

UKScot Archives in Scotland, 438 pages

National Library of Scotland, indicated NLS
Royal College of Nursing, Edinburgh, indicated RCN
National Archives of Scotland (formerly Scottish Record Office), NAS
Edinburgh University family letters, indicated Edin U family
Edinburgh University, Pringle extracts
National War Museum of Scotland, 1 letter
Edinburgh University Library, indicated LHB
Glasgow Royal Infirmary, 4 letters
Skail House, Orkney, 2 letters

Bold numbers in square brackets indicate the volume and page number in the *Collected Works of Florence Nightingale* where the item appears.

NLS, signed letter, 1f, pen **[8:716]**

30 Old Burlington St.
London W
Feb 4/57

Dearest

Mrs. Cator, ~~has~~ the
Nurse I so highly
recommended to you,
has long since been
placed in a very good
situation, which I do
not think her likely
to leave -

The only nurse I now
know of (out of a situation)
~~filled~~/whom I could recommend
is Mrs. Montague - She
is perfectly sober &
trustworthy - a little
eccentric & by no means

equal to Mrs. Cator -
But I have recommended
her to Lady Coltman,
whose son she has
been nursing & who
likes her - She is still
at Lady Coltman's

8 Hyde Park Gardens
if you like to write to
her - I do not think
a more trustworthy
person than Montague
could be found -

With grateful love
to Mrs. Mackenzie

ever yours

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pen [8:716]

Dearest

I wrote to you a few days ago to tell you that Mrs. Cator had a permanent situation & is not at all likely to leave it - & that Mrs. Montague is the only trustworthy Nurse I have left without a permanent situation - You will judge of her in 1/4 hour of seeing her, as there is nothing more eccentric about her or deeper than her manner

You could never take any permanent Nurse without trying her -

If I hear of any one else, I will let you know - With love to Mrs.

Stewart Mackenzie ever yours

{signature removed}

30 Old Burlington

London W

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen

[8:716-17]

Dearest

I have heard of two Nurses out of situations -

One, Mary Robbins

20 Boss's Gardens

Brighton

was out with me in the East. She was sober, very kind, efficient, a good Nurse, with a knowledge of cooking & house keeping, & perfectly respectable - the sort of person one grows very fond of but

more ~~of~~/as an old Nurse
than a "confidential"
maid -

There is this advantage
that you could see her -
without having her up on purpose

Mrs Hely

Ravenstone

Ashby de la Zouch

is not personally known
to me - She was at
Smyrna & Renkioi
Hospitals & has the
highest character ~~for~~/as
a good nurse, a good
housekeeper & a good

temper - She would, of
course, give you her

References -

ever yours

F. Nightingale

30 Old Burlington St.

London W

Feb 19/57

I do not think
either of these ladies
likely to be particularly
strong-minded, altho'
sensible - both of them.

NLS signed letter, 1f, pen [8:717]

Dec 2/58

I cannot let you go
on your Eastern journey,
& at the beginning of
a journey too of far
more interest than
that, without saying
God bless you, God be
with you - But I will
not say more - for you
have no time for more -
You have my heart's

best wishes & hopes -
For you have chosen
a man whom to
praise would be in
me impertinence -

It was very good
of you to come here & ~~in~~/at
such a time to think
of me -

ever yours

Florence Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 4ff, pen **[8:717-18]**

30 Old Burlington St.

London W

Dec 6/58

All I ~~have~~/knew (I wish
I could say know)
of Egyptian history
or hieroglyphics was
from Bunsen, Lepsius,
Wilkinson & Gliddon -
But this is 8 years
ago - And I am
sorry to say I know
nothing of what

has been doing in
that line of business
during these 8 years -
The two Germans are,
like all Germans,
~~practical~~/profound & systematic,
but pedantic & pudding=
headed - Bunsen far
less of the two last
& far more of the
~~two~~/second first than Lepsius.
The Englishman &

the American have
~~far~~ the very reverse
of both qualities
& faults -

I stick to Bunsen
however, as my authority
in historical matters -
But perhaps during
these last 8 years,
"nous avons changé
tout cela" - as above said.

