect druidical temple, some of the stones of which are nearly as large as those of Stonehenge; the centre stone of the circle is very large, and is composed of one mass of white quartz.

**Transcript of a letter from Edward Townsend [620] to his Mother about the
appearance of Edward when they met at Poona**

February 5. 1850.

Poona,

My dearest Mother,

I prepare betimes for the mid-monthly mail, for time is now much taken up, not only with Brigade reviews twice a week, & Sunday interludes on other days, but E.H.T. (*Edward Hume Townsend [626]*) being here, halting after his Southern term, preparatory to his proceeding thro' the N. Districts. He pitched his Camp on the outskirt of Poona Tues. morning Jan. 26. when we breakfasted and shared the day in his Canvas abode. He looks very well. i.e. 2/3 of him, the other 1/3 being invisible in a long beard & green spectacles. His first public appearance occasioned a report in Camp of Sir Charles Napier's arrival, whose pleasure it also is to wear beard & specs. He has not decided on what day to resume his march; and I am dying to prolong his halt, for a little intermediate idleness will do him good. It is a bad flaw, all work and no play... Ever affly E.T.

**Transcript of letters from Edward to his Aunt Elizabeth [410] about the purchase of property at
Kilreen Cuilnaconara**

(*E.H.Townsend's hand*)

May 23. 1853.

Flower-Grove,

My dearest Aunt,

I must not allow another post to leave, without a letter from me giving a full detail of my performances on Friday last, when I purchased for £6950 - - three lots of the Kilreen farm, containing altogether 644 statute acres, & likely to produce a profit rent of £272 per annum: so Horace Poole thinks, & he has examined the whole carefully. The price was more than I intended to give, but I was drawn into it by the fact that the first lot went proportionally low: so much that the creditors wanted to stop the sale. The 2nd lot of the farm was too large for me to purchase, & for the 3rd & 4th lots there was great competition, as they being all closely united together & the tenants having farms in both, their possession was a matter of importance to the owners of both No. 1 & No.2. Ultimately, I obtained lots 3 & 4, in addition to No. 1.

I shall now however be obliged to draw the money from the funds, which after the receipt of your letter on the subject I had resolved not to do.

My means for repayment are as follows:

Money in India	£4000
Hamilton's bond	£1000
Money in funds	£2400
Total	£7400

Hamilton's money is not payable at present I know. So £1000, from dear Harriett, for which I shall pay her, 4 per cent, and £3500 from the Provincial Bank at 5 per cent : this last I hope to pay so soon as my money arrives from India, for which I wrote via Marseilles on Saturday. My immediate reserves therefore are:

Funds	£2400
Harriett's	£1000
Provincial Bank	£3500
Total	£6900

The funded money may produce more than the above: if so, I shall borrow so much the less from the Bank: the Indian Money will be more or less according to exchange - the rates of remittance &c. Whatever surplus there may be, I propose placing immediately in the Bank of Ireland, to invest, on Harriett's account, & adding to it every available sum, till that money is paid. The next thing will be to repay the girls' money to the funds, & this (if it please God to spare my life & ability) I shall do steadily & with the least possible delay. In the mean time there is Hamilton's £1000, in part payment (5 per cent on which he pays most punctually) & I will without delay make up another will, giving the girls £1000 each, from the farm, as a compensation for their present loss of interest. I mean £3000 altogether for the 3 girls. This I hope will be altogether an equitable arrangement. I shall be glad to know your opinion of it. *[rest missing.]*

(E.H.Townsend's hand)

June 9th. 1854.

