

Reverend William Robinson Townsend [6B02]



St Cohnan's, Cloyne



St Senan's, Inniscarra



Nohoval Church



1837. April 26. WILLIAM ROBINSON TOWNSEND, R. V. Aghada, per mortem Gore. [D.R.]

1860. The church in good order. There is a font, and a silver chalice, plate, and paten. A glebe-house and 14 acres of glebe in Rector's use. Divine service twice on all Sundays during summer, and once in winter and on the usual fasts and feasts; also a service, with lecture, once a month in summer. The sacrament 12 times in the year; average of communicants, 21. 40 boys and 30 girls are on the rolls of two Schools, which are maintained under the Church Education Society. The Protestant population is 228. Value of rentcharge, £219 11s. 7½d.; of glebe land, £15. Total value of benefice is £234 11s. 7½d., with residence.

W. R. Townsend (grandson of Rev. Horatio Townsend, P. Donoghmore, q.v.) was second son of Samuel-Philip Townsend, esq., of Firmount, in the parish of Donoghmore, county Cork, by Helena, dau. of Rev. Thomas Robinson, of Coronea.

He was ordained Deacon on 24th Sept., 1809, at Cork, and Priest, at Cloyne, on 8th October, the same year.

On 9th October, 1809, he was licensed to the curacy of Inniscarra, and on 9th Feb., 1828, to that of Tracton. From 1833 to 1837 he was P. C. Nohoval.

He married Isabella, dau. of Major-General Brooke Young, of the Royal Artillery, and by her had issue three sons and six daughters. The eldest son, Samuel-Philip, was a Major in the Royal Artillery. He married Jane, dau. of General Campbell, but died Sp., being killed at the battle of Inkermann, on 5th November, 1854. The second son, Brooke-Young, was a Surgeon, and died unmarried. The third son, William-Chambers (P. Ballysodare, Achonry), married Emma, dau. of Lieut.-Col. Edward Thomas Fitzgerald, K.H., of Furlough Park, county Mayo. Of the daughters, the third surviving, viz., Georgina-Maria, married Richard Thomas Hill, son of Rev. James Hill, R. Rostellan; the fourth, Catherine, married Rev. Thomas Wakeham; and the youngest, Mary-Elisabeth, married, on 11th November, 1862, John Tuckey, esq., of Kilronan, county Cork.

The Rev. W. R. Townsend is distinguished for his skill in agriculture, and has published a lecture on Sheep-folding, &c.

Church and Parish Records of the United Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross by the Rev JH Cole

AGHADA.

[In the "Taxation of Pope Nicholas" it is called "Athfada," that is, "Long Ford."]

It is a union of the parishes of Aghada, Rostellan, and Tite-skin (or Kilteskin).

1837. April 26. WILLIAM ROBINSON TOWNSEND, R. V. Aghada (Brady).

William Robinson Townsend was the second son of Samuel Philip Townsend, of Firmount, Donoughmore, Co. Cork, by Helena, dau. of the Revd. Thomas Robinson, of Coronea, near Skibbereen. He was ordained in 1809; and was Curate of Inniscarra in that year. In 1828 he was Curate of Tracton; and from 1833 to 1837 he was P. C. of Nohoval.

He married Isabella, dau. of Major-Gen. Brooke Young,

R.A., and by her had three sons and six daughters—(1) Samuel Philip, was a Major in the Royal Artillery, and was killed at the battle of Inkerman, on 5th November, 1854; (2) Brooke Young, was a surgeon; (3) the Revd. Wm. Chambers, Preb. of Ballysodare, dio. Achonry. One of the daughters, Georgina Maria, married Richard Thos. Hill, by whom she was mother of the late Thomas Lionel Hill, R. Nohoval (q. v.); and another, Catherine, was married, in December, 1859, to the Revd. Thomas Wakeham, Rector of Droumdaleague, Cork (q. v.). She died on the 22nd of April, 1892. Revd. W. R. Townsend's youngest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, married, on 11th November, 1862, John Tuckey, of Kilronan, Co. Cork. Revd. W. R. Townsend died in 1866.