All my Egyptian
library, which is at
Embley & of which I

do not even remember
the titles (or authors indeed,
except these 4) is
very much at your
service - Say but
one word by return
of post - and I will
write to Embley to
send it to you - I
would do so at once
but that I think
it so unlikely that
Lord Ashburton may
not have all these

books with you at
this moment -

I think Miss
Martineau's "Eastern
Life past & present"
a very good popular
Hand=book, tho' there
is much in it
entirely to be disagreed
with - Murray, of course,
you have -

Keep out of the way
of the (Missionary)
Lieders at Cairo, if
still there - They are

the most frightful
charlatans I know -

I hope you are
going to the second
Cataract - After Thebes
~~I know~~/there is nothing like
Ipsamboul *the whole*
way for interest - Take
by no means less than
3 weeks for Thebes -
And oh give Philae
a week - tho' ~~in~~/of the
worst period of
Egyptian art - But

there is nothing like
it for sentiment in
the world - as there
is nothing like
Ipsamboul for art -

Take care to take
plenty of candles with
you from Cairo - For
if you don't, not all
your money will get
them for you afterwards,
unless you rob the
Coptic church at
Osyoot, which we did.
But perhaps things are

altered now -

If you like to
telegraph back to me
for the books, do - I
was only afraid that,
if I sent them
uncalled for, you
would be in Don
Abbondio's predicament,
"il quale, reduto quel
gran soccorso, si
penti di averlo
invocato" -

Yours ever dearest
F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pen **[8:718]**

30 Burl St
Dec 6/58

It occurred to me
after I wrote to you,
my dearest, that a
very humble Historical
Manual which I
made for our own use
in Egypt, which
follows Bunsen
entirely, might be of
use to you - if the
botheration of reading
M.S. does not

negative the advan=
tage of its being short.
Anyhow, I enclose
it. Please return
it to my father, who
values it for my
sake -

Yours ever
F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen **[8:718-19]**

30 Old Burlington St.
London W
Dec 9/58

I sent today to Bath
Ho: (in time for
package for Alexandria)
besides the books on
the List I wrote you
today,

Bunsen Vols IV & V
published since
I was in Egypt
Map of Egypt

I now send per post
to you a book which
will take very little
room & which you
should certainly look
at in Egypt - by
Gliddon -

My properties have
never been kept
together at Embley -
and half my books
could not be found
when I sent down
there for you. Therefore these

divers things have
been ~~filled~~/procured by
driblets -

I do not know
who our Consul=
General at Cairo is
now - so little do
I know of things -
But whoever he is
he will most likely
be able to lend you
maps & books -

Farewell -

ever yours

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen [8:719]

30 Old Burlington St.

July 16/60

Dearest

If you wish to
call your daughter
after me, as a
token of my affection
for her, as your child,
& of yours for me,
it cannot but be
VERY grateful to me -

But, if you have
any superstitions, I

don't think you
would like my
fate for your child.
Not but that I
think it a very
happy one - God
has given me a
larger measure
of usefulness than
I had ever expected
- of usefulness,
which *is* happiness,
which *is* success -
He has given me

the "roc's egg", which
I had never
dreamed of, as
some do -

But bitter have
been my disappoint=
ments - heart=breaking.
And not the least
~~of my disappointments~~
of them is the
failure of health
- not followed so
soon by death, as
doctors had told
me & as I had

hoped - which
limits now all
usefulness -

I need not
tell you that I
have thought much
of your "daughter".
God bless her! Good
wishes speed her!

ever yours

Florence Nightingale
Would you let me see your
"daughter" when she is
supposed old enough to
"go out"?

NLS initialed letter, 3ff, pen [8:719-20]

30 Old Burlington St.

London W

March 11/61

My dear (what shall I
say?)

I have no Village
Nurse to recommend -
I wish I had - And
none of the Nurses
whom I am training
at St. Thomas's Hospl
will be "passed" or
certificated before
July.