Newcourt,

My dearest Aunt,

Your welcome letter of 20th ult. deserved an earlier answer but our emigration from Flower Grove, the time spent on the road, & that occupied in friends' houses all have helped to swallow up time and to leave very little for writing.....We reached Mayfield about 2 pm. And Joanna (*[5D04]*) was one of the first to meet us; she was wonderfully calm.....The next day, Horace Poole (*Joanna's son*) drove me to Kilreen both to see it, and my new purchase of Cuilnaconara, which was sold on 23rd. May. The history of that purchase is as follows: Horace P. wrote to me that a farm adjoining to Kilreen was for sale & that I w'd do well to buy it if possible - for that it contained very good land, & was well situated, but that it would not be sold under £3000, and that it w'd cost perhaps £200 or £300 over that sum. I replied that I had barely £2000 - (the remainder of my Indian Money) and that I must try and procure something smaller. H. replied that nothing smaller was for sale, and that so nice a farm as Cuilnaconara would not easily be found again, and that he would obtain for me about £1000 Irish - if I chose to borrow it. When I looked at the account of the farm & the estimates sent by Horace P. - it struck me that it was worth £3500 - and that nothing less would purchase it. I therefore determined on the Thursday before the sale (the latter was to take place on Tuesday 23rd May) to apply to Michael Webb - for a loan either to make up the £1500 - along with the £1000 Irish - or for the entire sum if he could lend it. I looked for a *[rest missing]*

READ AND YOU'LL KNOW.

To be put on one's defence is seldom pleasant—but the unpleasantness is increased—when the nature of the charge, and the remoteness of the events to which it relates, render it difficult to disprove it; for the assailant has this advantage, that to make an accusation is generally the easiest thing in the world, while to refute it, may be extremely difficult.

These thoughts were suggested to me when I learned that the late Sir W. NAPIER had published letters from his brother, Sir Charles Napier—in the life of the latter—in which I am charged with the perpetration of certain acts of folly and "ingratitude," in the years 1843 and 1845; these circumstances, trivial as they were, have been immortalized by the *Conqueror of Scinde*, in the following words addressed to his brother in September, 1845:—

"Take a sample of gratitude: Mr. Edward Townsend, who is now Secretary to the Bombay Government, made two calls on my wife in the Muhabuleshwur hills just after Meanee. The first was to tell her that Anne—Mrs. Richard Napier—"was his mother's dearest friend—and had got him his place from Lord Clare—that he owed everything to your husband's family, Lady Napier, and I can never feel sufficiently grateful." Soon after came the report that we had been cut off to a man, and that I was killed. Mr. Edward Townsend hastened to give my wife the agreeable news: the three girls who having heard it were in agony, placed themselves between her and all visitors, but were thus addressed by him: 'I suppose you heard your father is killed, and the whole army

destroyed.—So ended visit the second! Now this Mr. Edward Townsend has been one of the first to sign the memorial against me, a great many have refused to sign it, and it has been got up entirely by Outram's clique. Mr. Townsend might therefore have avoided this: had it been general, he might have felt bound to go with the others, and if he had written to say so—whatever I might think—no fault could be found. This marks the kind of men I have to deal with, and I must have constant official correspondence with Mr. Edward Townsend."

It would not be easy, after the lapse of so many years, to prove to the satisfaction of either myself or others, what words I had used in a morning visit—how many visits I paid to any particular family—or on what days I paid them: fortunately, however, circumstances—which to me were important—have helped to fix in my memory certain events of the year 1843, which was the period of my visit to Lady Napier, (*the only one I ever paid her,*) and a journal which I sent home in that year—and which has been preserved—supplies further and more distinct information.

It may be necessary to mention that, at the period here referred to Lady Napier was (I believe) residing in Poona. I was living in Belgaon, places which are about two hundred—or more—miles apart. Between them are situated the Muhabuleshwur hills, the common resort of ladies and invalids during the hot months of March, April and May. In March, 1843, my family were on the hills—as was also Lady Napier,—I was still in or near Belgaon, when on the 5th of that month I received intelligence of the death of a near relative and valued friend^x who was killed in *the battle of Meance*. Shortly after this I applied for leave to visit the hills—on urgent private affairs,—a month's leave for which I applied was refused; with difficulty I obtained leave for *a fortnight*. I reached the hills on the 13th March; on the 17th I made the following entry in my journal:—"The news from Scinde is conflicting and

Richard Made

various; Hyderabad is in the hands of our troops, and Sir C. Napier seems confident of holding it." March 22.—"H. and I called on Lady Napier, and she returned our visit yesterday; she is a pleasing, unaffected woman, and very friendly. I told her of your intimacy with Mrs. R. Napier, and how that had helped me when Lord Clare was Governor."

