1 Upper Harley St. 5 August 1854
Chère Madame
Je n’ai que des bonnes nouvelles à vous donner de votre fils. M. Bowman pense que la “mauvaise herbe” décroît tous les jours & que bientôt il n’y paraîtra plus.
Il me semblait qu’il avait l’air un peu pâle – je l’ai donc envoyé aujourd’hui avec ma nièce a son beaufrère à une campagne qu’ils possèdent à trois lieues d’ici, d’où il reviendra lundi et tous les
deux jours pour voir M Bowman
J’espère que sa guérison sera
tout à fait
terminée en huit jours d’ici- Je vous écrirai de nouveau, chère Madame, pour vous dire le jour
où il pourra quitter tout à fait- Si M Bowman a besoin de le voir plus souvent, il restera 3 ou 4 jours seulement à la campagne, et il reviendra ici pendant le reste du temps qu’il doit passer ici- Comptez sur nous Agréez, chère Madame, l’assurance de mes sentiments affectueux
Florence Nightingale

{archivist's notes: I 2
55/3
F.N. to Mrs. Gretton 6 Sept 1855
55/4 F.N. to Mrs. Hunt 6 Sept 1855}
Barrack Hospital
Scutari
Septber 6th
1855
Mrs. Gretton,
I am sorry to say the things mentioned in your letter of the 20th of Augst. have never been received, but before that letter reached me I had sent to Private Robert Dutton a parcel containing things which
f55/3v
I hope, would be
even more valuable
to him - so that, though
I regret that what you
sent did not reach
him, I am glad to be
able to tell you that
he has not been a
loser on that account.
I have heard from him
acknowledging the receipt
of the things I sent.

yours truly

Florence Nightingale

Letter, LMA f55/4.1-f55/4.2, pen A X 9

f55/4.1 {archivist's note: FN for M.S. announcing a soldier's death,
Written by Miss Nightingale's aunt Mrs. Smith, signed by Miss
Nightingale

Barrack Hospital
Scutari
Septbr. 6th
1855

Mrs. Hunt,
I grieve to be
obliged to inform you
that your son died in
this Hospital on Sunday
last, Septbr. 2d. His com
plaint was Chronic
Dysentery - he sunk
gradually from
f55/4.1v
weakness, without much suffering. Every thing was done that was possible to keep up his strength. He was fed every half hour with the most nourishing things he could take, & when there was any thing he had a fancy for, it was taken to him immediately. He sometimes asked for oranges & grapes, which quenched his thirst, & which he had, whenever he wished for them -

f55/4.2
He spoke much of his Mother & gave us the direction to you in his last moments - He was very desirous that you should be written to about him. His great anxiety was that his Mother should receive the pay due to him, & should know that he had not received any pay since he had been out, which he wished his friends to be told that they might apply to the War Office for the whole of the pay due to him. He was very
grateful for whatever was
done for him, & very patient.
You may have the satisfaction
of knowing that he had the
most constant & careful atten-
dance from the Doctors & the
Nurses of the Hospital. The
chaplain & myself saw him
every day. He died very peace-
fully, & sorrowful as this
news is for his bereaved
Mother may she find comfort
in thinking that his earthly
sufferings are over, & in the
hope that our Almighty Father
will receive him into a [blotch]
better world through the
blessed promises of our Lord.
With sincere sympathy I am
yours truly
Florence Nightingale.

55/3 an addressed envelope here

{archivist's note:
I 3
54/1  F.N. to Madame --, 5 Aug. 1854
55/5 F.N. to Lord -- 3 Oct. 1855
55/6 F.N. to [James Heywood] 10 Nov 1855}

Incomplete, unsigned letter/draft/copy, LMA 1 f54/1.1-f54/1.2, pen
f54/1.1 C VI 3

1 Upper Harley St
5 August 1854

Chere Madame
Je n'ai que des
bonnes nouvelles
a vous donnes [donner?]
de votre fils -
M. Bowman peute [see]
que la "mauvaise
herbe"
My Lord,

I have the honor to submit to your Excellency an Extract of a Dispatch which I received from the War Office, dated September 6/55.

Nos 2 & 3) also Copies of two Letters from Dr. Hall, Inspector General of Hospitals in the Crimea No 4) & a Copy of a Letter from Mrs. Bridgeman, Superior of the R. Catholic Nuns at Koulali Hospital.

May I beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the difficulty of my position in this matter?

By my original Instructions from the War Office, the "distribution", "selection", "power of discharge or dismissal" of all those who came out, addressed to me, - "to serve in the Hospitals of the East," - was "placed solely under my control"-

The Dispatch, of which I enclose an Extract, appears to place a farther responsibility upon me.
But the R.C. Sisters, who had engaged themselves to me personally for the work of the Hospitals under my direct charge, are offered, accepted & ordered elsewhere with only an ex. post. facto communication to me "that they are going" when the arrangements for making their departure in less than a week are made.

Your Excellency will see -
(1) that it would be impossible to me to obey the instructions of the War Office under these circumstances
(2) that it would be impossible to conduct any Institution or maintain any order whatever with these conditions.

I await your Excellency's commands as to the course I should pursue.

If Mrs. Bridgeman has a separate commission from the War Office, it has not been communicated to me. I have delayed answering her letter till I receive your Excellency's directions.

It appears as though the most satisfactory proceeding would be for
Your Excellency to communicate the Instructions under which I act to Dr. Hall & to Mrs. Bridgeman.

My intended departure for the Crimea has been delayed by these surprising communications - It must take place this week - I postpone it only till I receive your Excellency's directions.

I shall forward a copy of these letters to the War Office by tomorrow's mail -

I beg to remain, my Lord, your Excellency's obliged & obedt servt

Florence Nightingale

Letter, LMA f55/6.1-f55/6.2, pen [Heywood arch], typed copy 43401 f131

Castle Hospital
Balacalava
Nov 10/55

Sir,

Your letter of the 4th October was forwarded to me at this place where my Hospital duties at present require me.

Morris Jones, 13th Light Infantry died at the Barrack Hospital, Scutari, Ward 8, Corridor F, of Fever, August 20/55

He was only in Hospital three days. He had an abcess in his neck - & spoke very little. At 10 P.M. the night he died, he was sufficiently conscious to express pleasure at having the Nurse there - tho' he always called her "Mother." He would take no food from any one else. He appeared to rest satisfied
in this delusion which comforted
him - He was far too little
conscious to send any message
to his family -

He was very cold & had hot
tins water tins put round him -
which annoyed him - & he
insisted upon pushing them
away.

He was too ill when he
entered Hospital for any
questions to be asked him.

The Nurse called him
her "old man" & when it
was ascertained that he
was only 32 years of age,
would not believe it. But
our men are old at 32.

I regret that the anxiety
of his family should have
been not sooner ended -

But I am myself confined
to my bed by illness & here I
have no one to write for me

I remain, Sir,
your obedt servt
Florence Nightingale

If it is any consolation to his
family to know that he was
not neglected, but had every
care that Medical skill &
female nursing could give him,
they may be certain of this.  

[end]

{archivist's note:
I 4
56/1 [In Riddel House Showcase
F.N. to [ - ] 28 May 1856]
56/2  F.N. to [ -- ] 22 June 1856
56/3 [See next folder
F.N. to [ -- ] re Anne Clarke [Aug. 1856]
57/1  F.N. to Miss Anderson, [13 Mar. 1857]}
General Hospital
Balaclava
June 22/56
My dear Sir,

I find that I cannot fill
more than six passages by the "Spartan."

I shall leave behind me, therefore,
3 Nuns
1 Lady
3 Nurses

for you to provide against their being
left in the hands of the Russians -
for which there is no hurry, as
their work in the Hospitals is not
done.

If you will have the goodness
to communicate with Mrs. Shaw Stewart,
Left Wing Hospital, Land Transport Corps,
she will make every arrangement.

Should passages offer by the
"Robert Lowe", or any vessel conveying
Land Transport, where the proportion

of Officers to men is small, it would
still be preferable to send the
"Spartan" ladies home by her, instead
of disembarking them at Scutari.

Two passages to Scutari would be,
then, all that I should require -

Believe me, dear Sir,
faithfully yours
F Nightingale
[March 11? 1857]

My dear Miss Anderson

I sent Mrs. Keatley the Money because I considered her* as a case undoubtedly entitled to it.

I must have {illeg.misimpressed?} myself very much in troubling for you have misunderstood

1. to suppose me

Now if you conceded that {illeg.mostly?} I was considering I supposed that "it "could {illeg.had?} in" me "for any "one to know that an "omission of one name "has been made which "you (illeg.I?) "immediately offered to make up for"

There has been no omission on my part nor to neither can there be any "making up" on my part.

The War Office required, of course, the periods of service of every Nurse as well as her name, in order to determine the proportion to be paid her - These could only be given by the respective Superintendents under whom they served -
I gave the names & periods of service of all those Nurses & Ladies who came from Koulali to me at a subsequent period - And I presume that the Koulali Super. intendant did the same for the Nurses who came to them - Mrs. Keatley would not have been entitled to anything for the short time period

that she was at Scutari, little more, I think, than 3 weeks - as those who were in the East for a period less than of three months were excluded being having been fixed by the War Department as the minimum for which they should receive the Sultan's gifts - I did not know & could not state the time she was at Koulali.
Sir, I beg to enclose a letter which I have recd from the Sister of Miss Anne Clarke, one of the paid Sisters employed with me at the Barrack Hospital. Having made no direct suggestion as to the mode of distribution of the Sultan's Gift, so far as these Ladies were concerned I do not feel at liberty now to ask you to alter whatever mode of appropriation you have determined upon - & must try to refer Miss Jane Clarke for an answer to her letter to your decision already determined upon by the W.O. [?] only it is your opinion that this decision should be altered at Miss Clarke's desire, which might be open to the objection that, the same alteration might be {illeg word crossed out} {illeg-as tried, asked?} for in other cases, which might occasion considerable perplexity to the W.O.
My dear Miss Macleod - Your letter should have been sooner answered but that it has been following me on a journey of business from which I only returned to town last night. I fear with the most sincere interest that you are inquiring for a situation which you think would be satisfactory to you - I heartily wish to forward your views, & wish that I may do so by saying as I can most truly say, that I parted from you with feelings of respect & regard which will always make me rejoice to hear of your well doing.

I thank you for your kind enquiries after my health - I believe it is as good as I can expect it to be - I hope Mrs. Macleod has quite recovered her health. Pray remember me affectionately to her & believe me, my dear Miss Macleod.
I wish to add, my dear Miss Macleod to what I have said, that I would gladly have written something more specific in regard to the particular situation you have in view but I think you will see that it is in general terms only that I am able to speak - for though I would gladly believe you well fitted for a situation requiring "good management, great activity, prudence, good sense & dignity in the intercourse with the inmates", I had not, at the time you joined us, any situation to offer, which afforded scope for such qualities, for which therefore from personal experience I am unable to vouch, for numbers were, at that time, lessened & lessening. I should not have asked you to come out from England to undertake what I had then to offer - what I offered because you were in the country & enquiring for such employment as I could propose - I think therefore that others who may have known you {illeg.unlike?} which called for {bottom of page torn, making sentence illeg.} such qualities may do you more justice & render you more assistance in regard to the situation you have in view than is possible to me - you have my best wishes. I wish I could express them more effectively than by words. The desire without the power to forward the wishes of those who {word crossed out and illeg.} have been engaged in working with me has been, in very many instances one of the most painful circum-stances of my life. [end 14:488]
30 Old Burln St. [16:261-62]
W. Feb 23/58
My dear Sir
Your kindness encourages me to ask you what offices you think a ward in a Military Hospital after the pattern of Lariboisière should have -
I believe three superimposed wards of 24 sick each have been decided on for each Pavilion -
At the further end of the ward
{small sketch of layout:
  W.C. Lobby Urinal
  Lavatory Lobby Sink
  Bath
  Ward }
Do you think this a bad place for the Sink in a Man's Ward, where the Head Nurse is the only woman?
At the near end of the ward
{small sketch of layout:
}
This is not drawn to a scale - And it is rather about the disposition than the size of the Offices that I want to consult you -

[I suppose all cooking, whether for Sick, Nurse or Orderly to be done out of the W Pavilion.]
1. The scullery is for warming food & for poultices &c., for Sick. Do you think it in an inconvenient place? Or do you consider it better that all these things should be done IN the ward? 2. The store is merely for the pots & pans - I suppose it IS better for all dressings,
stimulants for the day &c to be kept in the ward.
3. Do you think it better to compel the Orderly to be in the ward - or to let him have a day= room?
   [Our allowance is 1 Orderly to 10 Patients - But this is often exceeded] -
4. I suppose it is not desirable to have the Scullery & Store room

{written vertically up left margin:} faithfully & gratefully yours F. Nightingale

through the Nurse's room - as the Orderlies must help her in these.
   [These trifling arrangements will make a very large item in the success or failure of a new plan - And, therefore, I make no apology for soliciting your kind assistance]
5. On the ground floor,
f58/1.4

instead of the ward for 2 sick, will be the Ward Master's day=room & the Medical Officer= on=duty's day=room.

Since I wrote this, I have received your kind packet, and glanced over your notes, which will be very useful. I do not know how to thank you for your magnificent offer of

f58/1.4v

visiting Vincennes for us - But it is one I feel too much scruple in accepting - We had just sent over a Govt Commissn, consisting of Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Burrell & Capt. Galton, R.E. & though they have not brought back all the information I wanted - & if I were able to move I would go myself, - yet I have no excuse to ask you - Believe me, my dear Sir, ever
f58/2. B XVI 2

Dear Mr. Whitfield [14:559]

I send you the reply of Sir John Hall to the statement, with which you have been already made acquainted -

Are there any points in the parts relating to the case of the frost-bitten patient, McDonald, & to Mrs. Roberts's attendance, which you think require answering?

I am very sorry to trouble you thus again - [end 14:559]

yours very faithfully & gratefully

May 9/58 F. Nightingale

{archivist's note:

I 8

58/3 [F.N. to M. le Marechal [Pelissier] [June 1858] draft sheet of questions re "Enfant Jesus", Paris [n.d.]

58/4 F.N. to [R.G. Whitfield, Esq.] 17 July 1858

58/5 " " " 19 July 1858)
Monsieur le Maréchal
    Je ne sais en vérité
    comment m'excuser
    auprès de votre Excellence
    de la témérité avec
    laquelle je viens
    encore une fois
    l'importuner
    la lettre du de illeg qu'Elle
    a bien voulu m'adresser
    m'assourait de la
    protection de Votre Exc.
    auprès de L.L. Ex.Ex.

Les ministres de l’Intérieur et de la Guerre pour
obtenir la permission
que Mme Shaw Stewart
étudiat pendant un
an le service des
Sœurs femmes dans
les Hôpitaux Hotel Dieu
Lariboisière, La Maternité
le Val de Grâce et
Vincennes, Cette grâce
était demandée pour
le 25 de ce mois
Elle désire commencer
par l’Hotel Dieu
Je conçois qu’au milieu de préoccupations bien graves un tel sujet ait échappé à la considération de V. E.

Cependant le jour approche

Mme Shaw Stewart, qui revient de Vienne,
C’est cependant important pour cette dame qui revient de Vienne de Berlin & de savoir si elle doit se diriger vers Paris. J’avais compté qu’elle y arriverait la semaine prochaine, dans l’espérance d’une réponse favorable illeg aurait échappé à être admise en arrivant à l’Hôtel Dieu. Etant en peine pour
Particulars requested as to the "Enfant Jésus" at Paris.

1. No. of beds & cubic space per child
2. Size of wards
3. Best number of beds per ward
4. Ages at which separate wards for different sexes are required

5. No. of operations & whether performed in ward or in a Theatre.
6. Approximate No. of Surgical/Medical cases
7. Best Bath = W.C. = Kitchen = Arrangements
8. No. of children per "Soeur"
Personnel under the "Soeur"
as to ward=maids "frotteurs" &c
Whether it is considered that any re-arrangement of this would work better?
9. A slight sketch of what is considered necessary as to Play = grounds & Play = halls, Gymnastics, Exercise &c

10. Generally, with regard to frottage, is a portion done before the "visite", & a portion after? or all at once? This last question refers to Paris Hospitals in general.
My dear Sir

I send you

1. {Netley} (which is
   I think about
   as disgraceful a
   production as
   I have ever seen)

2. another Proof of
   our "Remarks"
   upon it (of which
   the Note at P.3
   is the only addition
   to the one you
   have)

3. the organization
   of an Army
   Medical School,
   in which I hope
   you will think
   we have steered
   as clear as we
   could of the rock
   you mentioned.
   [Pathology
   Hygiene &
   Chemistry
   are to be Civilians.
   And Pathology will
   do all the
   dissections].
4. Mr. Roberton's last pamphlet but which doubtless he has sent you himself

5. An idea about King's College Hospital -

[This is the only thing which I will ask you to return me by post immediately - as I mean to do something about it]

The Medical Times

you will see, is wrong, the Lancet right about Netley

Yours sincerely

F Nightingale

July 17/58
30 Old Burlington St.  
W.  
July 19/58  
My dear Sir  
I agree with every  
word of your plan  
for King's College Hospl.  
May I ask you to  
send me back the  
Army Medical School  
scheme immediately,  
as Director-General  
Alexander applied to  
me for a copy & I  
have no other -  
I will send it  

f58/5.1v  
you back when you  
are less busy -  
And, as for Netley,  
I FEAR I shall  
have no  
cause to  
ask you for it  
back at all -  
in haste  
sincerely yours  
F. Nightingale  

{archivist's note:  
I 9  
58/6 F.N. to [R.G. Whitfield, Esq.] 8 Nov. 1858  
59/1 " " " 21 Feb. 1859  
59/2 " " " 25 Mar. 1859}
Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/58/6

30 Old Burlington St
8/11/58

My dear Sir

Thank you very much for your kind offer of doing any thing for me at Edinburgh - Do you know the Infirmary? I think, if you would go over the wards, especially the new Surgical & the High School wards, with the particular view of comparing their construction

Of the construction of wards, it would do much good -
I went over them at the beginning of last year with this view. And I shall be curious to know how far your views & mine agree.
It would be very desirable, if they would let us have ground plans -
I think there are "R." Infirmary" & "High School", & "Fever Hospital" to examine. But I have not a very distinct recollection of the local names, tho' of the wards I have much too distinct - (& painful an one.. as regards some) -

If you could get from them any Statistics of the Mortality of Nurses, such as you were kind enough to send me from St. Thomas's, nothing gives such a really good criterion of the Sanitary (or non=Sanitary) construction of Hospitals as this -
I have got all the Nurse Statistics
of all the London Hospitals now -
   And into your ear I will privately whisper this fact, which I have deduced from them in figures - viz. that 54 per cent. of all the Nurses = deaths are from preventable causes. You take in the

"Builder" - Did you notice Dr. Greenhow's letter on Contagion in last Saturday's but one - & my answer in last Saturday's? (Please however to keep my secret.) I hope YOU agree with ME. I hope you are better - I write from my bed & therefore not with much distinctness - [end] Believe me dear Sir ever faithfully yours F. Nightingale
Feb 21/59

My dear Sir

I received your letter with great pleasure on Saturday when I returned to town -

I think that you have the finest opportunity of building the finest Hospital in the world, if you do but take advantage of it.

I have no doubt that we can help you in bringing public opinion to bear upon your authorities.

The first question I will ask you to inform me upon is, Has St. Thomas’s any property in the neighbourhood of London & if so where? 

yours ever most truly

F. Nightingale
P.S. You ought to receive a price from the Railway which will enable you to rebuild the Hospital, say at Blackheath, to have Offices & a Ward or two & a House Surgeon where you now are - with a Lift, a Carriage & a bed to hoist Patients on board the Railway (what a blessing to incipient fever-cases!) & to have an income of £400 or £500 per annum besides. I should do with your London sick exactly what we do (or ought to do) with the wounded in the Field & have a regular Ambulance - bed stretcher to list into a carriage & so forth - stretcher to be sent for Patient &c.

Next week would you come & see me, if I were to write to you?

FN.
Dear Mr. Whitfield

I presume this visit of Sir Jas Clark, herein announced, to me is in some sense official. As he is in the habit of announcing himself to me so formally. Could you therefore give me the information he desires (in the rough) especially about the Out-Patients.

& tell me also what information you would be pleased to give (of the kind he desires) at longer notice - in the smooth.

It is for the Prince.

yours very sincerely
F. Nightingale

March 25/59

I would send for your answer tomorrow, before 2 o'clock, if more convenient to you -

{archivist's note: I 10

59/3 F.N. to Col. Lefroy 13 Oct. 1859
60/1 F.N. to ---- 4 June 1860
60/2 F.N. to Miss Mary Jones 15 May 1860
60/3 " " " " 19 Sept. [1860]}
advise me to do to help it - whether & if so what books you would recommend to be given it - whether & if so what games or Magic Lanterns?

The Garrison is, I believe, 5000 strong (??)
The Govt. ought to build them a Reading Room.

3. Have they any athletic Games? or place to play them in?

The Gov't does get on so very slow with Day=rooms at home - I should like before I die to help on something more of this kind abroad -

I wish you were State Inspector of Army Schools
Believe me
yours sincerely
F. Nightingale
Mrs. Davis, (if the Nurse who came out in December 1854 & remained as cook to the General Hospital Balaclava till October 1855 when she went home at her own request) was an active, respectable, hard-working, kind-hearted old woman with a foul tongue & a cross temper.

She did a great deal of good service in cooking for the Hospital. And I would gladly have kept her; notwithstanding her mischief-making.

She was amply rewarded - had a year's wages (over & above the other gratuities) paid her on leaving - as a gratuity.

After she returned home, she fell into
bad hands, published
a book in two Vols:,
with a greater
amount of lies
than I could have
conceived possible -
about Lord Raglan's
esteem for herself,
& against many innocent
people. She did much
harm in calumniating Nurses in the
Crimea.

The whole of
Miss Salisbury's
statement (in her
own "defence") was
incorporated without
her name, which

made it very
dangerous -
I consider that
Mrs. Davis's
excellent services
were amply
remunerated by
the War Office
& that she has
less claim upon
Mr. Sidney Herbert
than any ordinary
beggar -

Florence Nightingale [end 14:1011]
London June 4 1860
My dear Miss Jones [Mary Jones]

As I hope to see you tomorrow at the hour you have been good enough to appoint, viz. 3 o'clock, I only mean to trouble you now with three questions, which you may perhaps find it less troublesome to answer at home than here

1. It is proposed that an age be fixed for our Probationers at entrance -

yours are, I see, "25 to 40." Do you approve this? Do you not find it difficult to teach a woman of near 40 anything like Nursing, if she has not begun before?

2. It has been proposed that a form of testimonials, to be filled up by each Probationer, before she can be received, shall be prepared.

I think testimonials & proofs of character
not worth the paper
they are written on -
What do you
recommend?
  3. It has been
proposed not to
admit deserted wives
as Probationers.
    I think this is hard -
Would you, requiring
a certificate of marriage,
refuse a wife whose
husband had left
her? Half the
respectable Nurses, certainly, I
have ever had, have
been deserted wives.
  4. It was suggested
by Mr. Bowman that

you thought the payment
to your own Probationers
for the first three
months not enough -
Is this so? As I
understand you, it
is £2.12.6 with
all other expenses,
(excepting clothing
£5/ per month.)
Enclosed is the sketch
of what is offered to
our Probationers. But
it is still subject
to alteration
  Believe me
gratefully & affectely. yours
Florence Nightingale
Dear Miss Jones,

I am sure you will not need an introduction from me, for the Lady who brings this note, who is very anxious to receive some information from you, not for the sake of idle curiosity but from a real desire to make it useful.

Believe me dear Miss Jones

Yours very truly

Florence Nightingale.

Septbr. 19th

{archivist's note: I 11

60/4 F.N. to Mr. Whitfield. 21 Dec 1860.
60/5 " " " 25 Dec 1860}
Hampstead NW
Friday Dec 21/60
Dear Mr. Whitfield
    I wrote by this day's post
to Sir C. Phipps & Sir J. Clark
in the sense we agreed upon -
I think, if the Prince can be
induced to write the letter we want,
it is a very great point to shew
Mr Baggallay that public opinion
will not let the matter rest -
    But the main point of
the affair is a different one &
rests greatly, I think, with you -
    What you have to do, &
what you only can do, is (if I
understand the matter right)
to prepare as complete & irrefutable
a statement as possible to shew
the utter loss & damage which
the Hospital will sustain by
the Railway - and thereon to
obtain as large a sum of money
as possible. The case for injury
is the one to be made out -
and it should be shewn that no
change nor alteration will render
the place (for it will cease
to be a Hospital) suitable for
sick. The more strongly this
is put the better, because, after
the award, the same case can
be used, in favor of the removal
of the building. The Governors
will hardly venture to unsay what they have said - at all events, if they do, this may be brought before the public.

If the Governor will put their case thus, viz. that the Hospital will be unfit for sick after the Railway is constructed, - this confession is tantamount to a removal of the Hospital.

In one sense the real battle was lost, when it was before Parliament. And I must say I think the doctors’ evidence was very shilly-shally. It is no use talking of that now - You will be obliged to let the Company take simply the land they want

I am writing letters to such Governors as I know -

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

If you have any suggestions of any kind to make, please do so by Bearer - And I will attend to them.

{written upside-down: Dec. 21/60}
Letter, LMA f60/5.1-f60/5.2, pen

f60/5.1  B XVI 9

Confidential Upper Terrace
Hampstead NW
Dec 25/60
Dear Mr. Whitfield
Could you find out whether any mention of the Prince's letter to Mr. Baggallay occurs in the Minutes? Because if not I think it would be almost a duty for me to write to Sir C. Phipps in order that he may inform

f60/5.1v
Mr. Baggallay that the Prince's letter was not "confidential", but meant to be laid before the Governors.
It was a very good letter - signed by General Gray - He sent me a copy of it, by the Prince's desire, which I will send you -
In the meantime, I would, if I were you,
take every opportunity of mentioning the existence of this letter -
I am going to write to some more Governors - and I shall do the same, merely saying that the Prince has, I understand, expressed a very strong opinion, to the Treasurer - & that it ought to be placed upon record - yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

{archivist's note:
I 12
60/6 F.N. to Richard Baggallay, Esq., 27 Dec. 1860
60/7 F.N. to Mr. Whitfield, 31 Dec. 1860}
Mr. Hedworth Barclay, as a Governor of St. Thomas's Hospital, will have received a notice for a "General Court" on the 24th, to take into consideration the matter of the Charing X Railway. He will therefore know the whole question, which is to be decided within three weeks from that day.

The Hospital will become one of the worst, if not the worst, in Great Britain, if left in its present site, with railway trains passing to & fro every seven minutes, eight feet from the North wing wards.

It is tantamount to the loss of St. Thomas's Hospital, which will then be fit for nothing but a huge Dispensary.

No medical man would defend it as a place for the reception of serious cases.

Upon the construction of the Railway ought to follow immediate steps for the removal of the Hospital.

For the ground upon which the Hospital stands is so valuable that a sum might be obtained for it enough to re-build it in a healthy spot near London with every latest
Sanitary improvement - & make it the finest Civil Hospital & the best School in England - Two thirds of the old Hospital require re-building - And to pull down the North wing & place it somewhere else on the same site would only make matters worse - The Prince has written to the Treasurer, expressing a very strong opinion in favor of the removal of the Hospital. Would it not be well to put this opinion on record in the Minutes of the Hospital? The construction of the Railway is the ruin of the Hospital. As for me, I feel this so strongly that, if the

Hospital remains where it is, it can be no proper school for training Nurses, such as we have founded there.

F. Nightingale

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/60/6 BXVI 60

Dec 31/60
Dear Mr. Whitfield
The part of Mr. Baggallay's letter to The Prince which nails him is this: -
"The Governors" x x expressing their "conviction that the "Railway is incompatible "with the proper "treatment & comfort "of the sick poor" x x They can hardly
go back from this
Please to write
to me in future
at 30 Old Burlington
St., altho' I am
not quite sure of
the day I shall
be able to go there.
Yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

{archivist's note:
I 13
61/1 F.N. to -- (physician to Sidney Herbert)
61/2 F.N. to Richard Baggallay, Esq., 7 Jan. 1861.}

Letter, LMA f61/1.1-f61/1.4, pen

Private 30 Old Burlington St.
Jan 7/61
My dear Sir
I have seen both
Mr. Herbert and
Mrs. Herbert (I
cannot bear to call
him by his new
name) since I
saw you -
I know him so
very well that I
can see that the
strong impression,
(somewhat falsely derived from your words) is upon his mind
viz. that he is the subject of hopeless disease, that, whatever he does, he cannot expect to live a year - that he ought to have devoted this year to retirement & his children - altho' he has yielded to our prayers that he would retain Office.

His wife tells me that her difficulty now is much more to raise his spirits than to make him take precautions - that both he & she are sufficiently "alarmed" to do right
I am sure that we must all of us bless you for having been the means of prolonging his life by pulling him out
of the House of Commons

& that we do not wish one word unsaid which you did say.

But, if you would just say to him now what you did to me viz. that you have known worse cases recover, that, because a man is told to prop up his house, he need not think it must tumble down.

I am sure that you would not make him more careless, but that you would give him more vitality.

Indeed, his wife asked me to ask you to do so.

For the sake of sparing your time, I have written - But, if you liked to call here, I would tell you the circumstances -
Common sense tells one never to interfere between a Physician & his Patient -
So that I hope & trust you will not think this is interfering
And, above all, that, whatever you may think it right to say to Mr. Herbert, you will not let him know that I have written to you.
I told him what you had said to me.
He is so very peculiar in temperament that I think scarcely any man knows him.
When I told you that he enuyéed himself without political life, I did not mean that it was like the ennui of a tiresome party at dinner - But it is a collapse -
God forbid that I should liken such a pure political life
as his to delirium tremens - But it is like leaving a case of d. t. without his brandy.
I should never in the least wonder to see him collapse & die if he were without political occupation - How often you see this in professional men retiring from their profession -.

Yours sincerely (& contrite)
F. Nightingale

Letter, LMA f61/2.2, pen B VIII 3

30 Old Burlington St. [16:784]
Jan 7/61
Dear Sir
I shall rest more than satisfied in the conviction that your judgement favours the removal of St. Thomas's, and that, as in the chief hands, so in the best hands
now lies its chance of success - No assurance could be more satisfactory than this.

I think that nothing which I have said can be construed to point at more than the irremediable damage inflicted by the Railway on the Hospital.

I should perhaps mention to you that three Governors, (knowing my two-fold interest in your noble Institution,) sent me the "Notice" for the "General Court" of the 24th ult. at the same time as Mr. Whitfield.

I trust that you will be able to make St. Thomas's into the first Hospital & finest School in Europe - And believe me to be dear Sir yours most faithfully Florence Nightingale Rd Baggallay Esq
[archivist's note:  
I 14  
61/3 F.N. to Miss Mary Jones 24 May 1861] 
envelope on film  
Miss Jones  
Lady Supt.  
King's College Hospital  
Letter, LMA f61/3.1-f61/3.7, pen  

**f61/3.1**  
30 Old B St  
May 24/61  

[15:154-55]  
My dear friend [Mary Jones]  
I know so well &  
have seen so often  
what you say about  
Mrs. S.S.  
I can only answer  
by telling you exactly  
the truth - as I did  
to her thro' my Uncle  
in answer to a letter  
of hers addressed to  
Mr. Clough, who is  
still ill & abroad.  

The old Woolwich
Hospital (Artillery) will be ready to be occupied as a general Hospital on June 24.

Sunday appointments [sundry?] will follow upon this - a Governor - a Captain of Orderlies &c &c - and Female Nurses -

But whether the delay will be weeks or months I cannot tell - I am sure the appointments will not be immediate.
I don't think they

will be delayed beyond this year -

But, whether or no they are immediate, I am quite sure that great delay will take place on the part of Mrs. S.S. herself, whatever proposal is made to her. She has delayed every answer to every question that has been put to her about Military Hospitals since she has been
in England till it was too late to make it at all.

If we are to believe what she states to my Uncle in the letter alluded to by her, but which she states gratuitously for no proposal has been made to her, she will decline the only proposal which will be made - And then there will be a delay

[2]
in looking out for somebody else - which may last for years or for ever -

The Army Hospital Regulations, among which are included the Regns. for Nurses, have been in force for 2 years - But the constitutionally procrastinating habits of the War Minister, immensely increased by serious disease,
I am sincerely sorry for her & still more so for you, on account of all this uncertainty - But it is one which everybody shares - Of course all the world is "agog" at Woolwich - no one knowing exactly how soon he may be changed or settled. [I received the authority by which

I acted in the Crimea two months after the Peace was signed & three months before we all returned to England!!!!]

What I sincerely advise for the good of all parties is that you keep Mrs. S.S. on, if you will be so good, indefinitely. The indefiniteness cannot last longer than this year. For if nothing
is done during this year, I am convinced nothing ever will be done (as to Female Nursing in Military Hospls.) For Mr. Herbert will be out of office She has asked me to let her know before June 15. But nothing more will be known then than now in all human probability

In answer to what else you say about her; to judge by my own experience it is perfectly useless to explain to her - one can only answer her definite questions

I know this is excessively inconvenient For she goes to others & repeats her own false impressions But I have never found anything I could say to her set them right
f61/3.5v

Dearest friend, I am so sorry you are so tired. How I wish I could put you "under an obedience" never to sleep in the Hospital. And how I wish you would put a Sister in night = charge till more Sisters can be found -

ever yours

F.N.

f61/3.6

Mrs. Wardroper came to me to day about other matters. And I asked her why she had refused Miss Moore & "her friend", whose name no one seems to know. She said because they had stipulated that they should not be called upon to attend, the one, Fevers, the other, Operations -

I enclose you another note of Miss
Moore's to me. Please don't trouble to return it. Somehow I have an idea that she is more sensible than the request to Mrs. Wardroper would lead one to think - I do wish she might come to you - As I sent you one letter from Miss A. Jones, I am bound to send you another - I cannot but think want of character is her peculiar character. She is always under some one's meridian. And you will see that tomorrow, if she enters St. Thomas's, which I am afraid she intends, she will write just such a preaching letter as before to our old Treasurer. And then there will be the same story all over again.
Yes, I saw Mr. Rathbone. And he told me of his interview with you. And I told him generally that I thought Miss A. Jones with many excellent & even endearing qualities, would never have the moral authority necessary for his purpose – & would get herself into ludicrous scrapes.

{archivist's note: I 15
61/4 F.N. to R. Baggallay, Esq. 1 June 1861
61/5 " " " 3 June 1861}

Letter, LMA pen LMA H1/ST/NC1/61/5

W. {printed} June 1/61
My dear Sir
As we hope that you will have to build a new Hospital, (which is to be the wonder of the world & the model of Hospitals) I have thought that it might interest you to see the

R. Baggallay, Esq.
"Army Barrack & Hospital" Report, which is just out & has not yet been presented to Parliament.
The part which will interest you the most is that about proposed Army General Hospitals,
Pp. 190 to 200 -
And there are (at Pp 194-6) wood=

cuts of the new Woolwich Hospital.
Would you be so good as to let me have a copy of the "Agreement" between yourself & the N. fund Trustees? If you could send it me by 2 o'cl. on Monday I should be the more obliged.
I am sorry to say that Mr. Clough's health is hardly enough restored to allow him to return with certainty for the Meeting in June. Should he not be able to do so, we trust that Mr. H Bonham Carter, (a Barrister) will transact the business without any inconvenience to yourself or delay to the accounts. yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

Letter, LMA f61/5, pen

Dear Sir,

I agree with you that Lariboisière has built its Pavilions too close - But what a difference between it & the Woolwich plan!

Lariboisière Woolwich
Ft Ft

Height 55 31
Distance between Pavilions 68 62
In other words, distance is to height (in Lariboisière) as 13 3/5 to 11 as 2 to 1 (Woolwich)

In both cases, I reckon from ground floor ward, i.e. from what affects the Patients, the light which reaches the wards -

The construction adopted for Woolwich was the only one of which the ground admitted.

But if you examine the plan, you will see that it obviates all your objections.

To all the ward Pavilions, excepting the two right-hand double Pavilions, the basement is a false one - Only in the latter is it used - & only in the small Itch ward for Patients -

The two outside double Pavilions at either end have outside views, which none of the Lariboisière Pavilions (for sick) have -
either end - And
one side of it has
a distance of (not
60 feet but) nearly
300 ft. The single
Pavilions on the
other side have also
a distance of about
150 feet owing to
the Short Pavilion
between them. In
short there is
but one side each
of two double Pavilions

which have only
the distance of 62
ft.

The cubic space
of the London Hospls.
was returned to us
by the Hospls. themselves -
I have now St Thomas'
Return before me.
Maximum 1600 cub. ft.
Min. 800 " "
I most warmly
f61/5.4

re=echo your hope
that you will
improve upon the
Report - In fact,
I believe every year
brings such improve-
ments that we
shall be quite
antiquated old "fogies"
with our Report
in 5 years -
    Many thanks
for the copy of
agreement.                      [end 16:401]

f61/5.4v

Pray believe me
    very faithfully yours
    Florence Nightingale

{archivist's note:  
   I 16  
   61/6 F.N. to [Mary Jones]. 7 Aug. 1861  
   61/7 F.N. to [Mary Jones]. n.d. [Aug. 1861?]}

Letter, LMA f61/6.1-f61/6.4, pen
My dear friend [Mary Jones]

I have enquired as to different sites for your Convalescent Hospital and I find:

1. that the best places to get ground to build are Roehampton Park, near Richmond-Blackheath -Upper Norwood, near Cryst. Pal=

2. that Hampstead & Highgate are better places to find houses in to let at once for the purpose, but not for land to build on afterwards.

Near the upper end of Hampstead on the NW. or S. side of the hill, -at the "Spaniard public house, or near Child's Hill (between West End & Child's Hill) - also towards Fragnell on Finchley.

These latter sites are however on clay - Hampstead & the ridge towards Highgate and the upper end of Highgate are on gravel.

Roehampton Park is sand - Blackheath, sand & gravel passing into clay. There would be much more difficulty in finding houses at these places.

The best way would be to consult an agent who knows all the districts & then to visit and inspect the houses.

It occurred to me that the house (Mr. Jackson's, Upper Terrace, Hampstead) which you saw me in last winter, would be the very place for a Conv. Hosp. with very few alterations. I would throw the Entrance & Draw= Room into a Ward for men. My
bed=room & sitting room up=stairs into one for women. The exposure is S. of these rooms. There is ground to build -
   But I don't know whether they would let or sell for such a purpose - and the owner & his wife are the most extortionate & hypocritical people I ever had to deal with.
   As there is no gentleman's house adjacent, there would be no objection on that score.
   I should like to be allowed to help you with money in this way, if I may. [end 16:757]
   I hope to hear from you what = your China=merchant says.

   I asked my cousin Miss B. Carter, to call on Mrs. Wardroper & ask her for a viva voce character of Nurse Murdoch for
me. I did not mention you
even to my cousin.

The result seems to me quite
conclusive. Mrs. Wardroper
admitted at once that she
would neither take Murdoch
again nor have taken her at all,
had she known her then. I
enclose, however, what she said,
written down by my cousin.

Dear friends, your sympathy
about my dear Master is very
grateful to me.

His death was very sudden
at last - rather unaccountable,
except by his having been
injudiciously nursed, poor fellow.
The real fatal illness lasted only
3 days -

However all that matters
little now - His death=bed was
most happy: full of resignation
gratitude to God, thought for others, even cheerfulness.

His last articulate words were for me -

It is 5 years today since I began working with him in England - All that is now closed.

Had he but finished his work, I could have parted with him to God, I think, not only willingly but gladly.

But he could have done so much & had done so little. I am certain that disappointment with himself hastened the end.

His was the purest ambition I ever knew. He did not care for place: worked rather against the grain, for he was indolent & fond of life. But he worked for love of his kind alone.

No one understood him but me. No one loved & served him like me.

Ours was I think the soundest friendship I have ever heard of. It was founded solely on the love of mankind & of God never even on the pleasure of each other's society.

All family loves do seem to me so selfish. They always ask for so much in return. Parents must always complain because their children do not love them enough - Husbands & wives do think so much as to the measure of the affection they get in return.

I never asked him for anything in return - not even for his affection. I have lived with him, seeing him nearly every day & sometimes all day, working out for him the most
tiresome official papers for 5 years - & we never talked
either of friendship or amusement.

When he was dead, I never
even thought of seeing him again,
till it was suggested to me -
I only thought of whom HE
would like to see again, his
wife & children: not me.

I am sick of myself for
being alive when he is dead.
Oh that he should have been
taken and I left - It is as
if God had cut off my two
arms & thrown me back the
thumbs.

But He knows best. I
would not have my dear master
back, not even if I could.

But our work for the
Army is over - as far as the
War Office is concerned. He had

not the strength of purpose to
found it on sure foundations, so
that no successor could overthrow
it. And during his two years
of office, this was what I was
always urging upon him. It
might have been done; and
it was not - .

I am sweeping up my
dead master's ashes - And
agonizing work it is. It may
be a six month's work - And
so little will it "pay" -

I hope I shall see you here
before I go -
ever yours

F.N.
Dearest friend I have just had a note from Miss Montgomery, the present owner from of tenant of the Clock House.

She is afraid the land is not much over two acres - But she will ask the gardener the exact amount tomorrow.

She says any lady who would like just to look at the house might come tomorrow morning, however early, & be admitted, if she will give my name -

Should you think the house worth enquiring after, she will then make any enquiries of Miss Murray, the owner, as to sale or price.

As she lives very conveniently in the house herself, I think she is acting like a gentleman!!

But I am almost afraid the price will be too high for the land, as it is in such request for fancy builders.
Hampstead NW
Oct 5/61
My dear Sir,
I have been intending for some days to answer your kind note.
I have seen Miss Jones & rejoice to think that you are likely to find a good Supt. in Miss Mary Merryweather - I have not the pleasure of her personal acquaintance. But everything that I know of her past career is that of a wise & good & energetic manager of moral training – Indeed I believe she would have been mentioned to you before but that it was understood that your Supt. must be of the Ch: of England.
I hope to hear that she is at King's Coll: Hosp: for a time under Miss Jones. But
when I saw Miss J. this week, she had not heard of any such arrangement having been definitely fixed.

I need hardly say that, if at St. Thomas' we can help, by showing either of the Miss Merryweathers the practical working of a very large Hospital, without the benefits or the checks of a religious order, which we could not have -

we shall be glad to be of the least service.

In a few days, I hope to send you the Regulations of a joint plan, by Miss Jones & myself, for training Country Midwifery Nurses under her (at King's Coll: Hosp:) which begins this month.

I was grieved to hear from your letter that they were Manchester was adding to & enlarging the already overgrown Manchester Infirmary.
It is built on the worst of Hospital plans: Gangrene is never out of its wards. One of the most eminent Surgeons, who is also Surgeon to the Railway, never sends his accidents to the Infirmary, but prefers, at immense personal labour & loss of time, to attend them at their own homes. Because they are sure to incur Erysipelas or other Hospital disease at the ill-placed, ill-constructed, ill-ventilated Infirmary. This is the evidence of a brave man, and what few even brave men would venture to give.

Two years ago, I was employed by some rich & benevolent Manchester men to give a verdict upon the plans of the present Manchester Infirmary, which were sent me — & to construct plans for an Infirmary out
of Manchester, where first Convalescents & it was hoped subsequently cases which could not recover in Manchester, would be sent.

I was then convinced - And others too were convinced (men important in Manchester) that no improvement in the present Infirmary could make it a place where Patients would have a good chance - that to enlarge it would be fatal - And the plans for the Convalescent Hospl out of town were entirely finished and in the hands of the principal mover of the whole (a Manchester man) when he died almost suddenly.

Nothing has since been done. And the peccant Hospital is actually being enlarged.

The reason why I tell you this long story is that, as you
may possibly become connected with the Manchester Infirmary, (by training a Supt. for it) - you might be able to avert a great evil & spread a sounder knowledge there -

I am actually engaged at this moment on the plans of four Provincial Hospitals or branches of London Hospitals - where the principle of sound construction in country air is to be observed.

It would be hard, if Manchester with her high civilization, & generous public spirit, should not recognize this principle

========

Private

As for my dear Master, Sidney Herbert, what can be said?

He died as he had lived, with his thought engaged (to the last) on the welfare of the private soldiers, whom he was the first War Minister to recognize
as his fellow-creature.
Five years, had he lived another week,
he & I had been engaged together,
working every day & sometimes all day
at this.
Now all is lost -
I have never known
the Horse Guards so rampant as they
are now - And I have known them 7 years -
The Commander in Chief is a "Snob" -
And the present War Secretary is a "muff."

The reign of intelligence at the War Office is over.
The present man (thro' ignorance) is a mere tool in the hands of the Commr-in Chief - who himself had been a mere tool in the hands of my dear master.
Their only rule of action seems to be to try to upset his every decision, his judgment - or (if they can do nothing else) his words.

Their only rule of action seems to be to try to upset his every decision, his judgement- or (if they can do nothing else) his words.
I could tell you of many fatal instances of this. But I cannot write them.

Even the naming the new Woolwich Hospl= the "Herbert Hospl=" was forced upon them - altho' they afterwards took the credit of it - And the Commr= in Chief actually tried to prevent the Hospl. being built at all - after the tenders were out & accepted.

There are however much worse things than that.

The dogs have trampled on the dead body.

Mr. Gladstone, who pretended to be a friend, will pledge himself to nothing, not even to friendship with him.

His last words were, "Poor Florence & our unfinished work." Indeed he died broken hearted at not having accomplished it. Could we have said "It is finished," how light would be
the trial now! Without the intermission of one single waking hour, have seven years this very month, I have fought the good fight for the Army, in & out of the War Office, and lost it.

Of course all this is private - You have taken so deep an interest, all you [illeg] Liverpool, about the Army, dating from the Crimea - and so just a view of the relation between the Horse Guards & War Office - at the affair of the Chelsea Board that I could not but write it to you. But its meaning is not private. I wish people to know how much more my dear Master thought of what he had not done than of what he had done - how penetrated (& bitterly so) he was with the conviction that he had not re=organized the War Office - how
he struggled with
fatal organic disease
of years' standing to
work to the last (till the
very day fortnight before
his death) - & how
the Horse Guards &
the Commr. in Chief,
who positively cringed
to him while alive,
are treacherously &
basely profiting by
this hand of death
having deprived relieved them
of their Masters, before
his work was done.

yours ever sincerely
F. Nightingale
I do not wish to vilify
the Comm. in Chief. He
is a good-natured
man - a good man
of business - an
intense-coward - &
will cringe to any
Master=hand -
But now ours is gone,
he does nothing but
mischief-
Letter, LMA f61/9.1-f61/9.5, pen f61/9.1

Hampstead NW
Oct 19/61
My dear Sir

1. I enclose the Regulations for our plan at King's College Hosp which, thanks to Miss Jones, begins this month. I am sure you will be glad to hear of it.

2. I am very glad to hear that Miss Merryweather goes to Miss Jones next month. I hope she will not be too much hurried in her time there. As it is impossible to learn even Hospital routine in a month.

3. I return Mr. Gladstone's letter with many thanks. But you will see that his opinion as to the Infirmary at Manchester being very much improved (or improveable) is not shared by the best
Manchester Medical authorities. Please return to me Mr. Roberton's letter – I have also another nearly similar from another Manchester man, with which I do not trouble you. But as you may have some future influence in this line, I should be glad if you would glance at Mr. Roberton, who has written two of the best Tracts on Hospital construction.

I must add that there is yet a third authority (a Manchester Surgeon) who told me that he never sent his accidents into the Infirmary, altho' at the greatest loss of time & money to himself, if it were possible to help it - as they were almost sure to do badly.
I understand that an old Mr. Harker (qy is that the name?) is the main hindrance to removing the Infirmy. 100 years hence I expect it will be considered as impossible to put sick down in the middle of a crowded city - as it is now to leave Gaols in the state these were in 100 years ago - or to chain lunatics to rings in the wall.

4. I agree with Sir John McNeill that there is nothing to be done at present, to resist the H. Guards. Therefore I would not trouble you to come up on purpose. Besides this, the facts I have to tell are just those which I could not make public. But I hope that you will not be taken in, as poor Lady Herbert is, by the Commander in Chief,
who offers, in answer
to her request, to hold a Meeting in
honor of Sidney Herbert,
but who, in the War
Office, does everything
to dishonor Sidney
Herbert—by overthrowing
his plans, his Soldier's
Day Rooms, his Soldiers
Wives Hospitals &c &c
&c—his Barrack
Inspections—& by
trying to prevent even
the Hospital called by
his name being built
at all—
Lord de Grey is entirely

f61/9.4v
to be depended upon
for doing his best
to carry out Sidney
Herbert's plans—
Were he Minister,
he would immediately
reorganize the War
Office. But he has
small weight
either in Parliament,
Cabinet or Court
or Horse Guards—
Of course however he
cannot attack his
government—
As for Mr. Gladstone
& Lord Granville, they
enrage me more than any. Because they were his friends -
Of course they would not, where Sidney Herbert's popularity strengthened Ministers, allow that his plans were to be reversed. But Gladstone, for one, has desired "not to be bothered" with "supporting" them. And Ld. Granville is a Courtier & will always court every body. It is not his fault. Some men are made so, I suppose.

Yours sincerely, [end]

F. Nightingale

{archivist's note:
I 19
62/1 F.N. to [MARY JONES] 12 May 1862
62/2 F.N. to [MR. RATHBONE] 11 July 1862}
f62/1

9 Chesterfield St.
W May 12/62
My dear friend [Mary Jones]
I can scarcely hope
to find you disengaged
at so short a notice.
But, if you could
come to me conveniently
for an hour between
3 and 4 today, I
shall be so glad to
see you. Do not,
however, if it is in
the least inconvenient,
as I am sure to find
another day -
ever yours
F. Nightingale

Letter, LMA pen LMA H1/ST/NC1/62/2

f62/2.1

9 Chesterfield St. [13:258]
London W
July 11/62
My dear Sir [William Rathbone]
I see nothing but
what is very good in
your "Regulations" about
which however you are
a much better
judge than I am -
I wish you & Miss
Merryweather Godspeed
with all my heart
in your undertaking,
which begins, I trust,
under the most
favourable auspices.
If you see Miss
Merryweather, will you thank her from me for a kind letter she wrote me when she left St Thomas', but which I was then unable to answer - 

Mr. Howson was so good as to send me his "Deaconesses" some time ago through Miss Jones - Perhaps you would some day perform for me the same kind task of thanking him.

I read it with the deepest interest. On the spiritual side I see nothing wanting. But I could not but regret that he did not enter a little more into the practical side, as, if this were done, it might almost become a Guidebook to this important subject. I mean that, if he would point out, e.g. the respective merits & demerits of having a religious Training
School for Nurses in a secular Hospital & again in a Hospital of its own - In the latter, you avoid, I had almost said shirk, a whole class of difficulties - While, if you bravely confront the rubs & wears & tears of the former, you secure an infinitely higher object, and, I may aim without contradiction assert, an infinitely better & more thorough practical education for your Nurses - Thus I would not hesitate to say that Miss Jones & Miss Merryweather, tho' the work develops itself much more slowly, are laying a much safer corner-stone than the many German & English Protestant & R. Catholic Societies, who train their Nurses "at home," & who, if they have a Hospital, manage it themselves. So the Augustinians at Paris, who train
at the Hotel Dieu.
   And generally, both French & English, from their act of common
sense, train much better than the Germans.  [end 8:103]

Believe me, ever yours faithfully
   F. Nightingale

Workhouse Infirmary Act.
   I was greatly relieved to hear your account of poor Mrs. Kidd, which was confirmed this morning by Miss G. Smyth. I felt quite afraid lest it would be necessary to send Miss Freeman to Lpool at once to help - Miss Smyth however does not think so. I see Miss Freeman on Monday. On Tuesday she enters at St. Thomas'. I feel anxious not to hurry her too much.
   I return Miss Frodeham's (under another Envelope)
testimonials. I seemed to know her name, & now I recall what I knew about her. I have written to a person who I think will give me a confidential opinion - & will let you know. I shall not write to the Dr. {illeg.Burlem?} of Bournemouth, as you know him - in great haste pray, dear Mr. Rathbone believe me ever yours sincerely & gratefully
Florence Nightingale

{archivist's note: I 20
63/1 F.N. to RD. BAGGALLAY 13 JAN. 1863
63/2 " " 17 JAN. 1863
63/3 " " [MARY JONES] 17 JAN. 1863}

Letter, LMA f63/1, pen

f63/1.1
32 South St. Park Lane W
Jan 13/63
My dear Sir
The only way out of your difficulty as to the site, would be to refer all the sites to persons who have not committed themselves on either side the controversy, as I suggested some time since to Mrs. Wardroper.
Dr. Leeson's pamphlet is good & certainly negatives all idea of placing the Hospital at the South end of Westminster Bridge, as I was very sorry to hear had been proposed.
The position is the worst about London, only 2 feet above
Dr. Leeson's proposal to warm by hot water should not be entertained. Open fire places only are permissible.

I shall be very glad to see your Report, as you kindly propose.

Believe me dear Sir

very faithfully yours

Florence Nightingale

Rd Baggallay Eq

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for the copy of your Report.

I wish I could help poor St. Thomas' out of his difficulties which, for aught I see, increase rather than diminish.

But it is impossible of course.
for me to ask any Governor to propose a selection of sites. Neither should I choose to do so.

Under your present difficulty, by far the best, indeed the only way would be to call in the aid of persons independent & competent to advise in these matters. And

in that case I would gladly give all the assistance in my power.

I must add that the most painful surprise I have had for years is to see, after all that has been written & {illeg.proved?} as to the choice of sites for Hospitals, a site so much as mentioned as
that by the Thames Embankment - a place totally unfit for sick.
   Believe me very faithfully yours
   Florence Nightingale

Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
   1. I send you a facsimile of the Cottage Plan you asked for which you will perhaps like better than a tracing
   2. My finished Operation Tables with nomenclature of fatal complications printed at the back
will be ready in a day or two, when I will send you copies. Mr. Fergusson, should he use these at all, will probably like to see the finished copies, before he makes any arrangements.

I return that woman's letter: Its folly & egotism are aggravating beyond description. I could hardly have believed it, but that I know, when I had a person living with me, my routine work was tripled. And professional men continually returned me her letters. The only way for you if you had thought it right to get well would have been to ignore her work at St John's altogether.
f63/3.2v
for a time. But it
seems that now you
are in for it. And
I only hope you will
go away in February.
I do think that,
from your state of
health, it worries
you more than it
should. How I wish
I could help you.

ever yours
F.N
Jan 17/63

envelope addressed by FN to Miss Jones

{archivist's note:
I 21
63/4 F.N. TO --- ("MADAM"), 12 MAR. 1863
63/5 F.N. TO [MARY JONES], 15 JUNE 1863
63/6 " " " 23 JUNE 1863}

Letter, LMA f63/4, pen

f63/4.1 A XXX 6

4 Cleveland Row
St James' SW
March 12/63

Madam
I regret that you
should have had the
trouble of asking for
my name at your
Bazar, when Mr.
Frederic Andrew had
performed that
office already.
I also regret to
have to repeat to you
my answer to him,
f63/4.1v
viz. that, deeply as I am interested in the success of your good work, I am compelled to make it a rule not to give my name to Bazars - & above all, never to give my name, where my health prevents my giving my working help -
Believe me
faithfully yours
Florence Nightingale

Letter, LMA f63/5.1-f63/5.4, pen

f63/5.1
4. Cleveland Row.
S.W.
June 15/63
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
I am so pressed, as I fear you know too well what it is to be, that I cannot write a proper letter about these outstanding things:
1. as to Mrs. Clark. She has marked every step of her intercourse with me with a blunder, topping up
with insisting on Cleveland Row, S.W., being in Hampstead, wherefore the enclosed has been 3 days on its road - I always feel as if this kind carried its blundering into every department of life. But as you know her, & if you don't think so, I will do as you tell me.

I am quite sure that our Committee won't "pay her fees" - nor is it reasonable to ask them. I feel it hard to be called upon myself, seeing that all the money I have to spend on Charities is earned by the books I write to sell, that is to say, I have exactly the same means as Mrs. Clark herself, = nevertheless you shall tell me what to do -

2. I enclose the Bath letter. I dare say you have had a similar one - Bath sticks in my heart.
I am afraid it is only the appearance of good.

3. The result of my communications about the Calcutta with Sir C. Wood & Lady Cranworth is that London influence "brings forth no fruit" in Calcutta - but "should the Training Institution be ever really started," they (at Calcutta) would be too glad of "my lady as Supt." [I was obliged not to give her name] The document is such a mysterious one, that I hesitate to send it you; all I can make out from it is that there is some sort of quarrel between the London & Calcutta people ever yours FN.

Dearest, I hope you are not getting to have "scruples." All I meant about the
poor little £100, is, 
do with it exactly 
as you think best, 
(& if that is the 
Convalescents, so much 
the better,) without 
accounting to any 
one.
--------------------

I almost hope 
Mrs. J. may stay 
with you. Unless 
she is veritably 
drawn towards 
Calcutta - especially 
since I heard many 
things & now know

I think at these 
busy times the wear 
of being 3 miles 
off & having to 
get ready for a 
Messenger &c is 
even worse than 
being on the spot. 
It is 10 years this 
month since I went 
to Harley St - 
7 years yesterday 
since I came back 
from the Crimea - 
6 years yesterday 
since I have been
confined to my room
- 2 years this last
Sunday since I lost
Sidney Herbert.
I am so hurried
that I can scarcely
write. But I would
not have you think
that I am enjoying
myself down here
in idleness, & not
thinking of you or
of my wish to see
you always -
ever yours
F.N.

Letter, LMA pen LMA H1/ST/NC1/63/6

4 C Row SW
June 23/63
Dearest friend
I return these, as
desired. I was very
glad to see the printed
paper & would have
kept it, if you had
had another copy.
A propos of By Law
25, could we not have
something like it?
It has happened to
me so often,
particularly in the
East, to wish to protect
the Govt. against sending out Nurses at great expense, merely to marry or take private service directly. And I have always been told it could not be done — But this Society does it.

I should like to ask Hy Bonham Carter, who is a lawyer, whether in the case of your Mrs. Hart, or in order to secure

our St. Thomas' probationers from remaining in Hospital service for at least 5 years after leaving us, we could not require such an engagement.

I don't think it would be a bad thing to make the prospective husband refund the money, like Jacob, of the training of his wife. Only I suppose it
never is refunded,
for all the engagements.
    ever dearest friend
Yours
    F.N.

{archivist's note: I 22
63/7 F.N. TO [MARY JONES]  26 JULY 1863
64/1 F.N. TO DR. PATTISON WALKER  11 JAN. 1864
64/2 F.N. TO [MARY JONES].  11 FEB. 1864.
64/3 F.N. TO DR. ACLAND.  13 FEB. 1864
64/4 F.N. TO [MARY JONES]  25 FEB. 1864}

Letter, LMA pen LMA H1/ST/NC1/63/7}  [8:169]

f63/7.1

July 26/63
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
    I cannot remember
ever in all my life
having been so driven
as in the last 3
months.
    I have never been
up since I saw you
except to see one of
my masters & to go
to Hampstead.
    Since Wednesday  [9:230]
fortnight when the
India Sanitary Report's
first copy saw the light, I have had every moment taken up with pressing it & distributing it, for the sake of getting our home & Presidency Commissions appointed before the session is over.

I have had the most discouraging contradictions & disappointments. such as one must expect, working as I do, without a Chairman & without a Secretary. Sometimes I think I must be mad to attempt such a work as this alone from my bed. But they say I am not.

After the first week in August this great press will be over. And I hope we shall then see each other very often at Hampstead & talk over many things. Ever yours

FN
Dear Sir

I am annoyed more than I can say that, in consequence of the inexplicable delays of the Lithographers, the Report on the Mediterranean Stations, which has been quite & completely finished some time, is not ready so that I cannot get even a single copy which

I should otherwise have so gladly put into your hands before you start. Because it is a really useful work, full of wood-cuts & descriptions of Barrack conveniences, sewerage & drainage plans, hitherto thought unsuitable impossible in dry seasons of hot climates, but which have now been successfully applied at hot-climate Stations with drier seasons than India has.
I shall send you a copy to India as soon as I can lay my hands on one - I think I have your address there.

As you are so kind as to offer it, I send a copy of the last Edition of my "Notes on Hospitals," just out, for Sir. C. Trevelyan, the Finance Member of Council at Calcutta. If it will amuse you to cut it open on the voyage, pray do - But, (except the recommendations)

at the end of the Section on Indian Hospitals,) its principles of construction are adapted only for temperate climates. I send you half a dozen of my India paper, read at Edinburgh, if you can make any use of them in India. But pray remember not to take them, unless convenient - nor the book for Sir C. Trevelyan, which can be sent by post, if returned to me.
f64/1.3

I wish you God speed on your voyage to India. I look upon the Sanitary work there now, as the true Missionary work, as you see - [end 15:397]
yours most faithfully
Florence Nightingale

Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/64/2 [6:627-28]

f64/2.1

115 Park St. W
Feb 11/ 64
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
Could you take in a Patient from Weybridge, said to be too ill to come without certainty of admission. Maria Briggs age 42 disease by medical certificate, Neglected Bronchitis & general debility of the system - same medical man
(who is attending her) says she is dangerously ill, but sees no danger in moving her, if they wait for a fair dry day. His name: Harcourt Maria Briggs is a cook - came to my cousin, Shore Smith's, but a month ago - which month the poor creature has spent in the only children's bedroom they have in their tiny house, they paying
a nurse to attend
upon her - & the
children sleeping
in the sitting room.
They are now
obliged to leave their
house - cannot
renew their tenancy -
and the sick woman
must be moved any
how -
If you can take
her in, would you
specify day & hour
of admission, subject
of course to the
Doctor's & the weather's
authorizing her to be
moved.
If it is not
convenient or desirable
to take her in,
please only say No.
I can go farther
(& fare worse)
f64/3.1

{Private}

115 Park St W
Feb 13/64
My dear Sir

Immediately after receiving news of the untoward behaviour of the "Quarterly" from Sir Harry Verney, I communicated with Lord Stanley; & again upon his arrival in London - with a view of inserting your Article on the Sanitary State of the Indian Army in the "Westminster"

f64/3.1v

I have only this day received the final answer.

Lord Stanley says = "I have settled for its insertion - though I suppose Dr. Chapman (the Editor) will claim the usual editorial right of revision."

He farther asks you kindly to send your Article as soon
as possible to the Editor of the Westminster

Dr. Chapman
25 Somerset Street W

I am afraid you will be less glad to hear this than we are. Still I trust you will not deserve us; and that the Article will come forth triumphant -

The enemy has not yet appeared in any public way. I wish he would!

Editorial I am afraid the * delay will unduly hurry you now - Editors are such great men - that they do not abide by ordinary customs of answer by return of post -

your faithful servt.

Florence Nightingale

Dr. Acland
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]

I am enraged about your coming back - *But* - it's no use.

I am much to blame for not having returned this letter sooner. In the correspondence to which it alludes & which I think you saw, I promised Mr. Sabin (one of the best of our Army Chaplains) that the £10 should be remitted - not at all on the ground of its being a "Sister," which

I did not know, & which I am very sorry for, for your sake -

I suppose I must stick to paying the £10. But I need not ask my Committee about it. I shall pay it myself - shall I send it you now?

I am quite mad with that Col = Wilbraham. He has actually addressed a "confidential" letter to the War Office, since you & I saw him, against Mrs. Shaw Stewart,
it seems to me the most extravagant thing for a Governor to "correspond confidentially" with a War Office about a matter (nursing) which he knows nothing at all about - & this in the teeth of his Principal Medical Officer, who calls the Nursing "admirable," & does know all about it.

He says Mrs. S.S. is "excited" which we know is true. But, if she is "excited," he is ten times more so -

He has committed himself to three, at least, of what I can shew to be false statements. ever yours F.N.

{archivist's note: I 23
64/5 F.N. TO [MARY JONES] 11 MAY 1864
64/6 F.N. TO CHAS. WILLIAMS, ESQ. 21 MAY 1864
64/7 F.N. TO DR. PATTISON WALKER 3 JUNE 1864}
Dearest friend

I send you Mrs. Mosely's note. Please destroy it. I suppose she was too old to begin this new life. But what I am chiefly sorry for, is that you should have had this trouble for nothing.

I send an Incurables polling paper, signed — please fill it up as you like. The truth is = that I now only subscribe

to Institutions on condition of my not having my name put down: because I am utterly incapable of considering or even of reading the application for Votes. In short, I subscribe only with stipulation of not having to vote.

The Incurable, (of which the Institution is far the most "incurable" of its own Patients — & which has worried me for years for
plans & advice, which it never meant to use,) - alone flatly refused to take away my name off, because it said it would be an injury to it. It only took off my address - as if that was any good. And you see I do not put my address. It wrings one's heart to see the incalculable amount of human suffering these Lists betray, more from what they do not tell than from what they do - And what

enrages me most of all is to receive applications from fine ladies for their domestic servants & even for their "governesses"!

I do conceive that the whole system of voting in England (for charity) wastes more precious time & good feeling than can well be imagined.

I am afraid, after all, that this Institution is not the one you refer to. I got this polling paper. For I do not receive one now - If so, burn it. ever yours F.N.

Envelope addressed to Chas. Williams, Eq
Sir [Charles Williams]

I have to thank you for annually sending me your Norwich Hospital Statistics. Altho' affording a number of points of comparison, they are not sufficient for many practical purposes.

I venture to send you a copy of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Statistics for last year, just out.

They are the most complete I know. It is a pity that yours should not be perfect - especially now when the comparative mortality of different Hospitals & of the Hospitals of different countries is daily becoming a
more pressing question. And Norwich has already done so much towards its solution. I need not point out to your experience the different headings of interest in the accompanying Report. I am Sir Your faithful servt. Florence Nightingale Chas=Williams Esq

{written across horizontal length of folio:}

I see great stress made (in the Norwich Hospital manifesto) on the Night Nurses having one or two nights in bed "during the week."

I should lay great stress on their having eight hours "in bed" every day "during the week" - which allows for dressing & undressing.

Many strong women cannot sleep at all by day - consequently never can be Night Nurses - all

{written across reverse of folio}
require an Apprenticeship to begin with - a week's night nursing at first or so - But, the Apprenticeship once accomplished, it is my experience that it is better to make Night Nurses altogether Night Nurses (at least for 6 months at a time) & not to endeavour to piece out insufficient day=sleep with occasional nights in bed

F.N.
June 3/64

Mr dear Sir [Pattison Walker]

I thank you much for your kind letter of April 23 - & its most interesting account of the proceedings of the Commission. It is doing its work vigorously - & will be a blessing to India.

The establishment of a chair of Hygiene is of the greatest importance for the future progress of the cause. And the same

{written across two folios}

should be done for Bombay & Madras. While teaching Europeans the laws of health, do not forget the natives. Could not the question of public health be brought before any Institutes or Native Societies for discussion? A well written little book or paper addressed to natives in their own language, explaining the very simplest laws of health - how it is that their present habits lead to fever & cholera - (if the causes of these two diseases are made head against, all the rest will follow -) could not this be compiled & circulated among the natives? I have always felt that, if you could take the heads of castes into your counsels, disarm their prejudices - how much might be done? - I do not pretend to say how - But you have now, at the head of the Government, the man of all others, who can do this & who will. Never had a Governor General before such knowledge & such power. I mean particularly with regard to the native races. It is urgent that some enlightenment should
be brought to those districts round Calcutta where the remittent plague prevails - in order to lead them to improve their own Sanitary state & to allow it to be improved.

Could not hints shewing a kindly interest in them by the Government, be put forth by the Government?

With regard to the very important question of disposing of the dead, would not the best plan be to confer with

I have just had a communication from Delhi & my brother in law, Sir Harry Verney, has seen an officer in London, just arrived from Delhi from his son's Regiment there, who speaks to the same effect. viz.

that a disease called "Boils" is very prevalent among the troops there & causes much inefficiency. One officer had no less than 80 Boils on his body. The people there attribute the disease to bad water & bad site - & say that there is good water, tho' at a considerable distance, & a good site for a small
Barrack in Delhi. This is just one of the cases with which your Commission could effectually deal. The cause of "Boils" is very little understood. If you could a careful enquiry to be made to find out the cause at Delhi & remedy the evils much good might arise to the Service [of course we do not take implicitly every word we hear from two Military Officers, unacquainted with Sanitary things.] F.N. 

the different castes and ascertain what really constitutes religious burial. [This is what even the old Indians at the India Office here seem not exactly to know]. Then the whole question would resolve itself into the best practicable & most wholesome method of doing the work.

If cremation were adopted, suppose your Commission were to send a Minute home, desiring that the War & India Office Commission here (Barrack & Hospital Improvement Commission)
{written across two folios}
should send them out the best plans of apparatus from this country, where the process has been applied to almost every purpose except burning dead bodies. [And even that has been considered]

I was delighted to see Mr. Strachey's Minute (April 5), which was sent by the India Office to the "Barrack & Hospital Commission" in a letter of May 20, desiring them to send out plans &c of Sanitary construction to you - because we are so slow. (they talk of Hindoos being slow - but War Offices & India Offices in England are slower). These plans are however nearly ready. And they will be sent out almost immediately with general suggestions.

I wish you God speed with all my heart.
You will have much opposition to encounter. But great works do not prosper without opposition. [Do you remember what (by a curious coincidence) Pope Paul III said to a predecessor of yours in the Missionary work in India St. Francis Xavier, viz. that God would always find means to carry out
a work which was really God's - that indeed he, Xavier, would find much to suffer - but that the "affairs of God" prosper succeed only by the way of crosses & difficulties. I did not think Pope Paul could have said so good a thing. And I suppose Xavier was half a madman. But, for all that, I think it is true, is it not? for every work engaged in for the good of men -]

Believe me
your faithful servt.
Florence Nightingale
J. Pattison Walker Esq [illeg]
I need hardly say that any papers or letters from you will always be most welcome to me. F.N.
Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/64/8

f64/8.1

Private
32 South Street
London W
June 18/64

My dear sir

I thank you very heartily for your letter of May 7, & for its enclosure of your Minutes.

The filter in the Mediterranean Report will answer your purpose. It is intended specially for filtering water before being tanked for use. If, e.g., you had good tanks for Fort William, & if you collected all rain water from roofs for drinking & cooking,

f64/8.1v & f64/8.2 you would pass the whole of it through such a filter before allowing it to enter your tanks. [The War Office Commission will recommend it specially for India in the "Suggestions" called for by your President] What occurred to me, with regard to your proceedings, is that it would be advisable to make them very short, unless for special reasons. If everything is put in at length, errors in principle, backed by high names, may have to be recorded. There is an example of this in your present Minutes where Barrack rooms for large numbers are recommended by a General Officer & Medical Officer, contrary to all sound principle. This is a very great mistake, & even the record of it might lead to mischief. All forget that these overgrown Barrack=rooms are very obvious causes of disease in India. [Dr. McClelland's theory of Barrack building shews throughout great lack of Sanitary knowledge on such subjects.]

It would be better to limit the record of matter of instruction either to the enunciation of sound principles & sound practice by the Commission itself
or to such principles as it adopted (stated in other's words).

Planes & apparatus IV, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, of the Mediterranean Report, will be recommended for your consideration by the War Office Commission. I hope you will think that their forthcoming suggestions (which never would have been forthcoming but for Mr. Strachey's Minute) contain a good deal relating to general principles of drainage water supply, barrack & hospital plans, sanitary police & registration of deaths, not included in the Mediterranean Report, which may form the bases of great changes in India. Every thing, including the plans, is now in press, & will be hurried through as fast as possible.

I am, dear Sir, yours ever sincerely
F. Nightingale
Dr. Pattison Walker
f64/9.1
115 Park Street W  
July 30/64  
Sir [J.J. Frederick]
I trust you will  
excuse my applying to  
you directly on this  
matter.

The enclosed twenty  
copies were sent me by  
Mr. Spottiswoode, at  
my request (of the  
"Suggestions." But as  
he has no power over  
Day's, they do not  
contain the lithographs,  
without which they  
are of no use.

If you could obtain  
an order from the  
W.O. that they should  
be filled up with  
the requisite number  
of sets of lithographs  
from Day's, I should  
be very much obliged.

If not, would you  
kindly let me have  
as many copies as  
can be spared out  
of the fifty now  
preparing for the  
W.O. complete?

I beg to remain  
your faithful servt.  
Florence Nightingale  
J.J. Frederick Eq
Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/64/10

f64/10.1

115 Park St W
August 1/64

Sir,

I am very much obliged to you for the promise conveyed in your note of July 30. And so I immediately come to you for another favour. Would you kindly send me the first final Revise, (with my corrected copy, sent to you on

f64/10.1v

Saturday,) which reaches you from Mr. Spottiswoode of the 8vo. Edition Abstract of the Report of the R. Commission on the Sanitary state of the Indian Army? And I will return it to you forthwith.

I remain Sir yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale

J.J. Frederick Eq
My dear Sir

I sent to you & to Mr. Strachey copies of the "Suggestions" (by Book Post a fortnight ago) drawn up in compliance with Mr. Strachey's Minutes of April 5.

These "Suggestions" have now received the Sanction of the Military Committee, of the Council, & of the S. of S. of the India Office here -

And they are about {Jas=Pattison Walker Eq MD}

to be forwarded to you officially by the India Office.

But our people are so slow that, if I were not afraid of being profane, I should say that Sir John Lawrence is always a great deal more ready to hear than we are to pray. Therefore I forward you (by Bookpost to-day) 4 more copies of the "Suggestions," in case you may wish to apply them at once.

Yours very faithfully

Florence Nightingale
Hampstead N.W.
Aug 17/64
Dear Sir

The taste of the Stationery Office in colours is not admirable. But, of the two patterns you are good enough to enclose, No. 1 is certainly the best. I suppose then we are not to have a cloth cover at all - I am sorry for this,

as even the little books of Regns given to private soldiers are put up in grey cloth, lined with paper.

Yours very faithfully
Florence Nightingale
J.J. Frederick Eq
Would you be kind enough as to let me have my last corrected proof - with the final Revises of the "Abstract," when you send them me?

F.N.

{archivist's note:}

I 25
64/13 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 24 Aug. 1864
63/14 25 Aug. 1864
64/15 30 Aug. 1864
64/16 7 Sept 1864
64/17 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker 3 Oct. 1864
64/18 F.N. to Dr. E.A. Parkes 5 Oct. 1864}

Letter, LMA ff64/13.1-64/13.2, pen

Hampstead N.W.
Aug 24/64
My dearest friend [Mary Jones]
I wish you could have told me you were better.
I have written to Miss Agnes Jones in Ireland what you kindly say about your Nurse & will let you hear - as soon as I hear myself - Or probably she will write to you - That matter has all been re=opened again about the Liverpool Workh= 
- there has been another
wearisome correspondence.

But I am not going to trouble you
about it - the more as
it is now settled.

But the pauper has
been reverted to - And
the plan is now as
follows=
15 Head Nurses
15 Probationers
37 ex-pauper Assistants
  at £5 pr. ann. wages
15 ex-pauper Scrubbers
  at £2 pr. ann. wages

ever yours
F.N.

I hope to tell you a few
details another time

Letter, LMA f64/14, pen

Hampstead N.W.
Aug 25/64
Dearest friend
I mean what I say -
that, if you had rather not work
even at what I enclose,
I had rather you did
not.
In that case, please
return them to me Instante.
If you can add any
suggestions, they will be
very welcome - The
(3) "Ward Supts" have
been changed to "Divisional
Officers," in deference to
your suggestion -
   I must ask you, in
any case, to return them
soon, as my answer is
waited for.
   We are so busy just
now that I could have
wished this had not
come. But I am so
glad it should be done at all
    ever yrs
    F.N.

Letter, LMA f64/15, pen f64/15

Hampstead N.W.
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
   I really would not have
troubled you with this,
had it not been for
your kind question,
pinned on to the very
doubt which had
arisen in Miss A. Jones'
mind - Also, another
doubt of hers which
I enclose. Please
return me these - if
with any suggestions,
they will be gratefully received
    ever yours
Aug 30/64    F.N.
Hampstead NW  
Sept 7/64

Dearest friend

I am quite unhappy at troubling you again about the Nurse for Miss Agnes Jones. I have (only this morning) received a letter from Miss A.J. - (the delay, I believe, owing to the extraordinary postal arrangements of a fishing village they are at, for her health) saying: -

that Mr. Rathbone has offered to pay wages to induce any particularly desirable Nurse to wait for the opening of the new Workhouse Nursing - (perhaps the Nurse is already engaged) But, if not, Miss A.J. would feel very grateful to you, if you would think whether the Nurse would do for a General Night Superintendent * in the terms of the ---------------------

* The Patients are on 4 floors
suggested office which
in one of your kind
letters you made to me.
    I take it, tho' Miss
A.J. is not very explicit,
that the Nurse must
make up her mind
that the night watchers
she has to superintend
will be
    Assistant Nurses (raw Probationers)
ex-paupers (paid
& for special cases a
trained St. Thomas' Nurse.
    Should you think fit,
would you offer it her,
telling her of what work

it involves - & that
if she accepts, the delay
will be made good
to her?
    I am really grieved
to give you this additional
trouble of thinking.
    I hear from Mrs.
Wardroper that you
have taken a woman
known to her, of better
education than Walker,
to fill Walker's place.
If this is true, it will
be such a relief to me.
    ever yours
    F.N.
Miss A. Jones intends dining with the
Nurses.
7/11 32 South Street
Private London W

(Recd. 19/11) Oct 3/64

My dear Sir [Pattison Walker]

It is rather for the pleasure of conversing with you about your "Proceedings" than for the sake of being of use that I add a few Remarks to those "for June."

---

106. Resolution

Yes: and the refuse discharged through a pipe below low water mark in the river

---

107. President's Remarks

Yes: in new barracks we propose proper fire grates to dry the air in damp weather where required

---

Page 52. Tatties

Tatties &c are touched upon in the "Suggestions."
Page 52 - last line
  Yes. yes.
---
* 109. 110.
  Plans for Lunatic Asylums &
  Jails must be sent out to you.
---
* Page 53. last line but two.
  "minimum allowance".
  80 would be little enough
---
* Page 54
  top line but one
  125 is the utmost number
---
Page 54 Third Para
  "Inspector General N.W.P."
  "cubic feet & square feet" -
  750 and 80 if the prison be small
  & every thing right.
  But 1000 would be better
  The Agra Jail & others shew
  that Jail accommodation wants
  entire renewal.
---
* Page 54 - last Para -
Could you have a reference made
to the War Office (Sanitary) Commission here?

---

114 "As regards the manure"
Yes.
Wherever manure is laid down near cities, it should be at once dug in and covered.

---

last Para of Page
This would depend entirely on the extent of land, the distance from Barracks, the direction of winds, manuring, drainage, crops &c

---

Page 58 - lines 6, 7, 8, 9 from top
  Yes - yes - yes

---

Page 65. 22.
Col= Crommelin is right however.

---

Page 67. 36
  very good

---

Page 75 ][
This question treated in the "Suggestions"
Plan of Bangalore Hospital bad
Page 77][
remarks very good
---
Page 79 129. I.
The best deodorizer is a drain pipe or a Scavenger
---
Page 84][
Let them try their disinfectants
---
Page 93. Mesan [?] Meer Water Supply
"1. quite true
---
I will not weary you any more with marks of admiration & remarks of affirmation; but only wish you Godspeed - & am ever your faithful servt=
Florence Nightingale
Dr. Pattison Walker

Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/64/18

Hampstead NW
Oct 5/ 64
My dear Dr. Parkes
I will not lose a day in thanking you for your great work, with its dedication to our dear friend.
I have just spent the afternoon in turning over the pages & having a general glance at the immense mass of important matter & valuable facts you have brought together - Let me congratulate you on
the accomplishment of such a work -
    I shall give myself the pleasure of writing to you again about it, when I have had time to drink in even a portion of its contents.

Believe me ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale

{not in FN's handwriting:}
TO D.S.G. Parkes

{archivist's note:}
I 26

64/19 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker 10 Oct. 1864
64/20 " " " 18 Oct. 1864
64/21 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 27 Oct. 1864
64/22 [see next folder notes on Swansea hospital 7 Nov. 1864]
64/23 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker 19 Dec. 1864}
My dear Sir

I write in haste to thank you [9:498-99] for your important "Draft Rules for Military Cantonments," just received.

I have only had time to glance through it. As a proposed sanitary code for Indian Stations, it shews that it has been most carefully considered with an earnest desire to make its provisions efficient (and with what a masterly hand it is done!)

There is so close a conformity in its provisions with the points in the "Suggestions" of the War Office Commission which have been sent you, that there will be no difficulty in arriving at an agreement.

In the W.O. "Suggestions" there are
some points which might be introduced with advantage into your code. With this view, might I venture to suggest that you should compare your clauses with theirs, so as to introduce into your code any additional clauses you may, on consideration, judge to be useful & practicable?

Two or three points have especially struck me in my hasty perusal: -

1. as to Inspectors of Nuisances
   These are Officers whose duty it is to see the thing done with their own eyes. This is indispensable with us here.
   It may interest you to know that one of the most active "Inspectors" in England has offered to the W.O. Commission to give up his appointments - & come out to you. He says there are many others in England who would gladly lend their aid to the great work in India (not for the sake of large salaries, but simply to help forward the sanitary cause). We have referred him to the India Office.
   If you should want any such Inspectors, you would have to apply to the India Office. And the W.O. Commission would try to find them for you -

2. A very important power suggested by the W.O. Commission is the making of Bye-laws under sanction.
   Could you adopt this?

3. Could not something more be said about permanent works - granting to the local authorities certain powers of moving the Government as to putting Stations or towns in a complete sanitary condition (as to works of a permanent character)?

4. Could you not include the Sanitary police of native towns, & make some provision for introducing works into them?
These are the chief points which have struck me - not knowing the bearing of local powers in India. You may have perhaps already provided some of these powers, altho' I (ignorant) do not see it.

You intend, as I gladly see, to send copies to the W.O. Commission. They will joyfully give you every hint that occurs to them. [end 9:499]

I trust that Mr. John Strachey is better - his is a master=hand - & that your own health improves. We cannot spare you.

I can only wish you God speed on your noble work, & beg you to believe me ever your faithful & ready servt

Florence Nightingale

Dr. Pattison Walker

My dear Sir

I am very much indebted to you for your last letter (of August 31) also for the copy of "Rules & Regulations" which I received & acknowledged by last mail.

You have now had time to look over the "Suggestions," which you are kind enough to acknowledge - & which are intended as a kind of guide to executive authorities in India, in European experience of Sanitary work
rather than as a guide to teaching in which they are deficient.
I suppose that your course of lectures will be attended by Eurasians & natives entering the Medical profession. You will have a glorious opportunity, not only of teaching civilization & health, but also of teaching them practice by bringing the pupils into practical contact with sanitary problems in Calcutta.
A good text-book would be a great help to them & also a few tracts in the vernacular.
If the natives would give you all the information they can as to domestic habits, you might teach them how those habits can be followed with least injury to health.
[ I wish **Sanitary rules could be made a religion, a fanaticism with the ignorant of the natives. I suppose it is not by intelligence, at least at first, (by explaining reasons,) that these natives can be led - But we hear of fanaticism about cleanliness
in some points among Brahmins & we know that Moses made sanitary things a part of his code for the people - Could not observing certain laws of death be made a religion with the ignorant of the Hindoos?

I trust that your health is better & that of Mr. Strachey. Believe me most faithfully yours Florence Nightingale Jas=Pattison Walker Eq Md

Dearest friend I ought to have returned you the enclosed long ago. I am very glad that you can admit 10 Probrs. I have heard from Dr. Morgan that they will send 10 to St. Thomas' (where we can only give up 10 places, owing to other engagements). They will select those intended for District Nursing
rather for King's Coll: & those for Hospital Nursing rather for St Thomas'. I do hope it will turn out all for the best. It remains to be seen whether they will be able to find 20 proper Probrs all at once - We can't.

Have you heard of the death of Pastor Fliedner of Kaiserswerth? It took place on the 4th (in harness) - of long standing disease. Pray for them with your Nurses. They ask our prayers - not for themselves, tho' a widow, who was herself the most efficient Supt. & 7 children without provision remain - but that it will please God to raise up men to carry on the work in the same spirit that His servant Fliedner did.

His death is to me almost as if I had lost a father.

He leaves over 400 "Sisters" - the work of 27 years. on no money -

I am coming back to London - I have been (like you) so busy. And yet I seem to be doing nothing - ever your F.

Oct 27/64
My dear Sir

I will only today thank you for your beautiful (& distressing) photographs of the Calcutta damage from the Cyclone, which arrived in perfect condition - Also for Col= Crommelin's Memo. on Hospital Construction - his principles appear admirable & his application of them ingenious - also for the Minute on Vaccination.

On Friday night Mr. John Strachey called at my house on his way to Bristol - & left with me your Proceedings for August & September - I was exceedingly obliged for your thought of me; - but regretted the cause, I fear suppose ill health, which brought Mr. Strachey home. I did not see him, but he promised me to write from Bristol. If his health permits, & his stay is long enough in England, he might obtain important information here. In the mean time, he leaves the cause in
---------------------------

X I am not now at South St. but close by (for a time) All letters reach me as before addressed to South St -
Bengal in the best hands, which are yours -

I am about to write to you, with your permission, at some length.

Sir C. Wood (but this is STRICTLY IN CONFIDENCE) referred the Report of Dr. Leith on the Sanitary Condition of the Bombay Arms, to our "Barrack & Hospital Improvement Commission" for reply. We have replied to it. I shall send you a copy of the reply (you have of course seen Dr. Leith's Report) as soon as it is through the press.

In the meantime believe me yours most sincerely Florence Nightingale

Dr. Pattison Walker

Mr. Strachey has found us in a thick London fog, & with snow & frost on the ground (it is freezing now) & with a bitter N. Easter -

F.N.
Swansea Hospital
These plans, taken as a whole, are admirable. I have never yet seen first Drafts which require so little alteration. The main points of criticism arise, partly out of the form, & lay & area of the ground - partly out of the requirements which the Committee has asked you to fulfil.

The area & cubic space per bed are ample. And the height & width of the wards are well proportioned.

The windows are so large that you may quite well leave more space between the top of the upper windows & the eaves, so as to give a better
f64/22.1v
architectural effect
outside. i.e. if you
think it desirable.

Considering that the
prevailing winds are
from the S.W., the
Blockplan, No. 3, would
bring these winds
most favourably
upon the building.
This Blockplan would
also keep the interior
of the wards most
out of sight of house
windows. If you
adopt this plan,
you will have to
alter the Operating
room & place it
on the N. side of
the Central block,
where the stair=case
is at present.
If the road were diverted, this plan would enable the Hospital to be extended Northwards to give rather more than an additional third of accommodation at some future time.

Blockplans Nos. 1 and 4 are, either of them, as good as No. 3, so far as the disposition of parts is concerned. They would enable the line of the wards to be brought into the line of the streets. This might however be a disadvantage from rendering the wards liable to be overlooked from neighbouring houses. But the chief
disadvantage would be that the sea breeze would be partially interrupted by the Central block, & that it could not fall so favourably against the sides of the wards, as in Plan No. 3. These questions however can be best settled on the spot. And if for any local reason, Plans 1 or 4 be preferred, either will make a good block plan.

I would strongly recommend however that the proposed Turkish Bath be not placed on the S.W. point of the ground. The place where it should be, is at the Northern angle. As it is, the site will in time become much more confined than might be desirable - & as much open space should be kept within the Hospital enclosure as possible.

The wards on the Men's side will do, with the slight alteration suggested in the position of one of the Nurse's two inspection windows - See Plan. The same remark applies to the first floor female ward.
But there is a serious administrative objection to the small (women's) ward on the ground floor - on account of increased difficulty of supervision & increased cost of nursing. That Ward will require a Day Nurse & a Night Nurse to itself - & even then, being out of the way of the Head Nurse, would not be well-nursed. Would it not be possible, by lengthening the Women's Pavilion, to have a 28-bed ward & a 6-bed ward, which would give all the accommodation
required & with
infinitely greater
advantage to the
Patients being on the same floor. Women's
Surgical cases in the
country, are generally
few - (no proportions
between Medical &
Surgical cases is
given in the Specification.
But, judging from
experience, a 28 bed
Medical & a 6 bed
Surgical Female Ward
would be all that
is required].

If this were done,
the abandoned 6=bed
ward might be turned
to better purpose,
such, e.g. as Physician's
& Surgeon's rooms,
Hospital Admission
& Waiting room &c.

For this purpose, a
different arrangement
of doors would be
required.

The Committee must be consulted on this point of the small lower Ward. But, if they judge fit to retain it, they must decide upon incurring the additional cost of Nursing.

The whole of the lower floor of the Women's Pavilion, intended to be used as a dispensary for Out Patients, must be completely cut off from the Hospital.

It is generally considered that it is impossible (too) to cut off too inexorably enough all communication between Men & Women Out-Patients.
They should come in by separate doors - they should have entirely separate W.C.s, - should be cut off, in fact, from any possible overlooking of one another either in entering, waiting or departing.
[see Plan for re-arrangement]
I would strongly suggest that the one storied building, containing Operating Room & small wards, shewn in Block Plans 1 and 4, be removed, or at all events so reduced in length as to
f64/22.5v
contain no more than
the Operating Room,
a one bed ward,
space for a W.C., &
sink & one wash
hand basin.

What can be wanted
more than (for Men
Patients’ accommodation)
than what is found
in the Pavilion, one
large & one small
Surgical, one large
& one small Medical
Ward?

An eye case (who
has to be shut up
by himself in the dark, poor fellow,) may be put into this
one bed ward, if such
is judged necessary.
For he wants no
more nursing than
can be given him
N.B. The operating room should have not only a skylight, but a large N. window.

by the visits of the Head Nurse of his floor. Whereas, if there is to be a two bed special ward there, the same remark, as above, applies, viz. a Day & a Night Nurse would be required. And all this for 3 beds!

[The small wards of one or two beds for special cases, & the one or two small wards for surgical cases would be found quite unnecessary in practice, while they would add greatly to the cost of the Hospital & to the cost of Nursing.]
f64/22.7

I am very glad that you have missed out the Convalescent wards. If, in such a place as Swansea, such wards are ever necessary, they should consist in cottages at the sea-side.

The Deadhouse & Post Mortem Room, (& Laundry, if there is to be one) should be placed at a sufficient distance from, & on the N. side of the Hospital.
Central Block
Kitchen floor very good. Area to be sufficiently wide for plenty of light. Cook must not sleep there, but among the female servants.

Ground floor will answer with the slight alterations (vide Plan) suggested, unless part of the accommodation is to be transferred into the lower floor women's ward.

[I presume there is to be a Porter. And he must sleep on the premises. He ought to sleep & take his meals as near the principal door as possible.] The room allotted to him seems scarcely large enough for him to sleep & take his meals, which he ought to do, there.
First floor
Matron's accommodation, Linen Store &c will answer. But, if by any rearrangement you can obtain access from the Matron's floor by the terrace to the upper floor wards, it should be done.

Upper floor
I presume there will be a cook, housemaid & one or two other female servants. These cook should have a room apart from the Nurses, but divided by compartments. It would be preferable, however, if the Cook could have a small room to herself. Also, if one female servant, who will I presume, assist the Matron with the linen, should sleep near the Matron.
To nurse the 3 large & 3 small wards efficiently would require 3 Head Nurses 9 Day " (2 to each large 1 " " small ward 3 Night Nurses & I am afraid an Extra Nurse, in case of extra Night Nursing in any of the 3 small wards) Or it might be possible to nurse the 3 floors with 3 Head Nurses 6 Day " 3 Night " and 1 extra Nurse 1 Scrubber. [I dislike this latter plan. It is infinitely preferable that the Nursing Staff of each ward floor should
be distinctly separate from the Nursing Staff of each other floor. 

The 3 Head Nurses accommodation is provided for (in the Ward Nurses' rooms.)

The 3 (if not 4) Night Nurses must have a separate room to themselves, divided by compartments.

There remains 9, if (not or at least 7) Day Nurses to provide for. These may be in the same room, with separate compartments. But it is preferable that the Nurses of each floor should

(archivist's note: I 29 F.N.'s notes on 64/22 Swansea Hospital 7 Nov. 1864 (sheet 5))

have a separate room, with compartments. It ensures better discipline—particularly that the Nurses on the Men's side & on the women's side should have separate rooms. [Day & Night Nurses must be separate, in order to allow the Night Nurses undisturbed sleep in the day.]
I have said elsewhere that, if the small wards are retained, which I have proposed to abolish, accommodation must be found for at least:

2 more Day Nurses
2 " Night "

The Sculleries should be roomy & comfortable enough for the Day Nurses to take their meals in [also, the Night Nurse, but at a separate time, of course]

The Head Nurses' rooms should also be large enough for each Head Nurse to have her meals in her own room.
The disposing of this accommodation cannot however be finally arranged until the Committee has decided on the block plan to be adopted.

N.B. On looking at the plan of the ground, I see that all the houses have back premises. It should be ascertained whether the houses have proper W.C.s drained, or merely open privies over cess-pits. If the latter, they would be a fatal objection to the site.

When these matters are satisfactorily arranged, Swansea will have one of the finest Hospitals in the kingdom. I only wish the site had been as good as the plan.

F.
Nightingale
London
7/11/64
f64/24.1
Private 27 Norfolk St.
   Park Lane W.
   Wednesday morning [prob 21 December 1864]
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
   I am so overwhelmed with work & illness - & so ashamed of myself for being so overwhelmed - but I will try to help (as you have so often helped me in similar things) tho' I am afraid what I have to say will not help much.
   I think that in our race, (I set aside R. Catholic races & institutions for the moment) all working people ought to be helped in both ways, viz. Savings' Banks & Deferred annuities, to obtain an independance - I think neither way complete without the other. [And I believe that in time & with a wise Government, poor=laws might be dispensed with under such a regime. But this does not concern you & me now]
   All that Mr. Gladstone is now doing in this line I think is dictated by the wisest policy.
   In such an Institution as yours, the details may be settled in many different ways. But I should always, in all Institutions, aim at these two things, viz. 1. that the Nurse should have a store in Savings' Bank, to enable her to help a relative temporarily, to help herself in an emergency, & also to pay the premium to the Deferred Annuity, when she is incapacitated by sickness from earning wages (this would not apply to you) 2. that she should have
a Deferred Annuity in expectation. Suppose every worthy Nurse could have an Annuity of (say)£50 at the age of 55, this would be affluence. [St. Thomas' grants such.] There are various ways of doing this: you might make the Nurse pay to both, Savings' Bank & Deferred Annuity - gratuities for good conduct from the authorities going to both. Or you might devote subscriptions to the Deferred Annuity, & let her own savings go to the Savings' Bank, with or without any gratuities for good service from yourselves, the authorities - Whichever way you adopt, I think, to give an English woman that proper feeling of independance & self-help, which you so wisely encourage, she

should have both (Savings' Bank deposits, & Deferred Annuity) to look forward to. [It would take much more time than either you or I have, if I were to tell the Mischiefs I have seen in R. Catholic orders, arising from a want of acknowledging the principle of individual independence in their dependents The miserable old ages of their Nurses in the Salpêtrière, where they are entirely provided for - The absolute helplessness of big girls of 20 & upwards, brought up in their orphan Asylums, (in which I have lived & served). It is not, as is generally supposed, that the orders themselves are destitute of
the principles of Political Economy — quite the reverse — All over France, Orders actually make money by the work of their dependants — & quite right too. But these dependants are perfectly incapable, when they leave the Institution, whether Educational, Penitential, or what not, of governing themselves, so as to earn a single sixpence even at the very work they have been used to do for the nuns, — or so as to keep themselves from falling into the arms of the first man who tempts them. Pardon the crudity of my expressions.]