Extracts from Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

AGHADA, or **AHADA**, a parish, partly in the barony of **BARRYMORE**, but chiefly in that of **IMOKILLY**, county of **CORK**, and province of **MUNSTER**, 4 miles (S. W. by W.) from Cloyne; containing 2512 inhabitants. This parish, which includes the small fishing village of Whitegate, is situated on the south side of Cork harbour, and on the road from Cloyne to Carlisle Fort. The village of Aghada occupies an elevated site, and contains the parish church and R. C. chapel. The village of Whitegate is a small fishing port, where several boats are employed in raising sand from the harbour, which is used for manure. On the north side of the parish a neat small pier has been constructed by subscription, where a steam-boat from Cork or Cove calls every Tuesday during the summer, and where coal and sand are occasionally landed. About 50 females are employed in platting Tuscan straw for exportation, and a few in platting the crested dog's tail, or "traneen," grass found here. The parish comprises 2331 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act: the greater part is under tillage, and nearly the whole of the remainder is pasture; there is very little waste land or bog. At Whitegate are two quarries of stone used for building. There are several handsome houses within its limits: the principal are Aghada House, the residence of J. Roche, Esq.; Whitegate House, of Mrs. Blakeney Fitzgerald; Careystown, of Mrs. Atkin; Hadwell Lodge, of J. Penrose, Esq.; Hadwell, of the Rev. Dr. Austen; Maryland House, of J. Haynes, Esq.; Rathcourcy, of J. Smith, Esq.; and the glebe-house, of the Rev. J. Gore. There is a coast-guard station at East Ferry. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Cloyne; the tithes amount to £292. 15. 6. The church, a neat structure, situated on an eminence above the harbour of Cove, was erected in 1812. The glebe-house adjoins it, and for its erection the late Board of First Fruits, in 1814, granted a loan of £1000 and a gift of £100: the glebe comprises 20 acres of profitable land. The parochial school at Farcet was founded by the late Bishop Brinkley, who endowed it with two acres of land from the glebe, and is further supported by the Marchioness of Thomond. A school at Whitegate Hill was founded in 1827, for 50 boys, by the late R. U. Fitzgerald, Esq., who endowed it with £500; and female and infants' schools have been built and are supported by his widow, Mrs. Blakeney Fitzgerald.

INNISCARRA, a parish, in the barony of **BARRETTS**, county of **CORK**, and province of **MUNSTER**, 5 miles (W. by S.) from Cork, to which place it has a penny post; containing 3442 inhabitants. This parish, which is situated on the river Lee, comprises 9982 statute acres, valued at £8387. 10. per annum. The surface is varied; to the west of the bridge over the Lee is a fine expanse of meadow, which, with the old church, backed by a range of hills, and some rich woodland scenery, forms a pleasing landscape; and from the heights is obtained an extensive view of the course of the river from west to east through a richly diversified tract of country, abounding with objects of local interest. The farms are in general very small, and the lands are continued under tillage till they are quite exhausted; the system of agriculture, though improving, is still in a backward state; there is no bog. A slate quarry is worked on a very limited scale. Ardrum, the seat of Sir N. Colthurst, Bart., is pleasantly situated in an extensive and well-wooded demesne; Cloghroe, the residence of J. C. Fitzgerald, Esq., is also in the parish; and the glebe-house, the residence of the Hon. and Rev. W. Beresford, is delightfully situated on the river Lee, to the margin of which the lawn and shrubberies extend in beautiful contrast with the steep and rocky mountains on the opposite bank, which rise to a considerable elevation and are partially ornamented with plantations; the house commands a beautiful view of the vale formed by the ranges of hills on each side of the river. At the western extremity of the parish are the Dripsey paper-mills, belonging to Messrs. Magnay and Co., and situated in a deep and well-wooded glen; the