No further mention is made of Sir C. Napier, or his family, in my journal; and on the *27th March* I left the hills to return to Belgaon, after which I never saw Lady Napier, my remembrances of whom, after the only two occasions (above-mentioned) on which I had the pleasure of meeting her, were most pleasing. The somewhat dramatic tale of my rushing in to terrify a family with whom I was, up to this period, connected only by feelings of kindness is, as far as I am concerned, wholly untrue. Some other person *may* have been guilty of this indiscretion. *I never paid a second visit to Lady Napier*, and *I am quite* unable to account for the absurdity recorded by Sir C. Napier, being connected with my name. *I never* saw Sir Charles,—nor, to the best of my belief, did I ever see the young ladies, whom I am represented as so needlessly terrifying.

Two years after the events above recorded, some sensation was caused in Bombay by the publication of a work called "*The Conquest of Scinde*:" the author being Sir W. Napier—while the materials were furnished by his brother, Sir Charles. In this history—the principal object of which was to justify the seizure of Scinde—from princes who were at peace with us—and who had aided us in our war with the Afghans—the administration of Indian affairs was described as the very worst imaginable. Sir Charles Napier is said when in command at Poona, to have "detected the vices, civil and military, which had gained such strength under Lord Auckland's government, that *the total destruction of the Indian Army—and the ruins of the Indian Empire—seemed to be hastening on with giant strides.*"

He "was (it is further said) *disgusted with the shameless system foully pervading all branches of the public service.*" What this system was is more fully explained in a succeeding passage, where the "civil and political services (are described as) *infested with men greedy of gain, gorged with insolence, disdaining work, and intimately connected with the infamous press of India, which they supplied with official secrets.*" Again: "Lord Ellenboro' has put an end to a wasteful expenditure of the public money by certain civil servants of the state who were *rioting in the plunder of the treasury*; at least such is the general opinion. Men begin justly to estimate Lord Ellenboro's excellent Government, *in despite of those jackalls driven by him from their prey.*" Again: "*the treasury is no longer pillaged by the civil servants of the public.*" "*When I arrived at Poona,*" added Sir Charles, "*I saw and heard such things that I had no difficulty in accounting for our misfortunes.*" The "misfortunes" here alluded to were, it is presumed, the destruction of our entire army at Cabool in A.D. 1841; the reference to "*Poona*" in two of these extracts, and the fact that Sir C. Napier's Indian experience was at this time confined to the Bombay Presidency, proved that the universal corruption and official profligacy stigmatized in Sir C. Napier's letters, existed, if anywhere, *in the Bombay Presidency.*

It will hardly excite surprise that the appearance in Bombay of the book which contained such denunciations of the entire Civil Service of India, aroused considerable indignation; particularly among those who felt themselves assailed by it. Had Sir Charles Napier been an *Indian officer* charges against him would have been laid before the Government of Bombay; but being the Governor of a separate province (Scinde), no resource appeared but that of forwarding a memorial to the Court of Directors; a procedure which was adopted by the Bombay Civil Service, with, I believe, only *two* dissentient voices.

The memorialists, after quoting many passages from the "Con-

quest of Scinde"—a few of which are contained in this paper—continued thus :—"Your memorialists would have been disposed to pass over unnoticed the calumnies contained in the above extracts had they been the production of anonymous pamphleteers ; but considering the reputation of their author, silence on the part of your memorialists might mislead a very large portion of the European world, who, little acquainted with the details of Indian affairs, would naturally believe uncontradicted assertions put forth by the celebrated historian of the war in the Peninsula on the authority of the Conqueror of Scinde." The memorialists remarked that as Bombay was the only Indian Presidency with which Sir Charles Napier was conversant, they felt themselves especially called on to repel his charges ; they accordingly "humbly prayed the Hon. Court of Directors (of the East India Company) to require Major-General Sir Charles Napier either to produce proofs of the facts on which his statements regarding the Civil Service in India are founded, or distinctly to disavow them, and acknowledge that they are inapplicable to that branch of the Civil Service to which your memorialists belong."

The foregoing memorial contrasts curiously in style and tone with the vehement invectives which had called it forth ; and at this distance of time—when the feelings aroused by the accusations in the "Conquest of Scinde" have long since passed away, as well as the gallant soldier who gave such unhappy license to his pen—I cannot but admire the calm tone which pervades the memorial, penned as it was at a time of considerable irritation.