I therefore entirely conclude for the English principle, which

you have carried out so well, of helping people to help themselves. I would do this both ways, both by Savings' Banks & Deferred Annuities

———

I think all experience teaches your principles, viz. of definite engagements, 3-5-7 years, to be renewed, if desirable, — not of indefinite engagements, to be broken off, if undesirable.

———

I send you what I am afraid will be of little use: —

1. the principles which guided us as to the Army Nurses, both in regard to wages & pensions (please burn the detached sheets — & send me
back the "Regulations")
  2. a sketch by Mrs. S. Stewart which please burn, when read. It is an old thing; & she would be "mad" with me for sending it you.
  3. a book of Dr. Farr's which you will have neither time nor inclination to go into - & which please return to me.

Tho' of course, I would not tie down Institutions & private families & societies to the strict principles of the value of money & life of Life Insurances & Government Annuities, yet I incline to think that, the nearer we keep to money=& life= values in our private transactions,

the safer we shall be in doing good & not doing harm.

If, as you cannot possibly be expected to study Dr. Farr's thick book, you would like to write to him (our Army Nurses pension=rates, &c., were all calculated by him) - or would wish me to write to him, to ask some such question as follows:

whether, seeing that Government has provided both for savings & deferred annuities, it would not be best to adopt both plans, say, a deferred annuity accruing at 55 (or 60?) and the remainder to be placed in a Savings' Bank. Or the Nurse might place all her savings in the Savings' Bank, and
the Subscriptions might go to a Deferred Annuity. [The chief difficulty in any scheme is in the want of security that the Nurse will continue in her work till she is 55.]

[Between the leaves of my copy of Dr. Farr's big book are some photographs of the Cyclone at Calcutta, sent me from Calcutta, which it may amuse & distress you to look at]

I had already written to Embley to send me Christmas greeneries for you on the 23rd. But I will write again to ask particularly for hollies in berry, if they are at all, - & perhaps the box had better go straight to you (?) - I am so sorry you are so sad for your Christmas.

God bless you ever yours
F.N.
Dearest friend CONFIDENTIAL

I will tell you (what I have told no one) what has overwhelmed me so much this last fortnight. In addition to our usual work, particularly heavy just now, I have had to do the most painful thing that I ever had to do in my most painful life.

Col=Wilbraham has accused Mrs. S. Stewart of Manslaughter - because she interfered to prevent every Patient from choosing his own Orderly to sit up with him, from ordering said Orderly to be attached to himself alone, & forbidding the Ward Night=Orderly to enter his ward!!! Half an hour after this insane proceeding had been put a stop to, a Patient dies, &

Mrs. S. Stewart is accused of his death. [In addition, she is accused of Anglicanism, "Foaming at the Mouth", Manslaughter, ""Snapping her Fingers" Insanity, DRINK, Being Silent in an Omnibus, General Incivility, Not accepting an Invitation to tea, &c &c &c]

I have gone thro' all these papers which were sent me officially like a Chief Justice, & not like a Counsel.

Today a War Office Commission of 3 members goes down to Netley to examine all the parties.

The worst of it is, not that Mrs. S. Stewart should be accused (for the accusations are too absurd) but how can her post be of any use to the service after such a scene as this? F.N.
P.S. In addition, in an official letter to the Secretary of State, asking for the "dismissal of Mrs. S. Stewart", dated Sept 27, (but sent to me only a fortnight ago), Col: Wilbraham quotes a part of a confidential conversation he had with me, (in which I acknowledged Mrs. S.S.'s defects of temper,) taken out of its connection, which was to soothe him - as a ground for calling for her dismissal: There is no safety with such a man. And I only mention this, in case you should have further communication with him - he may quote you officially.

F.N.

{archivist's notes: II 1
65/1 F.N. to [Dr. Pattison Walker] 3 Jan. 1865
65/2 F.N. to J.J. Frederick, Esq. 9 Jan. 1865}
My dear Sir [Pattison Walker]

I will not let a mail pass without telling you how deeply touched I am by your & Mrs. Walker's most kind (& pressing) invitation to me, a complete stranger to you. Would that I could avail myself of your & her great kindness! There is nothing, really nothing, - on this side the grave which I long for so much as a visit to India - nothing which would interest me so much. While others try to run away from India, I would desire more than anything else which I do desire, (I "desire with desire," as the Hebrew says) to go to India. I have studied the country so much, I seem to know so well what I want to do there, that it appears to me as if it would be going home, not going to a strange country. But, alas for me, it is quite impossible. I shall never leave London, except for the grave. Even the move to the next street...
brings me to death's door.
And I am assured that I
have no prospect except
of getting worse - tho' it
appears that I must
have a (family) constitution
like iron, for, for nearly
7 years, I have never
been expected to live
6 months. If there were
even any hope of my
reaching India alive, &
of my being able to go
on working when there,
as I do here, I believe
I should be tempted to
go. For my term of life
cannot be much longer,
wherever I am. But it

is quite impossible. It is
absurd for me to think
of it, though I shall
never forget the kindness
which dictated the
thought - in you & Mrs.
Walker - to be willing to
take charge of such an
invalid, an utter stranger
to you - But Even if it
were possible, I really
could not impose such
a charge upon you -
But it is not possible.
I may tell you in confidence that, in 1857,
that dreadful year for
India, I offered to go
out to India in the same
f65/1.3
way as to the Crimea.
But Sidney Herbert, with whom I worked for five years, all but a week, in the War Office till his lamentable death, put a stop to it. He said that I had undertaken this work, caused him to undertake it, & that I must stay & help him (meaning the sanitary Army reforms) since his death, it has been all the more necessary, the because all the more difficult. There is but one Sidney Herbert - there is but

f65/1.3v
one Sir John Lawrence - they have no successors - you will know what I mean - what is to be done must be done in their time, or not at all. Our work is mere child's play now, compared to yours. I admire your Lecture, particularly your famous story of the Coolie (at 4 Rupees a month) dealing destruction round the land. It is a most suggestive & appropriate illustration. I assure you, the information you are so good as to give me is the greatest interest
I have.

I had not intended to write this mail, because the papers are not ready about which I meant to write to you, & which alone would have given my letter any worth. But I could not forbear writing to thank you & Mrs. Walker (to whom I intend to have the pleasure of writing myself) for your unspeakable kindness – & to beg that you will believe me ever most faithfully & gratefully yours & hers [end 10:32]

Dear Sir,

If I can be of any use to you in helping to guarantee the fund for your South London Industrial Exhibition, which I see is to open next month, I shall be most happy to do so, to the extent of £5.

I am afraid I am rather late in saying so. But I am so constantly hurried, & over busy & ill, that you must excuse me, if this be the case –

ever Yours very faithfully

Florence Nightingale

J.J. Frederick Eq
My dearest friend [Mary Jones]

For some time I have been expecting, rather than hoping, that Sir J. Lawrence would lay upon me the formation of a Nursing Staff for the East. And I am afraid the same fear will possess you (when you see my letter) that does me.

His letter is most liberal: he says that no "whatever expense" is requisite must be spared met for such an object.

The idea is: to Nurse the Military General Hospitals by European trained women, & all the female Regimental Hospitals which, as you know, means the soldiers' wives & children, (most many of the cases being lying-in cases,) by European trained women.

This for a beginning. But of course
they must have establish one or more Training Schools in each Presidency, for how can we supply them with so many Nurses, who cannot supply ourselves? Here comes the difficulty. The material to be trained is absolutely almost nil. Every decent woman they get marries directly. There are nothing but soldiers' wives & widows, & they candidly say that, besides the losing them directly, they are a wretched set, worse than their husbands.

A religious Society would be the only thing. And I am sure I would help them to a religious Society, if I could. But there is but one person to do it, & that is you - and I am quite sure the danger in India would be far greater than it is in England of what we have seen nevertheless too often here, viz. the absurdities religious (nursing?) orders have fallen into: if not really laying their hands to the work in Hospitals & under a good discipline.
I have been quite afraid of writing to you upon Sir John Lawrence's letters. Because I thought you would either volunteer yourself or volunteer Sister Laura - Now I do think that, unless a higher voice directs you, it is far more important to keep the kernel together at home - & send out branches to India -]

I enclose you a printed paper, which has been sent to me from India for my guidance. But, at the same time, the private information which accompanies it, almost negatives it:

1. they laugh at Dr. Beatson's admiration of the Nurses at Allahabad, who, they say, were soldier s' wives, picked up anywhere, & that Dr. Beatson liked them, because he was their Matron & Superintendent. [All our Medical Officers in the Crimea, of whom he was one, always wanted to be Matrons themselves. What an odd taste!]

Of course where there are two Nurses, one must be Matron.
2. the Medical College Hospital at Calcutta is such an abominable place that they are now urging us to say (which we shall do) that it must be pulled down & reconstructed elsewhere.

3. the General Hospital at Calcutta is half Military, half Civil, half under the Military authorities, half under the Lt Governor of Bengal. This occasions many difficulties if it were to be used as a real Training School for Nurses.

4. The ladies of the Committee, of whom, Mrs. Williams is the head, (who, in fact, wrote the paper I enclose) tho' very useful & zealous, are not really qualified by knowledge to govern a Training School or to judge of Nurses.

   It seems that they have no such thing as a Matron who would really take charge of a real Training School. Such a person, if we sent one out, must be quite above the possibility of marrying, such as Mrs. Girdlestone

or Mrs. Shaw Stewart.

[You see even Mrs. Polehampton, who offered herself both to you & to me, was not.]

Now, what is to be done?
I shall send out to Sir John Lawrence all our experience as to Training Schools, Military Hospital Nursing, &c &c -

But what is the good of that? The thing would be to be able to tell him: we have 1.2.3. &c who would do to send out as Matrons, whose health would stand the climate - or, we shall have within -- -- months.

And we have 4.5.6. &c who would do to send out as Nurses for Military Hospitals and 7.8.9. &c. for female Regimental Hospitals - whose health would stand the climate - or, we shall have within -- -- months.
I am quite sure India deserves from us all she can get from us. And if you could train persons for India here, you would be doing a greater deed than by going out yourself, which would be abandoning the root.

[How I wish I could go - Do you know I have received a most pressing invitation to go out, invalid as I am, everything to be provided for me as for an Invalid? But it is nonsense to wish! It would be quite madness!]

The difficulty of finding working persons is to me inconceivable. It seems to me to increase in the proportion that the outcry for women's "Fields" increases. Manchester writes to me for a Supt. And I answer: a place like Manchester must find one for themselves & send her up to us to train.

I know Mrs. Shaw Stewart can't help us - tho' she ought to be the Training School for all Military British Hospitals, at home & abroad. But she will have the utmost difficulty in taking on Woolwich, which is nearly ready.

Sir John Lawrence's application could not have come at a worse time for Mrs. Wardroper. For, as you know, we have been drained by Liverpool - And not only Manchester but several other places have engaged every vacancy we have.

And what are 15 among so many? It really goes to my heart to write you such a letter - if, as I am afraid the beginning of the year is with you, as it is with us, a particularly busy time. But I think you would be as sorry as I should be, if such an opening as Sir John Lawrence affords the
cause, should be allowed to fall through
God bless you
ever yours
F.N.
27 Norfolk St. W.
Jan 24/65
I have been writing this before the
morning light - not really
having time in the course of
the day. [end 9:945]

My dearest friend [Mary Jones]
I venture to send you
the first rough Draft
of a paper I am obliged
to draw up for Sir John
Lawrence.
Please do remember
that in India they
print everything - that
if I did not print
for them what I
don't mind being
printed, they would
print for me what
I should not like to be printed. But I have said & shall say, in private letters to Sir John Lawrence, a great deal about this Nursing matter I cannot put in a printed paper.

If you don't like the tone of this printed paper, no more do I - probably less than you do.

But what I want to add to it principally,

(Tho' many other things will have to be added, of course) is some account of your system, your Society, your Sisterhood - which might come in after page 1.

And this is what I principally write about now. But I will ask you to criticize every thing -

I have never thanked you for your most encouraging letters. I fully expect that Sir John Lawrence will call upon us for more than we can do for him.
and for all we can do. There is plenty of room, and to spare in India for every kind of Nursing effort. Would we were as ready for him as he is for us.

Do you remember coming to me on Feb 7 last year? I remember it so well.

I have to see Mr. Massey today who is starting for India as Financial Minister. And I must stop.

God bless & prosper you - ever yours F.N.

Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/65/5

My dear Sir

I am extremely obliged to you for your Programme, newspaper account, &c. of the S. London Exhn. And I congratulate you most sincerely on the success of a laborious work, calculated to do so much & lasting good to the Working Men.

J.J. Frederick Eq.
f65/5.1v
There is nothing I should like better than to visit it, as you so kindly propose, (except to go to India, where I am strongly invited) - But it is physically impossible - I have not left my room for 3 years, except to change my house. And I never get up

f65/5.2
except when I see my masters.
  Dr. Sutherland has some wild notions, I know, about my going to see the Woolwich Hospital -
  But the fact is as I tell you -
  With renewed thanks for your kind information about affairs in which I am so much interested, believe me, my dear Sir,
  sincerely yours,
  Florence Nightingale
32 South Street
Park Lane
London W.
February 26/65
My dear Sir [Rawlinson]

I have to thank you, which I do most heartily, for two letters, and for two printed papers, one on the construction of Barracks for Europeans, Circular No. 89, & one on Carbolic Acid.

I am sure you are perfectly right as to taking the conservancy collections out to sea. Proper dung - boats with a small steamer to remove the filth of Calcutta down the river to the sea, is the only plan.
f65/6.1v
This is what we used to do at Balaclava, in the Crimea. And till we did it, Balaclava was on a small scale, what Calcutta is on, alas! too large an one, the hot-bed of Cholera & Typhus, even during the short time we infested it. If under a very fine climate, a small place, like Balaclava, became in twelve nine months, i.e. till the dung-boats were used, what was very nearly the grave-yard of a whole British Expedition, what must Calcutta have become in 100 years under

f65/6.2
a very trying climate?

About the disinfectants: - we have had this question referred to us over & over again from the Bombay Govt. & have consulted the Local Government Act Office. I send you an opinion of theirs, tho' it does not apply precisely to your case: - "It is the old, old story over again - disinfectants in place of removal - and a wish to have things `far sent & dear bought'. Wood=charcoal dust will do all which the fluids & powders are said to have done. But cleansing & reforming the Latrines & drains,
"with subsequent flushing, washing, & regular removal of refuse, at short intervals, will be better. These Disinfectants are the right hand power of ignorance & nothing more. We do not repudiate disinfectants - they have an use - but that use is not to palliate refuse heaps, which ought never to have been allowed to accumulate. A temporary use of disinfectants may be allowed, to enable a safe removal of refuse now existing, to be made - the store of poison heaped up by ignorance in past times. But a continuance of poison-storing and disinfecting should not be allowed. McDougall's powder may prevent the heaps of foul refuse killing the men ordered to remove it, or wood charcoal powder - but on the condition that any such heaps & deposits are not to accumulate in future."

I wish such papers as this of the Health Officer of the Municipality of Calcutta could be remitted home for the "Barrack & Hospital Improvement Commission
f65/6.3.v
(consisting of members of the War & India Offices & Local-Government Act Office) to make their suggestions upon. It appears not impossible. At this moment the Bombay Engineer is in England - consulting with one Engineer of the Local Govt. Act Office, on the drainage of Bombay. I have to thank you very much for a very able letter, No. 774, upon the Nurse question, from Dr. Macpherson, Secy. to the 1st Inspector Genl. I was in hopes to have sent you my answer to your official letter on the Nursing question by this mail.

f65/6.4
But it is only this moment come from the Printers! Dr. Walker

Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/675/7

f65/7.1
32 South Street
Park Lane
London W
March 3/65
My dear Sir
I have to acknowledge the Proceedings of your Commission for November, which you have been so good as to send me.
In reading 273. on the "Influence of Temperate & Intemperate Habits," it struck me whether the data could not be obtained in the following way: -
1. that a Regimental list be printed containing the names of every man
2. that a copy of this List
be filled up at the Canteen
every day from the peg. board  
- shewing the quantity of  
spirits & of beer each man  
has had in the 24 hours  
Make it a current  
Regimental Return to be  
supplied to the Commanding  
Officer.  
3. have a Medical return  
printed with the men's  
names on a similar form  
to be filled up on the  
last day of every year;  
shewing the diseases each  
man has suffered from  
for the 12 months preceding.  
The Returns you propose  
would then become of  
great use for comparison.

Any person with Statistical  
knowledge might extract  
from such Tables most  
valuable information and  
a very clear view of the  
state of the whole case.  
If our Commander= in =Chief  
\( \wedge \) (in England) were not  
a "snob", (which is a very  
disrespectful form of  
speech on my part - he  
would do all these things  
& get all these Returns for  
us - But he does nothing  
Private  
The India Office has  
submitted to the (home)  
Sanitary Commission ("Barrack  
& Hospital Improvement")  
the Gov't papers on the
principles for designing Barracks in India, containing Col = Crommelin's paper, that by the Govt. of India (which you were so good as to send me) the papers by your Commission &c &c. They are up here now, being considered. On the whole, they are admirable. In haste, Pray believe me Yours very Sincerely Florence Nightingale Dr. Pattison Walker

My dear Sir I cannot sufficiently thank you for most kind letters, by several mails repeated - for four most valuable & encouraging Statistical Tables, which we shall make great use of - for a number of printed papers, all more interesting one than the other.
I have consulted several scientific men both in London & Manchester & at the Army Medl. School at Netley, about the water-supply analysis question, as to which you did me the honor to write to me.

And I hope to send what may prove useful by next mail - as well as to write about the Statistical tables & the printed papers which you have been so good, so very good as to send me.

This is merely an acknowledgment for the great pleasure you have given me.

Pray believe me ever yours most truly & gratefully

Florence Nightingale

Do you know that your water-analysis letter was fished up from the sea?

F.N.

{archivist's notes:
II 4
65/9 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker 26 Apr. 1865}
April 26/65
My dear Sir

I was in hopes to have sent you your (Water=supply) analysis questions, answered, by this mail. But my learned men are so dilatory.

However, I will not delay to thank you for all the rich store of information which touches me so deeply, that you have been kind enough to send me.

I feel so much what you say about your

f65/9.1v
Insp. Genl. of Prisons, Mr. Woodcock, whom you call the first of Indian Sanitary reformers, so justly. What a great work he did & at how great an expense to his own peace of mind. Indeed we ought to be very grateful to him.

It is hard enough, God knows, for public men to do their duty anywhere.

But I do think it is harder in India than anywhere else. So much the greater honour to their memories, be they living or dead.

In regard to Jails: -
the diminution of over-crowding, with the increase of superficial area, has been the result of progressive experience. Every climate has its limit. Thus, for Turkey, the Inspector, who is at present in England, informs me that 72 sq. ft. are allowed, both in cells and in common rooms. This Turkish experience is probably the nearest to yours.

One would think the occurrence of Epidemic disease in Indian jails a sufficient reason for increasing the space. If you have any prison in which Epidemics prevail, your area is too small.

If you have any exempt, your area is sufficient. Increase your area and cubic space, until Cholera, Dysentery & Fever disappears epidemically. Of course ventilation & cleanliness are inferred.

Prison Epidemics in England have been taken as the test of Sanitary condition. Formerly they killed prisoners, jury, & judges. Now they have ceased to exist in prisons. This is your Indian test.

[You have the Reports on Prison Construction & Prison Regulations by]
Sir Joshua Jebb (he was the great Prison Sanitary reformer in England, of whom I should speak, as you of Mr. Woodcock, both as to his sacrifices & as to the unworthy, return made him)
The best plan for a tropical prison I ever saw was for Malta (for a new Prison there) by a Mr. Inglott, of Malta - a man who has a perfect genius for that kind of thing.]
The Colonial Office (of course this is entirely in confidence)

is now 'girding up its loins' to clean out its house too, with regard to its Prisons. It has instituted an enquiry. And India must not be left behind.
If these kinds of questions in India could be referred for an opinion to the home Sanitary Commission, we might back you up with our experience. It is a wonder that men do not learn - both from these dreadful Epidemics, & from their absence, when conditions are improved. [Lord Stanley is at this hour (again, this is in perfect confidence)
applying to Sir Charles Wood to refer to the home Sanitary Commission for an opinion both on the Jail question, & on the question of Mr. Strachey's most able Calcutta paper, - which, as you are aware, has been made a Parliamentary paper of, & presented to the House of Commons on February 22.

I must again thank you for your invaluable Statistics (8 Forms). I am quite touched by your having taken Dr. Bryden's duty - which, I think, is
very magnanimous. And
I only hope that you
will do your very best
to keep your health
and Mr. Strachey too.
For, as I shall tell him,
it will not do for
Sanitarians to die.
Martyrs used to do good
by dying. But, in these
days, martyrs must live
to do good.
The Statistics are very
good indeed - very cheering
& give a great deal
of invaluable information.
Let the absence of
Epidemics become a
permanent condition -

you will succeed in this
at last. A large part
of your diminution of
Death-rate is due to
absence of Epidemics,
specially of Cholera.
No higher reward can
be wished you than that
you may become able
to depend upon, in
future, this absence of
Epidemics.
[We must not boast
in London - Typhus has
become more prevalent
the last two years - and
is always trying to raise
its head & burst out *epidemically*. So much the more shame for us, in a temperate climate.]

I cannot close my letter without recurring again to the honour which must be paid to you, for undertaking Dr. Bryden's work - I do trust it will please God to preserve Sir John Lawrence's health. I conceive there has scarcely ever been a time in history when

so much depends *for good* (often it has depended for evil) upon one man as the head.

Sir C. Trevelyan's break - down in health is a great misfortune. Mr. Massey, however, comes out with the highest possible desires (& ability) of seconding Sir John Lawrence & doing India good service.

Pray believe me

My dear Sir

with most grateful regards to Mrs. Walker

yours most sincerely

& thankfully

Florence Nightingale
f65/9.6v
N.B. I am quite aware that one of Sir John Lawrence's first Acts was to appoint a Commission to Report on the whole question of Indian Jails within a month, on which Commission you were - that the several Governors were desired to send in their requirements & their "bill" for their own provinces, in obedience to the recommendations you then made - that Madras & (I suppose) the other Governments have sent in theirs - which, I suppose, have been approved - [Was it in reference to these that you complained so justly that so small an allowance of superficial feet had been asked for?]

How very glad I should be, if we could help you about these things.

Could you send us a copy of your Report (viz. of the Commission on Jails above mentioned) & of any administrative papers appertaining to it?

in haste

F.N.

{archivist's notes: I 5 65/10 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 2 May 1865 65/11 " " 3 June 1865 65/12 " " 5 June 1865 65/13 " Fras. Hicks, Esq. 10 Aug. 1865 (envelope only)}
Confidential
34 South Street
Park Lane
W. May 2/65

[Please observe new
address. I do hope
I shall never move
again.]

Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
I am in such straits.
And I am sure you
will advise me.
Perhaps you know
that, ever since the
beginning of the year,
the Poor Law Board
have been "intriguing"

with me about an
entire revision &
re-formation of
Workhouse Infirmaries.
I do wish I had
time to tell you
their plan. But I
hope to be able
soon.

But there is one
thing which makes
me excessively
nervous.
The P.L. Board
have about 2800
girls in the Union Schools - of whom about 200 every year - of the age of 16 - to put out to places. They propose to derive their Staff of Nurses from this material. - to send a Circular to all the Hospitals to ask them to take in a proportion, each, as apprentices - and a Circular to all the Boards of Guardians to ask them to apprentice out such of these girls, as would like to become Nurses, to Hospitals. When arrived at the age of 25, to be engaged as Nurses in the proposed new Consolidated Workhouse Infirmaries. I can't conceive, even if you limit it to the female side, what a girl of 16
could do in a Hospital but clean & scrub. And I am sure Assistant Nurses, in the run of Hospitals, would not be good Mistresses.

You will understand that this is strictly confidential. But I wrote to the Poor Law Board expressly for permission to consult you -

Will you tell me what you think of the feasibility of such a scheme? Could you find Hospital employment for girls of 16 & over, which would qualify them to be Nurses at 25? Would there be any objection to their introduction on the female side of Civil
Hospitals, taking into consideration the Medical students?

In short, if the proposition were made to you to undertake, say, 6 of these apprentices, should you undertake it? - should you have fair hope of making Nurses of them?

N.B. I think few

know: -
1. what excellent wholesome material there is among these Union orphan girls, bred in the (country) Union Schools out of London Workhouses
2. that the demand for Nurses is getting so enormous - And where are we to draw from, if not from such a source as this? It seems a thousand pities to let it slip.
The difficulty of course is:
the Guardians try to get these girls out to places at 14: -
the Poor Law Board says, 16: - no one has any plan what to do with them between that age, & the age when we say: train as nurses.
I have an idea of that we shall train

training Head Nurses (of the usual age) for the proposed Consolidated Workhouse Infirmaries, & apprenticing the girls to them on the female side. Still the age (of 16) is a difficulty any how -
God bless my dearest friend ever yours F.N.

Envelope 2.5.65
Confidential Miss Jones Lady Supt. King’s College Hospital
June 3/65
{printed} 34 South Street
Park Lane,
      London. W.
Dearest friend
You shall have by [13:89]
Monday a letter of introduction to
the Director General of all the Paris Hospitals.
Do not you think you trouble yourself unnecessarily about

the Chambers Article.
I have not done more than glance over it. But an opinion much better than my own says: while admitting what you think: "The object of the Article evidently is to induce women

of good character to enter nursing as a means of livelihood. This is obviously the whole gist of it. And we should not regard the other side, as not entering into the compass of the Article."
As you have not read it yourself, I have
the less scruple in begging you not to concern yourself about it. Do not send it to me - Chambers comes to me regularly. I have had such trouble within & without that I have not been able to write. I do hope we shall succeed in

doing something for the Workhouse Infirmaries & their 7573 sick.* ever dearest friend yours in life & in death F.N. 

* one third more than the whole of Paris has - And our 7573 are independent of the Civil Hospitals
Dearest friend

I send you a letter
to the central spider
of the whole web -
the Director - whose
office is on *Parvis
Notre Dame*.

He will give you
all the introductions
you want. All the

---

Supérieures are dead
or changed since my
time. [This Director
is not the same.
(Davenne was my man)
But] this man has
shewn me the most
constant & helpful
kindness. And he
did everything for
Mrs. Shaw Stewart,
to whom I recommended to him,
tho' it was a great thing then to get her admission to live in all the Hospitals. Her fidgettiness was some—thing I cannot describe, (but you can fancy,) lest I should not get her efficient & the right introductions & admissions. But what I did do was to go right to the centre at once. And I succeeded: (And I

thro' Marshal Pelissier (then our Ambassador) & this man

would recommend you to go to this man at once, & put yourself in his hands. [end 7:760]

You must tell him, if he asks you, that I really was so ill I could hardly write my letter to him. And he must pardon its rambling-ness.

I wish I could have told you more of what we are doing at the Poor Law Board before you went.

Envelope: C V2
Fras Hicks, Eq
St. Thomas’ Hospl Counting House
St. Thomas St.
S.E.

{archivist's note: II 6
65/14 F.N. to G.M. Murphy, Esq. 21 Aug. 1865
65/15 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 15 Sept. 1865
65/16 F.N. to Wm. Rendle, Esq. 18 Sept. 1865
65/17 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 21 Sept. 1865}
34 South St. W.
Aug 21/65
George M. Murphy Eq

Sir,

In reply to your Circular of August 8, I shall be most happy to contribute £2 to the subscription you propose, especially as my excellent friend, Mr. Frederick, whose merits & labours I do deeply appreciate, is to receive a gold Medal from it.

I am, Sir,
your faithful servt
Florence Nightingale
you the greatest
disappointment in
all this has been
the not being able
to see you, who I
think would have
come down here
for country air, even
if I had not been
able to talk. "Here"
means Hampstead.
But I am staying
on only from day
to day from sheer

inability to get out
of bed - having Indian
business, to my very
great anxiety,
waiting for me
in London. I must
go back, whether I
can or not. I hope,
if I am a little
better in the winter,
you will come & see
me at S. St. But it will not
be the same to you
as coming into the country.

I dare say you may
have heard from Mr.
Rathbone of our great
Liverpool Workhouse
anxieties. But, if you
have not, don't
mention them. Please
God we shall pull
through - It is His
work - I wish I
could have gone down
But God's will be done.
Hilary Carter is dead.
The suffering had been
cruel. But the end was peace. No words can tell my gratitude to God that it is over. The golden bowl is broken. It was the purest gold, the most unworked gold I have ever known. She is gone to a more perfect service.

And now let me tell you that I have really not written out of anxiety for you - an odd reason, you will say. But I am afraid you know from yourself that it is a true one. I felt I could not bear one more anxiety (where I could do nothing,) if I heard you were not well or over-weighted.

Even the physical labour of the daily writing to & from Liverpool I have been scarcely able to get thro' - But do not mention this.

God bless you ever yours anxiously F.N.
Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC/65/16 pen

Sept 18/65

{printed} 34 South Street,
Park Lane,
London. W.

Sir,

I beg to thank you for a copy of your valuable speech on "London Vestries", & to say how much pleasure it gives me to be allowed to enter into communication with you, who have been so long one of the wisest & most strenuous supporters of the William Rendle Eq

I am so weak from illness that I will ask you now to permit me only to acknowledge your pamphlet very shortly.

I agree with you that the work should be done by local authorities - & that the difficulty is to find means of visiting neglects with punishment.

Public opinion is
f65/16.2
gradually becoming public indignation: and I should not be at all surprised if the Vestries were placed under legal supervision, & heavily fined for neglect, - as the final result of their indifference to the poor.

I beg to remain
Sir
Yours faithfully & gratefully
Florence Nightingale

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/65/17 pen

f65/17.1
Private  Sept 21/65
{printed} 34 South Street,
         Park Lane,
         London, W.

Dearest friend
  If you go to your own cottage, I am satisfied, i.e. almost. You know there is such a thing (for you) as to be too near London. But it can't be helped.
I am thankful Sister Laura is better.
   God bless you
      ever yours
   F.N.
I think we have
got over the Liverpool
Workhouse difficulty
for the present.
[It all arose from
the Gov=nor not choosing to subordinate
his own paupers & from
the Governor choosing
to subordinate the
Trained Nurses as
if they were paupers.]
But this is only a
[illeg]. And till we
get the Poor Law
Board to make
some regulation, it
will be impossible
to have respectable
women as Nurses
in Workhouses, as a
general system.
This is just dragged
through to Mr. Rathbone,
Miss A. Jones & me -
   Please burn this
   F.N.

{archivist's note: II 7
65/18 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker 25 Sept. 1865
65/19 " " " " " 18 Oct. 1865}
My dear Sir [Dr Pattison Walker]

I write in haste merely
a line to thank you for
your welcome letters of
July 15 and 31 - welcome
in every thing but the
tidings of your own health,
which I am very sorry
to hear is so bad - but
which I hope you will
take timely measures to
improve. It is so valuable.

I have received all
your enclosures, I believe,
including one on the present
defective method of

calculating prison Death=rates.

And as you are so very
kind in wishing every
thing to be submitted to
you - which is worked out
on your subjects in England
- for your consideration, I
venture to send you a
Memo. by Dr. Farr, of the
General Register office,
with whom I have been
always greatly associated
in work.

The object is not to obtain
the absolute mortality, which
is scarcely possible, but to
obtain a result which
will be comparable with
other results similarly
obtained.
You will think that I am never going to send the method for finding out the amount of "dirt" in water. All I can say for myself is that I have myself revised it six times thro' the press - that my learned men are always making fresh additions, which worry the printers very much & me still more, but which are quite worth while, for the paper is quite a different thing in worth, since it was begun more than 6 months ago. I do hope this is the very last Revise, and to send it you now very soon.

I hope to write you a longer letter soon, in return for yours of the 15th July - But I trust that you will not let my letters or enclosures impose upon you additional work. They can all lie by for a time.

I received the Prison Forms &c, with much gratitude.

I am going to take the liberty of sending you tracings of plans of a small prison, about to be erected in one of our (hot-country) colonies, which we think a sanitary model of its kind for warm climates.

But this will not be (text breaks off here)
My dear Sir [Dr Pattison Walker]

I am very sorry to hear you are so far from well. But I hope that you have taken holiday in time.

John Bull is a conceited ass, & thinks the climate ought to take care of him, instead of him taking care of the climate. The French fare much better.

Anglo-India has made its capital of a place where the Moguls used to send their state prisoners to die - And people fall ill in Calcutta, & then say = it's the climate.

The R. Commission never told you all to live in Calcutta. But you abuse them for not having laid sufficient stress on "climatic influences."

We are spending just five millions sterling to empty that small gutter, the Thames, of sewage. And this in a temperate climate.

What are you doing? -

It is not that Calcutta might not be made much more healthy than it is, if you were
f65/19.2
willing to spend several
Millions. The main question
is: - to keep the sub-soil
moisture at a certain
distance below the ground
varying with latitude &
local circumstances. This
costs money. Thı If it
costs too much, as perhaps in a
place like Calcutta) then the
place ought to be abandoned,
or never to have been
chosen. This is the only
real determination of
localities, as far as
healthy surface of ground
is concerned.
But people in India, tho' they
are always raving against
the "climate", actually

f65/19.2v
tolerate a state of things
in their palaces which
we here ceased to tolerate
in the poorest village
in this healthy climate.
And yet we have always
Typhus & sometimes
Cholera - and at this
moment the Poor Law
Board is meditating a
sweeping Bill (for London)
for next Session, because
the Vestries are not
doing their duty. And
the Poor Law Board is quite
right. [I tell you this - but
it is a secret.]
There are 120 ways of boiling eggs (this antep "climatic influences") Climate is good everywhere - But man & his habits & his manner of selecting places to live in & to build on are as bad as possible - (as I say, John Bull's a conceited ass, & his conceit is that climates are made to obey him). And hence he confounds climate with his own want of care. He ought to boil his eggs better.

Batavia was the most deadly place in the world. And now,

people go there for their health. Can anything be stronger than this?

In the Table of Mortality for 1859-64, shewn in its distribution by months, which you have been good enough to send me, are appended Notes as to the climatic elements, which are assumed as causing the increasing Death-rates during certain months. I think this is a pity. They belong to a method of determining causation, which in this country we venture
to think we have improved upon. High temperature & moisture are nothing per se. As influencing other causes, they are a great deal - they have immense power. To place them as causes is much the same thing logically as it would be to make the perfection or imperfection of roast beef depend on the quantity of coals raised at Newcastle - as if you said, the more fuel the sun puts into his grate, the more unhealthy India becomes.

I have to thank you for your most kind note of Aug 16, & for its enclosure from Dr. Bryden.

There is a growing conviction in Europe that, when Cholera seizes a population living in bad Sanitary conditions, its influence may extend hundreds of miles atmospherically from the centre where it began. And there is a diplomatic proposition to suppress or regulate the Mecca pilgrimage, in order to prevent its becoming the Epidemic centre for the West, which it has always been hitherto.

The moral is: that unless you improve the
sanitary condition of the Civil populations, you cannot insure the immunity for the soldiers from Epidemics.

I have to thank you, which I do most cordially, for the valuable Draft No. 262 about railway traveling by troops - also for the Extract of a letter No. 247 about the Jails in the Lower Provinces. How curious & instructive that is - & how terrible. It shews that some one must again set hard to work to reform the Management & laws of these Jails, like a Howard, & never leave off till he has done.

The contrast between the men's & women's health, & between the cubic space for each, startles even me. But my mind is full of Lord Palmerston's illness. He may be passing away even at this moment. He will be a great loss to us. He made a joke about every thing. But, tho' he made a joke - when asked to do the right thing, he always did it. No one else will be able to carry the things thro' the Cabinet he did. I shall lose in him a
powerful protector. Especially in Poor Law & wide Sanitary views, he was so much more in earnest than he appeared. He did not do himself justice.

His presumed successor is so queer-tempered that he cannot manage the Cabinet.

I most sincerely hope that this note will find you quite restored in health.

I will write again by next mail.

Pray believe me ever yours most truly

Florence Nightingale
Dr. Pattison Walker

{archivist's note: II 8
65/20 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker 26 Oct. 1865
65/21 " " " " 3 Nov. 1865
65/22 " " " " " " "}
My dear Sir,

I write in haste, because I do not like to miss a mail, in acknowledging your most kind & interesting letter of Sept. 20. But we are all in confusion, because of Lord Palmerston's death. I sincerely hope you are better, if not quite well. We cannot afford to lose an hour of you -
It is sad what you say about the hurry of Indians to come home. May it not be the result of the state of health which Indians suffer from the bad Sanitary state of Calcutta. Bombay & Madras are not in such a hurry, I believe, are they? -

As for yourself, I am afraid that cardiac & tiny affections always suffer from the great attitude of Simla (do not they?) - & that, tho' Calcutta is worst,

Simla is bad for you -

I have failed to acknowledge your "No. I. "Return shewing the "Sickness & mortality "&c Military & Civil "Regulation &c - Bengal "during month of --"
i.e. the Form, which you were so kind as to send me -

It has excited a good deal of attention at the War Office & Army Medical Departmt= here. And I send you their Remarks, tho' fearing that you may
think them impertinent. [end 9:539]

Presuming that the Return is intended for the information of the Military & Civil authorities & not for professional purposes - they suggest the following points for your consideration: -
1. Instead of Intermittent & Remittent fevers being stated separately, these might be given under the head of Paroxysmal on Fever {Intermittent, Remittent}
2. Sun-stroke should be stated separately; - or there will be a large {letter interrupted by 3/11/65 letter; see next letter}

proportion of the cases of it returned under "apoplexy". A separate column for "Sunstroke" might precede "Apoplexy".
3. Instead of the two columns "Respiratory Disease" & "Phthisis Pulm.", they would suggest to put "Phthisis Pulm." first, & then "Other diseases of the Lungs" - or put it thus: -

Diseases of the Lungs
Phthisis Pulmonalis Other Pulmonary Diseases

4. For "Wounds & Accidents" they would suggest "Wounds & Injuries".
5. To insert a column "Diseases of Heart & large Vessels" they suggest as important:
6. The Column "Deaths out of Hospital" vitiates the Return, because it excludes the causes of Death. These causes should in every instance, be stated - either in a separate return or by subdividing each column into:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Hospital</th>
<th>Out of Hospital</th>
<th>Percentage of Total to Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(instead of the 5th column under each disease "Percentage of Deaths to Admission."

As the Admissions & Deaths are both given, the Ratio of D. to A. can be easily calculated, if required.)

Of course, if this suggestion be adopted, you must alter the heading of the 3 last sections to "all other causes."

7. It is most desirable to have a column for "Suicide", if by the adoption of these alterations you gain a space.

8. Would it not be well to substitute "Disease of Liver" for "Hepatitis", as some men might otherwise omit Hepatic Abscess - which, altho' a consequence of inflammn., may possibly be, & sometimes is, returned as a distinct affection.

9. Is not some instruction necessary as to the cases to be included under "Spleen Disease"?
N.B.

It was impossible for me to finish even this short letter last mail - I was too ill & too busy and I doubt whether you will think it worth sending at all. I am very sorry you are deprived of Mrs. Walker's care & society - for your sake & hers.

Ever sincerely yours
3/11/65 Florence Nightingale
Jas: Pattison Walker Eq {Md.}

Private

I think you must not look at the Sanitary Commission as "at an end." You are doubtless aware that Sir J. Lawrence wrote a very full Minute, dated January 9, to the Secretary of State here, proposing an organization for the Public Health Service in India. Some modifications will probably be proposed. But I think this is only a beginning of a great development of the Service. In the meantime, let me again say how deeply grateful I feel to you for all the invaluable information, the records of proceedings & letters I have received from you.
And I cannot but still regret that you have not been able to continue in the Sanitary Commission under its new form - Sanitary work I am sure you will do wherever you are.

F.N.

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/65/21 pen

Private 34 South Street
Recd. 17/12/65 Park Lane
Acknowledged London W.
26/11 3/11/65
My dear Sir
                   [9:699]
I have seldom been so struck by any thing as by the "Extract from "a letter No. 247 dated "the 8th May 1862 from "the Inspector Genl. of Jails "Lower Provinces to &c" which you were so kind as to send me. [I am aware I have acknowledged it before.]

I believe I could give you a help towards furthering the object
you have so much at heart, viz. providing a remedy. Could you send me any later information in such a form that we could use it here? Every thing relating to this subject is of immense importance to the future of India & also of our Colonies. Should you be so kind as to grant my request, - would you, in sending figures, be so good as to state the precise manner in which the Statistical results are obtained?

- in other words, how you get the percentages of mortality? We should also have the chief groups of diseases. I may mention to you, quite privately, that we have a powerful protector in Lord Stanley, (the who was President of the R. Commission). He will do all he can in this matter. I fear the impending renewal of political agitation will not be favorable to
departmental work.

Still, as Lord Stanley says himself, "we must do our best."

Parliament will not be called together till January, he tells me.

It may be that, if these Ministers under Lord Russell break down - (Lord Palmerstons loss is incalculable - it was he who dragged every too liberal measure thro' the Cabinet) this next Session may see Ld Stanley Minister for India -

yours sincerely

F.N.

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/65/22 pen

Recd 12/12/65 34 South Street Park Lane W. 3/11/65

My dear Sir [Dr Pattison Walker]

I have never acknow=ledged the "Memorandum on Hospitals" by Dr. C.A. Gordon ("our" Dr. Gordon) which you were so good as to send me - It is an admirable paper - a very good solution of the problem how far & in what manner the Hospital regulations in use here are adapted for India.

The only real difference between us is that Dr.
Gordon thinks the Indian Hospital-Steward, if he be empowered to answer all requisitions of the Medical Officer, will have done his duty, while we require him to supply according to a scale; and, besides this, to comply with all requisitions of the Medical Officer. We think our plan the better & safer, for we give a distinct responsibility. But, in this matter, you in India can alone form a practical opinion. You know your local habits best. The whole (letter breaks off here)
My dear Sir,

At last I send you the final Revise which I have just received from the Printers, of Dr. Angus Smith's paper on Water Analysis, asked for by you.

I am afraid to say how many months ago. But I can truly say I have not lost a moment. First I applied to our Army Medical School Professors - to some of our great Government Chemists. None were able to satisfy the want. Dr. Angus Smith is the only man in Europe who could do it. And this paper is well worth all the trouble. But what that trouble has been no one who does not know Dr. Angus Smith can know. [I think he is more difficult to manage than all the Government of India] The enclosed
paper has been thro' his hands & mine some 15 times.
And we have had nine Revises of it from the Printers.
The rough proof which I send you tho' merely a rough
Proof, is the final one. It has been seen & approved

by the great War Office Sanitary authorities.
And on Wednesday, when they have a Meeting, they mean,
I believe, to vote the sending it "by authority" to Army
Medical Officers abroad & to the School at home, as their text-book.

But I make haste to send you this copy. And I will send you others, when I have had it printed off.
In great haste yours most gratefully for your many kindnesses

F. Nightingale
My dear Sir,

I have to thank you most sincerely for sending me a copy of your "First Annual Report" which contains most gratifying evidence of the administrative energy, intelligence & earnestness of its authors & of Sir John Lawrence -

The more we reflect on it, the more important does this question of the health of our Army in India become. To say much - it is worthy of all of your life that has been given to it:

I shewed your "Report" - quite privately - to the (General Registration Office) Dr. Farr. And I send you his remarks (on the other side)

I know you like to hear every opinion of any importance.
When all that you have recommended has been carried out, we shall see the results in still more greatly diminished Mortality.

You have again raised the discussion regarding the estimated death-rate. We consider that your points can be easily answered, especially where you have run parallels between certain home-rates & yours, which do not resemble each other in the circumstances.

But what is really wanted now is onward progress in the great work of civilizing & saving life.

And this you are doing.

ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

Might I ask for a second copy of your "First Report"?
(a copy of a letter by W. Farr, 22 November 1865) black-edged paper recd. 10/1/65

Private note:

Private and Confidential.
In going over your "First Report", it is most gratifying to see, e.g. at p. 73, that the Indian Government is prepared to spend in one year half a million in their endeavors to wean the soldier from drinking ardent spirits & to induce him to drink wholesome beer.
And, p.48, the Government spends 10 millions for the better accommodation of the Army.
You know, I dare say, that our Registrar-General, Major Graham, was in India - private Secretary to Malcolm & Elphinstone - he takes the deepest interest in our Army there.
note continued
{His son, Captain Graham, is at ?Jubbulpoor.}
When the E.I. Compy. was abolished & the amalgamation of the two Armies took place, Major Graham regretted that Local European Corps, amounting in strength perhaps altogether to 15 or 20 thousand, were not continue in each Presidency, like West India Regiments, Cape Corps, Malta Fencibles &c &c. thus reducing the number of the regular British Army necessarily quartered in India. But it was otherwise arranged; and consequently between 70 and 80 thousand of the British Army are to be kept constantly in India, in his (Major Graham's) opinion
note continued
to the great detriment of that Army. For the best of Regiments, without exception (he thinks) in India become demoralized. And he laments that so many Officers are in peace times brought up in such a school. He maintains that an officer who in peace times has passed 10 or 12 years in India is good for little.

Therefore, "Seeing that it is fated that 70,000 or 80,000 of our country men brought up in this temperate climate are to spend their lives in that tropical region" (this is still Major Graham) he greatly rejoices to e the provident care of them which you & the Indian Government are taking.

Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/65/25

f65/25.1 [8:170-71]

Dec 12/65
{printed} 34 South Street
Park Lane
London. W.

Dearest friend [Mary Jones]

I was so glad to hear from you. But I am afraid you are very weary.

I write, as usual, because I want something of you.

Dr. Farr is writing a paper on the Mortality of children?

He wants some of your Teachers or Nurses to give him a short description of the treatment of children in England
by "treatment" he means feeding, rearing, clothing, warming, nursing - or the absence of all these) at the ages of under one from one to three from three to five - in the lower middle upper classes - for publication. Perhaps one of your Sisters could kindly write it down from the lips of the Nurses?

Dr. Farr has been collecting very valuable Tables from all over Europe as to Child's Death-rates. The thing is now: to ascertain why these Death-rates are so high. He has got information from Vienna, similar to what he now asks from you - which I have seen - as well as his Tables. He
limits extends his paper simply to telling what Europe actually does with its children under one from one to three from three to five not to giving advice as to what they should do.

God bless you - I can only just get on with my life. We have never been so busy - St. Thomas' - London Poor-Rate - India - & War Office all at once. My nights are torture. And I often wonder how long my mind will last. ever yours

F.N.

{archivist's note: II 10 65/26 F.N. to Francis Hicks, Esq. 16 Dec. 1865 65/27 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker 18 Dec. 1865 66/1 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 19 Mar 1866 66/2 F.N. to G.M. Murphy, Esq. 26 Mar 1866}

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/65/26 black-edged paper

Dec 16/65

{printed} 35 South Street, Park Lane, London. W.

My dear Sir [Francis Hicks]

I have returned the plans to Mr. Currey with a few suggestions. And, as your note of the 13th= leads us to expect an amended plan with
increased accommodation,
I think it best
to defer making any
observations, until
I have had an
opportunity of going
over the amended
plan.
I beg to thank you

for your kind note -
also for giving me
occasion to see
Mr. Baggalley, who
has written to me
offering an appointment.

Pray believe me
My dear Sir
ever you faithful servt
Florence Nightingale
Fras Hicks Eq

My dear Sir
I really cannot tell you
the grief I felt at your two
last letters, which arrived
together - both for the account
of your health & for the
inestimable & irreparable
loss which the great
Sanitary cause in India
will sustain from your
resignation. I cannot
write about it. For, I
should only intensify my
regrets. And that would
be of no use. I can only
hope that the step you have taken will perfectly & entirely relieve yourself & Mrs. Walker of all anxiety about your valuable life. [end 9:881]

I sent you, by this, a plan of the Malta (female) prison which we consider the best for hot climates we have yet done. Perhaps you will like to shew it to your friend, Mr. Stewart Clark, the Inspector Genl of the N.W.P. Prisons. It may not be quite suited to India. But your acumen would see at a glance how it might be adapted.

The facility of supervision, the opportunity it gives to the prisoner of sleeping in the open air, the facility of ventilation, the power of multiplying the units to any extent, (if a larger prison is desired) are what we prize. [I sent a copy direct to Sir John Lawrence] [end 9:699]

By last mail but one, [9:881-82] I sent to you, directed to Calcutta (I had not then had your fatal news) the first Proof of the final
Revise of Dr Angus Smith's water-analysis paper - written at your instigation. By last mail I sent three copies to you at Simla. [I had not strength to write -]

I think I told you the ordeal this paper has gone through, in order to excuse its delay. It has been 15 times thro' our hands - & has gone thro' 9 Revises. It is considered now to represent the last & most perfect knowledge on this subject in Europe.

I have presented it at the War & India Offices.

And they were so much pleased with it that the War Off: has asked for 600 copies to distribute "by authority" among its Officers, Medical & Engineering - & at its Medical School. The India Off= has asked for copies, too. But it takes at least a year for them to do the sum in addition of how many copies it will want. And, as it will be at least another year before it sends them out, I shall send 100 copies (privately) to India for distribution.
Could you kindly tell me how this object will be best attained?
I send you three more copies by this mail.
I give Dr. Angus Smith 200 copies. [He is a most curious man - Do you know him? - Nothing but the pressure put upon him would have made him bring this paper to its present point - And yet he is the only man in Europe who could do it. So you see what good you have done. The present paper will circulate thro' Europe &

other parts of the world. And practical scientific men will improve upon it; & bring to a farther & still farther progress what Angus Smith has brought to this point only at present.

I have to thank you for the (Croquet & Archery) Photograph, containing yourself & Mrs. Walker, which interested me extremely. I wish I could send you some which would interest you as much.

I will not enlarge upon the immense loss to myself
of your retirement from the Sanitary Comm=. For indeed I cannot. It is irreparable. But I hope we shall never quite lose sight of each other, while I remain in this world.

I cannot thank you for all the kindness you have shewn me. But pray believe me ever yours & Mrs. Walker's gratefully & sincerely

Florence Nightingale [end 9:882]

Dearest friend

To save time, I send you the enclosed note from Dr. Joseph Bullar, of Southampton. But I have told him, in doing so, that it is unwise to make these applications through me, & that he must write to you direct

If you cannot supply him, we must ask Mrs. Wardroper. But I feel sure she cannot.

How much better if Lady Henry Scott would send you a woman to train!

Perhaps you will say so-
March 26/66
{printed} 35 South Street,
       Park Lane,
       London, W.
Dear Sir, [George Murphy]
   I was not aware till
I received a day or two
ago a copy of your
"Memorial Catalogue"
that you had pursued
the scheme mentioned
in your printed Circular
of August 8, 1865 in
connection with the
S. London Industrial
Exh:. Pray accept the
debt of Two Guineas
due to you as my promised
collection.
Any thing which gives
my good friend, Mr.
Frederick, pleasure &
satisfaction, in his
excellent objects, is
also a satisfaction to
me.
   Believe me
dear Sir
   Yours faithfully
       Florence Nightingale
George M. Murphy, Eq.
My dear Sir [Pattison Walker]

I should have been quite unpardonable for not having written to you before, if my silence had been from neglect. For I cannot look at your beautiful photographs of Simla, at your many most interesting letters, & at all the extracts from Dr. Brydon, which you have been at the trouble to make – The also at your Jail Report, & your many other kindnesses, without feeling overflowing gratitude. But, I have been so ill the whole winter – always a prisoner to my bed – often to one position for days together – that
I have had the greatest difficulty in carrying on even the most important current business.

I have had letters from Sir. J. Lawrence & Mr. Strachey. As you are aware, the position of the Sanitary Commissions will be modified in important particulars - I do not pretend to send you Indian news from England. I am at this moment engaged with the Indian Secy of State here about this. In one

Lord de Grey is a better Indian Sec=y of State for us than Sir C. Wood - for Ld de Grey is entirely penetrated with the importance of the Sanitary subject. As signifying improvement in civilization, more than anything else.

As to Vital Statistics: - there are two things:
1. an accurate tabulation of facts
2. a reduction of facts, so as to obtain conclusions.

The first is by far the most important.
And for this purpose the present Army Medical Department forms should be used. The reductions made are of little value, except meteorologically. But there are other reductions which would be of the greatest value for the health of the Army. These require special knowledge for their performing, & could be best made at the Army Medical Department at home.

As to Dr. Angus Smith's pamphlet - I cannot remember whether I mentioned to you that, after I had finished compiling it, & presented it to the Army Sanitary Commission here, which has Indian members - the Government was so penetrated with the importance of it that the War Office & India Office each took 600 copies, & have distributed these with a printed
Circular among their Medical & some of their Engineering Officers - abroad - by authority. So you see what good you have done.

I will not write more at present, because I scarcely know whether this will reach you. But I hope, when I have your new address, to write about many things more fully. Your letter containing an Extract from the Engineer's report about the drainage of Calcutta, was of the greatest importance to us - Had you been at Calcutta, I should have asked you to ascertain a point for us accurately which arises out of it. But now I know not to whom to apply. I feel as if we had lost our chief friend.

Pray give my most grateful & affectionate regards to Mrs. Walker, if she will accept them. And accept the same yourself from yours ever truly Florence Nightingale My birth day, as you are so good as to ask, was on May 12 1820.
My dear Sir [Pattison Walker]

I will only now thank you for your most kind & valuable letter of February 21 from Simla - for the "Proceedings", which I have not yet received, & concerning which I will exactly observe your behests - for the Jail Report, which I have received & for your numberless valuable M.S. Extracts - particularly "Habits in
relation to Heat Influence" -
- Return showing cub. ft
& superf. area per man for
Bengal Corps - April 1864.
  All these facts are invaluable
to refer to.
  I am afraid you will
think I am going beyond
my province - but then
you know you need not
listen to what I say-
if I say: Facts are
everything - doctrines are
nothing.
  See what harm the
German pathologists have
done us -

There are no specific diseases
- There are specific
disease=conditions.
It is that which is bringing
the Medical profession
to grief, & will, in time,
work a great reform -
to wit, to make them
make the public care
for its own health, &
not rely on doctrines.
It is a grand thing for
weak minds - the
doctrine of contagion.
It is a grand thing for
[three lines cut out]
it is not a one-sided one.
The specific disease=doctrine
is the grand refuge of
weak, uncultured, unable minds - such as now rule the Medical profession from Dr. Watson downwards - Watson who has the biggest practice in London. Pardon me these unprofessional words. I will not trouble you again till I farther know of your whereabouts - & pray believe me, my dear Sir, ever yours truly, & gratefully [end 12:163]

Letter, LMA pen H1/ST/NC1/66/5 black-edged paper

May 10/66
{printed} 35 South Street,
         Park Lane,
         London, W.
My dear Sir
I was deeply touched by your remembrance of me in sending me the second Edition of your book, with which I have many associations besides those of interest in its scientific & practical value.
     I should be unpardonable if my
E.A. Parkes Eq Md
delay in acknowledging
it had arisen
from any thing but
illness & overwork.
But in truth I
hoped to have
been able to look
thro' the Second Edition
before writing. I see,
however, I must
put it off.
Pray receive my best
thanks in the mean
time & pray believe
me ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/66/6, pen [med, warwo?]

My dear Sir
I know not how
to thank you for all
your kindnesses to me.
I forget whether
I told you that I have
received your Proceedings.
They are most valuable.
I will send them back
as you desire, without
making any farther use
of them than for
myself -. They are
full of interest - full
of the energy of you
most energetic men - who
have been doing your
work in your own way.

We here could not agree with all your methods. But we cannot but agree & rejoice that you are doing all that can be done - & that, as you advance, you will improve as we hope even on our procedures in the old country.

I forget whether I mentioned to you that Lord de Grey, at the beginning of this year sent a Commission into Algeria, which has many problems similar to those of India [deep ploughing & draining

has made many of their pestilential stations healthy - & they can now rear children as well as in any country in Europe] The object of the Commission was to enquire into the causes of this decreased Mortality. They have already reported in a first rough Proof. The first complete Proof to be had shall be for me to send to you.

I have received your last kind letter of April 4 - with Dr. Macnamara's paper on Water-Analysis which I have duly forwarded to Dr. Angus Smith with your message.
By this mail I send you by book post (16) sixteen Photographs, of which I beg your kind acceptance & Mrs. Walker's. I selected them particularly with a view to what she might feel interested in & to addressing her new house, if she will be so kind. [I am disappointed to see how much less well they look without their mounts. But, if you take the trouble of mounting them, it of course makes them look much better.] Nos 501, 521, 519 are all from pictures by Turner in our National Gallery - specimens of his different manners.

Dearest friend [Mary Jones]

I hope you will have had a note from Embley this morning telling you all about trains, station & fly.

Embley housekeeper says: there is no tea out at Lea Hurst - & the tea is not good at the surrounding shops.

I venture to send you some tea of my own, not to be bought in shops, but straight
from China. I hope you will out-stay this tea, & desire me to send you more.

I have a terrible little Swedish lady here, formidable in her timidity, youth & lack of English, come to be trained for a Matron at St Thomas'. I promised her an introduction to you (Miss Emmy Rappe)

[She does not enter St. T.'s till July 1. for she really does not understand even the word "Patient." ] Could you tell me to what lady I could give her a letter in your absence at King's Coll= Hosp=? just to see the arrangements.

I hope this is the only trouble I shall give you now. But afterwards I am sure this innocent maiden ought to have a training under you -

If you will just ask one of the "Sisters" to write to me, that is all that is needed now.

God bless you & restore you to us well & strong ever yours

F.N.
I am very glad to have seen the plans of the Nurses quarters you have made to the best of the ground as it appears to me. I suppose in coming you must cram the entire mass of air in the centre of the nurses block by a flanged water stove & some similar Contrivance. It would be a great advantage & save cost if in service if you could put in each water-stove a small water-sink with a hot & cold water tap, over it. You have to have the pipes already for the bath & there would be no difficulty in this matter.

It is of so much importance for me to keep constantly before me the kind of plans in which my probationers have to work in order to understand how things are going on that I would willingly pay for tracings of the plans if I am not out of order in saying so.
I see that all the small wards look to receive their light only from the north & consequently will get no sun. And this intended. If not, would it not be better to arrange the rooms at the end of the Ward as follows. Would it not be best if {diagram: best of all to get rid of both small wards Ward & their Consulting window window rooms which having nothing to do there S Sister Kitchen N at all & will probably never be Small Counseling used. May only Ward Room put you to considerable expense in a {?figment} E} One other point of detail Could you not give the This is meant to ground floor probationers rooms & lantern; instead of a Common & skylight which will not admit of use in rain.

Could you give the fireplaces in the Sisters rooms & scullery a better place with reference to the door.

My remark about the Lantern skylight applies to the one over the square entrance lobby of the ground floor nurses rooms.
There ought to be a WC and a W.C. (?) to each story - & hot & cold water taps, if possible

Won't the Well be very dull?

Ought to show the plans to Mrs. Wardroper & Mr. Whitfield before they go back?

Is there anything to suggest about immovable fittings?

Am I to ask for copies? {written vertically: Now, don't you deceive me about going to the Bennet's}

I'll give £2.2
I want a large kitchen clock where is Bennet's Cheapside -
Do you mean Benham's

I think I have seen those lines before.
Do you always have the same subject at every meeting for 24 months?

Then if it's settled why does it come up?
That's certain -

Is there anything that {illeg? His Highness} {illeg?(Fraser)} Have you read it?

{written upside down, bottom of folio: It's life or death It's better to send it complete -}
Letter, LMA, pen H1/ST/NC1/66/9 black-edged paper

**f66/9.1**

*Private* June 30/66

(printed) 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
London, W.

My dear Sir

Our Princess Louis has written to me to ask help about Hospital & Sanitary arrangements. Could you kindly forward the enclosed by to-day's mail

& oblige

yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale

J.J. Frederick, Eq.

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/66/10, pen Black-edged paper

**f66/10.1**

*Private* July 3/66

(printed) 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
London, W.

My dear Sir

I confess I feel a little uneasy at my packet having gone by post to Hesse Darmstadt on Saturday. It was not the sort of letter I should have written, or should
like, to fall into the hands of the enemy
- not for the sake of a very ordinary person, like myself, but for the sake of Princess Louis. I have now simply written a letter of

enquiry, which I shall be very much obliged to you, if you will, according to your very kind proposal, send by Foreign Office Messenger tomorrow.

If they have not received my Saturday's packet, at Darmstadt, I will then try to write it again, & send it by your kindness.

But indeed, in this war, one knows not what a day may bring forth.

Yours most faithfully

Florence Nightingale

J.J. Frederick Eq
Dear Madam

I assure you I had not waited for your note which I received on Saturday - to endeavor to take advantage of the proposed re-modelling of the Patriotic Fund for your sake. I communicated with the War Office on the subject when the discussion took place in the House of Lords - and again, when our Ministers resigned. And again, on Saturday, before the Meeting of the Patriotic Fund Commissioners at Westminster.

I find that it is quite final: - viz.
the resolution (on the part of the War Office) not to do what it was my object to attain - as the quickest way viz. that the Secretary of State for War should, on account of Surgeon Major Matthew's eminent
services, recommend your case (as from himself) to the Patriotic Fund as a SPECIAL one:
It is a long story - which I should have to tell you - And perhaps it is hardly worth while to tell it you now - But I do not despair.

The Secretary of State

for War (and I tell you this in the strictest confidence) has obtained the Queen's permission to remodel the Commission - An Act of Parlt= will be necessary for that & his successor must go on with the Act which is now drawn.
Under that Act - he

says - you will become eligible.
I do hope & believe that you will receive, either for yourself, or th' endowments for your children, what your case so entirely deserves - The working members of the Patriotic Fund Commission are and always have
been in your favour -
  And you may
depend upon it, if I
live, that I shall be
on the look-out for
you.
  At the same time,
as my life is so very
uncertain, it is
quite as well that
your other friends,
Officers, Military
& Medical, who were
friends of your
admirable husband
should watch to
bring forward & urge
your case when
opportunity offers
under the new Act.
  With my sincerest
& kindest wishes
always the same,
pray believe me,
dear Madam, ever
yours
Florence Nightingale
Mrs. Matthew {Please
burn
this.} [end 14:1022]
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
I am so very glad to hear that you have those dreadful Cholera wards in the E. I envy you - And I only wish I were with you - I don't wonder that you are 'tired & anxious' - But I think you ought not to be over = anxious about your 'children', when it is so clear a call (and a privilege) from God - I only wish I were with you, I say again. God for ever bless you - ever yours, living or dying F.N.
My dear Sir

I have to thank you for very many kind offices - as well as for sending (for me) letters, so frequently to India & to the Continent.

The letters which you were so kind as to send for me by post to Princess Louis reached her quite safely. And

I should have troubled you again but that she & the Crown Princess of Prussia (for I have always tried to serve all sides who would desire my poor services) - in directing me to send them some farther information, - gave me Buckingham Palace as the means. And accordingly I have
followed their directions.

I am much interested in a Committee for the relief of Sick & Wounded of all sides, on which I serve. We give a Concert on Monday evening at which Jenny Lind sings. Would you allow me to enclose you a ticket? - I would gladly have sent you two, but have not two (together) left.

If, however a lady liked to avail herself of this ticket, she might do so in perfect comfort, for the three neighbouring tickets I have given to connections of my own - whom I know -

Pray believe me
My dear Sir
Yours Sincerely
Florence Nightingale

J.J. Frederick Eq
Dearest friend, [Mary Jones]

I send you a brace of grouse in their mountain heather - the only ones I have had this year -
I have staid on in London - partly because I could not get through my work - partly because I could not bear to go while the Cholera was so bad - tho' I could do no good.

But I feel, if I did not go to morrow, I should probably never leave London again. And my mother we think failing.

I cannot tell you how I grieve at leaving London without seeing you, my dearest friend - But if it makes you come to Embley to see me, I shall not grieve -

God bless you ever yours
F.N.
Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/66/15, pen f66/15.1

Acknowledged [12]-10-66

Sept 3/66
[printed] 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
London, W.

My dear Sir

I am extremely obliged to you for your kind letter & for your valuable Report on Ventilation. This first report is admirable - and we now eagerly await the results of your trials.

I hasten to send you the first copy of our Algerian Report - The French in Algeria appear to have been going in the right direction - The important most important - result has been that they have proved in Algeria the effect on health of cultivation per se, & of cultivation & drainage together.

Could not the Indian Authorities try the effect of completely improving the drainage, water-supply & sanitary conditions of two or three stations in the manner recommended by the "Suggestions" of the
f66/15.2
War Office Sanitary Commission?
These are quite in
conformity, so far as
drainage & water supply are
concerned, with what the
French have done - of course,
independently. [end 9:885]
I would just mention,
casually, that it will be
seen from the account
given of the Sanitary
administration in Algeria,
that they have found
necessary an organization
much more complete than
the simple inspectorial
service contemplated in

f66/15.2v
India. At the same time
I doubt not that a better
& more efficient system
might be framed for
India than the French
have framed for Algeria.
What do you think?
Pray believe me
My dear Sir
Yours ever faithfully & gratefully
Florence Nightingale
Jas=Pattison Walker Eq MD
f66/16.1
Burn Embley  Sept 23/66
Romsey (printed) 35 South Street,
             Park Lane,
             London, W.
Dearest friend [Mary Jones]
This is not to answer
your dear letter, but merely
to beg. You will think I
never write but to beg.
The enclosed will tell you
all I know myself - [I wish
I knew more. I do wish
men & women had the
least notion of business -
in their letters.] If you can
help, it will be a blessing -
There is no class wants more
help or gets less than
Soldiers' Wives -
I don't know which will
give you most trouble - to
answer thro' me - or to
write to Mrs. Daniell
who, you see, only gives us
her address till Tuesday,
or to write to Sir H. Verney,
Who is Mrs. Daniell's
uncle & who encloses the
letters.
I have an impression that
you have been applied to
before about this.
I wish that some of the
members of the War Office,
from whom I could obtain
more exact information,
were in England. But they
are not. So I can only
tell you generally what I
know.
The Soldiers' Wives Hospitals are half under the War Office & half under the "Regimental" ladies. The accounts & reports usually (unknown, to them,) come before me [Some Regulations I have got passed - amongst others that they should, if possible, get their Midwives from your school. But nothing would do any good in enforcing Regulations but to have an itinerant a responsible Supt. Genl Had Mrs. S. Stewart been other than she is, she would have been the person. But oh! dearest friend, if you knew what my trials are with her, you would pity me. A second time

I have only just averted a public trial. Some Nurses informed against her for assault. And, she writes word direct to the Secretary of State that she has "beaten Nurses", "to make "them subordinate", tho' not those Nurses.] !!!!

To return to the Aldershot Hospital. I have long since been certain of the drunkenness of this "Mrs. Taylor", but we were always told she was perfect. [We did not appoint her.]

There has been a terrible out-break of Scarlet Fever at Aldershot, as I dare
say you know - Then we did send some good men down, who investigated the whole case. In every instance it was the result of the shameful state of the ground or hut - And in no one case could it be said to be "carried". It was in the most various parts of the Camp -

Dearest friend - I will write in a day or two - But I can't bear to hear you speak so despondingly - tho', with you, I am sure it is chiefly physical - I think you have had so large a measure of God's blessing - tho' I am afraid at great personal cost to yourself.

Do not you remember what St. Teresa said? -
"Seigneur mon Dieu, qu'il paraît bien que l'on ne vous rende point de service, sans en être récompensé par quelque grande peine; & que cette peine serait agréable à ceux qui vous aiment véritablement, s'ils connaissaient d'abord quel en est le prix!
"Mais nous n'étions pas alors capables de le comprendre - x x x Je ne désespérais néanmoins de rien, tant j'étais persuadée que tout ce qui nous arrivait était pour notre avantage x x x "Lorsqu'il y a le plus de difficultés à surmonter dans le semblables entreprises, Dieu qui connaît ma
faiblesses m'assiste et me fortifie x x au lieu que dans les entreprises, qui ne sont point traversées, il ne me dit rien."

I think however, it is a good joke my quoting St Teresa to you. For, if any body ever did want her advice, it is I.

I am going to write you a long letter in a day or two. I came down here, (the first time for 9 years) & am considerably the worse for it, as you may suppose - but I am glad I came - I think it has been a comfort to my dear mother. I find her but little altered, except her memory. But I find the talking she likes

quite too much for me, besides the current business I am obliged to carry on. It seems as if lungs & heart could not carry on for 20 minutes talking without spasm - Nothing would do me any good except going somewhere where I should not have to speak - & having a housekeeper who would take the details of life entirely off my hands - And I am afraid the same thing may be said of you - I have not been out of bed since I came, except once to receive Holy Communion - I do hope you will come down here, if only for a week, this autumn. I will write again about this, to urge you to make it possible -

God bless you -

ever yours, whether writing or silent

Burn Florence Nightingale
Dearest, very dearest friend [Mary Jones]

I do feel so much for you & all your troubles - I am always thinking of you - And yet I can do nothing. I feel you are so heavily tried -

But I don't believe any good work was ever established but with the martyrdom, the long suffering & humiliation of all its first supporters -

And, in after times, when the work becomes prosperous, how often it loses all its first purity of heart - how often it becomes a mere instrument of the ambition of men -

[People say - it is not so with the R.C. Orders - How little they know! - I assure you, that the much vaunted order of the Sisters of S. Vincent de Paule is little better now.]

But, I cannot remember, in any experience or history, either R. Catholic or Protestant - any instance where people have not had to tread in the steps of our Great Master in suffering, humiliation & apparent failure - not only in a passing way but throughout their whole lives - in doing any good thing -

Indeed I believe that the only blessing - but that is the best blessing of all - vouchsafed on earth to this peculiar path is - a conviction that we are called to it & that we are led in it.

Mlle= v. Rantzau, the foundress of Bethanien, near Berlin, (the Deaconesses) told me that she never would have embarked in it, had she known what it would be - She died in it - She had the same difficulties with her Chaplain that you have - But she had difficulties of every kind. Even the King did not pay up his subscription, while he ostentatiously visited the Hospital - And she sunk her whole fortune in barely maintaining the beds.

Poor Madame Fliedner, after having struggled her whole life at Kaiserswerth - with ill health, with poverty - finds herself now a widow - and the
Direction vested in the hands of their son-in-law who, tho' entirely brought up & MADE by Pastor Fliedner & herself, is going against all her husband's plans, & alienating the Deaconesses -
She told me that, if it were not for the conviction she had that it was God's will she should continue in her post as "Mutter", nothing could induce her to go on -

But you must burn this letter, please.

For I promised Madame Fliedner I never would tell this to any one -

Do you remember what Madame de Bréchard, one of the earliest companions of Madame de Chantal, says: -

"Il ne nous faut plus attendre aucun appui ni en désirer, c'est le moyen d'engager, cette souveraine et toute aimable bonté à nous prendre en sa très spéciale protection et conduite. Il a bien fallu que je me sois résolue à cela parmi les extrêmes peines et afflictions que j'ai rencontrées ici et d'âme vivante, Dieu permettant que celles de qui je pouvais le plus espérer ont aidé à combler mon ame d'amertume x x x x

"Quand le secours des créatures nous manque celui de Dieu ni nous manque pas, il est alors plus prêt." x x

But - about this terrible business of the Chaplain I do feel for you on the knees of my heart I most earnestly hope that he will go away and I feel it quite necessary. I hope the Council will tell him so.

But - I cannot but think hope - if you can get rid of this man & are then furnished with another - that he will not be the "Master". The very name is a misnomer. The Chaplain should never be the Master of a female order or Society - The services of our Church are inestimable comforts & benefits - But the less intercourse (from man to man / woman) between Chaplain & "Sisters", the better - If indeed a Chaplain were a spiritual physician, if he really had insight into our moral diseases, & could help us to find the strength & the remedy we lack - how gladly would we run to him -

But who is there now, in any Church, who answers to this description? -

I should be afraid that you would think me almost irreligious - at least, not alive to the religious wants of women - especially of women living a religious life in community - were it
not that the view I have just mentioned is that of all the real old, hard-working female orders of the R. Catholic Church.
You know I have lived among them, sleeping under their roofs, working among them - not as the R. Cath. female laity work among them but as they work among themselves -
And I believe scarcely any one knows them as I do - [at least I am always astonished at the ignorance of such persons as Lady {G.?} Fullerton, Dr. Manning, Lady Herbert &c. &c. about their real principles & practices -
Of course they think that it is I who am ignorant. But I hold my tongue]
I speak now of the real genuine good Saints - not of the new-fangled devotees which Dr. Manning is introducing. [He says he is inaugurating "a new era" for the Church - a "new era" with a vengeance. You know that he has turned my nuns - the nuns who worked so well in the Crimea - out of their Hospital in Gt. Ormond St., closed their Hospital, turned the Patients out into the street - one of whom died before she could reach home - He said "he would provide for them", of course
and, of course, he never did. And all this to bring the ultramontanes, the "Sisters" of S. Vincent de Paule into the Hospital. But in this he has not yet succeeded. We are still fighting the battle for the old nuns - But we shall fail.

Of these new-fangled practices I say nothing. But I do assure you that the view I hold about the Chaplain is that held by all genuine nuns & Supérieures about the Confessors.

The very best & cleverest & most devout person I ever knew in all my life - a French nun in a cloistered Order at Rome - said to me: -

ma confession! elle ne dure pas 5 minutes [French not verified] quand elle est faite, elle est faite - Ce qu'il (le Confessor) me dit et ce qu'il me conseille, je ne le fais pas -

You would find that all the best Supérieuresses, of every Order, discourage, both in themselves & their nuns, any approach to anything like a conference, under any pretence, or even a voluminous confession, between Confessor & themselves. The bare confession, of course the
duty of their Church, is all that takes place. The Superioress is herself the main guide of her nuns. She directs their work & their minds.

The Confessor, if he is a sensible man, understands this position perfectly.

It is true there is a Director - But he is generally a very experienced & superior man. He is only used for emergencies - He comes perhaps once, at most four times a year. He is consulted upon great difficulties & not at all in the little peddling way Protestants & new-fangled R. Catholics suppose - He may be consulted on the change of a Confessor -

But, in general, it is the Superioress herself who chooses the Confessor, with due regard to the voices of her nuns - where the Confessor is not the priest of the Parish -

And, if you have a Chaplain, you ought to choose him yourself.

[The great thing which is now pulling down the "Sisters" of S. Vincent de Paule, to be mere tools for absolutist domination, is their connection with the Lazarists - none can go anywhere without a Lazarist with them.]
The Lazarists take the same part in education among the poor that the Jesuits did among the rich. They pull down every thing to the level of a certain absolutist ignorance - just as the Jesuits raised everything to the level of a certain absolutist science.

Of course, the very heads of Convents who practice so nobly what I have been describing would themselves deny it.

Because it is not a Rule but a Practice. But it is none the less true, for all that - It is the real genuine good sense of the un controversial hard=working R.C. orders - And they shew also their good sense in not parading it.

Because it is so easily misconstrued: - jealousy (of power) in the Superioress - fear of spiritual flirtations between Confessor & nuns - It is nothing of the sort.

You may think that the connection between Dr. Pusey & Miss Sellon is an exception to my rule - But it is not. It is Miss S. who manages
And, dearest, they have dragged down each other. And this I say with the deepest regard for Miss Sellon —

Dr. Pusey used to be a Saint. He is now a cunning fellow & nothing better —

The only exception to my rule I have ever known, in any Church, is Pastor Fliedner — But then — he was not the Chaplain, he was himself the Founder — He was rude, uncouth, harsh & rough to a most uncommon degree — But he had, to an unexampled degree the power of inspiring warmth, zeal, purity of heart, trust in God & regardlessness of themselves in his Deaconesses — And his sermons! After having heard nearly all the celebrated preachers all over Europe — I still remember his sermons, rough & unattractive as they were, as the only real preaching I have ever heard.

His Ministry was truly the centre of his Institution. His pulpit the lever of his work. But, if a Chaplain is not that, his work ought to be limited to the offices of our Church
And Fliedner stood alone -
He has no successor.
His assistant in the ministry, who has been
at Kaiserswerth ever since I can remember,
& is there still - has nothing of his mantle.
No more has his son-in-law tho' he is
perhaps an abler man than Fliedner.
Therefore my best prayer, my most eager hope
for you, is: -
let the present Chaplain be got rid of -
let no future Chaplain be anything more
than a Chaplain
and, if you could, choose him yourself -
What I say here would be told you, if they
spoke the truth, by all the Supérieuresses of the
best orders in Europe.
Nobody in the world talks so much about her
Confessor as St. Teresa - But you see that she
was perpetually choosing & changing them - &
that she actually governed the Order of the
reformed Carmelites (men) as well as her own.
I am not advocating that. But I merely
mention it as a strong type.
With regard to your wish to retire, if difficulties go on increasing - what can I say, dearest friend? -
I am sure you will not think of it, unless you see unmistakeable signs of the will of God shewing you that way - such as would be, as you say yourself, the expressed or unexpressed feeling of the Sisters -
But it is just the contrary -
As far as I can see, your difficulties point all the other way - viz. that your remaining is necessary to the Sisters, necessary to the existence of the Society.
But I don't feel any call to preaching -
And I am sure you will say, quite simply -
Behold the handmaid of the Lord -
Be it unto me according as thou wilt. (as St. Catherine Mary Magdalene de Pazzi puts it)

I do feel for you with all my heart. You can hardly doubt that - I have so wished that, poor as my help would be, the time might come, when I could come & stay 3 months in your house every year as a "Sister", - but that seems less & less likely every month of my life.
My health has been worse this year than it ever has been at all. And worse these last 2 months than all this year -
And I am more & more overwhelmed with business -
You may fancy that, since Sidney Herbert's death, I have constantly asked myself: - Is it, after all, God's will that a woman should stay in these Government offices?
But my way has been so clearly shewn me that I dared not see it.
I can truly say that, for the last 5 years, I have worked "sans consolation" (ni "appui") "d'âme vivante."
At this moment I am working for the Poor Law Board in the question of a complete organization for London Workhouse Infirmaries - And, after working diligently (for the former Poor Law Board), from February 1865 to July 1866, I am now beginning all over again (with [13:593]
the present Board) at exactly the same point where we began in February 1865 - And yet I am thankful that the point is being discussed at all.

In the India affairs in the same way: - a Despatch of Sir John Lawrence of January 20 - which he sent a copy to me of (in his own hand) in order to get me to hurry the answer - was first lost by the India Office - then delayed - and is still unanswered.

Every thing is going wrong at the War Office I am so worried besides by having to answer attacks (a pure waste of time & strength) from letters being published purporting to be letters of mine. Sixteen mortal hours of correspondence that Garrett=Stewart affair cost me. How often I think of your: - "do they care to know the truth?" - What do you think was the letter from which Dr. Stewart asserted, at the Social Science Meeting, that he "had", in my "own hand=writing", my "statement" that &c. &c - - - - - It was a letter from my Committee to the Weekly Board
of the Middlesex Hospital, which I had never seen - !!

Dr. Stewart also stated that he knew, "from his own experience", that you had "but 2 'Sisters'."!! But still I feel that it is such a blessing to have been called, however unworthy, to be the "handmaid of the Lord" - as St. Teresa says, "Ah mon Dieu, une si grande faveur doit elle etre si peu estimée?" - I see women so far better & cleverer than I, wasting their whole lives, not, in improving but in deteriorating their own families - I feel so ungrateful & so wicked not to give the return I ought to God - the return of wishing for absolutely nothing but the accomplishment of His holy Will - And yet I never feel tempted to say, like poor Mlle= de Rantzau, "if I had known what it was I would never have undertaken it." [But she was faithful to the end] I have never felt tempted to refuse God any thing. However unworthy, I have always felt, I could live 1000 lives to prove to Him how inestimable the blessing I think it to be "called."

God bless you

[end 3:457]

ever yours (living or dying) F. Nightingale
My dear pair of Dominican victims
    It is **NOT** your business "to enquire".
    No more it is at Rome or in Spain.
    I am delighted.
        Amen
    says F.N.
    Dr. Sutherland feloniously made away with Dr. Acland's paper to Dr. Acland & with Sir R. Watson's to you - But he has told me (or says he has) their contents, & also his conversation at the W,O.
    My dear victims:
    1. there is no chance of bringing over the Dominicans (I mean the Doctors) whether in or out of the P.L. Board, to right views.
        [of course, as I am addressing Dr. Acland, I except him.]
The positions taken by them are just those taken by all opponents to improvement. How can you accept their votes, founded on what they choose to put forwards as their opinions?

Sanitary Reform in Civil Life & in the Army has been won, so far as it has been won, by appealing from opinions to facts - to carefully ascertained facts.

If you are to improve Workhouses & Workhouse Infirmaries, you must - either call in the aid of past experience - or - appeal anew to facts, disregarding all mere opinion.

And, if these men still stop all enquiry - very wise men they are! - & still choose to rest their Report on pre-conceived views & opinions, what can you do - you pair of gone 'coons? - [you are on very perilous duty. The forlorn hope is nothing to it]
You must refuse to sign any report, not sustained by positive irrefragable evidence.
I have not seen a single alleged fact [I call them all assertions] put forwards by them, which does not require the most careful sifting.

2. What they ask you to do is this: - for centuries many of the most able men, physicians, surgeons, architects, publicists, statesmen, have been engaged in ameliorating the condition of the sick poor in Hospitals.

Formerly, Hospital Mortality was: - 25 per cent. & upwards, of Admissions.
At present, 6 or 7 per cent. can be had.
But this is too much.
The reduction (of Mortality) has followed slow augmentation of cubic space, & improved nursing & management.
The men you have to deal with are trying to go back, & to drag you back into the exploded Medieval system of Hospitals - ignoring all that has been done.

3. The first thing is: - resistance to this.
Ask for proof of every opinion.
Without casting doubts on what they advance - you must be satisfied as to the facts, before you commit yourselves to the Report.
They appeal to their experience as Hospital physicians.
Do, you appeal to Mr. Paget, e.g., & Dr. Parkes & others.
You are not there to confirm the views of the Medical Members.
You are there to bring out the truth
Insist on the Registrar - General being the Statistical referee.
[I am an old cove (an "old man", the Psalmist says): But I never did see public business done before in such a way, no, not since I retired into Public Life.]
4. Dr. Watson's paper is founded on assumptions & opinions. Deal with it in the same way. E.g. he says there have been remarkably few deaths from Puerperal fever in Marylebone Workhouse - Enquire why there have been any. This Infirmary has been compared with Queen Charlotte's Hospital. At Marylebone there are about 12 lying-in beds. At Queen Charlotte's there are - how many? - 50 or 60? - Q. Charlotte's is a special Hospital - & every body knows (except Hospital Physicians) that the danger to Lying-in women increases directly with the number of occupied beds - also with the badness of construction & ventilation, quite apart from cubic space - At Q. Charlotte's, 2000 cub. ft. per bed is a necessity - But, if you enquire you will find other causes of Mortality,
And you will do good by getting them removed.
The present facts do not prove Marylebone to be healthy -
They prove the great preventible Mortality at Q. Charlotte's. [end 8:176]

Dear Auto: da:fés: -
Insist on enquiry.
You are ordered not to inquire.
If they won’t (enquire) - enquire for yourselves - & report separately.
- Or with draw, because they won't.

We know: - [16:728-29]
that the Workhouse system is
decided upon. It is to be continued.
If you sign the Report - you virtually lend your authority to the continuing the present system -
(even if you are satisfied on the questions in the Report.)
The 13 Printed Questions were "nuts" to me.
What a very fine thing a future (reforming) President of the P.L. Board might make of them in the Ho= of Commons!
Here have been all these exposures - all these reports - all this row -
And it has been fully proved that all the evils proceeded - not from this or from that - but from - what? - gross mismanagement of the sick - gross administrative management - not from want of cubic space & the other questions in your paper. These are subsidiary & have only been mentioned as subsidiary, till now. But now - all the mismanagement is to be put ignored or denied.
What a very fine thing the next Minister might make out of this!~
If you were able to reply to all the

questions, you would still have this gross mismanagement left untouched - And you will be smashed, by "Times" & Commons, who will say that the questions at issue were - simply mistaken.

I hear (from the very highest authorities) two things: -
1. that this Commission will be sacrificed
2. there is no disguising, on the other hand, that, if it reports unanimously it may put back the reform for years.
Therefore, don't sign the Report at all or, if you do, put in a special proviso that you give no opinion as to whether the sick should or should not be left under present management.
N.B. Dr. Sutherland desires me to give quote my "authority" — as to cost of Chorlton Union Workhouse — against Mr. Corbett's contradiction.

I have not the Clerk of the Guardians' letter to me here —

But Sir Harry Verney writes to me: —
"I passed a good hour at Chorlton Oct. 16 Union Workhouse Infy= for 500 Inmates. It seemed to me an admirable Institution — rough, to be sure, but airy, clean, sweet, comfortable, roomy. At present about 140 or 150 beds are occupied — The expense has been £47 per bed. But it ought to be reckoned at £50."

Here we have an instance of common sense avoiding all "patch-work" & creating an establishment de novo —

Do set your faces against all patching in the Metropolis.

My afflicted reformers,
I wish you a good afternoon & well out of it —

& am affectly yours

Florence Nightingale

Nov. 19/66
Embley Nov 25/66
Romsey 35 South Street,
________Park Lane,
________London, W.  {printed}

My dear Sir,

I cannot tell you how grateful I am to you for your kindness in making me two copies of the India Memo:

May I trespass still farther upon you by asking you to send (by tomorrow's India mail) the two enclosed letters to Mr. Ellis, of Madras & Sir John Lawrence -

I have no time for more - in great haste,

for I have not even time to thank you for your very kind note

ever yours faithfully

& gratefully

Florence Nightingale

J.J. Frederick Eq
Private Embley  Nov 25/66
Romsey  35 South Street,
               Park Lane,
               London, W. {printed address}

Dear Sir [Dr Acland]

    I am afraid you will think it an impertinence in me
to write to you in this uncalled for manner -
    But I do so at the request of Dr. Sutherland, who passed
on to me your valuable paper on "Question I". (with his
Notes on it).
    I need hardly say that I think it a most important
well-considered document, tho' there are some points
on which an old Nurse's experience does not agree
Dr. Acland
with you.
   But, as you would not care
for my praise, I pass on at
once to a general point.
And this is: -
   Your Committee & the Association
of Mr. Hart (whom you quote)
& others are not proceeding
on the same ground.
   One of the earliest reforms
proposed in Workhouse
management was: - a classification
of the inmates somewhat as
follows: -
1. Sick
2. Infirm, Aged & Invalids
3. Insane & Imbeciles {"lunatics"
   "Epileptics"
4. Children
-------------------------------------------
I would rather do away with the word
"Incurables" if I could. Old age is of course

incurable. But other kinds of Incurable
-ness are year by year more & more
limited by good treatment & nursing
-------------------------------------------
It is understood that this was
never carried out on account
of oppositions (or contemplated
oppositions) from the Parishes.
But you are aware that, for
the last 30 years, this has
been, more or less, entertained
by the Poor Law Board.
The cases which have turned
public opinion into public
indignation lately were
cases of neglected sickness -
neglected, to a great extent,
because of the want of
classification.
They were subjected, more or
less, to the current treatment
of the Workhouse class
generally.
The extent to which this
prevailed may be learnt from an instructive Table x presented to Parliament last session, which, amongst other things, proved - if any thing could prove - the absolute necessity of classification of Workhouse inmates. Simultaneously with this came the "Lancet" enquiry, which was reported simply a corollary of the Table. And the practical result, as might have been foreseen, was the advocacy of separate administration for "Sick", (more or less acute) i.e. separating "Sick", more or less acute, from other inmates, & dealing with them as sick are dealt with in Hospitals.

x which you doubtless have

[2]
[You must truly ask various questions "as to the kind of illnesses included in the term "Sick"]

But, inasmuch as it would be enormously costly to do this for every Parish & Union - especially as many of the Workhouses did not admit of the Sick being classified - the Association proposed to construct half-a-dozen new Hospitals for "sick" alone.

Keeping this in view, it will be evident that the 1000 c. ft. advocated by the Association referred, not to the existing buildings in which "Sick" & Invalids & bed-ridden are
mixed up together, but to special Sick Hospitals.
[You justly say: there is no answer to the question= - "what cubic space is wanted for a Sick person in a Workhouse?"]
But your Committee was engaged for an enquiry of quite a different character
The mixing up of all classes of ailing (except 4) in the same building or wards was still contemplated - And the question proposed to the Committee was: to decide the cubic space required for the average class of ailing inmates.
This is really the weak point in the enquiry. For it appears to be certain that,

however the question is solved on this basis by the present Committee, there will be another enquiry before very long to decide on the consolidation of the Hospital wards into separate establishments with separate administrative arrangements. And then will come all the questions of space & area, as applicable to this class of buildings.
[You truly say: - that your Committee "cannot avoid" "indirectly" "these large administrative questions."]
There will probably be an enquiry also as to the best construction of buildings.
for Infirm & Invalids -
And then the space required
for these will come under
discussion.

Supposing your present Committee
to come to an unanimous
decision - unless you appoint
a separate & specially
qualified Master for the
sick wards - unless you
appoint a separate &
specially qualified Matron
& staff of Nurses - & also
provide the means of
training Nurses - [for the
Nurses don't exist] the
whole matter will be left
very much where it
is now.

We ought not to forget that
the public decision against
the Workhouses - altho' resting
in some cases, on deficient
space - in all, or nearly all,
was chiefly founded on bad
administration - clearly
traceable to the fact that
Workhouse masters had
no knowledge of sick -
& were trying to suppress
pauperism by oppressing
the sick.

Pray believe me
ever your faithful servt
Florence Nightingale

{archivist's note: II 18
66/21 F.N. to [Dr. Acland] [25 Nov. 1866]
66/22 F.N. to Mrs. Matthew 30 Nov. 1866
66/23 F.N. to Dr. H.W. Acland 7 Dec. 1866}
A few trifling notes

And these cases, called "Incurable", (but on which the Death rate is low.) might not be Incurable.

To the word "Incurable" I would always add:

yes: "Incurable", as they are treated.

"Sore legs", e.g. are always "incurable" in a Workhouse atmosphere.

"80 sq. ft."

I think this the minimum for each bed - not including "fire-places" &c" - And this in a Pavilion ward.

x I don't quite understand the "space" "allowed" for the
I am always terribly afraid of entering on the "1000 cub. ft" by itself.

Remember that Dr. Markham's 60 sq. ft made practically 953 cub. ft.
Now it is manifest - this will not do.
Also: - tho' (say) 80 sq. ft & 960 cub. ft. might do for a ward of 12 beds, - for a ward of 24 beds, - 960 cub. ft. would not do for 80 sq. ft. You must have greater height.

"doors." Tho' I am quite delighted that each of the "doors" should have its bed space of "80 ft.", because it all comes in for the Patients, yet, in a Pavilion ward, we have a door at each end - And the four corner beds have the same space as the others. (there must only be one bed of course between window & corner) And the "doors" are not taken into account at all
Dr. Brodie's Remark upon Lying-in women.
I entirely agree -
If a Lying-in woman has a home at all, she is safest in that.
Put two lying-in women together - you more than double the danger -
Put three together - you more than treble it.
Indeed, it would not be too much to say that the danger increases as the square of the number.

But I entirely demur to the verdict in favour of Queen Charlotte. It is notoriously unhealthy.
The Mortality at the Maternité

at Paris is something horrible.
Lying-in Hospitals are generally destructive to life things.
Tho' Marylebone may have a low Mortality, thanks to its small number of beds &c &c - why does it have puerperal fever at all? -
A Lying-in woman ought never to die, except from unavoidable accident.
Why "strange"?
Who was there to give the "evidence"?
The Medical Officer?
By his own shewing, he has not time to attend even to the worst cases. The grossest but
The Nurses? wholly unavoidable
There are none neglect was proved - unavoidable.
The P.L. Inspector? i.e. without any blame to the He does not know Medical Officer who can't make 12 hours into 24.
Also: - the Committee have been going upon "opinions," not facts.
In the Crimean War, this "direct evidence" was given by the large majority of the Senior Medical Officers: - viz. that there was nothing to shew

the cause of the prevailing Hospital Gangrene at Scutari (we lost 30 consecutive cases out of 40 of amputation of the thigh) except that the climate (or air) for a radius of 3 miles round Scutari was unfavourable to the recovery of wounds!!! Nearly the same "evidence" was given as to our Cholera there!!! ---

There is no reason why "statements" as to "retardation of recovery" should be "only opinion."
The point may be ascertained by Statistics. Workhouses keep no Statistics.
How can they? - How can these over-loaded Medl= Officers keep Statistics? How can their "Statements" - be anything but "opinion"? -

P.5. Paras 2,3,4.

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Remember that Dr. Markham's 60 sq. ft made 953 cub. ft.

---

I do not agree - for reasons given before - That Marylebone Lying-in Ward is far better than Q.

Charlotte's, I am sure I don't deny - which is only saying that it is better than a notoriously unhealthy Hospital

---

I agree, with all my might

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Please ask Capt. Galton for a case where a Regimental Surgeon put Orderlies to sleep with Patients - desiring the former to breathe only 600 cub. ft. Unless, by Act of Parlt., you can prosecute cases for breathing more than their share, or for rendering more than their space of cubic air impure, by their emanations - you cannot assign different cubic spaces to different cases -
This following is hypercriticism. "86 sq. ft" are not desirable for "administration" only - but for "administration" & health also. It is rather dangerous to allow people to suppose the former.

Beds should be put at, at least, 6 inch. distance from wall.

This, of course, diminishes "gang-way" by 1 ft.

But, as I say, this is hypercriticism, because, if I get a ward 24 ft wide, tho' I prefer 26 ft, I ought to be more than satisfied.

I may just remark: - (P.4: "2nd=")

Every case at St. Thomas' Hospital costs three shillings (3/0) a day - Personally,

I have not the slightest doubt that this money would be much better applied (& Mortality much diminished) if it were given to treating every Patient at his, or her, own home.

But, in Workhouses, many Patients have no homes - no Patients - can command all Surgical appliances at home &c

Also: we must have Medical Schools & Nurses' Schools - A Hospital is the only place where Doctors & Nurses can be trained.

The problem seems to be: - to bring the conditions of a Hospital to the closest possible approximation to the best Vital conditions - to keep the Patient the shortest possible time in Hospital - and to free him from "les influences nosocomiales" - a happy word for
the special risks to which sick are exposed by the mere fact of their being removed from their own homes to Hospitals - for "improved (?) treatment" -

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC166/22, pen with photo

Dear Madam [Mrs Matthew]

I lost no time after reading your sad note of Oct 4, in enquiring of the Patriotic Fund Commissioners.

I learn that Mr. Myford's note was written during the absence of the Secretaries. But it is undoubtedly true that it "was founded upon a decision" of the Committee that Mrs. Matthew given them by missionaries did not extend to the length "supposed."