buildings are of handsome appearance, and the works afford employment to a number of persons, varying from 70 to 100, in the manufacture of large quantities of paper for the English market. In another part of the parish is a small stream which turns the Cloghroe boulting-mills, which are capable, when there is a sufficient supply of water, of producing 140 sacks of flour weekly. A new line of road has been formed to facilitate the communication of this parish and the neighbouring district with the parish of Macroom. A manorial court is held by the seneschal of the manor. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Cloyne, united by act of council to the rectory and vicarage of Mattehy and the chapelry of Kilmurry, which together constitute the union, and the corps of the prebend of Inniscarra in the cathedral of Cloyne, and in the patronage of the Bishop. The tithes amount to £635. 5. 9., and the value of the prebend, including tithe and glebe, is £1076 per annum. The glebe-house was built by a gift of £100 and a loan of £1500 from the late Board of First Fruits, in 1816: the glebe comprises 15 acres. The church, a neat structure on an elevated spot near the road, was built in 1818, by a grant of £1000 from the same Board. About 30 children are educated in the parochial school, which is aided by the rector, who, with the late Sir N. C. Colthurst, Bart., built a handsome school-house. There are two private schools, in which are about 200 children, a Sunday school, and a dispensary.

NOHOVAL, a parish, in the barony of KINNALEA, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 8 miles (E.) from Kinsale, on the old road to Robert's-Cove; containing 1260 inhabitants. This parish is situated on the southern coast, and comprises 2439 1/4 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, and valued at £1537 per annum. The land is generally good, though the soil is light; about four-fifths are under tillage, the remainder being rough pasture and furze brakes: the manure chiefly used is sea sand, landed at the bays along the coast, all of which are very much exposed and dangerous. The incumbent, the **Rev. W. R. Townsend** (*Rev William Robinson Townsend [6B02]*) has written a practical treatise on agriculture, which he has gratuitously distributed among the working farmers, hoping to improve the system of husbandry, but hitherto he has not witnessed the desired result, as the old system is everywhere followed. At Nohoval Cove are some extensive slate quarries, the property of W. Whitney, Esq., whence great quantities are shipped to Cork, the boats returning with limestone, burnt generally here for the purposes of building. Not far distant, on the same estate, are some veins of manganese, in a state of decomposition, but, from the numerous springs here impregnated with this mineral, it is quite evident that a great body of the ore is deposited in the immediate vicinity. Very clear and beautiful crystals of quartz are scattered among the soil in most parts of the parish. The Cove is a romantic retreat, at the termination of a deep winding glen, in which many thousands of young trees have lately been planted, which, if they thrive, will form a great ornament to this barren spot: the entrance to the Cove is marked by three pyramidal rocks of considerable height. In calm weather, coal, culm, and limestone may be landed here, but in the winter scarcely a vessel ever ventures into so dangerous a place. At Dunbogue is a small well sheltered cove, having a good landing-place. The village consists of 25 small houses. Nohoval House is the property of W. Hungerford, Esq.; the Lodge, the residence of W. Whitney, Esq.; and the glebe-house, of the **Rev. W. R. Townsend [6B02]**. It is a rectory and perpetual cure, in the diocese of Cork, the rectory forming part of the union of St. Peter's and of the corps of the archdeaconry of St. Finbarr, Cork; the perpetual cure is united with Kilmonogue, and in the gift of the Archdeacon. The tithes amount to £215, of which £140 is payable to the archdeacon, and £75 to the curate, who has also the glebe-house and land. The glebe-house is a neat and commodious edifice, erected by aid of a gift of £450, and a loan of £50, in 1817) from the late Board of First Fruits: the glebe comprises 2 1/2 a. 0r. 4p. The church is a small, but very neat, edifice, without tower, spire, or bell; it is furnished with a small, fine-toned organ.