When invited to sign it, I did so without the least hesitation ; nor have I ever regretted the having done so. It was not till my return to England in 1851 that I became aware that the Bombay memorial was regarded as a grievous offence by Sir C. Napier and his friends, and that I especially was accused of *base ingratitude* for signing it. This opinion is further manifested by the passage

in Sir Charles Napier's life, which I have quoted at the beginning of this paper.

My appointment to the Indian Civil Service was obtained in A.D. 1822 from John Hudlestone, Esq., a gentleman to whose unsolicited kindness alone I was *really* indebted for my "*place*" and all my worldly prospects. To Lord Clare, who came to Bombay as Governor in A.D. 1831, I was introduced by Mrs Richard Napier, and from that nobleman I received during his Governorship the greatest kindness and whatever promotion my position in the public service entitled me to. But it would have been preposterous to suppose, that because of those, or far greater obligations, had they existed, I should have refused to make common cause with my fellow-servants in India when they were grossly calumniated, and when they merely demanded that common justice to which every felon is entitled. When Sir Charles Napier exhibited to the British public the Indian Civil Service as a body of rogues and swindlers, he could scarcely have supposed that they would silently submit to such a degradation, and that they would not so much as ask *why* he had so stigmatized them.

Yet this reasonable question was *never answered*, and the fact of its being asked has been referred to as one of the *many injuries* to which the Conqueror of Scinde was exposed from the authorities in India; while I, especially, am pointed at as a monster of ingratitude, for venturing to join in a memorial which merely petitioned for *proof* before *condemnation*.

Having long since retired from public life—while the parties who are concerned in these matters have passed, or are passing from this scene,—I have not felt it necessary to reply in any public manner to the accusations contained in the life of the late Sir C. Napier. It always was to me a matter of regret, that a man whose character I esteemed should have obliged me and my fellow-servants to defend ourselves against his aspersions. Whether by so

doing I have laid myself open to the charge of *ingratitude*, I shall leave to those friends to decide who may take the trouble to peruse this explanation of by-gone days. For one thing, however, I feel truly obliged to Sir C. Napier's biographer, viz.,—for placing me in the same category with some names in the Bombay Civil and Military services,—whom I sincerely respect—I allude especially to those of J. P. Willoughby, Esq., and Sir James Outram.

E. H. TOWNSEND,

Late of the Bombay Civil Service.

CLONAKILTY, May, 1859.

Did you ever see
the 2^d Part in C. H. Napier's
on new propagation
I don't see but
the new very
characteristic

A very dear child - having requested me to have for the information of my children some record of the principal events of my life as far as I know or can recall them to mind - I commence the task at once painful and pleasant - full of sad remembrances of many very dear ones - who have passed away: of bountiful mercies received from a gracious God - and of failures - on my part - in availing myself as I should have done of the many advantages - and precious opportunities, placed within my reach. -

I was born in the City of Cork September 3 - 1803: in the house of Dr. A. Healy, near the South Terrace. My father (Rev^d Richard Townsend & ^{son} of Rev^d Edward Lyne Townsend) was rector of Magoruney - Diocese of Cork. My mother Henrietta Murray Hume was 2nd daughter of very Rev^d John Hume - Dean of Cerry. My parents first met at Killaaney - in the house of Mr. Herbert of Cahinane: my Grand father - the Dean's, taste for picturesque scenery, made visits to Killaaney ^{thence} one of his chiefest recreations, and many paintings and drawings which I still possess of his, show that use he made of his opportunities.

of my early life at Magoruney - I have but few childish recollections: once my parents took me and a little sister - named Jane, to my Grand Father's house in C. Douglas: Glendalla. - My only remembrance of this visit - is that of seeing my little sister sick near the fire - in a bed-room which I now recognize ^{as} that over the drawing room in Glendalla. My little sister died about that time. - Once afterwards, in my father's house (Magoruney) I dreamed that I was in Glendalla - & on awaking was disappointed to find it only a dream. In 1809, my father caught a heavy cold - by means of wet feet: this soon turned to dropsy: my parents went to Cork for medical advice & I was left in charge of an old woman - named Larty & a young servant - lad - Wm^c Keema. How long I thus remained - I cannot say - but that was a very cheerless time to me. My father's brother Rev^d Philip T. used to come into dinner, but

Susan's Sketch of one of their Tents