I received an answer & explanation at very great length - together with two books of their new Regulations - which we should interpret to give "almost unlimited "latitude to the Committee". The whole question depends upon whether certain words are not intended "to include education."
"without excluding "Maintenance."
We say they are. But the question is - what is to be done? - I have been advised to memorialize the Commissioners. And this I feel inclined to do - not simply for an allowance for the maintenance of each child. "but also for the widows - after the "widows distinctly recognized "as those of the war - "they standing next in

"legal claim in "virtue "of the service" of their "husbands in the Crimea And I feel inclined to do this I also feel inclined to write to Lord Grey. Lord Grey was in the chair when the resolution was discussed. He understood the resolution to include "maintenance." Capt. Fishbourne stated (at this meeting of Commissioners) that you would have the allowances first stated
to you. And no objection was made in the Commission. I am told that nothing will be done till there is a meeting of Commissioners & that there will not be any, before November, if then. I have therefore time to obtain advice about My Memorial. You are quite sure that I shall do all I can. But I am never sanguine since Sidney Herbert's death five long years ago,

we have not had one Secretary of State for War to be depended upon. About this matter: - an Act of Parliament was hurried through the Houses, without letting any one know, who could have given an opinion as to the value of the words - It does not make the necessary provisions. And I am told that a new Act must be obtained, before any thing really is done -
f66/22.4
I cannot help thanking you for the beautiful photograph of my dear friend, your lost - noble husband. It is the very best I ever saw of any one. [I think photograph likenesses sometimes so painful.] Can you tell me whether it was done, from himself or from a drawing of him? -

Pray believe me dear Madam with great truth, ever your faithful servt Florence Nightingale

envelope black-edged
Mrs. Matthew
Gothic Villa
Marine Walk
Tunbridge Wells

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/66/23, pen
f66/23.1
Dec 7/66
{printed} 35 South Street, Park Lane, London, W.

Dear Sir,
I received a verbal message from the War Office to day that you had telegraphed some days ago to the W.O. for a copy of my paper & forms for Hospital Statistics. Altho' a telegram, plus a verbal message, is quite sure to involve a double mistake, I beg to enclose the paper, as H.W. Acland Eq MD
finally adopted by the Internat-Stat-Congress - and a filled up report of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in which the method is substantially adopted. The whole is however given in the last Chapter of my "Notes on Hospitals", Third Edit= Longmans.

If this is not what you wanted, but something else, perhaps

I might still be able to serve you - if I knew in what.

Believe me your faithful servt
Florence Nightingale

{archivist's note: II 19 66/24 F.N. to Harry [Bonham Carter] 16 Dec. 1866}
Dec 16/66
{printed} 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
London, W.
My dear Harry [Bonham Carter]
I am sorry that I have
kept your pamphlet so
long - especially as I have
very little to say about it.
I think it will do very
well now.
If you put in any Appendices,
I think you should put in
both.
I see no objection to your
adding "Secy to the &c" to your
name.
Mr Michael Smith is
not likely to know much
about Nursing, or how to
enquire about it, or how to estimate what he hears. His authority is nothing in such a question. If you have direct proof of want of success in St. John's House, it should be stated to Miss Jones. I should think it a duty to do it, if you would tell me - that is, to do it at some proper time.
I should have a great deal to say about Dr. Ogle's pamphlet, if I had but the time. It is written from the extravagant Dissenter point of view.
It is really nothing but running=a=muck against Sisterhoods - there is not a word about Nursing in it which any sane woman would listen to. The running a muck is like giving a heading to Beer. You pour your Beer from a height to give it a head. That is just what Dr. Ogle has done. But his Beer is quite as worthless, for all that.

You see he & Miss Garrett & Dr. Stewart & many others would reduce Nursing to exactly the same principle as keeping a shop. x They say: - not God but Mammon. Now I am all for Mammon myself - But then I say: - train yourselves to serve God so well that you x And they make the froth to this Beer: - the Protestant dread of Sisterhoods.
f66/24.2v
will command Mammon
not serve Mammon.
The religious orders have - tho'
not nearly so generally as is thought- made this great mistake - of taking the factitious circumstances viz ability to serve God without pay as the test. I remember Mr. Clough saying that the ability to serve God with pay was a better test. In which I fully agree.
But I don't want to join the run against Sisterhoods at all. Every 7 years I think there is this sort of "row" - a stream against, a stream for religious orders - a stream against, a stream for "Lady Nurses" - As far as I am concerned, I
shall steadily keep out of the controversy - I shall say: - in regard to Nursing with or without Sisterhoods, F.N. has nothing to say to any such controversies except in as far as they bear on good nursing & administration. [Even with regard to organization, unless I am asked special questions, as I was with regard to Liverpool, Lincoln, Bath, Derby &c, I will give no opinion] F.N. has nothing to do with calling the head Matron, Lady Supt=, Mother Superior, or what you please - If a religious head of a religious order has undivided authority over a Hospital, it will be badly nursed.
If a Medical Staff has undivided authority over Hospital Nursing, it the Hospital will be badly nursed. Otherwise, it matters not whether the Nurses are lay-women, Anglican or any other "Sisters", Nuns or what not, the one essential thing is that they be trained good Nurses, who will not allow any scruples, religious or irreligious x, to interfere with the faithful discharge

x I put the religious scruples of "Sisters", neglecting their duty for their devotions on a par with the irreligious scruples of Nurses neglecting their duty for their drink. As I put Dr. Ogle's irreligious scruples against the Church on a par with Deaconess religious scruples refusing Chloroform to the Doctor
of their duties.

F.N. has nothing at all to
do with such questions as
to whether Nursing be a
"Church duty" or not -
- Nor as to whether it is well
or ill to have "Sisterhoods"
with all their "reputed evils"
in order to secure good
Nursing. x

x If I had been a R. Catholic
in a R. Catholic country, I should
probably have devoted the
N. Fund & myself to training
nuns to be good Hospital
Nurses - As I am what I am
I wish to train lay or religious
women Church, Dissenters (or R.
Catholics, if they would come to us)
Hindoos, if we get to India.
- any woman of good character
& qualifications - of any class -
of any denomination. It is obviously
impossible in this country to go upon any other principle. I might
as well try to institute a new form of Government as to change the
character of the "Briton", which is individuality.
In Dr. Ogle's pamphlet, there are the views of Mr. Capes on the one side, & of Dr. Ogle on the other; - if we were to follow either the one or othe other, any progress would be simply impossible.

All we wish is: that every body on either side, who wishes to nurse, should do the work well.

N.B. I would just say that there are gross blunders in Dr. Ogle's every page. E.g. P.32, Note 2. I happen to know there were no "Sisters of Mercy" in the Danish War. I know exactly what "Sisters" went, both R. Catholics & Protestant. If it were possible for me to call people to account for every blunder, I would ask him to say what he means by this statement about the Bibles. It could be easily "verified".

P. 22 Note 3. I should call Miss Jones' attention to this, only that she has no time

P. 28 Note 6. "Rev'd Kemble" is absurd.
Unless the Matron of the Hospital is the Supt= of the Nurses, how can she train them?
Miss Jones, of King's Coll=Hosp1, is almost the only person who has seen this principle - Pastor Fliedner turned it inside out. For he would have no other authority in the Hospital but his & hers. 

I have put it in print, that the highest average good Nursing is secured by a religious society and a secular government in a Hospital. This is fact & experience, not opinion.

We must never forget that, from 20 - 10 years ago, the average Nursing of Paris Hospitals was 20 times higher than the average Nursing of London Hospitals - tho' there were many first-rate Head Nurses in London Hospls=

[People who have not lived in Hospitals as I have don't know however how exactly alike a good Hospital Nurse is all over the world - whether she is Soeur de la Resurrection of the Augustinian order at the Hotel Dieu or Sister George of St. Thomas' Hospital.]

In Prussia & Austria & all over Germany, the character of the Nurses was so very low,
(lower than in England), that there arose & spread, with a rapidity unparalleled even in the R. Catholic Church, Pastor Fliedner's Order of Deaconesses - But what, curiously enough, no one seems to know (& what I certainly shall never tell,) is that it had the worst faults of the most bigoted Order in the R. Catholic Church or of the most exclusive Order in the Anglican. There was no secular government in the Hospital whatever. The religious principle overruled every thing - even the Medical treatment. The Nurses were not good Nurses. And, certainly, the (Head Quarters) Hospital was very much worse nursed & administered generally than the worst London Hospital 20 years ago - But, such was the amazing want of Nursing of good character in Germany that they were eager to take the Deaconesses on any terms - & such was the practical good sense of Pastor Fliedner (so unlike in this to our exclusive Anglican orders) that he was willing to give them for any good work - And so it happened that, when they came in contact with secular Hospital government. All over Germany they nursed extremely well. I question very much whether the average of London Hospital Nursing is even now up to that of
Paris.

But let that pass.
I am certainly not going to advocate Sisterhoods —
Indeed I have nothing to do with it:
I might call for "Sisters". But would they come when I did call for them? —
Not they.
It does seem to me so absurd this cry against Sisterhoods & ladies —
as if there were the slightest danger of "ladies" crowding into our Hospitals to the exclusion of those who have to earn their bread —
as if there were the slightest danger of "Sisterhoods"

monopolising the Institutions of England.
It is a pure imaginary cry.
Just wait till we see an army of "Sisters" at our gates —
But what I feel — & feel most seriously — about Miss Jones & King’s Coll=Hosp1= is this: —
She is the only Superior of any religious society of any Church out of the Church of Rome who has clearly & candidly carried out the one great principle of honestly co=operating with a secular Hospital government — of honestly making herself the Matron of the Hospital
of honestly placing herself & Training-School within a secular Hospital.

All Saints has not done this in University Coll=Hospl=. As I could shew - But I should be a dirty bird to foul my own nest.

No other of the Anglican orders has even attempted it.

Pastor Fliedner expressly disavowed the possibility of it. So did Bethanien.

So have the most numerous order in France & Europe - the "Sisters of Charity".

So have countless others. Miss Jones has had King's College Hospl= barely 11 years.

That her society has, as yet, taken no great development, is no great wonder - Yet I know that she has been importuned by many Hospitals to undertake them.

If you ask me, whether her "Sisters" are equal to the best Hospital Head Nurses in London, I say: - No, & probably never will be.

Yet, in one year, she had brought the average of King's Coll=Hospl= Nursing higher than the average of any London Hospl=, except St. Bartholomew's & St. Thomas'. [For St. Thomas was not then what it is now. It had a few first-rate Head nurses - And it had Mrs. Wardroper But Mrs. Wardroper of then was not the Mrs. Wardroper of now.]
I do not scruple to say that the Nursing of St. John's House under the present training is superior to that of the "Sisters of Charity", the most famous order in Europe but which never, in my experience, has produced one really good Nurse - just because it has always shirked the principle of union with a secular Govt. And at this moment especially no word should ever pass our lips tending to embarrass St. John's House - owing to an abominable lying Chaplain & a malicious Archdeacon; - they are down in the world just now - And they are persecuted just for their non-ecclesiastical propensities. One of the causes of the persecution is: - the dismissal of an inefficient, tho' ecclesiastical "Sister" - the other cause is: the utter inefficiency of the Chaplain, who has revenged himself by her. {pencil to end of letter:) I shall do every thing in my power (which is little enough) to enable them to out=ride this storm: - If they cannot, then I shall say: - Sisterhoods are impossible in the Ch. of England, not from the fault of the women, but from that of the priests - It is impossible for a priest of the Ch. of Eng to understand the sound principles of independence, of
non-interference in ‘good’ administration upon which the best female orders in the Ch. of Rome are protected from their priests. Priest-craft (in the Ch. of Rome) is held at bay only in religious Sisterhoods - In these alone has the priest no personal power = Confession is more carefully guarded, the personal influence of the priest is far more barred out than it is in whether Dissenting or Ch of England) any highly Evangelical or highly High Church FAMILY x in England. This is also true as to St. John's House - there is no priest-craft in it. [I wish they did not go to St. Albans - But then they might just as well say: - I wish you did not go to hear Spurgeon.] x There is nothing like the worship of a Pusey, a Liddon, a Close, a Spurgeon, by families, to be seen in any "Sisterhood"!
It is even true with regard to Miss Sellon's x: but then there are other fatal evils in her Order, resulting from exactly the same principle of autocracy which Pastor Fliedner adopted. X Miss Sellon manages Dr. Pusey - not he her - Also - there is quite as much difference between the Orders of Ste Martha & St. Augustin, which have 8 of the 9 great General Hospitals of Paris - & the Order of the "Sisters of Charity" which has one - quite as much difference as between Pusey's & Spurgeon's following - The "Sisters of Charity" are convert=seekers, frantic "bigots", tools not of priests but of a {Pro??}> of a Papacy - The Ste Martha & Augustinian "Sisters" are nothing
but good religious Nurses.

All this makes P.p 8 to 15 (Dr. Ogle's pamphlet) so enormously absurd that it would really do quite as well for Honolulu as for anything in England or Europe - Whoever wrote it is simply writing about from the "depths" of his "innermost" Ich - as the German did about the Camel -

P.11, Note 6. P.14 Note 8'
If these Notes are by Dr. Ogle, they are simply disingenuous. E.g. Note 6 - Every Medical man knows that "insanity" is most "common" among - whom? - the Quakers.

Note 8. "Why should they obey any one but the Doctor?" - I once had a long correspondence

What "public establishments" are "dependent on Sisterhoods"?
Even in Paris they pay the "Sisterhoods," who are just as much making the bread of their Society as the "Devonshire Sq -" Nurses are of theirs - (tho' on different principles)
P.15 - Note - It is difficult to believe the writer honest or to believe him serious - He cannot be both:

with Dr. Ogle - And I have it in his own hand that he entirely subscribes to the principle that Nurses must be (for discipline, training, internal management &c.) entirely under the SUPERINTENDT whose business it is to see that the Doctor's orders as to treatment shall be obeyed - [I should like to shew him his own letter].
The second Article (in Dr. Ogle's pamphlet - p.p. 16-29) is simple sound common sense & a good recommendation of Mr. Rathbone's Liverpool system - tho' somewhat superficial.

But why has Dr. Ogle disfigured it with those ridiculous notes, which have little, if any thing, to do with it? -

With regard to the "Additional Remarks," (p.30 to end) - I have said my say - They are monstrous, stupid, ignorant - but not more so than Mr. Capes - And they neither is any business of mine.

Remembering as I do the long correspondence forced upon me by Dr. Ogle - & the letters I have from him, I must add that I think them also disengenuous.

[illeg] I cite the last Para=of P. 35] unless they are nothing but the heading to his Beer -
Does he really suppose us to believe that he believes that we believe that there is the least danger of "our public Institutions" being taken possession of - or ourselves "nursed" by "secret societies".

It is too ridiculous -

ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale
f66/24.13

[7]

...NB. In relation to what I said about the disgraceful conduct of the "filles de salle" at Paris, we must never forget that R. Catholic Sisterhoods expressly disavow the possibility of their being expected to train (or even to look after the conduct of) lay - women, - whereas Miss Jones, of K.C.H., makes it the express business of St. John's House - to train lay = women as Nurses -

That makes all the difference. [end 3:462]

F.N.

(archivist's note: II 20 66/25 F.N. to Mary Jones 20 Dec. 1866)

Letter, LMA H1/ST/NC1/66/25, pencil

f66/25.1

Private Burn Dec 20/66

{printed:} 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
London, W.

Dearest, very dearest friend [Mary Jones]

It has always happened that my troubles have reached their climax at Christmas - very serious troubles, out of which I can see no way - as to the India Public Health Service - as to the re-organization of Workhouse Infirmaries - as to the Army Medical DeparMt= &c &c &c -

But, believe me, no trouble weighs more heavily upon my mind than yours.

1. I am sure you were perfectly right to attempt the removal of
this Chaplain - Otherwise, all good administration comes to an end - Upon any other principle, it is nothing but saying: - we are not to try for progress. I wish I could do anything for you - Is "Lord [illeg Stanley"] going "to move" AGAINST you? - Are you sure? - I think I could ensure any plain statement of facts being laid before him so as to command his attention thro' my brother=in=law (Sir H. Verney) - if you like it - I believe I could ensure the same thing with the Bishop of London, who has always rather patronized me, if you liked it.

No one dislikes more than I do this kind of private meddling - [tho' I did it for the sake of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.] And I would take no step without your desire - But I think a great principle at stake. Don't you observe that every few years there is this out-cry against "Sisterhoods", which is like giving a heading to Beer. [They pour the Beer from a height to give it a froth -] But the Beer, if worthless, is quite as worthless for all that. There are a great many pamphleteers now trying to reduce Nursing to exactly the
same principle as keeping a shop - And they make the a froth to this Beer: - viz. the Protestant dread of Sisterhoods. They say: - not God but Mammon. [Now I am all for Mammon myself But then I say: - let us train ourselves to serve God so well that we shall command Mammon - not serve Mammon].
The religious orders have - tho' not nearly so absolutely as is generally thought - made, I humbly think, a great mistake: - in taking the factitious circumstance, viz. ability to serve God without pay as the test - [A man of great wisdom & religion once said to me: - that the ability to serve God with pay was a better test] 9 [line struck out illeg]

as far as I am concerned, I shall steadily keep out of the controversy, except in as far as it bears on good Nursing & administration. I shall say I have nothing to do with calling the head:-Matron, Lady Supt=. Lady Superior, Mother Superior, or what you please. If a religious head of a religious order has undivided authority over a Hospital, it will be badly nursed. If a Medical Staff has undivided authority over a Hospital, it will be badly nursed. It matters not whether Nurses are lay=women, Anglican or other "Sisters", the one essential thing is that they be trained good Nurses, who will not allow
any scruples, religious or irreligious, to interfere with the faithful discharge of their duties.
If I had been a R. Catholic in a R. Catholic country, I should have devoted myself to training nuns to be good Hosp=nurses -

It is obviously impossible in this country to go upon any such principle - I might as well try to institute a new form of Government as to change the character of the Englishman which is individuality -

[We may have to train Hindoos.]

If we were to follow the views of Dissent on the one hand or of the High Church, on the other, any progress would be simply impossible.

All we wish is that every body on either side, who wishes to nurse, should do the work well.
I am afraid you will think me irreligious.

But I have gone thro' a great deal this autumn in hard work, (not only for your sake, but for God's sake,) in disproving the absurd silly arguments against Sisterhoods which have flooded England this autumn -

The highest AVERAGE good Nursing is secured by a religious society & a secular government in a Hospital.
This is fact & experience, not opinion.

We must never forget that from 20-10 years ago, the average Nursing of Paris Hospitals was 50 per cent better than the average Nursing of London Hospitals - tho' there were many first-rate Head Nurses in London Hosps=

[A good Hospl= Nurse is very much the same all over the world - whether she is "Soeur de la Resurrection" of the Augustinians at the Hotel Dieu, or "Sister George" of St. Thomas' Hospl=]

In Prussia & Austria & all over Germany, the character of the Nurses was so very low, (worse than in England)

[3]

that there arose & spread, with a rapidity unparalleled even in the R. Catholic Ch., Pastor Fliedner's Order of Deaconesses.

But what no one seems to know (& what I certainly shall never tell) is: - that it had the worst faults of the most bigoted order in the R. Catholic Ch - or of the most exclusive order in the Anglican. There was no secular government in the Hospital whatever The religious principle over-ruled every, even the Medical consideration. The Nursing was not good Nursing. And certainly, the (Head Quarters) Hospl= was very much worse administered than the worst
London Hospital 20 years ago -
But such was the amazing
want of Nurses of good character
all over Germany - that they
were eager to take the
Deaconesses on any terms -
& such was the practical good
sense of Pastor Fliedner (here
so unlike the most exclusive
Anglican Orders) that he was
willing to give them for any
good work - And so it
happened that, then they
came in contact with secular
Hospital government all
over Germany, they nursed
extremely well -
I question very much whether the
average of London Hosp=
 nursing
is even now up to that of Paris.

But I will not go into that.
It does seem to me so absurd
this cry against Sisterhoods &
"ladies" -.
As if there were the slightest
danger of "ladies" crowding
into our Hospitals to the
exclusion of those who have
to earn their bread -
as if there were the slightest
danger of "Sisterhoods" taking
possession of all our "public
Institutions", - of all our Nursing,
public & private - with
their "secret societies"!!!
[This is what we are seriously
told by pamphleteers will
happen!!!]
But what I feel - & feel more
deply every day - about
you & Kings Coll= Hosp= - is this: -
you are the only Superior of any religious Society out of the Ch. of Rome who have clearly & candidly carried out the one great principle of honestly co-operating with a secular Hospital Government - of honestly making yourself the Matron of the Hospl= as well as the Supt= of the Nurses - - of honestly placing, yourself & Training - Schools within a secular Hospl=-

[All Saints has not done this in Univ=Coll=Hospl.]

No other of the Anglican orders has even attempted it. Pastor Fliedner expressly disavowed the possibility of it: So did Bethanien So has the most numerous order

in France or Europe - the "Sisters of Charity" - So have countless others. You have had K.C.H. barely 11 years. That your society has, as yet, taken no great development is no great wonder.

Yet you have been importuned by many Hospls. to undertake them.

In one year, you had brought the average of K.C.H. Nursing higher than the average of any London Hospl., except perhaps St. Bartholomew's & St. Thomas'.

[St. Thomas' was not then what it is now - It had a few first rate Head Nurses - And it had Mrs. Wardroper - But she was not the Mrs. Wardroper of now.]
I have no scruple in saying that the Nursing of St. John's House under the present training is better than that of the "Sisters of Charity" - the most famous order in Europe - but which never, in my experience has produced one really good Nurse - just because it has always shirked the principle of union with a secular Govt.

Now I fancy that you are suffering for your non-ecclesiastical principles. I fancy that one of the causes of the persecution by that Cardinal - (I mean Archdeacon) is: - the dismissal of an inefficient, tho' ecclesiastical

"Sister" - The other cause is: - the utter inefficiency of a rascally Chaplain, who has revenged himself by lies. If I could do anything in my power (which is little enough) to help in the least degree to out-ride this storm, pray, pray tell me - If you succumb

If you succumb, then I shall say: - Sisterhoods are impossible in the Ch of Eng., not from the fault of the women but from that of the priests. It is impossible for a priest of the Ch. of Eng. to understand the sound principles of independence, of non-interference as to administration upon which the best female Orders in the Ch. of Rome are protected from their priests. Priest craft (in the Ch. of Rome)
**£66/25.8v**

is held at bay only in religious "Sisterhoods". In these alone has the priest no personal power. Nothing can exceed the care with which confession is guarded, with which the personal influence of the priest is prevented. The personal influence of the priest is far, far greater in any highly Evangelical, (whether Dissenting or Ch. of Eng.) family in England. It is far greater in any extravagantly High Church family in England - [No one seems to know this] A Pusey, a Liddon, a Close, a Spurgeon, a Manning is worshipped in families as they never are in Sisterhoods - I believe, as to St. John's House, that there is no priest craft in it - & that you are "Suffering for righteousness's sake". [We may deplore that you like to]

**£66/25.9**

[5] goto St. Albans - But then you might just as well deplore that Anglicans like to go to Spurgeon's.]

These people who profess to be so knowing, who write pamphlets upon pamphlets for fear we "should" imitate the R.C. "Sisterhoods" don't know that -- there is quite as much difference between the Order of the "Sisters of Charity", which has one of the 9 great General Hospitals of Paris & the Orders of Ste Marthe & St. Augustin which have 8 - quite as much difference as between Pusey's & Spurgeon's following - The "Sisters of Charity" are convert-seekers, frantic "bigots", tools (not at all of priests but) of
ff66/25.9v
a Papacy & a Propagandism - The Ste Marthe's & Augustinians are nothing but good religious Nurses. [But anything that Englishmen ever wrote about religious orders might just as well do for Honolulu as for Europe] Another, tho' a very different thing, which we should never forget is: - that R. Catholic "Sisterhoods" expressly disavow the possibility of their training lay-women, in the way that you do - The consequence is, that the abominations among their "filles de salle" are quite as great as they were among the Under Nurses of London Hospitals 20 years ago.

f66/25.10

Dearest friend
I have written this long letter, which please burn, to show you my views, as to the great work you are doing, as to the principles on which it should be carried through the present persecution - & to offer most eagerly, if there is anything I can do, to do it.

I know you won't agree with my views. But I think you will at least believe that nothing lies deeper in my heart than you & your work, & that there is nothing I would not do to help, if only I could - God bless you -

ever yours F Nightingale
Private Jan 8/67
7. A.M.
35 South Street.
Park Lane.
London. W.
Dearest friend,
I do not like to lose an hour in answering your letter, tho' indeed I am pressed for time.
It has made me very sad.
But what I want to say is, that, of course, whether you go or stay (as Members of St. John's Ho=) you will make it perfectly clear to your Bishop on what grounds you go or stay - This ought to be done both for your own sakes & for
his. He knows nothing about the principles of a Sisterhood. His "Charges" shew that.
No one can advise you how to put the case before him. For no one can do it better than you -
If you could convince him, probably the matter might be settled still.
If you can't, still if you were to write 7 letters, it ought to be done - for the sake of the work.
Let it be all in writing. tho' there ought to be an interview besides as soon as possible.
It is quite, quite, quite impossible (and it is not

only my experience but that of all Christendom) for the discipline, the internal management, of Sisters & Nurses to be in any other hands but those of ONE female Head - No man can or ought to interfere with it. Nothing but indiscipline can ensue.
[I don't like the word discipline, because it makes people always think of drill & flogging - but, if they would but associate it with the word disciple - - - - - .!]
Women are never governed by a man, except to their own detriment. When the government of the man
interferes with that of the female head, all goes to ruin.
If the female head does not exercise the power entrusted to her with judgment & discretion, then it is she who ought to go. But the man ought never to have been there.
The whole reform in Nursing both at home & abroad, has consisted in this: - to take all power over the Nursing out of the hands of the men, & put it into the hands of one female trained head & make her responsible for every thing (regarding internal management & discipline) being carried out.
Usually, it is the Medical staff who have injuriously interfered as "Masters". How much worse it is when it is the Chaplain! It appears to me that what your Chaplain is doing to the Nurses is: - the worst caricature of gossiping confession - (for this kind of confession does exist in the R.C. Church - tho' not in the active orders - to the destruction of soul & body)
But your Chaplain's is worse -
for there is not even the
seal of sacredness or duty
about it. If one thought
it one's duty to go &
make a bow to Grosvenor
Gate at 3 every morning
foul or fair, the ridiculous
act is invested with a
kind of sacredness. But
here there is none.
Scarcely a week of my life
elapses that I have not
to assert this principle,
(in answer to counsel
sought,) to some Institution
or other -
I cannot say that I should
very deeply regret it,
if you & the Sisters &

all the Nurses were to,
secede from St. John's,
keeping King's Coll: & Charing
Cross Hospitals. The spirit
would be saved, tho' the
body would be lost. But
I suppose this is impossible.
But I should think it
the greatest calamity
that had ever happened
in all my unfortunate
life if you & the Sisters
seceded, leaving the Nurses
& King's Coll: in the hands
of St. John's -
It seems to me as if it
would peril the whole
reform -
I don't speak of
"popular clamour"
(tho' I don't quite agree with
you that there is nothing
but "popular clamour" to alledge against St. Albans -
think St. Albans is fanciful - nor do I think there
is nothing but "popular clamour" to alledge against
Sisterhoods) but I speak of the real deep principles
of how to serve God in nursing. I think these would be perilled by your secession - not from St. John's but from
King's Coll:
  Do you think the life of the Sisters is "hard & harassing"? Yours is, my poor dear, to the last degree -
But I know I should have

thought that to nurse a Hospital ward under you was
the height of earthly ambition. [end 3:469]
Dearest friend, you know [13:92-94]
how I always long to see you. In January we are always so driven with work that I should have said - it was quite impossible - but that this is such an emergency. Not that I have any counsel to offer - nor would I, if I had - But, perhaps, next Sunday or perhaps some other day, if you could spare time to come for 1/2 an hour - - - ? -
I will now say over some little unimportant things -
1. Sir Harry Verney did write to Ld Ebury about Charing Cross - Ld Ebury acknowledged that he had "interested himself about" it - but such is the ignorance with which people interfere, that Ld Ebury either does not know (or else he pretends not to know) that the St. John's of King's Coll= is the St. John's of Charing Cross. Sir Harry, who is his friend, will see him about it - But alas! my dearest, if you are going to secede, it matters little one way or another.

You are not in Charing Cross yet, are you? -
2. You will receive a letter from the R. Berks Infirmary, asking you to recommend them Nurses - [I have told them your Rules.] Perhaps the letter will only bother you. I would send you the two letters I have received from the R. Berks Infirmary, if it were not that I fear it would be only another straw to break your back just now -

3. Could you tell me, without trouble, whether £30 a year covers all the Patient's cost in your
Lying-in beds - i.e. independent of Nursing & Medical attendance, rent, or rather interest on money &c. -
And, roughly, do you think it a fair average for general beds, (independent of all these things) -
It is a question I am constantly asked by Provincial Hospitals of (about) 100 beds -
Alas! poor little Midwifery school. I shall not leave it there, if you go.
But it seems to me a misfortune too great to be true.

LMA H1/ST/NC1/67/1 letter to Mary Jones 8 January 1867:

Kaiserswerth perfect -
Since Pastor Fliedner's death, there have occurred, (as I mentioned), exactly the disagreements (in which Madame Fliedner was always right) between her & her son=in=law, the new Master, that are -- inevitable.

N.B. The Bishop thinks the N. London Deaconesses perfect. No good trained Sister can remain with them a year, because of Chaplain Pelham Dale's constant interference - [I am sure I would not] -- even in the internal
management of Nursing in  
the Gr Northern Hospl - -  
This is not gossip - I never let 
any of the Sisterhoods gossip 
to me. But my advice 
was seriously sought by  
the best Sister they ever had -  
which I could but give  
in one way - And she seceded.  
She is much better occupied elsewhere - now  
But, all these things I cannot  
tell to any one - much less to the  
Bishop -  
It is perfect nonsense to say 
that there must be  
tyranny, if there is one  
female Head only -  
The only way to prevent  
tyranny & to ensure order  
& progress is this: -  
Vest the charge of the finance  
& general supervision &  

the whole administration  
of the Hospital in the Board  
{in pencil} Vest the sole responsibility of the  
Nursing, of the internal  
management, of the discipline  
of Sisters, Nurses & all other  
women in one FEMALE Head.  
If there is any interference on  
either side, it is confusion  
twice confounded.  
As poor Madame Fliedner  
herself said to me: - it is  
nonsense to say that this is  
interfering with the Chaplain's  
spiritual functions -  
No one wants to interfere with  
the Chaplain's spiritual  
functions.  
And, in the best R.C. orders,  
the line is much more  
clearly marked  
than in ours.
The "Supérieure" (matron) does not want to administer the Holy Communion.

Don't let the Chaplain want to make himself Matron -
Don't let the Doctor make himself Head Nurse -
There is no worse matron than a Chaplain

It is so odd that practical Englishmen cannot see this, without being told -

God bless you ever yours

F Nightingale

I am writing against time.

You will observe the question refers more rather to the floor space necessary for good Nursing than to the cubic space necessary for health. But the one follows the other. Don't answer this question if it involves any trouble.
Pray,

Be sure & see your Bishop in a personal interview (besides the writing to him) before you take any final step -

You cannot tell how ignorant he may be of the things which you only could set before him - & which perhaps you could only set before him clearly in a personal interview -

The writing is necessary for FN. permanence.

{archivist note: II 22

67/2 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 12 Jan. 1867
67/3 " " " 14 Mar. 1867
67/4 " " " 15 Mar. 1867}


Private Jan 12/67

35 South Street. {printed address}

Park Lane.

London, W.

Dearest friend, A thousand thanks for your letter, just received.

I am pressed to that degree by the Poor Law Board (a state of pressure you know too well) & by other things, that I will only answer now: -
£67/2.1v
1. about the Midwy= School: -
   wherever you go,
   I should go - Where you
   went, provided it
   were only possible
   for you to have the
   Midwy- Sch:, it would
   go. Where you stayed,
   it would stay. If
   you were anywhere
   where it could not
   go, it would be abolished.

£67/2.2
I know pretty well all
the Lying=in Establishments
in London, & would
have nothing to do with
any - & certainly not with
St. John's - without you.
   If there are any
   modifications you
   would wish made, in it,
   please tell me at
   your own time.

2. if at any time you
   "must get some one
   "else to communicate
   "with the Bp of London", 
my brother-in-law (Sir H.V.) would any time take a written statement from me to the Bishop & explain it in a personal interview, if you wished it.

3. As for your Chaplain & St. John's, I have long felt that, if you are to continue working "for St. John's, matters must be greatly altered."

And I have long felt that, if St. John's chooses to keep its Chaplain & to let you & all the Sisters & all the Nurses go & keep K.C.H. & Charing X in your own hands the loss would NOT be on YOUR side. May God bless you – in haste. ever yours F.N.
Dearest friend

Miss Emmy Rappe has written to me, (asking what she ought to do, as to payment or otherwise) - a very pretty little (thankful to you) letter, for her stay at K.C.H.

She fears that she has intended, & that she ought to have asked this before -

But this is my fault, not hers -

I hope you will kindly tell me & let me settle it - & if she asks, merely tell her that this is all settled, as I shall do.

2. Did I tell you that, altho' I wrote for the Bishop a letter which I put into the hands of Sir Harry Verney, yet afterwards I reserved it, as I found a Committee was appointed to consider the question.

As I wrote the letter at your desire, it is for you to decide whether you wish it (or something similar) to go now or at all

3. The same about the Committee -

Mr. Bowman asked me to prepare a sketch of the "organization" desired - (for him & the Committee.)

But I declined - It is
for you to say what
organization you will
accept - not for any
one else -

I should have written about
these 3 things & many others -
but we have been so busy -
day by day, about this
Metropolitan Poor Bill - &
other things
and I have never suffered
so much in health any
winter as during the last
6 weeks -
I wish I could hear that you
were better & also your
affairs -
  God bless you
  ever, dearest friend, yours
  FN
Do you know those Delhi people

(f67/3.4)
(the Revd- Cowie & others at
Brighton) have begun again
about their Mrs. Browne? -
They are trying by main
force to make me take
her at St. Thomas! And,
as they are all at sixes
& sevens among themselves,
it is a rare trouble -
  FN

{envelope addressed to: Miss Jones
14.3.67 Lady Supt.:
Kings College Hospital
W.C.
March 15/67
{printed:} 35 South Street.
   Park Lane.
   London, W.
My dearest friend
   I think I mentioned
to you that the Delhi lady
(Mrs. Browne) & her
Committee are at us
again.
   [It is now Miss Hudson
(of Brighton) who writes]
   What they want of us
is: -
to take her now simply
for training as Nurse,
but with leave to
attend certain Medical

"If we are" exceedingly
unreasonable, "& require
9 months", why, they
will let her stay
9 months!!! they say -
and they ask for her
to be admitted at St.
Thomas' on these terms.
I think, as I thought before, that, if it is to be done at all, you will do it much better than we shall.
I admit that I think it objectionable to allow any Probationers to attend lectures elsewhere - it must necessarily interfere with the discipline & regular work -
I understand (not from them) that Mrs. Browne's certificate as Accoucheuse is not worth much - And I am told (not from them) that she had much better go thro' the course at K.C.H., with some additional time in your other wards, if you permitted it.
H. Bonham Carter would communicate with you, if you thought fit to reconsider your decision. If not, I will try to see what we can arrange at St. Thomas’. But,
indeed, it is not a matter on which I wish to urge or trouble you at all. For they themselves seem to be all at sixes and sevens about it: [And they do not even propose that she should have your Midwifery training.]

We have got more out of Mr. Hardy for our Workhouse Sick than I expected.

God bless you
ever yours
F.N.

{archivist's note: II 23
67/5 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 5 Aug 1867
67/6 F.N. to Mrs. Phillips 2 Sept. 1867}

Dearest friend
You will guess how excessively I am driven just now, from my not having answered your note of 1 Aug. About the P.M. theatre, I concur with you - (as when do I not?-) let them try. in regard to the cutting off of the P.M. room, & the proposed Students' regulations, let them try. They are evidently frightened. And that is
a good thing.
Let them do their best
to remedy the evil.
And then we will see.
I am sure you well know
that I as well as you,
think of all the patients
in the Hospital & not
only of the Lying-in=cases.
And therefore I rejoice
that the thing is taken
into consideration for
the whole Hospital.
Otherwise I admit that, ever
since I saw you that
Sunday, I have felt
that I wished our Lying

in School were well out,
under you, in a Workhouse.
However, it is well to try if
that the sad experience
can be so made use of
as not to be repeated in
future.
I think "Matilda Biddle"
may, if you approve her,
be quite safely taken.
And I will tell H. Bonham
Carter so -
I am so overworked with
the India Public Health
Service just now (the
{illeg.Missa?} terrible disaster,
like your P.M. theatre
f67/5.2v
has given us a hold upon
them & a favourable
opportunity) that I
can only say - I have
been in treaty lately
with a Bombay Parsee
Nowrazjee {illeg.Surdoonjee?},
about Nurses' Institutions.
And I ventured to give
him a pencil introduction
to you - to see not only
the Midwifery concern
but your Institute generally. [end 8:196]

God bless you
ever yours
F.N.

Letter, ff67/6.1-67/6.3, pen

f67/6.1

London September 2 1867 [14:1025]
Dear Mrs. Phillips
I am extremely glad to be able
to comply with your request - & to
say that, after having looked over
all my Memoranda & consulted by
letter two or three ladies who were
immediately over you at Scutari
more than I could be myself, I
am able to give you the highest
character as to respectability,
steadiness & the best conduct that
befits a woman in a very difficult
situation, such as we must admit
was that of all the women in the
Crimean War.
And I sincerely trust that
your husband, Colour Sergt. Phillips
of the Coldstream Guards, will obtains the appointment he desires in Her Majesty's Yeomen of the Guard - and if your good service counts towards it, as it deserves.
I was myself so many months of the time that you were with us at Scutari absent in the Crimean Hospitals that, before writing this, I have communicated with the ladies under whom you were at the time. And I am only the more satisfied of what I have here stated namely, that there is nothing to say but the highest praise of your conduct during the time that you were at Scutari in 1855, & afterwards in 1856 that you were in our Hospital as Assistant

I hereby certify that Mrs Phillips wife of Col. Sergnt Phillips 1st B. Coldstream Guards was assistant nurse under me at Scutari. She served at a time when I was mostly in the Crimea & before writing this I have communicated with the Ladies under whom she was at the time. The result of these enquiries is that I am satisfied that she bore a high character that she was a respectable steady woman & was one of the best conducted in her station who served under me.
I shall be glad if at a her good service counts towards her husbands appointment in Her Majesty’s Guard.
Dearest friend

I should not have troubled you by writing but that I have a message to you from Dr. Shrimpton, of Paris.

[I should tell you that I know nothing of Dr. Shrimpton - never saw him - but have by his desire, corresponded with him occasionally for some years on "professional" matters. In a letter, received this morn=, on such matters, he asks me to "plead his cause" with you - Now I cannot do this: - I am quite sure that I could bring nothing before you]

which you have not already maturely weighed
& that I could not suggest any reasons which would influence you.
Therefore, I will only transcribe what he says on your subject: -

"Our little Hospital here stands at this moment in great peril."
[I had not hitherto known that he had anything to do with it.]

"Hitherto it has been most admirably managed and administered by Sister Frances, Miss Wylde, of St.John's. The Council, under the pressure of Miss Jones, I am persuaded, has
"decided on withdrawing their Sisters and Nurses from the Hospl. Miss Jones has undoubtedly very good reasons for being dissatisfied. The Hospl. still remains in the hands of Messrs. Galignani, and as long as this continues we must have the same difficulties to encounter. If Miss Jones should however persist in her determination, the Hospl. must be closed. This would be a very great misfortune. I saw Miss Jones a few weeks ago, soon after the decision of the Council. I called twice after this at St. John's, when unfortunately Miss Jones was out of town.

"I can't think any Establishment in Europe can be more needed than our little Hospl. is in Paris. The good it has done already is incalculable - I do not allude so much to the treatment of patients as to the moral influence it produces on the English population in Paris. If you would plead our Cause with Miss Jones, I think she might be induced to take us again under her protection."

I will not add another word, except to say that I entirely believe what he says above is true. I shall be quite anxious till I hear how Miss Osburne does under you - ever yours F. Nightingale
Burn 7 Dec/67

Dearest friend [Mary Jones]

I have gone over the Rules for 1865 which you sent me - combining them with what you told me - not because I hope to do any good but because you asked me.

What appears to me to flow from this consideration is this: -

- the rules of 1865 are as autocratic on every thing except the details of Nursing as can well be.
- Looking at them on the legal side, the Mother Superior has nothing to do at all except to provide for efficient exercise of Nursing duties in Hospitals, private families &c.-
- There is a jealous guardianship over everything religious.
- There is also control over the general efficiency of the Nursing, whether in Hospitals or in private families.
- All the possible work in St. John's House is exercised exactly on the same terms.
- What can be done by the Sisters in Hospitals is precisely what can be done by them in the other duties of the House.
- The rules show entire liberty for the Superioress in all details of Nursing - but the most absolute control by the Council in everything else.
The idea is that, on these terms, the Council will enter into arrangements with Superior & Sisters but on no other terms than these.

The rules are a very distinct "constitution" with rights on both sides strictly defined - & which can only be departed from (being & remaining as I see them in black & white) by secession on one side or the other. [that is, as you tell me that you "do not wish to make "any proposition as to "altering them or any of them."

I simply lay before you the cold legal view of the thing. You know that I would give my heart's blood to alter, if I could, the present disastrous state of things.

You say: - why can't they take our work exactly as the Hospitals do? -

Simply because they might just as well take the R.C. Mother Gonzaga's work or the R.C. Soeur Supérieuse's work as yours, if on those terms.

I will allude to this (with regard to the Revd. Mother of Bermondsey)

farther on

They have 'gone in' for being flesh, & you ask them: why they can't be fowls? - at the same time that you say you "do not wish to propose any alteration" from the flesh state.

I do not say which is right or which is wrong. I am simply trying to lay before you what is.

You know I think Councils should have nothing to do except
with finance & the general supervision (such as, that no work should be undertaken without their control - which of course also includes the dismissal, upon dissatisfaction)?
All these powers are much still more autocratically & vexatiously used against R.C. communities than here.
And you would not find a single gentleman in England who would stand up as responsible before the public for your finance without having such control.
Do you think I could ask e.g. Sir Harry Verney to assume before the public the responsibility of my Fund & not allow him any control? You see

what All Saints is - They do exactly what you suggest.
And I can only say, IF Univ.Coll. is satisfied, it is thankful for small mercies.
I am not speaking at random.
You perhaps do not know that they applied to my Council (not to me) to do something for us, as you are so good as to do. And I would not let the proposition even be entertained. I should just as soon think of entrusting any public money in the hands of All Saints as in the hands of those "British Nursing Associations" which are always applying to me for "advice"

There is an Institution (not a Hospital) which Miss Sellon has had for some years on the same kind of terms that All Saints has Univ Coll:-and then she writes to me, after having had it for years, to give her a certificate with the Secular Management, as if she had been a servant under suspicion - You know that is a humiliation I
would not submit to for one moment. But such things must always happen where there is not a lay Council -

2. You say that the Bishop would let you have any Chaplain independent of him - but that you don't want to be independent of your Bishop -

Dearie, does not that mean that you must have the appointment of the Bishop as well as the appointment of the Chaplain? -

You want to be "dependent on" the Bishop. But then the Bishop is to think what you think.

Take it the other way: - suppose the Sisters were Irish Protestants & the Chaplain a Ritualist Chaplain, whom the Bishop wished to make "conditions" with? -

One must consider the subject every way - & not

only as regards the life-time of one person.

You say: - that I "would not accept such a position myself."

My dearest: - if the Bishop were to write to my Chaplain & make it a "condition" with him that I should not look out of window - & that he should prevent me -

I should say: - I didn't wish to look out of window - but you may sign 20 promises, if you like it, that you will prevent me from looking out of window - As I was not going to do it, what harm does that do me?
3. [This is a very small matter -
And I really have hesitated a
great deal whether I should
give you one extra little
harass to your many & great
harasses - But I think
that you & I know each other
enough before God for you
to trust me that it is from
the overwhelming importance
of the great subject (which
to my mind, as you know,
concerns nothing less than
whether Sisterhoods can exist
or not in the Ch. of Engd) - that
I mention what otherwise
would be a trifle:-]

Just as R.C. communities
are, in one direction at least,
getting out of formalism,
we seem to be falling into it.

Funds are entrusted even now
by Protestant Boards to R.C.
communities. And, of course,
in R.C. countries, the relations
of business between the
Superiors of communities &
secular Institutions & secular
individuals are innumerable.
No one in the world can have
had the opportunity even
of seeing so many of these
relations as I have - of
being concerned in so many
- of receiving so many
letters from Superiors of every
country, which I do, even to
this day. I have never
seen any letter or paper, not
even from Orders in Italy,
(the most formalistic of any
country,) where the Superioress
did not sign with her own
name. Of course the document would not be legal without. To me they might write with only their religious name - but this was at full length - & only in a private letter - & except in the very closest intimacy, followed by their own name. Nay, more, I have had to read & forward letters from men=Superiors to Mother=Superiors - And the own name of the Mother Supr has always been given at full length, whether with or without the religious name before it. I think the rule is a very simple one: - let the Mother Superior be or call herself or sign herself anything she likes with her Sisterhood. But with the world without, whether religious or secular, let her sign with & use her own name - with any title appropriate to seculars, e.g. Matron or Superintendt= Genl= or whatever she actually is in fact as regards the world without.

The hieroglyph of Ch= of Engd= Superioresses (tho' I never knew Miss Sellon use any such) - to say nothing of its affording no evidence as to who the writer is - sets many a "Parson" or "Low Church Doctor" against the poor woman who bears it on her certificate - And many excellent & religious persons are deterred by the "High Style". Believe me, I do not speak the words of your Council.
Dearest - I wish I had anything to give you but my poor prayers & my poor experience of things of which my circumstances have given me an experience which no one else can have had.
If perhaps it may please God to take me before the end of this winter, I shall leave you with a sad heart, tho' I cannot do you any good.
Mrs. Herbert, who does not usually say anything so true, poor thing said to me: - All the other Ch= of Engd. Sisterhoods are nothing but poor apes' imitations of R.C. Sisterhoods. Miss Jones/ alone has a principle, a foundation, a solid meaning of its own - That is just my feeling. And if

yours fails, if yours becomes like the others, (tho during your life you will keep it up) I shall feel that this all=important question is decided in the negative. (viz. whether Sisterhoods can exist in the Ch. of Eng.) Univ: Coll: Hosp: Sisterhood "recommended itself to the attention" of my Council in these words: that it was on the same footing as yours. That is just what it is not.

While you live, you will keep up the work to what it is now. And, while I live, I shall be able to make my Council accept anything that you are (personally) so good as to do for us. But there is not one of my Council who would not resign at once, if I attempted to put any part of our work in the hands of a
Sisterhood without your present form & without your personal guarantee. Take again the case of accepting work on the terms you wish—As far as I can be supposed to know any one who has been so good as to live under me for nearly 2 years, almost in the same room, & with whom I am in constant communication, (the Revd Mother of Bermondsey, Mrs. Moore, R.C.,) I could absolutely guarantee the propriety of committing to her any part of the Fund i.e. that whatever she undertook she could & would faithfully & honestly perform. [Of course this is quite out of the question. I could not possibly offer a R.C. to my Council.] Yet this is the way you wish your Council to take you. But, when she goes—(SHE is a Saint—) I should feel the same absolute positive certainty that her successor could not be trusted as that she could— I only mention this, because I feel so strongly that personal guarantees are nothing— that Sisterhoods depending on the life of one person are nothing— & that when you once leave the firm path, tho' a very stony one, with all its rubs & inconveniences, of a religious community on a secular basis, you know not into what quags & thickets & marshy land it will ultimately land the Community, even if it does not bring it to an end— as with your life may possibly be the case.
And now dearest I have let a day or two pass over, because I am only able to write at intervals. But there is no interval in the ceaseless anxiety with which I think of & pray for your future - It is worse than death. I am sure you will believe me when I say that I have tried to lay the case before you - not from the side of your Council but from the side of my own life's experience - just as I have tried to lay the case before Mr. Bowman, not from your side but from the side of life's experience of all countries.

I should be a very unfair & unfaithful friend, if I did not.

No word of this is suggested by Mr. Bowman or by any thing I have heard from or about either Council or Bishop. [I have always told you quite frankly: - this is what I understand your Council or Bishop says - this is what I suppose your Council or Bishop would say.] Believe me now when I say that this is written entirely from myself - tho' after giving every moment of consideration night & day, which I could command, - consideration before God - to the points raised by yourself & by him Mr. Bowman & by the Council generally & Bishop.

Still, you know you said
yourself that "no one could understand the real points of difference between yourself & Council."
That is just what I feel - I do not understand them. I do not at this moment know the real reasons why you resign. I don't understand your grievances against the Council - nor theirs against you.
And as, on a point which I do not exaggerate if I call it one of vital importance to the Ch. of Eng. that is, to know whether your Sisterhood, the only one on a sound basis, can stand or not - it is surely worth while that there should be at least a clear understanding what the points or points of difference are.

I therefore venture to suggest that there is one thing yet to be done - And that is, that you & the Council should each set down in a series of distinct propositions all the grievances you have against each other.
It surely is worth while [It would not take long to do what must be so very distinct in your mind.] It would then be possible (what is not now possible) to see whether, by each side giving up any point which they do not consider essential - by rubbing a little off one angle & a little off another angle, the wheels could not
be made to move again -
And the whole machine
which has done so much
good be made to go on
even better than it ever
has done.
{pencil: } Believe me, this not advice - [see]
which I would not tender if I
could - & which you would not
take if I did.
   It is simply trying to lay the
case before your own firm &
clear mind - perhaps the
   firmest & clearest mind I know
- & certainly the greatest courage
I know - either in men or women.
   God for ever bless you -
ever yours
   F Nightingale

{archivist's note: II 25
   67/9 F.N. to [Mary Jones]  9 Dec 1867
   68/1 "     "     "        25 Jan 1868
   68/2 "     "     "         5 Feb 1868}

think that I had spared
him if you knew
what I have said
& written to him -)

that, if you only would
ask whether any suggestions
of yours to modify the
position of the Sisterhood
in St. John's House
would be entertained
and fairly considered,
terms, satisfactory to both
sides, - that is, as satisfactory
as anything can be in
this world - might be
arrived at -
Your suggestions would
be received with the

greatest respect -
[You must know how
extremely anxious they
are to retain the Sisterhood.]

I think, do you know?
that they have swallowed
a good deal of humble pie
- not that I have the
least objection to their
swallowing a great deal
more - still I think you
have given them a good
doze - and it has done
them good.
I am writing before day=
light in the morning
& can only add, I am sure
that, if you have any real wish
to continue with your Council, it would be possible now to make such terms as would constitute you an independent Sisterhood, employed under an Agreement."
And you know that I have never taken the part of your Council - never advised & never would advise you to accept any interference on their part except in financial matters & what this involves - [in pencil]

God bless you
ever yours
F Nightingale

Dearest friend,
I cannot help writing one line in answer to your kind little note
The whole matter, in all its relations, & hearings, of your severance from St. John's & K.C.H. is so excessively painful to my mind that I will not say another word about it. We can't forget but we may be silent.
I would say, then, first, in answer to your note, that I think the first necessity for you is absolute rest. I think if I may say so, it is your first duty for the moment.
And next: a little country air, and this will be taken with more rest for you, in which I am sure the Sisters will agree with me, if you go with only one Sister, or even quite alone, if this is possible.

I could manage this, if you would allow me, either at Embley where my mother will soon be quite alone - or at Combe, near Wimbledon, where my Uncle & Aunt & their daughter, Mr. Clough's widow, live, but will, I believe, soon be absent. I know you are in no want of places to go to. But Lea Hurst will be vacant in March. The quieter you are, I am sure, the better.

Next: - I entirely agree with you that the first calls are in to London for duty. Later, you could always detach Sisters to the country, as you did to Paris, if there is an obvious opening.

Also: although I regret more than anything I can tell you your having given up two London Hospitals, & altho' I trust you will always have London Hospital work, yet it is undeniable that the crying necessities of London Workhouses are far beyond those of London Hospitals - the cry for aid from the sick poor in Workhouses far more urgent.

[I have sometimes wished that I could shew you Miss
**f68/1.2v**

Agnes Jones' letters from Liverpool Workhouse (said to be the best managed in the kingdom) - they reminded me of nothing but what I have myself seen in War*Hospitals*.

But - I will not dwell upon these matters now. You say truly that what you will accept must require the most intense consideration. And when the time comes, I hope you know that, if I could be of the least use in considering Rules & Conditions & Contracts with you, or with the Poor Law Board, or in any way, I shall always find time & strength for THAT.

God bless you again & again [end]

ever yours

F. Nightingale

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Letter, ff68/2.1-68/2.4, pen

**f68/2.1**

Private Feb 5/68

{printed:} 35 South Street, Park Lane, London, W.

Dearest friend

I only write one line now (more of enquiry after you & Sister Frances than anything else.)

In reply to what you say:- [13:602-03]

how could you "learn" "about our London Workhouse "Infirmary System"-?

there is no "System"-

St. Pancras' visiting would tell you no more about
Poplar Workhouse Infirmary
or vice versa, than a
visit to Kamschatka
would tell you about
Dublin.
2. all that you could
learn would be as well
done by using your own
name in a visit to any
Workhouse with the
Matron as any other
way.

M. Husson, whom
you know, of Paris,

came twice to London to
visit the Workhouses.
Mr. Villiers was then
in office, with whom
it was said, I could
do anything. At my
request he saw M. Husson
himself - & at my request
sent Mr. Farnall about
with M. Husson himself -
This was the only way
of obtaining admittance
for M. Husson. And
even so, M. Husson
was refused at one
Workhouse.
Now - Mr. Villiers is out-
Mr. Farnall is exiled.
**f68/2.2v**
And Lord Devon, at this crisis in Poor Law affairs, spends his winter at Nice & Rome & is not yet returned!!!
3. But it is absolutely certain, that something will be done about the Metropolitan Workhouse Sick this year - & possibly some amalgamated Workhouse Infirmary be formed.
   How I hope that you may have a hand in it.

**f68/2.3**
I do not conceive, that there is any way of preparing oneself for Workhouse Nursing - anything but bodily walking in to a Workhouse with a Nursing Staff, as Miss Agnes Jones did at Liverpool, & taking possession of the sick. She has now 1350 sick. But oh if I could tell you what her life has been - how terrible the trial -
Dearest friend - perhaps you know that the K.C.H. people are worrying us without about the Lying=in Ward.

Could you without the least trouble lay your hand on a letter which I wrote to you in June containing the comparative Statistics of Death=Rate I had collected (in consequence of your information)

about Lying=in Wards in Workhouses, Hospitals &c. in London & Paris?

But do not, I beg of you, give yourself the least trouble about finding this letter, (I took no copy of it.) I had rather never hear from you again than give you trouble - I can reproduce it.

The K.C.H. people have missed the point. Could you conceive all
**f68/2.2v**

the wards in K.C.H.  
filled with Lying-in  
Women, probably not  
one out of two would  
come out alive!  
May God bless you  
ever yours  
F. Nightingale

I send you the last of the  
game - possibly Sister  
Frances may fancy it.

1 partridge  
1 rabbit

{envelope: Miss Jones 5.2.68.  
  Supt.  
  5 Mecklenburg St.}
To enquire
a verbal message

{archivist's note: III 1  
  68/3 F.N. to [Mary Jones] 20 Feb. [1868]  
  68/4 " " " 6 Mar. 1868  
  68/5 F.N. to Francis Hicks, Esq. 19 Mar. 1868  
  68/6 F.N. to Dr. Pattison Walker, 3 Apr. 1868}

Letter, f68/3.1, pen

**f68/3.1**

35 S. St.  
Feb 20  
Dearest friend  
Agnes Jones of the  
Liverpool Workhouse, is  
dead. Her life was  
trembling in the balance  
till yesterday. But still  
we hoped. Yesterday  
she died.  
With her, it is well.  
But for us it is terrible.  
Please return thanks for  
her - as you have prayed for  
her.  
You can't think how  
much good your letter of  
divine sympathy for her  
did me.  
All the Head Nurses
have behaved nobly.
   Pray for us -
   You were so kind as to ask
whether you "could do anything."
   We are in the hands of
the Vestry.
   Of course a good many
arrangements fall upon me.
   It is something like,
saving from a wreck.
   But - it is God's work.
I will let you know what
befalls.

I should be so very glad
to hear that Sister Francis
was better - & that you
were pretty well, & that
you were going into the
country to rest.

Letter, ff68/4.1, pen

35 South Street, W.
March 6/68
Dearest friend
   I feel so very anxious
to hear of you - and also
of Sister Frances (who,
I hear, was prayed for
at St. Albans) that I
cannot help writing to
ask, tho' I have literally
not two minutes.
   I wish I had anything
cheering to tell you.
But indeed I sometimes
feel that we might
say with St. Paul:
f68/4.1v

All they (which are of Asia) are turned against us -
No man stood by us -
All men forsook us -
But God is with us -
God bless you ever yours
F. Nightingale

Letter, ff68/5.1-68/5.2, pen

f68/5.1

March 19/68

{printed:} 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
London, W.

My dear Sir
I am exceedingly glad to hear that the Queen has consented to lay your "first Stone."
I congratulate you with all my heart. It will be a source of satisfaction to all sides.
And it certainly is a most legitimate occasion for the Queen to show the interest which, we know, she really feels in your new Hospital.
I am extremely obliged
Fras= Hicks Eq &c &c
to you for your kindness
in thinking of me on
the occasion - and in
inviting me to be present-
I am afraid it will be
quite impossible for
me. I am still a
prisoner to the room
where I had the
pleasure of seeing you
and I had not been
out of it for 13 months
up to last Christmas.
  I look forward with the
greatest interest to the

progress of your great
work - the new Hospital.
  Pray believe me
    my dear Sir
    ever your faithful servt=
    Florence Nightingale

(envelope: Francis Hicks, Esq &c &c
    13 St. Thomas' St
    S.E.)
April 3/68

My dear Sir,

It is long, very long since I heard from you - And I was almost afraid that your health was worse. But I received some few mails ago a tin cylinder which could not have come but from you, I think, - & which gave me a very great deal of pleasure, - containing a wonderful photograph of the Ganges Canal, with that exquisite bridge, of which the construction with J. Pattison Walker Eq MD

its 3 beautiful arches is worthy of the Ponte della Trinita' at Florence - & its two magnificent lions. It is a most characteristic picture - and the executing of such a work with such very grand architectural art is worthy of India. [end 10:44]

I was much interested too in the Foundry List of Tools - &c - in the 1866 papers of Examination of the Thomason College, & its Report; - (which you were so kind as to send with the photograph). They are one of the most important works of the age. the {illeg.Roorkee?} works I delayed thanking you, hoping to receive a letter
from you. But, as none such has come & as one feels a little uneasy about the health of one's friends in India when one does not hear from them, I will not delay any longer.

You know that I have still some Commission "Proceedings" of yours, which I ought to return to you.

I will not enter now upon the immense subject of how Indian Sanitary subjects are progressing (or not progressing) at our end, till I hear from you.

In December I had the pleasure of seeing Dr. Norman Chevers, for a few minutes, just before he started for Calcutta, tho' I was obliged to receive him on my couch.

He gave me some news of you. I have always regretted so very much that your health prevented your remaining at Calcutta. It seems to me that to give the native professional young men some idea of Sanitary Science, as you were so ably doing & & which it appears they are not at all slow to take in is the only way really to civilize India in physical things.

Pray remember me most kindly to Mrs. Walker.

I have had a very bad winter as to over-work & ill health - & do not find myself able to do the work I used. Believe me ever sincerely & gratefully yours Florence Nightingale
My dear Sir,

About your poor Candidate for the Incurables: -

if I voted for any one, it certainly would be for yours.

But I have been forced to make it a rule, in subscribing to any Institution, to subscribe anonymously & not to have a vote.

If I did not do this, my whole time would be taken up with applications.

The Incurables' Committee I desired to take my name off. And they positively refused to do so.

What can I do?

I think, however, that Voting Papers are not now sent me.

I am in such straits to find Probationers to train for the numerous situations of Hospital & Workhouse Head Nurses & Matrons that are offered us.

Since the death of my dear friend & pupil, Agnes Jones, Lady Supt. of the Liverpool Workhouse Nursing, my time is quite taken up with this search.
And we have applications from India & the Colonies. [We have lately supplied New South Wales] for Matrons & Head Nurses - highly paid situations. If you could help us, I would venture to send you our Regulations for training.

For gentlewomen as well as for a lower class of women, we give the training free of expense, if they cannot pay, & even give them a moderate salary during the year of training -

ever yours sincerely

with many thanks for all you have done for me

Florence Nightingale


April 6/68

{printed:} 35 South Street
   Park Lane,
   London, W.

My dear Sir,

It is very good of you to interest yourself in finding for us Candidates to train as Nurses for Hospitals & Workhouses - & as Matrons.

In compliance with your kind request, I send you two copies of the Rules for Nurses while training - also two copies of the Rules for gentlewomen offering themselves as candidates ("special Probationers") for Matronships.

And may I add to these last that the Committee are
enabled at the present time to admit a few gentlewomen free of expense - that we have applications from Institutions in want of Superintendents or Matrons - for Hospitals in India, for provincial Hospitals in England, & for a large Workhouse Infirmary - And, should any such Probationer after a month's or somewhat longer trial afford satisfactory evidence of prospective fitness for such appointments, the Committee would be prepared to allow her a moderate salary during the year of training.

Pray believe me ever yours faithfully Florence Nightingale

J.J. Frederick Eq
Letter, ff68/9.1-68/9.2, pen

**f68/9.1**

May 9/68

J.J. Frederick Eq. 35 South Street, {printed:}
Park Lane,
London, W.

My dear Sir

I am extremely obliged
to you for the trouble you
are taking to get us our
much-wanted Probationers.
I think that Mrs. Parry
had better make an
appointment to see
Mrs. Wardroper
Matron
St. Thomas' Hospital
Newington
S.

And then, if nothing comes

**f68/9.1v**

of it, it need, as Mrs. Parry
desires, go no farther,
and nobody need know any
thing about it
It must turn much on
health & strength.
I will in the meantime
apprize Mrs. Wardroper
of the case, which I heartily
hope will be successful on both
sides
Mrs. Parry must not be
disappointed if Mrs.
Wardroper does not make
f68/9.2
an immediate appointment,
as this is a very busy
week on many accounts
at St. Thomas' Hospital.
But Mrs. Parry states
that she is not in a hurry.
I retain her note for the
present. Her address is
104 London Road,
in case you do not
remember it, & are so
good as to let me keep
her letter - in haste
ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale

Letter, ff68/10.1-68/10.4, pen [good letter, must use]

f68/10.1
Private 35 South Street
Recd. 11/9/68 Park Lane
London W.
August 10/68
My dear Sir
I cannot tell you (tho'
I should be very ungrateful [10:45-46]
if I did not try) how much
pleased & touched by your
most kind, interesting &
entertaining letter of May 10
I felt.
In the first place, as
Napoleon said of the 'états
de situation' of his troops,
I read even now in my
old age all details of
Sanitary matters & even
"Memoranda" on accommodation
"required" with as much
eagerness as a girl reads
her first novel.
In the next place, we
had had some questions with very insufficient data referred to us at the India Office - And your details, especially on the Meteorology & temperature, day by day, of {illeg.Chukrata}, just filled up the Missing Link. The details of your "dinner=parties" also - don't laugh - were most important. When people can feed themselves well that is the best proof of our Military power to hold the country. There was no Crimean bungling here - And I shall always believe that we have a firm tenure there where we can give a dinner under difficulties. Add to this, your letter was as amusing to me as White of Selbourne - as touching as Sterne - And you are as zealous as Mr. Chadwick himself on Sanitary matters with a poetry & humour quite beyond Mr. Chadwick.
And now, I am afraid I shall make but a very poor return for your most kind letter, I am so overworked, & so constantly ill - I feel now how much the enormous pressure of work, & often of disappointing, always of harassing work, for the last 18 months has told upon me - And when the Parliamentary Session was over, I `disappeared' & would not give my address - [I told the War Office I was going to Ephesus, because I much preferred fighting with the wild beasts of Ephesus to fighting with the War Office wild beasts.]

I dwell gratefully upon the encouragement which your kindness gives me at a time I will not say of despondency but a solemn time to me (every life has its solemn times, if people would but mark them)
X For this week in August I saw, 15 years ago, my first undertaking of the Matronship of a Public Institution - 12 years ago, my return from the Crimea home, since which time I have not revisited this home, & have never had 10 minutes' leisure - - 7 years ago, the death of the best friend & fellow-worker man or woman ever had, Sidney Herbert, the War=Minister, whose labours in the administration were the highest good as his too early death was the deepest loss the Army - I had almost said the country - ever had. 5 years ago, we finished the Report of the R. India Sanitary Commission which has, praise be to God &
thanks to your labours & those of Sir John Lawrence & many others, borne good fruit both for natives & Europeans in India - altho' we must all of us feel, as people do whose idea is higher than human power of performance, that the work in India might have progressed more rapidly. [I will return to this.]

It is also 11 years this very day since I was taken ill with the illness from which I have never risen again. You see how much I have to thank God for who has indeed led me by a way which I have not known. At the same time He has seen fit to send me trouble & trials, like waters wh: one
could not cross, were one to look down into them. I am almost the last survivor of my fellow workers in England, men, some of them but little older than I. And this very year has even the death of the best & dearest of my pupils, my "Una", who was many years younger than I. I enclose a little sketch of her which was published in "Good Words" for June, which may possibly give ten minutes' interest to you & Mrs. Walker who have given me so much. [end 10:46] Now my "Una" is gone, I cannot think how I could ever be unhappy, when she was doing God's work so gallantly at Liverpool Workhouse.
Life, under this discipline, loses - shall I say? or gains - all its value. It becomes but as a part of eternity. And past & future would seem almost more a reality & a presence than the present - were it not for pressing duty.

I don't know that I ever wrote so much about my own things before - But your kindness encourages me -

But I must leave off now - For indeed I am driven by business.

I thank you again & again for all your kindness which Believe me my dear Sir makes me truly & always your & Mrs. Walker's faithful & grateful Florence Nightingale Dr. Pattison Walker

{archivist's note: III 3 68/11 F.N. to M. Mohl, 22 Sept. 1868. 68/12 F.N. to [Mary Jones]. 19 Oct. 1868.}
Dear M. Mohl

Many thanks for all your notes - & for the information about Deutsch & Delecluse [?]

I am more proud of being crowned "Empress of all the Scavengers" by your hand than Napoleon I of his Coronation by Pope Pius VII.

Ought I to have a medal struck? -

I shall certainly come to London within this fortnight - & I trust that you will not prove unmanageable & perverse before then - I shall certainly turn you into No. 35. Sir B. Frere is come back - And it is he who advises me what to do in this provoking India business.

The great point is: to get a Sanitary administration, including towns, villages, Bazaars &c established before the end of Sir John Lawrence's reign. It is not so difficult as people think - For, as
you know much better than I, the village organizations are there, ready to our hand. But of course it would not do for us at this end to advise a great sweeping uniform measure over that (small & compact) country we call India.

There is a great want of ability - somewhere.

The three Chief Presidency Sanitary Commissioners (whom we established) keep sending us home schemes & plans on paper. But they still ignore the real practical matter: viz.

who is to do the duties laid down - and who is to find the money -

Each is almost as great as the other on the subject of looking after other people - but neither the one nor the other have pointed out who these other people are to be what they are to do not who is to pay for it.

To sweep India would be after all an easy matter if they had the least ability in dealing with these simple questions. But, in "Sanitary" things,
a "Masterly inaction"
does not do - on the
counter, they require
the most energetic action
not to get worse.
These things don't settle
themselves - or, like
Talleyrand's letters,
answer themselves -
But - you are engaged in
less dirty subjects -
I am sure you would write &
tell us if you could come
down here - I am afraid
it is scarcely worth your
while to take so long a
journey from Saturday
till Monday -
When I have the pleasure
of seeing you,

[Here I was just going to
send a most grateful
message of acceptance to M.
de Tourgueneff for dear
Hilly's oil-sketch
when a fabulous official
mail came in &
interrupted me -
I assure you that all
experience confirms my
proposition - that the
greatest malefactor of
the human race, after the
man who invented writing
at all, was: - Sir Rowland
Hill.]

ever dear M. Mohl your
unfortunate Scavenger
but pining after you
FN
Dearest very dearest friend
I felt the deepest pleasure at seeing your dear hand again. I had been very uneasy at not hearing from you & should have written to one of the Sisters, but that I saw your beautiful clear handwriting again on the re-direction of a letter to me from Miss E. Anderson.
You say: - it is hard to forgive & be silent. I feel just as strongly as you do - & just as strongly as I did last miserable Christmas - that it is hard to forgive & be silent - And this not the less

because, as you are aware,
I venture to differ from you on some ecclesiastical points. - I am glad you have taken parochial work. I do not feel surprised at your not feeling spirits or health for 'Hospital work' 'at present'. But I hope that will not last. And I could very much have wished that you had taken a few months', or even weeks', thorough holiday - somewhere - before this 'August' - which I think would
probably do more than anything else to change your feeling of body & mind about 'Hospital work.' In Workhouse Infirmaries especially, there is so much to be done - so few, (none like you,) to do it. I am well aware that you will find 'enough to do' everywhere - whether in Hospital or out of Hospital I do not at all admit your plea (except for India) of "too old." A real tried & experienced spirit, that is, one who is used to work, does better work {in pencil:} for God between 50 & 70 than during the whole of her previous life I write in haste - a mean acknowledgement of the pleasure seeing your hand again has given me - I am, as usual, so driven. I had been away - but it was too much for me - And I have come back worse than I went - God for ever bless you Pray for me - ever yours F. Nightingale {archivist's note: III 4 68/13 F.N. to Wm. Rendle, Esq., 17 Nov. 1868 (enclosure "Una and the Lion.")}
35 South Street [printed] 17/11/68 13:48
Park Lane, W.

Dear Sir,

I have never thanked you for your kind note & its enclosure (a paper by yourself of June 29) -

I believe you know, as I do, what it is never to have 10 minutes' leisure.

I hope that you look forward, as I do, to the Election of 1868, bringing still

more & still greater reforms in its wake, social reforms, administrative reforms, - especially in our line, the Sanitary state, the dwellings, the education of the poor, - than even its great predecessor of 1832 has brought -

I venture to send you a little sketch of the best & dearest of my pupils, "Una", in "Good Words" for June -
Pray, dear Sir,
believe me ever
Your most faithful servt.
Florence Nightingale.
W. Rendle Esq

{archivist's note: III 5
68/14 F.N. to [Wm. Rendle] 1 Dec. 1868
69/1 F.N. to J.J. Frederick, 14 Jan 1869
69/2 F.N. to WM. Rendle, 28 May 1869
69/3 F.N. to [Mary Jones], 12 Sept. 1869}

Letter, ff68/14.1-68/14.2, pen

"Sunday School Teacher"

W.

Dear Sir
I return with many thanks
the scrap you have been kind
enough to send me -
The very beautiful little
poem if I can see any way
to do anything with I will
let you know -
I trust that you will
take some care not to
overwork yourself again.
We have none too many
workers.
For me the caution comes
too late - But an overworked
brain is not the best way
of doing God's work in the
world -
I would send you a photograph,
if I had one, as you desire. But
I have not. I never had
one done, except once by
command. I have a
superstition, as far as
myself am concerned, against
`images made with hands' - & would rather leave no
memorial of myself either
of name or anything else -
but only of God, whose

unworthy servant I am -
But I only say this for
myself. It may be a
mere superstition.
Pray believe me
Yours most faithfully
Florence Nightingale
Dec 1/68
Private
35 South Street, Jan 14/69
Park Lane, {printed:}
W.
My dear Sir
  First, let me thank you
for so kindly sending me
the tracing of the Colchester
Heat plan - the answers
to various questions concerning
the working of that Lying=
in Hospital and many
other things.
  All that you were kind
enough to undertake arrived
in time for the Crown
Princess of Prussia -
and she begged her
sincere thanks to be
J.J. Frederick Esq.

conveyed to all those who
had so kindly contributed
to forwarding her views.
She has (very wisely)
returned me some of
the plans & papers -
to be forwarded to her
at Berlin when we
have arrived at some=
thing satisfactory in
the way of a (single=bed
ward) Lying=in Hospital plan
for 36 wards (or beds)
at which the War Office
is now working - and
of which we are to send
her a copy.

I mention this only to shew you that your trouble has not been in vain.
Next= I have to thank you for the Motto for 1869 which I have received.
Have you any great distress in your district this winter?

Pray, dear Sir, believe me yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale

Dear Sir

It is not, I assure you, from want of interest that I have not answered sooner your too interesting letter of May 15 & its contents.
I have been thinking what is to be done. And I confess I do not at present see, tho' with sorrow of heart, that there is anything to be done - by me.
I am sure that you will agree with me that it is the same conditions reproducing the same state of disease which are the cause of these repetitions of cases of Fever.

The locality is to blame in the cases adduced. [American statements are all in favour of Contagion - And it is quite certain that, if their supposed facts were logically acted on, Typhus would still take its course.]

In London, as your wide & well worked-out experience will tell you better than I, - who am merely a gatherer from the rich fields which you have sown, you & your peers, - Typhus & Cholera are simply local tests of bad Sanitary conditions - I shall rejoice if, on any occasion, I can help to bring your experience more prominently forward.

In the meanwhile pray believe me My dear Sir ever your faithful servt.

Florence Nightingale

W. Rendle Eq &c &c
Dearest, very dearest friend

I have been unable to write -

But, if I were to write as often as I think of you, I should be always writing -

I did not take those letters in the newspapers as referring to you -(I think I only saw one) -

But I hope indeed that you do know that, where there is enough for me, there will always be enough for you - & that I shall be "the first person" you will come to -

"Poverty" indeed is a sacred thing - & very dear to me

I wish I had not to live as I do now. I could not die so,

but I have long since made a written stipulation with a dear friend of mine that, when I am past work, she will take me & "ward" me in St. Thomas' Hospital.

You must not however breathe a word of this, please -

God knows what the end will be - He will provide.

I must be back in London for business before Michaelmas -

I came here to be with my dear mother during my father's absence - & hardly know how to leave her - he not being returned.

I am not better - I am worse -(as you are so good as to ask - ) having such a multitude of details referred to me -

Do you remember some time ago asking me whether Miss Sellon was gone to Calcutta? - I wrote to India & asked, without result. Quite lately, I have had a beautiful note from her - written from "Foreign Mission House"-I. of Wight-where she says she has been for a year-but was just going elsewhere (in England) she speaks
f69/3.2
of her health as hopeless. She mentions no India mission.
   God bless you – so many thanks for your two
dear notes – yours in true love & honour
   in life & death
   F Nightingale

{archivist's note: III 6
   70/1 F.N. to J.J. Frederick 3 Jan. 1870
   70/2 " " 29 Jan. 1870}

Letter, pencil LMA H1/ST/NC1/70/1

f70/1.1

35 South Street, Jan 3/70
   Park Lane, {printed}
   W.
   My dear Sir
   Could you kindly help me,
   by means of your extensive
   connection with members
   of Benevolent Committees,
   in the following search: –
   -- you know perhaps that
   we have undertaken to nurse
   the new Workhouse Infirmary
   at Highgate.
   Miss Torrance, a lady who
   has been in training with us
   for 1 1/2 years & who seems to
   promise to be a second Agnes
   Jones ("Una"), has already been
   J.J. Frederick Eq
in the building preparing it for Patients for a fortnight as Matron -
To-morrow she takes in her kitchen people -
On Thursday our 9 Trained Head Nurses - & 170 Patients this week, we hope -
She was allowed by the Guardians to choose the under servants, which is very important.
But we have not as yet been able to make up her number.
Of course we have plenty of applications - too many - but not of the right sort.

We do not want to take women who "would never be anything much better than Scrubbers" - Miss Torrance herself has both capacity & experience for training young women - and we would gladly help her to good material -
We still want:
  3 Ward Assistants
  1 Kitchen "
  1 Laundry "
wages from £13 to £15 -
- every thing "found" -
- lodge in the Infirmary -
The Ward Assistants may expect to rise to be Nurses -
I do not think it would do, at least at first, to send her very young girls or quite raw girls - And they must be, of course, of unimpeached character -
As Miss Torrance says: - she would like to "make something of them" -
Could you kindly help us? Allow me to thank you for your New Year's ticket - May I, during the present year, rise to possess the priceless treasure contained in its words. And with best New Year’s greetings believe me, yours sincerely Florence Nightingale

My dear Sir
Miss Torrance has one more vacancy of Ward Assistant to fill - still -
I have sent her your kind note -
But, if you do not hear again from me, will you kindly send the young woman you speak of to Highgate for Miss Torrance to see?
Miss Torrance
Highgate Infirmary
Upper Holloway
N
There is no danger of Miss Torrance being out. Should she fix an hour, I will, if you please, send you word - however I think I had better say that I will pay the young woman's Omnibus fare - in great haste ever yours sincerely Florence Nightingale J.J. Frederick Eq.

{archivist's note: III 7 70/3 F.N. to Miss Mary Jones 5 Feb. 1870} {envelope: Miss Jones Superior 27 Percy Circus W.C.}

Letter, pen LMA H1/ST/NC1/70/3

35 South Street, Feb 5/70 [8:640-43] Park Lane, {printed address} W.

Dear friend I have been so ill all the winter, & have had such difficulty in fulfilling the most pressing & indispensable business, that I could not before answer your kind & welcome letter - But I think I am writing within "the month" that you gave me for the Emigration & Training Ship questions: - 1. The "Chichester" Training Ship in the Thames was the one I spoke of. This has about 200 boys on board & trains for the Merchant Service & Royal Navy. Most of the boys on board are street "Arabs" who offered themselves of
their own accord. [Of course they cannot take any but those who have the physical power to become sailors.] I believe the Training Ship to be remarkably well managed. This is the property of a private Society called "Refuges for Homeless & Destitute Children", of which the office is at

8 Great Queen Street
Lincoln's Inn Fields

& the Secretary is
William Williams Eq.

They are very poor & are always asking for subscriptions - tho' I believe they are good economists -

Each boy or girl costs them about £15 a year.

They have 4 other Refuges where they bring up both boys & girls, both in the country & London, to trades, farm labour, & service &c.

But you will see this is only a drop in the ocean. And even this is hindered, so far as apprenticing to trades is concerned, by the Trades' Unions.

2. My own belief is (& has long been) that the Emigration, & the Emigration of children, is the only thing which holds out the least hope of touching the distress of London & of the great towns & of diminishing pauperism. But - they must be educated in the Colonies to
which they are sent & not at home. It is found that the mere removal to another moral atmosphere is as good for them as a good 10 years' Education here. The whole problem resolves itself into devising proper Homes, Industrial Homes & Training-Schools for them in the Colonies.

[Old & miserable creature as I am, I think that any amount of leisure, if I had it, I would devote to furthering this - But - I have it not -]

Some years ago, a Cabinet Minister told me in confidence, Melbourne (Victoria) offered to organize & support any number of Industrial Homes for children of both sexes, if the Government

Private [2]
{printed:} 35 South Street, Park Lane, W.

would send out children "before "they had become confirmed "in pauperized habits."

Of such children there are between 100 000 & 150 000 ("street Arabs") in London alone - who, whatever their sins are, poor things, they are not sins of "pauperism" - since they can't be caught & housed.

But - the Government refused. [Within the last few days, I proposed some plan of this kind to the President of the Poor Law Board. But - I know not whether he will take it up -]
My own opinion is that it will be left to private hands to do.

Of these private hands the only one who has put her own hand to the plough is - Miss Rye.

She may not be an agreeable person. But she has done what no one else as yet has -

She has taken out 90, 100 little girls "out of the gutter" with her to Niagara in Canada, kept them there in a Home, then placed them out with Canadian poor families who offered to receive them,

upon contracts containing all proper conditions (which I have seen) signed - & witnessed by the local authorities - with all proper supervision secured by the Ministers & Mayors of the place -

Miss Rye is not yet come back. When she is, she will be the best authority for you to ask.

But 30 000 children of each sex ought to be emigrated every year to make any impression on the distress of the country.

The Pauper Union Schools here are now, many of them, as good as they can be. And - they entirely fail in teaching their
pauper children to maintain themselves in after life. For this, are to blame 1. the pauper atmosphere 
2. the Trades' Unions. 
Music ("bandsmen" in the Army) 
is the only trade that succeeds.

Miss Rye says that she can get more families in Canada than she wants to take the children - & as much money in this country from private subscription as she wants to take them out. 
But then - she is only one. 
And her success is mainly due 1. to her taking them out herself. 
2. to the children not being ingrained paupers. 
[The R.Catholic "Sisters" have entirely failed in their Irish

Of other Emigration agencies there are: -
a. "Clerkenwell Emigration Club" 
Rev. A Styleman Herring 
45 Colebrooke Row 
City Road N. 
Part of his work is to send out a few little orphan girls to Brantford in W. Canada. 
A penny Tract of his: "Emigration for poor Folks" [J.W. Partridge 9 Paternoster Row] 
is good. 
b. "National Emigration League" 
120 Salisbury Square 
Fleet Street E.C.
A Tract, called "State Emigration"
by Edward Jenkins
[Stanford 6 Charing Cross]
issued by the "League"
is worth reading.
Their object is rather to help
the unemployed workmen
to emigrate - & to press
the matter on the Government.

c. the British & Colonial Emig:
Society" (15 Cockspur Street
Charing Cross)
Their object is to assist the
unemployed to emigrate -
& to grant money (when they
have it) to Emigration Clubs.

There are many more of
these "Societies" & "Emigration
Clubs for Workmen".
All are extremely in want
of funds.

With all honour to these
noble unemployed workmen,
who will pinch & save to
help themselves out, &
afterwards their families,
to the Colonies - & whom I
have always helped where
I could - I do not conceive
that to help these is the
main want of our country.
These are the men who would
do well anywhere. If Emigration
is only practicable in this way,
you may almost say that it is
only practicable as far as it is unnecessary.
It is the children who can't help themselves - the young girls, not yet vicious, who can't go abroad virtuously without Chaperons - the hundreds of thousands of young recruits ever waiting to swell the tide of pauperism & vice - the ever increasing tide - who would might be happy & industrious & virtuous & good in a new country - who are almost predestined to sin & misery in the old - it is these who want our help. But then - they want: industrial training, as distinguished from reading & writing, (tho' not without reading & writing -) to

Private [4]
{printed:} 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
W.
make them do well in the Colonies.

To all the above-named Societies I have been a contributor according to my means. But I have never recommended to any either children or emigrants, knowing how many of these poor things went to them of their own accords & how short of were funds to help these But if, dear friend, you should have a particular applicant for any of these, I hope that you would let me contribute for you as far as I could.
£70/3.7v

You sympathize with the work of God as far as it can be done by whomsoever it is done. And I am sure that you will be glad to hear that it has pleased Him to prosper my little appeal (of "Una") to the memory of my dear, dear, Agnes Jones of Liverpool, in bringing us a far higher class of candidates for nurses -

We have occupied both Netley Military Hospital & the new (St. Pancras') Workhouse Infirmary very satisfactorily with our Trained Matrons & Nurses.

(Tho' I never praise any body till they have been at least 50 years in charge.)

£70/3.8

The Matron of the latter, especially, a Miss Torrance (a lady) - I thank God for her every day of my life. She is, I think, worthy to be named in the Book of Life with her who has been taken 2 years this month. [I cannot think of her even now without tears, which I have no time to shed.] But it is an anxious business, as you know - Workhouse business - for the sick I have heard several times lately (for a wonder) from Miss Sellon. She is at Manchester!! organizing something there - but no better. Alas! -

I must stop.

God bless you, dear friend. Pray for me. But I know you do - ever yours

F. Nightingale

Miss Rye's address is always to be had, I believe, from a Mrs. Fynes Webber, (who has been a "weariness of the flesh" to me)
35 South Street, April 1 -! 18/70
Park Lane, {printed address}  
W.

Dear M. Mohl,

You don't know what a happiness
& comfort your letter was to me, because
you don't know what a fright I was
in, having heard accidentally of
your illness - But I dare say you
are tired of hearing of that.

I don't think I have written
since I have become the dog and
intimate of Sir Robert Napier (Lord
Napier of Magdala) who is just gone
out to my great joy as Commander in
Chief to India. Ah there is a man,
a statesman with more practical
ability in his little finger than all
our Ministers have in all their heads.
What overgrown schoolboys do Messrs.
Gladstone, Cardwell, Goschen, Lowe &
Argyle (Duke) appear compared with
{written in left margin: Too much to do, they say, bars
progress as much as too little to do. That is my case.}
{written vertically at top of folio: I don't feel my work
advance. Yet I feel more & more how much it takes out of me.
Excuse a worthless scrap of confusion from a woman overwhelmed
with business & illness = who must send this or nothing in her
Necessity}
such men as Sir John Lawrence, Sir Robert Napier & even Sir Bartle Frere. What they think they say, what they say they do - And all three the thinking, the saying, the doing is the ever increasing result of 30-40 years' well used experience - & not the momentary battledore & shuttlecock work of party. [As for Mr. Gladstone's 2 Irish Bills (the Coercion & the Land) they are each just an apple of legal discord thrown down to that unfortunate Eris. No one will reap any benefit from them but the Attorneys. And perhaps, I don't know Mr. Gladstone wished to conciliate the Attorneys.] (Mr. Maine says that the Sikhs are as litigious a people as the Irish - & that the whole Punjab would have been converted into nothing but one vast litigation by their Land Act, if the Attorney's fee had not been fixed at half a rupee. Is that true?)
But to return.

Sir R. Napier & I were like a brace of lovers on our Indian objects or rather passions & even our rages (which - concern - this between ourselves - the things, or many of them, that Lord Mayo has been doing lately - about Finance & Stopping Public Works &c &c &c - Lord Mayo is most anxious & disinterested or, it may be, ambitious. He is always consulting us. He sent a man home (the Sanitary Commissioner with the Govt. of India) on purpose to consult us just now. He writes & writes - and we write & write - and our letters are masterly. And nothing is done. That is, the work always sticks somewhere, generally at some Clerk quite low down. But now Sir R. Napier is gone out, we shall see something done.

It is quite extraordinary, his practical knowledge of & love for the native races. And he knows them in Scinde, Punjab, Bengal, Bombay, Guzerat, N.W. Provinces &c &c &c - Anglo-Indians all talk of (& to) the native races as we do to children, servants & poor people, with a sort of affected tone of condescension - Not so Sir R. Napier or Sir B. Frere
When Sir R. Napier & I fell into our mutual rages (at Indian doings) I felt= `there's sympathy' - `there's more sympathy' - (don't you remember Sir John Falstaff's letter to Mrs. Ford - they both like "sack" - "there's sympathy."

He actually spent his last morning in England with me, starting from this house. And I sent away the C. in C. to India without anything to eat! He said he had too much to talk about to waste his time in eating. I wish I could tell you a little of what he said - some day - {pencil:perhaps -}

There is a man in London now, a Hinoo Kechub Chunder Sen, the leader of the Brahmo=Somaj, a great writer & preacher about whom I dare say you know a great deal more than I do - Sir B. Frere says he is a real true man in earnest. But he is made a lion of -

I forgot to say that your Queen of Holland came to see me - I liked her even better than usual, But - she asked me for my book again. [Sir Harry Verney took K.C. Sen, the Hindoo, to see her.]

Now I hope you are near the end of Schah=Nameh. Please tell me. ever yours F. Nightingale

[end 10:116]
Lying-in Hospital plan

Lying-in Hospital plan

Dearest friend

Here I am again - but this time it is only to ask you two or three specific questions before the plan is finally settled.

1. You see a slight modification has been made in the position of the scullery attached to the Delivery ward - Do you think this signifies?

2. The positions of the fireplaces in the Pupil Nurses' rooms have been altered from the outside to the inside walls as giving a better position for the bed.

3. Into the Corridor walls recesses a'a' have been introduced in which either the Galton ventilating grate or Nettleton's open stove could be placed.

Would you kindly consider these arrangements & also the following points: -

1.) Segregation ward not to be connected with Main Corridors - ? -

2.) Linen Store 21'0" x 9'6" - a linen rack 2'6" wide in the centre formed of open batten shelves about 2' apart & carried up to within 6" of the ceiling - at one end a bedding rack of similar construction, a length of 8' of which would store 12 mattresses and the remaining 18" might be made into a bolster rack for 12 bolsters. Will this suffice? -

3.) I confess that there is a certain look of closeness about the two-storied court with buildings projecting into it. What do you think? -
One must take into consideration however that one or more of these Wards (& always 2 Delivery Wards) will be vacant in rotation for cleansing. At Liverpool Workhouse (which has been so successful) they lime-wash every Lying-in Room 3 or 4 times a year - Possibly this would be best, viz to have each ward & Delivery vacated for 4 times 10 days every year - each Delivery Ward would be of course vacant half the year - in periods of ? days]

They ask (the Draughtsmen) ask us not to fold their plan. I accordingly send it between 2 sheets of card-board - & will send for it by 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning, with your kind permission unless I hear from you to the contrary - But pray do not let me hurry you -

God bless you

yours ever & always

F Nightingale

{archivist's note: III 9
70/6 F.N. to Mrs. Cox, 7 Aug. 1870
70/7 F.N. to [Mrs. Cox?], [Aug. 1870]
Aug 7/70

(it is 14 years to to day since I came back from the Crimea

My dear Mrs. Cox

Many thanks for your two most interesting letters - You will have seen by this time that, if I was represented as acting only for the Prussian "wounded", that was a false accusation. I joined the Ladies' Association you saw in the "Times", with the express understanding that the funds raised were to be "common", i.e. impartially distributed where most wanted among both belligerents. (which they have been) for the relief of the Sick & Wounded - And I so joined because that Association was first in the field.
f70/6.1v

But now, as you will see,
I have formally joined the Central
Committee, (of which the Prince of
Wales is President). And all
our interest will be given to
sick & wounded soldiers as such,
irrespective of nationality.
France & Prussia will receive our
funds alike. On Thursday
night the Committee sent off one
of their Secretaries to place them
in communication with the
Convention at Geneva, to return
to Paris & put them in communication
with the Central French Committee
there which sits en permanence - would that all this
had been done 3 weeks ago! -
This, as you know, is an authorized
agency, in communication with

f70/6.2

every charitable agency at the
Seat of War - supplies information
as to what is most wanted - receives &
distributes the grants, both in
money & kind. It would be
little use to the wounded if we were to send
Hospital supplies to the Seat of
War, if they were to be seized by
the enemy. They must be
neutralized, as the ambulances
are neutralized. And we must
all be placed under the "Red
Cross".

As soon as the London Central
Committee's arrangements are
completed - they ought to have
been so long ago - I will place
your application before them -

Excuse a hurried note - Since
my letter (most unwillingly) appeared
I have been deluged, as you may
suppose, with applications of all
kinds, including Ladies volunteering to go out to nurse at the Seat of War Hospitals -
O that I could go out myself to the Seat of War to work, instead of all this writing, writing, writing! -
But that is an unresigned wish! -
I am so overwhelmed with business that I must be brief. In 17 years I have had 2 weeks' holiday - excepting what God gave me in Typhus Fever in 1855. I was just going to take a third week - when this awful cloud of war which darkens the world came over us - And all that can be, how little, must be done for the sufferers by one already overladen with business & uncurable illness. How willingly would I die to save in any portion of this awful misery.
My kindest regards to Col=Cox - ever yours most truly Florence Nightingale

3. I was aware, tho' not I dare say of all, of much that is saying against women nursing in War Hospitals -
I am afraid that many women have given cause for this.
I entirely concur & agree with all my soul & experience that I never once saw or heard a Patient in a Military Hospital do anything or say anything that the purest woman could be offended by.
[It is very easy to discriminate what women ought & what women ought not to nurse in War Hospitals - easier than to put one's discrimination into force or action.] ever yours (in haste) Florence Nightingale
envelope addressed to W. Blake Atkinson Eq  
Stone Hall  
Wallingford  
7/9/70  
with printed notice Society for Aid to Sick & Wounded in War  
[FN note] with many thanks to Mrs W. Blake Atkinson  
for his poetical “Plea” for the unfortunate sufferers  
[FN] Sept/70  
Ladies’ Committee [lists women beg with Duchess of Northumberland, ends Lady Marian Alford  
Miss Florence Nightingale [FN crossed out the “Miss” and wrote in with ’s thanks  
then lists Articles Needed  
{envelope included - see photocopy}  
{archivist's note: III 11  
70/9 F.N. to M. Mohl, 16 Sept. 1870  
70/10 F.N. to J.J. Frederick,, 22 Sept. 1870}


Lea Hurst  
Matlock Sept 16/70  
Dear M. Mohl  
Will it be too much to ask you what passed with M. Thiers. O God, that you could persuade him to listen to reason! But how can our Ministers have regard to such stuff as he talks? - They would listen, they would listen (& try to mediate) if only you could make Thiers speak sense to them (& to his own Provisional Govt. afterwards) as a preliminary -  
But this is not my only
reason for writing. [As if I could do any good about that!!] But I am so uneasy about your \{illeg.peritonite?\} - Of course you know best what to do. Please do it - even if it is to go on a régime - even if it is to go to bed for a day or two & be fomented, & eat slops. My old Mrs. Legg, tho' past her time, is a good old nurse - & the little cook a good little sick cook - If I dared, I would write to them to tell them what to do. But do, you, please, tell them yourself. I must preach to you, for I am quite anxious, tho' I am afraid of putting you into the "irresponsibility of opposition". Ah if we could have peace, it would cure us all! - in great haste but ever yours dear M. Mohl F.N. Pray have in, some of those rampageous 'boys' - & go to bed. & let them sit by to amuse you - just for a day or two - And feed them at 35.
Lea Hurst  
Matlock Sept 22/70  
7.a.m.
My dear Sir

We cannot thank you enough for all you have done for us nor Mr. Newman Hall for his admirable & deeply felt & deeply thought Sermon of which you have been so good as to send me a copy. [It was read aloud to our household on Sunday night, who were strongly impressed by it - & immediately followed by a collection. This whole neighbourhood is, as perhaps you know, quite a seat of
Wesley's - And it has worked immensely hard for the Sick & Wounded every body working in common - children giving their pence - mill=girls their spare time - poor women sewing shirts & trousers & refusing payments - collections made in the smallest Chapels in the hills.]

Mr. Newman Hall's Sermon will, I am sure, have a great effect. It is the true doctrine, the heart of the matter - & puts this awful, unspeakable struggle which grieves two great nations & the world in the

ture light = The frivolity of the newspapers in speaking of France as if she were a child to be whipped or a blackguard to be flogged has been base - Does not this theatrical Siege of Paris rather recall the words of Christ weeping over Jerusalem? And must we not suppose Him, in human figure of speech, 'weeping' far more over that 'great city', Paris?

Thank you for your sympathy about the loss of the "Captain." It has been indeed a bitter blow to us. There was not a lad, perhaps, of greater promise in
England than Reginald Herbert 
- Such an earnest feeling of 'duty' - such simplicity - such silence, such nobleness - very like his ancestor, Sir Philip Sidney - very like his father in many things - he is safe, removed to God's heavenly service from His earthly service which, we may thankfully believe, the boy performed. But I had always thought he might in some measure have taken his father's place in the country.

His poor mother was lying dangerously ill at the time

at Wilton - & could not be told till ten days after her loss - She bore it very well.
The boy had just gone off his watch - Mr May (the gunner) said - 5 minutes more, & he might have been on deck & he might have been saved - "Father, Thy will, not ours, be done".

Two or three years ago, when he was only 13, he saved a man from drowning - He never said a word about it. The men talked about it afterwards - And he was asked why he had not mentioned it. He said, "it was only my duty".

I only mention this to show what manner of spirit he was of.
f70/10.3v {pencil:}
I have been trying all day for a moment to finish this note - in vain -
You will know from the newspapers how the money & stores people have so generously given - no are employed. We have very many private letters besides - We have sent off a Trained (German-speaking) Lady-Nurse with a mass of stores yesterday from St. Thomas' Hospl. to Homburg.