Communicated by the very Rev. Dean of Tuam
6302

The Rev. William Robinson Townsend for thirty
years Rector of Aghadola Co Cork was born in 1785
He was a man of a most benevolent and
unselfish disposition, and it was truly said
of him that he had "a passion for doing good"
He began his clerical duties in 1810, as Curate of
the Parish of Linniscarra his stipend was only £45
Irish, and he paid £92 a year for his ~~residence~~ house
and farm, while his Rector had £2000 a year, & two glebes
~~and a house~~. Mr. Townsend established a Farming
Society which ~~was most prosperous~~ he was
the Secretary and practical in his own farm about
the ~~range of land and country~~ he established
the first Dispensary known in the country and
~~rejoiced~~ ^{rejoiced} ~~himself~~ as the physician of the poor under
the direction of the doctor, ~~after the dispensary had~~
~~been established in Linniscarra and Linniscarra~~
He also established an excellent Free school in his
parish and a Sunday school for those ^{obliged to work} ~~engaged~~ on
work days. In 1822, there was a famine in the
country and a Central Committee of Landed

Proprietors was formed. Without Mr. Townsend's knowledge, he was chosen Secretary, and entered zealously in the duties of his office. He ~~also~~ ~~established~~ ~~another~~ Dispensary in the adjoining ~~parish~~ and a free library.

He was afterwards appointed to the curacy of Bores. The Rector was seldom resident and the stipend a poor one. While there, a visitation of cholera prevailed along with great scarcity of food. Mr. Townsend was appointed Secretary of both the Relief Committee and ~~also~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~. The Bishop of Cork presented him with the living of Keshonahy, ~~with a house~~ ~~and~~ ~~4 acres of land~~. He was here ~~for~~ ~~years~~ and had all the duties of the parish, which principally lay ~~as~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~parish~~ ~~class~~. In 1837, he was ~~appointed~~ ^{removed} to the living of Aghadla, ~~and~~ ^{and} in addition to his parish duties, he had the care of a large family of his own, three sons and four daughters. He took up the question of agriculture with ~~enthusiasm~~ ^{enthusiasm}, wrote several pamphlets on farming, and at one time conducted

a farming journal which sold well amongst
the class for which it was intended. He wrote
under the name of 'Agricola' and was considered a
second Martin Doyl. He rightly saw that the best
way of helping the farmer was to teach them
to help themselves. At the age of 81, he obtained
first prize of £30 ^{for an Essay} on the best way of managing
a farm of 40 acres.

During the cholera and famine years of 1846-47
his energies were severely taxed. He wrote letters
in the English and Irish papers, and contributions
of money and clothes poured in. ~~As he had~~
~~unwisely distributed~~ and seeing the evil
of giving alms, he ~~expressed~~ ^{planned} various means
of supplying work to the people. He ~~organised~~
drainage operations, acting as his own engineer,
and by this means, 137 acres, which had been
only fit for shooting snipe, was turned
into profitable pastures. He also set the people
to make clogs, rough shoes such as were in
~~use at the time~~ ^{Cumberland}, and sent to Liverpool for ^{soles} ~~soles~~
and to Cork for ~~soles~~ hides.

Waterproof cloaks and coats were also
manufactured under his direction, and the people
were ~~supplied with useful and profitable~~
~~employment~~. The culture of glass was also
carried on with great success. Mr. Fawcett
took a ~~lively interest in establishing~~ ^{encouraged the establishment of} the Queen's
College Cork when most of the clergy stood aloof.
He aided and ~~encouraged~~ ^{took a lively interest in} the meeting of the British
Association in Cork, and was an ardent
supporter of the National System, believing
it to be the best to be had under the circumstances.
During his long and useful life, he was ever to be
found in any scheme for benefiting the moral and
spiritual condition of the people. Free libraries were always
one of the first things he established in any parish that
he was connected with, and this at a time when books
were dear and scarce than at present.

He married Isabella, daughter of Major General Brooke
Young R.A. His eldest son, Samuel Philip, the ideal of
a brave Christian soldier was killed at Sakerman 5th Nov 57th
just as he had been gazetted to a Colonelcy in the Royal Artillery.
His second son Brook Young Fawcett, Staff
Assistant Surgeon, was thrown from his horse