[end 15:711]
I trust Mrs. Frederick continues pretty well -
ever yours most faithfully
Florence Nightingale

{archivist's note: III 12 70/11 F.N. to M. Mohl, 4 Nov. 1870}
Letter, pen LMA H1/ST/NC1/70/11

f70/11.1

Nov 4/70 [15:735-36]
Dear M. Mohl
It was quite a relief to me to hear that you were not ill -
I thought you did not look good for much on Sunday.
I am afraid I must put you off till Sunday at 3 - (if that will suit you) or 4 - [I am so busy] - But pray tell me, if it will not suit you - I should be so glad to hear of your going out of this {illeg.} atmosphere, as Londoners do, from Saturday till Monday.

Enclosed is a letter which the careful Postman would only give up to me on my assurance that you were a "Professor" - [The Postman must be a Professor himself - Professor of the Post.]
How glad I should be if it brought any tolerable news out of Paris.

To day it is 16 years since we the females landed at Scutari -
Who could have thought that we should have lived to see the most awful, hideous war mankind has known - in 1870!? - a war compared with which the Crimean War was child's play with all its sufferings!

It is not the actual sufferings - dreadful, terrible as they are, - of this War which so possess one's imagination as: - what will come out of it? - what but a tyranny, a Chaos more dreadful still?

The Almighty created, it is said, mankind & the world out of Chaos - oh but that was only a Chaos of warring elements, of earthquakes, hurricanes, fire & storm
- mild & amenable compared with the Chaos of man's warring passions, passions for tyranny & cruelty & for a barbaric, beastly conflict, like bears, or wild stags. The Almighty Himself, it seems, can hardly make a world out of this Chaos - He can't make man, He can't make one man, out of it. What one man has risen out of all this Chaos, compared to whom a stupid hurricane, an earthquake, a conflagration is not a beneficent Institution? - Is it not quite unknown in history that a philosophical, a deep-thinking, the most highly & widely educated & in some respects civilized nation of Europe, like the Germans, should plunge, head foremost, into this abyss,
called Military Despotism -
that they should not see that
(soi disant) "German Unity" means
only Prussia's aggrandizement -

it appears to me that the real
Devil, the real Mephistopheles is: -
Bismark - who has besotted not
one stupid Faust, not one drinking
savage population & "plunged them
"into hell" - but a whole Central
Continent of the most philosophical
peoples in the world -
Give me Russia to rule over me
as lief as Prussia under Bismarck! -

But I promise not to talk `War'
if you will come & see me! -
The fact is: it is the reverse of
the woman who beat her husband,
who said, "it amuses she & it
"don't hurt we" - For it do `hurt'
me & it don't `amuse' you -

I have just heard again from the
Crown Princess of P. - a noble, touching
letter - I believe the Cr. Prince is doing
all he can for peace - But what can he?
= [The name of the Wurtemburg Dr., whom

I asked you about, is Hahn -
Do you know him? - He is President
of the Sanitat's Verein - writes from
"Haslach bei Stuttgart" - wants me to look over a book for him (which I can't) - all yours & ever yours F -

Now I won't talk of War any more

My dear Mrs Cox - my gallant soldier - How can I thank you enough for your most interesting letter about all that I care most for? If the deepest sympathy, the sincerest admiration for all your gallant & efficient efforts for the poor sufferers in this most terrible of all Earth's wars can give you a moment's pleasure, believe me, mine is yours more than words can say. If anything can comfort us for the countless horrors of this most horrible of all mankind's histories, it is that there are Mrs. Cox s.

You ask me to say what they, the Hospitals, want: -
They want: -
  more & better food
  more Medical comforts
  more clothing &
  more Mrs. Cox's.
I think that I may very safely leave your great observation & your solid judgement to be followed in these matters -

If you knew the pressing occupations which the sufferings not only of the Sick & Wounded but of the starving, stripped & burnt out peasantry of the districts round Metz & round Sedan have brought upon me - already overcharged with business & a prisoner to my bed from incurable illness - you would pity me & forgive me for writing so poorly in answer to your invaluable letters.

You ask me kindly, to enquire of you for any information: - one would like to know what is exactly the economy of these Hospitals? - i.e. the nature of the bedding - the amount & kind of food - stimulants clothing and what additions are made in the case of men suffering from exhausting purulent discharges? These are the points for future reference which appear to be of most use - But you are so observant that any thing you write will be most useful. You need no hints. What an amount of good (I have had the privilege of seeing your former letters to Lady Eyre - which shall be returned to you - but I shall not return your own letter to me - it is too precious, my dear friend)
what an amount of good is being
(very quietly) done by you -
what interesting peeps your letters
give into the Hospitals economy,
so much so that one regrets that
you, who fulfil my idea of perfection
in Nursing matters, have not
entered more into small detail.
E.g. what an insight into nun=nature
is that of obliging men dying of
exhaustion to `faire maigre' because
it is Friday -
& not feeding dying men to the last!
- and their abhorrence of French
people in the Hospitals! -
These are the kind of index=facts
that are very precious to put on
record. I wish you would give us
many more!
In my experience of French "Sisters of
Charity" (the Augustinians are much
better), especially in the Enfans
Trouvés, - the nuns appeared to
think it was well for the poor
things to die & get out of this
"sinful world" Also: one great cause of their high Death rate is that their charges are always underfed. [There is little or none of that great devotion which you often see even in rude English Hospital Nurses, which makes them think it apparently a matter of life & death to themselves to feed up & by incessant care, give the best chance to the last moment to a poor miserable stranger Patient whom they will never see again.]
I heard that Col= Cox's supplement of stores which he carried himself for the wounded of the battle of Baccon or Couloniers of the 9th & 10th= came just in the nick of time. Col= Elphinstone at Tours telegraphed to our "Aid Society" here for Chloroform, Surgical Instruments, Blankets, warm clothing &c - saying that never were things so urgently wanted - for the 5000
Wounded of that battle And Col Lindsay, (our Chairman, as you know,) despatched them at once by two young English officers via Havre. The half of our Giant Ambulance at Versailles has been fortunately sent to Orleans. The other half has been recalled. [The Prussians had interfered with them.]

Most probably you know much more of all these things than I do - only we sometimes find that we know more in London of general things than people in France, not on the spot - From private accounts I receive from well-informed people at & of the German Hospitals before Paris & at & of those which existed before Metz till the Capitulation, I do not hesitate to say that our Scutari & Crimean Hospitals, when at their worst, which roused all England in horror, were better than these
German Hospitals, especially the Typhus ones, when at their best & without any particular pressure. What will it be in mid-winter if this frightful, this unparalleled struggle goes on - & if it spreads to all the nations in Europe? God in His pity grant to our agonizing prayers that it may stop. [The Prussian Camp Sanitary arrangements are almost nil. The Sick & Death rate frightfully high -] We have other "Societies" doing what they can for the starving, half-naked & burnt-out peasantry round Metz & round Sedan - Among all the horrors, perhaps their fate is the worst. Also: our "Aid Society" has a new appeal & work which it has begun among the sick French prisoners in Germany, dying of Typhus & Dysentery from starvation & exposure. They positively arrived so weak that food had to be put not into their hands but into their mouths!! They lay down dying on the straw at their arrival!!
How long, O Lord, how long? O when will all these horrors, which have not their like in history, cease?

Wherever the English language is spoken, from the Princess to the poor needle woman, from the Peer to the negro, all have been ready to bring their gifts, their unpaid labour where they could not give money or stores.

[Only yesterday I received from two poor congregations of working negroes in the island of St. Vincent in the West Indies £5. 12. 6, sent quite simply through their clergymen, desiring that, as they had seen my name in a stray London paper, in connection with the Sick & Wounded, I would apply their mite & asking me to write to them]

God bless you, my dearest friend.

Have you been driven out of Amiens? - [I shall send this to Lady Eyre] - all yours & ever yours in heart & soul

Florence Nightingale

{archivist's note: III 14
70/13 F.N. to Henry Bonham Carter, 30 Nov 1870.
70/14 " " " " " " 7 Dec. 1870.}
Letter, ff70/13.1-70/13.2, pencil. 30 Nov. 1870

**f70/13.1**

*Netley Nurses*  
My dear Harry BC -  
I hate to trouble you about these  
at such a moment -  
Dr. Sutherland offers to settle it for  
you, on receiving our answers -  
I have written my remarks on his  
Abstract (for you) -  
He offers to send us the whole  
correspondence -  
Do you think it necessary? -  
Do you think Mrs. Wardroper should  
see the enclosed paper - & give her  
verdict?  
Perhaps it would be better -  
[It is altogether unsatisfactory - for it

**f70/13.1v**

seems to me that Mrs. Deeble always  
say that *that* Quarter will be the  
"quietest" (for Night Nurses) which  
she thinks at the moment will  
procure most of what she likes for  
herself.]

_Sydney_  
Both Mrs. Wardroper & I have heard this  
mail.  
Miss Osburn tells us nothing definite - but  
evidently wishes to prepare us for her  
leaving -  
Her object in writing is: to ask us to give  
er her another appointment -  
I do not propose to write, (as there is the  
same qui pro quo about staying for *my* (!)  
sake.)  
But I will write, if you think it right. All
I could say, (in modified language)
would be:
God bless her - And for her own sake &
the sake of all under her, may she
never undertake Hospital superintendence
again.
She proposes to go to Canada to her brother
(a capital plan, I think) - & wait there
for another appointment from us - (!!)
[not liking to trouble you now I sent my
opinion & the two letters back to
Mrs. Wardroper - But I am afraid
you must {words smudged out by time}
opinion]
ever yours
FN
30/11/70

Letter, f70/14, pencil

f70/14.1

35 S. St. Dec 7/70
My dear Harry B.C. -
It was a great relief to me to have
your "Post Card" -
I had felt quite uneasy about you
all - knowing, about you in particular,
that you had sat up with dear Fan -
- & was only deterred from sending,
to enquire, by the fear of making
Sibella write a note.
I make an excuse now of sending
br birds to ask for a verbal message
of a health Officer -

2. Netley Night Nurses' Quarters
I return you your (own) note of
Mr. Talbot's - & I send one of Dr.
f70/14.1v
Sutherland's of Saturday,
which please return at your convenience.
I wrote to Dr. Sutherland, as soon as I had
received yours of Friday - And I sent
him yours of Saturday (at noon) the moment
I received it - in Sibella's writing) by hand.
You will see that the second did not
arrive in time -
But it appears to be settled as well as it
can under the circumstances -
   God bless you
   ever yours
   F.N.

{archivist's note: III 15
70/15 } F.N. to Henry Bonham Carter [30 Nov. - 7 Dec 1870]
70/16 }  

f70/15.1

{archivst. note: [1870 or 1871] with 30/11/70
7/12/70}
My dear Harry BC
1 - The enclosed Dr. Hahn is a cousin of M Mohl's
I have looked thro' his pamphlet - It seems to me
- all generalia - & (not exactly platitudes - but)
what are truisms to a Matron organizing an Institution
"warm heart", "intellectual power" &c &c.
I have written him the Generalia I enclose [He writes
to me in English]
What I ask is: would you be so good as just to take home
& glance thro' his pamphlet & tell me whether you
think we can criticize it as a plan, as he asks me
to do - I really can make little of it
=
2. Mrs. Wardroper -
is in much distress because Netley does not send
for her 2 Night Nurses.
=
3. Miss Kilvert -
  Is she gone? I see Derby Infirmary advertising
for a Supt=.
My dear Harry

Do not read any more of these letters than you like.

[Those from Miss Rumpff to Mrs. Wardroper are the ones you sent me -]

I have made great use of all Miss Rumpff's letters with Capt Galton, Lord Shaftesbury &c - to get stores for the Versailles Hospitals.

And I got her £50 in gold (French) for herself from the Socy= (besides £35 which she has had before & £5 from Mrs. Schwabe)

And lo! when I received a note - "have you seen Miss Rumpff's impudent letter (Thursday's "Times")?"

I had not - I looked at it

I can do nothing more for Miss Rumpff

It is not that the letter is "impudent" but that it is now in the power of every one of our Socy= who has seen these private letters, to put in the "Times" - 'this C.R. is a liar - we have at this moment letters of hers, saying that the "Johanniter" are luxurious, idle, selfish, bon-vivants & picknickers - living on the Stores - & that his Prince Pless is a fool" (which he is) -
"And now she curries favour with them by a letter in the "Times" -

I don't know that our Socy connects "C.R." with Miss Rumpff - except my informant -
I have taken the utmost pains to conceal the fact - tho' I saw Col. Lindsay the very day C.R.'s letter appeared in Thursday's "Times" -
[I had just received a promise from L Shaftesbury that she should have all she wanted from the "Socy="]
I have not yet told any one but you - do you think it would be of any use for anybody (I will not do it) to write & tell her that she is of course at liberty to publish any opinions she pleases for the Johannites & against our Socy= - but not at liberty to write two opposite statements - Both can't be true -
I am afraid she is a "bad lot" -
I have seen a letter of hers to Mrs. Schwabe, abusing the Socy= for not giving her "remuneration" - & a letter (of the same date) to the Socy=, proudly "declining remuneration".

Would you tell Mrs. Wardroper the heads of the of the above? & that she has had £50 more -

[end 15:748]
My dear Sir,

As I see that your Anniversary Sermon for the "Surrey Chapel" Benevolent Society is to be to morrow, I cannot help sending you my mite (£2) to put in the plate or use otherwise, as you please.

I wish it were more - But none know better than you how the calls of these dreadful days seem to defy all power of meeting them.

I send you the "National Society's" map - But, faster than we can publish our map, the terrible battle fields of France multiply the centres of misery. You will see on the map but five Red crosses in the miserable "Western district south of the Seine where now we have 17 -!! (each reckoning independent of Paris.)

But this is not all the misery! We, the "Ladies' Committee for the "Widows & Orphans", (whose Post-Card I enclose,

have joined the "War-Victim's Fund" Society for the starving peasantry round Metz & round Sedan, who are literally stripped of everything. even of corn & other seeds for next year -

I will send you some papers, when I receive more - having given away all I had -

But only on condition that you will not suppose we want the "Surrey Chapel", which has already done so much, to do more -

I heard the most interesting account the other day of the peasantry in the Ardennes from Mr. Bullock, the gentleman who raised what is called the "Daily News' Fund", another fund for these poor people - He is gone out again to continue the distribution - & in a few days pursues his errand among the villages round Paris which are, we hear, in an almost worse state of misery & starvation
He described the peasantry of the Ardennes, half agricultural, half manufacturing, as living in an almost ideal state of industry, frugality, morality & religion - Now they are stripped of all - And pillage & burning seems to have been inflicted on them, even beyond the necessities of an invading Army. But no one murmurs - No one begs - Their savings are all gone, even to the last franc. They seemed quite surprised that any should have come to help them. "England has been to us like Providence", some said.

And so she has! God bless her! She has given not only of her superfluity, but of her poverty & even of her necessity. So many instances of this have come within my own knowledge - Congregations of very poor working negroes in the West Indies have clubbed together their pence, & sent the sum to me "for the sufferers in the present War".

National Schools have given up their only feast in the year; & begged that the money might be sent to "children who are poorer than we are". God bless them all.

England's "generosity & magnificent charity", as the Crown Princess of Prussia (who has worked as hard as any body) truly writes to me, we may thank God for - And "all for love & nothing for reward".

May I ask the prayers of your Congregation not for myself, not only for myself, but for all the sufferers, the miserable men, women & children in this awful War, the most frightful of Earth's histories, the innocent women & children, helpless & almost hopeless but for God & the kind souls He has raised up to help them

Oh when will the end come?

I trust that Mrs Frederick & your little son are well - Pray believe me ever yours sincerely

J.J.Frederick Eq Florence Nightingale
Dec. 24/70
Christmas Eve

My dearest Mrs. Cox

Sad but earnest Christmas greetings I cannot help sending you by one line, tho' I have no time for more - And yet not sad, for if ever two people were carrying the message of "peace & good will to man", crushed & agonized as he is now, it is you & Col= Cox - So I will rather say to you, Good cheer! Hail, ye who are highly favoured. Your letters have been received - & your directions shall be exactly obeyed - I was so very sorry to hear

of your little boy being ill. I trust it is only a trifling attack - I shall be quite anxious to hear that you have no sorrow there - Our whole hearts are with you. I will write at greater length. To-day I have only time to catch the post & say God bless you, my dear, dear friend, as we all do - & give you strength & His best & highest Christmas blessings - all yours & ever yours in heart & soul Florence Nightingale [end]
Concerning the matter which you wrote to me about as to not worrying Col. Cox overladen with work to give accounts, of Stores &c., except as a whole, I set to work very gingerly, but zealously, because, as you observed, it was impossible to shew the letters to the Committee here.

Believe me, first, that the Committee "are fully aware of Col= Cox's admirable exertions & zeal." [They value him & you, as they ought, if that be possible.]
And they "very much regret "his absence & its cause, "his children's illness", (as indeed they may & do.)

The application to Col= Cox for an account of Stores was not made directly by the Committee. They only asked Sir V. Eyre to send an account from time to time, in such form as he could manage.
And they merely wanted to have it borne in mind that some account should be kept which could be rendered at a future time.
The Committee would of course willingly give any necessary allowance for persons to keep accounts.
But no application was ever made to them.
  Capt. Brackenbury who applied had an Accountant from England.
  Mr. Lee at Tours has sent very regular accounts of the distribution of stores.
  But no pressure has been put on Sir V. Eyre that I can find out to render accounts. He has had `carte blanche' to appoint his own Officers.
  The Committee have not pressed for accounts at all.
  [Here they repeated again (what they are never tired of saying) how much they are indebted to Col= Cox's invaluable exertions & yours.

N.B. Of course they know that Col= Cox could not, with his 21 miles of villages supplying them as no one else could have done keeping up an authority & organization in Amiens which no one else could have done - that he could not have time to write accounts of stores which a common Accountant could do.
Dear friend

Again I begin this often interrupted letter, (which I would not send till after I could tell you of some prospect for the "parcels") - to wish you God speed -

I return Col= Cox's letter with many thanks -

I have not seen the "Extracts from his Journal", & should read them with the greatest interest & return them to you.

The horrors of the War deepen & become more heart-rending -

It is a common thing for us to receive letters from our friends & acquaintances, some inside Paris - French mothers - (& indeed German (in pencil: mothers) in Germany also: -)

`my eldest son killed in a sortie -

`leaves a young widow' - baby 5 days old - my second son killed on the Loire - leaves a young widow about to be confined - my third son a prisoner' -

This is a usual specimen -

One (inside Paris) writes: -

"Quant a moi, apres avoir confie mes enfans et tout ce qui les touche aux mains de Dieu, je n'ai pas voulu m'adresser la moindre question sur eux - car je n'aurais pas view - et je veux vivre" -

(that is, for her duties which she mentions.)

A Dieu dearest friend

ever yours

F Nightingale
My dearest friend

I thank God that your worst cares for your children are over - I think you can scarcely be more thankful than I am - I trembled when I opened your note to Emily Verney - How much you have suffered - Yours in thought & in heart I have been all this time, & longed that I could have been with you in body.

I see with some uneasiness that you are nursing Col=Cox -

Though, after all he has gone through, his unparalleled work, we can scarcely be surprised at your sad account, yet we shall feel very anxious to know that it is only a passing loss of strength. And, about you, dear friend, I feel most anxious of all, till we hear that you have not been quite broken down with all your labours & trials.

God bless and support you!

And He will bless you!

How grieved I have been not to
be able to do anything for you -
  What New Year's wishes
can one wish but that there
never may be such another? -
such a Year as this to the end
of the world?
   Indeed, in the morning, I
dread the evening mail - And
in the evening I dread the
morning - unlike the plaint
in the Scriptures. But I think
it is worse. I used so to
wish for the winter days to pass.
But now I dread each coming
day, as worse than the last -

more full of frantic passion,
  misery & blood.
But I will not say more about
this. Bismarck & that pious
old King=Emperor are as fatal to
friends as foes. What
difference between the
unoccupied part of France
and (for instance) Bavaria?
- I can see none -
   Both are equally prostrate in
sorrow & lost life & activity
France, if it were not for the
"honour of the thing", has a
better prospect - once the
invader is out for her own
reconstruction than Germany.
   But I must stop -
yours, dearest Mrs. Cox, in
heart & soul, ever & always
   Florence Nightingale
Jan 20/71
My dear Mrs. Cox

It is most "aggravating" how the effort to arrange for sending the parcels from friends to French prisoners in Germany has hung fire -

It is as if - by the time when even German frosts are over - the arrangements would be quite & completely ready for forwarding the warm=clothing= presents (from their relatives) to the poor prisoners.

But at last there seems to be a means.

Dr. Evans, who is the Secretary of a "Society for clothing French prisoners," (whom Sir Harry Verney, - recommended by Mme Bernstorff, - has applied to for your purpose,) "expects to leave for Brussels "passing through Calais & "Lille for the above place, "thence to Cologne.

He says to Sir H.V. that anything he can do in the matter will be gladly done.
- that he hopes to establish among his friends at Brussels a means by which parcels or clothing sent through Belgium will be forwarded to Cologne or elsewhere in Germany - that he will at
the same time arrange if possible for the transmitting of your parcels - that he will inform Sir H.V. "with whom the arrangements have been made for Brussels & Germany". Sir H. Verney has asked Dr. Evans to call upon you on his way through Calais.

We do trust that the object will now be secured - which is the kindest of all kindnesses - viz. transmitting parcels to prisoners from their own people -

I assure you that we have not been remiss in trying to arrange for it. And I will not weary you with telling you of all our efforts - only mentioning that, first, Mme Bernstorff, at Sir H.V.'s request, thought that she could do it thro' M. de Beaulieu, the Belgian Minister here - & wrote to him to arrange some plan of forwarding from Brussels -
then Mme= Berstorff herself
recommended this Dr. Evans
"as the best person to arrange
"about forwarding the parcels"
"to the French prisoners in
"Germany." [Mme= B. spoke
to Dr. Evans about it - & put
Sir H.V.in communication
with him -]
And this is the way, we
do trust, that it will be
settled at last.
[Mme= Bernstorff has herself
sent as many as a hundred
of these small parcels to
French prisoners in Germany,
to Spandau, Magdeburg,
{illeg.Gloyau?} &c]

We had thought that our
Committee (at St. Martin's
Place) might have arranged
some agency for forwarding
parcels to the French prisoners.
But they found it impossible.
Our envoys to the prisoners
are not allowed access
to them. And the Committee
indeed "all doubt whether
any agency will manage
to cause the parcels ever
to reach the prisoners."
[I trust this "doubt" is
exaggerated.]
Dear M. Mohl

I cannot thank you enough for your two letters - I was so very anxious to hear that your house & papers were safe - & to hear just the things that are not told by newspapers. (which may God confound! - God Almighty does not read the newspapers. We who have to read them know how degenerate - that & Magazine= reading - makes a people - ♦ I never can forgive the "Times" & "Daily News" raising the hue & cry in favour of Prussian militarism at the beginning - & then, when came the most evident & most inevitable consequence of what they did their little all to bring about - sitting down to blubber & cry - I assure you that, at the beginning of the War, freedom of public opinion had ceased in England - If one said one word, hesitating to think that the cause of European constitutional progress was not to be secured for ever by Prussia over running France, one was pilloried - I never saw such a thing. So one can fancy the ancient Jewesses would have raved, if any one had doubted that the Jews murdering the Canaanites & appropriating their lands was not the highest ideal of justice & truth. Every body talked a la Max Muller in that inflated, superficial nonsense - & made themselves the Apostles of Neo=German Militarism - a woeful day to see - By the way, I have seen a letter of Max Müller's drowned in tears - which does more honour to the softness of his heart than to that of his head. And this is nearly the only comfort I have - a very slender comfort - except that your house & papers are safe - Julie was always the Empress of my affections - But now she is truly Jule César-inn. And I honour her a great deal more for standing by your keys than the "old canting Corporal" for taking the keys of Paris - Will you give her my love when you go back? - How I should like to send her some little thing that she would like! What shall it be? - I am sorry "la grande Mademoiselle" is starved to death -
the great ancestor of our cats. You will have to take a kitten from us, after all - I communicated the intelligence to Temperance who took it very solemnly - & observed that so great a character had better have furnished food for others than have died of want of food herself -
I am very glad that M. Roulin is well - Pray remember me to him when you see him -
Are the poor {illeg.Sourqueneff's?} going back? -
And how is that old Madame de Mousticho - (that's not the name nor anything like it) who began to learn Latin when she was couched after she was 80 - & could read Livy under your auspices? -

I should so have liked to have seen you again before you started -
I told my father (who is still at Lea Hurst) that February 23, last Thursday, was the last day that I could stay away from London with any convenience - But as he gives no sign, & as nobody offers to relieve me here, & it is impossible to leave my mother alone, I must e'en give that up, with what cheerfulness I may, as I have had to give up most other things -
[It was better for me when Sidney Herbert was alive - And I had to go back to my business to a day & hour, just like an Under Secretary - And there was no question about it - ]
Alas! how unhappy is this Clerical Re-actionarism. I used to be so amused watching the Infallibilists. But if ever Germany gives them the right, what hope is there? And I suppose there is much clerical re-action in the French Assembly. How strange a problem it will be the re-constitution of authority & government in France - stranger than ever before -

Every fresh letter I see or have from France brings fresh evidence of the utter, the inconceivable de composition, disorganization, of every authority, Mayors, Communes, Departmental Councils, Commandants, & Intendance altogether. It is really past belief. How is all this to be re-constituted? - in the midst of misery unspeakable -

But, for all that, I had rather be France than Germany just now -

I must stop - tho' I have a great deal to ask - But I want to save this post, for fear you should be gone -

What follows is for Mme Schwabe. [But do not tell it her, if it will make any trouble as we may hope now that Sick & Wounded affairs at least will be over - tho' the utter poverty among peasant-farmers in France makes famine-prospects a very serious matter -]

To Mme Werckner of Breslau has been sent another £100

from the "National Society" at St. Martin's Place - for the sick French prisoners -

But she has never received any of Mme Schwabe's things -

[We found from other sources that she was the only lady who visited the French prisoners at Breslau.]

I must stop - God bless you ever yours

F. Nightingale

{archivist's note: III 19

71/5 F.N. to Mrs. Cox, 8 Mar 1871} black-edged

{envelope included} Via Calais

Mrs. Colonel Cox

Burn Société Natle. Anglaise-Secours aux Blessés de la guerre

14 Rue la Merchier

Amiens France

8/3/71
Private
35 South Street. March 8/71
   Park Lane {printed}
   W
My dearest Mrs. Cox
   If you knew how interesting
all your letters are to me, how useful & important, & how
I strive that they shall be
turned to the purposes for
which they are written -
you would know how deeply
grateful I am to you for
writing when you are under
such pressure of work, &
that you never can write enough
- & also how I wish that I
could write to you a letter for
every one of yours.
With regard to your last 2 letters,
   (about the distribution of what
may remain of the Fund to sufferers
& not to "Hotels Dieu")

I have already tried to convey
the substance of your first
to members of the Committee
[I never use your name excepting
to those I know well when you
desire me not.]
I entirely concur with you -
I mean that, from my own
former personal experience
& from trustworthy sources of
information during this War,
of whom you are yourself one of
the most important, I concur
that gifts given in the way
proposed by the Committee
(if it is proposed) only go to
save some Military or Civilian
pocket - to enrich some Intendant
or Econome - not to provide additional comforts for the sufferers but to supply necessaries instead of the Government, Administration, or proper authority supplying these - [As to the corruption of the Intendence, that beats all now that even I have ever known of it, as I need not tell you]

But I do not know whether the Committee will consider it due to the contributors, who subscribed the Fund for a particular purpose, viz the "Sick & Wounded", to devote all that remains of it for the purpose for which our appeal was made.

[As you say, even if it be so, they might contrive some organization for its reaching the "halt & maimed", who will be, alas! but too numerous, & not the "Hôtels Dieu."]

You know we have several other "Societies" for the Widows & orphans, the starving peasantry, the Paris starvation, & the other Victims of the War - (to nearly all of which I belong - tho' alas an unworthy because always overworked a member.)

To these I think we must apply for some of your purposes, your widows & orphans - Unfortunately the "Widows & Orphans" Fund is the worst managed of all - [do not say that I said so -]
I do not think that there is any fixed responsibly - any reasonable arrangement by which French & Germans may benefit with some equality - almost all the money having hitherto gone to the Victoria Stiftung at
Berlin - I have myself brought certain applications like yours, viz. from the P. Etienne, the superior General of Lazarists & Soeurs de Charité, for grants for French widows & orphans - And, because I have not been able to go & storm myself at the Ladies' Committee which besides never meets, every thing has been left in the hands of a German Treasurer who manages things as I have said.

But I trust that, when the first amazing pressure of Wounded lately & of starving peasants now is relaxed, business-like ways will be introduced into the management for the "Widows & Orphans" also -

The other "Funds", some of which are extremely well managed, & which are now to be brought into some kind of co-operation, are: (as you know) -

the War Victim's Fund, set a going by Quakers
Mr. Bullock's Fund (the "Daily News")
Lord Vernon's Seed-Fund
the Lord Mayor's French Relief Fund.

[All these are, by the nature of things,, for France, not Germany. † & as the Soldiers' Widows & orphans must in some degree participate may in a sense redress the inequality I have been speaking of - But in the first French Army, I mean till the Republican levies, there must have been a far, far smaller proportion of married men, therefore of Widows & orphans, than in the German Army - were there not? -]
With regard to your second of your last two letters, of which I will try to make immediately all the use I can, all every bit of the direct information I have received about the Prussian Hospitals in France in this War goes to corroborate what you say. [And it so happens that, from one or two of my own old young pupils who have gone to serve in them & from other agents I have had more direct accounts from Prussian than from French Hospls., excepting your own invaluable information.]

I have no hesitation in saying that, from first to last, when there has been pressure & when there has been none, from best to worst, when there have been no battles as well as when there has been a great overwhelming flood of Wounded, before Metz, before Sedan, at Pont a Moussou, before Paris and on the Loire, the best of the Prussian & Bavarian Hospitals have been worse than the our English Hospitals at their worst time in the Crimean War, when all England rose in horror.

The Prussian War Hospitals are systematically bad. The French War Hospitals are only accidentally bad. That is, when you see the best really organized Prussian Hospital, you see how bad it is. When you see the best really organized French Hospital, you see how good it is.

The Prussians don't intend to give
their Patients every possible chance of recovery - That is to be supplied by gifts, even in a normal state. If not, not. The Government only supplies the same rations to the Hospitals as to the Army. The surgery, as a spécialité, is very good. The management execrably bad. That the Death-rate in some of the Hospitals which I knew most about in the earlier part of War was one third higher in the Prussian than in the French Hospitals I am afraid is a certain fact. Of course we cannot know yet - perhaps we shall never know - what the real Death-rate in the Hospitals of either side has been throughout the War - I am afraid that it will surpass all that we have most feared - especially on the German side in France
& among the French prisoners’ Establishment in Germany [I have terrible accounts from German ladies in Germany of some of these places.]
[But of course they vary. Some are no doubt treated well.]

Of all the badness of the Prussian Hospitals I say nothing at present, of course. If we had told what we knew, we should have been shut out of the Hospitals - We have had the greatest difficulty in securing that our gifts should reach the sufferers. The "Johanniter" have notoriously diverted gifts from the Hospitals to the use of the Army.

Such a system of terrorism reigns that the defects of the Hospitals in the Prussian Army must not be looked into, must not be exposed (any more than the sufferings of State prisoners in Austria in the first 30 years of the century)
You may know too much.

Privately, I will tell you (but I trust that you will not even try to guess the names) that two of our best agents who served more than one of our Societies - residents, married ladies, who were partly of one nationality, partly of another, received a formal official hint, conveyed thro' a British representative, that they must not look too much into the Prussian Hospitals (which, at the place (in France) where they were, were supposed to be perfect) 'or they might be hurried off to 'a fortress in Prussia - and he 'would not be able to help them.'

The story is incredible, but happened exactly as I have told you - & was told me direct by the persons concerned. -

Judge therefore if I am not prepared to avail myself of every hint you give me - and more.

Dearest friend, I must stop. You have every thing that is interesting to tell me. I have nothing to tell you. I really snatch this moment to write to you, only that you may not think me ungrateful for your too, too interesting letters - that you may not think they are wasted.

I trust that Col=Cox & your children are well - & that he does not starve as your poor Patients would have starved but for you -

All thro' this war, I have felt that 'Hospital treatment' was a case of beef & porter - or beef tea & wine -

God bless you - And He will bless you yours in thought & heart ever

Florence Nightingale
N.B.  

One thing I think the experience of the present War must have taught us (tho' I am sure my foregone conclusions were very different - & this experience must be extraordinarily difficult of application -) viz. that English gifts must be, as much as possible distributed by English hands - & as little as possible by the hands of priests, nuns, mayors - & not at all by the hands of Intendance & Economes & Administrations -  

This experience is that the result, not only of the "Sick & Wounded" Fund - but of the Lord Mayor's, Mr. Bullock's & other Relief Funds before mentioned - in France. And as to German Army, as far as Hospitals are concerned, it applies in its full force - Gifts must be distributed as little as possible by the hands of administrators, or "Johanniter", or Medical Staff, - all of which will play into the hands of the Army [P.T.O.]

Your ideas as to the destruction of life among the Prussians in Hospital by giving them only water, not stimulants - & by giving no fresh air, for fear of draughts were fully borne out by an old young pupil of mine who managed one of their Hospitals before Metz. She actually cried to see the loss of life in consequence - being experienced in Hospitals -

FN

{archivist's note: III 20
  71/6 F.N. to Mrs. Cox, 4 April, 1871
  71/7 " " " " 30 April, 1871}
My dearest Mrs. Cox

I have been waiting for half an hour to be able to write to you what I always feel & am thinking about you -

But that half hour never coming, I must just write as I can - to tell you that a little sum Ten Pounds from me was given to be forwarded to you on Saturday, if you would be so very kind as to apply it to the purposes among the Sick & Wounded (for which alas! Ten Thousand Pounds would be all too scanty).

Four (of these Pounds) were contributed by a poor negro congregation of St. Mary's in the island of Barbados in the West Indies - who sent it to me with a desire that
I would consider it as at my "disposal" for the Sick & Wounded on both sides in France.

I have been so very much touched at receiving more than one of these small collections from poor negro congregations in the West Indies -

And I have generally sent them sums with a small addition of my own to private persons like yourself - though who is there like Mrs. Cox? - who were working for our "Aid Society" - as the best way of carrying out the intentions of the poor generous givers who had collected the pence they could so ill spare for this purpose -

If you could, in your next letter, either to Emily Verney or myself, write a scrap which could be
torn off for me to send to the Barbados negroes, it would please them very much - I have much to say in answer to your letters which are all of absorbing interest to me - but must put off saying it, as usual. But I must thank you for the beautiful pears which I enjoyed very much. 1. because it was you who had been so very good as to send them - 2. because of their intrinsic merits, (and I am ordered fresh fruit of all kinds.) I should have thought poor France had hardly any fresh fruit left -

God bless you ever yours Florence Nightingale

envelope Mrs. Colonel Cox
Hôtel des Bénédictine
Calais
Dearest Mrs. Cox,

God bless you for all you are doing - I write as soon as it is possible - But I cannot thank you enough for all your most interesting & valuable letters.

You ask about the principle as to "distributing Testaments" or not - I agree with your principle. You are feeding the hungry in body - why not the hungry in soul? - If they come to ask for a Testament, I should give it. This is a totally different thing from giving food to all, whether hungry or not. [I remember being shocked to see in an Italian Army leaves - as many as half the volume - torn out of numbers of copies of New Testaments in Italian & put to the most revolting uses. These copies I knew were given by Colporteurs at random, who kept assuring me, that they were always acceptable!]

[15:792-95]
Your description of the eating canker in R. Catholic France is most painfully graphic—
On the one hand we have had Luther & the results of his training in that noble truthfulness & sense of duty which we find in England & Germany. This it is which has prostrated France before Bismarck. [I only wish it had been before better men than he, or any of the leaders, except our own Crown Prince.]
On the other hand we have had the Pope, Infallibility, & the result of his dolls & Bartholomew massacres as shewn in the fate of the "eldest daughter of the Church"—
Do you remember that Macaulay says that no nation which had the Reformation opportunity and rejected it has ever had the opportunity again—& that hence =forth all must walk, as nations,
on the road they made for themselves then.

If this be true, France can only enter the narrow path, man by man & woman by woman.

However, this is rather beyond the mark. I entirely agree with all you say about the offering gifts to Virgins, having seen so much of it myself - The worship of the Virgin now, in the Latin races, is hardly better than the lowest Fetichism. The Virgin of Notre Dame des Victoires at Paris is a different Fetish from the Virgin of Notre Dame de la Garde, for instance - And all are to be conciliated by almost the same means with which a man gives presents to his mistress.

I am so glad that you tell the people how all England cares for them - every man, woman & child above pauperism has strained every nerve & contributed far more than
they could afford to help those who, as they said, "were worse off than we". Indeed the Roman Catholics have given less than their share.

You can have no idea how touching it has been - And though it stings one, almost to outcry, to hear the falsehoods the Roman Catholic priests, both French & English, have put about (as to this generosity of the whole English people) yet the self-denial & true liberality of the poor & middle-class givers shines out the more brightly from the fog of such assertions as these: - "oh," say the French priests to the peasantry, when the English gifts arrive, "votre Impératrice est la" - meaning, in England - & that she it is who sends all the English gifts.

[The Impératrice has not sent one sou - has not even given her name - for I was asked to ask her - I dare say she could not. She has been selling a magnificent fur cloak given her by the Emperor Alexander -]
They have been so extravagant that they are quite ruined.

Still it is so.

Then the English R. Catholic Archbishop & priest - just the same - At the Lord Mayor's Fund for the Relief of Paris - "oh it was the duty of the English people to give - but now see what we priests will do - now we shall collect!" - at the time when this was said, the English public had collected £125,000, of which a large part came from penny collections among the poorest people - and of which £300 came from the Priest's collections!! - for starving Paris. It seems dirty of me to remember this - But I am so touched with the rush of the English people, - not the rich & great, nor on the other hand of the Radicals & sympathizers with the French Republic, - but of the whole mass of hard working,
honest, frugal, stupid England, - to contribute every penny they could so ill spare, "the very shoes off their feet, the very suppers out of their children's mouths, to poor starving France, not of their religion, not of their way of thinking at all, but simply because they could not bear to hear of fellow-creatures starving & suffering, while they had anything to give - All have given - So general a collection among the "working classes" has never been - not even for our own Patriotic Fund. You cannot think, within my own private experience, what touching collections have been made & sent me from poor Congregations, National Schools, Evangelical Chapels, Primitive Methodists, Factories - the very names of which
I had never heard before - for the War-sufferers - congregations of poor working Methodist negroes in the West Indies - Ragged School children who, having nothing to give, gave up their only feast in the year, that the money might be sent to the orphans of the War; - Sermons preached in London Dissenting congregations where was not a single rich member - but who yet subscribed largely - women's tea-parties for working & making up warm clothing & refusing to be paid for it. But it would take me a day even to enumerate all these - And some I may have mentioned to you before. There never was such a truly national movement in favour of sickness & suffering of which they knew nothing but by hearsay - & to which they gave, knowing that they never should receive again anything either from
French or Germans - When would either subscribe for us, for our distress? - People say: oh England is so rich - It was the poor who gave. But I must stop.

I am glad the £10 has reached you at last. The 10 fr. which you were so good as to advance for the German prisoner Rabich at Calais has been repaid me - And I have given 8/6 to Emily Verney to give to Col=Cox for you He was so good as to call at my door the other day - How I do hope he will have the employment he wishes for & so well deserves - I cannot tell you, dear friend, how much I felt for you at the loss of your dear Sister - Such a grief as that one feels more & more every year one lives - But how mourn for her, who is living, not dead? ever, dear friend, yours Florence Nightingale

Thank you so much for your 2nd present of beautiful pears - which I shared with a sick friend - Indeed you are too good to me [end 15:795]
O my dearest Mrs. Cox
You will know too well why
I could not write - But not a
word of your last 3 letters has
been or shall be wasted - I am
doing all I can with them all.
[I was just putting up a letter to
you to ask for the 3rd Sheet of
your last letter but one which I
saw had been omitted when yours
of yesterday arrived this morning.]
God bless you for them all. They
are all most useful & enlightening -
This last week, most terrible of
weeks - the most tremendous event in
our life-time - perhaps in the world's
life-time - The Great Revolution
was a mild, straightforward affair
compared to this - this barbarous
disaster in a civilized world -
Words grow pale before it - I will
write none - It really was
reserved for the Devil of France
of 1871 to operate in the name of
liberty, prosperity, public right & civilization.
I dare say you have as many correspondents in Paris as I have - so I will not repeat - But no newspaper reports can exaggerate Paris "has burnt herself down with her own hands'. One fourth is laid in ruins - And not less than 50,000 people, including women & children, killed. No tongue can exaggerate the horrors committed by the troops in reprisals - They have killed every man, woman & child who could be suspected of belonging to the Commune - Awful as are the crimes of the Commune, I cannot see the difference between this diabolical revenge of the troops & the diabolical guillotine & noyades of the French first Revolution of 1793. But, it is too horrible - The first French Revolution was bloodless compared to this with all its guillotines - There is nothing like it in history - not the bloodiest battle - not the longest siege - not populations put to the sword - And - in these days these things are done -
O what will come of it all? - what can be the next Governmt? - will it be a return of the worst Ultra despotism, the worst Ultramontanism? & then the vicious circle all over again - socialism & mad Insurrection. The "Times" expects me to make myself a puddle of my tears because the Tuileries are burnt "which were built by Catherine de 'Medici' - the greatest rascal the world ever saw. It is not that; it is the hopeless outlook of France which gives one a grief too deep for tears -

It is not true, as has been said, that there are "English among the Insurgés" - there are Irish American Fenians - [no country in Europe ever knows the difference.] There are, among the Commune & its men, nearly half foreigners, Belgians, Poles, Italians, American Fenians - And a very old friend of mine, Member of the Institut, who has kept in Paris all thro' this, & was bombarded in his house, makes the very sensible remark - 'And all these birds of ill omen are
`from Roman Catholic countries!' - (for the American Fenians are Irish)
That is what puts one in such despair
It will be the same eternal round
of re-actions: - Ultramontanism=Socialism

I saw Mme= de Stael from the French
Embassy. She took it all like a Saint.
She did not cry - tho' she had death - in
her face - All her family is in it. Yet
she spoke of it all, as one just come
from heaven & going back again,
might do.

But I must, instead of writing about
what all our hearts & minds are so
full of, try to answer parts of your
dear letters -

1. The Versailles Govt= did send some time
ago to ask whether our National Soc
wd= give them aid - The answer
was: No - [Our Committee thought
I believe 1. that ff Englishmen
never wd= have subscribed the Funds
for Civil War - 2. that, if they gave
to one side, they had hardly an excuse
for not giving to the other, if the
Commune asked them -]
I do not know what they will do now -
2. I can well believe what you say about the wasted Stores.
   So early as October last, when the Prussian Army Hospitals in great distress had 4 months of greater before them, the Johanniter packed up large & valuable War Hospital stores, among them, English stores gifts, & gave them to be sent to German peace Institutions, orphan Asylums &c, & religious Orders in Germany - this under the eyes & to the horror of an old young pupil of mine in charge of their dreadful Field=Lazareths - but who shrinks from publishing the names -
3. I entirely concur with you that the "Printed Questions" will never call out all the information necessary to make a better Geneva Convention -
   You ask me to "find out for you who wrote them".
   Months ago I was asked to write them - and did so - at once.
Months afterwards these were sent to me "as mine" - Not one of them is mine - They are not calculated to call forth information at all. We should never have tolerated such questions in any of the R-Commissions we conducted - [I believe I know who did them But it is no use telling now] I remonstrated - And on receipt of your wise suggestion I remonstrated again - And a resolution was carried in Committee (I have not time to refer to its exact words now) that to ask the Red Cross workers who have time & inclination to send them (the Committee) information & facts &c &c This request will come to you - if it goes anywhere - God bless you - & save Paris - ever your affect- & grateful tho' old & sorrowful 
F. Nightingale I have been so interrupted - Forgive me 

envelope, black-edged paper France Mrs Colonel Cox 14 Rue le Merchier Amiens 30.4.71
My dearest Mrs. Cox
I am specially desired to write
to you on the part of the Committee
at 2 St. Martin's place - And as
I am not exactly informed as to
what they have requested of you
already, you must pardon me
if they make me repeat -
On June 6 (this day fortnight)
they passed a resolution
Col=L. Lindsay
Sir Harry Verney
Capt. Galton
Ld= Shaftesbury
to send the Questions to those
of their Agents who, having been
on the spot, might be of opinion
that they do not request all
desirable information that ought
to be requested - asking them to
supplement these Questions by any
additional ones
and to report on any points
which may not be embraced in the
questions.
Your name was specially mentioned,
of course.
And, at to-day's Committee
Meeting, it was resolved to request
replies to be sent before this
day a fortnight hence - And all
replies so sent will be utilized
& printed as an Appendix.
I was told that a copy of the Questions & Replies already printed (Col=Cox's replies among them) was to be sent you at the close of last week -
If this has not been done, please tell me -
Excuse this hasty note - (written to save to-day's mail).
- 1000 thanks for your last letter -
  God bless you ever yours
  Florence Nightingale
Sir H.V. has some letters for Col=Cox.
Where can they be addressed to him in London? - Sir H. V. asks -

envelope, black-edged paper
France
Mrs. Colonel Cox
14 Rue le Merchier
Amiens
5/31/71  31/5/71  20/6/71

{archivist's note: III 22
  71/10 F.N. to Mrs. Cox, 24 June 1871
  71/11 " " "  17 July 1871}

My dearest Mrs. Cox
I had not a moment to write yesterday.
Your "Notes" & your letters together are very instructive & tell much of the past short comings & of the wants for the future -
They are most suggestive -
Your name shall not be mentioned - Nor shall your "Notes" or letters, of course, be sent to St. Martin's Place -
We are trying to obtain that, whatever is sent to St. M's Place should all be put in type & then any parts which are personal &c may be struck out.
But it would take you more time & thought than you
wd= like to give with your other duties & occupations to prepare such "Notes" as you would like to have printed & sent even to
our little Committee, I am afraid.
    Col L.L
    Sir Harry V.
    Capt. Galton
    & perhaps Ld Shaftesbury
who wd= probably be the 3 or 4
who would attend.
But your rough "Notes" & vivid
graphic letters wd= be most
interesting & valuable, even
if you will not let them go
beyond me - I shd= use
them in the way above said -
as suggestions. God bless you -
in great press
    ever yours
    F. Nightingale
35 South St. W.
June 24/71

evelope, black-edged paper
France
Mrs. Colonel Cox
14 Rue Le Merchier
Amiens
24/6/71

My dearest Mrs. Cox
There can be no doubt that
the right thing is to urge Col:
Cox to write his views - the results
of his experience &
observation - the value of which
I believe that it is impossible
to exaggerate -
I dare say that he will
not expect that I should
directly bring his suggestions
before the War Office - (he
will understand better than
I can explain how impossible
this is, in the present state
of the W.O.) - But let him put them on paper - The first thing is to have them written.
God bless you  
(in great press of business & illness  
as usual)  
ever yours  
F. Nightingale

ev
envelope Mrs Cox  
72 Palace Garden Terrace  
Kensington  
W

{archivist's note: III 23  
71/12 F.N. to W. Clark, Esq., 3 Nov, 1871  
71/13 F.N. to Mrs Cox, 16 Nov. 1871}

Letter, ff71/12.1-71/12.2, pen black-edged

Sir  
I am unwilling to send you  
no word of thanks for various most interesting printed papers on the drainage of Calcutta, which you have been kind enough to send me - though it must be a hasty word & one very imperfectly expressing the pleasure your noble success gives us.  
I give you joy on your work.  
The Calcutta Municipals & their Officer/might very well come here & change with our W. Clark Esq  
&c &c
Board of Works -

You are more logical than we are.

You see the consequences of a fact and realize them in practise.

Other men (of which I see some notable examples in the "Discussion" sent me) flounder about & make proposals of different kinds which to the clear Asiatic mind are so self-contradictory that they give themselves no trouble even to answer them.

My mind is still perplexed, however, about the sizes of the rain sewers 7' x 6'. and the provision to remove so large a rain-fall -

Would you think it too much trouble, if you have the data at hand, to let us know the results of the following problem: -

1. Select a district which has been supplied with drains & main sewers for carrying off the main fall.
2. Give the area of this district.
3. Give the rainfall over it including days of maximum rain
4. State the height, breadth & sectional area of the Outlet Sewer or sewers of this district.
5. Gauge the main outlet sewer or sewers of the district at the period of maximum rainfall - & register the depths of the flow & its velocity -

The object being to ascertain precisely what sectional area of Outlet is equivalent in practice to the area & rainfall.

The Municipal authorities of Calcutta & their Officer have set an example of enlightened administration and effective expenditure to other
Indian Municipalities which it is to be hoped will be followed. Indeed there are few cities anywhere which can show so much good work done in so short a time & with such promising results for the future. God speed you!

Excuse a hasty note - I have only my old excuse to urge of business & illness and pray believe me

Sir

ever your faithful servt.

Florence Nightingale

envelope, black-edged paper
Private. India
W. Clark,Eq &c &c
Engineer to the Municipality of Calcutta
Calcutta via Brindisi
3/11/71

Letter, pen LMA H1/ST/NC1/71/13

35 South Street, Nov. 16/71
Park Lane, {printed}

W

My dearest Mrs. Cox

So long have I been wishing to write to you - & so much have I to thank you for -

Judge how I must have been pressed by my not having written -

First of all, I have to thank you for the exquisite pears - so tempting to a feverish Invalid - the nicest I ever tasted - we can get nothing like them in England -
then, for the charming little cap, so like yourself -
& last, but by no means least, for your most interesting, too interesting letters -
Also, I had personal news of you from Sir Harry Verney.

Your last letter but one was a
very painful one. Poor France!
With regard to the money question, you know I entirely agree with you - And I reproached Dr. Sutherland for what he had said on the subject. He admits that it should be cautiously done - and as to its necessity, here is an actual case he had in view: An agent of the Society near Metz finds the Hospitals in want of every urgent appliance, even Diets. He finds that every thing can be bought at or near the spot - But nobody has any money - & he has eventually to buy in London - i.e. the Society buys & sends out, after the great want is past. It never occurred to him that money should be given in the way you so justly reprobate.

Take your own case in your letter. "Soeurs" want certain supplies & can't get them. An agent like yourself (if there are any such:) says: `go into the town & procure them - And I will be responsible for the payment.' You see the goods, & hand over the money - either to the seller or the buyer. I could add cases out of my own experience, as thus: - a Breslau lady - (excepting yourself, & a young English lady= pupil of my own who was in charge of Prussian Lazareths before Metz & elsewhere during the whole war, this Breslau lady, - she is of English birth - has let me more behind the scenes than any of our correspondents) had 150,000 French prisoners pass thro' her hands at Breslau Station - of which 57,000 remained in Silesia as prisoners. [She went to
the Station every night during the winter & staid till morning, to receive the Trains, take out nurse the sick, comfort the dying - no train arrived without many dead, many more dying, very many more frost bitten, dystenterie, starving, Typhus or Spotted Fever or Cholera cases -]

All official intimation of the arrival of the Prisoner trains was always refused her -

No German lady, no German Committee ever did any thing for the prisoners in Silesia.

The details of the state of these wretched prisoners, more especially on arriving (they had to be cut out of the ice formed in the open trucks by their own dirt) are so harrowing that one doubts whether they refer to a Christian country or a civilized?age. [And any person who tried to help them was insulted by Prussian commandants.]

I spare you the details.
From first to last, the Hospitals in Silesia of the sick French prisoners were worse than anything I ever heard of -

It is quite uncertain how much, if any, of the warm clothing &c sent out by our Socy. by its own agents - (no man was allowed to see the prisoners - reached them i.e. in Silesia.

I have direct & personal evidence of its having been given to Prussian employés - in some places.

Now, Without entering farther into this dreadful history, - now irremediable, & past & gone, - I am sure you will say that money had much better have been sent to this lady (some was) sent her) - & that the Socy.'s help would thus have better reached the Sick.

I give this only as an instance.
I am interrupted & must break off this letter, quite unworthy of you -
Silence is almost better than such imperfect words -
I have no time to say what I would - but only God bless you, dearest friend, with all my heart & soul -
& believe me ever yours overflowingly
F. Nightingale

envelope, black-edged
France
Mrs. Colonel Cox
Hôtel des Bénédictines
Calais
16/11/71

35 South Street 23/11/71
Park Lane
W.
With Florence Nightingale’s compliments & thanks

{archivist's note: III 24
71/14 F.N.'s signature only, 23 Nov. 1871
72/1 F.N to [Dr. Sutherland] 23 Jan 1872}
Dr. Braxton Hicks
35 South Street 23/1/72
Park Lane, {printed}
W.
I wish you would have made some observation on the enclosed when I sent it you -
It is the first attempt to prevent any drunken old female from practising as Midwife - tho' absolutely ignorant -
But what an attempt-!
They call a "skilled Midwife" a person who can conduct 'natural labours' - as if any EDUCATED Midwife would come to be examined for such a certificate!!
e.g. what good would it be to us? F.N.
f72/1.1v [not verified]

JS: I did not action this for the reason that it was carried and that it made no difference in your proposals for training. I should just go on & let this & all similar things take their course. If we are to contend against proposals like this we must have a double allotment of life - and every man whom {illeg.-illeg.} is injured will be against us.


f72/2.1

35 South Street, Feb 9/72
Park Lane, {printed}
W

Dearest very dearest friend
I am almost glad of something which compels me to write a letter I like - namely to you - when year after year I postpone it to the thousands of letters which I don't like to have to write.
Would you be so very good as to read the enclosed letter from San Remo, relatively to having 2 Sisters or "Lady Nurses" out there to nurse from "Octobor to May." [The
writer is Mrs. A Court, of whom I know personally but little. But as Sidney Herbert's wife is the sister of her husband, I know a good deal of her indirectly, as being a good, clever, capable, middle-aged.

I will not point out to you the excessive vagueness of the proposal. Whom are the Sisters to nurse? - I suppose the English residents - I suppose gentlefolks - Under what conditions or orders or organization?

[We could not possibly undertake it, because we have far more applications, especially from Workhouses, than we can supply - because we should not undertake irregular Nursing, or Nursing of gentlefolks at all - & because we could not spare women of the calibre wanted for such a curious unregulated post for 6 or 7 months from much more important work - But it did occur to me that, as Mrs. A Court says, the only people likely to accept it]
would be "Sisters", themselves requiring change of air.
And therefore I venture to enclose the letter to you. Do you know of such? - What conditions should you ask for? - What terms should you alone think possible to ensure any Sisters' comfort on such a (I think uncomfortable) plan?
If you know of none such, what would you think of asking the East Grinstead "Sisters" - or Miss Sellon? As for "trained Sisters", there are none `trained' but yours -

---

I can scarcely help alluding to what you once said as to your regret at ever having had Lying-in women at K.C.H. If there was fault, it was mine - because I was supposed to know more about Hospital Statistics - And bitterly have I repented it. Had I known then M. Husson's General-Hospital Lying-in Ward Statistics at Paris, I never would have done it.
But these very Statistics were only brought out at our request. And so with a great many others. I believe it is morbid, now the thing is done, (tho' of course evil should never be done knowingly that good might come) not to see the good that has come. Thousands of lives of poor Lying-in women will be saved by the attention that has been aroused - just as, we will be assured, good Sanitary legislation will proceed this Session - preventing Typhoid Fever from Sewer Gas - out of the Prince of Wales having been all but killed by it -

But I must ask your leave to stop - I am at Embley with my dear mother where I always seem to have more to do than anywhere else - And I have been very much weakened this winter by illness & want of rest. How I wish I knew how you are!
Could you tell me Dr. Shrimpton's address at Paris? I think he was the Dr. of your Galignani Hospital - But do not trouble about this for a moment.

God bless you - ever yours dearest friend lovingly & truly

F. Nightingale

Note, f72/3, pencil

so little enough among statesmen of this present day here!

Excuse great haste & believe me ever yours sincerely & gratefully

Florence Nightingale

Ld Mayo's children asked for a telegram to be sent to Shere Ali - that they forgave their Father's murderer & hoped God would forgive him.

{archivist's note: III 26
72/4 Questions on Midwifery training F.N. to Dr. Gottwald, April 1872
72/5 (see after 28 May 1872 for F.N. to Mrs. Cox 1 May 1872)
Questions on midwifery training LMA H1/ST/NCl/72/4 [8:348-51]

{in double columns, on foolscap}

Training of Midwives

Would you be so very good as to furnish me with a general account of the Midwifery instruction at the Midwives' Clinique Berlin (or at any other Midwives' School) including as full information as you may be pleased to give on the following points:

1. The course of instruction.
   Duration of training before certificates of competency are granted?
   [illeg takes?] 5 months from October 1st to the end of February. Then the Midwives have to pass an examination before 3 Examinators (two {illeg.?} from government, and the teacher of the midwives) and a certificate of competency is given to those who pass - 

2. If, e.g. there be a two years' course for first-class Midwives, a one year's course for second-class Midwives, please state differences & tests, by Examination or otherwise, of the two courses.

   Midwives.
3. Whether during training, a short abregé of instruction is given in Anatomy? If so, how? By Models? By Drawings? By Dissections? By Lectures? 

Anatomy and Physiology is taught, first theoretically, afterwards with skeletons, with {illeg.}? and Alcohol {illeg.}? and with models. The pupils have to assist at 2 or 3 dissections, of lying in women and children.

4. A Professor gives one hour lecture a day - besides two hours a week practical instruction are given every week by him and his assistant in the examination of pregnant women and Presentations on models - the operations are shown on models too.

The midwives have one hour repetition every day.

5. Are there Oral Examinations? Or written Reports or Exercises? 5 and 6. When the Professor has explained a paragraph of the Hebammen Lehrbuch and the Head midwife has repeated it to and with the pupils - the teacher himself examines them orally to see if they have understood and retained his lecture. The same is done with the practical performances.

6. By what method is efficiency in this anatomical knowledge estimated? by marks? or otherwise?
7. What instruction in the elements of Midwifery is given before Pupil Midwife is allowed to deliver a case herself? by the bed-side? by Lectures? by Models? by drawings? 3 and 4, will answer questions 7 and 8.

8. By whom is this instruction given? by a Head-Midwife? by an Assistant "? by second-year's Pupil Midwives? by a Professor a. man? b. woman? or Assistant Professor?

9. How long does this instruction continue before Pupil is admitted to deliver a Lying-in woman herself? 9) Five months.
10. What instruction is given respecting accidents of labour? & how to deal with them? - respecting unnatural or unusual presentations, including performance of operations?

11. Also, on diseases of childbed & of infants?

12. State, please, what, if any, are the other branches of study?

13. What opportunities are given for Post Mortem Examinations? - for Dissections? - whether at the same or at different times & places (from or as Midwifery practice)?

10. As soon as an anomaly is noticed with a woman in labour - the accoucheur (or the assistant) is called in - and he will make use of the occasion to explain to the pupils the anomaly, tell them what is to be done, and let them be his assistants if an operation is necessary.

11. The lying in women and the infants receive three medical visits a day. They are nursed by the pupils according to the ordnances of the medical man. The pupils are instructed how to discern cases of illness and so decide when the doctor is to be called in or not.

12. During last years course pupils had to assist 3 dis sections of lying in women and 1 of an infant. The Assistant explained the anatomical circumstances to them
Every pupil has to give the necessary assistance in the Institution at 7 (during last winter’s course at 9 and 11) births - first under direction later only in the presence of the midwives of the Institution, and has to learn and practice the nursing of these mothers and infants under the direction and control of the doctor and the midwives of the house.

Suppose a case of difficulty to arise in the pupil's hands, how by whom is she instructed to deal with it?

How is the use of instruments in such cases taught at the bed-side? & by whom?

During the practical training of pupils how is oral instruction by Lectures given on the cases?

What is the practical instruction at the bed-side given
a. in Midwifery wards
b. at Lying-in women's own homes?
19. In what manner is an estimate formed of fitness of Pupil to undertake Midwifery practice? including = length of course?
- nature of oral & written examinations?
- number of examinations?
- by whom conducted?
20. Likewise what personal attendance is required on what number of labours?
- what number of these must have been difficult or complicated in character?
- what is the number of Labours
  a. normal
  b. abnormal
a Pupil Midwife must conduct to obtain a certificate
  a. first=class
  b. second=class?

21. Please state the nature & extent of general education in Medical science & practice required of candidates for Midwifery certificates with the kind & number of Lectures & Instructions which have to be followed?
22. Please append copy of Rules for training Midwives also, if possible, of Diploma or Certificate.
23. Where do Pupil Midwives reside
   a. in the Institution
   b. in private lodgings?
   - what disciplinary rules are in use?
   - & by whom administered?
   - what fees paid &c

   24. Please state of what the teaching Staff consists
   The discipline is managed by
   Head Midwives
   Assistant "
   Professors    a. men
                 b. women
   or Lecturers -

   - is the Head Midwife also a Lecturer?

   The staff consist of
   the Director (professor - man)
   his Assistant (accoucheur - man)
   2 Midwives who have to carry on the Repetitions and to direct in cases of normal labour.

   The Head Midwife does not give lectures
25. If possible, please give approximately number of abnormal Deliveries e.g. wrong Presentations & Versions
Forceps Craniotomy & other Instrumental cases accidents, eg. Haemorrhage Rupture of Uterus &c &c per cent of Total Deliveries?
26. What has been the relative proportion of Midwifery cases attended by a. men b. women each year during the last 10 years?

27. Has the course of instruction been enlarged or curtailed within the last 20 years? - In what directions?

28. If you would be kind enough to state any improvements which in your opinion might be effected in the Training course any points in which in your opinion it fails - you would be greatly adding to our obligation to you for answering these questions.

Florence Nightingale
London April 1872
Midwives' Cliniques May 24/72
Dear Dr. Sutherland
So far from thinking with you that we have got all the information in our power, I have written to my 3 correspondents
Frau v. Littrow Vienna
" v. Sch-Zabierow "
Madame Helmholz Berlin
begging them to obtain for me -
- an account of where the Empress of Midwives was educated - Vienna -
- an account of the `Geburtshelfer' Institute where it seems they do receive educated women to train - Vienna -
- & of similar Institutions at Berlin.
== I enclose Frau v. Littrow's letter & an abridgement in English.

She clearly shows that there are high-class Midwives in Austria.
I also enclose the Berlin `Lehrbuch' which you have not seen - & other letters & papers for reference - some of which you have not seen.
And I have others still, which I will send you, if you like.

yrs.v.ffctly
F.N.
Summary of Frau Littrow's letter
You will receive in the appendix written answers to your questions from the celebrated practising ladies doctor (of Vienna) Professor Späth, professor at the University here, & clinical lecturer in his department of midwifery. She is however sorry to say that she does not consider him a competent judge in the matter as he has no idea of the intellectual advance of the women of the present generation etc etc & considers the dependent condition of woman as one of the essential conditions of social life. She considers these remarks necessary because she has introduced him to you as a leader Gewärsmann her guarantee & thinks his unfavourable opinion ought to be put in its proper light."
Besides conversations with several physicians, she questioned the midwife of the Empress, Frau Gruber celebrated as a practitioner on whose information she can rely. Who expressed herself very strongly as to the insufficiency armseligkeit of the instruction which the midwives obtain, & the lot of useless women; bad workwomen; & raw girls who accordingly turn to a profession, which was to be learnt in five months - That naturally nothing was to be learnt in so short a time, even to perform the smallest operation or to make use of any instrument was not allowed, but the things would be different if women were permitted the opportunity of obtaining greater knowledge &c &c
Then she cites as an example “that the states of Siebenbürgen at the request of one of their
communes sent an educated woman to Vienna who had obtained permission the right to attend the who complete course of assistants Geburtshelfer accoucheurs & had been shewn herself capable of performing even the difficult operations in the most satisfactory manner As another example, that the necessary physical power is not wanting to women, she cites the cases of Mary Safford from Chicago, & Susan Dimmack from Boston, the female physicians acquaintances of hers who had been resided in Vienna for some years. After some further remarks she says, she cannot recommend that a midwives Institute such as it exists in Deutschland should be transplanted to England - What is wanted is a model school for real accoucheuses separate from in addition to an the institute for monthly nurses. She refers to the institute of Geburts helfer which gives a medico-surgical teaching based upon less knowledge than is required for the medical profession & entitling the students to the degree only of Magister & not to that of Doctor - She would send you the Regulations & statutes of the Institution if useful - as well as the prescribed "Lehrbuch" for Midwives. She sends you an original certificate which Frau Gruber has begged her to place in your hands in order to testify her respect for you - Hopes you have received your letter of the 19th of March. She ends with some general sentiments -
My dear Harry B.C.

Could you let me have back that letter of Sir Harry's on which was written (by me) what the Probrs. said to Mrs. Wardroper upon my letter? {pen: just sent up -}

Do you mean it to be printed? {not FN: pen: yes or lithographed. HyB.C.}

= Mrs. B. Stowe

You have not told me what to answer to Mrs. Beecher Stowe. I should write HBC: {pen: I hardly know what to say - unless she really understands the real wants & practical difficulties, her writing may be harmful. To give some account of what has been done for nursing training generally would be useful in directing attention to it in America.} [end 8:804]

I had another very long talk with Miss Torrance after you left -

And she then went to Mrs. Wardroper.

I must write to you at Ravensbourne about some things. (not immediately relating to her post) {pen: I should be daily in the City - } I have latterly learnt a great deal more about
Sister Extra. She has done to us mischief incalculable & to Mrs Wardroper too - Mrs. W. is unaware of it.

(pen: she is aware that we have failed in training gentlemen & cannot but attribute some of the failure to this cause - )
Miss Torrance probably told you that Miss Cameron wd. not do for her Successor at Highgate
Miss Barclay she thinks wd. do better than herself. (pen: Yes. I propose to see & sound Miss Barclay shortly & if promising should wish you to see her

H.B.C

P. Alice
I think I must say that
the second Nurse should
be paid for - I stupidly
forgot my offer to receive
gratuitously when before the Committee

H.B.C

We are but just in time, if we are in time, to save Mrs. Wardroper from degenerating into almost a Hospital scold - into governing like a virago - by talk, by being heard & not felt, instead of being felt & not heard - by speaking more than she observes, instead of observing more than she speaks all of which are almost the first elements of authority - And she has them not. She maintains her authority by self-assertion And she is losing it every day -

--
I told her some things about Sister Extra - I saw even more by her countenance than by her words that they were quite new to her -

What are we to think of this?
She told me that she had told Mr. Whitfd. that she was sure that his neglect had come to our Commee's knowledge. I was forced to say: No, it has not - For if it had he wd= not be there - I told her some thing about his intoxication She admitted it - but either did not choose to admit or did not know all that I did. ¶ She said, almost without intending it, that it was quite true that Mr. Whitfd. had done nothing even while Miss Rappe was there - that Miss R. had pointed out to her the words "instruction by the R.M.O." & had defied her to show that there was any.

To my unspeakable regret, Mrs. W. told me herself that she had that very day - when a Probr= had told her that Miss Cameron had ordered her out of her ward & told her 'her ward was her own' - exclaimed there & then to the Probr= "I can dismiss Miss Cameron & every woman in the place at a moment's warning without referring to any one". This is true - But oh what a way to enforce authority - which is the more complete, the less it is perceived or asserted. Miss Torrance may save her. But no one else can. ==

She told me that Mr. Whitfd= among many most unwarrantable things, had said of Miss T. that she "was not a lady" - & almost
said that Miss. T. shd= not come to St. T's.
  Mrs. W. said she had made this & that
excuse to Mr. Wh= for Miss T's absence
of Lady-like ness - !!
  [The idea of  our excellent Mrs Ward=
roper!!! apologizing to me for Miss
Torrance's!! want of lady-like manners!!]
  I only mention this here because I
have long known that Mr. Wh= was afraid
of Miss Torrance. (not from her.)

Also: because Mrs. Wardpr= said to me as
to you that she must not be "tied
down" with Rules as to Miss T. -
  She explained that she meant
vis a vis to the Treasurer.
  But she afterwards said = But I shd= not
like to be "tied down" to her being in the Hospital

{archivist's note: III 31
  72/12 F.N. to Henry Bonham Carter  [May 1872]
  (continuation)}

[3]
at all - I should like to try how it
would do, first" - This is reasonable. But
Alas! who has been "tried" like Miss T.
- we know from nearly 5 years
that she has been the most
successful woman we ever had.
Alas! can we say from Mrs. Wardroper's
12 years that she has been as successful?
[ Mrs. Wardr. added: I liked Miss T. much
  better at Highgate than when she
  was with us - I know this -
  Mrs. Wardr too was afraid of her too
  of her gentle dignity, keen insight & wit.]
However, of course I merely said that
I wd= see Mrs. Wardr= any day - to make
out with her a scheme of duties -
& that she should write to Miss Torrance
"who would work entirely under & thro'
Mrs. Wardr=, & not see me (F.N.)
except at Mrs. Wardr='s desire" -
   Miss T. had asked me to say this.
Mrs. Wardr= took this very graciously -]
   Mrs. Wardr= said she ought to give
Miss T. part of her own Salary -
   I thought this very good of her,
for I am sure it was unfeigned -
   I merely said of course that that
ought not to be -
   & did not pursue salary with Mrs. W.
== salary -
I think what you propose more than
   just & reasonable. £75. {perhaps
£25 more
   later - to Miss T
£20 more (her son's)
to Mrs Wardroper

I will only just mention now that I,
not Miss T., have found & paid the Sol fa a
teacher & other things -
Miss T. was quite right not to tell Mrs. W.
   Indeed I asked her not -
I only mention it to you because Miss. T.
will not "be relieved of those things"
by leaving Highgate -
She is very generous - & I believe helps
a married sister -
Her father is a rich eccentric man.
   I have offered to Mrs Wardr= to pay a
Sol fa teacher for St. Thomas'.

I must now say once more that I am
sure it wd= be quite impossible to Miss
T. to stay at St. T.'s without some
written security or arrangement - at least between Mrs W. & me - which I should hand over to you - Poor Mrs. W. is really capable, alas! and alas!, of ordering her out of the Wards before every body, if upon the wildest suspicion or report that "she is `undermining' Mrs. W." while at the same time almost taken in by such creatures as Martin & Crowdace.

Miss T. herself asked me to say to Mrs. W. that I hoped if any of the Probrs= reported her to Mrs. W., she would immediately inform Miss T. herself - which I did & Miss Mrs. Wardr= took graciously

One thing more: -

Mrs. Wardr= said to me - this is a new beginning for us. - we must try to begin all over again - we must leave off old things - I loved her for saying this - It is quite true. - - - - We must begin now all over again - If we don't, we are ruined - For our Probrs= come out of St. T.'s worse women than they went in.

[I told Mrs. W. this of Mrs. Deeble - She did not deny it - but did not know it]

If you will return me this, I will write more of immediate importance - in greatest haste

[end 12:206]
Most Private & Please return to F.N. Confidential

May 21/72

Mr. Whitfield

has been for years in habits of intoxication - for years he has been in the habit of making his rounds in the Hospital Wards at night (at a later hour than anything could justify after having kept Sisters & Dispensor up till they would wait for him no longer) oftener tipsy than sober.

This appears to be known to every one in the Hospitals - & is supposed to be the reason why he was not offered the Resident Med'= Officer ship at the new building

As far back as 4 years ago this was known And at the same date his flirtations with "Sister" Butler were a current joke as that she was a person absolutely unfit to be "Sister", & was only "kept on" by Mr Whitfield -

For at least the last 4 or 5 years, Mr. Whitfield has done nothing for the Probationers. [I have made the most minute enquiries about this & am personally now well convinced that the "nothing" is literally accurate - neither Medl= Examr= classes - nor saying
anything in the Wards to them of instruction or examn. — nor on bandaging nor in any other way which in 1860, he specially engaged to do — He has not even attended them medically when sick with any regularity.

The lines in his hand writing at the bottom of the record book were simply dictated by Mrs. Wardroper.

The Probrs. were told that he "looked at" their Notes of Lectures — But no benefit or instruction accrued to them, if he did; since no explanation of any thing they did not understand, no criticism, correction or remark of any kind ever reached them.

[Miss Torrance is positive that this was the case during her Probation (21 months) of which she was "Sister" 5 months — While she was "Sister", he was occasionally kind, as e.g. when she had an Ovariotomy case — But his coming in tipsy & late at night was such a nuisance, & his total neglect of the Probrs., that it appears often to have been said that, till Mrs. Wardroper was rid of "Sister Extra" & Mr. Wh=, she would "do no good."]

The quarrels between Mrs. W. & him were so bitter & incessant that I am told they are "friends" now comparatively —

In relation to this, I asked about Mrs. Wardroper =
"oh" said Miss Torrance "he is so infinitely little (small) by the side of her" - "she is so much greater than he is"
I was VERY glad to hear this: from so dispassionate a judgment. I have always thought Mrs. W. had the elements of greatness in her, tho' she has made terrible mistakes -
Mr. Croft

Mr. Wh= quarrelled with him about 4 years ago & has scarcely been in the Surgical Wards since - also has tried to be obnoxious to Mr. C. in every way

It is stated that MR. Croft would make a capital Instructor to the Probrs. - as far as taking pains with them goes -
Also: that he is far more friendly to our "Nursing System" really than Mr. Wh= is.

Miss Torrance asked me in the way of business, as regards her future work with the Probrs., what Mr. Wh= was supposed to do - And I answered in the same way, the way of business. She testified her great surprise-never having had the least idea of the Mr.Wh's engagement with us.

"Has got the Linen in order." Miss T. Says: the Linen
"Sister Extra"

has employed herself - one may almost say systematically - ever since any hint my informants are aware of in undermining Mrs. Wardroper with the Probationers -

It appears that there is scarcely a Probr. to whom she has not spoken against Mrs. W. of her "tempers", &c &c &c

Mrs. Deeble she used to sit up with till 12 o'clock at night - & as far as is known always talking on this topic.

Miss Mackenzie & Miss Torrance had not (respectively) been 2 days in the Home before Sister Extra began abusing Mrs. W. to each

[Miss M. was bursting against Mrs W. when she went to Highgate but of course Miss T. would not listen to her.]

So with others

Sister Extra is just such another as Crowdace - Conduct the same: always telling lies against their Superior to Doctors, Probrs., every body always making mischief - but ingratiating themselves with same Superior by "keeping" Assistant Nurses "off" her - making them civil & cringing to her -

"Extra" however Mrs. W. thinks much more useful than she is - She wants to keep her till she "has got the Linen in order." Miss T. says: the Linen will never be in order till Extra is gone.
She is slovenly, careless, dirty, sinfully unpunctual, unconscientious & deceitful, to a degree I really never saw in a position of trust.

For 21 months she rarely got up to give the Probrs= their breakfasts, more than 10 minutes before they had to go to the Wards -

Miss T. always got up & rang the bell & did the breakfasts herself -

Same with prayers morng- & eveng=

The dirt, noise & disorder of the "Home" is a disgrace to us

And, Miss T. says, the disorder & noise in this new Home is worse than it was in the old.

Already too the new Home is dirty, frowzy, untidy

And Miss T. says her heart sinks within her at going in to it.

Mrs. Wardroper never goes into the Home when she can help it - Sister Extra makes it so intolerable & almost impossible to her to go into it - conniving with some Probrs= to make her coming in seem an "intrusion" [Mrs. Wardroper has told me, F.N., this herself.]

Many have observed what is it that makes Mrs. W. so "afraid" of Extra?

But her black ingratitude & evil speaking "behind backs" of Mrs. W. is her real sin.

And of this it is said Mrs. W. is unconscious.
Mrs. Wardroper

Not considered by the Probrs= as their head at all. Not at all as Matron & pupils -
They look upon her - even the best - as not caring for them personally at all ⚫ or only for her own credit - as worldly "clever, managing, sharp". as there only to find fault with them & to find them good places - & as rather "intruding" when she comes into the "Wards" even - & they look upon themselves as there "to please themselves" or be "promoted".

(I remarked upon Mrs W.s wonderful cleverness, in always finding the right `mot' for each - And Miss T. said: 

(and this is indeed the worst)

Yes: but that makes them think that two can play at that game - that it is WHO can be the cleverest diamond cut diamond & they sometimes openly boast that in the Home that they have "outwitted" Mrs. W. - that they have been cleverer than she - & have got what they wanted by wits against wits.

Of course all this is immensely increased by Extra who really always holds each by the worst part of her -

But Miss T. sadly added: but Mrs. Wardroper never knows the best part of them It is always
who she *likes* - not who is *best*

[Miss Mackenzie has openly boasted that she has `out-witted' Mrs. W. & `got her to take her back to St. T.'s.]

I of course expressed what a great Hospital Genius she was - & how different St. T.'s from Guy's or Barholomew's -

in which Miss T. entirely condurred & added: *yes, and she has done it alone* - nearly every thing against her.

*Miss T. says: oh the Home Wd= do a great deal better without any Sister at all than with `Extra' -*

* regularly grow worse as they remain in the Home. They come in with some earnest purpose - and it is crushed out of them -*

This is the case whether "ladies" or Nurse Probrs-
The "ladies" especially come in with some religious purpose & remain "to please themselves".
The Nurses remain "to ingratiate themselves with Mrs. W. & to get her to give them good situations".

One "Lady=Probr." - (not Miss T.) said: "the Probrs= have not been 2 days in the Home before all "earnestness, all enthusiasm is gone - & many "come in with earnest & even enthusiastic "purpose it is all crushed out of them in 2 "days"

This, of course, is an exaggeration but not so much an exaggeration, accordg= to Miss T.'s acct- as you would think

She "reckoned up - (not) "the several devil's names" (but) the several Probrs= 'names, during her 21 months with us, & said: there was not one - except Miss Pringle - who did not sensibly deteriorate day by day during their stay - And, she said, there was cause but principally "Extra" was cause -
Mrs Deeble

She said was the most marked case of deterioration. She says she is a weak, good, touchy woman, but by no means without earnestness, feeling, kind-heartedness & a certain sort of cleverness but weak -

She fell completely (& prostrate) under "Extra" - She quarrelled incessantly with Mrs. W. -the quarrel originating in Mrs. Deeble not having got up when Mrs. W. came into the Ward - & having been envenomed by "Extra" - Mrs. W. does not know her from Adam - knows her only by their quarrels - [Each seems in this case to have been equally to blame only that little viper "Extra" was always behind the scenes making mischief which otherwise Mrs Deeble's kind heartedness wd= have got over.] Miss T. says, Mrs. Wardroper had no more idea whether Mrs. Deeble wd= do for Netley or not than "Extra" had nor could have - She says it was simply absurd of us to expect it.

Miss Cameron

has much the same tale - which I can fill up partly out of my own knowledge - I mean as to Miss C.'s great earnestness when she first went in to St. T.'s as Probr= - (she wrote to me -)

But Miss C. has more self-knowledge than Mrs. Deeble - And, alas! she has told Miss Torrance

since she went back as Sister to M St.T.'s, how much she is falling back in soul . getting into a lax, careless, light way again - She is flirty & dressy - "cannot stand alone." If she "has a Matron ship, she ought to have her mother to "stay with her, as she herself wishes". but full of good qualities, when you compare her with Duke, Butter, Buckland, Martin (Extra) [Butler?] [I put this in here about the Matron ship, to end my story about Miss C. here]
Mrs. Molony: 17th Brig=R. Artillery
(whom you "wish to be trained
"as Nurse in a London Hospital".)
I send accordingly the Regulations
for admission to our Training-School
at St. Thomas' Hospital
She must please fill up the
Form at the back & send it
to our admirable Training Matron,
Mrs. Wardroper
St. Thomas' Hospital
Westminster Bridge
London SW S.E.
subject to whose selection candidates
are admitted
[I will send the recommendations
which you have been kind
enough to send me to Mrs
Wardroper -]
It is generally desirable to see
Mrs. Wardroper before being
Mrs. (Colonel) Cox

admitted as a Candidate,
in order to avoid disappointment.
And she will, after receiving
Mrs. Molony's papers, inform
her whether there is a vacancy
(there are several vacancies -
but there are a large number
of Candidates)
& whether she thinks it worth
while for her to come to
London for that purpose -
[You do not state Mrs. Molony's
age.]
With my best wishes that she
may succeed.
Florence Nightingale
1/5/72
f72/5.2
I conclude that it is as Hospital `Nurse' that you wish for training for Mrs. Molony - Indeed I should not have doubted it, as no other word occurs in any of the letters relating to Mrs. Molony - And only in Col= Cox's Memo-, (not referring to Mrs. Molony but to the general questions,) does the word "Midwife" occur [The Training=School for Midwives, wh= we had for 7 years at Kings Coll= Hosp=, does not now exist, owing to defects in that Hospital. And we are not yet organizing another.] I send the Printed Paper of "Duties" at St. Thomas' Hospital merely for your information as to the Probationers' School. [end 12:203]

F.N.

Note, ff72/14.1-72/14.2, pen

72/14.1
Please Duties of Sister Miss Torrance return to No 1 [12:210]

F.N.
To take charge (under the Matron - Superintendent) of the Probationer's Home of its housekeeping, accounts, servants, &c &c To take general charge of the Probationers under the Matron: also as to meals, hours &c &c &c to carry out rules - To give such classes, whether religious or of General Improvement, as may be from time to time arranged. To see to the Probrs- preparing Notes of Lectures, Case-books, Diaries, & to verify them To give such superintendence in the wards or in such wards as the Matron may from time to time appoint To read morning & evening prayers in the Home? correspondance concerning the Probatrs. To write undertake all such letters as the Matron may desire - of enquiry concerning selection of Probationers, information sought or given in all that regards the Probationers & the Home
f72/14.1v
(not in F.N.'s handwriting; in another pen)
I think these regulations
embody all that is necessary
but perhaps the effect of
putting them into Mrs. Wardroper's
hand may be to increase
her fear or feeling that she is
to be practically displaced. -
Now we do not want this at
all & I am disposed to think
that in the present stage
the rules should be verbally
discussed between you & her
& the principle of Miss. T.'s being
services being confined to the
Probationers with only such
superintendence in the wards as
is found convenient, would
be poorly understood - I think
you might even read her

f72/14.2
what you want to put down.
When {illeg?} of formal rules
& carried over, they look more
formidable in the sense I refer to.
However this is entirely for your
discretion & you will be better
able to judge in seeing & talking
with her.

She has asked the chaplain to
fix Prayers in the Chapel at
such an hour that Nurses &
Probationers may attend . -
4/6/72 {H.B.C.?} [end 12:210]
11.15 pm
Oldham Infy
Mr. Walters June 5/72
My dear Henry B.C.
I know not whether you have
written to this man.
I learnt from Mrs. Wardr= yesterday
quite enough about against "Emma Hood"
tallying as it does with my own
recollections of Agnes Jones'
poor opinion
of her - to justify me in writing
`confidentially' to Mr. Walters.
And I told Mrs. Wardr= that I
should do so, if with your adhesion.
She agreed.

She thought that they should
have 1 (Matron) Sups= Nurse
2 Nurses (Day
1 Nurse (Night
She thought that we might
furnish them with the 3 first
or with all 4 if you liked.

She thought that Miss Hill
wd= do for the first - having
charge of housekeeping & servants
- wd- be content to begin with
£40 or £50 -
(or Miss Cameron would do -
and I think Mrs. Wardr= would
rather part with Cameron than Hill.
But then Cameron has just
taken a house for her mother
in London + to be near her)
She thought that we could
not give 2 Nurses of ours, under
£20 a year "& all found"
- & that they ought to give this
- because you see these Nurses
will have nothing like the
help ours have - indeed
one will be obliged to take
charge of both Wards whenever
the other is out.
Also = a new Hospl- ought to start well. Will you say whether I shall write? -  
if so, what? & if so return me Mr. Walters' letter to me?  
F.N.  

What are we to say to this man?  
I did not remember the Hospl. was so small. But I think I recollect that it was built on purpose so as to admit readily of further extension, if needful.  
A Sups= Sister, to do Matron's work, is more what they want - since they will scarcely pay  
1 Matron  
2 Sisters (Head Nurses)  
for 24 beds -  
One of our Sisters wd= do very well.  
And oh how glad I shd= be to get rid of Butter [?] - But we can scarcely give them a Butler - & we cannot spare a good one.  
I suppose it is vain to try & find out from Mrs. Wardr- 
what sort "Emma Hood" is - ? -  
[I have the vaguest idea: Agnes Jones did not like her. But I may be quite mistaken in the name.]  
F.N.  

{single side of one folio, part of a letter, signed by H.B.C.}  
{the microfilm ends here}
Memorandum of Agreement

made this _______day of__________1854 Between
Miss Nightingale on the one part, and ________
of________________ on the other part.
Whereas the said Miss Nightingale Superintendent has
undertaken to provide Female Nurses for the Sick and
Wounded of the British Army serving in Turkey. And
in carrying out this object she has agreed to employ
the said____________ in the capacity of
Nurse ______________ agrees to pay
the said______________ Pounds per week, and
also to provide Board, and articles of clothing, also to
pay all expenses attendant upon the Journeying to or
from the present, or any future Hospital that may be
appointed for the accommodation of the Sick and Wounded
of the said Army. And to pay all expenses of return to
this Country, should Sickness render it necessary for the
said________________ to return, Save and except
such return shall be rendered necessary, by the discharge
of the said_________________ for neglect of duty,
immoral conduct, or intoxication, in which case the
said________________________shall forfeit all claim
upon Miss Nightingale from the period of such
discharge. And the said________________________
hereby agrees to devote her whole time and attention
to the purposes aforesaid under the directions and to the
satisfaction of the said Superintendent, the whole
of whose orders she undertakes to obey, until discharged
by the said Superintendent.

Witness. [end 14:51]
My dear Lord,

Miss Nightingale has consented to out to Scutari to understake the Hosp management of the female nursing—Her great hospital experience shall carry [convey?] a surgical treatment together with her administrative capacity peculiarly fit her for this undertaking and in a military hospital where subordination is everything, without ...

Would you kindly send Mr Shepherd to me Perhaps he would call at the


H1/ST/NC3/SU4 letter from Charlotte, Mrs Willoughby Moore, incomplete Oct 12


H1/ST/NC3/SU6 incomplete letter re Dr Smith informs Rev Shepherd re medical officers in Turkey have everything necessary for treatment of the sick and wounded from AMD 13 St James’ Place 6 Nov 1854

H1/ST/NC3/SU7 letter from Scutari Hosp from C.H. Bracebridge to Rev T.B. Murray [see] re FN, nurses, chaplains


H1/ST/NC3/SU9 copy of letter from St John’s House Nov 16 1854 from C.P. Shepherd to Rev C.S. Nicolay
Barrack Hospital
Scutari
5 December 1854

Dear Miss Gipps,

I have no time but to make the shortest communication, as you may suppose when I tell you that I have not yet written to my own people—

I have now had one month's experience of the St. John's Sisters. Mrs. Drake is invaluable, kind, careful, modest—Mrs. Lawfield, since the "blow-up" about the Caps, of which Mr. Bowman may have told you, has been quite a different person & she is now, though not skilful (she does not know a fractured limb when she sees it) one of the most valuable nurses I have from her great propriety of conduct & kindness. Her very expression of countenance is altered & improved.

With regard to the other four, I fear that nothing can be made of them here - tho' I have no doubt that, as private
nurses in England, they may be very good. Their manners are so flibbertygibbet, (though with the exception of Mrs. Higgins, I suspect no greater impropriety) that they do not command the respect imperatively necessary where forty women are turned loose among three thousand men. They do not keep the rules which I have made to ensure female decorum, but run scampering over the wards by themselves at night, feeding the men without medical orders - Their dressings of wounds are careless & slovenly - & they will not take a hint, except from me- I have consequently employed them less in nursing, & more in making Stump Pillows etc for the men etc than I shd otherwise have done with the view of protecting them - And they said, which is very true, that they did not come out for needlework, they have consequently done little or nothing. I fear they must be recalled, which I should very much prefer should arise thus, because you want them, rather than because I don’t - Yours ever F Nightingale I hope you are better. [end 14:71]
Gentlemen

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from Mrs. Jones, Lady Supt of the 22nd inst & I have also had a letter from Mr. Bowman of the 26th ult.

From these letters it appears that the St. John’s Nurses have expressed themselves as aggrieved by a rule restricting them from “speaking to patients” by “want of sympathy from others” & “want of due consideration towards themselves.” It seems also to be thought that I passed some severe censure upon their want of “surgical” skill.

In reply I have only to say that it was by the information alone which I received from the Nurses (for I felt it necessary to ask their explanation) that I could understand what the above weighty expressions could
refer to which seem derived from a very serious examination of the hasty & inaccurate letters of those not much accustomed to detail facts or to explain their feelings in writing.

The rule against reading to patients in a Military Hospital without the Chaplain’s leave (observed alike by every one) is the only approximation to the supposed interdiction of speaking. As to “sympathy” & “consideration,” they can only explain that “Mrs. Clarke” did not “speak to them respectfully & they were not accustomed to it.” Mrs. Clarke, as I believe, though somewhat brusque, sets them an example of incessant labor & anxiety to fulfil her duties. But their main complaints were against Mrs. Lawfield, one of their own body and jealousies of Mrs. Drake.

Had they given me any opportunity of setting matters right I might have convinced them of the impropriety of lightly
taking offence. The enormous pressure of the Sick Cases on us, the supplying them with the proper food, & the supply of the wards with utensils, clothing etc. form a task of so very heavy a nature that I am wholly unable to enquire into trifles which I know nothing of & which were not intimated to me at all, though constantly passing the common room for at least sixteen hours out of the twenty four.

In conclusion, I trust that it may not be deemed offensive to say that the frivolous & really unfounded charges of the letters, which have obtained such grave consideration at your hands, confirms me in the idea that the St. John’s Nurses are not well fitted for the work of this Hospital, nor have they improved by experience.

I have therefore given to four of them your letters of recall, since receiving their explanations, & shall only await a convenient opportunity for their return.

I had hoped to have found some serious devotion to the cause we are engaged in- but have no other complaint to make.

P.S. I cannot too strongly draw your attention to the difference between a Military & a London Hospital- to the consequent necessity of different rules & to the probability of the Nurses in question doing extremely well in private nursing at home- but not among the Officers here.
My dear Sir

My poor Drake is dead - & you who knew her will know what a loss I have had - the better for her. She died on Thursday the 9th of August of low fever at Balaclava. I am expecting the body to be sent down with a Nurse to be buried at Scutari. I cannot tell you what I felt when I heard of her death - unexpected.
with low fever, but it was not considered serious, & I heard every post that she was going to be put on board ship with her nurse, Mrs. Davy, to return to me for change. Last Monday I heard of her unexpected death. I have lost in her the best of all the women here - And I can only comfort myself with the idea that hers is the gain. I never thought she would be long-lived. But it seems doubtful whether her life has been shortened alike by all. Her two physicians thought her going on well - & every vessel that came down from Balaclava I was expecting her in - as she was coming to me to recruit. When I went up to Balaclava in the beginning of May, she entreated me to let her go with me. And I declined her going, thinking her far from equal to it. I had already refused a previous request of hers to go to Balaclava.
She was a good deal mortified— as she had set her heart upon going. When I came back ill, to Scutari, she again requested to go— & this time I yielded to her earnest wish, which I shall regret as long as I live. I yielded only upon the condition that she would write to me constantly & if she did not like Balaclava, would tell me so instantly— She had hardly been there a fortnight before she wrote to me that she did not like it & wished to come back. Though it was the first time I had been able to take a pen in my hand, I wrote to her by return of post, desiring her to return immediately. The next thing I heard was that she was gone for change of air to the Monastery of St. George with My Superintendent which is our Convalescent Institution at Balaclava. While there, she was attacked
Once I proposed to her to go home. She rejected the idea entirely. Said she was better here than in England. She had one of my best Nurses to herself, who never left her night or day & was most tender to her — as well as the Superintendent at Balaclava, Miss Wear, who loved her as much as I did. She was not attached to life — She had suffered very much in it — & I think she never expected to return.

For, before she went to B’clava, she packed up everything she had & directed them to St. John’s, “in case of my death” she said.

I shall therefore send all her things to you & now enclose a Cheque, which comprises what was due to her of wages & £5 more as a present. For she was very kind to a widowed sister with children at Birmingham— I will send you this person’s direction, if you have it not, & will ask you to write to her. I shall put up a
stone to her memory - as I have done to another Nurse whom we lost, - And I shall be very glad to assist the poor sister further if you judge it necessary, which is due to my poor Drake’s memory.

I need not tell you how sorry I was for Mrs. Lawfield’s change of religion. I think she already regrets the step she has taken. I have not given her the pleasure or the spur of thinking herself persecuted. & have passed over many things that she might not be a martyr. but I must
tell you that she has a daughter living with an aunt of the name of Doudney at Melton Mowbray - & two little boys with her husband’s father & that she is wishing to place all these at Convent Schools - in London. This is manifestly not right & should be prevented if possible. The girl is 15 years old - quite old enough to judge for herself.

Believe me Dear Sir

Yours Truly
Florence Nightingale

Please remember me kindly to Miss Jones - I would have written to her, but am so pressed by business.

[end 14:215]
Scutari  
August 21/55 [14:215]

Dear Sir

Poor Mrs. Drake’s last request was that £5 should be sent at once to her Sister at Birmingham.

Mrs. Dingley
108 Bramsgrove St.
Birmingham

I have since received the enclosed letter for her, which I opened, hoping to find the address of her father. But there is no date but Bath.  

I have sent you the whole of her wages and £5 more – & leave you to do what you think right. As she seems to have left no other directions. I shall also send the whole of her things to you – as soon as I can collect them from Balaclava & here.

Mrs. Lawfield has asked me to place her daughter at a Convent in London. I encourage her to talk to me as much as possible – as she otherwise falls into the hands of a silly little Priest here & an unprincipled R. Catholic Nurse whom I have dismissed but who is still here at Scutari. It is impossible that I should perform her request, without the consent of the girl, who is 14 or 15, & who lives, as I told you, at her Aunt’s

Mrs Doudney’s Melton Mowbray
I wish you could obtain some information as to this poor girl’s situation, with which her Mother for whom I have a real regard, in spite of or perhaps because of all the trouble & grief she has caused me, is dissatisfied.

My poor friend, Mrs. Drake, was buried at Balaclava, the Commander-in-Chief having refused permission to let her remains be removed to Scutari. I am putting up a tomb to her - Yours truly [end 14:215]

F Nightingale

Scutari [14:216]
August 27/55
Dear Sir
I have just received poor Mrs. Drake’s last directions to me. She wished the whole of her money to go to her sister at Birmingham & the whole of her things, which I will send you - (with the exception of St. John’s things & box which were to go to you which I have here & will also send you). She wished the her box which you have at St. John’s & in which there are none of St. John’s things also to go to her sister at Birmingham & her watch which I will send. [end 14:216]

She sent me her love & duty & regretted that she had not returned to Scutari when I desired her. In haste believe me dear Sir Yours truly F Nightingale
Scutari Hospital
August 28/55
My dear sir
I embarked by the
“Edwin Fox” Sailing Vessel
for England, this morning,
all poor Mrs. Drake’s
things, consisting of 2
boxes- In the large
box (which is St John’s
property) are (also St
John’s property)
1 shawl
2 gowns (1 unmade
1 flannel petticoat (unmade)
& 4 linen Aprons (1 unmade
She sends home for you
1 bottle Scent
which she prays you to accept
[end 14:216]
H1/ST/NC3/SU48 C.H. Bracebridge to Sir Dec 3 1855 note re CHB note Master of ST John’s House presents his compliments to Lady Cranworth and according to sugg of Mr Bracebridge takes the liberty of sending her the enclosed [next] note

H1/ST/NC3/SU49 Lady Cranworth to Master of St John’s House

H1/ST/NC3/SU50 Emma Fagg Dec 8 1856 re wages & board to Sir, C.P Shepherd, master of St John’s House

Letter 51 page 68, dated Nov 2 1861, LMA3 H1/ST/NC3/SU5

Hampstead NW
Nov 2/61

Sir
I beg to thank you for your note of Oct 24, enclosing a copy of a Resolution of the Council of St. John’s House-which I have forwarded to my Committee, who will certainly reply to it in a suitable manner.

But on my own part, I should be very much indebted to you if you would take an opportunity to assure the President or any Members of the Council of St John’s House how deep is my conviction that the
obligation is all on one side—that we have, I fear, increased your expences, certainly increased very much the labour of all the Officers of St. John’s House—& that the only return to them will be extension of the good they are doing -- in, as we believe, a very useful direction.

In all other respects, I am afraid we have done nothing but increase their anxiety & fatigue, And it is not for us to say that this is doing what they are good enough to consider a benefit.

I remain

your faithful & obliged servt.

Florence Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU52 newspaper cuttings re Nurse Emma Fagg in workhouse, entered SU53 newspaper cuttings later corr not FN

SU59 Samuel Smith to J. McNeill re interview July 24 [1855] 00131

SU60 Parthe Nightingale to J. McNeill July 4 [1855]

SU61 Parthe Nightingale to J. McNeill Feb [arch 1856?] seems more like 1855 re difficulties with RC nurses

SU62 Parthe Nightingale to J. McNeill n.d. re FN’s health
Suffice it to say that now at the eleventh hour, peace concluded, flags flying, army supposed to be next door to perfection, I have had a three weeks bout in the Crimea worse that anything we have had since Nov /54.

On our [?] first arrival here last month we were ten days without rations by Mr Fitzgerald’s malice. When I moved into this Hospital the day of Mrs Bridgeman’s departure, Sir John Hall gave the nurses huts over my head to Purveyor’s clerks. I sat down before the door, being then dark, & said quietly that I should stay there till the keys were brought. In about 2 hours they were produced. Every day for the last week it has been repetition of the same thing a contest for stores for the patients for food, lodging “have to toil,” for ourselves. Your pigstye is cleaner than our quarters.

or than the wards of the Hospital as left by Mrs Bridgeman. The patients were grimed with dirt, infested with vermin with bed sores like Lazarus. I have never seen but one similar scene to it. Mrs Roberts & the Scutari nuns whom I brought with me were horrified. After two days hard white washing & cleaning, after three [?] days washing & dressing the patients, one of whom takes Mrs Roberts six hours daily, being one mass of bed sores, Sir John Hall visited the Hospital & wrote
an angry letter, saying that he was “dispirited” at the state of the Hospital & ordered it all to be put back into the admirable order it was in previously instructing the PMO of the Hospital, who shewed me the letter, “not to interfere with the Purveyor Mr Fitzgerald’s arrangements.”

This is the man on whom the lives & healths of the army in great measure depend (for he is clever & this is all temper)

H1/ST/NC/SU64 Parthe Nightingale to J. McNeill


Lea Hurst
Matlock
Sept 4/56
My Dear Sir
My father & I shall be at Edinburgh about the 10th or 11th. It would give me so very much pleasure to see you & also so much help to ask your advice upon a matter of business.

If I might find a line from you at the P.O. Edinburgh, my father would call upon you, if you were at home.
Do you know whether Colonel Tulloch is likely to be in the neighbourhood about that time?
I am like an
outlaw, playing hide & seek. & will ask you not to say that I am coming - to any one but him, if you see him. Pray believe me My dear Sir Yours faithfully & gratefully F. Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU66 J. McNeill letter to FN, from Granton House Sept 5 1856, “My dear Miss Florence” with invitation to stay, just rec’d her letter of yesterday, will be in west of Scotland, then they will be at home. “it would give us all very great pleasure if Mr Nightingale and you would do us the favour to set aside the formalities of calls and come here from the railway station. We are only 3 miles from Edinburgh on the shores of Firth of Forth, but I am quite sure that our little retreat is a much much safer hiding place than you can find in Edinburgh and we have abundance of room for Mr Nightingale and you as well as for your man and your maid--no one shall know of your being here but those to whom you choose to let it be known and as the carriage takes me to Edinburgh every morning at half past ten and brings me back between three and four you can go there and return unobserved if you desire it.”


Lea Hurst Matlock Sept 8/56 My dear Sir I know not how to thank you & Lady McNeill for your very kind invitation to my father & myself. We both very much regret that, owing to the uncertainty which has crept into our plans occasioned by the illness of a friend in Scotland, we are obliged to decline your kindness. But we shall still hope to be in Edinburgh time enough to have the pleasure of catching a meeting with you. Believe me, My dear Sir Yours very truly & gratefully F. Nightingale
Birk Hall
Ballater
Florence Sept 27/56
Nightingale
My dear Sir John McNeill
We were to have
gone South on Monday,
but the Queen was
here yesterday, and
expressed her wish
that I should
remain to see Lord
Panmure in such
a manner that I
could not decline.
She said that she

thought I could do \{(68a)\}
more with him
here with her to
back me than in
London. The terrible
Secretary for War does
not come till the
latter end of next
week. And we do
not know whether
he will desire
more than one

interview with me. \{(68b)\}
Therefore we are
quite uncertain
as to what day
after the 6th October
we shall go South -
but it will be
the first day we
can do so.

We are very much
gratified at Lady
McNeill’s most
kind repetition of 
her wish to see us
on our way, which
I have just received.
And as soon as we
know our fate, I shall
certainly try our luck
with you by writing
to Lady McNeill to
know whether she
can still receive us.
It would give us such
very great pleasure
to spend a couple
of days with you, if
you are still at
liberty.

In the meanwhile,
might I ask you to
write me a few
lines, if any hints
occur to you which
you can give me
as to my interview
with Lord Panmure.

I was in hopes to
have seen you again before
I saw him.
My hopes were
somewhat raised by
the great willingness
of the Queen, P. Albert
& Sir George Grey, all
of whom I have seen
together & separately,
to listen & to ask
questions. But I am
somewhat alarmed at the Prince’s predilection for the Horse Guards. The points on which I would particularly solicit your attention if you would give me your advice, are
1. the distribution of authority & of accountability in Military Hospitals
2. the checks in their expenditure
3. the division of labor
4. the whole system of army Medl. Statistics.

I tried to insense the Prince with the fact that there are now 8 Departments at work in our Hospitals, none of whom have any responsibility. How many Departments would you have & what should be their responsibility of each?

The Queen accepted with great grace my proposition which I derived desired from you, of writing to Lord Panmure & sending H.M. the letter, & indicated immediately a member of her household
tho’ whom I was to send it. So far so good. But I know how many are the chances against any reform being actually put in practice - to my cost.

In the meantime, there is no man in England who could give me such advice as yourself. If you will kindly interest yourself to do so, & with our most grateful remembrances to you & Lady McNeill.

believe me ever dear Sir John

Yours very truly & gratefully Florence Nightingale

Pray do not forget to thank Lady McNeill for me for her letter

turn over
Prince Albert alluded (69g) to Filder’s excuse (as to want of transport) for not giving us fresh meat. As if he believed it. I answered generally that you had supplied us with fresh meat immediately. But I should like much to be able to give him an accurate & detailed answer as to the transport loss. The subject will come up again. Would you furnish me with one?

H1/ST/NC3/SU69 Lord Napier to J. McNeill Dec 14 [56] asks for FN’s address, 6 Ainslie Place


7 Oct. 1856
Dear Lady McNeill
Your great kindness in writing to me to remind me of your invitation encourages me in proposing myself to you, alone. My father has, I am sorry to say, turned tail & fled. He was cold in the Highlands, had a cold & went home. I shall be at Edinburgh. I believe on the 10th. And I would gladly come to you on the 11th for that day and Sunday, if it will be convenient to you & if I shall not be in your way.
I do not answer Sir John McNeill two kind letters now, because I shall have much to tell & to hear from him. I have seen Lord Panmure in private more than once. He is just as much convinced of the truth in all the Commission matters as we are. But he wants the stuff to make a great Minister. Conviction is not everything. He has no courage or conscientiousness.

Would you give me one line to Barry’s Hotel to say whether it will be an inconvenience to you to receive me?

I had an opportunity of telling the Prince the whole story of the fresh meat & transports & was very glad to be able to do so. Believe Me dear Lady McNeill in haste Yours very truly & gratefully Florence Nightingale

Birk Hall
Oct 7/56

30 Old Burlington St [14:471-72]

London Dec 15/56

Private
My dear Sir John McNeill

Thank you very much for ten most valuable Memoranda, which you have so kindly sent me, relating to the Government of General Army Hospitals. You will see how largely I have borrowed from you.

I am not yet nearly ready. But I shall certainly avail myself of your most kind offer to look over & criticize, without mercy, my Precis when it is finished. And you will not find it a “thankless” office, at all events, to give advice - tho’ I fear, a very troublesome one.

Everything goes on very slowly. Gout is a very handy thing - & Lord Panmure always has it in his hands,
whenever he is called upon to do any thing - The three things which he himself commissioned me to do for him, all hang fire. These are, a Report on the plans of the new Southampton Hospital, of which the Sanitary defects are many & important. This is still in his hands. 2. An Army Medical School. 3. the Commission of Inquiry into Army Medical & Sanitary things in general, which, altho’ he has already offered the Chairmanship of it to Mr. Herbert, does not get itself named. I believe he is driving it off till Parliament meets.

I hope that Col. Tulloch has sent you his Pamphlet. He has sent me the Proof - and it concerns me much. I wish someone of more authority than I am would tell him that it must be shorter, calmer, more like your Report, in fact, & less like Lord Lucan himself. Whose case, by the bye, I should dispose of, were I Col. Tulloch, by merely printing in three columns (in a Tabular Form), Lord Lucan’s own “General Divisional Order,” his Evidence before the Board & the finding of the Board side by side. This would convince the Public more than any words. I would refrain from any comment whatever. Col. Tulloch looks very ill.

You will, of course, observe that Lord Panmure’s doings with me are for yourself alone, & believe me ever

Your most gratefully & faithfully

Florence Nightingale

I was much obliged to Sir J. Richardson for valuable information. [end]
Feb 20/57

My dear Mrs. Tulloch

I feel quite differently from what you do about the £1000. I feel so angry that I am glad they have been such fools as to offer it.

Col. Tulloch has called me “a peace maker” But, if he & Sir John McNeill do not put a letter in the “Times,”

(Provided the offer has been made so that they can speak out,) I think I shall do it myself.

Do you know I am sure the British Lion will sympathize in this insult? And if it does not, then it is a degraded beast-

Please let me tell Mr Herbert- I shall unless you order me not.

Believe me yours overflowingly

F. Nightingale

I saw Mr Herbert again today & I am sure he is disposed to behave well.

As to these Ministers I am not surprised at any selfish cowardice or unfeeling neglect, but I am surprised at their folly & their ignorance of the men they were dealing with.

F.N.
I wish they would let me write the letter in the “Times for them. This is Airey’s doing depend upon it. For Lord Palmerston is a gentleman, tho’ Panmure is not.

H1/ST/NC3/SU74 letter from Col Tulloch to J. McNeill Feb 20/57

H1/ST/NC3/SU74: pen: letter to Sir John McNeill. [in V&N], handwritten also in 45768 ff29-, but different?

30 Old Burlington St. W. London
March 1/57
My dear Sir John McNeill
I have often thought of Lord Dunfermline’s words since we parted, & what I am now going to say will be but too sad a commentary upon them.
I think our cause is lost & that those who deny it feel it even more than those who acknowledge it.
Col. Tulloch will not see that the H. of C. is against or rather indifferent to him - At every successive failure, he promises he will refrain & go abroad. But he never does. And now he will write to Lord Palmerston. Ld Palmerston knows the truth just as well as you or I do. And the
real meaning of what he said in the House was “I would make the Crimean Commissioners both Dukes, if I could. But I cannot do anything to throw odium upon a party which is strong enough to turn me out.”

& that he disquiets himself in vain. There is less chance of Reform now than before the War. v. H. of C. for the last 3 weeks, v. Army Estimates.

Eight months ago, had Ld Palmerston chosen to play a great game & say, “I will have Army Reform, & if the H. of C. is against me, let me see if the country is for me,” - he might have won. Now it is too late. The opportunity is lost & we shall not see another in our life time.

The Army is strong enough now in the H. of C. to turn out any Ministry as it has always been in the H. of Lords.

For, besides the aristocratic weight & influence it always had, it has now an additional prestige in the late War.

Messrs. Herbert and Gladstone are dead (not in “trespasses & sins” but) in indifference & party-spirit. They do not choose to lose a motion in Parlt., which they would do if they moved in this matter. Politically, they may be right. Aesthetically, they are surely wrong. They would stand much better in the country ten years hence, if they did the honourable thing now.

Mr. Herbert is ill & probably going abroad- which will put off the “Commission” we were going to have, with him as Chairman.

Lord Panmure has no other rule of conduct than that of staving off every question which will give him trouble, till the public interest in it
subsides, leaving to the Aristocracy their honors & to the people their money, and “keeping himself in.”

The Army Estimates cut down every thing that has to do with the scientific element of the Army, with the health, efficiency, morality of the soldier, while it leaves all the Staff appointments.

Lord Panmure has broken all his promises, defeated all reform by his inertia, for his passive resistance, the easiest of all to make, is the most difficult to overcome.

Silently, all over the country, no doubt this is sapping the country’s trust in the Aristocracy more than any thing else could have done.

Had Lord Palmerston been a younger man, this never could have happened. But he has not the power to cope with such a multiplicity of subjects, alone in the Cabinet & he sacrifices the great interests of the nation for those of his Order, for which, at heart, he does not care a Corporal’s button.

With our present amount of Sanitary Knowledge, it is as criminal to have a mortality of 17, 19 & 20 per 1000 in the Line, Artillery, & Guards in England, - when that of Civil Life in towns is only 11 per 1000 - as it would be to take 1100 men per ann. out upon Salisbury plain & shoot them. No body of men being so much under control, none so dependent upon their employers for health, life & morality as the Army.

I want to be out of it as soon as I can. And in three months I shall take service in a Civil Hospital.
All the materials of my Precis are ready but no criticism upon it which is worth having. Dr. Sutherland has read it. But his opinion was that I must “confine it to facts & experience, for the Army would stand no opinions & give nothing but propositions for the future, for evidence as to the past would be torn to shreds.” This Paraphrase does not sound strictly logical, but is not less true for that.

The Precis will do no more good than so many abler & better Reports have done - & I would willingly not send it in at all. But, if I do, I must have a sounder opinion upon it.

Would you write to me, P.O. Great Malvern, & say whether you could now give me that opinion you so kindly promised?

I much wish you could have been in London the last three weeks. With kindest regards to Lady McNeill & Miss Ferooza believe me always faithfully & gratefully yours

Florence Nightingale
30 Burlington St.
London W
March 28/57

My dear Sir,

I feel that I cannot do otherwise than accept your kind invitation to me to come down & hear your candid criticism - if it were only to save you the trouble of writing to me or coming up to London.

I think I could come Wednesday or Thursday, & shall only bring a maid. But I will write again to Lady McNeill to apprise her of the burden put upon her & the day. I only trust that she will not make it a burden, but will just treat me as a campaigner, who have long been happiest to be put anywhere, & to let business always come first.

I shall be guided entirely by your judgement as to re-writing the whole or any part or suppressing it entirely. I am but too grateful that you will take the trouble to give that valuable opinion entirely & openly.

I have little hope of Reform. What is politically fun to our Masters is death to us. The dis-graceful state of our Chatham Hospitals, which I have been visiting lately, is only one more symptom of a system which, in the
Crimea, put to death
16,000 men - the finest
experiment modern
history has seen upon
a large scale - viz. as to
what given number may
be put to death at will
by the sole agency of bad
food & bad air? - But
a deeper tragedy is being
played every day at home,
viz. by Lord Panmure’s
indifference, by Andrew
Smith’s ignorance, by
H.M.’s Opposition’s party=
spirit. While the heads
of the War Department

have men’s lives abso=
lutely in their own hands
& care not.
I write in great haste
& can only add my deep
gratitude to you & to
Lady McNeill for your
kindness & protection &
your true support - &

Believe Me
dear Sir John
Ever faithfully yours
Florence Nightingale
30 Old Burlington St.
London W.
April 22/57
My dear Lady McNeill
I cannot tell you how I enjoyed my stay with you. I think Granton House is the most poetic place I ever saw. And your kindness I never can forget. I have often thought that it was a compensation for our terrible failure that it brought us into communication with such people. As it was a compensation to our awful calamity that it brought out the endurance of our men.

Now however I write upon business, which is always in my mercantile thoughts. The commercial spirit of Great Britain is strong within me. Do you think you would make interest with Mr. Steele to let me have permission to take a Photograph of his bust of Sir John McNeill? I am sorry the poor Clay is gone.

NB. I was delighted to be able to say, in answer to an application
similar to that of Mr. Steele to me yesterday that I stood pledged to Sir John McNeill to dispose of my remains for the benefit of Science only & to go down to posterity in a bottle (of spts of wine) if I am curious enough. It is at once becoming & professional for me to have my Portrait thus.

I hope that you will let us know when you come to London, if you do. Please give my kindest remembrances to Miss Ferooza - & also remember me to Miss Lizzie, if she is with you. And say to Mrs. Glbb that she kindly provisioned my Garrison so liberally that I have half of it left still.

Believe me ever, dear Lady McNeill, most affectely. & gratefully Yrs

Florence Nightingale


30 Old Burlington St [14:502-04]
London W.
April 22/57
My dear Sir John McNeill I have so little time to write now that I cannot [illeg] give myself the indulgence of telling you how much good you did me, body, soul & mind. Yours is another atmosphere from what I am used to. And, reckoning the life of a man at f120, which is my manifesta-
Sir John McNeill

you value your Crimean expedition at the number of lives you have saved, & will save in our army, you may add one more for mine.

But what I write for today is to say:
The question of “uniform stoppage” is now under consideration at the War Department. Now is the time to get the Ration & Diet questions tacked on to it.

I have urged a Civilian Commission of Professor Christison, Dr. Letheby & Dr. Sutherland to settle it. But I doubt whether I shall obtain it. (I fear, too that Lord Panmure wishes the Stoppage question to be decided before we have our Medical Commission). If Professor Christison has sufficiently the interest of our Army at heart to give his valuable time, & write us two schemes of

1. Rations &
2. Hospital Diets, it would be of the utmost importance just now. His name stands highest in Europe upon the Dietetic question - & would carry public opinion with it for us.

I have been urged to present a separate memorial upon Diets now immediately. And, if Professor Christison
would condescend to give his two Schemes with his authority, I believe it might carry the point.
Could you explain to him,
1. the immense confusion of the present scheme of Stoppages.
   It is now proposed to have an uniform stoppage of 7d - Hospital Stoppage excluded.
   I want to include it - shewing that the (undoubtedly) greater expence of Hospital Diet over Ration would be compensated to the country by the reduction of office=clerks, who are now necessary to keep the accounts.
2. If you would explain to him our cumbrous machinery of "Extras"?
   I have studied the Edinburgh Diets, which you were so good as to send me, & shewn them to Dr. Sutherland, who agrees with me that they are admirable for our purpose.
   Some modification, however, would be required for a Military Hospital Diet, - as females children aged people would be excluded.
   Nine Diets would probably be unnecessary (the Edinburgh number)- & porridge would probably not find favor in our sight. Also, I think the Costs, 2 1/2 d, 4 3/4 d, 4 1/2d, 5 1/2d, 3 1/2 d, 4 d, would be
greater in England. I am sorry they have pitched their Stoppage, 7d, so high. But it is better than Col. Tulloch’s 10d.

If Dr. Christison, taking all these things into consideration,* would construct the two Schemes required for us & give them the weight of his sig=nature, he would be doing us a national benefit. And I would take care to work the question – with your help

*as also the effects of climate upon constitution in our men suffering from Colonial Service as affecting Hospital Diets.

I have seen Colonel Sir Alexander Murray Tulloch who is well. I never saw a man so happy or so changed for the better. I asked myself (but not him) somewhat sadly, if a civil K.C.B.ship did, after all, settle the question between him & his persecutors, which is purely a Military one. However the vote of the H. of C. is the main thing, & I think your Privy Councillorship is the best thing they have done.
I have put my M.S. into Harrison’s hands - & I shall gratefully avail myself of your most generous offer to take the trouble of cutting up the proofs, which I will send you when I get them.

I shall never forget your kindness, & believe me, dear Sir John, ever most faithfully & most gratefully yours

F. Nightingale

P.S. 1

I hope you will not forget me when you come to London.

General Cameron is to direct the Officers’ education, a very honest man.

P.S. 2.

I have seen Capt. Laffan & Co. upon the Southton Hospital. They are very amenable. Could you tell me of any Hospital or Work-house where the Encaustic Tile, or other impervious floor, has stood the test of experience.

If I could cite an example, I should do better. They will have wood.

P.S. 3. I think Dr. Christison’s estimate of spaces, necessary for Patients, was

9 ft from head to head
10 ft to middle of passage
14 ft high

Am I right?

F.N.
30 Old Burlington St.  
London W.  
May 3/57

My dear Sir John

I have ventured to send you one Proof Sheet – 
And herewith come two others, tho’ I doubt, if you can judge, without seeing the whole at once, I mean, consecutively. Dickens’s monthly Nos= are my abhorrence. I thought you were too indulgent, when you were so good as to read the M.S. with me. Pray be so good as to cut & carve this, as you think

think best.  

I have been much worried by making the acquaintance of Kinglake, the historian (to be) of the late War. He has no judicial mind. Not much feeling. Not much conscience. And takes a superficial view of the whole thing. But his history will be as clever as everything he writes, & every body will read it & be deceived. He repeated to me all the fadaises of the Staff & he gives the whole fund
of unexamined common places, (which one has heard so often about the non-supply of clothing &c and the Q.M.G.’s Dept.-) as historical material.

I have sent him cut up your Blue Book & that of the Chelsea Board, pasted the extracts on opposite sheets, & sent them to him without comment. I do not expect that he has the power of obtaining information or of estimating its relative value when obtained. And therefore, tho’ I have no doubt he is a good counsel, he strikes me as a very bad historian. Col. Tulloch’s temper & discretion are not to be relied upon, or I would have referred Kinglake to him. But Kinglake questions Col. T’s doubts his accuracy, which shews his own want of it. Nothing is so worrying as this affair.

Our Commission is out, & Drs. Sutherland & Alexander & I are drawing up our subjects. I have not one witness to summon for Scutari General Hospitals - on our side.

{written on first page of letter down left side}

ever sincerely & gratefully yours

F. Nightingale
30 Old Burlington St
London W
May 12/57
My dear Sir John McNeill
I send you with very many thanks, another sheet.
Yours ever gratefully & faithfully
F. Nightingale
I direct my letter with a very great deal of pleasure. I consider that you & Sir Alex. Tulloch have been borne on the arms of the people - a much higher triumph than a mere discernment of honors by the Crown.

The poor Crown has been worsted. I am sorry for it. But it was not our fault.

I have been guilty of every kind of official subservience & cringing to those in power. But I have never yet been able to direct to Lord Panmure “the Right Honble,” for fear of its creeping out some day “the Right Dishonble,” a breach of decorum which would be as awkward as getting up in church to answer the preacher.
I venture to send another sheet. We “messed” the Commission yesterday. I think it is getting on swimmingly. But I know they will break down at the mode of organizing Supply. I wish we had your advice in this matter. Mr. Herbert is nervous about it. They begin examining Purveyors tomorrow.

Ever faithfully yours

May 14/57 F Nightingale

At our first meeting I proposed to the comn to take our subjects in a certain order, beg by the introduction of the med officer into the service, the quals required of him and the sufficiency the means of enlarging and increasing his knowledge afterwards, esp as regards mil hygiene. 2. The second head wd be the org of general hospitals, the distribution of , same as regards reg hosps. 3. Sanitary division of the subject will comprise barracks, hosps, clothing, rations and quibundum alliis. 4 We reserve the pay, rank and prom of the med dept till after the duties to be performed as well as the nature of the preparation for them has been decided...so laying the round for an increase of pay and general bettering of their position. 5 Lastly wd come the const of the army med dept at Whitehall with its powers and authority.

The comn agreed to this course tho there was a proposal to put no. 4 in the place of no. 1, but it was overruled. We have had 4 meetings and have examined Dr Andrew Smith, Sir John Liddell, Sir Benj Brodie, Mr Paget, Ferguson, Parkes, Meyer, Pratt purv at Chatham. Mr Dill? Gov of London Hosp and shall ex Mr Robertson late purveyor at Scutari and Dr Stubb supt at St T. This last carried us thro the first head and a good way into the second. ...I think the comn are prepared to advocate. 1 that some med diploma as well as the surg one shall be req of the cand, the majority of cases in mi hosps ...being medical [and more]
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 578
Mema= about women
were only for the Queen, it would not signify.
But, if it should come out before the H. of C., I should not like it at all. It would do harm. The part about “Nurses in Civil Hospitals” may, at all events, be cut out as irrelevant.
Also, you know better than any one, perhaps you only know how “scabreux” it is for me to get upon the subject of Religion - & how easily I shall be misunderstood.

2. I have looked more at the double columns, & I think they must come out.
3. The question whether I should put “Chapter & Verse” to the quotations is, I think, just as broad as it is long. You know how even educated men will go off upon a word. One does not like the Roebuck Committee, Another does not like the Stafford Committee - one distrusts this Commission & another distrusts that - till all thought about the
truth is merged in a discussion of authorities-
Socrates says something to the effect that nine tenths of our belief come from sympathy antipathy authority or blind assimilation I do not know therefore whether to put references or not. Please tell me. As it is, it may look as if I were quoting from private letters or conversation.

4. I conceive that some remodelling of arrangement must take place - to put all the "as it is" together & the "as it should be."

Sutherland & Alexander are still in France. I have been down at Netley inspecting I will report progress.

ever yrs gratefully
F.N.
My dear Sir John McNeill

I am very sorry to be “at you” so soon again. But Sir John Hall is to be examined next week. And I have been asked to request you to give some hints, as to his examination, founded upon what you saw of him when in your hands. My own belief is that Hall is a much cleverer fellow than they take him for - almost as clever as Airey - & that he will consult his reputation in like manner - & perhaps give us very useful evidence. No thanks to him.

It is necessary to examine him - and how is it to be done? is the question we would ask you.

I would only recall to your memory the long series of proofs of his incredible proofs of apathy beginning with the fatal letter approving of Scutari, October/54 continuing with all the negative errors of non=obtaining of Lime Juice Fresh Bread Quinine &c & less up to his not denouncing the effects of salt meat before you. To my mind, with the exception of Gordon, this man is
moral) the worst of the liars.
We do not want to badger the old man in his examination, which would do us no good & him harm. But we want to make the best out of him for our case.
Please help us -
Yours ever sincerely & gratefully
F. Nightingale

typed copy 45768 f54

29 Old Burlington St.
W.
June 12/57
I understand that Dr. Smith says that he was much afraid of “the Commission” at first & “thought it wd= do harm.” But now “thinks it is taking a good turn.” Is this for us or against us?
30 Old Burlington St. [14:516]
London W.
June 27/57
I do not remember how far I have sent you already in the Revise And I believe I am now sending duplicates. But this is the End - all but a very few pages - p. 368 to p. 374 - on the Scutari defects. I will send that on Monday & then it will be done. I question much whether it will do for me to put in the Commissariat part.

I heard with the greatest pleasure from Dr. Farr that he had seen you well & brisk at the Oxford Commemoration. I was almost in hopes you would have come on to London. We are terribly driven about this Commission. And, what with that, & the Netley plans, I have not had a moment for anything else.

Mr. Herbert has been ill, & down at Dover since Wednesday, which gave me time just to finish my Revise. On Monday he re-examines Tulloch & Sutherland. Sutherland does not carry the weight in the Commission which his brains ought to give him. And he lets very inferior men put him down, owing to his want of pith. It vexes
me and upsets the conclusions I want to impress upon Mr. Herbert.

Sir J. Hall’s evidence fell harmless. It broke down utterly from want of truthfulness & perpetual doubling.

Believe me ever with my love to Lady McNeill & Miss Ferooza who, I hope, is better
Sincerely & gratefully your
Florence Nightingale

My dear Sir John McNeill.

This is first to say, Please come to us, if you come up to town for the 17th. 1. It would be of great use to me. 2. I think we could take better care of you. We should be back in the house we had when first you came up for swearing in.

I hope Mr. Herbert has sent you the Evidence. I reminded him to do so.

Secondly. Mr. Herbert has given in to examining me by writing. But he limits his questions to Hospital Construction.

I am quite as well aware as he can be; that it is inexpedient & even unprincipled to go back now into past delinquencies. What is more, I feel for him who was victimized by a system, of which he could know nothing, till the results appeared.
It is easy for me to be wise after the fact, me who saw these results.

But it would be untrue & unconscientious for me to give evidence upon an indifferent matter like that of Hospital construction leaving untouched the great matters which will affect (& have affected) the mortality of our sick more than any mere Architecture could do.

People, Government & Sovereign all think that these matters have been remedied. While I think that nothing has been done, save a relaxation of all rule & discipline & a violent expenditure.

It would be treachery to the memory of my dead if I were to seem to give in to this popular error.

I have no idea what to do. But I see most evil in the plan of examining me so as to make me say nothing.

Please advise.

Ever faithfully & gratefully yours

July 7/57 F. Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU88 SH letter to J. McNeill. Seems to be FN hand. Printed 49 Belgrave Sq. July 81857. My dear Sir John. Our last 2 days’ examination has been extremely slow & I am two witnesses in arrear, therefore am illeg with the calculation I made when I wrote to you. This wd throw your ex back till Friday the 17th, or poss till Monday the 20th. At the same time, it is not necessary that you shd be the last witness. Therefore, as I said before, pray consult your own convenience & fix upon whichever day really suits you best. I wd put off anyone else ot secure you.

Will you let me have a line as soon as you can see your way? And accept a bed at my house? There is one advantage in Monday the 20th shd it suit you & that is that we cd have some previous conversation before your ex, which wd be important. SH

H1/ST/NC3/SU89 SH letter to J. McNeill re invitation to dine and meet F.N.
My dear Sir John McNeill

I have settled with Mr. Herbert that you shall come to me, please, & that we shall both meet him on Sunday, in order that you may indoctrinate him either at his house or here.

I do not think that you are at all more “nervous” about the Indian affairs than the best-informed here. I speak like a parrot. But my impression is from all I hear that this “row” is but the beginning of things. As the revolution of ’93 in France was but the beginning of what ended in the total overthrow of the Feudal System. So this affair in India must end in the entire doing away of the Caste System or in the overthrow of the British power there.

We may have to reconquer India. I should like much to go out, we shall have dreadful Sickness there, but I have no one to advise me.

I want to see you about this. Also, Mr. Herbert wants to ask you about my examination. They cannot at all make up their minds how far it is to go. It is to be a written one. I shall wish to go into business as soon as this Commission is over.

With my kindest love to Lady McNeill & Miss Ferooza believe me ever

faithfully & gratefully yrs

Florence Nightingale

30 Old Burlington St.

July 15/57 [check date]
My dear Sir John McNeill

I am very sorry that you are so far from well. I am afraid you have done too much.

Thank you very much for the Sanitary questions. I understand that Sir J. Hall’s point is to prove that there cannot be, without collision, a Sanitary Officer besides the P.M.O. & that the P.M.O. ought to be Sanitary Officer. {91a}

What a Sanitary Officer did Sir J. Hall himself make!

Mr. Herbert talks about closing his evidence.

July 17

His great difficulty seems to be the formation of the Army Medl. Board. They are talking now of a Military Director General.

Believe me ever most faithfully & gratefully yours

F. Nightingale

July 15/57
30 Old Burlington St.  [15:266]
London W
Aug 1/57
My dear Sir John McNeill
The re=constitution
of the Army Medl. Dept.,
as to its Government,
has been carried by the
Commission almost in the form
which you recommended.
I have been requested
by Mr. Herbert, who
went out of town last
night, for a few days,
to draw up a scheme
as to what these new
men are to do. And

I now venture to enclose {92a} it to you, earnestly
begging you to consider
it & send it me back
with your remarks in
as short a time as
you possibly can.
Could you let me
have it by Monday,
in order to shew it
to Mr. Herbert. We
should be very grateful.
We have carried
the Sub=Barrack
Commission with
Panmure. Dr. Sutherland to be the Sanitary Head. But the Engineers’ Dept= have stated their incompetency to put a qualified R. Engineer upon it. And we are standing still at this point asserting the necessity of a Civil Engineer. What a confession for them to have to make.

Your evidence did us the most momentous service & we only regretted it was not longer. You will see its fruits in what I now enclose.

With my most grateful love to Lady McNeill, believe me ever most sincerely & gratefully yours Florence Nightingale

(enclosure referred to in the letter above)
the following are the questions likely to arise:

1. If the Governor in exercising discipline orders a man of the Army Hospital Corps to 7 days’ cells how is he to have his sentence carried out? Will the Officer Commanding at Woolwich necessarily give effect to the sentence? Or must he be ordered thro’ the H. Guards?

2. If a Convalescent in Hospital makes a “row,” does the Governor, proprio motu, send him to the Prisoners’ Ward?

3. [By the new organization of the Army Hospital Corps, the Director General is Head of the medical Ward Orderlies, the Purveyor in Chief of the office=Orderlies] & each reports separately to the Horse Guards.] Should the Governor inform the Director=General or Purveyor=Chief as the case may be, of his having sent an A.H.C. man to prison – the object being to let the Heads of the Corps know where the men are? Should he also report the case to the Officer Comm- the corps at Chatham?
Or should he report only to the H. Guards?

Ditto ditto ditto in the case of his expelling an A.H.C man?

4. Is the Governor, a Lines Officer, under the Artillery Commandant at Woolwich, (Sir R. Dacres)? Are there any points where risk of collision might be avoided in drawing up the Commission?

Has the Woolwich Commandant right of entry into the Hosptl. at all times?

In the relations between the Governor & Officer Commands— what should the Commission define as to 1. What each should do

2. What each should not do

The Governor is supreme in his Hospl= Administratn= according to the Regulations. What points still at issue must be defined by the Commission?
30 Old Burlington St.
London W.
Oct 10/57

My dear Sir John McNeill
I was so very glad to see your handwriting & hear from you again that I am going immediately to profit by it.
I will not say a word about India. You know so much more about it than anybody here. We have seen terrible things in the last three years. But nothing to my mind so terrible as Panmure’s unmanly & stupid indifference on this occasion! I have been three years “serving in” the W.D. When I began there was incapacity but not indifference. Now there is incapacity & indifference. What are the murders committed by these miserable Hindoos compared to the murders committed by an educated Englishman?
Panmure’s coming up to town last Thursday week
was the consequence of reiterated remonstrances. I have heard men in office say that he deserved to be impeached. And he is going away again after the next Indian mail!

That India will have to be occupied by British troops for several years, I suppose, there is no question. And so far from the all-absorbing interest of this Indian subject diminishing the necessity of immediately carrying out the reforms suggested by our Commission, I am sure you will agree that they are now the more vitally important to the very existence of our Army.

I came up to town on Thursday week & met Mr. Herbert for this purpose. Panmure had not done a thing. It was extracted from him then & there that the four Sub-Commissions, (with executive powers & Mr. Herbert as Head of each,)
viz. 1. to put the Barracks in Sanitary order. 2 to organize a Statistical Dept=. 3 to organize a Medical School. 4. to re=constitute the Army Medl=. Board & revise all Regulations, - should be issued immediately. The instructions had been approved by Panmure 7 weeks ago.

A week however has elapsed & we have heard nothing. I shall not however leave Panmure alone till this is done.

Mr. Herbert’s honor is at stake, which gives us a hold upon him. Without him, of course, I could do nothing.

The ad interim report has been presented (unofficially) to Panmure. But the Appendix & Final Report are not yet out. And your Poor=house Building Returns, for which we most sincerely thank you, will come in with great effect.
Also, I want you to do us a favor with Prof. Christison. Mr. Herbert thought he had written to him, at my request, four months ago, for a Scheme of Rations & Hospital Diets. But it seems he never did. He has now desired Dr. Balfour to do so. I do not know whether he has. (Perhaps you know that neither is very business-like). I now enclose two papers of Tulloch’s proposing a Ration (Both refer to the same & explain each other). If Prof. Christison will be so good as to criticize these & give his opinion upon them, I will take care that it is officially used. And this Commission must really not put forth a scheme of Rationing, without the Sanction of the first authority of the day on this point. If Balfour has written, it will still be not amiss that the request should be in duplicate. And you will know best how to apologize to Prof. Christison for the request not being made more officially & in form.

We have a most valuable Appendix - which will be a Manual for the Army. I am writing in haste. You are kind enough to ask after my health. I have had nervous fever which lasted me 6 weeks,
and, as soon as I can {93i}
get these Commissions
out, I shall be obliged
to go back to Malvern.
I should have proposed
myself to Lady McNeill
as she was so kind
as to ask me, if I
could have borne the
journey - for I am most
anxious to take advice
from you as to how to
cause to march our points
of Reform, which concern
the existence of an Army

& therefore may concern {93j}
our holding India.
I am so glad to hear
a good account of you
& so glad of your holiday.
Pray remember me
most gratefully to Lady
McNeill & Miss Ferooza
& believe me ever
Yours sincerely &
gratefully
F. Nightingale

roll 1 H1/ST/NC3/SU94 pen letter to Sir J. McNeill typed copy 45768 f70

Private & Confidential
30 Old Burlington St. [15:209-10]
London W.
Nov 16/57
My dear Sir John McNeill
Here I come again.
Panmure has granted
the missing “Commission”,
with such ample
instructions for “preparing
draft Instructions &
Regulations” defining the duties of & c & c & c & c & c & c and the “Queen’s
Q.M.G.’s, Barrack,
Purveyor’s & Hospital
Regulations” - as you may
guess them to be, when
I tell you they were written by me. What a fool Panmure must be! Does he not see or does he not care where this will lead him?

For this practical man at the Horse Guards, Airey & the ditto at the W.D. Croomes, are on this Comm= Mr. Herbert, Chairman. Sutherland, Alexander, Andw. Smith, the other Members.

Mr. Herbert is, besides, to send Panmure a “Constitution” for the Army Medical Dept. Board, & a Warrant for “Promotion” by himself.

All that is necessary now is to keep Mr. Herbert up to the point. The strength of his character is its simplicity & candour, with extreme quickness of perception - its fault is its excessive eclecticism.

Ten years have I been endeavouring to obtain an expression of opinion from him & have never succeeded yet. Yes, once I did. I shewed him a passage in one of your letters about the Q.M.G. and he said, “I do not wonder at Sir John McNeill’s indignation.” But he can sympathize...
with Sir J. McNeill’s indignation with Airey. And he can sympathize with Airey’s satisfaction with himself, which is quite as strong. However, I am getting unpractical. This new Sub=Commn=. entails upon me a labor I most gladly undertake of putting together Draft Regulations to be submitted to Mr. Herbert, as suggestions for the Draft he will propose to the Sub=Commissn=. These Regulations must, of course, rhyme with the Report. I think you would recommend a different organization of Hospital supply for 1. General Hospitals, 2. for Regimental under ordinary circumstances & 3. for Field Hospitals, when strictly in the field. 1. For the first, a Steward who shall be subject to the “Governor” & not to the Purveyor in Chief at home. Mr. Herbert concedes the principle, but wishes the Steward to be called “Purveyor”.

2. For the second, Regimental, the Report binds us to the making the Purveyor subject to the Principal Medical Officer.
3. Now for the last, the Field.

The Report proposes to allot a certain amount of Horse Transport to the Army Med. Dep.

1. Who is to ensure its discipline, repair losses

[3]
and execute repairs?  

2. How is the authority of the Medical Officer in demanding Transport to be arranged with the discipline of the corps?

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1. What Department should furnish the Hospital Equipments & supplies in the Field, and how?
2. Would it answer for all Hospital supplies of every
description, except medicine, to come direct from the Commissariat?
3. And all Hospital equipments, of whatever description, to come from the Q.M.G.?
(The two Departments being left to their own discretion as to where they procure such supplies & equipments them? The scale to be laid down)

4. Would you do away with the Purveyor altogether in the field? even as to medical comforts & to bedding?
I think I know what your answers will be pretty well. But we want your authority. I wish we could have yourself.
The Ho Of C. meets on the 30th - a great advantage to us, as it keeps Mr. Herbert & all these men in town till the Saturday before Xmas’ time to work our Commissns=.
The Report & Appendix are to be out by the end of December.
Ever faithfully & gratefully yours
F. Nightingale
30 Old Burlington St.
Nov 16/57
(Florence Nightingale - archivist’s hand?)
My dear Lady McNeill.
I have so very much enjoyed receiving your very kind invitation, though I shall not have the pleasure of accepting it. I should have liked so much seeing Sir John McNeill so much better, and talking over with him, who always enlightens us more than all the Commissioners put together, the new Army Regulations now to be framed.

[No signature]

H1/ST/NC3/SU96 M. Smith letter to Lady McNeill re FN’s health


This is the first rough proof of the Regulations chiefly written by myself which Mr Herbert will submit to the Regulations Committee on Monday. I send them to you with his sanction, begging you to cut them up severely, & to send them back as soon as possible. I, in my own name direct your particular attention to criticize the Regulations for Nurses - You will of course understand
My dear Madam,

Florence commissioned me last night to write at her dictation a message to Sir John MacNeill, which she was anxious to have in the Post before 10 o'clock, & I had not a moment for more than the bare message, or I should have wished to say something concerning her health, a bout which I am sure you will be desirous to hear. She suffered much from great exhaustion of the nervous system. Dr Johnson, under whose care she has been at Malvern calls her malady tension of the nerves. One cannot see her state without great anxiety yet we hope that if she can have rest, she may be restored, though much time would be required. Her head is as clear for work as ever, & she gives her thoughts as earnestly as ever to the work in hand.

She is quite unable to do more than this, or you would hear from her. She will stay in town till the 16th, if she can keep up till that time, & then go to Malvern. She desires me to say that she would be...
obliged to Sir John MacNeill for another copy of the Hospital Diets of the Edinburgh Infirmary. She also wishes to tell him that Mr Herbert was afraid of going his illegitimate name about the Purveyorship on the Field, he will see that on that account they have not done so. With Florence’s affectionate regards, pray believe me dear Madam truly yours M. Smith

30 Old Burlington St Decbr 12th/57
Mr Herbert, in virtue of his Commission, put the Sanitary Correspondence of the Army Medical Department into my hands to analyse. This is the result - I send it to you in order to show you how completely it bears out every word you ever said in your report. Please to return it as soon as read.

Florence Nightingale

Dear Sir John

We are very much obliged to you for your letter, which will be of great use to us. You will receive by the Book Post a copy of our Diagrams of the mortality of the British Army, which we have just received from the Printers. It has been inserted in the Appendix to Mr. Herbert’s Report for the sake of the last line upon the Cover.
It is our flank-march “upon the enemy and we might give it the old name of “God’s revenge upon Murder.” Be so good if you please as not to make any use of it until Mr Herberts Report is out, which it will be about the middle of January.

(dictated)
Florence Nightingale

I have had two thousand copies printed in order to circulate it among the Medical & commanding officers. I mean to get, through Mr Herbert copies of the Diagrams framed & glazed, hung at the Horse Guards, War Department, and Army Medical Department.

Great Malvern
27th December {archivist?:} 1857

My Dear Sir John
I hear with heart-felt interest what you tell me of your dear child, & rejoice to think of your not being separated from her. If while she is in town, she will call here as you kindly propose, if I am able to see any one on the day she comes most gladly I shall see her.
I am sorry to be obliged to ask the friends whom I should most rejoice to see, to excuse my uncertainty on any day of what it may be possible to me to do on the next.

I thank you very much for your efforts about the “North British”. And may I ask you to thank the Publisher for his readiness to help us? I have communicated with Mr Herbert & with Mr Chadwick & you shall hear their answers immediately that I receive them.

You will be glad to hear that Genl. Peel, urged by Mr Herbert is doing extremely well for us. We are to send in before Easter for his approval. First - the Draught instructions for the Army Medical Board which I enclose for your corrections, if you will be so very good as to look it over & return it to me as soon as possible. In drawing it up, I have kept as nearly as possible to your own advice. The other three things which we are to send in to Genl Peel are the “Regulations” which you have already seen. The Forms for the Statistical Department
& the scheme for the Army Medical School
We are very anxious to get in the Hospital Diet scheme which Professor Christison was so good as to undertake to construct for us, out of the materials already used in Military Hospitals & which he said were ample. If you could be so good as to remind him to let us have this scheme we should be very much obliged to you,

as it is to be incorporated into the Regulations.

I hope Lady McNeill & yourself are well & that you are not suffering as usual at this time of the year.

I remain,
My dear Sir John

most truly & gratefully yours
Florence Nightingale
30 Old Burlington St.
London W.
April 22/58
My dear Lady McNeill
I must write a word myself to thank you for the Photographs from Steell’s bust.
The original I liked better than any portrait in marble I have ever seen, except Thorwaldsen’s Byron – (which was a very inferior subject).

‡ But I never knew before what the Irishman meant when he said “the portrait was more like than the original,” till I saw the photographs.
I do not like the one with a nearly full face looking to the left.
But the nearly full face with the light on it, and the profile one are beautiful.
I think they give even more of Sir John McNeill’s character than the bust - or perhaps some slight alteration may have been made in the mouth of the bust.

You may depend upon it that, white that mouth would go through fire & water, the “baptism of fire,” for the Right, & yet it has all the gentleness of the really great.

Schiller (or somebody) has said that there is no real grace but in strength.

I think Steell may be very proud that he has made a work which will last.

I hope that you have quite recovered. (I was so very sorry to hear you had been ill). & that Mrs Stewart is with you. Pray believe me ever yours affectely & gratefully

F. Nightingale

I heard of Lord Dunfermline’s death. He will be much missed.

Envelope addressed in FN’s writing
30 Old Burlington St., [8:637-38]
London W
July 17/58
My very dear Lady McNeill
I am always so glad to hear of you that I cannot help answering your letter myself.
I am glad that you are not going to part with Mrs. Stewart farther than Portsmouth.
Thank you very much for your congratulations on my sister’s marriage, which took place last month. She likes it, which is the main thing - and my father is very fond of Sir Harry Verney, which is the next best thing. He is old & rich, which is a disadvantage.

He is active, has a will of his own & 4 children, ready-made which is an advantage.
Unmarried life, at least in our class, takes everything & gives nothing back to this poor earth. It runs no risk - it gives no pledge to life. So, on the whole, I think these reflections
tend to approbation.

My father & mother, who are now in Derbyshire, have both been to see my sister in her new home in Buckinghamshire (Claydon) & were well pleased. But, if you know, as is very likely, the family of the first Lady Verney, you will not “faire part” to them of my observations. Admiral Hope has been very kind to my sister.

I hope that you & Sir John are pretty strong. My affairs are going on pretty well. We have gained Alexander, as Director General, & lost Netley, which, in spite of its defects, is to be proceeded with as our Army Hospital. Mr. Herbert went abroad last week, quite done up - or thinking himself so.

We have still our “Regulations,” Statistical Report & some Barracks Reports to send in to Genl. Peel. [This is for Sir John] We have got £57,000 to go on with for our Barracks - exclusive of the money for increased accommodation. The warrant for pay & promotions for medical officers, the scheme for the Army
Medical School, also for the Medical Council are now going through the Treasury. Genl= Peel is much more amenable to fear & such handy restraints & incitements than Panmure. I conclude, from your dear kind note that you are going to stay at your beautiful Granton all the summer.

I believe I am very little likely ever to get so far again. Else I know I need not say that to see you & Sir John again would be the dearest comfort & joy of my life.

Believe me, dear Lady McNeill, ever faithfully & gratefully yours

F. Nightingale

30 Old Burlington St.
London W.
Oct 2/58

My dear Sir John McNeill
I send you a Copy, as you permitted me to do, of my Report to the War Secretary, of which so large a portion is due to you. It is “Confidential,” of course, as I have no right to give away any Copies. It has only recently been sent in to the
War Office, altho’ finished long ago. — the English of which delay would be that the state of health, not of me but of their own Department has caused this delay. but it does not signify. Because they won’t understand it. And we are doing their work without them.

Believe me, dear Sir John, ever faithfully & gratefully yours
Florence Nightingale

My dear Sir John McNeill
Your very kind letter cheers me on my path beyond anything I may say which betides me. It is of the greatest value to me to have the opinion of one so thoroughly a master of the subject — & at the same time able to take a more comprehensive view of it (than I do, I am aware,) from the very circumstance of not being in such constant immediate contact as I am with the evils to be remedied, with the perpetual harassing delays in remedying them & with the (sometimes total) disappointment in the persons who are to apply the remedies.
As La Rochefoucauld says of the Fronde (I don't recollect the words, I dare say you do) so I can truly say of the War Office & Horse Guards - there never were so many fine words with so little good sense - so much enterprise & so little effect - so much action without design & so much design without action.

Your hopefulness of future & lasting benefit upholds in me the hope you once created. I accept thankfully your criticism - so long as I can secure some hold upon the minds of those who hold the remedies we want in their hands, it is only under this aspect that style can be an object to one crying for relief from sufferings so urgent.

While it is possible to me, I must pursue these objects. But I see before me a long perspective of work which I can never hope to be permitted to carry through. Your word that the seed which is to bear fruit is actually sown is the best comfort I ever had or can have when I am called to bid farewell to interests so absorbing.
What you say of those near & dear to you is ever interesting to me. May you have a happy meeting with your dear child & may your best hopes come to pass!

With affectionate regards to Lady McNeill & Mrs. Stewart, — believe me to be ever,

My dear Sir John truly and gratefully yours

Florence Nightingale

I shall send you in a few days an answer which has been forced from me by divers anonymous & cowardly attacks, circulated without printer’s name, by authors who were evidently traitors from our own camp. F.N.

Great Malvern January 7th/59

My dear Sir John McNeill,
I hope the green Pamphlet is likely to do good.
I agree altogether with the general principle you so strongly lay down that the military officer should know how to preserve the health of his troops.
The subject has been already considered & it has been proposed to make the military officers.
Many months ago I tried to put Mr. Herbert into communication with General Cameron the President of the Council of Military Education
about this. Nothing has been done yet. Until our new professorship of Military Hygiene at Chatham is established I do not know that anything can be done.

Till we can offer the military officers means of instruction I do not know that we could press for an examination. & farther than this we must make the new lectures sufficiently interesting to induce military officers of all ranks to attend.

We propose in our "regulations" to make commanding officers write reasons for not complying with medical officers recommendations, with an appeal to Horse Guards & Army Medical Department.

I trust that we shall carry the day with the military officers, but until this be done, we must do what we can with the Army Medical department. We have carried the Warrant & the Army Medical School as you know, but the Medical Council are still hanging fire in the War Office.

Do you know who wrote a very remarkable article in the Edinbro’ Medical Journal of December on the new Army Medical Warrant? We thought it was yours, but there are some things in it which I hardly think you would have written, altho’ they may be Editor’s interpolations.

ever yours gratefully Florence Nightingale

[written in right margin of the first page in FN’s hand]

My kindest remembrances to Lady McNeill & Mrs. Stewart. F.N. [end 15:279]
Great Malvern
January 13/59
My dear Sir John McNeill,
Would you be so good as to send me the following information: viz: What the daily expenses of a Patient at the Edinbro’ Infirmary is supposed to be.
You were once good enough to give me this information relative to Pauper patients, & what was paid for them, but this was, I believe, below the actual expense, & I should be very much obliged to you, as it is for a County Hospital in England, to let me know the exact expenses. I am very sorry to give you the trouble of procuring this information.
I am sorry that Sir Chas-Trevelyan is going to Madras. I think they might have found many a man to make as good or better a governor, I doubt whether they will find many or perhaps any to make as good a Treasury Secretary. But I think he may be of great use to us in sanitarising the condition of the troops at Madras.
Lady Trevelyan does not go. She remains in London for the sake of the children.
Sir Benjamin Hawes is trying to destroy the scheme of our Army Medical Council, & I am afraid, will succeed.
Yours very truly & gratefully
F. Nightingale
If you could add the average number of days of a patient in Hospital it would make the information complete & I should be very grateful.

Great Malvern
Feb. 7/59

My dear Sir John McNeill,
I was so very glad to hear from you. I had looked in the paper every day for the arrival of your grandchild with much more interest than for that of the Queen’s grandchild tho’ I don’t despise the little Prince either.
I was so glad to hear that Lady McNeill & Mrs. Stewart continue well.
I am sorry to have given the Treasurer of the Infirmary, & above all you, so much trouble. In many hospitals the information specified is made up at the end of every year as a matter of course.
I don’t think it will do the Treasurer any harm to make it up for his own information.
I am very glad to hear such a good account of Sir Edward Lugard. My impression is, though I do not know him, that he is much such a man as
Tulloch: able, honest, energetic, but believing that all progress & knowledge have culminated with himself, & therefore not very likely to encourage any new lights.

I rejoice to hear that you & Lady McNeill are coming to town so soon as March or April.

I want to talk over many things with you if you will allow me, & especially a plan for utilising the Nightingale Fund,

which I want very much to put Mr. Herbert in the way of doing.

I am intending to go back to London every day I do not think I am any better thank you, being now almost confined to my bed.

Please give my best love to Lady McNeill & Mrs. Stewart & believe me ever yours very truly & gratefully

Florence Nightingale [signed by FN]

My dear Sir John McNeill

I was so very glad to hear from you again & glad to hear that Mrs. Stewart was out of her troubles, which, I am afraid, have been rather severe. The same thing has just happened to one of our family.

Thank you very
much for the Hospital data. I will not
trouble the Treasurer
to do any more, as
I can quite well
make out all I
want out of these.
They are very curious.
I hope I may keep
them.

I trust you or
Lady McNeill will
kindly send me a
little note when you
come to town. I
have a great deal
to talk to you about.

You know Ministers
are insecure. You
know a Committee
has just been appointed
on the re=organization
of the War Office —
Mr. Herbert is
Chairman
I hope I shall be
able to see both you
& Lady McNeill, if
you are kind enough
to let me choose my
own time. But I
am not able to see
more than one person especially
time of those who interest
me so much. And
I am not able now
to sit up at all.

Our Medical Council
is appointed
Sanitary Logan
Medical Mapleton
Statistical Balfour
We are not satisfied
with the terms we have
got.

I was very sorry
to hear of Lord Murray’s
death

ever yours most gratefully
Florence Nightingale

My dear Sir John McNeill

I am very glad to
think that we shall
see you next month.
I want the more
to put you in possession
of the facts regarding
the Army Medical
Board, (of which you
were the original
inventor, & which
Alexander has
cruelly mangled). Because
I think, when you
come to town, you
may tell him some=
thing of your mind
which will do him
good.

When we wrote
the “Instructions” for
it, (of which I sent
you a copy, which
you approved with
some alterations
which we adopted,)

our main object was
to lay the axe to the
root of the old “Minuting”
system, by which an
Army may be lost
at any time.

This old “minuting”
system is the vital
breath by which the
War Office & its hundred clerks lives -
& which really
makes it a perfectly
irresponsible body.
I am not governed
by the Ho: of Commons.

I am governed by
Hawes - & his
Bureaucracy. The
Ho: of Commons thinks
it has done wonders
when it has turned
out one Minister &
put in another. It
has done nothing at
all. Because the
Bureaucracy remains,
which lives by this
“Minuting.” It was invented
chiefly by Hawes.

Your object, in
advising a Council,
was to secure to the Director-General independent & responsible advisers, while giving him entire responsibility as to action.

Now Hawes & Alexander have ejected out of the “Instructions” all that laid down pointed out to the three Councillors’ their separate duties.

And then Alexander goes & surreptitiously (without saying one word to Mr. Herbert) recommends two of his own creatures to Genl=. Peel, who are forthwith appointed; so that the Board is nothing now but one more of the old hugger=mugger Boards of Andrew Smith’s - plus Balfour. And the Director General’s Office consists, as before, of the Director General & his creatures plus Balfour. Who is no creature. [There are clean & unclean “creatures.” Alexander’s are by no means unclean. At least one of the two is not. But they are nothing but his Clerks to do any odd jobs for him. Balfour not inclusive.]

We look upon the Whole Administrative
Reform as completely lost; unless the H. Of C. Committee I mentioned to you re=organizes the whole War Office. [The Sanitary & Statistical Reform we are carrying on, outside of & without Alexander.]

He has betrayed his own Commission to whose Report he set his hand. He has jobbed the thing in his own office. And he has converted those friends, who have proved themselves very his most efficient ones, into very lukewarm ones. He has ruined himself & his Department for the present.

We can give you abundance of evidence that Mapleton & Logan are "creatures". But I will not bother you with it now.

I hear that Alexander is heartily ashamed of himself. But it is too late now.

He has made himself another example of the regular official, who does not like able or independent men about him - "et surtout point de zèle."

I am not at all of your friend Socrates’
opinion that it is better to perish by other people’s folly. I think nothing is so provoking. If Lord Panmure had done this thing now, I should not have minded. I cannot conceive how the “Regulations” are to be carried out with these two men & You will be without “Instructions.” We shall come to grief.

ever yours truly & gratefully
Florence Nightingale

I begin heartily to wish for a change of Ministers - not because it makes the least difference (as to what I want, viz. administrative Reform,) who is in & who is out. But just only for the sake of having Mr. Herbert in the War Office. Lord Stanley, with whom we are quite out of conceit, wrote to me today that they think they shall be out of Office next week. [This is between ourselves, of course]. But the Opposition don’t believe it. [end 15:282]
30 Burlington St
W April 8/59

My dear Sir John McNeill,

Would you look over Lord Panmure’s evidence, which I enclose, only promising that it is “confidential.”

I should like very much to hear what you think, when you have read it, of Mr. Herbert’s plan.

It seems to me that the first part of the Evidence is like a porcupine’s, which does not choose to be disturbed in its hole, specially after it has made that hole itself.

But the latter part is by far the most important, & does not seem to me to bear out Mr. Herbert’s idea.

It deals frankly with the relation of Horse Guards & War Office. It does not conceal the supreme
importance of the latter as compared with the former. It draws a very important distinction as to the different relation of War Office to Commander in Chief at home & to Commander of the Forces abroad - who, it says, I suppose justly must be entirely under the War Office. It shews the difficulty of drawing a line of demarcation between the duties of Horse Guards & War Office - & says that, in some cases, the War Minister must over-rule the Commander in Chief even in his own field. It is not in favor of a Council, because (amongst other things) the C. in C. now communicates directly with the Sovereign, which he would cease to do, were he a Councillor. How would a weekly Conference do,
instead of a Council? It would, at least, while preserving the Departments distinct, give the required unity.

Mr. Herbert’s fear of any antagonism does not strike me ℗ in the same way, in these kinds of things. I think it is rather desirable, on the contrary - i.e at home & in peace.

In war the Commander of the Forces must pass under the power of the Cabinet, which moves him.

If you could appoint any time which will suit you either tomorrow, or Sunday or Monday, when you could kindly spare me an hour, there are many things I want to consult you about. And I shall be curious to hear your opinion about this too.

ever yours most truly
F. Nightingale
West Hill Lodge  
Highgate Rise  
London N  April 30/59  
My dear Sir John McNeill  

Do you know any one who would write for the Westminster Review a really good Article on our defences, generally; or even on our Militia, particularly? I suppose you would not do it yourself. I think we shall get Lugard on the Indian Sanitary Commission.  

Pray tell Mrs. Stewart that I am very sorry for her, particularly; but that, generally, my country stands with me so much before any thing else that I cannot but congratulate her on having anything so valuable to give.

If she comes back to stay with you, that will be a consolation on both sides.

I am afraid this changing weather will be of no good either to you or dear Lady McNeill.

ever yours sincerely & gratefully  
F. Nightingale
West Hill Lodge
Highgate Rise
N
May 9/59
My dear Sir John McNeill
Sir G. Lugard has [9:83-84]
decided to serve on
the Indian Sanitary
Commission on account
of the present pressure
of business at the W.O.
And we are again at
our wits’ ends for
a “Queen’s Officer of
“Acknowledged Indian
“experience.” And again
it is left to us to choose.

I mentioned Brigadier {115a}
Greathed, now in England, the man of the
wonderful march from
Delhi (?). And Mr. Herbert
seems inclined to have
him, merely because
I cannot name any
one else. But I know
nothing of him but
his reputation. Nor
do I know any one
through whom to get
his measure.
In this dilemma,
could you help us
again? both by

saying what you think {115b}
of Greathed & by
mentioning any other
Queen’s Officer now at home,
whom you think
well of for this
purpose.

2. Would you look
at the enclosed list
of Heads for enquiries
to be sent out to
the Stations in India
& tell us your
opinion as to the
different queries
therein? Would you also
kindly give an opinion as
to the general direction which
the enquiry would take?  

3. Thank you very much for the for=taste of the Scheme for the N. Fund. I entirely agree with every word you say in it.

Believe me dear Sir John ever truly & gratefully yours

F. Nightingale


Embley 14 May {archivist writes 1859?}

Dear Sir John

We are delighted that you & Lady McNeill are to be here on Thursday.

Whether you (Southern people) must go to the Portsmouth Station or to the Gosport, my ignorance prevents me from knowing -

but all the trains stop at Bishopstoke which is the Station where you leave the main line for Romsey.

We are only 2 miles from our station - Mr V. will meet you there with the carriage at 5.25 - we dine at 7 -
This is my best interpretation of Bradshaw & it seems the only, train free from impediment.

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU117 J. McNeill to SH 24 May 1859, re necessity of paid secretary to N Fund, committee of 3; he has FN approbation of suggestions

H1/ST/NC3/SU118 A.H. Clough to J. McNeill will serve on council of N Fund as long as FN can guide it, question of amalgamation with present hosp staff, 000354 26 May 1859. From what Miss Nightingale said to me yesterday evening it is evident to me that I must place my services at the disposal of the council for the Nightingale Fund, if they wish to have them. I think however that if I were to be appointed, it shd be pro tempore. So long as Miss Nightingale continues able to take part in the guidance of the scheme I shd willingly serve. Afterwards the case would be a different one.

She spoke of the following questions as requiring consideration.
(1) If the whole set of nurses in the hosp be not put under the direction of the Fund Council, will not the hosp authorities defend their nurses against "ours," and their nurses will naturally be jealous of any who are to take their places.
(2) How are women to know--about the advantages offered to them at the hospital? How is the thing to be announced or advertised?
(3) As to extra allowance for nurses while receiving instruction?
(4) If any of the sisters already at work in the hosp show a capacity for instructing, shd they not be allowed the extra grant, without examination?

Miss Nightingale wished me to see you once again after your visit to her tomorrow. I will endeavour to be at Highgate before 5 o’clock tomorrow in the hope that I may find you still there.

H1/ST/NC3/SU119 SH, Wilton House, to McNeill May 27 1859. I am very sorry that I will just miss you but I write in the hope of this still finding you in London. I most entirely agree in your sug of a sub-committee and a sec to carry into effect Miss Nightingale’s application of the fund, and the selection of Mr Clough if he consent is everything that cd be desired. He is a clever and sensible man and his regard for Miss Nightingale which is great and sincere will ensure his illeg in the work to be performed. I have written to him undertaking to communicate the plan to the council and illeg their entire approval....McNeill to read the enclosed letter from him for reasons one of which concerns yourself. Asks him to be on exec com, re salary of Clough

H1/ST/NC3/SU122 SH to McNeill Dec 15 1859. Tho I fear it will be impossible for you to attend, I still write a line to tell you that a meeting of Miss N’s council is to be held at the War Office on Monday next the 19th at 12 o’cl to consider her proposals for the employment of the Fund. I grieve to say she is sadly failing, but to have this business settled will be a great relief to her mind; with notes from meeting, FN unable to attend. SH, Jebb, Bowman, Bence Jones, Bracebridge; because FN quite incapable from the state of her health to taking any active part in giving effect personally to the intentions of the subscribers to the Fund, and no prospect of her being able to do so, delegating to council the necessary powers for carrying out the objects contemplated by the Fund.

2. She is desirous that for this purpose a subcom of the council be apptd with authority to exercise the power delegated by her to the council.
3. Also that a sec be appted to conduct the business.
4. She is desirous that all proceedings taken by this com be at once communicated to her.
5. She will be ready at all times, insofar as the state of her health may admit, to afford the com whatever advice and assistance may appear to be necessary, leaving to the com entire freedom of action.
6. She is desirous that steps be taken w/o loss of time to give effect to the intentions of the subscribers by opening communications with the managers of St Thomas’ Hosp, with the view to the intro of a system of training and instr of nurses in that inst.
7. That in the event of the managers of St T Hosp not agreeing to such a proposal, Miss N be informed of the fact, in order that she may have the opp of advising with the com on the steps next to be taken.”

In pursuance of the above request the following sub-com was appted:
SH, McNeill, Clark, Bowman, Jebb. Clough appt sec at £10 a year and his expenses, his offer of acting honorarily not have been accepted.

H1/ST/NC3/SU119 SH to J. McNeill, reply, agrees May 27 1859

H1/ST/NC3/SU120: pen: letter to Sir J. McNeill, typed copy 45768 f104

Highgate
June 11/59
My dear Sir John McNeill
Enclosed is the [9:93] list of proposed queries for the Indian Stations.
Could you be so kind as to look it over & make any corrections & additions you think fit. Also
noting in the margin the person to whom the query ought to be addressed. These queries are printed only for correction & are to be rearranged according to the respective officers to whom they are to be sent - & printed on larger sheets with spaces for the replies. Tabular Forms to be filled up are also to be added - as well as a set of purely military questions for military officers - & a circular letter.
Sutherland has been studying at the India Ho: & the result is incorporated in these questions - as well as Martin’s information. Farr is drawing up the Statistical Forms. You will see the result of this morning’s Division - My satisfaction is of a very limited nature. Mr. Herbert told me that if he were S. of S. for War, he would turn over this Indian matter to Lord Stanley - Now I can say that of Ld. S. which Mr. H. cannot -

Because, as I read somewhere, the inferior detracts, the superior ignores. I am sure that Lord Stanley has neither the grasp of the subject nor the faculty that some men have of putting themselves into the right hands as to detail & knowing seeing who knows
& who does not.

I believe the
Sanitary salvation
of India depends
upon Mr. Herbert
doing it. And I
should say the
same & a great
deal more if I
were dead, &
there were no
question of my
work.

Do you think
we could make any

proposal to Mr. Herbert by which,
saving him all
labor of detail
(which we could
do,) we could keep
his hand over us
for the Meetings
which might
even be deferred
till Parlt. ceases
to sit - & for the
final Report-
or we might have

3

only (say) an hour
of his time per
week at the a
weekly Meeting
for parole evidence.
I am not
afraid to say
that Sutherland,
Farr & I could
do all the detail
work for him.
Sutherland & I
did it for the last.

Believe me
dear Sir John
ever yours gratefully
F. Nightingale
H1/ST/NC3/SU123 Notes from N Fund meeting re hospital arrangements. Selection from nurses already in hospital and fresh applicants. Addition to wages or improvement in diet. Every pupil to be registered in a book; matron to have entire control of nurses and pupils; all complaints against a nurse to be entered in a ward book, which should be examined daily by the matron.


Hampstead NW
Jan 19/60
My dear Sir John McNeill

I heard from Mr. Clough that you had been ill (which I should not have found out from your letters), & that you contemplate coming up to London soon.

I hope that, if the other business for which you may be coming up, allows any margin, that you will not hurry yourself to come on account of mine.

The weather here (tho’ variable) is generally exceedingly bad. I scarcely ever remember such a “dirty” foggy winter.

And I see no reason for hurrying the formal part of
my business. Mr. Clough is himself hardly recovered. He has been ill.

And I think what you would be of such essential support in - that which indeed hardly any one could do but you - the having an interview with the St. Thomas’s authorities is as well done a little later as now.

I should think it quite worth while to put off the first "Sub=Committee“ meeting. (None of the men are Ho: of Commons men, except Mr. Herbert, who can’t act anyhow) and the first formal interview with St. Thomas’s authorities till it was convenient for you to come.

Time will not be lost thereby -as I must see the Matron; & Mr. Clough must see Mr. Whitfield (the Resident Medl=. Officer) informally.

Thank you very much for your letters & pamphlet.

I trust to hear you are better.

Pray give my love to Lady McNeill & to Mrs. Stewart, & tell her I am glad to hear there is another little "Prince to be born to the House."
Believe me ever
my dear Sir John
Yours very truly & most
gratefully
Florence Nightingale

I am going (daily)
to 30 Old Burlington St.
— If, as I hope you
will not, you are coming
immediately, I would go
up at once — as I should
like to be on the spot.

I trust you will come
there & leave it to us
to find rooms for you
in the house, fit for
a person not very
strong. If you would
give us a day’s
warning.

I imagine Mr. Herbert
sent you a copy of the
Minute of the first
Meeting of My “Council.”
F.N.


My dear Sir John McNeill
I shall hope to
see you today at
two o’clock, as you
so kindly propose.

The people at
30 Old Burlington St.
were very remiss, if
they did not give
you a letter which
I sent there for you.

ever yours gratefully
Florence Nightingale
30 Old Burlington St
London W
Feb 2/60

My dear Sir John McNeill,

You will have seen in the “Times” what an irreparable loss we have had in Alexander, the Director General. I say irreparable because it really is come to this: — that Mr. Herbert asks who is to be his successor — and it seems as if there were not one man in the Department whom one wished to see Director General Taylor of Chatham, (who was in the Crimea in Medical Charge of the 3rd Division,) and Balfour are the only two I can name who have shewn any administrative talent.

I know how low has been the rate of ability shewn by the Drs. in the Indian Affair. And Clyde has been beside himself with their stupidity. Linton, the Senior, he would not allow even to come up to Head Quarters. And Gordon is nothing but a bone-cutter.

Can you help us? What do you think? Whom should you fix upon?

Yours ever sincerely

F. Nightingale

Alexander’s death was almost sudden.
30 Old Burlington St
London W.
Mar 9/60
My dear Sir John

You know that for you
to wish me to be the
God=mother of one of
your grandchildren is
the greatest pleasure
I could have.
I have always declined
being God=mother to any of Mr.
Herbert’s children, or
of those of a very dear
friend of mine (who is
now dead) because
1. I felt that they
would think my
religious opinions, if
they knew them, very
unorthodox & 2. it
is undertaking to do
what neither law nor
custom authorizes one
to do.
But you know (I
believe) pretty well
what my religious
opinions are & if
neither of these things
deter you, I can only
say that any
connection with
Mrs. Stewart’s child
will be most dear
to me & that I am
very grateful to her
for having thought of me.
Pray give her my best
wishes & believe me
ever yours gratefully
& truly

F. Nightingale
May 17/60

My dear Sir John McNeill

I sent you by post yesterday a packet which will puzzle you.
Do you remember (I am sure you do not but I do) a conversation we had some three years ago at your house about religion one evening?

Eight years ago, I had a large & very curious acquaintance among the Operatives of the North of England & among those of what are called Holyoake’s party in London. The most thinking & conscientious of our enormous artisan population appeared to me to have no religion at all.

I then wrote the first part of what I have ventured to send you, without the least idea of ever
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 642

publishing it. And it was read in M.S. by some of them.

The conversation I had with you awakened all my thoughts of the Artisans. And, about 1 1/2 years ago, I wrote the second part ("Man’s Will & God’s Law") in the packet sent you.

Till this last spring, I never thought for a moment of printing it. But just now I have had six copies done of which I send you one. No one knows of it. And, till after my death, I would never have it published, certainly not with my name.

My reason for sending it you is to ask you, should the subject interest you enough, to be so good as to say, at your leisure, whether you think it would be after my death at all useful among the "Atheist" Operatives, as they are called.

Believe me ever sincerely & gratefully yours

Florence Nightingale

2. May 17/60

I need not say that the half margin is made to be written on, if you will be so good as to write any remarks of yours upon it.

F.N. [end]
30 Old Burlington St.
London W.
July 24/60
My dear Sir John McNeill
I hope that you &
Lady McNeill will
not think me very
unreasonable if a
Dr. de Baumbauer,
“Delegate” from Holland
at the “International
Statistical Congress”
here & Director of the
Statistical Department
of the Ministry of
the Interior in Holland,
presents himself
to you with an
introduction from
me. With him
perhaps may come
H.G. Baron Czoernig,
“Delegate” from Austria
Privy Councillor, and
Director of the Imperial
Statistical Department
at Vienna - also
M.G. Hopf, “Delegate”

from Saxe Coburg,
Financial Councillor,
& Director of the “Life
Assurance Bank for
Germany” in Gotha -
and 4. a M.
Friedland.
[I feel as if I
were giving you a
list of their names,
titles, “rank and
regimental number”].
Do not be alarmed.
They are not going
to stay in Scotland
But I am sure they will be pleased by any civility from you.

Czoernig is quite a man of the world.
Believe me to be ever yours gratefully & sincerely
F. Nightingale
Perhaps these people will only be able to call upon you at your Board of Supervision; As they are hurried for time.

30 Old Burlington St.
London
Augt. 13th 1860

My dear Sir
I. Miss Bonham Carter has told me that you wish for my criticism on the enclosed.
I think that it wants something to define what a nurse should be, of the nature (though not in the words) of the manuscript scrap annexed.

II. Mr Clough has told me that you wish for our Rules, Hours, diet-table &c.

1 I am not at all satisfied, with our Diet-table at St. Thomas’s, but in a day or two I will send you my own scheme of Dieting Nurses at Harley St, where I was (previous to 1854) and Miss Jones’s at King’s College — The fact is, you cannot diet women, especially nurses, according to a table, and this is one fault at St. Thomas’s. You want variety. You want care to supply them with puddings & vegetables (various) and you will thus keep them in much better health & efficiency than with, “so many lbs of meat and so
They should however always have meat twice a day on the table offered to them. A good superintendent, had indeed, much better be left to consult the tastes of her nurses than be bound down to dietaries. Experience must decide her

You shall however see our ideas on the subject.

2. I enclose our time-table at St. Thomas’s, with which I am not at all satisfied either, (also, it is only for Probationers not for nurses.) again I say these things must be left to a good Superintendant to modify according to the customs of the place, the needs of the Nurses & of the Hospital. She must not be too much bound down by rules.

I think the general hints I have given in a little (confidential) Report which I believe you have, as to hours much more useful and practicable than these (cut and dried) time tables

Find your Superintendent and then do not bind her down too closely —

3. I enclose the “Character Sheet” I have drawn up, which must be favourably filled up, before any nurse can “pass” — with us —

About this I do not annex the same caution. Because every nurse must be, and know & do these things. or she is not a Nurse at all.

I quite agree with you that Missionary nurses are the end and aim of all our work, Hospitals are after all but an intermediate stage of civilization, while devoting my life to Hospital work, to this conclusion I have always come. viz that Hospitals are not the best place for the sick poor, except for severe surgical cases

I need not say that I hope, for any information I may be able to give you, you will never be unwilling to apply to me. And should I, if you are in London again during the term of my life, be able to see you; and should you wish to discuss any points with me, I need not say I shall be happy and willing to do so.

I take the liberty of forwarding a copy of my little book on nursing, in order that you
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 646
may see in the short (appendix) sketch of “What is a Nurse”? What was my experience which led me to draw up the Character that I enclose [end 13:255]

Believe me to be Yours faithfully

sig. Florence Nightingale


30 Old Burlington St
London W
Aug 29/60
My dear Sir John McNeill [13:35]
I send you by post (today) Parts second & third of the religious “stuff” (confidential), of which I sent you the first part some time ago. I don’t expect you to read it. I am afraid you will be terrified at the bulk of it. But I could not refrain from sending you what (the printing of it at least) was the result of a conversation with you — an untoward & undesirable result, I am afraid you will say, when you see it.
Would you thank Lady McNeill very much for the photographs she was so good as to send me? I like them exceedingly. But tell her the faint likeness of you in the background of one of them is what I like the best. It is not like a picture but like a real shadow —

I send per book post to Mrs. Stewart, (which will you present with my love?) a copy of Mr. Clough’s translation of some of Plutarch’s Lives for the infant original of the photographs, when he can read it.
2 Augst 29/60

I believe there are much worse “Saints” in the Calendar than there are in Plutarch — And did French boys read Plutarch, as we used to do, when I was young, I don’t believe the present Emperor could be on the throne.

Mr. and Mrs. Clough are going North on Thursday (tomorrow) for their holiday. They will be at Edinburgh on Wednesday the 5th at the Caledonian Hotel in Princes St. opposite the Castle. I have persuaded them (they are shy) to call upon you; & they are good enough to bring for me a little offering to my own peculiar “god=son,” your youngest grand=child — and the printed “stuff.”

Ever my dear Sir John, yours gratefully & affectely. Florence Nightingale
30 Old Burlington St
London W
Sept 15/60
My dear Sir John McNeill,

I have ventured today to send you (by Book Post,) if you could find the time to glance over it, & to see whether it meets your requirements - a first Proof of the Purveyor’s “Regulations,” which we have been preparing, by order of Mr. Herbert.

It is intended to meet all the points you have raised. (I am afraid it meets none of them.) It ought to tally with the Report of the R. Sanitary Commission & with the new “medical Regulations“, of which I think you have a copy.

Without troubling you to look over the lists of Stores, &c, would you consider whether this code is in conformity with the wants of an Army Hospital Service, especially as to Field Hospitals - and as to Banking or Accounting questions? The Proof I send you, altho’ it has undergone considerable
discussion (from the Purveyor in Chief downwards) will certainly want much amendment. But I send it with the hope of obtaining your criticisms, additions & alterations on the margin. The first page contains the proposed re-organization of the Purveyor’s Department.

Which, if agreed to will be made the subject of a Warrant. We shall be truly obliged to you for any trouble you will take with regard to this. Because we feel that no one else has anything like the authority & the judgement which you bring to bear on these matters.

Were Mr. Herbert not taking holiday in the North, I am sure he would ask you himself.

ever yours sincerely & gratefully Florence Nightingale P.S. The list of N.C. Officers for the
Administration, {134f}
given at P.O., by 
the Purveyor in Chief, 
appears to me 
quite exorbitant. 
In a Civil 
Hospital, all this 
would be under 
one Steward, 
with servants. 
in a Military, 
under your Captain 
of Orderlies, with 
Privates under him 
F.N. 

Hampstead NW
Oct 13/60
My dear Sir John McNeill
Could you, by means 
of your Inspectors, 
tell me anything 
about the enclosed 
lady & Convalescent 
Hospital? Nothing 
would give me 
greater pleasure 
than to help on, 
as far as I could, 

But, as set forth 
by Miss Wedderburn, 
there does not 
appear to be any 
project at all. - 
At least not 
definite - except 
that of getting 
subscriptions. 
I am sorry 
& glad to hear 
that Mrs. Stewart 
is going abroad. 

She will be a great 
loss at home. 
I trust that you 
will not pass through 
London either going 
or coming back, 
without sparing me 
a few moments. 
Till the end of 
this month I shall 
be here 
Mr. A. Jackson’s 
Upper Terrace 
Hampstead 
And we could take
in your whole party, {135c}
if you would give
us a day or two’s
notice. After October,
I shall be in London,
30 Old Burlington St
And if you & Lady
McNeill sleep in
London on your
return, I trust
it will be with us.
Many thanks for
your efficient help
about Purveyor’s
Regns
ever sincerely and gratefully yours
Florence Nightingale

to Sir John McNeill, typed copy 45768 f127

Mr. A. Jackson’s
Upper Terrace
Hampstead N.W.
Oct 16/60
My dear Sir John McNeill
I hear from Mr.
Clough that you
are coming up on
the 22nd till the
28th. So I make
haste to say that
the littlest Clough
who, with his sister, is here -
has got a thing,
which I call
tooth=rash, but
which the Doctor
calls measles. {136a}
{Perhaps there is
a new kind of
measles since
my time.}
However, I always
support mothers
& doctors against
myself. And,
therefore, altho’
the child is
perfectly well,
(saving his rash
& his teeth,) &
At this moment, I think it right to tell you.

Even if Mrs. Stewart had been good enough to think of coming here with her children, she would not have liked to have had the rooms (for them) in which the hurra-ing youth is now segregated. And perhaps he may not be let out before next week. Or perhaps the rooms may not have been aired long enough to be safe - if he is.

I hope however that you will at least let me see you - [We don’t consider “cutting the teeth”]

[2] Oct 16/60

I hope that you & dear Lady McNeill will stay in our rooms at Burlington St., where I shall then be, on your way back to Scotland.

ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale [end]
Mr. A. Jackson’s  
Upper Terrace  
Hampstead NW  
Oct 23/60  
My dear Sir John McNeill  
I am very sorry for Mrs. Stewart’s suspense & yours.  
I hope to see you on Wednesday, as you kindly propose.  
Any time after 3 o’clock would do for me - And my father is coming on that day. And if you would stop & dine with him, he would be so glad.  
I don’t know what to say about your little grand-child. I am afraid I must take the part against myself.  
The two little culprits are still here - and running & crawling about.  
But the Doctor
won’t say that one has not had & that the other is not going to have, the measles. I am perfectly incredulous. But I think it might be a source of anxiety to Mrs. Stewart afterwards - if her child were to be brought into this house - altho’ she might kindly consent for my pleasure.

ever yours sincerely & gratefully
F. Nightingale

Mr. A. Jackson’s
Upper Terrace
Hampstead
NW
Dec 12/60
My dear Sir John McNeill
I am not in Burlington St. as you see - altho’ I would have been, had you given me any hopes that you & Lady McNeill would have come
to stay with me.
I am still here, in order to keep Mrs. Clough & the children here. For Mr. Clough, being far from well, is still at Malvern.
I do hope you will be so good as to come and see me.
I know your plans so little that I will not say another word to trouble you, till I see you.

Very many thanks for your visit to Suor Cordero. I do not enclose the £20 you were so kind as to pay till I know a safer address to you.

Yours most truly & gratefully

Florence Nightingale

I sent your letter about Corfu to Mr. Herbert. And he told me last Sunday that he had referred it to the Barrack Commission. So that I am in some hopes of something getting done.

F.N.
30 O.B. St.
London W
Jan 17/61

My dear Sir John McNeill

I am really very sorry (for myself) about the German translation of my Notes on Nursing. I gave it last April to Miss Bunsen by a written form at her own request. since then, yours is the fifth, out of many more, to whom I would much rather have given it. Poor Miss Bunsen has had all her troubles since April. And, unable to do it herself, gave it out of charity to some one who has done it so imperfectly that she herself says it is unfit for publication.

I shall send your note to Mr. Clough - in hopes that he may communicate with Miss Bunsen, who herself may be glad to turn the thing over to Dr. Ross. I have not liked to trouble her myself about these matters - having
felt her father’s loss almost as much as she has done herself. [end 12:707]

Our scheme of re-organization is at last launched at the War Office - But I feel that Hawes may make it fail. And there is no strong hand over him [end]

ever yours gratefully & sincerely
F. Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU140: pen, letter to Sir John McNeill

30 Old Burlington Street (printed address;)
W.

April 7/60
My dear Sir John McNeill [15:290]

Thank you very much for your letter of the 26th & for Mr. Stewart’s remarks.

It is very much to the hopefulness of the Service & very much to the honour of so young a man that he should be so awake to the state of things.

With regard to what he says about a standing Navy, it certainly would have advantages over the present system - which would be brought out on an enquiry. Among these would no doubt be the
possibility of arranging the Service according to Stations - and so saving much health & life.

There are many things which ought to make one very hopeful for the Navy. And I am sure, if ever I had time & strength to help, I should be too glad to be allowed to do so.

I am too ignorant to make any remarks worth having on what Mr. Stewart says. Dr. Johnson used to say that in his time a man of war was a gaol with the chance of being drowned. And we all know what gaol = fever was in his time.

The Navy has however, (in spite of all its detractors may say), improved much more than the Army in proportion. No doubt since the introduction of steam, the Sanitary state of the Ships has gone back a step. There is no reason however why, with the additional power supplied by the steam, there ever
should be a breath of anything else than pure air in every part of the largest war-ship by day or by night - as Mr. Stewart seems to be well aware. Much has already been done in ventilating ships. And an enquiry, if followed out in practice, would shew how the most unpromising ships could be ventilated - as well as improved in another important Sanitary point. Believe me to be ever sincerely & gratefully Yours

F. Nightingale
30 Old Burlington Street (printed address:)
W.
June 21/61
My dear Sir John McNeill

Among the few practical things which I hope to succeed in saving from the general wreck of the War Office is: the organization of one General Hospital on your plan.

Col. Wilbraham has consented to be appointed Governor (if offered him,) of Woolwich Hospital.

[It has been offered to him informally.]

And last week we made up a complete list of Officers for the Staff, including a capital Sergeant= Major, who is to receive a Commission as Capt. of Orderlies.

These names have
been approved by Lord Herbert.

There has been an immense uproar, perhaps no more than you anticipated, from the Army Med. Dep. & the H. Guards.

Lord Herbert will send me the Governor’s Commission, upon the framing of which every thing will depend, before signing.

If there is time to send it to you,

I shall. But if not, could you say what points ought to be especially guarded in the Commission? I send you a copy of the Regulations, in case you have not one by you v. Section VIII Pp 40-42.

I will answer your kind letter more at length another day. What strikes me in this great defeat more painfully even than the loss to the Army is the triumph of the bureaucracy over the leaders, the political aristocracy who at least advocate higher principles. A Sidney Herbert beaten by a Ben Hawes is a greater humiliation really (as a matter of principle) than
the disaster of Scutari

yours ever truly
F.N.

I saw a private letter today from Sir James Hudson. He says “we must pull thro’ as well as we can. At present the team is all right. The Coachman has a good hold on the reins - & the nags are willing.”

Rt. Honble
Sir John McNeill G.C.B.
30 Old Burlington St.
F.N.

My dear Sir John
I hear that you have been asked to the Duke of Cambridge’s Meeting for the “Herbert Memorial” on the 28th. And if you could make this house your inn, I should be too glad to try & make you comfortable.

If you can come, I do think it would be of the very greatest importance for carrying out the work of our dear lost friend.

Lord Palmerston is to move the first Resolution & Lord Derby to second it - Mr. Gladstone to move the next & Genl= Peel to second - Lord Russell the next - & Bp. of Oxford to second.

It is doubtless quite right to nail the Ministers to a recognition of the worth of their lost comrade. But in all these names, I see none who in the least knew his real work - or who will in the least vindicate his
real title to gratitude - which is that he perished in the midst of a great work which he knew himself to be unfinished & his last words were to recognise this.

Nor do I know any one but yourself who would or could hold up the human side of his work to the world - or assert his real title to Statesmanship which Mr. Gladstone & poor Lady Herbert expressly deny - I mean his settled plan to renew the soldier, morally & physically - 

& his intention to re=organize the War Office, which death cut short.

Therefore I think it most important, if your health will permit, that you should take this part at the Meeting.

I send you my little sketch, printed only because I had not the power to copy it, of what he did do in office. [It is quite private].

I am come up here to do the Indian Sanitary Commission work.

Ever my dear Sir John
Yours gratefully & sincerely
Florence Nightingale
They seemed not to realize the danger till a very few days ago. And there is something unexplained about the rapid end. He had been so much better at first for going abroad. He was a man of a rare mind and temper - the more so because he would gladly do "plain work." To me, seeing the inanities & the blundering harasses which were the uses to which we put him, he seemed like a race horse harnessed to a coal truck. This not because he did "plain work" & did it so well. For the best of us can be put to no better use than that.

He helped me immensely, tho’ not officially - by his sound judgement & constant sympathy. "Oh Jonathan my brother Jonathan, my love to thee was very great - passing the love of women."

Now, not one man remains (that I can call a man) of all those whom these five years I have worked with. But as you say, "we are all dying."
ever dear Sir John
yours sincerely & gratefully
Florence Nightingale

Bertha Coltman, Blanche
Clough’s younger sister, who is slowly recovering
her confinement, has not yet been told this heavy news. By excess of precaution, I tell you this, altho’ it is hardly likely that you should be writing to her family.
If you will change your mind about
the meeting on the 28th (Lord Herbert’s)
& come here - you know how glad I should be.

FN

My dear Sir John McNeill
It is a very long while since I have heard from you.
It is 4 months since I have been much worse & not able to leave my bed, which is the reason you have not heard from me.
Pray tell Lady McNeill that it was not
want of interest which prevented my acknowledging her letter about the new daughter, which I hope is thriving.

I work on still for the War Office. But it is a Guerilla warfare, of little profit, altho’ Lord de Grey is entirely on our side.

I have written the greater part of the Indian Sanitary Report for Lord Stanley & am doing the Digest of the Stational Reports.

That for the Bombay Presidency I have finished. Lord Stanley has asked me to write answers to written questions, under my own name. But these I have scarcely begun.

I hear from M. Mohl that he has “got lately from Teheran an enormous folio, containing the last editions.” (to the fables on Alexander the Great) “And they are strange enough & illustrated by lithographed vignettes,
“where Alexander pays court to an European princess, who is represented sitting in crinoline on a rococo canapé. He is a Mohammedan in this wonderful book.”

I send you papers of the two Training Schools for Nurses to which the whole income of the N. fund is now devoted. I wish they were more widely known out of London - especially the one for training midwifery nurses.

Ever dear Sir John
Your affect. & grateful
F. Nightingale

9 Chesterfield St
London W
Ap 22/62
My dear Sir John McNeill
I shall be very much obliged to you if you will kindly, as you propose, send the papers (about the two Training Schools for Nurses) to your various parishes. I send copies by this day’s post of each. With regard to the Midwifery Nurses,
we have a small fund, which could easily be enlarged, for paying the £10, (asked for board & lodging for 6 months) for those parishes which are really too poor to pay. 

We also give a general Nurse training, besides the Midwifery training, to those for whom it is desired, (Who must be willing to stay longer than the 6 months) - in the general wards of the Hosp., & also among the Out Patients visited at home. 

King’s Coll. Hosp. is so poor that, altho’ it generously gave us the services of its Officers gratuitously (excepting the Midwife who is ours,) it was unable to pay anything towards the beds. And we therefore are unable to board the Probationers quite
I am well satisfied with the way in which Mrs. Wardroper does her work & her duty by our Probationers there. But I do not think that the quality of the Probationers has been such as the advantages offered would have procured us, were it more known out of London. They cost us £70 a piece. Believe me, ever, yours gratefully F. Nightingale

Hampstead NW
Aug 8/62
My dear Sir John McNeill
I venture to send you by this post for your criticism my "Observations' on the Stational Reports from India.

If you are so good as to look it through, will you note your remarks on the margin & return it to me?

It is only a proof.
We have failed, owing to the dilatoriness of some of our members,
in getting our Report "Indian Sanitary" presented this Session, as would have been most important.

But next month Lord Stanley holds a Meeting to consider the Report.
It now stands thus:
1. All the replies to the printed books of queries have come in from India, have been abstracted & are in print.

My Digests of these for the three
Presidencies are all written. Bombay is in type. Bengal & Madras not yet come back from press.

Would you like to see these three Digests?

2. Our part of the Report (Sanitary) is written, & in type; & corrected by Lord Stanley, who pledges himself to carry it thro’ the Commission next month. This embraces the oral evidence of course, rather more than or quite as much as the Stational Replies.

My “Observations,” ordered by the Commission (& which I now send), were limited to the Stational Replies.

I have little new, nothing good to tell. Ld de Grey & Capt. Galton miscalculated their powers or their intelligence when they promised to re-organize the W.O. The administrative work they do well.

I trust Lady McNeill & Mrs. Stewart & the children are well. Ever yours gratefully

F. Nightingale
Hampstead NW
Oct 16/62
Dear Sir John McNeill
I hope, when you have a minute to spare, you will be so good as to tell me how you got home with Mr. Stewart; & that you have good hopes of a speedy recovery, or (if not speedy) of a complete one.
It must be an anxious time to Mrs. Stewart, & still more to you, who have to be his support, instead of he yours.
I would not trouble you to write at once. Is it the disease of which you once told me?
ever yours thoughtfully
F. Nightingale
I hope you did not think that I expected you to come down here. I sent up a messenger to tell my father on Saturday that you were at Fenton’s and I was in hopes he would have caught a glimpse of you. That was all.
My love, please, to dear Lady McNeill - & tell her I am with her in her trouble; tho’ that is poor comfort.
4. Cleveland Row \(\textit{printed address:}\)  S.W.
July 9/63
My dear Sir John McNeill

I am distributing a few copies of our Indian Army Sanitary Report to newspapers & Ministers, before the general issue. And I cannot forebear sending you a copy. You will see that your advice about a working organization has not been neglected. And I am now busy in pressing it upon I.O. \(\textit{149a}\) and W.O. No one knows better than yourself that a Report is not self-executive; and when the Report is ended, the work begins.

Our object is to obtain the immediate appointment of three Commissions in India, one for each Presidency; and a home working Commission, to be attached to I.O. or
W.O., as they prefer, on the basis of the Barrack & Hospital Improvement Commn. & simply consultative, of course consisting of Sir Proby Cautley Sir Ranald Martin Capt. Galton Dr. Sutherland Mr. Rawlinson C.E.
It is to advise till the Presidency Commissions can walk alone Sir C. Trevelyan has provided £300,000 for us in his Budget, which he thinks is
as much as we can spend in the first year. But if more is wanted, he says, it shall be forthcoming. I am sure if you can do anything for us in reviewing or pressing this Report on the public, you will.

Pray, my love to all
Yours.
Believe me ever gratefully & affectely.
yours
Florence Nightingale

Hampstead NW
Oct 12/63
My dear Sir John McNeill
I am so exceedingly sorry to have missed you in London; I cannot think how it could have happened. I am afraid your visits to London are generally unforeseen. Otherwise, if you could give me a line but the day beforehand, with your address in London, it would infallibly reach me.

I am very much
obliged for your kind note.

Could you, if you see Lord Brougham, & would you, deliver the following message to him? asking,

Whether, if he is coming to London for more than a day or two, he would allow me, not to introduce myself to him (for I now rarely leave my bed & never my room, except for a periodical migration) but to introduce to him the Lady Superintendent of

King’s College Hospital?

& whether he would permit her to ask him to call upon her at the Hospital?

In his address, he mentioned the question of Hospital Nursing. And, as great weight deservedly attaches to every word he says, I trust I may be excused in making this request.

Ever sincerely & gratefully yours
Florence Nightingale

On Nov 2 I return to 32 South St. W.
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 677
H1/ST/NC3/SU151 fair copy of letter of Wm Rathbone to FN re nursing in workhouse inf; has had long confidential consultation yesterday with Cropper, PL inspector will anonymously over £700 p.a. for 3 years to introduce a system of nursing under a trained supt. “As to a Lady Supt that is the great difficulty--one who will be willing to obey in order to command” 25 Feb 1864; looks like similar content to 47753 f28 000470


115. Park Street W. (printed address:)
May 17/64
My dear Sir John McNeill
    You will regret, as
I do, our dear friend,
Sir A. Tulloch - and
may perhaps wish to
see some account of
his very rapid illness.
The end, so soon, has
been a great shock.
    It seems so long
since I have heard
anything from you
I saw the birth of another
little grand-child.
I hope it & all yours
are well.
You will wish to hear how our Sanitary affairs are going on. Sir John Lawrence’s appointment gave us a most unexpected hold on India. He was so good as to see me during the short time between his appointment & departure. And he has carried out every thing then suggested - a Commission of Health appointed for each Presidency &c &c

But few people have had such extraordinary chances as I have had twice - a Secretary of State & a Governor-General delivered, as it were, into my hand. And few have seen such disappointment as I have.

I remember well your saying that no man had ever had so noble a game to play, as Sidney Herbert, & had not played it. It was true.

And now, no War Office has ever had
such an opportunity, with such a Governor General actually asking, what would you have me to do? & has not used it. The instructions for his Health Commissions which he positively solicited, are still pending, as they were 5 months ago. And, except my private suggestions, he has had nothing. I am entirely a sick prisoner now. 

Pray give my love to Lady McNeill & believe me ever yours gratefully Florence Nightingale

My dear Sir John McNeill

The War Office is always planning & never doing. The following is a point, which you understand better than any one, & which I have often consulted you about: - At every foreign Station of the British Army, there are four heads of Departments - all
to a certain extent

independent in money matters, viz.

Commisariat
Stores
Barracks
Purveyor.

As the Stations are beyond the immediate control of the W.O., the men holding the appointments are all highly paid men, in order to secure efficiency & responsibility, especially as regards expenditure. But,

beyond this, their other duties would not warrant a large outlay for salaries.

Would it be advantageous or otherwise (looking to war exigencies) to appoint at each station a Controller of Military expenditure, through whose hands all payments should go, & who would act as head of the various departments in all matters of expenditure

- & to fill up the head appointments in

Commisariat
Stores
Barracks
Purveying

by a lower-paid class of Officers.

It would be substituting one highly paid Financial Officer to regulate the finance of all the departments, and restricting the duties of the special heads of departments simply to details.
Would this diminution of highly-paid Departmental Officers be injurious (or not) to the service in case of war? Would it limit too much the field, out of which good Officers could be selected for special War Service? Would it be practicable, if the present system were altered, to provide out of the W.O. at home a sufficient number of excellent Commissariat, Purveying & Store-keeping Officers for Field Service?

In case of war, a controller of Army expenditure would go with the force. He would provide funds for Governors of General Hospitals Purveyors in the Field Commissariat & Stores, (if necessary.) The chief point raised is whether Departments, when in the field, would suffer by having inferior men for their heads in time of peace - and, if so, how this could be prevented.

If you would be so very kind as to answer this question, it would be very kind. Believe me ever your grateful & affect.

Florence Nightingale

You used to be much interested about our Mediterranean
Stations - particularly Corfu. I know not whether our Report, which I send, would reward you for glancing over it. Perhaps not, especially now the Ionian Islands are given up. I hear Sir H. Storks, who is in England, is to have Malta.

F.N.

My dear Sir John McNeill

So far from your remarks not answering my questions, they touch the real point at once, as you always do, almost without knowing it. And I have this day communicated with the W.O.

I send you by this day’s Book Post one of the first (signed) copies of the first offspring of the joint W.O. and I.O. Commission, appointed to carry out the recommendations of the R. Indian Army Sanitary Commissn= [7 1/2 months it has taken them to sign it, while Sir J. Lawrence has been constantly writing home for it with his own hand] It is expected that, in the course of the present century, the I.O. will send it out to Sir John Lawrence officially. But in the mean time copies
are speeding out to him direct from me by Her Majesty’s book post. You have no idea how heartbreaking much of my work is. Sidney Herbert has been dead three years on the 2nd. And these 3 years have been nothing but a slow undermining of all he has done. Sir J. Lawrence writes discouraged - "difficulties," he says to me (but this is quite confidential) he "could scarcely understand or anticipate." This, I think, breaks my heart more than anything.

At the same time. I bear in mind how extraordinary are the chances I have had. To have met with three men like yourself, Sir John Lawrence & Sidney Herbert - While so many people, wiser & better than I, have gone thro’ life without ever anyone listening to their plans. I think Sir J. Lawrence is a really great administrator - do not you?

ever yours sincerely & gratefully F. Nightingale
Private
{printed address:}
27. Norfolk Street.
Park Lane W.
7/2/65
My dear Sir John McNeill
I always fly to you when in difficulty.
I have had the most enormous order from Sir John Lawrence for Matrons & Nurses for India, of which a trifling item is:
66 Head Nurses
112 Asst. for female Regimental Hospitals. These are already “sanctioned.”

He wishes, besides, to nurse all Military General Hospitals, of which 10 are named - and to establish Training Schools in all Civil Hospitals. He does not, like a wise man as he is, positively engage for or desire any particular specified thing. But he asks for advice on the largest scale -
and “the Governor General in Council” states that “Whatever expence is requisite must be met.”

[There is a private & most pressing invitation to me myself to go out. If the Doctors would give me six months there, I would go. There is nothing in the whole world I should like better.]

Of course I lost no time in consulting our Training Schools as to what we could do. Of this more hereafter.

But they in India ask for a printed paper. And I venture to submit to you the first rough Draft of one, knowing that you, if you have time to glance at it, will help me more than any one.

Of course conclusions & some other things must be added to the paper. All the rest I think had better be written privately to Sir John
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 686

Lawrence, not the “Governor General in Council.”

As to what we can do in sending out women:—

We have now 23, an unusual number, at St. Thomas’—we would keep up this number if we train for India. All those now at St. T’s are engaged. In fact, it is impossible for us to meet our engagements, even combining King’s Coll= and St Thomas’. Between the two we are training 19 for Manchester. Liverpool has not taken away its Nurses yet. Mr. Villiers, the Poor Law Man, called upon me last week, by his own appointment about a scheme for nursing Workhouses. (And I was just about to write to you, as the “Board of Supervision”
head, about this.

But it is the material which is wanting. The more chattering & noise there is about “Woman’s Mission,” the less of efficient women we can find. It makes me mad to hear people talk about unemployed women. If they are unemployed, it is because they won’t work. The highest salaries given to women at all, we can secure to women trained by us.

But we can’t find the women. They won’t come. Both our Training Schools are most anxious to help.

The Superintendt= of King’s Coll= Hospital would take another Hospital to train women for us: but she cannot admit more in King’s Coll=.

If we send women out to India, we should of course engage them expressly for this purpose.

I am writing most
disconnectedly. The fact is, I am quite “used up.” I have had to see Mr. Massey who replaces, as you know, poor Sir C. Trevelyan - and Lord Stanley on Indian Sanitary things - about which I wanted very much to write to you.

Pray remember me most affectionately to Lady McNeill-
I believe Mrs. Stewart is not with you - believe me ever yours truly & gratefully

F. Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU157 signed letter, 10 pp, pen & pencil John McNeill typed copy 45768 f202

Private Sept 10/67
35 South Street. {printed address:}
Park Lane.
London. W.

My dear Sir John McNeill
I should have troubled you before this - and on a point in which you alone can help me, if it were not that I heard that you were absent in the Highlands. And I did not like to pursue you there.

The matter (on which I want to consult you as to what my answer should be to the India Government) is that of Trained Nurses, upon which you were so very good as to help me before.

You will see by the papers
which will accompany this {157a} that I adopted your
suggestions in full.
If you will be so very good as
to help me again, I shall
esteeem it, as I always do,
the greatest favour I can
receive.
I enclose a letter from
Major Malleson, who is
now sole Sanitary Commn=.
for Bengal - & the papers
which accompanied it No III
You will see that they have
constructed an immense
scheme upon mine - or
rather ours. And then
they condemn this scheme,

No II appears to contain p.p. 1-32 of No III
& nothing more.

which is in some respect {157b}
the opposite of mine - &
call it mine. E.g. they
propose to put Nurses in
all Regimental Hospitals
which is what we never
would consent to & never
have consented to. And
then they write that my
scheme is condemned.
When, in fact, I made no
scheme, but simply pointed
out methods of training
& offered to begin.

Our paper (of which yours
was the best part) was a reply
to the letter of the Secretary
of the Bengal Sanitary Commn.,
of Nov. 21, 1864, which I
also enclose, with the paper
which accompanied it,
No I. p.p. 136-146
asking me to send out suggestions for the organization of trained, Nursing in India, & stating that “Whatever expense it is requisite to incur for this purpose, should be met as willingly” &c &c - this as an “intimation” of the “G.G. in Council.” Our paper, while suggesting doing the best we could at a distance, & without local knowledge, to furnish the desired information, at the same time advised that a small tentative experiment should in the first instance be made. And we offered to help in this. The cost would not have been very great. And I must say that, after reading over all the papers, I still adhere to that opinion. I cannot but feel how unwisely they have begun by rearing up in the first instance (on paper) an extensive superstructure of nursing for all the Military Hospitals [E.g. I have always urged that it is quite a question whether Convalescent Depots should have Female Nursing at all. I think not. At the utmost, when Female Nursing is established in every Sick Hospital, it may then be considered whether you should put, for the sick during 6 months of the year in the Convalescent Depots,
a Matron & Assistant Matron, as also for the linen &c of the Convalescent Depot. But Nurses among Convalescent soldiers in the wards are quite out of place & always will be. They would become play things & very improper ones."

There are not half a dozen Military Hospitals in India to which female Nursing would be applicable - certainly not at first. The object would be for to induce India to begin as N.S. Wales is beginning & many other places - viz. to send to us for a small trained efficient staff to take charge of one Hospital & to try the work of Nursing & training Nurses. (I think I mentioned to you that for this very purpose we are going to send out to Sydney in December a Lady Supt. & 4 Head Nurses, for a 3 years’ engagement - at £150 rising to £200 for the former - £50 rising to £70 for the latter - board & lodging & free passage out via Panama for all - &c &c - an arrangement which I have just concluded with the Govt=.)

I think I also mentioned that I have had a similar application from the Madras Govt. - & one from the Bombay Parsees.

Now, why cannot the Bengal people do the same - instead of
making gigantic cut & dry (157g)
systems on paper & then
condemning them - whereas
of all things Nursing in
Military Hospitals requires
painful careful trial -
because it must always
be an experiment, & a new experiment every time
you try it, to put down
a few women among a
parcel of men - this being
the only occupation where
a woman is really in
actual charge & control
of grown up men. So much
depends on the discretion of
the Supt=. in the character
of the Medical and Military
Officers. &c &c

[3] (157h)
As to the proposal concerning Protestant nuns in Major
Malleson’s M.S. letter, inclosed,
he falls into the common
mistake, viz. of believing that
if we would but lay aside
religious prejudices, we should
have 15,000 Protestant
Sisters of Charity – as the
French have 15,000 R.C.
Sisters of Charity.

Now, this is not a matter
to theorize about. It is already
a matter of fact & experience
I should have more difficulty
in sending him an efficient
Nursing Staff, composed of
“Sisters,” whether R.C. or
Protestant – than in
sending him one a staff out of
our ordinary materials
at St. Thomas’, great as
that difficulty is.
In these “Orders,” - {157i}
The material is always
doubtful. And the numbers
are too few.
And the best women do
not choose to enter “Orders.”
Also, it is found that
women who have really
entered the service of God
in Hospitals, (e.g. Miss
Agnes Jones, of Liverpool
Workhouse,) are just as
little likely to marry out
of “Orders” as in them.
[Miss A. Jones is remarkably
pretty & attractive.]
There are now four London
Hospitals, nursed by Protestant
“Orders.” Of these, the Nursing
of two is beneath contempt -
& therefore shall not be
mentioned here - other than
to show that, so far from
the prejudice supposed by
Major M. being in active
existence, every facility is
given to the rising up
of Nursing “Orders” in Hospitals.
The other two, Kings College &
Charing Cross, are nursed
by St. John’s House of
which my dear friend &
“pupil,” Miss Jones, is Supt=.
[At least she calls me her
“mistress.”] I have taken
at least as much pains
about her “Society” as I
have done with my own.
We have our Midwifery
School under her. I have
consulted her & Mrs.
Wardooper equally about
the India Nursing. I cannot
therefore be supposed to
speak as an enemy.
But her system of Nursing,
which is first rate, has
taken even less extension than ours has.
The fact is that Orders in England (& this is quite as much the case with the R.C.s who are exactly in the same difficulty as we are) do not extend for this reason: - the best women, women fit to be heads, do not enter Orders in England - which generally consist of one good head & a number of fools, or rather a very few fools..
Add to which: - women who wish to marry will marry (& have married,) from our "Orders" because we can't take the same "vows" as R.C.’s - & women who don’t wish to marry won’t marry, even if not in "Orders."

I should wish to be guided entirely by your opinion as to what reply I should make to the Govt=. of India, if you will be so very good as to take it into consideration. My impression is: - what they want in India is a well considered small beginning -and that we should advise them still to try this - & again offer our help - in training.

Would you advise me to do or say anything with regard to offering to try also to send out a small number of "Sisters" from St. John’s? - That there is not one to spare at present, I know. They
had to stretch their personnel to the utmost to spare 2 sisters to take Charing Cross - & were obliged to decline a Workhouse. Also to decline putting a “Sister” over our Midwife & Midwifery ward, (when requested by the Physician Accoucheur.) for there was not one to spare. Please consider all this as “private.” Would you advise me to say that the scheme to which Dr. Farquhar takes objection (vide papers) is not mine. - end of No. III

that I have no scheme - that, if the Government of India wish for my advice regarding a scheme (vide

Major Malleson) it is for them & not for me to propose one - that I consider (& experience has always led me to advocate) female Nursing as applicable only in General Hospitals in the Army - & not in either Convalescent Depots or in Regimental Hospitals - that, as to having “Assistant Nurses” in Military Hospitals, the thing is totally & entirely out of the question, whether in Europe or in India, - & as far as one can see, always will be so. [The place of Assistant Nurses in Civil Hospitals must always be filled in Military Hospitals by men.]
And no woman below the class & education & position of a Head Nurse in a Civil Hospital should ever be suffered in a Military Hospl=.

As to that stuff about the “enthusiasm” of the Nursing in the “Crimean Campaign,” that is all bosh. We had, unfortunately for us, scarcely one woman sent out to us who was even up to the level of a Head Nurse. And we suffered for it. And, even now when I look back, I cannot think how we dragged through. But, instead of taking that time as an “enthusiasm” which cannot now or again be equalled, we have learnt from it a great deal as to what ought to be the principle & routine of female Nursing in the ordinary General Military Hospl=. & as to what ought to be avoided & sought.]

I am throwing a great burthen upon you to read thro’ all these papers. I have read many tons of papers in the last 11 years. But I don’t think I have ever seen such a farrago as this. They send our Nursing Scheme to a Captain of Engineers & to a Major in the Army to discuss. I hope when next they have a war in Bhotan, they will send the proposed Artillery to Mrs. Wardroper to criticize.
Perhaps I need hardly say that such rules as are here proposed, e.g., that, as a punishment, the Nurses’ beer should be “stopped,” would completely & always “stop” (not the “beer” but) any chance of raising the Service to that of good & respectable women.

It shews how wise we were to insist upon, at first & as a sine qua non, that the Nurses should be under a Supt= of their Sex, & not under the Medl=. Officers.

If you treat Nurses like female convicts, you will have female convicts for your Nurses.

The only idea these papers appear to have of business is: - to print my paper over & over again - to mount upon it schemes which have nothing to do with it - & then to renounce them as too expensive.

See the “Resolution” of Govt=. First Sheet of No. III

I was about to write to you as to another matter - our Public Health Service in India - but will not deluge you all at once. Pray give my best love to Lady McNeill. I trust her health is restored & to Mrs. Stewart my best congratulations- Forgive this immense letter from ever yours sincerely & gratefully

Florence Nightingale
Private  
Sept 21/67  
35 South Street. {printed address:}  
Park Lane.  
London. W.  
My dear Sir John McNeill  
I had received your first [9:971-72] letter, on the subject of Female Nursing in India, which, as everything you always do, put the situation clearly before me. And I had written, according to your advice, a simple Protest, without proposing anything anew, to Sir John Lawrence himself.  
But, rather luckily for me, I think - I could not get my letter ready for the mail of the 18th, because by desire of some members of the India Office, I had to write him a long letter & paper on the introduction of a Public Health Service by that mail.  
Then came your second most clear & emphatic letter. And I somewhat recast mine to Sir J. Lawrence, to go by next mail - when, yesterday, arrives this letter from him, enclosing the paper from Dr. Farquhar, which I also enclose.  
I am quite ashamed of troubling you again, when
I had already received so lucid & comprehensive a sketch from you of the view I ought to take. But I will only ask you now to be so very good as to look over the enclosures, in the light of the previous correspondence - & to tell me whether they in any way alter your opinion, as expressed on the whole question in your last letters, or your view of the answer I ought to make.

The matter is certainly quite hopeless at present. I believe you hit on the right solution of the extraordinary proceeding, as it seems, of a Govt= taking & giving all this trouble, not only to me but to a number of its own Officers, for the pure pleasure of doing a great deal of utterly useless writing.

But you can have no idea of the degree to which this has gone in every Department of the India Govt=. What we have gone thro’ in writing on the Public Health Service no one can tell, during these last 3 1/2 years. I should think myself impatient & restless, (tho’ I am not much of a novice,) - did I not hear what Sir B. Frere says - which is much stronger than what
I say.
He thinks that this very kind of administration or no-administration is bringing all Govt= in India to a dead lock.
I could give you the most extraordinary instances derived from our own branch of administration alone.
Our foolscap is sent all over India to see how many foolsheads it will fit. Of course it fits a good many. Then there comes home to us a mass of papers, incredible to anyone who did not see them. And we have to answer them all seriously. Then answers come back from India. It is so easy to answer, if you don’t want to act.

Latterly, a proposition about doors versus windows in Barracks was sent round to every British Department, 6, (six) in every British province in India - only one of which Departments knew anything about it at all - & then came home to us - with all the opinions of all the Cooks printed.
With Sir B. Frere’s assistance, however, I hope now that we shall have a regular Department organized for ourselves at the India Office - & in each administrative division of India for itself - to save some of this fearful waste of time.
Before Sir B. Frere came home, I was getting quite desperate. He is to us what you are or would be if we had you here. I have often intended to trouble you about these Indian Public Health affairs. But it was entailing such an immense amount of “paper” upon you.

Pray remember me most heartily to Lady McNeill - & believe me ever most gratefully & sincerely yours

Florence Nightingale
Please burn

H1/ST/NC3/SU159 pen, letter to Sir John McNeill {black-edged paper} typed copy
45768 f222 [8:638–39]

Private Christmas Day
1868
35 South Street. {printed address:}
Park Lane.
W.
My dear Sir John McNeill
In memory of an old love, very deeply felt for dear Lady McNeill & for yourself, & of gratitude as deeply felt for great kindnesses received from her & from you, during very difficult & trying portions of my life, I trust that you will not think I am breaking in like a stranger upon your grief, if I try to tell you, however feebly, how much I feel personally - & far, far more for you the intensity of the loss.
For she was one of a great
& rare spirit - tried in the fire -
a fire which English ladies
in general with their easy
complaining lives so little
know - & through which
you & her great love for you
carried her so cheerily.
I have never thought of her
since the year that I had
first the blessing of knowing
her, in 1856, without
thinking how unlike she
was to other people - the
ignoble, useless ladies of
fashion (of whom I see
so much not in my room
but from my windows) - the
people who have always a
moral reason for doing what they like.

Like herself to the last, she
seems to have never had any
other thought but of
providing for others’ comfort
& of not being separated
from you, at least on
this earth.
I think the only comfort in
thinking of such people is
in thinking that the loss is
irreparable. It is the test
of a really great sorrow that
every day makes one feel it
more & only more. Though
it is 7 years since I have
lost Sidney Herbert, I feel
more & more day by day
what I have lost, as day
by day teaches me that
there is no one to take his
place - no one to carry out
his plans. But at least
you have not the misery in
your case as I have, of seeing how
his children’s welfare is
affected by his absence -
how the Army suffers by
the “work unfinished” - [his
last words - “Poor Florence -
“our work unfinished] -
And I, tho’ I have lost
A.H. Clough for 7 years,
can say the same thing of
him - no one to take his place.
I feel then that I can feel
something of the great grief
which otherwise would
make it seem almost
impertinent of me to
approach you - did I
not know something of what
she was - how “worthy” - as
the good old Scripture word
says - a very present help
in time of trouble & in
time of joy. And of what
she is, (as I most firmly
believe.)
In your constant care & interest
for the good of human beings,
for which you can do so much,
for which you have done
so much, more than any
man I know - in your
love for those whom she
has left you, - you will
find, I know, that which
will carry you even through
this sorrow without any
weakening or corroding
effect to your great powers.
I do not like to dwell upon
things which you know so
much better than I do, lest
that might seem like one intermeddling with your grief.

I do not hope much (perhaps because I am tired of hoping) from present Ministers - at least, not in our 3 Departments, the War Office, the India Office, the Poor Law Board. The cry for Economy seems to me to absorb all their faculties. To any one knowing, & knowing, feeling, what a great organization like a Govt=. Office really is - & the enormous consequences for weal & woe for all time it holds in its hands - retrenchment seems but only one element of what it has to do - & almost a brutal one.

Sir John Lawrence is coming back. And, though he has not done all we expected, yet still we must feel, on looking back, how much has been done during his 5 years. Lord Mayo, whom I did not know at all, came to me of his own accord on his appointment to “get up” the Sanitary question for India. I liked him better than I expected. He said (which I thought was sharp of him) that he should ask Sir John Lawrence - who has always most kindly kept up his correspondence with me - to tell me, on his return, what to tell him, Lord Mayo, to do on Sanitary points. It is indeed a vast field - & one which grows vaster every day. Sir Bartle Frere has been of the most essential service to us since he came home - And we have now a Department of our own at the India Office.
I have a fresh neophyte in the person of Crown Princess of Prussia. She has a quick intelligence & is cultivating herself in knowledge of Sanitary (& female) administration for her future great career. She comes alone like a girl, pulls off her hat & jacket like a five-year-old, drags about a great portfolio of plans, & kneels by my bed-side correcting them. She gives a great deal of trouble. But I believe it will bear fruit.

I did not hear of dear Lady McNeill’s illness till some time after she was gone - [who would have thought that I should have survived her?] - & then quite accidentally I wrote to Mr. Rathbone to enquire - and after you and Mrs. Stewart. And Mr. John Paget was so good as to answer. I was thankful to hear that Mrs. Stewart & all of hers were there at the time. Will you give her my warmest love and sympathy? Pray, dear Sir John McNeill, believe me ever yours 

Sorrowfully & overflowingly
Florence Nightingale

Please burn
Dec 26/68
35 South Street. {printed address}
Park Lane.
W.

My dear Sir

I cannot thank you sufficiently for having so kindly & fully given me particulars about an event which interests me so deeply, dear Lady McNeill’s death, & about him whom we all love so much. He will feel the loss every day more & more while he lives. Perhaps it is the test of a real loss that time which cures many woes, only makes us feel that more deeply—as we see how little there is to replace it. But his great devotion to the cause of humanity & his love of his (and her) daughter & grandchildren will carry him through it without loss of mental power. She was a woman of a rare quality—tested by endurance & by chance & change which most stay=at=home English ladies never know.

I have been long in thanking you for your kind letter, except in my heart. For I have been oppressed by business, which becomes more difficult to get through, as my health gets worse.

Pray, dear Sir,

With renewed thanks for your kindness—ever your faithful servt=

Florence Nightingale

John Paget Esq &c &c
My dear Sir John McNeill

Your great kindness encourages me to ask you to help me as no one else can: -

I will refer to some points in your conversation: -

1. If there are (as you say & as I entirely agree,) great objections to Government interfering directly in Emigration, would there be the same objection to: the following?....

Poor Law Guardians in England have moved surplus labour out of their parishes into the manufacturing districts with great benefit to all. Instead of paying land conveyance, might they not pay ship passages?

Could not a scheme, in which Guardians & private persons in the parish might co-operate, be framed whereby, through the medium of the Colonial Office & the Colonial Governments - emigrants, children & others, might be conveyed & be trained in the Colonies for Colonial life - & so take their place as agriculturalists, stock-keepers &c and the girls, as they grow up, as women where they are so much wanted.
I confess, tho’ I have always tried to help, as far as I could, those fine fellows among the unemployed workmen who will pinch & pawn to help themselves out, & afterwards their families, to the Colonies – that I think these are the men whom we should the least wish to part with. If Emigration is only practicable in this way, it may almost be said that it is only practicable as far as it is unnecessary. It is the orphan & deserted children who can’t help themselves – the young girls, not yet vicious, who are as it were predestined to sin & pauperism in the Old Country, who might be good & industrious & happy in the new; – it is these who want our help – but then they must have industrial training in the Colonies to make them do well there. Would it be impossible, as Glasgow sends its children to Arran, for any scheme to be devised by which London might send its children to Canada? [Melbourne once offered to our Government to form Industrial Schools for our pauper children, “not yet confirmed in pauper habits.”]
2. India

Might I ask you to glance over this good natured but startling letter from Lord Mayo (which I received just after I had the pleasure of seeing you)!

startling, because it shows that not one of the men, from Lord Mayo downwards, understands the question.

[I shall not answer Lord Mayo till I have seen Dr. Cunningham, as he desires.]

I know Dr. Cunningham by correspondence. He is a good, excellent man, who has gone head foremost into all the "theories" against which we have warned them - but who is clever & candid & now acknowledges that he "knows nothing" - a great step in knowledge.

The causes of the failure in the healthiness of the "new Barracks" we could tell them, every one.

Yes surely: I remember your Memo= on preparing the ground. We made great use of it. Also: you will perhaps remember that we sent them out "Suggestions," asked for & approved by the India Govt= here - asked for & approved by the Govt=.
of India there - on water-
supply, drainage, sewerage,
Statitional improvements,
every kind of matter affecting
the Public Health. And
the Govt= sent a copy to every
official whom it concerned.
And this is the result.

We have greatly succeeded
in native & Civilian health.
The Military alone is stupid.

Should anything suggest
itself to you as to what
questions I should ask
Dr. Cunningham - as to how
I should fix him to stating
(to us) the objections to the
"new Barracks" &c - Would
you kindly tell me?

It was hardly necessary for
me on Sunday to put in words
to you how much I am
discouraged.

As for the War Office, one
may say that they have
"crucified" Sidney Herbert
afresh, & "put him to an
open shame."

The sticking up a man’s
statue in the Court Yard &
destroying his work within,
is an organized hypocrisy
which Jesuits might envy.
India is after all our best
hope. But, when the work
there does not progress,
it retrogresses.
For me to see you is at once the highest hope & the deepest pain. It reminds me of days when a great career was just begun, when great works & great purposes seemed so prosperous, when the goal seemed in view.

Now, all our hopes seem blasted & all our plans destroyed. But it reminds me too of your patient courage & devoted endurance in a long life of successful sacrifice to the good of our country. And, tho' it will not be given me to see of the fruit of my toil, of the travail of my soul - yet, who am I that I should complain?

Pray believe me
My dear Sir John
ever yours affectely. & gratefully
Florence Nightingale

I hesitated, when you told me what Mr. Rathbone had said of the failure of the Liverpool Workhouse Nursing, whether I should tell you the facts.

It seems to me that a short summary is due from me to you, as you are so good as to be on our Council. They have not now one woman left there of our training. All our Trained Nurses whom dear Agnes Jones took with her they have now got rid of - not because they deserve dismissal but because they "deserve promotion."

To us it appears madness. Some we have taken back - (at their urgent request - I mean, at Mr. Rathbone’s -)
Nurse to Agnes Jones’ mother - three have just been taken as “Sisters” at Middlesex Hospl. Not one has left in disgrace. (Another, I regret to say, (whom I do not know,) who was sent there after Agnes Jones’ death, as Assistant Matron, they allowed my Committee to recommend to a Liverpool Hospital, - saying that they had no fault to find with her, - as Matron. And she has disgraced herself - & been dismissed - for intoxication. With her, of course, our connection is quite at an end. She is struck off our books. After her being struck off, I received a letter from Liverpool Workhouse, stating that we had “recommended” her after we had been “faithfully warned” of her character. I simply answered that the statement was so entirely new to me (I having been in constant confidential communication with them the whole time & never heard a word of it) that I should submit the statement to my Committee.

An answer reply immediately came, withdrawing the statement & asking me to accept their apology.
Lastly, the Supt=. (Matron) there, is I regret to say, of our recommending - not of our training. I am sorry to say that I believe all (and more) of what is said against her. After Agnes Jones’ death, Mr. Rathbone put us to the torture to find a successor. He admitted no reason - he accepted no delay. We found this woman. He would scarcely allow us to give her 
3 months trial & training - tho’ we told him a year was not enough - We had already made many searches & many trials. [Two very unwise but most excellent old ladies, Agnes Jones’ aunts, were meanwhile (most praiseworthily) keeping the Workhouse Infirmary.] I look upon Agnes Jones’ work as completely wrecked. In a few days she will have been dead 2 years. And as these days come round, I cannot even think of her without tears which I have not time to shed. But I have striven, tho’ in vain. to uphold her work. For more than a year I am certain that I gave Mr. Rathbone, the two aunts & the successor more time in answering their questions than was taken by my correspondence about with the whole of the Hospitals in the Crimea - sometimes as much as 8 hours a day.
It was all in vain: - I do not blame Mr. Rathbone. - I do not see how, in any particular thing, he could have done otherwise - except in his headlong haste. Some time ago, he was seriously angry with us! that we would not incorporate Liverpool Workhouse (under this untried woman) as a Training School of our own recommending their Probationers with our own to Institutions. And, shortly afterwards, he said it was unfit to exist at all. (in which I believe him to be right)

Please consider this as private. It seems to me an explanation due to you but to no one else. It has been one of the great misfortunes of my life. F.N.

Aug 27/72

My dear Sir John McNeill

I was very glad to hear from you again. I cannot afford to lose friends. So many are gone before me - scarce older than myself. And just when they were most wanted - not alone by me: that is nothing - but by the country. And what friends I have had. Surely no woman ever knew what it was to have such friends.

Exhausting illness has been increasing
The death of Lord Mayo was a great shock. He was the kindest of friends. He was not only willing but wanting to do all he could, in order that he might do all he could. There was something grand & heroic about him, in that he always acted up to the highest ideal of duty he could make, at whatever cost to himself. He had not done practically so well the last year of his Governor-Generalship. Else he would have been a loss indeed.

We have seen too much of the present man in Offices here to expect much of him. I have never seen Administrative power here at so low an ebb as now. I am certain that capacity in Administration has sensibly diminished during the last 10 years.

I have my own facts to account for this. But I will not trouble you with them.
for 1. it is impossible to make up the arrears of history of the last 2 or 3 years to you in a note. I am thinking that you may know more of some of the offices than I do. You are so good as to care about one of your children - our Training School for Nurses. We have been obliged to remodel our Training Staff, having more than doubled our number of Probationers & obtaining now, I hope & believe, a much better material - since we moved into the new St. Thomas’ Hospital.

[2] (archivist: 1872) Do you know a lady, who has been to me a second Agnes Jones & more, Miss Torrance, whom I remember mentioning to you last time I had the pleasure of seeing you? we had then just sent her to take charge of the new Highgate Workhouse Infirmary (530 beds) with a numerous Staff of our own Nurses. This she organized in 3 years under great difficulties. She is now by as great a piece of obscure self-sacrifice as any I know offering herself to be our Under-Matron
or Mistress of Probationers at St. Thomas’, where our excellent Matron, Mrs. Wardroper, has much too much to do. And we accept her. For Torrance’s & Agnes Jones’s are not to be had every day. She is Scotch & Presbyterian. We have sent another lady to be Matron at Highgate - Whom Sir S. Waterlow, Chairman of the Board, & Co=, have appointed. She is not at all equal to Miss Torrance. And much I fear that our little Training School for Workhouse Nurses which we had started there will not extend itself now.

And now I come to the chief object of this long-winded note. We have been asked to send a Lady Supt= (Matron) to the Edinburgh Infirmary - to be followed, I wish it were to be accompanied, by some of our trained Head Nurses. We propose to send a Miss Barclay, sister of Hedworth Barclay, of Quaker connections, she nursed at Sedan as member of a Nursing party sent out during the war by our Aid Society - has now been in training at St. Thomas’ for the last year.
I wish that, to so difficult
a post as Edinburgh Infy=--, we could have sent some
one of more experience
(tho’ she is 40.) - but that we have a very high opinion
of her you may judge from the fact that we wished her
to take Highgate. But she preferred the idea of Edinburgh
- and there were other reasons with which I need not
trouble you. [Also - there is a lady, not one of ours, who is
a candidate for the Edinburgh Matronship whom I know
to be thoroughly & alarmingly unfit.]

Can you give us any hints? (as to our line with the Edinburgh people). There are none who could give better.
I see our Nurses one by one to tea & talk as much as I am able. But I am not able to be in their midst.
And I venture, tho’ hardly hoping that you will read it, to send you, with the object of showing you our kind of (moral) difficulties, a copy of a letter I addressed to them at our Annual Meeting in May. How very much I wish they could have the benefit of your presence sometimes!
I am so stifled in dirty anxious cares & sordid defensive business like the maid of all work who has to wipe her dirty hands on her dirtier apron before she can shake hands with her Master - that I feel that I cannot shake hands with my Master & only write this melancholy scribble in hopes of an answer.

Our Sanitary affairs in India are at this moment not encouraging. We have no one to press the practical application of questions long since solved; as once we had.

E.g. we have just made an abominable exposure of the Water-supply in the (whole) Bengal Presidency.xx. And this ten years! after my attack on the Indian Water= pipes!! the truth & accuracy of which were so fully acknowledged then. And nothing done It is 16 years this month since I came back from the Crimea. It is 11 years this month since Sidney Herbert died. It is 9 years this month since our Indian R. Comm: concluded its Sanitary enquiry.

Well, I suppose, God works.

xx I would send it you but am afraid of boring you.
I conclude at last bargaining for an answer. You are younger than I am. You kindly promised me too a criticism of my little book ("Lying-in Instns.") Pray give my grateful acknowledgments to Lady Emma McNeill for her kind message - & make mine acceptable to her. And pray believe me ever, both in memory and in the present, yours always gratefully & sincerely Florence Nightingale

My dear Lady Tulloch
I give you joy. I give us both joy - for this crowning recognition of one of the noblest labours ever done on earth. You yourself cannot cling to it more than I do: hardly so much in one sense for I saw how Sir John McNeill & Sir A. Tulloch’s reporting was the salvation of the army in the Crimea. Without them everything that happened would have been considered “all right.”

Mr. Martin’s note is perfect: for it does not look like an afterthought, nor as if prompted by others: but as the flow of a generous & able man’s own reflection & careful search into authentic documents & it also brings back the nadir [?] into the current of the subject, the Prince Consort, to shew that he too recognized the report & its truth & value. Thank
you again & again for sending it me. It is the greatest consolation I could have had. Will you mention me gratefully to Mr. Paget & also to Dr Balfour? I look back upon these 20 years as if they were yesterday but also as if they were a thousand years. Success be with us & the noble dead & it has been success.

Yours ever signed, Florence Nightingale

April 9/81
10, SOUTH STREET. {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Sir John McNeill
The full flood of recollection which comes over one at the sight of the reprint of that book I know by heart - the deepest heart that is in me - Sir Alex Tulloch's book which you have been so kind as to send me, is almost overpowering. And I was so glad to hear from you again.
You are oh! how right to have re-issued it, but alas! for the persistent
falsehood that makes that right so right. It makes one almost despair of history & of progress - ah me - To tell the truth, I have not read, I could not read Mr. Kinglake’s Vol= he sent it me with a very kind note, - At least it was meant to be kind, but it was fulsome,- (acknowledging my Statistics,) which I never answered. The book I did not open. To go over all that time again, that time the history of which we had written with our best heart’s blood, knowing how I should see it travestied by his opinions, - a sort of grotesque or ghastly caricature of it - was beyond my strength, overworked & ill as I am. And yet I had no idea to what a degree his misrepresentation had reached, till I read your most terse & able "preface" to Sir A. Tulloch’s book. As for reading the part about my own work,
that was, if possible, still more impossible to me. That master of juggle & stage deception - that pantomime manager - to see him putting the sufferings of our men, so nobly borne, into a melodrama - & for the sake of stage effect, tho' I did not know to what extent, making the honest faithful nurse into a tragedy queen. I could not undertake to bear it. The more so as I of course received letters from Doctors who thought themselves aggrieved, & who

{black-edged paper} [2] I have no doubt were aggrieved= & to whom I could say nothing but: 'if you “answer in The Times,” 'I think you are right. 'But I have not read the 'book.'

With regard to the Chelsea Report. I do not know whether you are aware that in 1857, I think, (when Sidney Herbert’s R. Commission on the Sanitary State of the Army was sitting,) I, in consequence of a conversation with Mr. Kinglake, took the Reports of the Chelsea Board & your own, &
pasted out for him on {black-edged paper} opposite sheets of large foolscap the parallel or rather contradictory passages. - I mean the passages of the Chelsea Board Report as completely refuted by yours. The Duke of Cambridge was present at our conversation. At that time Mr. Kinglake professed himself convinced. But the true thing to deplore is - how little is left of all the good work of 1856 & those five years till 1861 for the Army. It would really seem as if they had told more for Civil than for Military life. The Army Hospitals have sunk back to what they were. The Army Hospital Corps is, if possible, worse than the old Regimental Orderlies. The Army Medical School completely ignores the gigantic steady strides of the last 20 years of Civil life in Sanitary things, in Hospital administration, in Nurse-training. The Army Medical Department is but the name of what it was under Alexander. All the Regulations are altered -the Purveyors & the General Hospitals abolished. It is true that an immense Sanitary work has been done & is doing in India.
But, after all, we must not judge year by year, day by day, & moment by moment. Wisdom & justice must prevail, as sure as there is the God of Wisdom & Justice not only ‘in heaven’ but everywhere, ‘that dwelleth in secret everywhere.’

What you have done can never be lost or undone A million of Kinglakes can never shake it. It is as firm as God Himself. And when we come to see ‘not thro’ a glass darkly’ we shall see the eternal progress towards right & truth.

Pray believe me, dear Sir John, with the deepest affection & veneration ever yours.

Florence Nightingale

Mar 1/69
35 South Street. {printed address:}

My dear Sir John McNeill
I wrote a little note to Sir Bartle Frere last night, telling him that you were in London, & sent it by hand.

His address is
22 Princes Gardens
(or the India Office).

It was a very great pleasure in a life in which the pleasures are few & far between to see you again. Thank you for it. ever yours affectely & gratefully

Florence Nightingale
Feb 3/85
Dear daughter of my old friend & of my still dearer & older friend, Sir John McNeill,
I should so like to see you. But alas! I am quite unable to see any one without an appointment, or to see more than one at a time.
Are you staying in London? & will you make my excuses to Miss Paget?
This week I am afraid I have no chance.
F. Nightingale
10 South St.

[2]
The builder went (with Capt. Galton) & removed a Board, as you suggested, in the floor of my small Drawing room, “but could,” he says, “detect no smell beyond "that arising from the "pugging". [but that is just the smell which you thought it was.] “And to remove “the pugging would be “expensive, as the joints “would have to be taken up, “cut & re=arranged.”

What would you kindly suggest? Pray believe me ever most truly yours. Florence Nightingale

Our Training School for Nurses

Should you meet with any young lady of sound body & mind. Who would like to make a career of Nursing, would you kindly remember us? Our Michaelmas vacancies are all filled: & we have always many more candidates than room - but not always of the right sort. I venture to enclose a Mem= of what is wanted. F.N.
(addressed:) Mrs. Harrison Blair
Finchcocks Park
Staplehurst

In answer to yours
My “book on Hospitals” is
(obscured by franking: sadly?) out of print
I will send you my own copy
tomorrow, which you need
not return.

F. Nightingale
22/7/80

{archivist: Page 112}
both (French & Irish) consider that moral truth
lies rather in loyalty of intention than exactness of statement
- they are perfectly equal at the game

Trained Army Midwives
A Report to the F.O. from a Brit. Consul [15:494]
in Italy (in wh. he attributes ye- good veins
& good lungs of the Romans to the babies
being swaddled & hung up on a nail to cry
- the only parallel I know to this Dublin
Report.

In it we learn that the characteristics
of a good Midwife (i.e. in Ireland) are
“fluency of reply” !!!
buying goodies for the Patients
& this the Reporter “can most conscientiously
vouch for.”

As for the rest, the practical instruction given,
I see we have all been quite wrong.
None is necessary.
I shall form my future Midwives’ Sch: on the
model
O tempora! O mores

I mean to ask Dr. Massy’s (?) leave
(which he will triumphantly grant)
to print this Report in extenso in my
book.
“Comment is needless”
I shall then print opposite
the 6 month’s practical course we
in our ignorance thought necessary
at K.C.H for mere Midwifery Nurses.
Midwives the 2 years’ course of the
Paris Maternité & the Vienna Midwives’
Clinique
[Truly might the Cr- Pr- say: Our
Wissenschaft is Germans’ Unwissenschaft.]
(?) But, we are all wrong [end 15:494]

If wot duty means work for a high object
& a Nurse has no high object, she cannot do
her duty, she may work for her credit or
her pay. But she is not worthy the name
of Nurse.
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 730
H1/ST/NC3/SU173: pen: letter to Mr. Taviner

May 12/96
10, SOUTH STREET. (printed address:)
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Sir,

Will you be so kind
as to send me here
to-morrow (Wednesday)
one of your beautiful
nosegays of roses &
lilies of the valley
by 6 o’clock
& oblige

yours faithfully
F. Nightingale
Mr. Taviner

H1/ST/NC3/SU174: pencil: copy of FN letter, original in 68889 f6

Feb 23/97
10, South Street. (printed address:) [8:929]
Park Lane. W.

Thank you, thank you,
dearest Maude, for
defending me about the
“relics” - representations
What are the “relics” of the
Crimean War?
The tremendous lessons we
have had to learn from
its tremendous blunders &
unavoidable ignorances

Sidney Herbert’s Royal Commission
1. The want of resource &
   Lord Stanley’s in India
   initiative. [I do not here
   Think of S.H’s    enter into the
   splendid R.C.    horrible blundering
   which struck the
   keynote of progress at home+ the green
   in the Brit. Army    Coffee &c &c &c]
But had Lord Raglan with
all the qualities (and the défauts
want of system
de ses qualités) of a great noble & Lord Stratford de Redcliffe our Ambassador at Constantinople combined their heads, our men could have had rice from Constantinople where every man, woman & child eats rice every day (the our men said they had rather have lost their rum than their rice)

So with roasted & ground coffee -
Our men were dying of Scurvy from Salt Meat & biscuit. The shores of the Euxine were crowded with cattle which would have walked themselves up to camp
Mattresses - Every man in Constantinople had one &c &c &c
1. All of this requires a grain of explanation-

trained nurses/ paid nurses in the books/ in the books
2nd Lesson Untrained Nurses are useless & often worse than useless, because they have no character.

To train The training of Nurses was our second lesson. and Hy Bonham Carter
3. Hygiene - Sanitation - The want of this cost Lord Raglan himself his life & thousands of our gallant soldiers.

What filled our Hospitals at Scutari?
Fever Frostbite (so called)
Diarrhaea really Scurvy
Dysentery Cholera -
We took in 4000 from
these diseases in 17 days.

We had 4 miles of beds in one Hospital alone at Scutari.

Lord Palmerston sent out the Sanitary Commission in March—And with their help we learnt the terrible lesson of the Crimean War on Hygiene.

But I have not seen one book on the Crimean War even now which gives it.

Think of the unwearied toil of the Sanitarians at Bombay Plague.

O these enthusiasms without facts

Please tell the ladies who ask (as civilly as possible) These are the “relics” of the Crimean War—-the tremendous relics representatives.

And I will not give my foolish “Portrait” Which I have not got or representatives anything as “relics” of the Crimea—It is too ridiculous You don’t judge even of the victuals inside a public house by the Sign outside— I won’t be made a Sign—
I am sorry to say that Lady Wantage, a woman who sometimes reminds one a little of blessed Margaret, is at me about the same thing. And I write to you in haste because I want to take comfort in you. I want to take firm footing in you.

Think of Sidney Herbert’s splendid Royal Commissions which struck the key note of progress in the British Army - think of the unwearied toil of the Sanitarians - & you ask for the photograph of a rat - and this is not even the moment when there is the Plague at Bombay.

O these enthusiasms without facts.

I am so sorry about Kathleen. But I hope it won’t be much.

Think of S. Herbert’s Royal Commissions & Committees which struck the keynote of progress in the British Army.

H1/ST/NC3/SU175: cheque to Ly Canning from C. Bracebridge, 8 July 1855

H1/ST/NC3/SU176: to FN from Jane Shaw Stewart
What a Nurse is to Be

A REALLY GOOD NURSE must needs be of the highest class of character. It need hardly be said that she must be—(1) Chaste, in the sense of the Sermon on the Mount: a good nurse should be the Sermon on the Mount in herself. It should naturally seem impossible to the most unchaste to utter even an immodest jest in her presence. Remember this great and dangerous peculiarity of nursing, and especially of hospital nursing, namely, that it is the only case, queens not excepted, where a woman is really in charge of men. And a really good trained ward “sister” can keep order in a men’s ward better than a military ward-master or sergeant. (2) Sober, in spirit as well as in drink, and temperate in all things. (3) Honest, not accepting the most trifling fee or bribe from patients or friends. (4) Truthful—and to be able to tell the truth includes attention and observation, to observe truly—memory, to remember truly—power of expression, to tell truly what one has observed truly—as well as intention to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. (5) Trustworthy, to carry out directions intelligently and perfectly, unseen as well as seen, “to the Lord” as well as unto men—no mere eye service. (6) Punctual to a second, and orderly to a hair—having everything ready and in order before she begins her dressings or her work about the patient; nothing forgotten. (7) Quiet, yet quick; quick, without hurry; gentle, without slowness; discreet, without self-importance; no gossip. (8) Cheerful, hopeful; not allowing herself to be discouraged by unfavourable symptoms; not given to depress the patient by anticipations of an unfavourable result. (9) Cleanly, to the point of exquisiteness, both for the patient’s sake and her own; neat and ready. (10) Thinking of her patient and not of herself; “tender over his occasions” or wants, cheerful and kindly, ingenious and feat. The best definition can be found, as always, in Shakespeare, where he says that to be “nurse-like” is to be

So kind, so duteous, diligent,
So tender over his occasions, true,
So feat.

A patient wants according to his wants, and not according to any nurse’s theory of his wants or “occasions.” “Tender over his occasions” she must be: but she must have a rule of thought; and this the physician or surgeon has to give her in his directions which her training must have fitted her to obey intelligently, using discretion. The nurse must have simplicity and a single eye to the patient’s good. She must make no demand upon the patient for reciprocation, for acknowledgment or even perception of her services; since the best service a nurse can give is that the patient shall scarcely be aware of any—shall perceive her presence only by perceiving that he has no wants. The nurse must always be kind and sympathetic, but never emotional. The patient must find a real, not forced or “put on,” centre of calmness in his nurse. To call upon a patient by emotion for emotion is the most cruel, because useless, demand upon his strength. It is asking him to bear
your troubles and your anxiety as well as his own. Suppressed emotion is as bad—it makes the nurse constrained. It is exposing the patient to both frost and fire. Half the battle of nursing is—to relieve your sick from having to think for themselves. (belongs to line above)
at all—least of all for their own nursing.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

H1/ST/NC3/SU178: to FN from H. Verney, 31 Jan 1878

H1/ST/NC3/SU179: to Miss Lloyd Still from C.E. Vincent, 3 Sept 1929

initialled incomplete letter, 1p, pen

the warmest thanks I have for the pleasure & honour you have done me in sending me the precious little red book with the names of the survivors of that never to be forgotten day—

I should like to send my warmest good wishes to every man of them if it were only possible as I do in my heart And these are my heart’s wishes that those who have shown themselves such good/noble men in the field, such gallant/true subjects of our Queen, our country & our God, may show themselves at home where perhaps more terrible enemies still to our country exist to fight—in vice & drunkenness & meanness & selfishnesses & pettinesses of all kinds as good/great & gallant British men & Soldiers

May the B. Commn “Socy—” commemorate its glories daily in such a glorious fight as this. And may I be admitted as one of them—” Onward, comrades
Onward go - If I may honour
myself by calling myself comrade of
yours.
Again & again thanks for your kind
remembrances of the soldier’s
ever faithful servt=
F.N.

Engraving of
Miss Thompson’s Balaclava
promised
March 2/78
March 2. [or March 20? in cat]

My dear friend

I am very ill: & we have had a terrible time
with Sir Harry Verney & my mother, both of whom
have been at the point of death.

But I cannot decline seeing you, if you wish it -

How are you?

Will 5 o’clock on Thursday do? And may I write
beforehand if I cannot?

But could you not give me a line, if it is on business,
to tell me what the business is that I may have time to
consider? I hope it is nothing bad about our Nurses.

35 South St. Park Lane W. May 13/73

My dear Miss Williams

Pray, pray give us the
comfort, us who love you so
well, of going to Boulogne
with your friends.

Surely this is the best
thing to do at once.

If there had been time
to ask to see you.,I think
I could have convinced you
of this.

Mr. Croft told me with
his own lips that you must
be a month or 6 weeks
{2a}
at the Sea before doing
anything. He said this
after seeing you. And I
understood from you yourself
the same thing.

I have no expectation of hearing
from Miss Barclay
to-morrow morning. But
I will telegraph to you
the moment the post comes
in.

I expect her here in the
afternoon. And I will
send to take the chance
of finding you.
But please, please {2b} make up your mind to go to Boulogne at all events. Surely you can trust us to find you work. One cannot go down on one’s knees in a note or a telegram. Else would I. It is my strongest conviction that the right course for you is to go to Boulogne.

I cannot write more tonight - but I cannot rest without writing this. Please send me your address at Boulogne.

lis {2c}

(amount cut off)

illeg work?) photography ---------------
(illeg lettuce?) water cress etc -------- - 6
cheese, lunch, pastry, 1 – 8 ½
Stamps --------------------------------- 6 -
-As- 6
Books &c - -- .......................... 4 - (possibly 3)
Church -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- 6
Lodgings -- -- -- -- -- -- -- 15.
Our {illeg living? livery?} -- -- -- 13
Porter {illeg & servant?} - 1 - 7
stamps, gloves & dolls -- 5 -
pastry 1 - 5 ½ (possibly 2 - 5 ½)
present - - - - - - 6 - 4

73/3: signed letter with envelope, 3pp, pen. roll 1

(Miss Rachael)
Miss Rachel Williams
Rue de Boston 140
Boulogne=Sur=Mer (France)
My dear Miss Williams,

I was indeed very glad to hear from you—(I had felt anxious about you—) this morning.

I hope that when you return to London—on Thursday, if it must be so—you will perform your promise of coming to stay 2 or 3 nights here—doing what you like in the day—going to St. Thomas’ to see after your ‘berth’—and—I only bargain for one hour a day for myself.

But—my dear soul—you must remember that all your medical advisers—including you yourself who are your own best Medical adviser—
spoke of “a month or 6 weeks” — as the shortest
time for your restoration.
Mr. Croft told me so with
his own lips — & said that
you had intended it.
You must do me the favour
of allowing me to contribute
£10 to this very laudable
purpose. Or rather — I will
not speak in this formal way
— you are all my children,
& I only wish God gave me
a mother’s duties, as He has
given me a mother’s heart
towards you — so, my dear
child, I must really send
my little mother’s gift towards
your expenses, whether at
Boulogne on at any other
watering-place.
[The 7/s is for your cab, which
my stupid Messenger, tho’
strictly enjoined to pay, says
he ‘forgot,’ the day he brought
you here from Peckham to see
Miss Barclay.]
Anyone at Boulogne will, I
believe, change your Cheque —
you must sign your name at
the back.

I will not say a word about St. Thomas’
now. You ought, like the babies, to
divide your time between eating,
sleeping & being out-of-doors —
I saw Miss Barclay after your interview.
She went back to Edinburgh on
Saturday by night-train.
But not a word about Edinbro’ either now.
When I see you, you shall tell me your impressions upon the Hospital Augustinians. And I will tell you mine about those at Paris whom I once knew well. Their standard is higher than ours. But their nursing of men, from false notions of delicacy, & their want of cleanliness, was lower. And they knew it.

You shall tell me whether the fees, so often given by Patients to Nurses but never to nuns, are possible at St. T.’s.

Excuse my brief note - from (tho’ pressed by business & illness)

Yours ever tenderly

Florence Nightingale

God speed you -

73/4: incomplete letter, 2pp, pen.

35 South St. May 27/73

Park Lane W.

My dear Miss Williams

It is “quite convenient” to me, & I am delighted if you come on Thursday.

If you have the opportunity, send me a line to say what hour.

But do not trouble about this.

If it is before 4 or 5, I shall hope to see you for an hour the same afternoon,

if you are not too tired. {4a}

If it is later, then I hope - the following day. for an hour.

To go to the place best for you is all we care about for you. But you must have some farther health-place, whether at, or not at, the sea.

Mr. Croft did not say (to me) “a month or 6 weeks”
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 742

at Boulogne. For when he spoke to me, he did not know that you were going to Boulogne. Nor did I. But he did say: “a month or 6 weeks” “at the sea”. If “the sea” does not suit you, he would have added: or, other healthy place. {So you see, I don’t think you are “cheating” me. F.N. [end 12:273]

73/5: signed letter, 1p, pen, 35 South St. June 4/73

Park Lane W.

My dear Miss Williams

I have nothing definite to announce – nor nothing at all the contrary – nothing, upon which you have any right to become ‘rageous.

Your right is: to drink in all the health you can.

I have hopes of success. God bless you. God guide us all.

I will write again & was so glad to hear from you ever yours. (in a stream of Nurses.)

F. Nightingale

73/6: signed letter with envelope, 2 pp, pen {envelope} to be forwarded

Miss Rachel Williams

at Christy’s Esq

Chignal St. James

nr Chelmsford

12/6/73
My dear Miss Williams

I am afraid that you will become ‘rageous.’ So I think it better to inform you that I had a long conversation on Tuesday with dear “Matron” [She was not well, but professed herself better for the “out.”] The only really definite thing I have to tell you is: that she does not mean to write to you “certain” as she is, she says, that you will come & see her “before the 24th=”.

I therefore propose that you should come & stay here a night or two “before the 24th=” & “go & see” her.

I do not see any good in my saying any more about the ‘Sistership’ - tho’ nothing would surprise me less, if she were to give it you after all.

But- she is very anxious to take Huddersfield. And she engages “at least” to take you “for 3 months,” “in charge of Wards during Sisters’ absences” -we, i.e., the N.F., paying the salary.

I said (as you may suppose) that I thought Alexandra Ward for 2 or 3 years would suit you better - that it was a great fatigue for you to take ‘Sister’s duty’ of one ward after another - that it must be 6 months at least - & that I thought, even if it were only 6 months, those ‘6 months’, (tho’ the other plan sounded plausible,) were better passed as ‘Sister Alexandra’.

She did not say ‘Nay’ to any of this.

And I think you (& we) may have the best hopes - tho’ I am not usually a sanguine
At all events, you shall not have Crockett if you go to Huddersfield. I spoke to ‘matron’ about this.

[She said something - she was throughout most affectionate towards you - about your succeeding her at St. T’s. - at which I howled & said you must be ‘twice 7’ years’ first - as S. Alexandra as Matron, &c &c -]

Now God speed you - & get strong first.

ever yours

Florence Nightingale

[Burn]
Miss Williams

(Elizabeth Ward)
St. Thomas’ Hospital
Westminster Bridge
London S.E.

Private
Lea Hurst
Matlock
Derbyshire
Sept 19/73

My dear Miss Williams,

Do not think that because I have not answered your letter I am not thinking of you & your future.

The truth is: tho’ my life is full of tearing anxieties, for one cannot undertake this sort of thing without having to bear other people’s sorrows & even their faults. as if they were one’s own [and you will find this if you embrace this life for good, I mean for a term of years]

I have at this moment no heavier anxiety than to know how you are to be ‘disposed of’ - whether in the post you like best: if without danger to your health. For ‘Michaelmas’ is so near - 

It does not further your cause for me to ‘worry’. And I have been afraid to write to you personally, till I knew you were in ‘Elizabeth’.

I have written many times to Mr. Bonham Carter: but I cannot find from him that anything is spoken of ‘beyond Michaelmas.’ And he is now away in the island of Lewis 

If I could but be assured that
your were safe and well {8b} at St. Thomas’ for another (say) six weeks, I should despair of nothing. Because time would give us a handle.

What I am afraid of is: your being whisked off before we are all in London together.

You know that Huddersfield is given up for the present. There are few things that I desire so much at this moment as that you should “have your Ward,” or a similar Ward, for a year or two at St. T.’s, if it is right for your health.

I pray God earnestly: by night as well as by day: that He {8c} will do what is best. And we know He will. Perhaps He is at this moment preparing the way for you - God bless you - in great haste ever yours

F. Nightingale

A little bird told me how much you had done for Miss Machin in the Home.

73/9: pen

Burn

My dear, impatient, masterful, terrible child Miss Williams: Don’t ‘worrit’ yourself. The advice given to children: “Open your mouth & shut your eyes: & you’ll see what’ll drop in”: is for you. You will know soon that one great tho’ perhaps temporary change, alas! is to take place: and you will be sent for by the Committee to act as temporary Assistant in all probability to one you love & I love above all, in a distant Hospital.
This is already in train: {9a}
too soon you will know more.

And now let us two pray -
you in the vigour of your cruel,
splendid youth - & I in the
sadness of my much=tried age -
that patience may have her
perfect work in us: & above
all that we may be gentle
in our judgments of others: of

for the much=stricken most particularly -
who made thee to differ
from another?’

"Teach me to feel another’s woe
   To hide the fault I see:
That mercy I to others show,
   That mercy show to me."

God bless you, my dear {9b}
child.

I hope to see you soon here
for an afternoon. Believe me
ever yours
F. Nightingale

35 South St. W.
Oct 22/ 73 [end 12:283]

(envelope) Miss Rachel Williams
22/10/73
Private
35 South St.
Park Lane W.
Nov 7/73

My dear child Miss Williams

I think that yours is a position very trying for its uncertainty to your (im)patience; and as I don’t wish to be myself another inducement to impatience, suppose you come & drink tea with me at 4 on Monday or Tuesday. And I will tell you what I can.

[I would ask Matron: but she is away: and we must not trouble her on her holiday.]

I had merely put off seeing you in order – besides being very busy – to have a definite proposal to make you.

But other people’s uncertainties are as great as yours.

And as you may be wanted by the 15th= or 17th=, and it is rather hard upon you to give you such short notice. I think I had better tell you all I can at once.

The “duties” have been
sent me by your friend. (10b)

They are those she is doing now herself: as Assistant and Housekeeper. They have meals for 90 now to prepare in the Nurses’ House.

She says, if you and I think the duties too much, you can have one of their Lady P.s “annexed” to you – in the housekeeping line.

Au revoir then

God bless you

ever yours affectely

F. Nightingale

Excuse Haste [end 13:340]

73/11: signed letter with envelope, 2ff, pen [13:340-41]

Tuesday

My dear Miss Williams

I have had a Telegram from the Pearl. They think that you had better not come till Friday - tho’ Miss Barclay is gone.

Don’t let this be a disappointment to you: When you were so willing to go.

I seem to understand so well the Pearl’s feeling. She thinks that it will look as if we were in such a hurry to step into Miss Barclay’s shoes.

If that is her feeling, whether she is right or wrong, it
must be God’s leading for us.
I shall hope to see you again before Friday & will send you any word I hear.
Please tell Mrs. Wardroper with my best love.
ever yours
F. Nightingale

{envelope} Miss Williams
Nightingale Home
St. Thomas’ Hospital
18/11/73

My dear Miss Williams
They gladly expect you
to=morrow (Friday) at Edinburgh.
I have written to & received answers from Mr. Fasson & Miss Pringle.
Will you not come & bid me good-bye to-day at 4
-or any other hour that is more convenient to you? 
yours affectly
F. Nightingale

{envelope} Miss Williams
20/11/73
Miss Williams
Nurses’ House
Royal Infirmary
Edinburgh

12/12/73

Private
Burn

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
Dec 12/73

My dear Miss Williams,

Thank you very much for your letter. It enlightened me very considerably. But more than this I must thank you for your good work, in that which I know you least prefer: & for your wonderful help to our dear Pearl: who with your support is saving the poor Edinburgh business: Thank God & you both.

Shall I tell you a little about our St. Thomas’ affairs? your old home? --

Strengthened a good deal by your views about Yarnley & Berryman, I had a long talk with dear Matron, after we had exhausted the all-absorbing subject, absorbing to me as well as to her of her daughter, living not dead. She is so good & so gentle.

Matron had proposed to put Miss Vincent into what your Ward, as I cannot help calling it, was: to make Berryman Magdalen Sister, in view of Miss Hornby to whom she had offered it, & Yarnley Night Supt=, to whom also she had offered it.

After conversation, she agreed to make Berryman Night Supt=, send Yarnley to Miss Leslie, make Miss Hornby Magdalen, & Miss Vincent Alexandra.

But Berryman declines Night Suptcy=.
and Mrs. Wardroper has, I fear, fallen back upon Yarnley as Night Supt., leaving Berryman in Alexandra, Miss Hornby as Magdalen: & Miss Vincent perhaps in Leopold — sending Miss Notcutt back to Arthur

I am sure that this will terrify you as much as it does me to leave your dear Ward in the hands of a Berryman.

I am trying to persuade Matron to persuade Berryman to take the Night Supcy. for 6 months:

And I am sure I shall have your prayers with mine that some such arrangement for the good of the Ward you so loved — & for what is best for all — shall be come to.

Dear Matron was much pleased & soothed (& she remembered to tell me this even in the midst of her sorrowing tears) that you told her you were satisfied that your health would not have stood Ward work.

I am sure that her love for you & her fears for your health were, notwithstanding! her little roughnesses, her real motive for all she did.
You know how I wished to keep you with us - (13d) - for our own sakes. Yet I cannot but see that God’s hand has directed all this. No one but you could help our Pearl as you are doing. That has been a fire so terrible as nearly to have burnt up both her & me. And I thank God for having sent you to our help: in saving His work.

Now, my dear masterful baby & Goddess:
I must leave off, for I am sore pressed. Of course this note is only for Pearl, besides yourself. God guide us all.

[Burn] ever your affect=.
F. Nightingale

Letters to Rachel Williams: 1874.

74/14: signed letter, 1f, pen.

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
3/1/74
My dear Miss Williams
I feel a little uneasy (I scarce know why) both about the Pearl & you - I am sure that you will not let her be overwrought: but you may be overwrought yourself. Please tell me May the highest blessings of the New Year be yours is the fervent prayer of yours ever affectely.
F. Nightingale
35 South St  
Park Lane W.  
Jan 17/74  
Dearest Miss Williams  
I am so grieved & do so feel for our dear Pearl in this sad, sad news. I believe that it is the very best for her dear Mother that God should release her with a rapid end from this world’s death into life. But that, as I know but too well, does not take from the shock, the intense desolation afterward. It is like the rending of soul from body to the Survivor: whereas it is the releasing of soul from body to those who depart. {15a}  
I will not write to Pearl till I hear from you again.  
I feel a little uneasy about you. Would it be of any use to you if we were to send you one of our best Lady Probationers (I believe we could) who has finished her year, to do her best for you as a stop-gap for the time?  
I am very little able to write, for I am {15b} overwhelmed with painful business: not only private (for it is impossible to speak to my poor mother about any business) -- but other business also.  
But I must just tell you what you probably know already: or rather ask you what you wish done.  
Mr. Hope has accepted (& asked for) our best recommendation that matters should remain as they are for at least 6 months at Edinburgh Infirmary: that is, that Miss Pringle should continue acting as Supt=, for at least that time: with you acting as her Assistant: - [You know that we very much wished for a Housekeeper: but both you & she think it best not: and, of that, if you can get good Servants, you are certainly the best Judges]  
You may trust us not to ask you to do
what you ought not: and had we asked you to take the Supcy=. of that terrible place, before a trial of at least 6 months in the second post, you might well have said that we had done very wrong - We have therefore left it on this footing We thought that the above arrangement was what would approve itself best to your best judgement. But as I am well aware that my dear Godess-baby has --- well, a baby-side, I shall not be surprised at any outburst, -tho’ I know full well that, in the dear Pearl’s terrible distress, you will do every thing & more than everything possible to drag her thro’ & to spare her & keep her up & the place going. Only don’t break yourself down - my dear child. I wrote to Pearl all we had written to Mr. Hope in the midst of my terrible press of last week. I then wrote again an answer to her, also last week. To that she has not yet answered: tho’ she wrote, saying she would. Mr. Hope did not write, accepting our recommendation, till a day or two ago: probably because Miss Barclay’s resignation had not then been formally accepted. I wrote this week to Mr. Fasson, as he deserves it from us, a statement of what we had recommended: even before we received Mr. Hope’s reply. Mr. Fasson has not yet answered: that is merely, I know, because he is busy. And I ought not properly to lay this before Your Imperious Highness till I have his answer. Now, my dear child, it was never intended -and your child-ship knows it - to ask you to serve “under another fresh Supt=.“ So your Royal little protest goes to the winds.
Also, my dear child, I would so fain relieve you of your “bitterness” - You say you are “bitter”;
& indeed you are. You speak again, even now, of the “disappointment” & “injustice” about “Alexandra”. WHOSE “injustice”? Goh’s? My dear, dear soul, think of this. What are you saying?
You told me yourself, & I honoured you for telling Mrs. Wardroper, the truth; viz. that your health would not stand it.

As for the rest of your “bitter” complaint:- you have, of all others, the place one would have thought you would have liked best:
& the very best place we have to give:
first: to be under your best friend:
and secondly: ?? &c &c -
Now I cannot write more: & at such a time, I would not have written thus much, unless urged by seeing my Goddess=baby suffering from delusions. And how can a woman be a Supt=. unless she has learnt to superintend herself?

I think that our dear Pearl will find a sad comfort, notwithstanding her last terrible 9 months, in having been near her dear Mother - during that time.
I cannot write another word.
God bless & keep you: you can scarcely tell what a fortnight I have been going thro’-
ever yrs F. Nightingale

About Nurse Miller:
as I mentioned when I saw you:
send her back -
I never had any hope.

17/1/74 F.N. [end 13:342]
(envelope) Miss Williams roll 1 [13:342-43]
Royal Infirmary
Edinburgh

20/1/74
35 South St
Jan 20/74

My dear Miss Williams
I am uneasy beyond all expression about
the Pearl - & also about yourself -
Ask, beg the Pearl to go with me
to Embley for a complete rest: Where I
go next week. I will, as you know, gladly
pay her expences.
If I could be amused just now, I should
be amused at your saying that you are “willing”

to go on” “for 6 months” “as” I “propose” “as
“housekeeper!” & “pearl as Supt=.”
When the Pearl has actually scolded me
(as roundly as Pearls can scold) for my
persistence with her & the authorities
that you should have a housekeeper.
And, notwithstanding Pearls who are
dissuading & you who are persuading: I
begin again:
Will you have Batstone (St. T’s Night Supt=.)
-you both know her - as housekeeper?
I have not one morsel of strength
to-day but to enclose the accompanying
List which I made out from Matron
last night?
I cannot tell you more about
Nurse Harvey than that Agnes Jones
thought her an extraordinarily capable
woman: but noisy: that is 6 years ago-
and that Mrs. Ward=. thinks it a catch for your Fever House
her being at liberty now.
Mrs. Batstone would come as Housekeeper:
- was Assistant Housekeeper & Housekeeper for 18 years before she came to us:
- has been night Supt= for 2 1/4 years at St. Thomas’

Miss Pyne will come on the 31st as arranged with Miss Pringle

Nurse Keene it is feared cannot come so soon, on account of Mother’s illness

Nurse Babb has been 2 1/4 years on night duty at St. T’s - would come on day duty [steady - not brilliant]

Nurse Berry is I understand in corresponde=. with Miss Pringle
I do not know her - no one knows, her so well as so well as Miss Pringle herself - or could manage her so well.

Nurse Harvey is at this moment seeking a situation
She was under Agnes Jones for 3 years at Liverpool Workhe=. [-a very large charge: Sick Nursery-] up to 1868 -
- manner used then to be rather wild & rough:
- prodigiously active & efficient
- left Liverpool after Agnes
Jones’s death: {16d}
-Sister at Middlesex Hospl=.
for some years:
-left some little time ago
to take charge of a
Gentlewomen’s paying Hospl=.
where she had Probationers under her.
-this failed as a paying concern
-Mrs. Ward=. thinks her well
suited for the Edinburgh
Fever Charge - has seen
& spoken with her -
[I only knew her from
Agnes Jones’ account]
Her address:
Mrs. Harvey
26 New Cavendish St
Portland Place
London W.

Miss Spencer {16e}
has written to me to say she would come
if you want her -
But she is much wanted at St. T’s -
I am quite concerned at your list of sick
God bless you: and God save dear
Pearl: in greatest haste
yours ever
F.N. [end 13:343]

roll 1
74/17: signed letter, 2ff, pen. [13:343]

35 South St.
Jan 22/74
My dear Miss Williams
I feel the terrible strain upon our Pearl
-Please telegraph to me when it is all over.
-Get her off, if you possibly can, to me here;
if only on the pretext of talking over things

with me & seeing Nurses before engaging them.
If once I have her, I will keep
her safe for ten days or a fortnight-at least
[For at least 10 days previously to her being /(next line cut off)
called to her mother, I felt that she was overtasked: from a certain something in her letters: thinking I had not written when I had: & that she had written answers when she had not.

This is for my Goddess: not my baby — I will tell my Goddess about it another time. — I have nothing in this letter for my baby.]

YOU MUST NOT SIT UP: or rather make night rounds: do you hear, my Goddess?
If you can secure a good cook, which please God you may, you are certainly the best Judges,

(as I said to Pearl,) as to whether you want a Housekeeper- or not. Would Batstone be of use to you in any other capacity, if she would come? It must be day duty.
The advantage is: your both knowing her. Miss Pyne will come to you this day week, the 29th=. I dare say she has written to you.
I am so very much concerned about [piece cut out]

I think we may be able to hel{missing corner} in a month or two — But Highgate has been in great distress too.

May we only do everything in God’s strength. & all will be well: we know that if we do anything in our own, that moment it dries up & fails us.
God bless you all

in gt haste ever yours

F. Nightingale
O my dearest let us thank
God who has taken this
good woman to His
everlasting arms: no more
pain or sorrow for her:
since last night she is
rejoicing in Heaven.
I do not forget the blow
to our Pearl: indeed I fear
that she will feel it more
now all is over.
But what a blessing she
was with her.

I am immersed in painful
business: am besides
seeing some one from St. T.’s
every day: but could
not but write a word,
as tomorrow is Sunday
& no post. Take care of
yourself. God guide & bless you
all.

ever yours
F.N.

Jan 24/74
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 762

74/19: pen {envelope} Miss Williams  
Royal Infirmary  
Edinburgh

29/1/74

35 South St  
Park Lane W.  
Jan 29/74

My dear Miss Williams

I am obliged to start immediately for Embley: I have not heard from the Pearl: & almost fear that a letter I wrote to her own home on Monday may have miscarried or that she is ill.

I write now to you that Mrs. Wardroper fears she cannot give a “Supernumerary” Nurse instead of Miller. I think it might be quite different if Pearl would come & talk to her. I believe she might have her pick of Nurses. But I have seldom seen poor Matron so worried & troubled as now - or so suffering. Miss Mackenzie (Pearl & you both know her) leaves Highgate in March. Is it possible that she might do as Nurse at Edinburgh? -I have written to Miss Hill to ask.

3

You ask after our weather: I think I have never seen such orange fogs & inexorable frost: we have been burning lights all day. I have known pretty nearly the extremes of heat & cold: they are tolerable, if you have light. But these dark fogs suffocate me. “Out of darkness into His wonderful light” is a text which touches me, body & soul.

[end 13:344]

(no signature)
My dearest child Miss Williams,

I have this moment received your charming letter, which is just like yourself. And I must write & thank you for it at once. It has taken a load off my heart.

-You are quite right: the Pearl has been making “disagreeably mysterious letters”: and she has mystified me quite as much as she has you.

Your letter is a pure joy to me: because I see your self (& not another) in it. And life has not many joys for me, my darling.

I entirely agree with you - & bless you for saying it so heartily, as I knew you would.

that the Pearl “is not to think of running away & leaving us all in the lurch in June”

And I will do my little best to back you up, my Captain, in this most sensible declaration.

Now I must leave off, for I have been immersed in hard & sorrowful business here at Embley: & am just going up to London, where I have been due some time for the same.

I will write to ‘Pearl’ as soon as I have a moment.

I agree with you about Nurse Monk, as far

as I know: that is, I do not believe that a woman who has once done what she has, can ever after be a true woman.
And I was sorry to see her put down for a gratuity.

I will write soon about other things.
- Most thankful Miss Pyne is convalescent: & glad to hear she does not mean to leave you [-we could offer her a country Matronship tell Pearl]

God bless you & Pearl & the work: [Now you are my Goddess, & not my baby.] ever yours F. Nightingale
My dear Miss Williams

I hope that you will be able to fulfil your kindly promised visit to us next week: & to fix a day & train convenient to yourself so that we may send to meet you at our Station Cromford.

Mercy & truth be with you: as the old fashioned people say: I have not power to say a word more but that hoping to see you, I am ever yours F. Nightingale

My dear Goddess

I answer your imperious letter at once. -I do not plead guilty to your heavy charge, for, if you had conferred with a certain little Pearl not 300 miles off as I am - you would have found that she had not only "written" not only to me "a few days ago" but that she had had an answer in her pocket from me nearly a week.
But as I have observed all this year that there exist certain mysterious but insuperable obstacles to the Goddess & the Pearl in the same room communicating, but that they are obliged on certain topics to ascertain each other’s meaning thro’ an unfortunate hard-worked individual in another kingdom, I will say that the substance of this my letter was: that after much consideration my “suggestion” was that you should remain “another 6 months” (I said) in the same position: [but I will now say another few months more or less]: & this not because I had any idea of your remaining indefinitely on & on as you are, but because Edinburgh serves as a capital & indispensable preparation to what I had to “suggest,” had I seen you at Lea Hurst, but which is postponed (not by me): & will be more ready in another 6 months: or, if not that, something else.

Miss Pringle further told me that you were in no hurry to part: & indeed the wonder
to me is rather how you can look forward to parting at all with any equanimity: & that you were too busy till Christmas to come to me with any convenience.

I now come to the only thing I have to add to what I said to Miss Pringle:
the Pearl says: ‘I must go’-
the Goddess says: ‘I must go’-
I agree with the Goddess: the Pearl had better stay.
And it was this very thing for which I wished to see the Goddess first: to ascertain from her her own wishes & her friend’s: as that sly little friend had very much misinterpreted her last February to me. But all this is only an old woman’s advice: which probably the Goddess will not much regard: & which is subject any way, of course, to hearing your own wishes, ideas & reasons for one course or another.
I cannot now see you before Xmas: for I have filled up my time far more than my strength will allow.
And I said ‘February’ to Pearl: but if there is such violent haste, telegraph to me any day, & come up by the next express or on the wires. And I will turn out India, my mother, & ‘all the Queen’s horses & all the Queen’s men’: together with one sixth of the human race: & lay my energies (not many left) at the Goddess’ feet. I cannot myself understand: but that is my stupidity: how there can be such a deficiency of employment for 3 in such a place as Edinburgh. And indeed it was an unwillingness to disturb such a place at present which made my Triumvirate, here, advocate another 6 months: quite independent of any other work.
[I am sure too that my Goddess will regret this time when she has either left or is left at Edinburgh]
NB Were it not that I conclude it was a brief & temporary revival of 'the baby' which provoked the word 'killing': I would suggest to my Goddess that, to one whose life has been & is like mine, the word savours rather of the melodramatic: & that I wish I had ever had or was ever likely to have on this side the grave anything so little 'killing': as to be with such a friend in such a post.

And now, my dear & imperious friend: seriously I must stop: seriously I have nothing more to give but this opinion,—well weighed, tho’ you may not think so.

But, as you say that ‘little Sister’ too does ‘want & ask for an idea’ &c &c: & as this letter really contains but one thing idea that mine to her did not, I have little hope but that I shall have by 3 successive posts: “we do want & ask for” &c &c &c it is “killing” &c &c. [My Goddess will remember that in the week of my Father’s death last January, after having written 3 times (to ‘little Sister’) & had no letter, I received a very imperial nod to the effect that I had not written the letters which I had: & that I had received the letters which I had not.]

And so seriously, dear soul, A Dieu & God bless you: & receive my warmest congratulations on your good work: I give you joy: Mercy & Truth be with you:

& believe me ever yours aff’y.

F. Nightingale

I saw Mrs. Wardroper last night: looking so aged

You do not tell me Nurse Lyons’ new address:

I would add: but this is expressly for the Pearl, (& your Goddess: ship can surely penetrate any impenetrable barrier to get at her): as
Roll 1 FN Museum old LMA3 i 768

well as for yourself: that, if your Serene Highness graciously (22h)

accedes to another “6 months,” there will probably be
some correspondence anent between this miserable
black beetle & Mr. Fasson: & then I think something
might be said about two real grievances:
Miss Forsyth: & the reporting students.
F.N.

74/23: pen.

35 South St
Park Lane W
Dec. 30/74
My dear Miss Williams

From the depth of my heart I grieve with you
that our ‘Pearl’ has so much sorrow & trouble.
I am sure that you will kindly let me know
how things go with her. Perhaps already her Father
is with God.

I wish you & her & all our Nurses ‘Godspeed’
with all my soul & strength at the beginning of
this New Year, which I hardly expected to
live to see. May it bring every blessing to them:

tho’ sometimes do you know I am so cowardly
that I scarcely dare to say ‘God bless you’ to
those I love well: because we know what
His blessings are: Blessed are they that mourn:
Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteous=
ness’ sake: Blessed are the pure in heart:
& as we go on in life, we know both how
truly those *** blessings ARE blessings: and
how much there is to go through to win them.

You are young, my Goddess: much younger
than my Pearl: a thousand years younger than
this old black beetle. And I have often a
shuddering sort of maternal feeling in roll 1 Dec. 30/74 74/23
wishing you ‘blessings’.

[13:344-45]

In the midst of sorrow, I am glad to hear
you say that “the question of” your “staying
with” the Pearl “for some time to come” is
“quite settled”– You cannot know how I wish
this.
I shall be very sorry about your “gathering”;
either if you have to go thrc’ it with a heavy
heart: or if you have to put it off.
About our Nurses:

I dare say the Pearl knows that Nurses Barnard & Winsall are doing exceedingly well at Highgate:

that poor Nurse Westle has been for weeks in the Canterbury Infirmary with a severe return of Flooding tho’ she is better. I have a letter from the Dr. now before me: but never likely to be able to resume Nursing.

that Nurse Chisolm has left Netley: none of ours will stay with the Supt=: & I was very sorry she tried: but has a good place as 

Head Nurse on the Female side of the Islington Fever Hospital: where the Assistant Med= Officer 

formerly of Highgate is now Physician: & also some Dr. from Edinburgh, whose name at this moment escapes my memory.

I say nothing about Pearl’s friend Miss Torrance for the news is nothing but bad: except that the child is well.

I had a nice letter from Nurse Lyons-

I suppose I must say something about myself to your kindness:

my year is ending on sorrows as it began: it began with my Father’s death, & Mrs. Bracebridge’s, who had been the Angel of my life: it ends with the death of the last of my friends & fellow-workers of the Crimean War after a few days of Bronchitis: & my poor mother is failing, & failing painfully, craving after home & him & me: & I cannot be with her. I have been so ill & busied with other than Indian cares that I have been obliged to give up finishing some voluminous Indian work asked for by the middle of January: a trial which I do not bear as I ought: for after all we have a higher & a better hope than from anything we can do or not do: namely, that, whether we live to see it or not, He who is Perfect Wisdom will complete His work, even thro’ our failures & disappointments.

And now, my dear child, I must not talk any longer. I cannot tell you the comfort it is to me to think of you with Pearl - Give her my love: & thank her for her Christmas
greeting. May, as she would say, the infant Christ be indeed born in all our hearts!
Matron is much aged: but otherwise well.
Miss Vincent is with a sick sister in Devonshire but returning to us.
Miss Spencer is well.
The frost & orange fogs in London beat everything
May God bless you, my dear soul!
Pray for yours always
F. Nightingale

74/24: pen. (Dec. 31/74)

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
New Year’s Eve of 1875

My dear Miss Williams
I do indeed feel for our Pearl’s sorrow: I cannot say how much: I am afraid that it will entail so much that is trying & grievous: the giving up of the old home perhaps. But death itself, or rather the passing from death into life, is not grievous: at least I think not, perhaps because, tho’ I have seen death in all its the most terrible forms, I have also seen how much more terrible life is.
Pray tell our Pearl how much I am with her:
-I will not write to her in her first grief.
I think she must be glad to be in Edinburgh & glad now to have a prospect of staying in Edinburgh.
I suppose the sisters have no vocation.
My dear Friend

I do not like this Old Year to pass away without a meeting at least in spirit with our dear Nurses: please ask my dear friends ask them whether they did you as we said we would in December 1873, join in prayer every morning & evening (through the year 1874) that now on this last day of 1874 we might and if it please Him, meet together, & ask each other Him — how fares it with this our Master’s work committed to our hands?

Can we say - it is - well? Can God say so?

I believe from the bottom of my heart that there is great cause for joy & thankfulness in His Edinburgh work.

Perhaps we had better ask Him - each in our own secret soul - does He say it is well? And let Him answer each one of us.

For myself, I have only to thank you all for your steadfastness in well-doing or in well-nursing:

& to say for myself that, as I grow old, I feel more & more every day the need of
being renewed every day: me & my nursing & all my works.
And I have no doubt that all do too.
And on this last night of the Old Year I kneel in spirit with our dear friends of the Edinburgh Infirmary (as before) & ask God with all my heart & with all my soul & with all my strength that we may do His work, which is ours, better & better every day, with fresher & more lively hearts every year: & every night—with the night nurses I join that we may do our work better & better every night.

Livingstone, the great African Missionary, used to say that people often make the mistake of thinking that the great, the heroic spirit was in indifference to trifles: but that Christ came to teach us that real greatness is in doing every detail & every little thing we have to do so well as to make a perfect whole: doing it as for God.
I think he must have said that for us Nurses—“Be ye perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect.” And may God give us His best blessings for the New Year is the unceasing, fervent prayer of your affectionate friend Florence Nightingale
My dear Miss Williams

I am very sorry to say that the orders for matrons are ‘out’ for Cleveland St.

Applications to be sent in by the 15th=
to enter upon duties by the 25th= (for Matron)
[How can they do things in such a hurry? - As if it were not putting a great difficulty in the way of getting a real good woman to give her only 3 weeks notice!]

Sir Sydney Waterlow writes to us {1a}
that she, the Matron, **must** is “required” to have been ‘trained’ as Nurse”:

“With a knowledge of controlling & directing the trained nurses under her.”

that is good.

He also asks us to provide the “Nursing Staff.”

£80 salary of Matron

Beds 280

Mrs. Wardroper writes that she cannot now give Nurse Perry to Miss Mackenzie,
as she will be wanted for Cleveland St.

[I am afraid, and I feel it myself, that it is a very serious thing to ask you to decide your fate & ours by the 15th=.

Mr. Bonham Carter told me what you had said:

as also that you, “without feeling able to come to a decision at once, which of course was not expected, would like to have the offer.”

Mr. B.C. will go to see the place Cleveland Street to-day & will write to you, saying that the appointment is open, giving some particulars, & that
“we are considering it.”

For fear that he should not be able to write to-day, & because Pearl will be expecting to hear from me, I write these few words.

Mr. B.C. thinks that you will undertake it, “if we request it” - of course on the understanding supposition that we propose to make a Training School of it.

This letter is as much for Pearl as for you, to whom I shall not now write as to propose to her to come up to talk to me, when you & she will want every moment to consult together, would be cruel.

& the hurry of the Cleveland St. affair alters the case as to what I should have written to her.

But I hope that she will write to me her views.

You & I discussed your leaving or no Edinburgh so fully together that you will know that I scarcely dare to form a wish either way: & must leave it to God & your deliberations: which may He guide, I intensely pray, for the good of His work & your own.

[Thank the Pearl for her packet.] I see Mr. B.C. on Monday to talk it all over.

I am terribly pressed by business & illness.

but one word is as good as a thousand, (or better), to tell you that there is nothing nearer my deepest heart than this decision ever yours & Pearl’s

F. Nightingale
7/3/75

My dear Miss Williams,

I shall not see Mr. Bonham Carter till tomorrow: & do not know what he has written to you.

But I cannot help writing without delay any further information that I gleaned last night after post-time about Cleveland St.

And first it is supposed that it is impossible for the Patients to go in till June or even July: the place is not furnished, nor the Matron’s rooms even: nor are sheeting or Patients’ clothes or &c &c ready: much not even begun.

Nor has Medical Officer yet been advertised for.

It cannot be even intended that the Matron should take up her residence “on March 25”: only that she should then begin to think about collecting her staff [This is right]

There are, (but I have not yet seen the plans: it is only an old building re-arranged) 6 Wards (Pavilion shape) at 34 beds each: these have each Nurse’s room & other appurtenances adjoining: at the middle however I believe instead of at the end of the Ward:

there are other 12 Wards of from 5 to 11 beds each holding about 72 beds in all.

These have no Nurses’ rooms adjoining: & they are in inconvenient groups, tho’, the Wards of each group are on the same floor. The Nurses’ rooms for these are inconvenient, passage rooms to one another.
There are to be 9 Head Nurses
5 Night "
1 Night Supg= Nurse
10 Ward Assistants
Wages for all same as at Highgate, which are very good.
No Assistant Matron allowed:
Only one Medical Officer
Dr. Dowse has been refused:

A very excellent man, Dr. Lyddiard, has sent in his application.
This is the gist of what I have gathered: but I shall hear it all tomorrow much more fully.
If we get a Matron to whom we can entrust a Training School, we shall have to provide the Assistant &c & Probationers.

in haste (with love to the Pearl)
ever yours anxiously
F. Nightingale

35 S. St. Sunday
March 7/75
To the Governors of St. Mary's Hospital
London.

Gentlemen

Miss Rachel Williams having offered herself as a candidate for the Matronship of St. Mary's Hospital, I beg to be allowed to have some share in her introduction to you. Miss Williams entered as a Probationer the "Nightingale" Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital in October 1871. Having known her intimately & personally during a great part of the following years, I am able to give my testimony to her as a Probationer,- as a "Sister" in St. Thomas', -as Assistant Superintendent in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, which post she has held since November 1873; & still holds. She was one of our most distinguished Probationers: showing rare ability in making
herself mistress both of the technical & theoretical parts of the Nursing art: for which she has an innate genius & love.

During her "Sister-" ship - too short for us - at St. Thomas' Hospital, she showed the same ability in managing the Nursing of her Ward (a Female Surgical Ward): to the more than satisfaction of her Surgeons & in training her Probationers: as she had shown as a Probationer herself.

She is indeed as successful as a teacher, & trainer: as she had been, is, & will doubtless continue to be all her life as a learner of the noble Art of Nursing.

But it is as Assistant Superintendent in the vast & difficult Edinburgh Hospital, - where, with a Medical School of 800 students in daily attendance the most acute Medical & most severe Surgical cases are passed thro' the 517 beds of the Hospital, (-making often 560 Patients,-) in rapid succession - a very real test of capacities & for Nursing superintendence - that her great administrative powers, - her powers of command over women, - of teaching, training, managing for & governing Nurses, are shown.

We venture to introduce her to you as a real Superintendent of Nursing & Nurses, as well as a real Matron of a Hospital.

She had at Edinburgh 124 Nurses & wardmaids to manage in 'Home' & Hospital (under her friend, Miss Pringle, the Lady Supt.) & latterly with a second Assistant or 'Home' Sister: for indeed at the Edinburgh Infirmary there was enough & to spare, to do for 3: & a great deal too much for 2: in Nursing superintendence.

She is a thorough woman= of= business: & has good knowledge of Household & Kitchen management for this Staff.

She is of a noble character: above all jealousy or pettiness of any kind: of singular intelligence This implies a strict conscientiousness & control in carrying out duties, rules & discipline: as well over herself as over others. She has thus been implicitly trusted & esteemed to the highest degree by those who had the right to command her: by the Governing body as well as by the
It is a rare thing to be able to say of any woman that she has succeeded equally with those who had to command her: & with those she had to command—This key to all superintendence she holds.

To sum up: She has distinguished herself as a trainer, teacher, & manager of Nurses. She has great influence over & love from the old-school Nurses still remaining on the Edinburgh Nursing Staff And she has won golden opinions from the Board of Management, the Secretarial & other Officers, & from the Medical & Surgical Professors of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Edinburgh’s loss will be St. Mary’s gain; if as we trust for St. Mary’s sake Miss Williams is elected Matron of your St. Mary’s Hospital.

Pray believe me, Gentlemen,
ever your faithful servt=

Florence Nightingale

London June 17, 1876

Foundress of the “Nightingale”

Training Schools for Nurses

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 4ff, pen & pencil

Immediate

Miss Williams
Nurses’ Home
Royal Infirmary

8/6/76 Edinburgh
35 South St (printed address)  
Park Lane W.  
June 8/76  
6. a.m.

My dear Miss Williams  

St. Mary’s Hospital, Paddington, is (about to be) in want of a Matron: the principal Physician has asked us whether we can recommend a first rate trained gentlewoman: & holds out the prospect that any one that we do recommend would be appointed: notwithstanding the necessity for advertising, [which is one of their rules, as it is of many Institutions:] that is to say that the Hospital Committee appoint the good trained woman first (in their minds): & advertise afterwards.

The salary begins at £100. The Nursing arrangements are defective. The Matron must enter on her duties soon:

Exact particulars will be given us as soon as obtained. It is probable that the “National Nursing Association” may make arrangements for this to be their Training= School: if (not otherwise) it has a Trained Matron from us.
We think that you had better come up to see for yourself at once:

And I beg you to consider this house your home during your visit.

If you ask my judgement, I think that St. Mary's is a great opening for noble work in the good Nursing cause: an opening I have long been wishing & praying for: & that it will not know itself in a year, if you take it: because it is ripe for great progress: - but I think there should be as little delay as possible in your ascertaining this for yourself.

========

And now, 'fine (other) wandering 'planet that moves in mystic' - very 'mystic' to me- 'dance': my un'fixed' star & Goddess: - your bed here has been kept expecting you vacant (with clean sheets on it) all thro' April & May: I expecting you on the wings (of the Telegraph), as Goddesses should come: when no ordinary mortal's word reached me: our 'little' Chief having, as you know, announced you here for April:

'Souvent femme (ever his Diana, a Goddess) 'varie'

'Bien fou qui s'y fie'

as poor Frances I wrote.

This is how you are 'mystic' to me:
I will not say more about the Matronship: because I can tell you, by word of mouth, I hope what opportunities I think it will open. You wished for a London Hospital
Here is one.
May it prove suitable!
May God ‘prepare a place’ for you Himself in it!
yours ever affly
F. Nightingale
I have written to a Lady, a dear friend of yours & mine, Miss Pringle,—knowing that, at so great a distance from each other, there is grave difficulty of communication between you

either by land or sea, post or steam— or wire—
Please let me know as long beforehand as possible
day & train of your coming here.

F.N.
These are some of the things upon which we must seek fuller information:

It is proposed that Matron’s salary should be £100, rising £10 annually to £150 [£120 rising as above might be suggested.]

It is proposed that Matron should superintend besides the Nursing Cooking as well as Laundry.

Having seen so much of Nurse & Hospital suffering from bad cooking as well as bad washing, I do not think this a bad plan, provided Matron be allowed an efficient Assistant as well as a Head Laundress.

There are: Cook & Kitchen maid:
   2 House maids:
   2 General Servants:
   6 Sisters
   2 Special Nurses: pay class between that of Sisters & Day Nurses
   13 Upper Day Nurses
   Lower " "
   8 Night Nurses:

Plans have long been ready for building a new Wing to St. Mary’s.

St Mary’s might easily become with zeal & perseverance a first Class Hospital. [end 13:107]

I should put: "This soon proving a post of illeg too heavily many duties to work properly worked a post, the Managers appointed a lady as &c"

p.3 I would describe the Hospl more completely its enormous School of Students & Professors its consequent enormous proportion of acute Medical & Severe Surgical cases—after “517 beds” I would say: 517 beds always full & indeed more than full of the most acute Medical &
the most severest Surgical cases: 560 being not an unusual number of Patients-
last line but 2 "carried out by a Matron who has nothing to do with the Wards-
last line
This post I am still holding at the present time then add some civil speech of request -

note, 1f, pen

St. Mary’s
6 Sisters £30 rising to £40
2 Spec=Nurses £25 ” ” £35
13 Day Nurses) Class A ” £24
      Class B  £16 ” ” £20
8 Night Nurses £20 ” ” £26

initialled letter & postmarked envelope, 3ff, pen {envelope: SU180/28 19

Miss Williams
Royal Infirmary
10/6/76 Edinburgh
35 South St.
Park Lane W.
June 10/76
My dear Miss Williams
Your coming on “Tuesday” [13:109]
will be welcomed: & I put off all discussion till then:
Believe me I think I have always felt more at your leaving Edinburgh than any one: even yourself - I am glad you do not travel at night.
If you write again, just say what time the Day Mail gets in: & what meal you will have that night.
God speed & Au revoir:
ever yrs affly
F.N. [end]
Dr. Sieveking  
(Principal Physician of St. Mary’s) [13:109-10] 
will be happy to see 
Miss Williams  
this morning at 10  
at 17 Manchester Square:  
My dear Miss Williams  
I have nothing to suggest:  
your own wisdom will 
suggest to you much better 
than mine:  
not to 
frighten Dr. S. by starting 
at once any proposal 
“to reform the Nursing 
system”: or “to have a 
Training School”  
Of course St. Mary’s is his 
primary object:  
the proposition of the  
Training- School will have to 
come from us:  
[he is Chairman of the Medical  
Committee of the National  
Nursing Association: &  
that will not be a difficulty.]  

Mrs. Wardroper went over  
St. Mary’s with him yesterday:  
(we wished she could have  
put it off till to day:)  
I send to Mrs. Wardroper this  
morning for her answer to  
my suggestion that she should 
say what time you can see  
er her to day:  
Mr. Carter will also come  
& see you here this  
afternoon or to morrow.  
[I am to telegraph to him:]  
You will of course suggest  
to Dr. Sieveking that you  
should see St. Mary’s:  
he may possibly say: “Now  
at once.”  
At all events I shall 
expect you back here
after that:       (29)
I shall then have my the
answer from Mrs. Wardrr-
And I shall hope to see
you myself in the afternoon.
God speed:       [end 13:110]
yours ever F.N.
June 14
6. a.m.

incomplete letter & envelope, 1f, pen SU180/30
{envelope:}
Miss Williams
14/6/76

June 14 9. a.m -
My dear Miss Williams
Mrs. Wardroper can see you after you have
seen Dr. Sieveking to-day:
it rests with you whether you will come
back here or not (before going to St. T.’s.)
Applications & testimonials must, we understand,
be sent to the Secy- of the Hospl-
by the
end of this week
Will you particularly ask Dr. Sieveking not
only what the Matron’s duties will be: but
what assistance she will have given her:
i.e. about her being allowed an Assistant at least Matron
(The Kitchen is to be under her:
as well as the Wards & Nursing:)
Mrs. Wardr did not see the Matron’s rooms:

----------
You understand that your fate does not
rest at all with Dr. Sieveking: alone:
there will be other measures to take:
& if he is unfavourable to some exigencies of ours,
it does not follow that we shall not get
them otherwise.
My dear Miss Williams,

I return your T.s: & agree with you in preferring Sir R.C.’s: but what surprises me in all T.s: & even in Sir R.C.’s: but in all Medical T.s: is: that they invariably omit the only essential point [a thorough knowledge of Nursing: in order to be able to teach, “Superintend”, & train in it:] for a “Superintendt” of “Nurses” - [What would they think of me if I were to recommend an “amiable” lawyer for the post of Surgeon?]

Mr. Bonham Carter was at Sir T. Pycroft’s when my Messenger went - he could not write then: but would send me word -

You will not like to miss Mrs. Wardroper a second time: but perhaps will not stay Dr. Bernay’s Lecture: [Bernays?] as it would be such a ‘drive’ for you if you had to go to St Mary’s this afternoon:

Please give my best love to Mrs. Wardroper: & tell her that Sir Harry Verney is going on well-

[2] “amiability” is not an international power, nor an Institutional power: nor is it by any means our characteristic: I agree with you -

---

I would certainly send Sir R.’s letter to Dr. Sieveking?

1. Shall our Messenger go with it now?
2. Or were you thinking of going yourself to St. Mary’s at one?
3. What time will you have luncheon?
4. And did you mean to SLEEP out to night?

ever yrs

F.N.
To the Governors of St. Mary’s Hospital
London
17/6/76

Gentlemen,

Miss Rachel Williams having offered herself as a candidate for the Matronship of St. Mary’s Hospital, I beg to be allowed to have some share in her introduction to you.

Miss Williams entered as a Probationer the “Nightingale” Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas’ Hospital in October 1871. Having known her intimately & personally during a great part of the following years, I am able to give my testimony to her as a Probationer; - as a “Sister” in St. Thomas’, -as Assistant Superintendent in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, which post she has held since November 1873; & still holds.

She was one of our most distinguished Probationers: showing rare ability in making
herself mistress both of the technical & theoretical part of the Nursing art: for which she has an innate genius & love.

During her “Sister” ship—too short for us—at St. Thomas’ Hospital, she showed the same ability in managing the Nursing of her Ward (a Female Surgical Ward): to the more than satisfaction of her Surgeons: & in training her Probationers: as she had shown as a Probationer herself.

She is indeed as successful as a teacher, & trainer: as she had been, is, & will doubtless continue to be all her life as a learner of the noble Art of Nursing.

But it is as Assistant Superintendent in the vast & difficult Edinburgh Hospital,—where with a Medical School of 800 students in daily attendance the most acute Medical & most severe Surgical cases are passed thro’ the 517 beds of the Hospital, (~making often 560 Patients,~) in rapid succession—a very real test of capacities & for Nursing superintendence

— that her great administrative powers,— her powers of command over women,— of teaching, training, managing for & governing Nurses, are shown.

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She is a thorough woman= of= & has good knowledge of Household & Kitchen management for this Staff.

She is of a noble character: above all jealousy or pettiness of any kind: of singular intelligence. This implies a strict conscientiousness & control in carrying out duties, rules & discipline as well over herself as over others. She has thus been implicitly trusted & esteemed to the highest degree by those who had the right to command her: by the Governing body as well as by the
It is a rare thing to be able to say of any woman that she has succeeded equally with those who had to command her: & with those she had to command.

This key to all superintendence she holds.

To sum up: She has distinguished herself, as a trainer, teacher, & manager of Nurses. She has great influence over & love from the old school Nurses still remaining on the Edinburgh Nursing Staff. And she has won golden opinions from the Board of Management, the Secretarial & other Officers, & from the Medical & Surgical Professors of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Edinburgh’s loss will be St. Mary’s gain: if as we trust for St. Mary’s sake Miss Williams is elected Matron of your St. Mary’s Hospital.

Pray believe me, Gentlemen,

ever your faithful servt=

Florence Nightingale

London June 17,1876

(Foundress of the “Nightingale”
(Training Schools for Nurses

postmarked postcard, 1f, pen SU180/33

{front} To

Miss Williams
R. Christie’s Esq
Chignal St. James

23/6/76 near Chelmsford

{back} 35 S. St.
June 23/76

The Committee was to meet yesterday for the first time not likely that you will be required before to morrow (Saturday) at earliest:

I shall of course telegraph at once: the moment I hear:

F.N. [end]
My dear Miss Williams, [13:112]

Your letter came after post-time to-night: I shall expect you on “Wednesday at noon”: which I think is quite time enough to give you the ‘dinner treatment’ before going to St. Mary’s on Thursday: And you are much better in your leafy shades than here where the heat, amid clouds of dust & East wind blacks, is very oppressive.

Did you mean to give Mr. Jenner the Meeting at St. Thomas’ Hospital on “Wednesday”? Don’t overtire yourself on Thursday: God-speed: I wrote a line to our little Chief by to-day’s post about you & St. Mary’s appointment for Thursday: I knew she would be in an agony about you: ever yrs affly F.N.

You will take your letter from Mr. Jenner (Edinburgh Board) with you to-day: will you not? I hope, if you have no more pressing engagement, you will come straight back here: & tell me all about it: [end] 29/6/76 F.N.

My dear Miss Williams (& dear Matron) October 1/76 [13:113]

Good speed, good cheer & welcome home. ‘Don’t talk of “cheer” or of “home”. I feel so very dreary:’ you will say, I am afraid.

Yes, dear heart: if you knew how I feel this: And I clasp your hand & pray with you that you may make a good start: & look forward to doing the work for God which, now you have it, we must conclude that He has given you.
I am so glad that you have some of your own people with you.

Now, dear goddess: this is only a word of greeting: I dare say you & I shall have many a 'confab':

May the Almighty bless you: & enable you to "proclaim His name" & not your own: at St. Mary’s is the fervent prayer of yours ever affly

F. Nightingale

I may be in London any day:

I think it will be safest for you to address

35 South St. Park Lane W.

it will always be forwarded:

It is 5 years since you came to us: it is 3 years to day since the affair you know of (relating to Edinburgh) in this very room at this very hour. Do you not think God has led you? May He ever lead you! F.N.

My dear Miss Williams

I was getting so anxious to hear how you were going on or rather beginning: that I was just writing to you: when your welcome letter came: welcome because it is brave: which however who could doubt of you?-- not because your difficulties are small or few -

[The worst case of all is: where you see much to reform: & your authorities
nothing: see none: but that is luckily not the case here].
I should like to know that you are well: & tolerably comfortable as to personal accommodation: & of that - you say nothing -
That you are (not overpowered but) beset with work I am sure: And success there will be in good time I am also sure.
I am afraid if work were not so {overtop of 'too'} heavy (or perhaps because it is so heavy) you will miss the home you had made at Edinburgh with "Little Sister": -who must be sad enough without you. Your own three will stick to you bravely:
& St. Mary’s o’ught to bless the day it has you. There is no danger of that making you or any one imperious: for people who are thoroughly in earnest must always be humble. They cannot but see how much there is to do: & how little they do do.
I am constantly interrupted:

Dearest friend: I commend you to God:
I am kept away from London (tho’ it is much more distracting, at least to me, to transact much business which awaits me by letter) by the impossibility of finding any one to take charge of my Mother.
And I have a baby! besides!
I am wanting much to see you: {I may come up {any day: if} I can be relieved.
If I do not let this go, as it is I am sure it will never be finished
God for ever bless you & your work -
yrs always F.N. [end 13:114]
My dear Miss Williams,

I am very glad to hear from you:
very glad that you are (so wisely & in community)
rid of one old Sister: & about to fill her place
with one of your own training: which will be
‘company’ for you, (provided you don’t make
it visible to your little world.)

[I suppose Miss Vetch had some experience of
Operations at Edinburgh.]

Also: I congratulate you upon the successful
progress of Dining apparatus -
I am busy upon your plan, which looks very
promising, of remodelling the Staff- But
it only reached me yesterday: & you cannot
think how much this place (I have many
“Engines”, moral ones, “bumping” under me!)
takes out of me: I am not sure that
I shall have any “suggestion” to make -

Mrs. Wardroper was very ill for a day or two after her
return. Since that she has been jaded with very great
annoyances. If she has “ignored your existence”, this is the only reason!

I refuse many Dedications: but if it would
give you the slightest pleasure to append my
poor little name to your book: (I wish it God speed
& all usefulness in the work:) I like any
connection with you, tho’ I should not dissemble my
dislike to a dedication. Put only, please,
if you put anything: To {lines box in ‘To F.N.’}

Rachel Williams

in greatest haste
ever yours F.N.
My heart sinks within me as to Miss M. in your place with "Little Sister"—whose letter about her I have not dared to answer. The impression she made at St. T.’s was almost ridiculous. If she were so superior to St. T.’s benighted ignorance that she came to teach, why could she not reprove their darkness with less rudeness? Superiority shows itself in grace: strength in gentleness. And her manners to some at least of the Surgical Staff so offensive!
What will "Little Sister" do?

signed letter, 3ff, pen & pencil SU180/39

My dear Miss Williams,
I return your Table, which scarcely admits of a "suggestion".
Of course one would not begin in that way: but it seems to me to do all that is possible under the circumstances: & very cleverly.
"2." A Night Supt= is positively necessary: one would naturally rather give her charge of the Night Nurses than of the "Maternity Dept=": But I suppose
that merely means looking after the Maternity ‘bags’.
Ultimately, this would more naturally come to a Linen woman: or Assistant: when you have one: would it not?

“Bagnton Ward” — For a ward of “8 beds”,
a Sister or “Special Nurse, at £35,
a Probationer
a Night Nurse
does not seem a good division.
The Probationer would be a mere drudge: & learn nothing?
a Staff Nurse
a Ward Maid — {with something to do
a Night Nurse | somewhere else
would seem a better division
But I can quite understand that you have weighed all this: & cannot do otherwise.
If I retained the “Special” at £35 for 8 beds, I think I should be almost inclined to give her the “charge of the Maternity bags”, if otherwise desirable.

Is it not better to give a Night Supt= nothing but Night duty?
She might hand out a Maternity bag at night, if this is ever wanted.
Will she have any charge of Female Out Patient Accidents or {sudden cases coming in at night? | {e.g poison
We do so sadly want this at St. T.’s.

I do not know what the proximity of “Albert Victor” & “Bagnton” are. I suppose it would not do to put them both under one “Special” Nurse | perhaps one Staff Nurse:
one Probationer
one Night Nurse
one Ward Maid?
"I should not like to be your Probationers, to begin with. They are so certain to be made drudges: & 5 at least of your Sisters to be incompetent to teach - And you will be worn out in preventing them from becoming the 2nd Class Assistt- Nurses,” (Assts or donkeys,) whose places they are to fill. But it cannot be helped. "6" I am very glad to see that the “Ward Maids” are to live in the building: & very sorry that the “Scrubbers” are not. But neither can this be helped - I consider that every woman not living in the house is a perpetual anxiety to the Matron: a responsibility which she cannot fulfil. especially when there are Nurses not of her training: to whom all sorts of things may be brought in by these out- door women: But I think your plan excellent: & I wish you 'God speed’ with all my heart & soul: no time for more: [end 13:115] yrs ever F. Nightingale

initialled letter, If, pencil SU180/40

Oct 31/76
My dear Miss Williams
I suppose I must consent to your kind & wicked wish about the 'Dedication' - I shall feel as grateful to you, as any one can be, for the proof - when I see you - that Miss M. is a good Asst= for “Little Sister”. Her troubles & yours are my own: & I shd= feel as much her having a not bad Asst=, as if I had her myself - God speed: yrs ever
Address 35 S. St F.N.
My dear Miss Williams

You should telegraph at once as you propose to Miss Pringle: & write to her too:

[We did not know till last night: & Mr. Carter does not know yet: that St. Mary’s wants the Testimonials this week]

I will immediately send to Mr. Carter to ask him to meet you here this afternoon at 4.30

He is very clever in these emergencies, as you perhaps know - [Of course there are “a great many “Candidates”].

I believe our recommendation will have some weight with St. Mary’s Commitee-

Was any arrangement made for you to see St. Mary’s? by Dr. Sieveking? -

Will you go to St. Thomas’ this morning? And may I see you at 4.45 before Mr. Carter comes: & again afterwards?

My dear Miss Williams

I think it would be be too great a hurry for you to go to St. T.’s to-day.

I will telegraph to Mrs. Wardroper that you cannot: till tomorrow:

You had better not make the thing a drive.

Go to St Mary’s: come back here to luncheon: or have luncheon before

I will arrange with Mr. Carter, as afore said.

Pray stay here till Wednesday, at least.

Night Supt-

I think it might possibly be of use for you to go to Brit: Nurs: Ass:, Royal Free Hospl=, Gray’s Inn Road - they may have a Night Supt= to recommend:

- (they train) [Ask whether a Miss Isabella Walmsley they once trained there might do: & is at liberty- [I doubt her doing

If ‘Sydney’ Barker answers yes, will you not have her up to look at?

What time shall I see you to-day?

[end 13:108]
My dear Miss Williams  Jan 19/77
I am rather in a muddle about the List
of books you sent me:
In the first place, there is no
“Druitt’s Physician’s Vade Mecum”:
the book seller cannot find one: & I never
heard of it:
I have got you Hooper’s Physician’s Vade Mecum
(not a very good book: the Nursing Article
seems a compilation of all the errors of the last
but this is the only Physician’s Vade Mecum” I know:

Next: I cannot find any “Bell’s Surgery”
but his “Manual of Surgical Operations”-
this has nothing whatever about after-
   =treatment or Nursing; or symptoms: - or anything but the actual cutting:
but I have got you a copy -
It is very likely that there may be Bell’s
Lectures on Surgery: but my bookseller’s
benighted ignorance cannot find it.

Next:
did “Spence’s Anatomy with coloured diagrams”
mean Spence’s Lectures on Surgery?
a 2 Vol: book: it has beautiful
   colored diagrams -
And I can find no “Spence’s Anatomy” -
   I have got you a copy of this (Spence’s Lectures
on Surgery:)

in great haste ever yr affecte [end]

Excuse my stupidity F. Nightingale

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pen

{envelope:} {word in top corner torn off}
with a parcel of books
   {A package of ‘pictures’ framed
   & glazed FOR EDINBURGH}
Miss Williams
   St. Mary’s Hospital
20/1/77 Paddington

Back of envelope: Manners Probat, over in pencil
   sisters at 10 a.m.
   List of Nurses
   Waiting Room
Cap for Albert Vic Bognton [spelling?]
Sister Mattress
   linen room
illeg
chaplain 2. Monday
35 South St  
Park Lane W.  
Jan 20/77

My dear Miss Williams

God speed on your holiday!

Here is the ‘token’ which you are kind enough to undertake to carry to Edinburgh:

I said it should be packed ‘with love’: but it appears to me to be packed with a very dirty cover. [I sent it to a Cabinet-maker to pack: he says that it will carry quite safely so, but of course that it would be better if it could go with you in your Railway carriage: & not in the Van —]

I thought a box should be so cumbrous for you to take.]

If you are dissatisfied with the packing, please detain Messenger, & send it back to us: with your instructions

I shall be so thankful if that terrible Engine can be deadened

I shall expect Tearoe & Mason on Tuesday & Wednesday

With love to ‘Little Sister’ which cannot be held in any package & to all at Edinbro’

ever yrs F. Nightingale

Yes, please: get the “Bell” you want for me at Edinburgh

I send Garrod’s Materia Medica  
Bell’s Surgical Operations  
Hooper’s Physician’s Vade Mecum:  
on ‘spec’:

F.N.

initialled letter & postmarked envelope, 1f, pen SU180/46

{envelope:}

Miss Williams  
care of Miss Pringle  
Royal Infirmary  
24/1/77 Edinburgh
35 South St.
Park Lane W.
Jan 24/77

My dear Miss Williams

This is only about books:
the first part of Annandale’s 6
"Abstracts of Surgical Principles"
is quite out of print here:
would you like to have me send
the other five parts to St. Mary’s
- & you beg, borrow or steal the
first part at Edinburgh, which no
doubt you could easily do: -
or what shall I do?
I have got a copy of
Spence’s Lectures on Surgery for
you
it is a ‘delightful’ book -
with ‘books’ of love, which it
would require a Special Train
to carry, & even then 2 Engines
could not draw it,
to “Little Sister” -
& I hope her Neuralgia is gone,
in gt haste ever yrs
F.N.
I saw your Tearoe yesterday: all well:
& see your Mason to night.
[13:116]
[end]

initialled letter & postmarked envelope, 3ff, pen
{envelope:} Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington

2/4/77
W.
My dear friend Miss Williams

I am intent upon making out all I can to help you about Nurse Morford.

She is reported from the Wards as “very willing” & “a capital worker”.

She is “bumptious” & “conceited”: but she has been constantly “snubbed” for it & told her fault in the Home: & has never resented correction:

She is not a favourite with her fellow- Probationers “on account of her opinion of No=1.”

As to “Nurse Hancock”, that fault was with the men, as has been too terribly proved: Nurse Morford has neither the temptation, nor the

inclination to this, so far as is known:

As for “Nurse Millar”: that fault was with the drink: No suspicion of the kind attaches to Morford. Is it possible that Nurse Whayman can know something we do not?

Of course you asked her the reason of her outcry.

It is so very easy to say: “no worse person could be sent:” & it may only mean ‘no person W. would have liked worse’-

It is terrible to me how wonderfully little forbearance these Probationers have with each other: & the ‘friends’ have perhaps too much.

sees to it herself: at Highgate the Medical Officer gives 2 Lectures upon it in his Course.

But perhaps I may find this important subject farther-on: as I found Normal Temperature which I thought had been omitted.

Don’t take this as a criticism of the book which I have only glanced at: as yet.

Good cheer: good speed: ever yrs

35 S. St. F.N.

Ap 2/77
I do so agree with your last Para. at p. 15.
Lastly: I understand that at St. T.’s they were “much more anxious about Whayman than about Morford: & that “the faults” they knew of in Morford were what would “be overcome by increasing years & responsibility & by Miss Williams’ supervision”: & that they can “see no risk in Miss Williams trying Morford for 3 months.” [Unfortunately I have never seen her: but will try & do so before she comes to you] This is the gist of what I have been able to extract from St. T.’s, where they know “nothing bad” of her. [I have said nothing to Mrs. Wardroper as yet: I would fain help you if I can] If W. does know “something bad” of her, she ought to speak: & then nothing should induce you to take her. I like your little book very much: as far as I have gone. I should have asked for some hints as to how to make dying easy in “Modes of dying”: a thing terribly neglected in Hospitals At St. T.’s a careful Sister
signed letter & postmarked envelope, 1f, pen

{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
20/4/77
W.
35 South St. 
Park Lane W. 
April 20/77

My dear Miss Williams,

I have been able to buy a copy of the 6 parts of Annandale’s Surgical Abstracts. Would you like to have it? [I have only just glanced at it: have you not found it more fitted for Students than Nurses?]

2. I have been having Finger & Thumb Stalls of vulcanized gutta Percha manufactured for our Nurses to save them from poisoning their fingers in dressing wounds & giving vaginal injections. Would you like some?

3. Mrs. Wardroper asks me whether you would be likely to have a vacancy for “Miss Shillington” in June? I do not know, but suppose from this question, that you know from her about who & what Miss Shillington is:

4. You will not resign before Midsummer?

ever yrs

God speed: F. Nightingale

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital

28/4/77

35 S. St. 
Saturday

My dear friend

It is a fix: Unhappily it is just what I thought they would do -
I must have time to think about what you should decide: I would gladly, (no gladly not’s the word,) I would anxiously see you for a few minutes to- morrow (Sunday) afternoon at 5 - Or if that is not convenient, I would write to you by tomorrow night by hand:

Don’t be downcast: yrs ever F. Nightingale
1 leg Pork/Hampshire
6 Eggs
1 Lilies of the Valley
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
28/4/77

To enquire
- 1 leg of Hampshire Pig
  for the inner man
- 1 Lilies of the Valley
  for the outer man
- 6 fresh eggs from country

with F.N.’s best love
28/4/77

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil SU180/51
{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s
28/4/77

35 S. St
Saturday: 28/4

My dear Miss Williams
  I will write you a note tomorrow, containing my
best thoughts, before 5 to-morrow.
  If then you think anything can be cleared up by
our talking together, you will come. But if your time
will be better occupied by seeing Mr. H.B. Carter,
or any one else, you will tell my Messenger, who
shall be with you by 4 -
  You can hardly be more anxious than I am:
  yrs ever:  F. Nightingale

initialled letter & envelope, 1f, pen SU180/52
{envelope:}
To enquire  with a bit of Irish (illeg too dark)

& 1 Meadow sweet

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
3/5/77
Paddington
My dear Miss Williams

I am very anxious to hear how you are going on: & especially if evidence were admitted on Monday that the leg was not dressed & not intended to be dressed: & more especially how you are.

Cheer up, brave woman:

I hope Martin & Morford are going on right:

Do you want any more finger stalls?

3/5/77 yrs ever

F.N.

initialed letter & postmarked envelope, 1f, pen (envelope: SU180/53)

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
17/5/77

35 S. St.
W.

My dear friend Miss Williams

I know how trying the prolonged anxiety is to you: If it is any comfort to you to know it, it is hardly less so, perhaps even more so, to me your friend & admirer.

- I was almost in hopes to have heard from you.
- I sent up last Friday to know the result from Mr. B.C. & shall do so again to morrow.
- But now, my Goddess, you must be a fighting Goddess & a Goddess of Wisdom you know like Pallas Athena.

To 'Fight the good fight- of faith' against difficulties I am sure may as well be done by a Matron with a Board as by St. Paul’s converts: yrs ever F.N.

initialed letter & envelope, 1f, pen SU180/54 (envelope:)

To enquire
2 pigeons
6 fresh eggs
(1 lilies of valley
(1 lobchi [illeg]

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital

19/5/77
We must be distressed but not overcome: never say 'die';
all will be for the best in the end: for you.
Don’t let us do anything in a hurry:
next week will be decided whether there shall
be a 'Special Board':
God be with us all always:
& His Spirit be with us to morrow: F.N.
19/5/77

initialled letter & envelope, 2ff, pencil

{envelope:} SU180/55
1 heath
wait
a verbal answer
Miss Williams
St. Mary's Hospital
[13:119]
20/5/77

Burn
35 S. St.
Whit Sunday/77

My dearest friend & child Miss Williams
- I cannot say that resignation may not be imperative
- But the woman (S.V.) must have arrived at a great
  pitch of fool, hardiness to risk what you tell me
while the decision of the Board was still pending.
- I cannot help fancying that she will now in
  the elation of vulgar success ‘hang’ herself in
some way or other patent to all, before long.
It would be a pity if this were to be the day
after your resignation.
- It certainly was a great misfortune that Miss E. did
  [cont’d in pencil]
O my dear friend we were just as much in
the battle as you: & I thank God that
so far He has gotten us the victory -
But I am not satisfied: there must
now be a special Comm: to revise the rules
Please let me know what you propose
doing (about “peace” & details) “more fully”, as you say.
If I might venture to send a message
of gratitude thro’ you to Mr. Lane, I would

You know perhaps that I think the next
two years will see us every where on
our trial again; especially as to the
trained Matrons’ authority - we require, & justly -
May we not be found wanting!
[end 13:119]
F.N.

26/5/77
Private
30/5/77

My dear Miss Williams

I am afraid that the re-action after such a strain is making you feel rather dispirited.

Never mind: or rather do mind: No man is worth anything without 101 trials. Even our great Master said that of Himself.

But I am not writing to preach: for I assure you there is one person who wants preaching to more than any one else in the world: & that is your lunatic mother who now addresses you:

- only to answer your question about Miss Wright
I am sorry to say I do not “know her”: her “character” with us is: undecided: rather ‘swingy’ in manner:

not business- like: likes petting: kind & amiable:

at the same time, I suppose, many Nurses know less:

wants experience when she might ‘do’-

________

You would not think, I suppose “for a few months” as a stop- gap of

1 year Probationer & 1 year Head Nurse (Female Ward) at Highgate Infirmary: tried District Nursing with Miss Lees- not suited: went back to Highgate:

I know her: exceedingly good, modest, slow, clever in some ways: called their best Probr=: slow & helpless: loyal & trustworthy: & devoted to Patients à toute épreuve: much praised by Dr. Dowse

Pray tell Mr. Lane that in the rubs & wounds & crosses of our work - of which Crosses we have had sometimes as many or almost more than we can carry these 20 years & more - (few or none know how heavy:) nothing has ever touched or raised me so much as his great persevering & 'clever'/wise) kindness to you & to the us standing upon our trial again as it were in the main feature of our work

Weave this message as you please: you can do it much better than I: only you ask for the “message” to be “special”:

God bless you: yours ever

F.N.

[13:119-20]
My dear Miss Williams,

I think of your troubles night & day: It seems to me the important thing: to fill that Sistership with a person whom you know & who knows you: & if possible trained by yourselves.

Pray excuse the following suggestions: useless I fear, because it they could be done they would have been done already:

1. Could you have some one from Edinburgh, if only for a few months?

You have praised a Miss Webb very much:

where is she? would she do?

2. If not, could Miss Richardson take the Victoria Ward for a few months, & Miss Enderby prowl on as Night Supt= for a time?

3. Miss Shillington is a very superior person to Miss Wright. & has done Leopold well.

She would take temporary duty: but must see her Sister (spitting blood) at Edinburgh first

How would this do?

(a terrible blow to us)

Nurse Warman to come directly

(confd= Nurse Warman)

- private!!

to release Miss Shillington at St. Thomas’ -

Miss Sh: to go to see her Sister for a week:

& then come to you as S. Victoria for a few months

God bless you:

ever yrs

F.N.
My dear friend

I have not seen Miss Shillington: but I was told yesterday Wednesday: not by Mrs. Wardroper - that there was a chance of her doing what I suggested to you: viz. taking TEMPORARY duty with you: after she had seen her sister at Edinburgh.

Mr. B.C. asked me to write to Miss Vincent. And I have done so - but I don’t believe she can come.

I don’t admire Miss Peskett too slow: but I know her to be loyal: She could only be a "pis aller".

I have some one coming to me on business almost at once: So I am unable to have the pleasure of seeing you now -

Would it be possible for you to go on to St Thomas’ now about the Shillington? yrs ever

31/5/77 F.N.
You had better not quote me to Mrs. Wardr=

1/6/77
My dear Miss Williams,

I am very sorry to say that Miss Vincent cannot come to you, and I am sure that it is not for want of will.

I do not myself feel at all sure about Miss Shillington as you say.

And what would set one’s heart most at ease about you would be that you should place one of your own people (Miss Richardson) temporarily in that Ward, & keep on Miss Enderby temporarily as Night St= - if Miss McLaughlin will not 'do' to go on temporarily.

Miss Shillington: Failing this, I would go to St. T.’s, & see Matron, & (with her permission) Miss Shilln- - proposing to each what I have suggested, if you yourself wish it:

-but without mentioning me to either:
(as that would only divert their minds from the real purpose under discussion:)

F.N.

Don’t be down hearted: I know you are not: we shall know one day that we are all much the better cause & all, for this wrong: God is always right.

ever yrs F.N.

Take as much exercise as you can:
1/6/77

initial letter, 1f, pen

35 S. St.
June 2/77

I think your present plan excellent:

Miss Mayne would make a good Sister:
(was intended by Mrs. Wardroper for a Sister for St. T.’s:) is loyal, contented, hard working,
age:

healthy: 40: Training= time up in August:
must have more Medical Training before that:
If Miss Shillington fails, Miss Richardson for 3 months, & then Miss Mayne is an even better arrangement, to my mind, under the circumstances.

Dearie, do take a Hansom cab, & go out every day. I venture to enclose 30/ for the purpose & 30/ for the frame:

God speed you My dear friend is the ever present wish of yrs ever F.N.

Let me know the decision
35 South St.
Park Lane W.
July 3/77

My dear Miss Williams

I am told that I must take charge of
my Mother into Derbyshire this week.
And I do not like to go without letting
you know.

I feel very anxious about you. How
does Miss Enderby get on with Dr. Broadbent
as 'Sister Victoria'? And who is to fill her
place— or is she to remain?

I look forward to your taking your
holiday with "Little Sister" on August 20.
And if Lea Hurst, Cromford, Derby, is on
your way anywhere, to your both coming
to spend a week with us. Do:

May all your troubles be blown away; or
rather only strengthen you (after your
holiday) to triumph over what may come.

I do not ask to see you: but should there be
anything in which I can be of the least use,
here I am. How are you? &

how do you get on with the enemy?

Mrs. Wardroper is coming: (here:) so
in haste God bless you, fare you very
well: ever yrs F. Nightingale

Miss Hill, of Highgate, is we fear dying:
the day I go must depend on this
F.N.
Lea Hurst
Cromford
Derby
July 30/77 6. a.m.

My dear Miss Williams
I don’t know whether Mr. B.C. has told you of what has happened to us: & has prevented me from answering yours: a fatal case of Small pox in the house. I am quite unable to say whether we shall be able to have the great pleasure of seeing you & Miss Pringle at the time I had so much hoped. I feel bound to tell you this in case you should wish to alter your plans:

But if you would kindly write again when it comes nearer the time I trust we might be “safe” & able to receive you. I feel so very sorry for all your troubles: I mean I wish we could supply you — I always felt sure that there would be no other danger for you of not having vacancies from {illeg}: no other danger but that of not being able to fill them. You will come back quite fresh, I trust, from your holiday: Morford did very well as Probr= under the Sister whose Ward Miss Enderby took temporarily at St. T.’s — but when Miss E. took it, she did not like Morford. I think you might do worse than keep Miss Enderby. I believe you would like Miss Mayne God bless you: in great discomfiture, yrs ever
F. Nightingale

The Small pox case was that of a lad just entered my Mother’s Service
{'Service' vert. in right marg.}
My dear Miss Williams

I am glad to think that the prospect of seeing you & 'Little Sister' is only a pleasure deferred. Please write to me as soon as you want to settle your plans:

And oh how glad I am to think that you & she are going on your holiday: much needed: well earned.

I am very sorry about Nurse Tearoe’s illness: but thankful that ‘peeling’ is on the ‘go’:

If you could contrive anywhere for them to go & ‘convalesce’ (She & Nurse Mason: to both of whom my kindest regards) I would gladly pay

I send up vows— I hope not altogether fruitless for your 'Sister’hood.

God be with us all ever yours & 'Little Sister’s
F. Nightingale

We are unable to receive a creature here yet
F.N.

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington

with F.N.’s love: & may the best Christmas blessings be showered on our dear Matron & all, all her faithful Nurses & Sisters: 20/12/77
To enquire: with 3 [8?] pots tulips
   2 " Cyclamen
   & a packet
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
1/1/78 {upside down not FN: 1878} L66

New Year’s Day: 1878
My very dear Miss Williams & my Goddess:
   I have done your behest: tho’ not very sure
I quite understood your meaning. If I have failed,
put it all in the fire, I need not say.
   I was so very glad to hear from my cousin
Shore that he thought that tremendous Engine
could & would be moved    Pray tell me:
And tell me how you are
   Over & over again I wish you the highest
New Year’s happiness- a thousand and one
New Years. And a thousand and one times
I pray that my Goddess may walk worthy of
her high calling

   Our Nurses are such a source of irritation &
   vexation to my Goddess, as I mourn to think,
that grievous as it would be to me, I
cannot but ask: had she not better get
rid of them?
Shall I send you any good (untrained) Nurses
   I hear of for you to see?
I heard of one lately from a Doctor, a brother
in law of Miss Irby’s Miss Johnston, who wished
for a “permanent” place- [I suppose her a private Nurse]
Would you like to hear more of her?
Good work is being done. Thank God for it!
When the Engine is gone my Goddess will be herself again
   Fare you very well, my dear Goddess:
wear a few clothes, this world is too cold
to go about in your shift: And don’t look too tall
down upon your worshippers:
   & believe me ever your faithful servt=  
   (whatever you may think) & loving
old friend
F. Nightingale
Am I to expect Nurses Whayman, Mason & Tearoe?
[end]
My dear Miss Williams,

Thank you for your very kind letter. The days the Nurses are due, if it is convenient to you to let them come, are:

- Nurse Whayman on Jan 12th, at 5.
- Nurse Tearoe on Jan 23rd, at 5.
- " Mason on Jan 24th, if convenient.

But as Nurse Whayman leaves you alas! on the 18th, will it be more convenient to you to send her on that day, at 5, unless she is going out of London.

I hope to see you, my Goddess, very soon:

but unless there is anything you would kindly wish to say to me about these women before I see them, shall we make some appointment with my Goddess about the end of the month?

ever yours,
F. Nightingale

My dear Miss Williams,

May I send you with your kind permission the 'Charity'? I too have heard from 'Little Sister': I am very anxious to keep her quiet while she is here. I am afraid she is much pulled down: - I have been casting about in my mind in all directions how this could be done. You must help me. Do you think you & she could go somewhere into the country? I should be so glad to help. Or do you think she would go to Embley (not my father’s now) where she has been before?

I am sorry to say I must put off Nurse Whayman after all: for another engagement - which I cannot put off. Would 5 on Monday 14th suit you as well for Nurse Whayman to come to me?

If not, I will find another day:

ever my 'Goddess'

F. Nightingale
You never told me how it fared; 35 South St.
with the Engine: } Park Lane W.
-------------------------------- Feb 18/78

My dear Miss Williams

I am so very sorry that you cannot come
& sleep here to-night.

If it is best for her to stay quiet to-day, I would
forego the wishing her good bye -
If otherwise, would you both come & dine
here to-day? - & at what hour?
And would she come an hour before to say
farewell?

With best love to both
ever yrs affly
F. Nightingale

35 South St
Park Lane W
April 9/78

My dear Miss Williams

I have been longing to hear, but always
thinking of you -
I now take the opportunity of sending you
12 copies of the “Bandages” sheet - [you can have
as many more as you like] - which “Little Sister”
told me you wished for - to ask oh so many
things - about that dreadful Engine - about
the Nursing Staff - & first & foremost how you
are
Alas! I do not hear very good accounts of “Little Sister”.
Your Night Supt= - I did not neglect Your
Imperial Highness’ orders - but when I thought I
had found one, Mr. Bonham Carter told me you had already engaged one. I trust she is good.

And does the “Cook- Housekeeper” do well, as well as I hope?

Would you come on Thursday, Friday or Saturday at 4, if you want to be back for dinner or at 5, if you do not? & let me hear Your Highness’ news from the Goddess’ own lips?

Please thank Nurses Mason & Tearoe very much for the photograph of the Goddess & her train. And that too I shall want to have expounded to me:

under great stress

ever yrs affly

F. Nightingale

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pen SU180/71

{envelope:}

with a geranium

Miss Williams

St. Mary’s Hospital

Paddington

8/6/78

35 South St.

June 8/78 [13:122-23]

My dearest Goddess

I am so very, very thankful that that terrific Engine is going to be moved at last- (I think you can scarcely have suffered from it more than I have)- that, tho’ under stress of business & illness, I cannot help giving a cheer loud enough to be heard at St. Mary’s.

Also I am charmed about the housekeeper - If I can hear of a proper woman, I will write at once but I am afraid I am not likely. Your need of a housekeeper was urgent
Hurra for the Nurses’ sitting room & its ‘opening’ - May I not have a finger in the pie? Or in those kinds of things have you carte blanche? Might I send you £2 for goodies or flowers? or something more for a bit of furniture? I should be so glad. say what (line from 'bit' to 'say')
I am thankful that the dear ‘little Sister’ is better: even before her looked for holiday with you-
- I have felt very anxious about her:
  That Miss de Broen is such a good woman
- I am so glad you are training for her.
  And may you have a grand new Wing.
Thank you, thank you for telling me about the Engine. Fare you very well:
in great haste, always in thought your own & ever yours, my dearest Imperial Highness
F. Nightingale

My dear Miss Williams
I must bid you ‘God speed’ to the Nurses’ new Sitting Room - you do not tell me where it is - in the same breath as ask you to ‘speed’ kindly my present to it with the enclosed £4- which is giving you all the trouble: but I do not know how to save it you. I don’t know what you would like best
And pray tell the Nurses, with my kindest regards, that I give them joy & shall think of their pleasant nest in their new room. And especially renew my thanks to Nurses Mason & Tearoe for their picture of you all.
God bless you ever yours F. Nightingale
I am so rejoiced that the creature (the Engine) is gone that I sang a 'Te Deum' & could, have danced a jig.
All hail to your Xmas without the beast: & to all the Nurses: And may you have many, many happy New Years.

You know that 4 of our trained Nurses were wrecked on their way home from Montreal— I venture to send you & yours copies of their little account -

God for ever bless you & your work: is the loving
wish of yours ever affly-      F. Nightingale

I have not forgotten your “Trained Nurses’ Annuity Fund”: but it is so long to write about. I hope to see you soon-

signed letter & envelope, 1p, pen SU180/74

{envelope:}
To enquire for

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington

10/3/79

March 9/79

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Williams
I was very sorry to hear not a very good account of you from Edinburgh. I was in hopes when that atrocious monster was made to flee — you would be all right.
I have written to Miss Pringle to ask her to come here on her way to Paris & back: whither I hope she is going for her holiday with you. Will you not meet her here?
I have had some difficulty in struggling thro’ the winter with its overwork: alas! so little of it done. Or I should have asked you to come long ago
Will you not kindly make
an appointment to
see me some afternoon
(after Thursday) at 5: if
that is convenient to you?
Would you have some dinner
here afterwards?
God bless you & your work
ever yrs affly
F. Nightingale

initialed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pen SU180/75

{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
20/3/79

W.

March 19/79 [date in cat is Mar 20]
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Williams
Very many thanks for your
kind offer of Nurse Mason:
& more for the very kind
words & feeling which
accompanied it: But I
have thought it better on the
whole never to tempt a
trained Nurse (from St. T.’s)
even thro’ her employer with
a private domestic situation:
but rather to dissuade trained
Nurses, if they apply to me for
advice from domestic service.
There is such temptation (in
London) for a trained Nurse to
refuse a Hospital place offered
her - perhaps on purpose to break
off & go into domestic Nursing,
where she can get more than a
Sister’s pay, a housemaid to wait on her
&c &c &c
Since I wrote this, your kind note about Nurse Forde has come: many thanks. I am sorry she is not to be had.

We are in treaty with one or two domestic women, one of whom I devoutly hope may do for such a difficult situation as a new place with a very old lady. Many thanks for all the trouble you have taken.

I am 'doing' your "System": & hope to send you my unworthy remarks to morrow morning.

Love & blessings

ever yrs F.N.

It struck me that perhaps, after I had sent you my packet, I might get valuable information from you on the subject form our own Probrs- as to how to manage certain points if you could kindly come to me for half an hour again on any day you could fix at 5 o’cl.

heard from “Little Sister” this morng.

great haste

F.N.
the little Guild book returned with a very great many thanks: & I am anxiously expecting 'my' copy -

The two Sermons & the Organization M.S received with thanks, many, many, many:

And I will write again

I hope good news from Miss Pringle

1/4/79 F.N.

April 16/79
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Williams

I am very much obliged
to you for writing. I do feel so very uneasy about 'Little Sister'. My comfort is that she has not the build nor the complexion of a person with lungs. But none the less is it a very anxious thing. Do you know exactly what the Doctors call this attack?

Certainly London should be the last place she should come to now. I have spent 23 consecutive Easters in London & never known such an one as this. But she
should not come to London at all except to rest in passing thro’.

I hope the Doctors will say exactly where she is to go. If it is to Bournemouth or Torquay, could you go with her?

I have the comfort of saying to you that she is worth us all put together, because I know you will agree & not be offended:

I am grieved not to see her tomorrow, but I shall not commit the unfriendliness of having her here at all, (except to rest in passing through) on her way to better climes.

Pray let me have news

God bless you & her,

yrs ever

F. Nightingale

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pen & pencil SU180/78

{envelope:}

with a pink Azalea

a white "

& a Cytisus

-------------------

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington

22/4/79
I shall send up tomorrow, 
early to enquire after April 22/79
Little Sister. My best of 10, SOUTH STREET,
love to her & to you: PARK LANE. W. {printed address}
--------------------------

Dearest Miss Williams

I was so very much obliged to you for your kind note on Saturday: It was quite a relief.

I hear (with some terror) that dear 'Little Sister' is coming up to-day such a day! But I am sure she will rejoice so much at being with you that, as it is decided, we must be satisfied that she comes.

God bring her safe thro' the journey, & help us to do the best for her, & restore her to perfect health.

After her stay with you, I'm your man. God bless you:
in gt haste ever yrs F. Nightingale

initialed letter, 2ff, pen SU180/79

April 30/79

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Williams

I was so frightened (unduly as I hope) about 'Little Sister' that I cannot be too thankful for your continued good reports of her- 1000 thanks for writing.

I too am wearying to see her, but I have been so driven & am. And tomorrow my sister leaves London: & Friday is my India mail day.

You say you hope to be off early next week.

To Paris?
Let me see her on Saturday at 5 o'clock, if that is quite convenient: or on Sunday or on Monday. And won't you come & dine with her on
the day she comes, at 7, or any hour she likes & you? Or would it be desirable for her to come here to stay from Saturday till Monday? Or do you think it better not to move her till you start for Paris? God bless her.

Please tell me what is best and with very best love to her, believe me ever yrs devotedly F N

Thank God.

I promised Mrs Wardroper to ask her to stay here a Sunday to meet Little Sister when she came but I think I had better put that off till you come back from Paris - had not I?

Ought not 'Little Sister' to be kept rather free from worries cares? & talking of cares?

F.N.

I was very sorry not to see Miss Spencer, but it was really impossible to me:
Lea Hurst  
Cromford: Derby  
[13:127] and [13:770-71]

My dear Miss Williams  
I have never ceased thinking about you & your work if that wd= do any good  
I trust we shall be able to place some Probationers under your training. I talked at length to Mr. Bonham Carter about it: & you will have seen him.  
It makes one so very uneasy this falling off of ‘District’: of ‘Poor’ Nurse Probationers from the reason you stated viz that they are ‘half starved’ sometimes & badly lodged in nursing the poor. Because, do you know, I think the Nurses are right.  
Should a Nurse ever be sent to the poor without an agreement with the clergyman or other authority who sends for her (it, is, I believe, generally the clergyman)--that she should be supplied with proper food & with a proper sleeping room, to herself--the clergyman or other authority to be responsible for this: [he may send
her the meals from his own table: at all events he is responsible] Without this, no Nurse to be sent. [This is the rule in force in the only successful ‘Home’ I know from which Nurses are sent out to a single poor case at ANY distance And I believe if it were in force everywhere this (so desirable) ‘Poor’ Trained Nursing can & would be carried out. If not, not. Do not you think so?] [end 13:127]

May all the best blessings be yours & the work’s. I am always with you- if that could do you any good. Do tell me about Little Sister: alone as she is without either of her Lieutenants (but I hope that is so no longer) it makes one very anxious God bless you ever & the work.

F.N.
Aug 27 [1879]
My very dear Miss Williams
I have never sent the enclosed:
I have come down here in charge of my Mother. Perhaps you know it is always ‘neck or nothing’ to me the coming. Last year it was ‘neck,’ this year ‘nothing’. I suppose I must confess to a (short) acute nervous fever: with no sleep for 90 hours & an uncountable pulse.
Even now there is no possibility for rest for me.
But we won’t talk about that.
I am very anxious about “Little Sister.”
Since I wrote this, I have had your note about returning the papers as to the Rates of Hospital pay:
I ought to have returned them long before. But I will look them out the first moment I am able & send them directly.
Have you made any progress in asking your people whether they would subscribe
to a Trained Nurses’ Friendly Socy- or Union?
I think you & I talked about this. Could you make out what the rates and allowances in Guy’s Hospl= Nurses’ Union (compulsory) are?
Shall you & Little Sister be able to have a holiday this Autumn & come here?
God bless you ever F.N.
Could you make out what the rates and allowances in guy’s Hospl Nurses’ Union (compulsory) are?

Lea Hurst
Cromford: Derby
10/9/79
6.30 a.m.
My dear Miss Williams
Forgive me: that is all I can say. I have no excuse to make but increased illness, the heavy charge upon me here, in addition to all my other business - and your kindness which is the most valid of all the (too true) excuses.
Pray forgive me for my delay in returning you your papers.
[The only time I have to work is before 7.30 a.m., generally often after a sleepless night.
The Dr. tells me, as all my Drs tell me: ‘you must go away for 3 months & speak & write to none’.
And that is totally impossible for me.]
The information given in these papers is so very vague - They cannot at all be compared with each other. And therefore are so far valueless for our purpose.
2. I have not heard from Mr. Bonham Carter whether he has entered into farther negotiations with St. Mary’s for our having Probationers with you.
   I do hope he has.

3. And I hope that the other thing about which we talked viz. the impossibility of getting Probationers – to serve as country District Nurses (so noble a calling) will be obviated somehow in this way: [you know I think the Probationers are right:]
   Let the clergyman or other person who sends for the Nurse be responsible for the Nurse having a proper bed-room to herself – & for proper food to be found (perhaps sent from his own house) for the Nurse. This is done in the case of the E. Grinstead Nurses Sisters. No board & lodging provided, no Nurse. And they are quite right I do it, when I employ a Nurse, in this village.
   If the case is non-infectious, she sleeps, whether by day or by night, here: & her meals are sent her from here.
   If the case is infectious (as now we have Typhoid
Fever, in this healthiest village in the world, owing to bad drainage— I don’t believe Typhoid infectious) the sick Nurse has her meals sent from here, & a bed provided for her afternoons' sleep in the house of an old woman, who is to watch the Patient meanwhile. 

[If a room permanent lodging is kept for the Nurse, then it is shut up when Nurse not there: & she has to come back to it cold, & then to go out to buy her victuals. Clearly the person lady or gentleman who sends for the Nurse ought to be responsible for her board & lodging ]

I feel the more earnest about this, because many District Nursing Societies are breaking up because they cannot get candidates And quite naturally

3. Have you been so good as to enquire among your Nurses about the other thing we were talking about: whether they Ladies and Nurses would be willing to pay into a Trained Nurses’ Provident Soc'y, if we were able to start one:

and how many?

and how much?

& whether for all or which of these advantages: a sick allowance a central “Home” or Lodging House - an Old Age allowance a Savings’ Bank might be in connection
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
30/3/80 W.
10 South St.
Park Lane W.
Easter Day 1880

My dear Miss Williams
How long it is since I have
seen you. My first Easter
thoughts are for you & yours.

But first I want to ask
you about the Nurses’ saving.
The idea originated, I think,
with some of the Nurses
themselves - that we should
have a sort of Central Home
& Club, or Provident Socy=,
supported by their own
contributions, for our
Trained Nurses. I have
collected Rules & Tables,
among others those of Guy’s
which you were so good
as to send me: And
I have corresponded with
Secretaries of all kinds
of Friendly & Provident
Socies=, & have got together
no end of information
which I shall hope to
impart to you when we
meet - also information
about what in their turn
our Trained Nurses desire.
Then, you know, 183 of
the Trained Matrons &
Nurses did me the honour
to ask me to 'sit' for my
'picture': to which I
responded that, if they
would think of 'saving',

I would think of 'sitting'.
They prepared a delightful
New Year’s Day surprise
for me, when 57 signatures
appeared under the
following heading:

see p. 2

Out of 68 Nurses of St. Thomas' 57
signed this: (Probationers
not counted.) Of the 68
23 had already saved:
one paid for a life annuity,
one had invested:
two insured their lives:
five supported relatives—
And now, dear Goddess,
what will your Nurses
do?
We the undersigned Sisters & Nurses of St. Thomas Hospital from the Nightingale Training School & others agree to enter into a 'self-benefiting' Provident Society by depositing in the P.O. Savings Bank or other safe investment a sum quarterly in proportion to our means

Sisters not less than £1
Nurses " " " 10/
and so much more as may be convenient

And how are you going on yourself, my Goddess?
And what do you think of 'Little Sister'?
And when are you going to have Probationers of ours?
And how do your Probationers go on? And especially do you get Probrs= now for the Norfolk District Nurses Socy”?
And have they altered the provisions for the comfort of District Nurses for the better?
Have you enough Probrs= now?

[1880] Easter Tuesday
Dearest: you know how all my best Easter wishes are yours
I must tell you a little about myself (it’s a poor Easter topic) to account for my not having seen you as I so earnestly wished.
A week after my Mother’s funeral I was obliged to go away for 3 weeks silence: the first for 23 years. But I came back worse than I went:
And I fear I shall have to go away again for a time. I have had 6 years & more, without
one day’s rest of body or mind
ending with my dear Mother’s
death: & topping up 23
years of overwork & illness.
The Drs say, if I am to work
at all, in future, it can only be by
taking at least a year now
“free from the responsibilities
which have been forced upon”
me & from “letters”.
But when is that year to
come?
I like writing to you about
every thing but about myself.
But I want to ask you a
great favour. While I was
away, Miss Gregory [I always
forget her married name]
wrote to me asking me to
read an Article of hers (& put
it in some Magazine) which she
had written at Canon Gregory’s
request & which had been
refused by Miss Yonge -
At that time it was impossible
for me to answer or even to
read letters, except of the
most pressing importance.
[And I did not have one
day’s rest from these. I
took all my business with me].
This is a sort of cry for mercy.
I fear that it will be impossible
for me, for all such future
as I may have, to answer
such requests (as Miss Gregory’s),
which come to me even
from Africa, let alone Europe.
[Surely Canon Gregory is
the person to do it.] Would you say all that is
kind for me to her, & express
this in your own words my poor
state? My poverty & not my will?
The myriads of letters I have now to leave unanswered
- & above all my Indian work
weigh heavily on my soul
   [As I say it’s a sorry Easter topic]
But dear ‘Little Sister’ writes
to me so beautifully - you
know how she writes -
- 'we “are all to-day rejoicing
in the hope of the resurrection
and listening for the risen
Lord’s voice in the garden
that we may be able to
hear our own trouble & to see
the sorrows of those we love”-
   Amen: but I feel so little
like a risen one - more like
an endless ass.
   But I must see you, my
Goddess, before I go: before
long: if I do go.

God bless you: God (82)
guide us all.
   yrs ever
   F. Nightingale
My kindest regards to
any Nurses who
remember me - or
who do not.
All my people are engaged
in or for Elections for
themselves or others:
Sir Harry with Patriotic
pluck fights a gallant fight, whether we win
or lose, in his 79th year at
Buckingham: his son at
Portsmouth: a cousin at Devonport
- beer flowing like water on the other side,
bribery of all sorts & sizes - no beers
on ours, & all canvassers & Agents
doing it for nothing but principle & love & refusing
even fees.
10 South St. 24/5/80

My dear Miss Williams

Mr. Bonham Carter & I have both looked at your scheme & made some notes in pencil which may afford suggestions for emendations in some matters of wording & detail.

To the proposed scheme so far as it goes there appears to be no objection & the plan will no doubt be a useful adjunct to the Hospital.

But your difficulties will begin when this has been adopted.

God speed your work: & this new branch of it.
I shall take the first opportunity of a vacant day or two to ask you to fix a day for the great pleasure of seeing you -

But I am so pulled down:

ever yours
F Nightingale

I had rather hoped your plan would show here the accommodation you propose to provide &c &c &c -

The Committee will probably ask for some estimate showing the probable cost & income - and also the expected advantages to the Hospital - to set against the outlay for accommodation & the fixed charges to be incurred -

-----
The Rules of the Westminster Home, St. John’s House, & the British Nursing Association might be obtained & laid before the Committee.

-----
N.B. Stick to 7 (p.2). It is most important sometimes to put back these private Nurses into Hospital service.

3. (p.3) I presume you would not require understand by “always” always when on duty. You cannot insist on the uniform being worn out of doors?

[end]
initialed letter & envelope, 4ff, pen
{envelope with numbering at bottom:}
H1/ST/NC3/SU180/84)
To enquire
with a book –
& some country
Raspberries &c
& eggs
-------------
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
22/7/80

10 South St.
Park Lane W.
July 22/80
My very dear Miss Williams
You are very good &
forgiving to write to me so
I must have seemed so
forgetful & unmotherly.
But it has been only
‘seemed’: I have followed
your fortunes with the
intensest interest thro’
Mr. Bonham Carter &
others of your old friends.
And, as for myself I have
never had a day’s rest.
But we won’t talk of that.
As to the “London,” I will
not deny that I should have been glad for the London, if you had 'stood' for it such an immense field for usefulness. But my whole better judgement is for your remaining at St. Mary's, where you have done so much, where you can build on the foundation you have already raised where every body now recognizes what you have done, & where now there is a splendid field to go on & make the place perfect thanks to you:

On the contrary, in the London, they are so self-satisfied, the Secretary who has reigned for 35 years is so much the King of the place that a Queen must almost reign for 35 years before she can hope to do what is so urgently wanted -

This is what makes me pause: no doubt that a Queen is urgently wanted.

I earnestly hope that Miss Pyne may succeed in having the appointment.
There is then the hope & fear as to her succeeding in what alone makes the appointment to be wished for. You know she is one of the “selected candidates”: she comes up on Monday night to appear before the House Committee on Tuesday & return on Tuesday night to Edinburgh. I hope they won’t kill her. (84)

[2] And now, dearest about “Little Sister’. I hear not from her but from Miss Pyne that she is not coming up as early as she expected. I had told her that I would reserve Sunday at 5 & Tuesday at 5 for her, according as to whether she came up on Saturday or Monday. I am engaged now, especially at this time of the year, when every body is leaving London or passing thro'
London, - a fortnight beforehand: (It used only to be a week beforehand) - the second half of next week is already engaged. It is not, as you well know, that I would not get out of my grave to see ‘Little Sister’: but how can I put off people who are going to India or S. Africa or Bosnia the next day? I would if I could.

Can you tell me what day “Little Sister” is coming, & how long to stay?

And would you, if she does not come on Saturday, ‘take’ Sunday or Tuesday with me yourself?

God bless you, dear friend, & speed you well, as He is doing. I trust you will give “Little Sister” & have yourself a most refreshing ‘outing’: how do you think she is?

ever yrs F. Nightingale

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 1f, pen SU180/85

date: 19/1/81
My dear Miss Williams
   It is an age since I have heard from you.
   Could you fix some afternoon about 5 when it will be convenient for you to come & tell me the news about your dear self & “Little Sister”.
   yours ever affly
   Florence Nightingale

incomplete letter, 1f, pencil
{folios seemingly cut out from a letter}
I shall leave word here that the {illeg Pearl, top of word off page} is to be made comfortable if she will but come: & come on to Embley or not as she likes.
   If you have to write to me pressingly,

address       Embley
   Romsey   (Hampshire)-
Otherwise, it is always better to address here, to be forwarded -
Feb 6/81
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
   PARK LANE. W.
My dear Miss Williams
   I don’t think there are two
   people more anxious than
   you & I are about Little
   Sister- I have written to her
   as you suggested, urging her to
   take rest & change -
   [13:129]
   I am very sorry you are so
   driven at St. Mary’s- But
   all Hospitals are very full
   just now (except Westminster)
   I think - I don’t suppose
   this great drive can last
   And I don’t suppose Little
   Sister can leave her room
   just now - Would it be
   possible for you to go down
   a little later - we know there
   is no one like you for giving
   her real enjoyment- & take
   her somewhere -
   I would so gladly help in this {in
   any way I could} that you
   tell me & that she likes-
   I have seen Miss Pyne: & shall
   see Miss Hogg tomorrow - Miss
   Hogg goes back to Edinburgh,
   I believe, on the 17th.
   I too have been much driven -
   And you, I am afraid, scarcely
   get out now - But as soon as
   something can be settled about
   Miss Pringle, I trust you will
   let me see you: & let me be
   ever yours
   F. Nightingale
Would you dine with my Sister & Sir Harry Verney at 7 — at No- 4 after seeing me, tomorrow (Sunday)? dear Miss Williams? they will be quite alone I believe ever yrs affly F. Nightingale

26/2/81

Please forward Miss Williams care of Miss Pringle Royal Infirmary Edinburgh

My dear Miss Williams I was so sorry to hear which I did not till last Saturday, that my Goddess was ill — but very glad that you are gone to "Little Sister", & going to take her away from the Infirmary again for a time.

Health rain upon you both.

Not to see you before you went was a grief to me. I was only
gone to Seaford for a week, but was driven back by the great cold last Tuesday week

Alas! The Matronship of St. Bartholomew’s is disposed of - to a woman of 25 without experience. But - it is not Miss F. [13:129] [end]

Now forget all Hospital affairs for a season & make Miss Pringle forget them. But if you have a moment to waste upon my poor self, tell me how she & you are & believe me ever my Goddess’ most affectionate adorer

F. Nightingale (in anxiety) (& always yours)

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pen SU180/89

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital Paddington W.

26/4/81
My dear Miss Williams

Forgive my delay in answering you. I am as anxious to see you & to hear about “Little Sister”- God bless her! - as you are kind in offering it.

Forgive a weary old woman who has been very busy.

Could you kindly come to morrow (Wednesday) or Thursday or Friday at 5?

Please, an early answer.

Do not do like me.

How grievous the death of Miss Hogg’s mother, how unfortunate for dear Miss Pringle.

God bless you:
ever my Goddess' devoted

F. Nightingale

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 3ff, pen SU180/90

{envelope:}

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
W.

1/8/81
My very dear Miss Williams

I have not waited for your letter to ask Mrs. Wardroper (upon a hint from “Little Sister”) whether she could not give up Miss Hogg for your post of Night Supt-, describing to “Matron” what it was.

From a series of untoward circumstances Matron is in such need of Miss Hogg for a Sister that I fear she cannot give her up. You would have been touched as I was at Matron’s relief when she heard that Miss Hogg who has been changing her mind was coming to her.

[When I spoke to Miss Hogg, about it - I was then trying to persuade her that her duty lay with Miss Pringle- she told me that she wished very much for a Sistership at St. Thomas’]

More grievous it is to me than I can say that your Miss Byam is going to leave you. To my poor mind it is as unintelligible that
Miss Byam should have a “call” to Rome as that Miss Machin should have a “call” to S. Africa. It seems like leaving good solid much wanted work in God’s cause for an ‘adventure’. Miss Hogg, tho’ sadly wanted at St. Thomas’, cannot come there till September. I feel like a mother, all whose children are crying for milk food, & she is agonized at having little or none to give them.

I am terrified at your prospect of having “only a week’s holiday” this autumn.

I was so in hopes that you & Miss Pringle were going abroad for at least a month. How do you think she is? And will she not take a good long holiday? & where?

I cannot help hoping that Miss Byam may yet stay with you where she is happy & useful.

You do not know of a lady “Nightingale trained” who will suit for Mr. Rathbone’s post of Lady Supt- to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary & Nurses’ Training School & Home, with its Hospital, Private & District
Nurses, do you? She will have two Assistants. We are beset with applications & the demand is far greater than the supply. Cannot you send us some good Lady Probationers? May every blessing attend your work, my dear friend, as you must feel it has already. May you not be overworked: & may your Hospital grow big - If I could but cut myself up to help you, I would do it to morrow: but alas.’ I am useless but ever yours F. Nightingale

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pen & pencil SU180/91

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington

24/8/81

10 South St
Park Lane W.
Aug 24/81

My dear Miss Williams

You asked me if I knew of any trained Nurse who could possibly take charge of the new (Baptist) Hospital at Rome - & save Miss Byam going

What is the charge?
We have a Nurse, Nurse Spreat, not a gentlewoman but much better educated than the common-place class of so-called ladies, of whom we have a very
She has been obliged to leave her post at York Hospital by a slight tendency to chest affection: & she ought properly to go to a warmer climate. I thought possibly she might take the proposed Hospital at Rome & save your parting with Miss Byam. But I could not say unless I knew what sort of a charge it is - Also: Is Italian indispensable? She may speak French but not Italian.

And where is the Hospital? Is it in a healthy part of Rome? I should be so glad if you could be dispensed from losing Miss Byam. Failing this, but far less important in my eyes, Nurse Spreat would do for one of those Nurses’ posts at Cannes or at Nice which I think you it was who mentioned to me -

God bless you in great haste ever yrs
F. Nightingale

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pen & pencil
SU180/92
{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
27/8/81 W
Dearest Miss Williams

Thank you for your very kind note & information about Cannes for Nurse Spreat: so full & complete. How I regret that Miss Byam is leaving you. How I regret that you are not going to have a holiday. I should have been so very glad to have seen Miss Byam, as you kindly desired— but that I am just starting for a 10 days’ total silence: being pretty nigh worn out. And I have been seeing people & doing business (alas! unfinished) to this very last moment.

After that, I go on as soon as I am able, to do business at Lea Hurst, where I hope perhaps to see Miss Pringle— and oh may it be possible that I may see you, if St. Mary’s a little abates? So that I fear I shall not be back in time to
see Miss Byam before she starts - that wicked, wicked journey -
to whom please give my very best of good wishes,
 thro' she is absconding from you.
God bless all your ways:
  & St. Mary’s. And
still I wish & hope for a little holiday for you -
It is grievous that you & Miss Pringle cannot go together. Thanks for your news of her: so welcome.

Excuse the greatest haste & believe me ever yours
(in haste or not)
F. Nightingale

initialized letter & envelope, 1f, pencil
{envelope:}
TO ENQUIRE -with every best wish for the New Year
  Miss Williams  
St. Mary’s Hospital

F.N.
Dec 30
1881
My dear Miss Williams

I feel very anxious to hear about you: how you are, & how Mrs. Christy is - & what you are going to do -

I am so thankful Miss Byam is back -

Let me wish you every good & perfect gift for the New Year, & many, many happy ones

God bless you ever yrs

F.N.

I shall hope to see you soon might it be the week after next?

note, 1f, pencil (archivist:)

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

TO

RACHEL WILLIAMS

LETTERS 94-102, 103-105 104

1882 1883

initialed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil SU180/94

{envelope:}

with a pheasant

Miss Williams

St. Mary’s Hospl=

2/1/82

10 South St

New Year’s Day

1882

Dearest Miss Williams

I send a pheasant wh I venture to hope Mrs. Christy might like -

Would Tuesday week Jan 10, at 5 perhaps suit you?

How is poor Mr. Wilkinson? If he is able, could you give him a kind
message from me?
I asked him once for Statistics -
& his were the best of all the London
Hospitals- I feel so sorry for him
May God be with him
And how are you?
God bless you
ever yours
F.N.

signed letter, 1f, pen & pencil SU180/95

27/2/81
My dear Miss Williams
My Sister & brother in law will be
delighted to see you at dinner this evening.
The weather looks nasty. Pray bring
overshoes & a wrapper: for the
"North west passage" between No= 10
& No. 4 (3 doors) A servant shall
take you, but he cannot carry you,- I
wish he could: over the sloshy pavement
ever yrs affly
F. Nightingale

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil
{envelope:}
To enquire {up diag}
Please Forward
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington

7/3/82
SU180/96

10 South St. March 7/82
Dearest Miss Williams
I have just heard that dear Mrs.
Christy is gone before -
The shock of such a loss is so very
great I almost fear to ask after you
all - But for her
"when faith & love which parted from her never"
had ripened her, she resigned
"that earthly load
"Of death called life which us from life doth sever"
Did she know that she was going?
And how are you— who have so
faithfully watched her all those sad
months in London?
It is not at the time but afterwards
it is a comfort to think that the
beloved one has been spared from much
suffering
If I dared, I would ask Mr. Christy
& the children to accept my deepest
sympathy. Her daughter must
try to take the mother’s place—
God bless you all—
ever yours dearest,
in weal & in woe
F. Nightingale

signed letter, 2ff, pencil SU180/97

10 South St.
June 7/82
My dear Miss Williams
I cannot tell you now glad I was
to hear from you— You have had,
I fear, a hard time of it— But
hardness is oft times blessing— But
perhaps it sounds to you hard to say that.
May God bless your every step a
thousand times—

I was so glad too about your Hospital
& “Little Sister”— She seems cheery
now— How I wish that you & she
might go abroad this autumn together.
That would be the best rest to you
both— She has felt your long, long
trial. And so have I, my dear one—
I want to see you— & hear more
than your kind letter can tell me.
I have been so pressed all this spring
(you kindly ask) – with my brother in law
too staying in the house – & enquiries into
the misconduct & the inefficiency of the Hospital
Orderlies in the Natal War – as if Nurses
& India were not enough – that I have
been a good deal worse than usual – I
have almost every day filled up now –
But could you fix some afternoon at 5
next week when you could kindly come
& see me? And would you dine here? I
am always afraid that I put off your dinner
May all blessings be yours, I cannot say enough
yrs ever affly
F. Nightingale

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pen & pencil SU180/98
{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
1/7/82
W.
10 South St
July 1 1882
Where you were in the question, my dear friend, I put
off every other appointment: & saw Sir Henry Parkes
yesterday afternoon before he sailed –
The day before, I asked Mr. Bonham Carter to
see him & also to see you – But I rather think
Mr. B.C. did not succeed in seeing him.
Sir H. Parkes told me what he had said to
you – I asked him sundry questions, based
upon the corresponde= which has been going on
between Sydney & us for years about the Prince
Alfred Hospl= & upon what he himself had told me when I saw him on his arrival in England.

The gist practically of what he said to you & to me seems to have been that he would write, to us both as soon as he arrived in Sydney & could inform himself relatively to the Matronship.

If it were otherwise, I would ask to see you at once, my dear one. But as we cannot hear from him for 4 months, & as I am much pressed & feel as if I must have a little entire rest, you will probably not be sorry to put off seeing me for 2 or 3 weeks.

Your concerns are mine: & your anxiety is mine.

Sir Henry Parkes behaved like a man: which is higher than a gentleman- He neither promoted your going - nor deterred it, but was only anxious to put at our disposal full information. Had he been less of a man, I think he would have snatched at your going.

What information I have as yet about the Prince Alfred is unfavourable-

I have not heard from Miss Pringle which makes me (perhaps unwarrantably) anxious - Do you think She is not getting better? She has not answered my letter - [N.B. She has never breathed a word about Sydney to me] I confess I should like to hear from you what impression Sir H Parkes made upon you -

Excuse this scrawl:

ever yrs

God guide us all - F. Nightingale
July 23 1882
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.
My dear Miss Williams
Your new Secretary
your future autumn holiday
dear "Little Sister"
your health & spirits
all that regards yourself
all these things are very
near my heart always - And
I want very much to hear
about them all
Please tell me
I almost hope to hear that
you & "Little Sister" may be
going abroad in about 3
weeks.
When will it be convenient
to you to come & see me?
Give me the choice of two
days afternoons next week,
please.
All good attend you-
But I need not say that
that is the ever fervent prayer
of yours ever
F. Nightingale
Mr. Bonham Carter gives
me a good account of
& of the new
Secretary which God grant
to be true permanently
I am so very sorry that
Dr. Bell has not the Chair
of Surgery: I did my best.
& more than my best F.N.
Aug 6 1882
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Williams

Your great kindness is very valuable to us.

If Sir Henry Norman does not object, I should hope to see Miss Norman - would she come today at 3.30? [I have to see Miss Airy later.]

And would she object to go on from me to see Mrs. Wardroper, to whom I will send a note at once - Miss Norman would have to go to St. Thomas’ at all events to see about her outfit which we provide - & where most of the patterns & material are lying -

All the women are to wear the same uniform. [Indeed I rather promoted this..] for protection-

I trust then to make Miss Norman’s acquaintance at 3.30, if Sir Henry gives his consent:

You see there is scarcely an hour to lose.

I was so glad to see you, my Goddess, last night:

God bless you ever yours

F. Nightingale
Aug 11 1882
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:} PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Williams

Yes: certainly: I would not let “Little Sister” pass thro’ London without my having the dear delight of seeing her.

Would 5 on “Wednesday” afternoon suit her?

Tell me if it is too late: as you “start early” on Thursday morning”. And I will make it 4, & not keep her late.

I am glad you are going to Paris— I mean not going ‘straight on end’ through to Geneva.

She or you will tell me your plans.

Mrs. Deeble announced on Tuesday that she was not going— herself with the War Nurses. I wonder whether this was owing to “Little Sister’s” declining.

No help in the whole world that could have been given her would have been equal to Little Sister’s. But how could she have
the audacity to ask her?
- was it to go as a “Nursing
  “Sister”?
God bless you both - &
  guide two such precious
  workers of His -
How is “Little Sister”? - and
  what are your plans
  for abroad? Give me an
  address.
I fear I shall not have time to
  write to “Little Sister”.
Would you kindly tell her?
  And oh I do hope she
  will not do too much.
  Is she going to that place
  you mentioned as recommended
  by Dr. Balfour?
I shall hope to see her & you at Lea Hurst.

  I am grieved beyond measure,
  quite cast down, by this cross
  about Miss Norman when
  she & you had been so kind
  about her going at a day’s
  notice. But it is
  true that her place is not
  to be filled up: as I ascertained
  not till late last night. And if
  any more Nurses are sent
  she will be the first chosen.
  I cannot form the least
  guess- I suppose the authorities
  on the spot cannot- as to
  the prospect of this.  

  Good speed to your holiday
  & “Little Sister’s, dear friends,
  & forget us all for the time
  ever yrs F. Nightingale
10 South St. W.
Nov 28/82

My very dear Miss Williams

I cannot tell you how
glad I was to hear from
you these two times,
 tho’ you would not think
so by my silence -

It was very good of
you to let me have news
of Miss Norman. She
has kindly written to
me several times- And
I have just heard from

her again- Abbasiyeh
Hospital, near Cairo -
Miss Airy & her company
have also just been
sent up from Ramleh, Alexandria,
to their her, Miss Airy’s, great joy, to
the Citadel Hospl=, Cairo,
where there were no
Sisters but two useless,
kindly nuns, & where
they, Nurses, were very much
wanted.
I am sorry to say the

need for the really
well-trained Nurses
who are out there still continues
very great -

In answer to your question,
the Director-General
called upon me a
short time ago, & after
saying that till the
War Office had determined
the number of troops of
the Army of Occupation,
he could not positively
decide about the stay of the Nurses in Egypt, asked me: what we should like our Nurses & what they would like to do: to which I replied that I was sure they would wish to stay as long as their services were needed -

[As you know, there has been & is very severe Typhoid or rather Enteric

[2] This morning I have a letter from Mrs. Fellowes & Miss Solly (who, I am happy to say, are transferred from the “Carthage” where there is now little work, to the Gabari Hosp., Alexandria, where there is very heavy work), - asking advice about their staying out.

If you will allow me, I will write you in a few days any more positive information I can gather - But it seems to me that at Cairo & Gabari work -among sick is not slackening at all -

As for the great & positive afflictions of Military Nursing, the
greater they are, the more must we not rejoice to be there?
I warned all our Sisters what they were: & I think I warned Miss Norman -
No one but those who have not done it can look upon Military Nursing as an enthusiasm of glory, but as a very, very trying strain, & unsatisfactory struggle.
But the really - trained Nurses have saved many, many lives -

By the way, I think I gave you, as I did “Little Sister,” 3 months and a day as the outside of the time Miss Mackenzie would stay out. I was quite wrong. She has not stayed out that time & is now on her way home.

[3]
Miss Norman is longing to be with you again: (as are some of ours) but she is quite brave at her post I was so very glad to hear of you from (rest of folio cut)

may I not have a good account from you of my Goddess? So Guy’s Hospl= Matron is going to leave? (rest of page cut out)

Don’t you think Miss Pringle must have another holiday?
10 South St.
Jan 22/83
My very dear Miss Williams
I am so very sorry for your illness which I have only just heard of from ‘Little Sister’- I am not sorry that she & you are going away - tho’ I know not where to- somewhere in the S. of England? - She is not very well, I am afraid - She must come & see me on her way back.
My sister has had the very worst attack of Rheumatic Arthritis I ever saw: & tho’ she has just been moved to Claydon, she is not much better - Now pray God this may find you better.

I know none of your people now, I think - Else I would send my New Year’s greetings to all, & especially to you, my Goddess, which this text will carry on its wings - God bless you ever yours ever yours F. Nightingale
My dear Miss Williams,

How fares my Goddess? Not despairing nor disconsolate, I trust - - full of work I know -

My very best Christmas & New Year's wishes to my Goddess.

Success to your Provident Nurses' scheme. When it came, I was struggling, somewhat in vain, with an accumulated load of work, trying to make up lost time from my poor sister's terrible illness, & my own & from my poor maid Fanny.

[2]

then I wanted to talk the scheme over with Mr. Bonham Carter who is very busy.

Pardon if I have not had time yet.

And, returning to my Goddess, let me know how she is. I shall hope soon to see her- But I know that now she is overdone with Christmas as I cannot help giving her joy that she has (what I have not) the path of God's work so clearly marked out which she can do so well- I hope she is well. Now God bless her: ever her faithful devotee F. Nightingale.

29/12/83
The Peace of GOD which passeth all Understanding
Phil. 4. 7.
his Name shall be called....
PRINCE of PEACE
Is. 9.6
CHRISTMAS

For our dear Miss Williams
And may she who shows so truly the “good will towards men” have the promised “peace on earth” - And may the highest blessings of Christmas & the New Year be hers. May 1884 be happy & prosperous in the greatest sense - with Florence Nightingale’s love
Dec 29 1883
10, SOUTH STREET, PARK LANE. W.

F. Nightingale's love
& very best wishes & prayers - for the highest blessings for the New Year upon my love.

I feel uneasy at not having heard from my Goddess-
And how is "Little Sister"?
F.N.

4/1/84 SU180/105

Jan 5/84
10, SOUTH STREET, PARK LANE. W.

I am so very sorry for your sore Medical woes. But why should my Goddess be disturbed by them? Goddesses are never disturbed by the sorest worries-

Yes: I will put off any thing & every thing that can by possibility or impossibility be put off- to see my Goddess. Let her fix her own day (now at once, please) her own day for any afternoon she likes at 5 - And I am her devoted F. Nightingale

Could you kindly send me Mr. Bonham Carter's note to you on your Provident Scheme that I may consider the two together? F.N.
July 19/84

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
Dearest Miss Williams PARK LANE. W.

I feel the greatest anxiety to
know how yesterday's Board went
off. [In consultation with Mr.
Bonham Carter I did write a
note stating what you mentioned
of our conversation last year, for
him to make use of or not, as you he
judged useful at the time] I don't know
what he) yours ever, my Goddess
did ) F. Nightingale

2ff, Edward Sieveking to Miss Williams, July 20 1884, 17 Manchester Square, W., re: Miss Williams difficulties with the Board and he confirms his continued support SU180/108

SU180/109 initialed letter, 1f, pencil

10 South St.
July 27/84
My dear Goddess

I am longing to hear
how Friday's Board
& your matters are going
on -

 God bless you:
ever yours F.N.
I cannot get rid of my
cough (you kindly ask)
& am still on my back
10 South St.
July 30/84

Dearest Miss Williams

I return your letters with many thanks: & feel very anxious to know how Tuesday’s meeting went off—but it seems to me that you are winning, as you ought to do, on all along the line—& that, for one cantankerous man, you have a multitude which sticketh closer than a brother of friends.

And I am far more anxious that my Goddess should have her holiday now as soon as possible, & that “Little Sister” should join her & take a good holiday somewhere. It must be as desirable for the one as for the other. Tell me that this may be so: & believe me ever yours

F. Nightingale
10 South St.
August 5/84
7 a.m.

Dearest Miss Williams,

There is a good proverb, "Let sleeping dogs lie."

As you say: you "did not bargain for an increase:"
"they gave it to" you
"without" your "asking for it"

You are completely "exonerated" by the Report.

But as Mr. Lane made the application & as you appear to be anxious to offer to give up the Matronship, (which of course they cannot accept), do you not think that you should be guided by Mr. Lane’s advice which doubtless you have asked? I hope it will be to do nothing?

You also said in a previous note that you “thought” Mr. Clay was of your opinion, & that he would write draft a ‘more civil’ letter for you to write. What has come of his opinion? I think a great deal of that. I also hope it will be to do nothing -
Mr. Bonham Carter is, as you doubtless know, at Ravensbourne  
Keston  
Beckenham: Kent.  
& every day at his Office 
11 Lombard St. W E.C. 
These three men would guide you in any step that would be best to take. They know the people with whom you have to deal. Pray do not give too much importance to what you call the “tone” of the Report.

I cannot but give you (lll) joy of your triumph - And now I pray to hear soon that you have started on your much needed holiday with Miss Pringle. 
God bless you - I was so very sorry not to be able to write last night. Tomorrow I go to my Sister at Claydon although very little fit for it - - I ought to have gone to-day. All letters to me here will be forwarded 
Good speed. ever my Goddess' devoted  
F. Nightingale
Dearest Miss Williams

It was the greatest relief to hear from you, tho' I had previously heard from Mr. B.C. of his interview with Mr. Clay & what they had settled. You have done the best. The thing is on a good footing. Pray try & dismiss it from your mind - fold it up with God.

Yes, "Little Sister" is a person of unparalleled obduracy (about holidays) But, my dear, you are a Goddess - the Sun is at your command- don't you know how your Sun will melt the hardest hearts, when Boreas only makes them shut up the tighter? I promise you she shall go a little holiday with you, tho' alas! She ought to have 2 months.

My dearest love to her - & please to Miss Spencer.

I will return the copy of your letter to the Board - which you have been so good as to send me -

Now, good speed to your holiday - & forget us all for the present -

Tell "little Sister" there is no chance for me of what she portrays [?] - even were I able to go so far - My sister is, thank God, no worse. I think her better - more sleep, less pain, not quite so helpless.
I was scarcely able to get out of bed the first day -

It is 31 years to-day since I retired into "public life". Pray for me that God may forgive my short comings. 

ever yours devotedly  
F. Nightingale 

My kind regards to Miss Byam if I may  

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pencil SU180/113 

Miss Williams  
St. Mary’s Hospital  
Paddington  
10/9/84 London W. 

Oct 10/84  
Claydon House,  
Bucks.  

My dear Miss Williams 
My mind & heart has been full of my Goddess, as she may suppose, these weeks -

In communication with Mr. Bonham Carter, he told me that he should see you before he left home, & "if possible have a meeting with Mr. Clay"- & that he would "return to-day "again" to London "for a day or two before "going abroad", (which he much needs)-

I long to know the present state of affairs as to yourself - & I pray God that it may be what we wish & you deserve - 

May God bless you with His choicest blessings
I am kept here by my sister not being so well -
I have not had a day’s holiday - But if all is well with you & “Little Sister”, that will be my holiday -
I hope to be in South St. in a week.
Mr. Clay & Mr - Bonham Carter will be your best advisers -
But I yearn to know:
God grant it may be all right ever yours
F. Nightingale

My dear friend
I cruelly grieve with you -
Have you seen Mr. Clay & Mr. Lane since the Board reported? [I am afraid Mr. Bonham Carter? is gone abroad]
You will tell me what they say when I see you on Sunday or Monday. May God bless you yours ever F.N.
Private (up diag) 10 S. St
Oct 21/84
My dear friend
I wrote to Dr. Sieveking, & his answer was; to come & speak here & talk. He is so exceedingly 'aggravated' (& no wonder) by the malice & injustice that he will not pledge himself to do anything - not even to appear at Friday’s Meeting - tho’ he does not refuse -

The thing to do is obviously this: to get 10 or 12 Independent Governors, & all who will interest themselves in supporting the truth, to attend - but, besides this, to find an independent Governor, - better not a Medical Officer, - who will speak on Friday, put the true view of the case, after having
carefully got up the details - (urging, for instance, besides, the strong point of their having raised the Secretary’s salary).

If Mr. Clay, (tho’ he is not a Governor, he must know Governors, good men & true) - if Mr. Lane, & Mr. Owen would each speak to enlist 3 or 4 Governors, by explaining the case, the thing would be done -

And let them find a man (an independent Governor) who can & will speak on Friday. [Dr. S. thinks that such a man would win over several of Dr. B.’s supporters]:

Excuse a short note. [A lady came by appointment on some rather distressing business before Dr. Sieveking was out of the house]

[2] And she is only just gone -

But I must send this note to you tonight - We must not let the Devil win. To let the thing go by default, is intolerable - If your three friends each brought one or two independent Governors & these six each brought one more, surely that
would not be so difficult. But they must find a speaker -
Now God defend the right - ever yours my dear friend
F. Nightingale
Miss Williams

initialed letter & envelope, 3ff, pencil SU180/116

{envelope:}

wait
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
23/10/84 Paddington

Oct 23/84
My dear Miss Williams

Lord Carlingford left Lord Granville’s before Sir Harry Verney arrived there last night-

If you will kindly send me (by messenger) a short clear statement of what your good advisers wish laid before Lord C., I will write it, in the form of a letter to Sir Harry Verney, & he will ask Ld C. to read it & to act on it.

Sir Harry thinks it better that it should go in my name than in his: because, he says, he can only speak in my name -

Good speed ever yours
F.N.
Probably Lord Carlingford hardly knows who Dr. Meadows is - certainly not his connection with this melancholy affair.

Must he not be told why he is to "hint" to Dr. Meadows &c &c?

The difficulty is, you see, how to make the statement to Ld Carlingford without revealing these unhappy "squabbles" which revelation you say would alienate Dr. Meadows - I felt this in explaining the case to Sir Harry - I did not wish to tell him anything that he must not tell to Lord Carlingford.

23/10/84

I will immediately begin writing my letter - for there is not a minute to be lost - to day being the opening of Parlt = And Sir Harry will ask Lord Carlingford to read it & to act upon it.

Good speed

Shall I send in to No- 4 & see whether Sir Harry is in & at liberty for you to see him?

ever yrs F.N.
Dearest Miss Williams

I cannot sufficiently thank God that such a calamity to St. Mary’s as well as to you has been happily averted — And I give St. Mary’s joy — Good speed to you & your work —

My dear Goddess has preserved a noble front thro’ it all: ever hers

F.N.

How relieved “little Sister” will be.

Dearest Miss Williams

This is most disastrous — most disgraceful. The more reason not to fly before the enemy —

It is all-important to convince Ld= Carlingford that we have been urging that which is right— No one can do that so properly as Dr. Meadows. We hope that Dr. Meadows will write to Lord C., so that Ld= C. may have it all in black & white before him:
We hope, further, that Dr. Meadows will have an interview with Lord C. on his return to London, & that he may convince Ld C. that right is on his side.

If he succeeds in doing this, we may expect that Ld C. will take action, defend the right, & make it gain the day -

All must depend on Dr. Meadows’ communications, written & personal, with

Ld C- No private favour, or consideration for me or any one else, ought to have weight

To give way to evil is to flee before an unworthy adversary -

Gird all thy armour on:

God bless you -

ever yours

F. Nightingale

Ld Carlingford attended the Cabinet yesterday & went down to Balmoral afterwards. He could not have attended the St. Mys Meeting even if otherwise possible -

I am overwhelmed with business - but my thoughts are with you:-

God will uphold the cause if we do not despair -

St. Mary’s shall not be ruined - ‘Trust in God & keep your powder F.N. {lines on 3 sides of initials} dry’
Dearest Miss Williams

My thoughts are your thoughts — they are full of your, may I not say our? — sad affairs at St. Mary’s— And I was just sending you a note to ask what was doing — especially about writing to Ld Carlingford — when your sad little note came —

Is not the thing of first importance to lay a statement of the whole case before your President? Nay, it would be breaking faith with him if it were not done —

[This is now being done] Is not the next thing for you to take no step till you know the results of this letter to him — the action he will take? [You will remember that I stated to him,— at Mr Clay’s suggestion & at yours— that you wished for, that you invited
a full investigation to be
made by him - & that you
wished to abide by his
decision - I thought
this so important, in
order that I might not
appear to be asking for
any personal favour
but only for justice -
& that he might not think
my brief letter all we had
to say, that I
underlined it.]
Will it not seem as if
my beloved Goddess were
afraid to await Lord
Carlingford’s full understanding
of the case [how far
from the truth!!], if she
precipitately resigned
before he had had time
even to consider the
statement which I am
now thankful to hear
is being drawn up?
[I appealed from Lord
Carlingford to your President
- not to any fear or favour -
Your President must have

the case before him -
and the Matron must
show she has no fear -
Else, it would indeed
be sacrificing the fruit
of 8 years’ most
excellent work.
Surely she should wait
quietly - that is the true
dignity - with her friends
& devoted worshippers
around her - till Ld- C.’s
answer as President is
given - If she does not
like it or cannot accept it, & we are forced to resign at last - then she could with dignity resign, giving 3 months’ notice. And they the Hospital could refuse to accept her resignation - But if she resigned now, the malicious would say that my Goddess was ‘running away with her tail between her legs’, would not they? - And I could not bear that -

The ‘persecuted for righteousness’ sake’ never run away
2. Is Mr. Bonham Carter come back? I did not know that - I wanted so much to see him about this very affair - because his opinion is so ‘considered’ & without ‘considerations’, i.e. of factitious & secondary things

But even if he has now given you that “opinion”- that you should “resign”, he must have done so without knowing that the whole matter has been distinctly referred to the President of the Hospital, a full statement promised, with his decision invited And that that full statement has not even been sent in yet - (Nor can “Little Sister” know this)

Please let me see Mr. Bonham Carter, after you have told him all that has now passed - & let me take his advice. Where is he?
3. I understood from you, or it may have been from some one else, that you told the Board you were “ready to consider its proposals” - I did not know of this. If it is the case, must you not wait till the Board transmits them to you? This is however quite independent of the engagement to wait for the President's decision. And I would not defer thinking of it at present.

I have scarcely time to breathe till the new next week. There are papers.

Now God be with you, my dearest friend. And He is with you -

Do not throw up the “sponge” - And you will not- 'Fight the good fight of faith'- the faith that God is on your side - & you must be on His side ever yours

F. Nightingale
Your friends are such 
good men & true- I have 
rarely seen such devotion 
But it seems a pity that 
these good friends at the 
Board should, by telling 
you all about the squabbles there, make you a party 
to them -

[If one’s dearest friend 
were to tell one all that 
is said in even indifferent 
society about one, it 
would make life impossible 
- certainly the ‘blessing’ to the 

‘peace maker’ impossible. 
Let them fight their best 
for you, but not bother you 
with all the outs & ins -

Also: has not that 
discussing Board matters 
in your room (which 
is ‘unparliamentary’) been 
taken in bad part by those 
who are not your friends? 
You have been made the 
scape goat for all the 
jealousies of the place -

[It is like Ld Ripon who 
has been made the scape goat 
in India]
The persistent malice of the enemy is directed
not against you but against this (fancied) Cabal
It is Cabal versus Cabal.
Cabal for bad against Cabal for good
The enemy are fighting for their influence in the Hospital
& making you the scape goat
I have scarcely time to breathe
till the new Viceroy starts for India
next week- There are papers to prepare. But I trust to see you,
dear friend, before Friday week.

signed letter, 1f, pen SU180/120

Nov 12/84
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.
My dearest Miss Williams
Let me hear something from you: something of what you are proposing & feeling: something of what has passed with Lord Carlingford & with Mr. Bonham Carter. You are ever on my heart & mind. God bless you
yours most anxiously
F. Nightingale

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 1f, pen
{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
14/11/84 W
Nov 14/84
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Miss Williams

I have not heard from you but I have ascertained from Mr. Bonham Carter that he is “waiting to receive” from you the “proposed statement being “drawn up by Mr. Clay” & that he “concluded from our “conversation” (his & yours) “that “nothing would be done until he “& other friends had seen & “discussed that”- I hope he is right. I looked forward to to-day’s Meeting with terror, lest you should send in your resignation in haste -

God bless you, dear friend

yours most anxiously

(121) F. Nightingale

SU180/123 initialed letter & postmarked envelope, 1f, pencil

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital - Paddington
W.
19/11/84

10 South St.
Nov 19/84

Dearest Miss Williams

To-morrow at 5 I will gladly expect you -

I will look at the “Statement” if it that will do you the least good - But I am afraid it will not - You & not “the Statement” are the thing Goddess to me -

I never had the least idea of your having any thing to do with showing the
statement to Lord Carlingford-
That is for others to do
in greatest haste
God bless you
ever yours
F.N.

SU180/124 signed letter & envelope, 4ff, pen

{envelope:}
  Miss Williams
  St. Mary’s Hospital
1/12/84
SU180/124
  10 South St.
  Dec 1/84
Dearest Miss Williams [13:138]
  I heard from Mr.
  Bonham Carter after
  last Tuesday’s Meeting.
  It was much to the same
  purpose as Mr. Clay’s,
  only put in a different
  manner -
    the letter to be sent
    to Lord Carlingford,
    signed by several -
    with the statement -
    the interview to be
    requested

Of course you cannot
resign while this action
is being taken.
  Both Mr. Clay & Mr.
  Bonham Carter implying
the intention of bringing
before the President
the matter of the present
Government of St. Mary’s.
  It would be most
undignified to run
away now - even were
you to resign the very day
after it was settled, if it
is to be settled, that there
can be no change of
Government.
I should, I do deeply
regret & feel with you
the worry & harass of
preparing all those
Statistics. But the task
they have given you will
open their eyes to my
Goddess’ (tiran) worth -
& lead to a trust in her
that no enemy, no Doctor
or Secretary can shake

And therefore ± it is
only my weakness that
regrets it- But your
troubles are my troubles.

[2]
“Little Sister” is very far
from well. I do trust
she is not thinking of
coming up to you now-
She is quite unequal
to the fatigue -
The sudden death of
my cousin, Jack Bonham
Carter, his sorrow-stricken
family, are a great
shock. He was buried
on Saturday - the
Saturday before, he was

the joy & centre of his
family. He was Mr.
Hy Bonham Carter’s eldest
brother. Hy B.C. will
I am sure resume his
duties as soon as possible
But he is always the one
called in to help wherever
there is anything to do
May God guide us -
ever yours
F. Nightingale
I have been & am quite laid up with Infammn= of the Eyes & all the rest of it ever since I saw my Goddess.
I should like to have written every day. But I have had many cares
Still I am always with you in heart tho’ not in presence. And in presence I shall hope for some day this week
God bless you - And He will bless you -

2ff Mr Clay to Miss William, Tues afternoon, The Temple, re: impression from the meeting, to which he feels Bonham Carter and Nicholson see as well, that it be impossible/undesirable that she remain at St Mary's under the present government, Sir Pycroft and Lane to bring forward a statement re the case, suggests however she withhold her resignation at present (124)

SU180/125 signed letter & envelope, 3ff, pen

{envelope:}
a verbal answer please
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
2/12/84

10 South St.
Dec 2/84
Dearest Miss Williams [13:139]
I do indeed feel that the first thing is that you should go away & have rest for a fortnight or even 10 days before Christmas (& more afterwards)
Would it be possible for you to do this?
Suppose you were to get away directly, you might be back say the 15th - would not
that be time enough
for Xmas?
The difference between your
advisers seems to be this
that Mr. Clay & Mr. Bonham
Carter wish for the
interview with the President
at once - & for you
not to resign till after
that, if it be necessary
then - & Sir T. Pycroft
& Dr. Meadows wish
matters to quiet down
first - & for you not to
resign till after then, if
then.
I cannot possibly judge
about the appeal to
Lord C., (my appeal to
whom was entirely as
you know at the suggestion
of others)
Till I see Mr. Bonham Carter
again I could have no
opinion about this.
About the resignation, I can
only judge as for myself -
Everything, I believe I may
say every thing was done
that could be done either
on the earth or under the
earth to make me resign
during the Crimean War.
But I never felt a moment’s
doubt on the question:
I would not resign.
I might be driven from
my post
I would not run away-
Dearest - I do not say this is
any guide for you -
And above all I want
you to get away now for
a week or two -
Would it do any good
if you could come this
afternoon at 5 or at
6 & talk things
over with your
ever loving old friend
F. Nightingale

SU180/126 initialed letter, 1f, pencil

Dec 2/84
Dearest Miss Williams
You know you can’t do
without eating. Please
excuse my taking a liberty
& eat a bit of what I
venture to send -
I have written to Mr. Hy
Bonham Carter. I am sorry
to say his cold is very heavy.
And one of the children is ill.
I want much to know
what you are doing: my Goddess,
about Friday-
Good cheer: & go away on Saturday
ever yrs F.N.
Did you ever read Jackanapes?

SU180/127 envelope, pencil

with 4 fresh eggs} wait
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
6/12/84 Paddington

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 1f, pen

{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington

14/12/84 W.
Dec 14/84
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.
Dearest Miss Williams
I am so thankful that you
are going away for a fortnight
God speed:
    ever yours affte
    F. Nightingale
I shall see Mr. Bonham
Carter to day & hear
about your affairs
    Little Sister as you know goes
to Liverpool on Tuesday -
sails from thence on Wednesday
to Bordeaux - good angels guide
her - then to Pau where she
has a cousin in charge of a
Miss Lang
    God save you both
God bless us all

note, 1f, pencil (archivist:) FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE TO RACHEL WILLIAMS LETTERS 129-47
1885 (Jan + Feb.)
St. MARY’S HOSPITAL EGYPT

signed letter & envelope, 2ff, pencil

{envelope:}
    ask for an answer
    Miss Williams
    St. Mary’s Hospital
11/1/85
O dearest Miss Williams,

this is bitter & grievous
indeed- I know not
what to say - so bitter is it
Would you care to come & talk it over with me,
who know not how to think of any thing else, this evening at (Sunday) at 5 or at 6 -
- but not if you are going to any of your better advisers
I am sorry that I have been long engaged on business,

for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday in this week, which is the reason I ask you, if possible, to come to- day.
May God be with us both.

ever yours
F. Nightingale

You say you mean to send in your resignation to the President. Of course if our friends among the Governors have not already done so, they must, without delay, send in their own statement to Lord Carlingford. It ought to have gone in before yours. As it is impossible that you should be left to resign without their giving a full statement of the real circumstances - & of what has led to your resignation (to the great
detriment or indeed (129)
ruin of the St. Mary’s Hospital)
-i.e. without their F.N. (with 3 lines around initials)
backing your “reasons
“for so doing”-(resigning)
if it must be done,
with their knowledge & view
of things from the beginning -

SU180/130 signed letter, 2ff, pencil

10 South St.
Jan 18/85
Dearest Miss Williams
I cannot tell you how
I feel all this for you &
with you -
But it is quite certain
that you were perfectly right
to fight the right to the
end - even had it been
possible exactly to foresee
the end
But it is not the end.
Right never has an end -

Because Right is God -
& God is Almighty
You have been an
admirable Matron for 8
years - And the fruit
of your work is laid up
for eternity - No good
work ever fails -
The greatest failure
of all, as it appeared,
gave heaven to the world,
& was the greatest triumph.
If you have time to come & see me this evening about 5 or 6, please do. But I think your gallant adherents will want to see you to-day, & as alas! there is nothing imminent now but (I can hardly bear to write the word) your own resignation, I could find some evening - this week after Thursday, if you would be so good as to come -
Perhaps too you are anxious about Miss Gardiner: but see how well you have pulled her through hitherto -
God bless you: God will bless you - & spare Little Sister ever yours in deepest sympathy
F. Nightingale

postmarked envelope, pen
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
23/1/85 Paddington

initialed note, If, pencil SU180/132

Is your cough better well? If not may I send you these lozenges? with love -
F.N.

5/2/85
10/2/85

Private 10 South St.
   Feb 10/85
Dearest Miss Williams

   Many, many thanks for your most kind note of Sunday.
   I learn this morning from Mr. Bonham Carter that he did speak to Mrs. Wardroper about your Nurses, or rather she mentioned your offer—No Sister will be required, he believes, till Easter [Mrs. Wardroper thought she might require Nurses— but that is nothing to the purpose—]
   We think that if you could & would be so good as to call upon her again, (now the “Concert” is over—) you would be able to obtain some decision.
   I feel so much with your weary work now—
   God bless you—
   I am so glad Miss Gardiner has made such a cure under you.
I heard last night from “Little Sister” - She is evidently delighted with your offer to go to Edinburgh. She hopes you will go, whether with or without her, to their help in their “need”.

She is under orders to stay at Pau, as you know, till the end of February: but she owns it may be till the end of March.

She says: “My being there (at Edinburgh)

“or not at the beginning (133)
"need make no difference - “She knows I am always “there for her” She will not hear of your being “Night Supt=”.
If she is not there, she says “it will have to be “arranged with Miss Spencer”. Miss Spencer, you know, adores you “Let her come straight “back to us with all the “honours of her good fight, “& let her stay with us as “long as she will” says Little Sister -

SU180/134 signed letter, 2ff, pencil

10 South St.
Feb 14/85
Dearest Miss Williams
I am aghast at your news that you have volunteered for Egypt - But I wish you God speed from the bottom of my heart. His Will be done I believe the Director Genl=
Army Medical Dept-
6 Whitehall Yard
is the Office you should
also apply to-
I only had your letter
this morning -
I will write tomorrow by
hand -
God bless you & your Sisters [15:966]
ever yours
F. Nightingale

Private (up diag) [13:140]
I have not heard one
good word of any of the
Highgate Matrons- but
the lady you mention
may be quite a new comer.
Our Miss Styring writes
to me that, she wishes to
apply for St. Mary’s- But I shall
represent to her that it
is an impossible post.
[Miss Styring is now
Assistant Matron at
St. Marylebone Infirmary]
F.N.

SU180/135 initialed letter & envelope, 3ff, pencil

{envelope:}
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s
18/2/85

10 South St.
Feb 18/85
Dearest Miss Williams
God guide us-
I scarcely see how you can
go in the teeth of such
a remonstrance from dear
“Little Sister”- or, what
is much more the
bringing her over here, as
you see she is determined to
do- & perhaps finding you
gone. For it is quite
possible that the summons
might come this week.
This might kill her -
I do see great danger in
your going - the hot
weather will be on you
directly - the destination
probably Souakim- the
troops themselves you see
are not to fight between
say end of March & August
but to lay up-

To my mind, as you
know, it seemed thus:-
I was aghast at your going -
risk to you not worth
running. Edinburgh & Little

Sister not worth giving up,
if it was only for a transient
rush for to nurse the Wounded-
almost any risk worth running
if it were to lead to your
occupying the post of a
reformer in Military Nursing
or any Nursing -
Your losing your calling
& wasting your great
powers, (which one word
in your dear note makes
me fear you contemplate)
is, unless deliberately done
& with your whole heart,
to me appalling -

Dearest - I seem to
write coolly - but I feel
the decision almost more
weighty & more anxious
than even you or Little Sister,
as you see.

If your idea was merely
to go to nurse a few men,
I am afraid Little Sister’s
letters must make one feel
it almost more important
to nurse her. God bless you
& her a thousand times with
all his blessings. ever yours
F.N.
If your going led to the reform, nay the creation of Military Nursing by your hands, then your leaving St. Mary’s would have been a “reasonable, holy & lively sacrifice” to God.
But if not then Little Sister is probably right - May God bless you ever.

SU180/136 signed letter & envelope, 2ff, pencil

{envelope:}
Most Pressing
Wait
Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
Paddington
19/2/85

10 South St.
Feb 19/85 7 a.m. [15:968]

Dearest Miss Williams

This letter reached me at 11 last night.

I think, if it is not too late, you cannot hesitate - This is not to nurse a few wounded soldiers at Souakim It is a magnificent mission with probably no very particular risk attending it - They have reserved for you one of their very best & most important posts as you deserve - (instead of giving it to a half-trained half 'conducted' person).

It is due to your own great merits - & to the great interest made for you Little Sister herself could not wish you to refuse.
I am grieved beyond measure that you should have had such ups & downs - You may be sure that all night I have been wrestling.

Pray return me the note I enclose - & pray tell me it is not too late. You probably heard from Dr. Crawford yesterday.

God have mercy upon us & guide us - ever yours F. Nightingale

Could I have chosen for you, I could not, I believe, have chosen better- a mission more fitted for your great powers.

[end]

1f, Harry Verney to Miss Williams, 8 am Feb 19 1885, 4 South Street, Park Lane, re: encouraging Miss Williams to accept the offer of the Director General, for the sake of their Soldiers

1f, T. Crawford to Dear Sir, Answd 19/2, re: the pleasure of offering Miss Williams an appointment as Supt=of Nurses in the General Hospital in Suez, and trusts she will accept

1f, Carlingford to Dr Meadows, Feb 20 1885, 4 H. Place (Privy Council Office), re: glad to hear of Miss Williams acceptance of the Suez appointment

SU180/138 2ff, Sara S. Meadows to Miss Williams, 27 George Street, Hanover Square W., re: a pleasant letter of congratulations for her Suez appointment, refers to a note enclosed she might want to see from Ld Carlingford, empathizes with the many unpleasant words Miss Williams has had to endure, wishes her good wishes and blessings
Dearest Miss Williams

Thanks for your letter -

Pardon me, most anxious to

know what your Friday’s

Board has done about you

- whether you have any

further communication from

Dr. Crawford - whether,

(God grant she may), Miss

Byam is going with you -

- & how you are

It is a pity about the

uniform.

You see that

Dr. Barnett, one of the very

best men we have, is

Surgeon in Chief of the whole

Souakim Expedition

[he was at Cairo]

Dr. Hinde of the base

at Souakim

Dr. Fawcett of the Base

Hospital which I

suppose means yours at Suez

I know nothing of him

May he prove all he ought

to be!

Lady Rosebery is forming

a Committee of ladies for

the Sick & Wounded -

to be a sort of branch

of the National Aid Socy=--

She has here yesterday

(in a very vague state)

Would you like to have

a credit of money either

from her Socy= or the Nat.

Aid Socy= to expend

or not, as occasion shows,

in extras or such things

for the wounded, at Suez?
Or are there any things you hear would be desirable to take out with you?

[The Nat: Aid Socy= gave a credit of money to Mrs. Fellowes to expend in similar circumstances]

God bless you

ever yours

F. Nightingale

SU180/140 initialed letter & envelope, 2ff, pencil

{envelope}:

wait

Miss Williams
St. Mary’s Hospital
22/2/85 Paddington

10 South St.
Feb 22/85

Dearest Miss Williams

Have you received marching orders?

Dr. Crawford writes in answer to mine that “only three Nursing Sisters “are going with Miss “Williams, two of whom have “been nominated by her”

I hope therefore that both are ‘approved’: who is the one besides Miss Byam?

It is the greatest possible relief that you are to have two of your own with you- Dr. Crawford adds:

“The third was promised an appointment before I had an opportunity of consulting Miss Williams, but I believe she is a very competent Nurse.

“There is of course the usual Staff of Ward Masters & Orderlies for duty in this Hospital”.

Have you learnt from Mrs. Deeble what is the
luggage allowed? Our Sisters were allowed a bullock trunk—size fixed a Gladstone bag—
& a roll of cloaks?
Sir R.L. Lindsay, Chairman of the National Aid Soc'y, to whom I have mentioned your appointment at Suez, says that he is “truly glad to learn that the Govt—“are sending out so able a Supt—“that Commissary “Young” —
the very best man you could have—“who is now in Egypt, will undertake our work at Suez—“Suakim & the Red Sea “district will be under “Mr. Barrington Kennett “who starts almost immediately with a “staff of Surgeons &c”—
No doubt Mr. Young will be put in communication with you—God bless you always—ever yours
F.N.

Be sure you favour me by getting some cutlery (stamped with your name on a little plate)
I wish I could save you the trouble of getting it.

[end 15:970]

F.N.
Dearest Miss Williams,

I have just heard that the “Ganges” sails on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning from the Albert Docks with 30 Nurses - 2 for Suez - this must be a mistake - & the rest for Souakim - the “Ganges” is a Hospital Ship to be anchored off Souakim with these Nurses on board as the Nursing Staff-

Is it possible that you & yours have ‘marching orders’ to go by the Ganges? Lady Rosebery, the head of the new Ladies’ Association for Sick & Wounded, was with me - & I was just in time to stop her from having asking for one of ours to post at Suez to tell them “what was wanted”.

by telling her that you were going out to Suez as Supt= of Nurses - & would be of all people the most fit to answer Telegrams to tell them what was wanted for the men.

She wanted to know whether she could see you & explain - ‘Could you come to her’ at Lansdowne House Berkeley Sq-
between 10.30 and 12.15 tomorrow (Tuesday)?

I said I thought you could not possibly spare the time -

She said she was going on Wednesday morning by the 10.30 Train to go over the Ganges as a Hospital ship. Would you make yourself known to her, (Lady Rosebery) if there?’

[2]

Dearest - I can hardly believe you are going on Wednesday.

Please, a verbal answer.

God bless you again & again ever yours

F.N.

initialed letter, 2ff, pencil SU180/143

Feb 23/85

Dearest Miss Williams

I cannot think that you can be going by the Ganges, as you have had no orders -

I send the List of the Outfit & Articles we furnished our Sisters with for Egypt.

I also send Miss Crossland’s Journal; the pages between outside the india-
rubber rings are those
which concern what
you want

I have also written to
Mrs. Wardroper to ask
her if Sister Arthur (Miss
Winterton) could be spared
to go to you early
to- morrow - to tell you
what was necessary
& what was unnecessary
& cumbersome of these
Articles -

[Mrs. Fellowes is at
Liverpool]
Do not be perplexed
or distressed- They
surely would have
sent you orders were
you going by the Ganges-
God bless & give you
the peace His love
intends for you.
ever & ever yours
F.N.

initialed letter, 2ff, pen SU180/144

10 South St.
Feb 24/85
Dearest Miss Williams

Have you had any
'marching orders'? If not,
I will ask Sir Harry to go
down himself to Dr. Crawford
(as soon as Dr. C. may be
supposed to come to his Office)
& ask him when you are to
embark, saying that you
had not begun preparations
till you had from him
definite orders & money -
Have your Sisters had
a blue letter a piece?
[At St. Thomas’ we began preparations as soon as the names were approved. And we were not paid the Outfit money (?£8.5) till afterwards. But then we were asked for Sisters.]

I am as anxious, more anxious than you are. Tell me what you have heard, & I will send Sir Harry to Dr. Crawford.

Brave daughter of God do not be perplexed –
I enclose Little Sister’s letter–
God bless you ever yours
F. N.

signed letter, 2ff, pencil SU180/145

10 South St.
Feb 25/85
Dearest Miss Williams
How fares it? how fares it?
If you are so good as to come & give my sister ‘a kiss’ to-day, as you say- what time shall it be? - for I will petition to see you too –
[After 4 I am engaged]
Will you have some food here? But do not come at all if you are too much ‘driven’-
To spare your strength is my prayer –
God bless you – ever & ever yours
F. Nightingale

Can we do anything for you?
I wrote to Lady Rosebery saying that you would call upon her, if possible, to morrow (Thursday) at 11 -

incomplete letter, 2ff, pencil su180/146

10 South St. Feb 26/85

Dearest Miss Williams

Lady Rosebery has come with a most sensible proposal - viz. to send out 4 Nurses - educated women - under the present heads - viz. yourself at Suez - as one - & others - to go where they are wanted, in short to be paid & out fitted at the expense of the Association - to supplement the Nursing Staff sent out by the War office -

This proposal I jumped at because it is absolutely necessary to have one Night Sister, at least; & the Staffs are generally under handed - And you must not do the Night work - And yet the Night work is almost more important than the day.

Please tell me that you can furnish two, or
three - or even four - not under subordinate Nurses - lady Nurses - They are to go out on Friday (tomorrow) week. I hope that you will be able to supply three at least - Otherwise Lady Rosebery will ask Dr. Matthews Duncan of Bartholomew’s. And that will not be homogeneous.

Our Miss Hicks is very anxious to go out - She has done exceedingly well wherever she has been posted - And as {ovetop ‘if’} you cannot furnish all four, they would have her as one? [The four are to go wherever they are wanted, you see -]
not all to your Suez, I am afraid -] But I should like to send to Miss Hicks tonight, the moment I have heard from you -

signed letter, 2ff, pencil

Feb 28/85
Dearest Miss Williams
We are so thankful to think of a little rest for you at Claydon with Miss Gardiner - I have telegraphed this morning for a fly to meet you at Claydon Station by the 3.0 train from London, & to take you back to the Station on Tuesday morning.
Oh how I trust that it will be a complete rest.

My kindest regards to Miss Gardiner -
Will you not sleep at No.- 4 on Tuesday night if more convenient?

do you embark at Tilbury for the P. & O.?
Do not trouble to answer now -

God speed’. God speed’.
ever & ever yours
F. Nightingale

note, 1f, pencil (archivist:) FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE TO RACHEL WILLIAMS (AFTER WARDS MRS. NORRIS) LETTERS 148-71 1885 MAR-OCT (EGYPT)

initialized letter, 2ff, pen

March 13/85 [15:975-76]
Dearest Miss Williams 10, SOUTH STREET,
You are continually in our PARK LANE. W. {printed address} thoughts. How speeds it?
I saw a long letter from Miss Gardner to Little Sister about your parting triumph at St. Mary’s, so well deserved, which makes me so happy. You know there is a little Testimonial, the proposal for which was signed by every name worth having, on foot .
I wrote on Wednesday to you the little very little I knew.
To day there is a Memorial Service for Gordon in every Cathedral in the Kingdom. How sterile unless we every one & every soldier of them all, really begins to lead the life of this brother of Christ. His spirit, his words are for little people as well as for a great man like him “Who follows in his train?” God asks each of us this day.
“Ask every man you meet,” said a dying man.
Most Private

I wish I could tell you what is going to be ordered about Lady Rosebery’s party of Nurses. But minds change so often - & some of the arrangements were much to be deprecated. The last that I heard was this: and you must not depend upon it, nor inform your Nurses till you have it from the authorities that Major Young had arranged with Mr. Kennett Barrington that Miss Hicks & Miss Dowse will remain at Suez & Miss Machen & Miss Wrigley probably go on to Suakim, if wanted there But Head Quarters added this
that the two last on the “Ganges” would be there till Sir Allan Young’s yacht, which is to ply between Suakim & Suez with Patients, arrives - & then they will go on board to look after the Patients - & the other two on one Dahabeah (under the instructions of Major Young) to bring Patients down the Nile.

I am quite as anxious to know what your Staff is - & what you think of the arrangements at Suez -
It seems expected here that there will be a battle between Genl= Graham & Osman Digma this next week.

I have had another delightful letter from dear Little Sister whose mind seems more at rest.
I feel more anxious about your Night Nursing than anything.
Miss Airy writes from Cairo: like her wont: but rather wishing for the front.
I will not write to Miss Hicks, this mail, as I know nothing definite, but only send her my best love, as indeed to all yours.
I trust she has her outfit.
God bless you, my dearest.
yours anxiously & full of love
F.N.
Private (up diag) Destroy
March 20/85
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Miss Williams

By today you will have arrived at your destination — and oh how we pray that all may go well with you & yours & your work. Perhaps we are more anxious about you than you are about yourselves — & I have to say to myself many times that whatever happens, you will hear His voice: Lo, it is I: be not afraid.

Within a week, they say, & before you receive this the battle with Osman Digna will have been fought.

And the hands of all Hospital workers will soon be full. We envy you, working there so well. Or rather would I could be with you!

Major Young, the Commissioner of the Nat. Aid Socy-, had a long talk with me. He says that the daughter, (he is not sure whether there is a wife), of Capt Roberts, P. & O., Suez — & of Mr. Bates, Junr: Brit. India,” the wife, Mrs. Bates Junr-, will be useful to you.

I hope this will be so — During the absence of Major Young from Suez, he may, if needed, give you a small
grant of money for pressing wants, among the men - I am not afraid but that you will quite succeed in not pitting the Nat. Aid Socy against the Army Med: Dept are our masters: & we will be loyal to them, & motherly towards the Orderlies, conceited or the reverse. But it does our masters good that the Nat: Aid Commr should walk round the Hospl, even if he says or gives absolutely nothing. Then things supposed to be provided by the A.M.D. become provided.

Pray say particularly how you are, whenever you are kind enough to write.

If you should have occasion to telegraph, I will gladly repay you for the Telegram. I am afraid that you found orders awaiting you from Mr. Kennett Barrington that two of Lady Rosebery’s party should go up the Nile on board a Dahabieh chartered by the Ladies’ Branch with a Doctor, Mr. White, a St. Thomas’ Doctor, to fetch down Patients (men, not Officers) from Korti & that the other two should go on board the “Ganges,” & then be the Nurses on the “Stella” yacht, Sir Allan Young’s which sailed from Portsmouth yesterday with a cargo of books & games for the troops,
& is to ply between Souakim & Suez. You will know all this before me. It might have been worse. [They had a mad project which they have relinquished] But I had so much rather that these four should have stayed, (as indeed I was promised, before I would write to you for Nurses,) at Suez & Souakim, where the masses of Sick & Wounded will be. But things right themselves- It is God who leads - thank God that it is so - & not we - See how He has led you in the most wonderful manner of His love. And so He will continue. And who am I not to trust Him with the charge of you? & of all?

[I impressed upon Major Young that you were to decide which Nurse was to go where.]

"Little Sister" has written me a lovely letter: but I am afraid she is not well.
The object of the Nat. Aid Socy= -and it is a legitimate object, tho’ it is not mine- is to set up a standard of comfort,— to have nothing wanting on board their boats, every thing complete: no short-comings —that the Army Med. Dept= may imitate them. And this is why they want your Nurses & Miss Hicks on board their ships.
The sick, as I hear from those on the spot, needed more comforts & less hard food (even if some a few had arrow-root, it was “not nice” & “without sugar.”) on board the A.M.D.
boats coming down the Nile - up to the day of going on board, they had been on milk & slops - then only hard food - for those convalescing from Enteric & Dysentery - who became “dreadfully thin & run down” - whereas those who came down on the Nat. Aid’s small steamer were “comfortable & well looked after” - “treated just like Officers”!!

Please destroy this. I feel as if I had to apologize to you for having failed in keeping all your Sisters & Miss Hicks with you or at Souakim - But I have a promise that they may return to you.

They the War Office, have sent a splendid Chaplain to Souakim, the Revd= W.H. Bullock - I wish I could make out who is gone to Suez

I have asked Major Young to supply as the Cairo Sisters (149) you with delightful little cooking stoves for the Sisters to use (with a supply of oil for them) so that you can always have Boiling Water & do all sorts of cooking if needed. But perhaps you have stoves -

Also he has supplied ? Bradford’s Washing Machine with Hudson’s Extract of Soap to Wadi Halfa, Asouan, and 20 to Souakim. And without these I don’t know what washing would have been done

Do not betray me. [end 15:980]

God bless you all again & again - I yearn to hear of you. Forgive this tiresome letter from your anxious old mother

F. Nightingale

My kindest regards) to all yours)

10, SOUTH STREET,

PARK LANE, W. (printed address up-side down)

Is there anything I could send out to you? or would you tell me what things are wanted? A Dieu, A Dieu.
Private (up diag) March 27/85
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.
Dearest Miss Williams
We are still, of course, without direct tidings of you which we yearn for. The terrible hand to hand fighting which is now going on every day at Souakim but which, one trusts, will be over before this reaches you, makes us suppose that there will soon be wounded under your careful & devoted hands - What an Easter you will have - what an Easter we shall all have. But these great straits, this crucifixion of our wishes & hopes, & plans, this valley of darkness & of shadow which it must be to some, especially to the sick, may well be needed to raise England from the death of self-seeking & sentimental dawdling & money-making & mean routine to the life - the life of magnanimous self-denial & heroic striving for others. So help us God - with humble & brave hearts. For every true hero is humble - We would we could bear the burden & heat of the day with
you. All England would

volunteer if it could. The

hearts of all England are with

you. May health & strength be yours.

The “Ganges” is filling up with

wounded.

Major Young, the Commissioner

of the Nat. Aid Soc'y, has started

from England for Cairo: &
as his first visit will be to

Suez, he will be there almost

as soon as this letter.

The standard of comfort is

said to be very high -
in the Military Hospitals,
Suez, Ganges, Souakim [tho’
a Base, a Stationary and a
Field Hospital have been
landed at Souakim, there is
no permanent Hospital
with Sisters at Souakim at
present - nor can be]

God grant it the comfort may be as is said.
The Princess of Wales is working

hard at the head of her ‘Ladies’
Branch’ of the Nat. Aid Soc’y
But all this is only to
supplement & join hands
between Army Med: Dept- &
the public spirit of our
country - to join nation &
Army - a national sympathy
(from Sovereign to Scullery maid)
with our men & those who
serve them - not to
pit public opinion against
Medl- Dept-, but to help
the Dept= by public opinion.
I have Great hopes now
that after all the 4 Nurses
who went out with you will
NOT be employed, two on
Dahabeah up the Nile,
or if so only for one trip -
nor two on the Stella -
but will be employed in their
right places in fixed
Hospls- under trained Supts-
But you will know before
I do. It is a terrible anxiety -

tome And I have bothered you with 
uncertainties.

“Little Sister” will be here
on Monday - to stay, I hope
She has been at Biarritz- I
will report about her to you.
The Stella has sailed (Sir
Allan Young’s yacht) with
numberless packages on board,
including books & games,
which I hope will be useful,

from the Nat Princess of Wales’
branch. But the Stella
will not reach Suez till about
April 11, nor Souakim till about
April 18, we fear. She is a
slow vessel.

Now, dearest, the joys of
Easter be yours, notwithstanding
all things- nay, rather the
more yours, because of all
things. Who should have
them, if not you? you who
are more & more united by
your work with Him- I pray
your prayer -

Therefore, my dear soul, to you
& all yours I wish a blessed
Easter thrice blessed.

Kindest regards to all yours-
Say how you are when you write
ever & ever yours
F. Nightingale

Any hint that you can give me
I need not say shall be sacred.
Dearest Miss Williams,

You are always in our thoughts. We were so glad when you were all summoned to Souakim, the post of honour — And we knew how glad you would be, to go where you were most wanted. But we rejoice with trembling & longing to know how you are faring. I heard with grief from Miss Gardner of your fall on board ship — may that have passed away!

News is so contradictory — we hear that you are on board the Ganges — that would comfort us much. We hear that you are coming home in charge of
sick & wounded by the Iberia

So my letter will be short -
only wishing you every blessing
of this day of days - but that
I do every day.

What we would give to know
exactly how you are, & what
you are doing!! But that, wherever
you are, will be a blessing to many.
God takes care of His nurses.
I say that to myself almost every
hour in the 24 & of His patients

“Little Sister” stayed here 2 days
on her way to Edinburgh. She said
she felt better than she had done
for years, but that she had been
well frightened, & would take
great care of herself, & meant
to be “quite well.” But I gathered
that she had been sleepless &
suffering till the very day she left
Pau. Then she rallied.

She is living as usual on
thoughts of you.
I had a note from Miss Spencer
this morning saying that she had
arrived at Edinburgh “looking so
“Well” - & the Nurses, after making
her room “a garden”, had insisted
on being received by her the same
evening.

I thought her just as calm &
gentle & firm as a rock in
the Everlasting Strength as ever.

How we long to know from
you about how things are at
Souakim - We do not yet
know whether Sisters Hicks &
Dowse are with you or not -

God bless you - God bless you (151)
is ever in my heart -
ever yours
F. Nightingale
April 9/85
10, SOUTH STREET, Park Lane, W.

A little post-card, even if it be a very little one, would be, dearest Miss Williams, more welcome than spring from you. The news I extract from the Director Genl about you is so meagre: only that you & your 3 are at Souakim - & I believe your other two. I have heard from Miss Hicks at Cairo- just starting with Miss Dowse for up the Nile. I wish Miss Hicks were with you. What is Miss Parsons like?

I trust you have been able to forget your fall on board ship sooner than we have done.

A long & delightful letter from "Little Sister." We know nothing about your whereabouts at Souakim. Director Genl says he should have heard, had you not been well. God bless you & your work & all yours.

Herman Bonham Carter reached Souakim with his Royal Engineers in ship Kinsembo on Tuesday - He will find you out. His mother is writing to him that you are there - ever yours F Nightingale waiting in hope
April 22

Dearest Miss Williams

I received this Telegram from Lady Rosebery last night.

Do you choose me to send this reply? If you had time, I should say 'Go' -

But no nothing never came from no going to Lady Rosebery.

Yesterday when I kept you so unwarrantably - I was so sorry - while I was writing Telegrams, they were mostly rendered necessary by hopeless confusion - e.g. a ton

of Cocoatina to be had ready by order received only last night for shipment "before" to- day- !!! And I could not telegraph before hearing your plans.

I am afraid you were much hurried all day - as you had another visitor -

And I ought to have said, Go & write letters or Go & rest - & not kept you - Forgive me

What time will you lunch? What time will you dine? Can we help you to do anything?

I have sent to Mrs. Wilton Phipps to ask her to fix a time & a place if she wishes to see you, that your time may not be wasted -

God bless you ever yours

F.N.
Dearest Miss Williams

If Lady Rosebery asks you, will you tell her about the need of milk? Cocoatina and milk

Also: about the Table needs of Base & Auxiliary Hosps=- but to send out crockery would be superfluous, I suppose

God speed - Shall I see you about one or half past? & again at five? what are your plans?

F.N.

initialed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil
{envelope:}
what time lunch?
" " dinner?
Miss Williams

23/4/85

10 S. St.
April 23/85 SU180/155
Dearest Miss Williams

How are you? Pray do not over do it to- day. You looked far more tired than when you came - 2. Mr Verney’s note Could you put down quite roughly, a “List” of these “small things” - & let me see it now-

if Lady Rosebery asks you, you will then have it at hand to tell her - if not, you & I will look it over together this afternoon - The getting the things shall be accomplished - but you cannot “take them out”, because you are going overland

God bless you ever yours 
F.N.
Dearest Miss Williams,

How are you? Mr. H. Bonham Carter will be here at 1/4 before 10 to see you, tho’ he hopes you will not give up any engagement for him - It would be so well if the letter for the “Times” could be shown him now for his criticism - If not, ask him where I could send it to him for him to see. The more I think of it, the more I fear it may be putting you in a false position - Please let me know, before he goes, what you have settled about it.

Also: please tell me, did Lady Rosebery ask you to ascertain what the D.G. thought about sending things out? how am I to preface explain my letter to her which you wish me to write about stores?

May I see you to day before you go? ever yours

with God bless you

I have prayed the prayer you asked - I do still & so do others.
to get in your important letter in to the “Times” - I will wait to hear whether you determine to send your letter to Sir Harry He is at Claydon - Then I will write to him too (to meet your letter there) if you like it -

Trains=full of love to dearest “Little Sister”
How I hope Moffat is answering to you both. And how I envy you there & the autumn tints - No, not that - how I wish I could be there with you two - Stay as long as you can - Good speed God bless you both ever yours affly F. Nightingale

2ff, Hannah Rosebery to Miss Williams, April 25 1885, (address illeg), re: waiting for a letter from Miss Williams for publication, the telegraphed Standard from Souakim this day, is distressful to her re ‘the National Aid Societies’ comforts are not distributed to or at the front’ su180/157

initialed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil

{envelope:}
Can you come back here SU180/158 as soon as you have seen the D.G- to tell me? a verbal answer Miss Williams
Dearest

I will certainly wait till you have seen the D.G- before telegraphing -

It may be, after all, that you will have time to go down to Edinburgh -

But, if there is not, Little Sister must not kill herself because you are to be away for a few weeks.

I feel her disappointment as much as she does -

F.N.

signed letter, 2ff, pen & pencil SU180/160

May 15/85

Dearest Miss Williams

One word only to say how thankful I was to receive your dear post card & how anxious I shall be to know that you were not over tired with your rush from Europe to Africa - & that you have a good destination.

I have little so say now - 2 cases, 4 doz. each, of the unsweetened milk (one to you) went out by the Kaiser. i. Hind on Wednesday 13th-

Two boxes of games like yours went out by the same vessel for the 19th Hussars at Dongola & neighbouring posts. Poor fellows - they have recreation huts & nothing to put in them. Such is the want of transport - But those
boxes of games don’t require a special camel!
I wonder whether Major Young’s plan of a garden at Cairo to supply you weekly with vegetables has been carried out.
But now, my dearest, God speed you, says all the heart of your ever loving F. Nightingale
My kind regards to all your companions.

initialled letter, 1f, pencil SU180/161

25/5
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear friend
You are very good- I shall hope to see you another day.
Could you kindly ask Miss Crossland (Mrs. Ward really quite sure to talk to her) what Mrs. W. really feels, after her talk with me -
She was very tearful - Mrs. W. & Miss C- will, I think, each write to me -
But I think Miss C. would, as she has been so much engaged with you about it all, tell you more than she will me, - what Mrs. W. really wishes.

So sorry not to be able to see you - so good of you to come ever yours
F.N.
Sister Williams  
H.M.’s Nursing Service  
Suez  
29/5/85  
Egypt

Private (up diag) May 29/85  
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}  
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Miss Williams

One word to thank you for your two letters, which were most thankfully received; i.e. two in one cover. Your adventure in the dark & the desert will be remembered by us all all our lives. I hope to hear by next mail that you are established at Suez Hospital. Alas! that there should have been a tussle- I was rather sorry to have to call the D.G.’s attention to you: but I thought by your Telegram matters worse than they were - that you were totally adrift. In his first answer to me, he said that you "must know that you were under the local authorities- & that they would provide "& arrange". It is always better to be as quiet as possible & 'appeal' as little to Head Quarters. And it seems, thank God that as if the "local" Dr. was "providing" & "arranging". It would be the greatest blessing to know that you were busily employed doing good.
You so kindly ask - it seems ungrateful not to answer - after me. I have been quite laid up -

Perhaps this will not find you at Suez - so I will only add what I can never say how deeply, fervently, I pray {large part of middle of page cut away}

Kind regards to your companions. All the Sisters, I suppose, have left Souakim? Miss Machen is at Cairo?

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public house interest by throwing out on the Budget Mr. Gladstone’s increased tax on beer & spirits & proposing a tax on tea. Lord Salisbury had much better come in & try his hand in the interval between this & the General Election. He can’t hurry a war on with Russia - which God forbid! - in that time.

My dutiful homage to my Goddess. ever yours F. Nightingale (163)

signed letter, 3ff, pen SU180/164

June 26/85
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Miss Williams
How are you? have you now Nurses enough? can we send you any? we are enquiring everywhere for Miss Byam for you. you cannot get on with only two able- bodied Nurses besides, yourself - this has been the substance of my anxious thoughts, my telegrams, my letters of all kinds ever since I had yours now nearly a fortnight ago. Last mail, tho’ I had a letter from Miss Airy at Cairo, I had none from you which doubled anxiety & made me
fear you were ill from overwork. As you wished for
Miss Byam, we spared no pains
to find her out & send her out.
Only the day before yesterday
did we find Miss Byam's address
at St. Albans, & telegraphed to
her at once. No reply: & meanwhile
Dr. Crawford who had been
asked whether we might send
out more Nurses to Suez &c
answered that she Miss Byam had resigned,
& that no more Nurses were
wanted at Suez, or Ramleh,
where is a great deal of sickness,
or Cairo. They have 500 sick
at the Citadel Hospital, but
I fancy nothing like such acute
cases as yours— And there are
7 Sisters there. Alas! my
dearest friend, what would I
give to know that you are
well, that you have a sufficiency
of Sisters to do the work, & that
the Patients are doing well, &
pressure is less— We have
telegraphed to you twice.
Sisters Hicks & Dowse are
working at the Hospital at
Assouan: & Sister Machen at
Wady Halfa. Sister Byam has,
as you see, resigned.
I wrote to Major Young about
your wants. It was your
own Sisters I wanted you to have
But God directs.
You speak of having Patients
in from camp. Does that
mean Souakim, or a camp
near Suez?
We sent out 11 cases of
Unsweetened Milk last week—
-tell us if you want more -
   If you cannot telegraph “free”,
I will pay for telegrams.
I have been divided between the
fear of bringing trouble on you
by making it appear as if you
were asking for Sisters from the
Prss= of Wales’ branch direct -
& the fear of not doing every
thing you wished to help you
in such a press of work.
I hope Miss Wrigley’s knee is well
again.
News, I can hardly tell you
while so uncertain about how you are
Ministers are out, but will
probably be brought in again by
an overwhelming majority at
the General Election in November.
Lord Salisbury undertakes the Govt- as
Prime Minister & Foreign Secretary
notwithstanding the present majority
against him in the Ho. of Commons.
Mr Gladstone refuses an earldom
- quite right.

Dearest - I have been thinking of
you & nothing else except
when under great pressure of
business myself all this
fortnight. And now I have not
time to finish this letter.
My kind regards to yours -
God bless & direct
ever yours most anxiously
F. Nightingale
About your want of soap, it really is too bad. The best soap in my day was the Egyptian soap. And the Soap I have bought myself at Alexandria (Egyptian made) was the best in the world. If you were so good as to send for any quantity you like, if it could be done without embroiling you with the authorities, I would ensure the payment; or if you could inform Major Young, that Soap is wanted without making bad blood, surely he would provide it. Shall I send you some good tea? or, good tea is to be had at Cairo—let me pay for it—

My whole heart is with you

F N

signed letter, 4ff, pen SU180/166

July 3/85
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Miss Williams

How are you? How is the work? I need not tell you that I have been torn with anxiety, having heard nothing from you since June 12 which arrived on June 29!! & within a few hours of it a letter from Miss Airy dated June 22 & this odd circumstance rather increased anxiety. Dearest I will not write about myself but about you. If you could be so very good as to write just four words on a post card, -not to take up your time,
your over-pressed time - & enclose it without beginning or ending in an envelope, by each mail, we could, please God, help you from this end - We have been - at least I have been like a shuttlecock between 2 battledores this weary month as to sending you Nurses or not. I have only your two Telegrams to go by - "sufficient- will write" - but no letter has come - and "all right- one Nursing Sister has arrived". Indeed I have pressed that point over & over again, which I feel so very much, that Sisters should be "idling" up the Nile, while you are so overworked. But you do not help me - I had a letter from "dear Little Sister"
yesterday - giving your messages - but not their date!! & no time for me to get it before to-day. And as they were almost exactly the same as what you kindly wrote on June 12, with the very uncomfortable addition that they had taken away your Cooking Sister, I could not derive much comfort, except from the cheery tone. Brave woman- brave friend praise be to God - but our kind, kind Master & Father. But do let me have just a rude little line, without end or beginning, a card in an Envelope, by every mail. The Orderlies are not hopeless but untrained - Government are
now doing all they can - in (166)  
my day they were hopeless -  
They place them now under the Sisters.  
The great business of the Sisters  
is to train them - It is the more  
aggravating when there are so few  
Sisters that they can’t give  
time to train these men who  
are essential in the Field This is what  
distresses me so much in the  
Nile Sisters who are used  
instead of Orderlies & not to  
train Orderlies at all: which is  
their very ‘raison d’être’.  
O how I wish we could send  
you several Sisters at once.  
But I am altogether puzzled.  
Your Telegrams which I suspect  
were not dictated by you  
say “sufficient” and your  

[2]  
letter to Little Sister, of which  
she does not give me the date,  
says as yours of June 12 to me 2 or 3 more Sisters  
wanted”. The Prss of Wales’  
Branch were eager at last  
to send you all you wanted.  
But then came the telegram declining.  
You said in the letter before  
that of June 12: ‘Dr. Davidge  
has telegraphed for more  
Sisters’, & not till that of June 12,  
that the his Telegram was to  
Major Young! & that the  
Sister Majr. Y. telegraphed to us  
for was probably for you.  
But she was not! And Majr- Y.  
afterwards telegraphed “she was  
“not wanted”!! I wrote to  
him more than once to help you.  
I am afraid all this now does  
not help you but rather fatigues  
you.
Would that we could help you to nurse the Typhoids -
I do not understand where they come from. You say there was “detention by the Canal” -
Then they can’t come from Souakim.

About letters, I am told the mail always goes from Suez by Cairo to Alexandria - so that delay can’t be accounted for by “detention” on Canal.

I am sure you are doing great good among the Orderlies, even tho’ you do not know it. The very circumstance that they see you think neglect a crime does good. How well I know their fatal neglects with Typhoid Cases - But 30 years ago women Nurses were just as bad. See the difference now. There is a Miss Williams now. There is a Little Sister. Cheer up:
fight the good fight of faith. I need not say to my dear - for she is fighting it. God bless her - When I am gone, she will see the fruit of her labours. Three cheers for her & three times three.

To all my kindest regards
A Dieu: A Dieu: To God: To God I commend you

Would I were His servant as you are I wonder whether you have had my letters. I have written by every mail ever yours in good hope but full of care

F. Nightingale

Miss Vincent, Matron of St. Marylebone Infirmary, 750 beds, is losing her excellent Assistant, Miss Styring, who is, please God, to be Matron of the
new Paddington Infirmary: (166)
I told Miss Vincent that Sisters might be leaving St. Mary’s, because you left, whom you might judge fit for the post of her Assistant in such a big place, with Training School, & that I would write to you. I will write all particulars by next mail. Now you are too pressed
God bless you again & again - “Hail thou that are highly favoured” F.N. [end 13:680]

{printed address upside down:} 10, SOUTH STREET, PARK LANE. W.

signed letter, 2ff, pencil SU180/167

July 10/85 [date was /80]
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Miss Williams
I was so thankful for your [15:1000-01]
Telegram, received on the evening of the 3rd “written every mail - “all well: work much less” & for your letter, received Monday 5th, dated June 27, the first I have had since that dated June 12. You are ‘all well’ indeed in the highest sense; but oh I am sorry that you have no better help than what you describe that ”little Coates” to be. Indeed we left no stone unturned to rake up Miss Byam for her {'her' overtop of 'you'} we telegraphed, we turned Dr. Crawford & the Nat. Aid Soc= Branch upside down for her: we have had no answer but that she had ”resigned”.
We got her address & telegraphed to her.
Your account of Herman Bonham Carter doing so well by his men was the greatest possible comfort to his parents. I send it to them at once, for they had just had a Telegram from Souakim that he had “Fever”. The second Telegram was however better; he was in a “stone building” on Quarantine Island “well attended to” & coming home in the Bulimba. They have every moral reason to be satisfied with having put him into the Army. Are there any Sisters at Souakim? [in pencil]

You ask after my Sister & Sir Harry. Sir Harry is wonderfully active in all works of kindness: but he is aged. He was of course very low at the Liberal Govt= going out. He has been made a Privy Councillor, & went down to Windsor yesterday to be sworn in & kiss hands. He thought the Queen looked aged too. The D. of Connaught stood at her left hand & did what he had to do nicely.
My sister is much better in herself. And it is wonderful what she contrives to do & even to enjoy a field day of all our Probationers at Claydon capmakers’ teas, & the like – she has also brought out her Essays in two Vols: which I think I shall send you if you stay out there, (it is cooling). But the poor joints get worse & worse – & I am afraid she still suffers a good deal of pain. I have been seeing Nurses for her.

It is grievous that you have no Chaplain. That is a thing I cannot understand. Has this lack to do with the power being put into the hands of the Doctors? In the Crimean War we had no lack. And a large Staff of Civil Chaplains, paid by the Govt=, supplemented the Military. It was the only thing not wanting. I am to know the Chaplain Genl=, & will try to make out, but I fear it is not possible to send you one at once. I should have thought your Camp & Hospital was sure to be provided. Where is your Camp? [end 15:1001]
Miss Styring, the Assistant Matron (167)
at St Marylebone Infirmary (Miss Vincent’s) is elected to the new Paddington Workhouse Infy Matronship & goes there in October. Miss Vincent is at this moment abroad for her health’s holiday. There is no immediate hurry. But if you have one of your own Sisters to recommend, I would send you all the particulars.

I am glad that you have a Cooking Sister again. And it is a mercy I cannot be too thankful for that under your good Nursing the poor fellows are recovering, & the severity of the cases declining.

There was no enclosure for Mr. Lamb in the letter (the last) which told me to “post” it.

My kindest regards to the Sisters. God bless you & the work.

ever yours  F. Nightingale

Sir Harry who is now in London sends his kindest remembrances.
And so would my sister who is at Claydon.

signed letter, 4ff, pen SU180/168

Private (up diag)
July 17/85
10, SOUTH STREET, (printed address:)
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Miss Williams
I trust that your news is [15:1001-03] good news on the whole. But it is disastrous that they should have sent you a Cooking Sister who can’t cook & a Nurse who can’t nurse. I have no idea who this Coates is; & tho’ I have written to enquire have received no answer. The Prss of Wales’ Branch had concluded in consequence of the last Telegram not to send you out a Nursing Sister- And I can hardly suppose that she comes from them. But that is no
comfort either to you or me.

You have worked grandly -
& the thanks of God’s people
& of God - may we not reverently
use that word - will be yours -

Sir Harry Verney went straight to
Mr. W.H. Smith - the present
Secretary of State for War - about
the Chaplains, that is the no-
Chaplains, & the making no
difference between Sunday &
any other day. And Mr. Smith
who is a good man was
shocked & very much obliged
to Sir Harry for drawing his

attention to it - & was quite
glad that Sir Harry should ask
him a “Question” in the House of
Commons about the Hospitals,
& the Ships bringing home Sick &
Wounded having no services & no
Chaplains, which he did accordingly.
And it was reported in Wednesday’s
"Times". The Rule Regulation of the Service Army & Navy
is that the Commanding Officer
should provide for at least
one religious service on the
Sunday - & if there is no Chaplain
he generally reads it himself -
or if there is only a company,
the Company Officer reads it.
The Doctor, the Medical Officer,
is now the Commanding Officer
in the Hospitals - And it is
certainly his duty to arrange
for the religious service.
Mr. W.H. Smith will take it up warmly. And Miss Gardiner
tells me that Major Malet will do something at once. Many thanks for
the photographs of Suez Hospital with your notes on the back
which you were so good as to bring send me – & she to bring me.

Herman Bonham Carter is better & was to start for home
on the 10th in the Bulimba.
He is “awfully sorry” that just
as he was getting his men into
nice order, he should “go sick,”
& just as he had “learnt to know
them all”, & they are “a lot of
such nice fellows,” he should
have to go home, he “did so wish
“to have staid to bring them all
“back to Chatham”. His mother
says that, whether he lived or died,

[2]
she would have been glad that
they put him in the Army –
he has made such a good career
of it. But the anxiety has
aged her very much –

Yesterday the Guards Camel Corps
& the Heavies marched into
London, after having been
reviewed by the Queen at Osborne.
Sir Harry went to see them
inspected by the Commander in
Chief at Wellington Barracks
[I would have given anything
to have seen the Meeting with
their comrades, if I had been
well enough to go] & he said
it was the most affecting
thing he ever saw. There were
the men who marched across
the Bayuda Desert, a handful of men
taking tender care of their handful
of wounded, attacked by
twelve times their number,
& reached the Nile below Khartoum
But when the steamer reached
Khartoum, Khartoum had fallen
& Gordon was dead.
There is a picture of Gordon,
called The Last Watch, where
he is watching on the ramparts
the last night. It is very fine -
he is unseen & alone - there is
the far off look in his eyes
of solemn happiness at his
reunion with God, so near,
of deep grief for the poor black
populations whom he has to
leave to their misery, & whom
he has failed to extricate -
& yet of abiding, faithful trust
in God that He will do all things
for the best. It was his constant
prayer - first for God's glory then for these
people's welfare & His own
humiliation, that is that he
should feel the more, for himself
being humbled, the indwelling
God in himself.

Have the little "Lifes of Gordon"
reached your men yet?
Please to remember if you have
any Sister here who will do
as Assistant Matron to Miss
Vincent at St Marylebone Infirmary
Miss Styring, her excellent Assistant,
is appointed to the new Paddington
Workhouse Infirmary. Salary
£50 rising to £70 - rooms of
her own. Miss Byam, "Little
Sister" thinks, would do. But
would she take it? Miss Styring
enters on her new Matronship
in October. Do not trouble to
answer this if you have no one
for whom you wish to have it.
Please tell me in your next where Nurse Coates comes from - My kind regards to your Sisters God bless you: ever yours [end 15:1003] F. Nightingale signed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pen & pencil {envelope:} Miss Williams R. Christy’s (?) Chignal St. James 6/9/85 Near Chelmsford letter, SU180/169 Sept 6/85 Claydon House, Winslow Bucks. Dearest Miss Williams Thanks for your letters. I do feel so very anxious to know how you are & what are your plans - I shall be back in London next week, please God, & shall hope that you will give me two or three days - but not quite on my first returning, for I am in such a state of exhaustion that I could not talk over all our common interests - now doubly interesting - You will want to see the Director-General - They are very desirous to see you here, some time after this week - Pray forgive this shabby note Forgive my anxiety & tell me your plans -
God bless you & guide us all -
   ever yours
     F. Nightingale
I trust you are keeping yourself on the road to restoration.

signed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil

{envelope:}
   A verbal answer please
     Miss Williams
       22 Guildford St.
23/9/85

letter, SU180/170

          10 South St
         Sept 23/85
Dearest Miss Williams  [15:1011]
   I crave to see you once more - (will Thursday at 5, be {overtop ‘if’} not too inconvenient for you?) - My plea that he will see you all his life - I shall only see your dear face henceforth at few intervals during my life which will not be long - Say but the word & I will put off the other lady on Thursday, who can come another day -
   Dearest, may God bless you with that Love which is infinite & surpasses all ours as the Sun a farthing candle -
     ever your
       F. Nightingale

signed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pencil

{envelope:}
   Miss Williams
      c/o Miss Pringle
        Royal Infirmary
31/10/85   Edinburgh
Dearest Miss Williams

First of all, as ever, best &
kindest love to “Little Sister” -
I hope she is strong & well
at the beginning of winter -
but I fear not very strong -
2 About “the letter”: Mr. B.C.
and I duly revised it,
without finding in it anything
to revise- And I duly
forwarded it to Sir Harry,
with a letter asking him
to ‘father’ it to the ‘Times’,
which he says he will do,

but not quite directly. He
was to have come here
last Wednesday for the
Ld Shaftesbury Meeting,
(but was not able to
come on account of
his accident) when I
should have reminded
him that for the next
month people will be
able to think of nothing
except as it tells on party.
- I will write & do so, &
urge him to let the letter
appear at once.

3. Whiteley’s sent a man
here this day week to
ask to see me about
you - I was in bed, but
I gave them your address
at Moffat till “early,”
as you said, this week -
then to “Little Sister’s”
‘care’ - But I fear as
you left Moffat on
Monday, their letter
may not have reached
you.
Lastly, I fear I shall not have a moment this next week as I have had none lately. Still I hope that you will give me a chance before you leave London the week after. If not, I shall see you again when - at when? My best blessings on you & better than the best [I know you will not be jealous] on “Little Sister”. ever yours F. Nightingale

My dear friend It must have seemed to you very remiss & unfriendly of me never to write, not even at the New Year. But I have been so overworked & ill all this winter that, however unwillingly, I have been obliged to give up all but the most pressing business, of which I have had a plenty. So I appeal to your kindness for my pardon - And “Little Sister” tells me that you have not been well. Is she coming up soon to you? And how do you think she is? I trust now that you are well, & happy. God bless you: with love, I am always your affecte F. Nightingale March 9/87
April 1/87
10, SOUTH STREET, [printed address:]
PARK LANE. W.
My dear friend

How delighted I was with your dear charming letter, proposing “to raise a “testimonial for” Mrs. Wardroper as a “tribute of love & respect” “& gratitude for her valuable “work” from her “old pupils”- Thank you again & again, for the most kind & graceful thought. I shall always think of it with gratitude - And I am sure it will make her very happy.

Let me have a day or two - 
& then I will write again & try & fix a day when I may have the pleasure of seeing you - Excuse haste. I trust you are well. God bless you & believe me ever your affte Florence Nightingale

Mrs. Norris
April 22/87
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear friend

Thank you very much for sending me the “Proof”.
I have only one little criticism to make: would it not be better to expunge all the Miss's & Mrs. s in the “Committee” & put only the Xtian names - & certainly in the case of the “President’s” name? retaining the Miss & the Mrs. in the “Executive” Commee=, because that is an address-

especially now that you have Sisters & Nurses on the Commee= the Miss comes in awkwardly.

With regard to the £1.1 as a limit, Miss Crossland suggested, & I concur that there are a number of us who, if you find yourselves in straits or not getting enough money - would gladly contribute £5 or more to make the money bigger - which need not be mentioned in the circular -

I must add my admiration of the way you are working, beg you to excuse haste, & to believe me ever yours affly

F. Nightingale

Mrs. Norris
May 21/87
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear friend

Thanks for your most kind note

I am afraid I have no time (or strength which is the same thing) before Wednesday afternoon.

But if you will be so very kind as to put down the “one or two matters about “the Testimonial,” I am so slow & stupid that I shall then be able to consider them, & perhaps write about them

& then we can consult together about it on Wednesday

A thousand thanks for all your kind labours -

ever yours affly

F. Nightingale

Mrs. Norris

initialed letter, 2ff, pencil

May 23/87
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear friend

Thank you very much for your letter - I am truly sorry that I cannot see you before to-morrow (Tuesday) when Mrs. Wardroper is coming to see me - And it would seem rude to put her off - And of course I hardly like, without further instructions from you who have done it all, to speak to her as you desire in order
to ascertain from her whether
“she would appreciate the
“proposal” (of the portrait)
“and be willing to sit to
“an Artist” –
How would you like it if
I were just to sound her,
just to consult her “as to the
“form the Testimonial is to
take” without of course
entering into any details –
[as to Artist, cost &c &c
we will consult, you & I about
that]

I will also send to Mr.
Bonham Carter to- day, & ask
him about my sounding her –
But Miss Crossland – I entirely
agree with your estimate of her-
is the person who would really
know – whether Mrs. Wardroper
would like to be consulted
by me, – cursorily as it were,
at this stage of the business,–
without receiving first my
full commission from you –
{rest of folio cut out}

If either you or Mr. Bonham (176)
Carter say “No, “wait”, I shall be
glad to say nothing to morrow.
If on the contrary you wish
it, please give me some
further hints – Of course
I should only do it “privately”,
“non-officially”, as the oldest
friend merely she has in
the “business”– to find out
her own wishes – & not as
leading you – but only as the person
to whom she can talk most easily
Thank you again & again
for your great kindness
[as to Artist, cost &c &c
we will consult, you & I, about
that]
Let me have your answer please as soon as possible F.N.

incomplete letter, 2ff, pencil

10 South St. May 25/87
My dear friend
I saw Mrs. Wardroper yesterday & we had much talk-
2. Then At first she seemed quite (lines surrounding text here disinclined to the portrait- & said down to “£100 or little more”) she never could make up her mind to sit- or to have so “much money spent” on her - But afterwards it appeared she thought it would be £300 or £400” - And then I murmured something about “£100 or little more” -
1. Then She said when I first questioned sounded her, but feebly: “A tea-service or something I could leave to “my boy or the Probationers”-
3. She always fell back upon “You would settle best - what was nicest - I had much rather you settled” - Then I persuaded her to ‘think it over at home’ & let me know - And this she said she would do. And so we parted.
   She was very sweet & nice - not in spirits.
4 Did anything pass between you & Miss Crossland yesterday which could guide us?
   She Mrs. Wardr- is sure to talk it over with some one- Miss Baylis or Miss Crossland- I wish it may be Miss Crossland. And we might thus find out what she really wishes-
   I assured her I was not talking as “President”!
   but merely as one of her oldest friends-
   She is very grateful to & much touched by you all & all your kindness

initialed letter, 2ff, pencil SU180/178

10 South St June 8/87
Private (up diag)
   My dear Mrs. Norris
   I thought the Tea Service which you were so good as to send me to look at most beautiful & admirable - especially the Salver & Sugar - basin
   Do you think the ?ebony interruptions in the handles of the tea & coffee-pot should be ivory rings? [I remember we had such in my father’s tea-service] The ?ebony in the Salver handles has a very good effect but I think it is polished. I am not
quite so sure about the other. Do you think well to let Mrs. Wardroper see the Service before you finally decide? She might possibly like something a little rounder. But there are only hyper-criticisms - I think the whole effect as before said most beautiful & delightful -

Will you excuse my not having written to or seen you? It is my loss - I have been so driven by business & so much worse than usual - I have not been able

Inscriptions [2] Our united efforts, according to your requests, have only produced these 3 attempts. You will, I hope, criticize & tear them to pieces Ever believe me with many & heartfelt thanks for your labours- & your letters your affte F.N.
Dearest Mrs. Norris

A thousand thanks.
I think if she has made up
her mind to receive “no
“presents on leaving St. Thomas”,
I had better let it alone.

She will be in London
again for 3 months this
year. And I suppose there
will be no prohibitions then.

I was not thinking of any
furniture but of a tiny
gold crucifix for the bosom
given to her NOT as a R.C.
It is difficult.

But the whole thing is, if you
will believe me, the greatest
difficulty in my difficult life.
Poor St. Thomas’— ever yours

F.N.

Mrs. Norris
San Remo
Finchley Road
7/4/91

W. Hampstead
N.W.
April 8/91
10, SOUTH STREET, [printed address:]
   PARK LANE. W.

Dearest friend
   I grieve & yet rejoice
that you have to take
up work again; especially
if it be in your old
profession which God
has so abundantly
blessed; I rejoice -
   A great London Hospital
would be the best sphere
for you: but I know of
none at present likely
to fall in. How I should
like to see you in a large
Workhouse Infirmary: it
has such immense
opportunities for good.
One of ours, (not fit to tie
your shoe strings, I regret
to say) has just been
elected to the Upper
Holloway Infirmary,
650 beds.
   You would probably not
like to take a Hospital
far from London. Else
these are always falling
in. Miss Lennox has
just resigned the Children’s
Hospital at Belfast
from ill health.
The Queen is to lay the first stone of a new Derby Infirmary next month - & I conclude it will want a new Matron when finished - 
But you do not want to begin again work directly - And God will point out a way - Only I wish to keep Hospital work in your remembrance - While first-class Hospital Matrons abscond, I do not think first class women take their places - May God bless you!

Excuse failing eyes & arthritic hands & much work.

Give my love to dear Miss Pringle - What does she hear of Miss Spencer?

I have told Mr. Bonham Carter of your wish. He has been ill for many months, but is thank God recovering. They are mourning the loss of a dear, bright, pure boy at Winchester Coll:

ever yours overflowingly
F. Nightingale

Mrs. Norris [end]
July 6/91
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest Mrs. Norris
I was so glad to see your handwriting & address. I have been thinking & feeling, feeling & thinking with you - & longing to see you again & hearing more from you.

I saw an old pupil of yours, “Baroness von ?Rosen”, but she did not know where you had moved to.

I was longing to know what your plans were - whether the Riviera or Edinburgh - & how you were -

Besides this, I have a question to ask your kindness- Genl- Symonds, brother of the Capt. Symonds (who is dead) who gave me all that Cocoatina in 1885 for the Egyptian Military Hospls= want me to give him a Certificate as to the usefulness & goodness of this Cocoatina (the manufacture of which-pure- is their family’s subsistence)

I refer back to a letter of mine, dated April 23/85, telling Capt. Symonds, without of course giving your name, when you arrived from Souakim what you told me, viz. that to make the Cocoatina acceptable, it should be combined with MILK - & that the only Cocoa they (the men)
liked was the cocoa & milk
supplied in small quantities
by the N.A. Socy-

They the 'Symonds’ send me however

copy of a Telegram (without
date) which I sent to Capt.
Symonds: “Just heard from
“Egypt. Cocoatina highly
“appreciated—more greatly
“desired if sent at once”

I am greatly puzzled
what to do— I do not like
to refuse these poor people Symonds.
Yet, if I give them a
“Testimonial”, I shall be
delayed with similar
requests.

They want me to date my
Testimonial from the date
of the War — 1885.

Might I ask what your (181)
impression is now of your
kindness of the good
or no—good his (Capt. Symonds)
Cocoatina did in that War?

I have given away in
the last few years large
quantities of Cocoatina to
poor people in England.
And it was uniformly
liked

They Savory & Moore make now at Verney
Junction!! peptonized Cocoa
and Milk which is
excellent but expensive

I am interrupted, & I seem to
have told you nothing, dear friend,
of what I feel with you: nor thanked
you for your excellent book. But
let me say God bless you & believe
me ever yours faithfully & sorrowfully
F. Nightingale
Oct 31/91
Claydon House (printed address:)
Winslow, Bucks.
Dearest Mrs. Norris

I am glad that you have settled to go to the Riviera rather than farther off- but you do not tell me where - nor what Patients you have - not who is going with you - I do long to see you again & hope to be back in South St before "Nov 16"- But nothing can be more uncertain from the constant press of business here- Today we had 14 Chairman & Secretaries of County Council - & I had a Medl= Officer of (rural) Health all to myself, who is to teach educated women to teach the rural poor mothers Health at Home. It is the first real practical experiment of the kind - And it is strange that what I have been thinking of half my life I should have to begin in what is to me a foreign land, & not in the homes of my youth.

I was in hopes of sending you Ellin Verney, age 18- but we have just shipped her off, as her only chance of health, by a large Cape Steamer
to the Canary Islands -
   I am so sorry "Little Sister"
is so poorly - I was going
to write to her - as soon as
I could - I trust Miss Spencer
with her immense charge is
pretty well - Please give
my love to both -
   Excuse such a scrawl -
I write to you in my heart.
   God bless you
   ever yours hopefully
   but anxiously
   F. Nightingale

note, 1f, pencil

For
our dear Mrs. Norris
   (Miss Williams)
   with F.N.’s love
   Oct 18/97

9ff, printed letter from FN to Nurses and Probationers trained under the "Nightingale Fund", June 1897, London, re: God’s calling and what it means in practice for Nurses and
Probationers, extension of District Nursing, Hospital Nursing, Workhouse (Union) Infirmaries, Private Nursing & Maternity Nursing

incomplete letter, 1f, pen & pencil

I do so earnestly wish to
know how you are
you are almost always in
my thoughts.
I have heard from 'Little Sister'
   God prosper you in all things.
Remember me to those who
kindly remember me -
How would it be possible
   for you & ‘Little Sister’
to take a fortnight’s
   holiday & come & spend
   it here in total rest?
   God speed; God speed
again & again
   ever yrs penitently
   & affly very,
   F. Nightingale
I said, of course, “Miss Hinde” in 6 months’ time
My dear child                       {archivist: 75 or 76}
   I do not think Miss Hill will “grow to the
idea”: nor do I think you the person to make
her ‘grow’: nor does she offer you ‘tomorrow’.
   I suppose I must send the wretched
Messenger back, after he has had his
dinner, to tell her you are not coming to-day
   Shall I ask her whether she will see you
tomorrow?

initialed letter, 1f, pencil

My dear Miss Williams
   Sunday 3.30 p.m
   I have sent up twice to Mr. H.B. Carter’s to
know his views as the result of the interview between him & Mr.
   Lane : In vain -
   No use discussing anything till we know what the
magnates say -
   I suppose I shall know by 5- I have put off
   everything to see you at 5, unless you are going to
   see any of the magnates at that time - In that
   case, I will write to you & send it by Cab to-night
   as soon as I hear from Mr. B.C. yours in great anxiety
   F.N.

2ff, Miss Edith S. Williams to Matron St. Thomas' Hospital, March 17 1963, The Homestead,
Mill Bridge Road, Minehead Som, re: is in possession with her siblings of letters by FN to
her aunt Rachel Williams (R.W. mentioned in Cecil Woodham Smith's Life of F.N.) with
intention to go to St. Thomas' Hospital, is doubtful however as they are of a personal nature
and should maybe be destroyed and is asking the Matron's opinion on the matter, also in
possession of her aunt's R.R.C. & army medals awarded after the Sudan War & asks if of
interest to the hospital

H1/ST/NC3/SU180 3ff, Miss Edith S. Williams to Miss Turner, April 17 1963, The Homestead,
Mill Bridge Road, Minehead Som: thanks for her offer to look through the letters by FN to her
aunt Rachel Williams, has decided to offer all the letters to St. Thomas Hospital for a
possible place in the Nightingale Museum, Miss E.S. Williams gives reason for FN
discontinuing the letters soon after the Sudan War as Rachel Williams getting married and FN
not forgiving her for it as she had a large Workhouse Infirmary for her to take over but
thinks that they did meet later, refers to "The Pearl" in earlier letters as being Miss
Pringle, apologizes for her poor sight being the reason for letters not being classified
properly

note, 1f, pencil (archivist:) H1/ST/NC3/SU180-97

SU181 signed prescription & typewritten envelope, 1f, pen

{envelope:}
The Matron,
   St. Thomas' Hospital, {archivist notes not transcribed)
   Albert Embankment,
   Westminster Bridge,
   LONDON S.E.1.

{archivist:} This is one of Miss Nightingale's
Requisitions in her own
hand writing -
   C.R ---
Required
Pulv. Jacob. [?]  
F. Nightingale  
Pulv. Rhei [?]  
April 18/55 F.N.

note, 1f, pen not F.N. hand Mrs Lawfield

LMA H1/ST/NC/SU182 receipt, 1f, pen

Received from Mrs. Lawfield
the Sum of Twenty Pounds 0/0  
to be paid into the  
Atherstone Savings Bank  
to her account - also the Sum F.N.  
of Ten Pounds 0/0 to be paid to the same Acct-, Jan 1/56.  
£30.0.0 Florence Nightingale Scutari March 19 1856

{not FN hand:}
Mrs Lawfield  
No 21 Nutford Place  
Edgewall Road.  
Scutari November 29/55  
also the Sum of Ten Pounds % to be  
paid to the same Acct.  
£40.0.0. Florence Nightingale Scutari March 19 1856

SU183, receipt from Rebecca Lawfield to Mr Saml Smith, July 25 1856, London, re: sum of £8
SU184 1f letter not by FN to Dear Ripon re: Lawfield anxious to have 'this' paid immediately, asks if he has any objection, has advanced £2 for her daughter to be sent to school, she will stop by for money (her direction is 21 Nutford Place Edgewall Road)

SU185 1f, Rebecca Lawfield to Sir, July 27 1856, London, re: application in his absence to Mr L for £40 at the Atherstone bank, has received £10, £30 to still be sent or made payable to her (in London)

SU186 1f, Rebecca Lawfield to Sir, Sept 8 1866, Somerset St., re: acknowledges receipt of the check for £30, thanks him for his trouble and for his good wishes, is happy to hear of FN’s return and hopes for her health to be restored soon

SU187 2ff, Rebecca Lawfield to Madam, Sept 9 1866, Somerset St., re: being unemployed since returning home, many public situations offered but being Catholic a barrier against all but private nursing, is attempting to begin as a Ladies Nurse, interested in midwifery but needs a friend to help for a time and is asking for her assistance, available for training in Oct, details money and expenses from money received from Mr Bracebridge, hopes she will feel kindly towards her

SU188 1f, Mr Godley to Madam, Feb 14 1857, War Department, re: application having been made on behalf of Mrs Lawfield, payment of about £7 for 2 months wages (file no. 153656/7G4)

SU189 1f, B. Hawes to Madam, March 7 1857, War Department, re: refers to letter from the War Department of the 14th, re a claim made by Mrs. Lawfield for a Gratuity of 2 months pay on being sent home on account of ill health, request to state if she considers Mrs. Lawfield entitled to this (file no. 155656/772)

SU190 2ff, Mrs Lawfield, [March 19 1857], Manner House, 8 Cheyne Walk [??] Chelsea, re: kindly requests a Testimonial to be forwarded by FN, difficulty for a Catholic to be employed, sum of £7 and 4 shillings mentioned

SU191 2ff MER Lawfield to FN, Manner House, 8 Cheyne Walk Chelsea, re: receipt of letter from FN, her hopes of getting into Guy’s Hospital but Catholic Sisters not wanted, nothing to do but go to (illeg Cairo?), mentions Mr Mellar [Millan?] kindly to help
General Hospital
Balaclava
June 30/56

My dear Sir,

In leaving the Crimea with Mrs. Shaw Stewart & the rest of H.M.y’s Nurses, I am anxious to introduce to you the above mentioned lady, who has been now employed for 17 months in three different Hospitals of the Crimea successively, and during 16 months of these as Superintendent of the Nurses.

She desires, in your important Hospital, to become thoroughly trained as a Nurse in the Surgical Wards - She would wish, if possible, to remain in the Hospital during the time necessary for this - She will give any remuneration which may be agreed upon -

In making this request of you, I feel sure that your experience will soon perceive that, in this lady, there is no idle passing whim, but that she only requires, in order to become accomplished as a good surgical Nurse your training & her own perseverance.

Will you allow me to take this opportunity of thanking you for your invaluable Mrs. Roberts, who has been the mainstay of the Female Nursing Establishment in the Barrack Hospital of Scutari ever since I came out 21 months ago & whom you were kind enough to recommend to me?

I hope soon to bring her back in good health & spirits -

Believe me to be
dear Sir

yours faithfully & obliged

Florence Nightingale

J. Whitfield Esq
Florence Nightingale
General Hospital
Balaclava
June 20th/56

{envelope:}
Jerry Barrett Esq
Corridor J
Ward 2
Scutari
Barrack Hospital
18/7/56

Sir

Your statement of my having caused you serious inconvenience by declining to sit for your picture cannot but cause me distress -

As, however, I declined from no want of willingness, to forward your wishes, but from a principle which I had very fully considered & which indeed had been forced upon me by the experience of the whole time during which I have been engaged on this work, I think you will see that to give a different answer to your request than the one I have already given is impossible to me -

I repeat that to hear that this answer causes inconvenience is painful to me - although I have had no share in causing
any such disappointment, for my answer would have been the same before your coming out as now, had the request then been made.

I must also repeat that publicity has been the cause of the greatest drawbacks I have experienced in the prosecution of the work committed to my charge - & that it is in consequence of this conviction that I have determined in no way to forward the making a show of myself or of any person, or thing connected with that work, though I cannot always prevent them or me being made a show of -

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedt servt

Florence Nightingale
Lea Hurst  
Matlock  
August 27/56

Sir

In returning the enclosed Form with Pr Robert Robinson’s signature, I think it my duty to inform you that the lad has a pass till the 31st of this month only.

Major General Windham, whom I requested to be kind enough to apply to you for the boy’s discharge, in order that he might justify me from the charge of disregarding any regulation of the Service, by informing you that the lad had Sir W. Codrington’s permission to join me, was not certain that you would not make him join his Depot.

In case I do not hear from you, I shall of course send the boy to his Depot, when his pass expires.
But I would request that, if it be possible to dispense with his doing so, you will kindly permit him to remain where he is, as he is already at school, till his Discharge documents are made out -

If, on the contrary, it be necessary that the boy rejoin his Depot, I trust that you will excuse his not being there by the 31st of this month, as it was not clearly understood by any of us whether you would require the boy to re-join or not, previous to his discharge -

I beg to apologize for this rather long-winded explanation & to remain

 Sir
 your obedient servt
 Florence Nightingale

Major Lewis
 Commr
 Depot 68th St Infy

SU195, 2ff, Major Gen Windham to FN re Robert Robinson’s discharge (acc to LMA cat), Aug 16 1856, Warwick, re:

SU196 1f, Fanny Wildgoose, re: F.N.’s visit in Punch
30 Old Burlington St.

To Dr. Parkes Aug 9/60

(as per last page)

My dear Sir

I have not answered your kind letter of the 4th with its welcome enclosure, because Dr. Sutherland shewed me his answer to you, and I had really nothing to add to it -

Besides this, at the scientific arrangement of the subject, I am worth nothing, & could, I am quite sure, suggest nothing to you -

If, when you come to some of your practical Lectures, & to any of my own peculiar subjects, such as Ward Construction & Nursing Hygiene, (those things which an old Nurse like me has had most experience in,) I could give you any, the least, practical assistance, I should be happy & grateful to have the opportunity -

In the meanwhile, I am quite overjoyed at the prospect of the good you are
going to do

The thing once begun is quite sure to extend itself & prosper, so that there will not be a higher Service than ours in any country.

ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

Of course I agree with you that "the

{folio text by archivist:} SU 214 to 226

SU 214-214A
SU 214 incomplete signed letter, 3ff, pen

[2]

He did not wish to live: he had not the spirit of life"
and one who saw him just after death told me that he looked as if the Burden had been suddenly lifted off: & the Rest had suddenly come.

I have seen that look on him in life: a sort of innocent, half incredulous, half curious, all modest, glad surprise

[He never laughed, as perhaps you know.]

For him: 'tis Death is dead, not he'.

He has passed

From Death called Life which us from Life doth saves - [sever]
And when one’s mind strains forward to ask: oh where is he? Where is he in this his New Year? What is he feeling now? he might better ask: where are we?

My sister & a family party were in the house: but when they ran to him, there was no breath, nothing. My mother,—except when she sees people she is not used to, when she has moments of passionate grief which exhaust her,—is gentle & mourns naturally: only saying ‘—when shall I go after him?—shall I go to-night?’ She begged so to go in & “kiss him”: but yielded on being told that he was not there: it was only his old garment. [By the time they had been able to tell her, the grand old head was much altered: & they did not wish her to see it.]

My mother does not read or write letters now. I am glad to know that my father cared for my work. I had not but one pleasure in being a ‘public man’:
apart from getting the work done: because I thought that it would please my Father that I should be one, as he could not be one himself, which he lamented to the very last year of his life,—not on account of any personal ambition of his own, but because he had wished “to help” my Uncle Bonham Carter,—for whom he had a friendship, “passing the love of women,” singularly touching in a character so reserved as my Father’s. But I never noticed that my Father cared much for my work. He may have done so however, without speaking of it.

[3] I think I feel his being out of my world, now that I realize how intensely alone he has left me, in it, more than during the first shock. I shall take up my work again as much as possible as usual, & as soon as possible as usual—for he would not have liked his death to disarrange any one’s single day: Such was the unique modesty of his character in every thing—And then we will all lie down & be at rest: when we can say we have finished the work that God has given us to do.

It has soothed me writing to you who cared for him. And I thank you for it & am ever yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale
June 1875
Miss Nightingale

incomplete letter, 1f, pencil
small way of [2]
Council & Commee= (on the N. Fund)
is 1. the want of any Committee man who
would really master the subject
& have time to work it:
& 2 the want of a Secretary
who having mastered the
subject had time to
extend & push it.
If your Secy- could give
his whole time, that would
be a man -
God speed the work:
I think you have launched it:
yrs ever sincerely & gratefully
Florence Nightingale
Please, if you are so good as
to write, write to old address:
35 South St.

Malta Sewerage & Drainage:} 35 South St
Park Lane W.
May 18/76
Dear Mr. Rawlinson
Few things give me more pleasure than to hear
from you: & I was very glad to read
anything about Malta. [I return the paper:]
I remember Mr. Unsworth perfectly:
But I am afraid this result must be
disappointing to all of you.
You send out a most competent man as an
Inspector to cleanse Malta. And as soon as
they have him, out, they appear to have set him
   to work upon small Engineering details:
   & so far as we know, Malta seems to be as dirty as ever:
And the plague is at Muscat:
   If it comes west, is it not certain to pounce
   on Malta?
_________________
I saw Miss Carpenter after her return from India.
She gave me a most o
outrageous account of the
indoor cess-pits & foul smells which seem to do duty
as House Conveniences' in the Women’s Native Ladies’ Quarters
at Dacca, Benares, Baroda, &c &c &c= &c even

[2]
at Calcutta where we had hoped
the proper connection of houses with main sewerage
was going on. (Instead of that, excrete go into an indoor cesspit
& soak into the soil under, the dwelling rooms:

   In some cases, where Residents wives (English
ladies) had begun to visit the Native Ladies,
& become ill from the foulness, their husbands, (English gentlemen) had forbidden their visiting.
   To go to gaol seems, in India, the most
   efficient & immediate thing to do for health.
   Pray believe me ever your old friend
   & comrade
Florence Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU217-217a
Nightingale (Florence) Two sheet letter to The Rev. Henry Hawkins, chaplain to Colney Hatch
Asylum “After Care of the insane.”
June 2nd 1879 Bought from Miss H. Hawkins
London June 2/79
Miss Nightingale (in large letters not FN hand) also in 9088/22
My dear Sir

I wish I could help you, with regard to what you wrote to me about on May 10, viz. finding a lady “to organize a plan for the after care of poor & friendless female Convalescents”

But alas! overwhelmed with business & illness, I am almost the last person, to help you, as I would.

God speed your Meeting on June 5.

I am on the other hand going to ask you for help. I am frequently written to to know if there are TRAINED Lady Matrons & Lady Nurses to be had to attend on & superintend the nursing of Female Lunatics. Latterly I have had two letters from the Chaplain of Robben Island, S. Africa, asking for such. Have you trained Ladies & trained Nurses for your Asylum Work at Colney Hatch? Could you recommend such? And above all have you a TRAINING School for Nurses for Lunatics? Or do you know of one? When I speak of a Training School, I mean a Training
School, such as we have for Hospital Nurses & Matrons now at St. Thomas’ Hospital, & at several other large Hospitals, where the Probationers go thro’ at least a year of systematic training IN the Hospital Wards, with an organized system of superintendence, where their work is tested, & where they live under discipline in a Home adjoining.

All this, I should fancy, [but I ask one of the greatest experience & devotion in yourself] was yet more necessary for Lunatic than for Hospital Patients.

How I wish I had time & strength as I have inclination to carry out such a work.

But I have far too large a circle of duties already. And I am entirely a prisoner from illness to my room.

I leave out entirely the question of Asylum Nurses being trained OUT OF not in the Asylum nor about the Patients for their duties: which seems yet more utterly impossible than for Hospitals & Hospital Patients.

In Germany there are Training Schools for Asylum Nurses, & Lady Attendants in Lunatic Asylums.

A lady, half German & half English, whose Sister died as Lady Assistant in such an
Asylum, is likely to come to live in England & might be interested in the work. 

Now that Hospital Nursing is so largely carried on by ladies, I hope that you will be able to tell me that you have found many ladies for your Asylum attendance & have trained them in your Wards. 

You have, I assure you, my best wishes that you should succeed in all your works. 

Would I could give you more than good wishes! 

God bless your work 

If the Chaplain of Robben Island should come to England, might I place him in communication with you? under severe stress of overwork & illness but Pray believe me my dear Sir ever your faithful servt- 

Florence Nightingale

The Revd=

Henry Hawkins &c &c
The Nightingale Home  
St: Thomas’ Hospital  
June 16th 1880
We, the Home Sister, and Nightingale  
Probationers of 1880 beg to thank  
Sir Harry and Lady Verney  
for the very happy day we spent  
on Wednesday June 15th, and to  
express  
our sense of their kindness  
in entertaining us at Claydon -

(actual signatures:)

MS Crossland "Home Sister"
L. Parsons S. Rees
M.A. Weston J.B. Western
A F Hughes G. Parsons
A.M. Barson E.H. Pringle
M.M. Oliver J.C. Bird
Isla Stewart E Beatty
L. Hogg M Huxley
A O’Neil R.P. Ashber
E.M. Manning M. Brinstan
M Dobbs J.M. Little
M {illeg}

SU219 signed letter, 2ff, pencil

Nov 24/86
10, SOUTH STREET, [12:380]
PARK LANE. W. {printed address:}
Dearest Mrs. Wardroper
I pray that, notwithstanding this most ungenial weather, you keep better -
God bless you -
I write now, not to bother you, but only to ask what you thought of that Miss Maxwell, who called upon you, wishing to become your Special Probationer -
I have no personal acquaintance with her
whatever: but I have
heard so much of her
from mutual friends —
one, Lady Caird, who is
one of her references,— that
I cannot but think
she would prove a
most valuable Ward
Sister to you — far above
any “Sisters” we have
— now — so much so
that I think you might
even wish to waive
your & Mr. Bonham Carter’s
rule, (not to decide till
just before Quarter Day,
in case better applicants
should offer), & perhaps
promise her a vacancy
which I understood you
that you would have in
March— for, if you
liked her, perhaps a
better applicant hardly
could offer —
She, I understand, is
quite willing to wait till
March, but could not longer.

But I am not of course
asking you to tell me
this: but only how you
liked her.  

God bless you
ever yours
F. Nightingale

[end 12:380]
July 15/87
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.
My dear Miss Maxwell
Do not think I am neglecting your request - I am enquiring.
Sister Arthur did not leave any written 'Record' of you. She was taken ill before she had written any. They would be so sorry to lose you - your great qualities - out of the Home - your good influence there - They feel you have not sufficiently proved yourself -

They cannot tell you whether you are fit to be a Ward Sister - You would not like not to be a first-rate Sister [You are quite right not to choose to be on the Extra Staff] But St. Thomas' is a fearful demand upon a gentlewoman's strength, in every position - & not likely to get lighter. Would you like to come back for another 6 months & prove yourself - & then see what at the year's end can be done?

If not, it would seem best to go to Mildmay - where may all blessings follow you - You will say: if I come to St. Thomas' for 6 months, then I just lose my sister at Mildmay. I write this down as it were promiscuously. They cannot promise anything, they say, to you more than to others. I may have something else to
write to night.
    Take this as undecided.
God bless you - God guide us all
I will write again
    in haste
    yours overflowingly
    F. Nightingale

SU 221 signed letter, 2ff, pen

Nov 27/86
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
    PARK LANE. W.
My dear Sir James Caird
I received last night from
St. Thomas’ the answer to my enquiries
about Miss Maxwell who
wishes to become a “Special
Probationer” at our Training
School for Nurses at St.
Thomas’ Hospital.
    She has made a strong
impression as to her
being ‘able’ in body & mind
& purpose-like; as to
her wish to make Nursing

a calling, & as to her special
fitness for it: her great
qualities which you &
Lady Caird know so well.
The vacancy in March
will surely be hers, as
far as anything can be sure.
The answers to her references
are not quite complete. When
they are, the will be sent
to me. But Lady Caird’s
makes us certain that
we are safe there.
We are fortunate that the work has attracted so good a worker -
And she has my best wishes for her success in the highest sense in all her career -
I am delighted to have to tell you this:

& with kindest regards to Lady Caird
& good speed to your most difficult & noble work in Ireland

- you have promised me a visit when you return

pray believe me ever sincerely yours:

Florence Nightingale

You sent Aunt Florence, my dearest little Ruth, such beautiful primroses & dear little primson buds the other day - & a sweet little violet with a root - And Aunt Florence planted it in a little pot - & watered it - & immediately there came up another violet - did Grandpapa tell you? behind a green leaf as alive as possible.
There is nothing like a little garden grown by one self in London to give pleasure.

And I wonder whether now the spring is come you watch the bees & insects coming out of the flowers, where they have been occupied in taking a little honey, & bring out a little pollen on their backs- Or is it too early for that?

Aristotle, an old, old Greek, who has taught us a great deal about Morals, tho’ he lived some hundreds of years before Christ, used to watch the bees, and he says that a bee on the same journey only visits the same kind of flowers. It is satisfied, unlike us, with the same kind of dish at one time.

Now, you see, Aristotle & little Harry both watched the bees -

I have counted the times (with a second hand
watch) that a moth put its proboscis in sucking the honey out of a common wild Scabious. And it was 150 times in a minute-

Do you know the names of the birds yet? And are there still a good many singing birds after the very severe winter? A blackbird comes here every morning at 5 o’clock (the first time this has happened since I lived here (some 26 years), & sings - Perhaps it is one of the Claydon blackbirds which died Now give Aunt Florence’s very dear love to dearest Ellin & Lettice - & help in pleasing Grandpapa as I know you do - And give my love to Miss Spring Rice s, & tell Miss Frederica that I can’t thank her enough for her letter & for what they are doing. How is Nip? - & how is the bird canary that says pf? God bless you all ever your loving Aunt Florence If you see anything of Mrs.
Sept 23/95

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode
32 Abingdon Street. West:er

Gentlemen

Would you be so very good
as to send Blue Book
“Report on Sanitary Measures”
“in India in 1893-94"
“Vol XXVII”
“1895” (just out)
to Sir W. Wedderburn Bt M.P.
Post Office: Buckie
Banffshire
(to await arrival)

Messenger will pay for expenses
It saves me all trouble - if
you are so good as to do this
Yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale

SU 224 signed letter & envelope, 2ff, pencil
{envelope:}

To the Matron
or Home Sister
St Thomas’ Hospital
F. Nightingale
18/6/1901

June 18/1901 [6:670]

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Matron

Dr. Lachland of
41 Clapham Road
is sending to you, please,
a young girl age 21
Nelly Johnson, who has
had Pleurisy- and now
the Doctor thinks an
Operation needful.
And as I know her to
be a very nervous Patient,
& rather alarmed at
Hospitals [you & I know
that Patients are only
sorry to leave your
Hospital] I thought if
I wrote to you, it would
give her some encouragement
to know that I knew you
& that she would be
under your care.
I need hardly ask: will
you kindly look after her,
as from every one I have
known who has been at
the Hospital, I have
always heard of your
great kindness.

After she is admitted, I
should be pleased indeed
to hear how she is going on,
if not too much trouble to
you.

With love
yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale

H1/ST/NC3/SU225/2
SU 225-225/1
SU 225
signed letter & envelope, 1f, pencil
{envelope:}
with flowers
From Florence Nightingale
Miss Grace Hamilton
52 Chester Square
26/6/1900
June 25/1900
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.
Dearest Bertha
Would you please tell us what time the wedding - God bless it - is to-morrow?
{We don’t want to bother you with any request.]
Please put down here
Time ==
2. I thought of sending a nose gay to the bride. Should it be sent to her at 13 Queen’s Gate or where? Please put here ever yours
F. Nightingale
signed note, 1f, pencil

June 26/1900
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.
these poor flowers bring every best of wishes to our dear Grace on her wedding day from us all
Florence Nightingale

H1/ST/NC/SU226a-b 3ff, {illeg E Gertrude?}, re: incomplete letter, M. Mohl mentioned throughout, in part seemingly about cats, humourous stories

1f, {archivist:} (vert.:) Return to Mrs. Wardroper

SU198 1f, Francis Hicks to FN, Jan 9 1866, 13 St Thomas’s SE, re: Committee has authorized him to enter into an agreement with FN’s council re approval of alterations suggested in original plan, FN to correspond if she has improvements in arrangements for the Probationer’s building
SU199 1f, Henry Currey to FN, Jan 20 1866, 4 Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C., re: the Nightingale Probationers Quarters, would be glad to receive suggestions

SU200 1f, Henry Currey to FN, May 4 1866, 4 Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C., re: promising the Plans of the Probationers’ House in a few days for her inspection

SU201 2ff, Henry Currey to FN, May 8 1866, 4 Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C., re: sending herewith the Plans of the Nightingale Probationers Quarters with Matron’s House &c, requests return of drawings with observations from her, comments on the position of the road at/near Hospital

SU202 1f, Henry Currey to FN, May 24 1866, 4 Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C., re: is looking to have the drawings returned as soon as it is convenient

SU203 2ff, Henry Currey (in another hand) to FN, May 29 1866, 4 Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C., re: he is much obliged for her suggestions on the ground floor which will improve both the Small Ward and the Sisters room, consultation rooms suggested by Medical men for private place to converse with pupils than in the Ward, altering upper floor plans more difficult but will consider it

SU204 2ff, Henry Currey (in another hand) to FN, May 29 1866, 4 Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C., re: obliged for the plans being returned promptly, will show the Committee the plans and will provide any information needed, responds to her questions re location of warming surfaces in building, is in agreement of having a small sink with a supply of cold and hot water in Bath rooms and will be done, clarifies her questions re the lighting for the ground floor Probationers rooms

SU205 4ff, S.E. Wardroper to Madam, Feb 28 1866, St Thomas’, re: wishes to write her own epistle despite Mr Whitfield’s letter, rejoices with FN for her accomplishment re the probationers in the new St Thomas’, yet at the same time grieved it has cost her so much suffering and trouble she ought to have been spared, sees nothing to quarrel about in the proposed Matron’s residence, Miss Jones’ serious difficulties to contend with, drunkenness a part of the source of problems, several dismissals in 7 months, delighted to see Mrs Fowler and able to give her a favourable report of Probationers, applications for Nurses overwhelming and a better class presenting themselves for training
SU206b 4ff, S.E. Wardroper to Madam, May 18 1866, St Thomas’ Hospital, Newington Surrey, S., re: thanks for kind and explicit letter re a Swedish lady & {illeg Miss Messe?}, she was glad to be prepared for the surprise, will do her utmost to help the lady, appointment for meeting her to be on Monday at 11 o’clock, wishes to adopt (FN’s) mode of ‘talking’ i.e. slowly, the pleasure of seeing {FN} the previous Saturday, Mr. Currey to shew and explain the working plans of the New St Thomas’ to her, Wardroper’s dislike of the arrangement of the Small Ward and Scullery, consulting room space might be better appropriated.

SU207a-c 6ff, S.E. Wardroper to Madam, May 23 1866, St Thomas’, re: Mr Currey’s promise to look over the plans this week, comments that he is a little forgetful and may need to give a reminder, delighted with the Herbert Hospi- Site and construction, lovely view from the wards, recommends their new Hospi to have larger lavatories and W.C’s, more in depth details on her opinion on the function of the rooms and how it can effect efficiency, the meeting with the Swedish lady with [Miss Meppe Messer? Beppe?] as interpreter, recommend her to spend as much time as possible for English with promise to assist her, unable to help {illeg Mrs. Vieniyon?}, agrees with opinion re the District providing their own Supt=, as the only way to ensure success [hard to read names].

SU208a-b 5ff, S.E. Wardroper to Madam, Oct 24 1866, St Thomas’ Hospital, Newington, Surrey, S., re: encloses a note from Miss Osburn & returns Mr Winter’s and Miss Boucherett’s [packet], hopes they will not appt {illeg Miss Genna?} Supt= and if they do will regret the decision as ‘untruthfulness in a Superior never can succeed’, does not believe she will be more faithful to Mrs Bromhead than to them, Mrs Wardroper forgave her more often than she should have, writes that Mrs Ayden likely to become Midwife to the female Hospital at Aldershot.

SU209 1f, Henry Bonham Carter, [May 1866], re: was glad to see the Plans, requesting to have a copy of memorandum for Sir J. Lawrence, recalls the draft he had seen from some months previous.

SU210 1f, Henry Bonham Carter, May 12 1866, re: asking if objection to keeping the Plans a little longer and for John Clark & Mr Bowman to see them.
Dear Miss Manning

2/5/73

London May 2/73

Only the constant pressure of business & illness, together with the difficulty of any reply to your question, would have prevented my answering your note before -

Tho' advertising more than once to your age, you do not say what it is - I guess it to be about 16.

I know no Institution which would take in a young lady of that age -

Miss Clara Manning

I could not recommend Kaiserswerth, even if they would receive you - The spirit of the place is beautiful - But as a Hospital it is so inferior to any London Hospital, where you see more real work in a week than you do at Kaiserswerth in a year - as a place for learning to take Sanitary care of School-children, it is absolutely nothing - the Germans have not the most elementary notion of what we English call cleanliness, good air, & children's care - Besides, - & in this they are quite right,- they told me that they
consider every year taken out of
a woman under 24 - as so
much taken out of her life
at the other end -
Also: do you speak German perfectly?
I sympathize so very much
with your object- especially with
that of knowing how to “take
care” of a large class of children
- that I would I could help
you more -
At St. Thomas’ Training School
we prefer not to take in before
the age of 23 - It is true that
some of our very best Sisters
(Head Nurses) were young ladies
of 21 when they entered- But
we have not hitherto trained
except for Hospital or Workhouse
life.

Take courage, my dear soul. Be
sure that to do well the
work that is immediately
before one is the best training
while awaiting the age
when God may open the way
for more work the best
preparation.

You do not wish for any thing
to be decided “till August” -
& before that time we may
strike out something for you.
District “Nursing” among “the
poor of London” at home is
I think, the noblest, because
(for a person above 25)
the most useful kind of work - more so even than Hospital work -
But between an "August" & an "April following", what could any one learn, except those who have had much previous experience?
But do not suppose I am discouraging you - If you persevere, be quite sure that God will not let His call to you, if it is a call, be wasted -
A letter addressed to me,
care of Hy Bonham Carter Eq
91 Gloucester Terrace
Hyde Park
London W.
will always find me.
God bless & speed you-
ever yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale

SU212 signed letter, 1f, pencil

17/6/73
Dear Miss Clara Manning
I have corresponded with several friendly Institutions in the hopes of finding some one that would do for you -
Did you know the Revd-Mr. & Mrs. Pennefather - he, alas! is dead-?- I did not know them: but they were great friends of my dearest friend & pupil, Agnes Jones-
Mrs. Pennefather still keeps up his Training Institutions They "think" that you "might
"be received into their Probationers' Home - & have some little training to help" - you "to Nurse the sick poor" - Will you put yourself into communication with their Supt-
Miss Bell
Supt-
131 Mildmay Road
London N.
I wish you God speed with all my heart & soul & am ever yours sincerely Florence Nightingale

SU213 incomplete letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pen & pencil

{envelope:}
Miss Clara Manning
at Miss Haddon’s
Effingham Crescent
8/7/7 Dover
London July 8/73
Dear Miss Manning
I am sure that you are quite right in not even making enquiries until you have your father’s consent. No Institution would, or ought to take so young a lady without her parents’ entire sanction.

-- In case Mrs. Pennefather should not take you, I have another string to your bow - (i.e. in the event of your father’s approbation) -
If you would call on or write to
  Miss E. Merryweather
  Westminster Hospital
  London S.W.
you would hear any particulars about a Nurses’ Home
which is to be begun in a fortnight near the Westminster Hospital,
-It may be that it will be such as you might avail yourself of for a time.
  [The Miss Merryweathers are the Supts= of the Nurses’ Home & District Nursing at Liverpool, concerning which I send you a pamphlet.]
Miss E. Merryweather is only come to help for a time Westminster Hospital in London to get its Nursing into order -  
  God speed you -

SU228/1 1f, Henry Bonham Carter to Nurse Elizabeth Hancock, March 28 1876, 91 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W., re: from the Committee of the Nightingale Fund Nurse Hancock receives a satisfactory report of the manner in which duties were performed & accordance with Regulations, is informed of a 1st gratuity of £2.

SU228/2 4ff, printed Address from FN to the Probationer Nurses in the “Nightingale Fund” School at St Thomas’, May 1872, London, re: unless a Nurses makes progress, they are going ‘back’, progress needs to be made even after training &c (read to Probationer Nurses May 8 1872) (FN hand top left:) Elizabeth Hancock
SU228/3 6ff, printed Address from FN to the Probationer Nurses in the “Nightingale Fund” School at St Thomas’, May 23 1873, re: one year further to becoming ‘perfect as out Father in Heaven is perfect’, focuses on improvements {FN hand top left:} Hancock

SU228/4 7ff, printed Address from FN to the Probationer Nurses in the “Nightingale Fund” School at St Thomas’, July 23 1874, re: themes being heroic, trustworthy, obedient, orderly

H1/ST/NC3/SU227/1
SU227/1-2 signed letter & postmarked envelope, 2ff, pen & pencil
{envelope:}
Miss L.J. Phillips
C. Phillips Esq
Atherstone
7/2/74 Warwickshire
London Feb 7/74 [12:290-91]

Madam
In answer to your note of
Feb 2 which has been
to different places after me,
I hasten to say:
that gentlewomen are admitted
at our St. Thomas’ Training=
School for Nurses
[Some for payment: & some who
have not means or free
Admissions]
who will fulfil the enclosed
conditions (see printed paper)
subject to the selection of Mrs.
Miss Phillips
Wadroper, our Training Matron, who decides upon the Candidates after a personal interview that these vacancies for gentlewomen are always filled up long before they fall due quite as much for those who pay as those who do not And there are always a number waiting for admission At this time the vacancies have all been filled up: But if you desire to answer the questions on the printed Form I enclose: & to forward them to Mrs. Wardroper St. Thomas’ Hospital Westminster Bridge London S.E., I will inform her of your application to me, & she will inform you whether she thinks it desirable for you to pursue the application. You may perhaps be coming to London: when a personal interview will be equally desirable for you & for her. The opportunities we have for recommending gentlewomen
who will really & vigorously undertake the career of Nursing
far more numerous
than the ladies who are fitted to, & will, undertake it.
Let me wish you 'God speed' in this noble & useful course
I am unable to write more, being overwhelmed with sorrow & illness & pressing business, besides my usual work.

---
You probably know that Mrs. Bracebridge is dead.

---
With every good wish for your best success,
pray believe me ever your faithful servt=

Florence Nightingale
Pray, my dear Sir,
believe me
ever your faithful servt=
Florence Nightingale

1f, re: (archivist:) Specimens of
Miss Florence Nightingale’s
Writing
given to me L. Dunn, by
Miss Nash x (niece) of Fording bridge
a direct descendent
(3 lines by arch: not transcribed)

draft, 1f, pen
Think truly & thy thoughts
Shall the world’s famine feed
Speak truly & each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed
Live truly & the life shall be
A great & noble creed

From glory unto glory. 2 Cor 3 18
To glory’s full fruition
From glory’s foretaste here
Until His very Presence crown
Our happiest New Year.

Never failing, never frowning
He is with thee! Thine own Master,
Leading, loving to the end!
C x x x
All to- day yet more to- morrow
Yes with Him for ever dwelling
Thou shalt share His joy excelling
Thou with Christ & Christ with thee

O Xmas, merry Xmas
This never more can be
We cannot bring again the days
Of our unshadowed glee
But Xmas, happy Xmas,
Sweet herald of good will
With holy songs of glory
Brings holy gladness still
SU235/2 1f, Rosalind Nash to dear Sister, July 7 1938, Woodgreen, Fording bridge, re: has not forgotten her promise, has had difficulty in finding FN’s writing that isn’t sad, wants to focus on her courage and brightness, refers to hymns FN had been reading on New Year’s Day.

SU230/a-b 3ff, Rose Adams to FN, Nov 4 1889, Ladies’ Sanitary Association, 22 Berners Street, Oxford Street. W., London, re: hesitant to bring enclosed complaint to the Medical Officers of Health for White Chapel, apparently not the first complaint to be sent to them, the Col. out-patient dept- ‘leaves much to be desired’, the need to be prudent with funds for the Hospitals, mentions Miss Lückes, outside pressure works best, finds the Medical Officer of Health for the District the best Sanitary authority to apply to, the credibility of the Yatmans, awaiting FN’s response.

SU231 {the last folio of this letter is seen in SU230b}
3ff, Rose Adams to Madam, Nov 7 1889, Ladies’ Sanitary Association, 22 Berners Street Oxford Street, W., London, re: feels compelled to obey her, is fearful of further scandal arising to cause financial loss to the Hospital, refers to Mrs. Yatman and a letter and asks how to respond, food a problem according to a quote “go into training at the London—no--there it’s a feature that Nurses should suffer thro’ insanitary conditions”

SU232/1 2ff, Rose Adams to FN, Nov 11 1889, 22 Berners St. W., re: having written to Mrs Yatman concerning her letter being passed on to be read, sanitary improvements at the Hospital being implemented, namely the W.C. of the out-patient dept.

SU232/2A-E 8ff, M.L. Yatman to Miss Adams, Nov 9, Fernden, Haslemere, Surrey, re: stating she was at liberty to give information, the men’s out-patient WC was vile, clarifying complaint issues, W.C. on the Night Nurses Quarters ‘in a bad state’, offers one of her/his daughters to keep a list for a week of strict particulars for a day nurse diet, sends this and a list of Nurses who were ill with details of their conditions as well

SU232/33 1f, re: Nurses food and how ill-prepared it is, the hope for wise supervision & protection of Nurses almost dispelled