I will forward
your enquiry to Hilary,

in case she should
think a person
would do, whom
we both know, but
whom I have not
seen for three years.

Yours is such
an universal enquiry
now that I think
the "supply" must soon
be equal to the
"demand"

Your "terms" are
exceedingly liberal -
Have you been

applied to about the
Winchester Infirmary?

Both Winchester and
Reading Infirmarys
have applied to me
with regard to
plans - Nothing
can be done for
the Winchester one
but removal &
re=building - The
sub=soil is tainted
past the power of
cure - The space
for the Patients is
half what it ought
to be - They must
re=build on a

better site - I hope
that, if Lord Ashburton
is applied to, which
he is sure to be, he
will require a copy
to be sent him of
the Report of Mr.
Rawlinson, a Civil
Engineer, (who was
sent for to examine
it) & which is
admirable - And
I trust you will
persuade him to
give his influence
to *re=build & remove*.
Patients had much

better stay at home
than go into the
present Hospital.

So much for
the ancient city of
Winchester.

Commend me
to the little lady
who, when I saw
her infant face, was
the most striking
likeness of you -

ever yours

F.N.

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen [7:720]

30 Old Burlington Street. {printed address:}
W.

London

April 14/61

My dear friend

You will be surprised
to hear from me &
still more at my
request.

If you have still
any of my letters to
you, would you send
them back to me?

One of those female
ink=bottles, who are
my dread & despair,

is collecting materials
for a life of me.

And tho' I am
quite sure you would
never lend yourself
to such a purpose,
the only thing which
could make me quite
happy on this score
would be to burn
all the letters I have
ever written with
my own hand.

It is only on
the ground of auld

lang syne that I
could ask you to take
the trouble to return
any letters you may
have of mine by
railway parcel -

You have not
left any such maiden
stores at Brahan,
have you? I beg your
pardon for suspecting
that you could have
been so foolish.

I hope the little
"daughter of your house

& name" is well -
 & growing up vigorous
 & beautiful -
 for auld lang syne
 ever yours
 Florence Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen {black-edged} **[8:721]**

115, Park Street. W. {printed address:}
 Sunday May 15 {arch: [1864]}

My poor dearest - I have
 indeed thought of you
 in your great
 loneliness - the loss of one
 so great, so worthy -
 of the *one*, *the* one
 who could not be
 spared, when so
 many, many live
 on, whom nobody
 would miss, nobody
 mourn - It seems
 so hard that always
the one is taken - who

makes such a gap in
 the world - But better
 to have known *the*
 one & have lost him
 than never to have
 known him or lost any
 thing worth caring for.

yes: if it is right
 for your little one to
 go out today, I
 should be so glad to
 see her - between
 3 and 5 is a good
 time for me, if it is
 for her.

I am entirely a sick
 prisoner now - scarcely
 able to do my business -
 never able to write
 more than a few
 words, after that is
 done -

Indeed I have felt for
 you & with you, my
 poor dearest - your
 happiness so short,
 but it was full
 while it lasted -
 Yours overflowingly
 F. Nightingale

NLS initialed letter, 2ff, pen {black-edged} [8:721-22]

115, Park Street. W. {printed address:}

May 16 {arch [1864]}

Dearest, very dearest

It did me good to
 see you - did me good
 to see you bearing
 that intense loss with
 such real seconding of
 the will of God - such
 as he himself whom
 you have lost would
 have wished.

I trust your precious
 one will go on well
 & did not make her

throat worse yesterday.

I shall never forget
 your generous wish
 to help me - Perhaps
 we may meet again
 even before another
 world.

God bless you - And
 He does bless you -
 yours ever

F.N.

I have been thinking
 of you all night - & how

noble is your entering
into the design of
God - so that His
design & yours are
as it were one.

As you say, it is
not resignation, it is
oneness

NLS initialed letter, 2ff, pen {black-edged} **[8:722]**

115, Park Street. W {printed address:}

June 7/64

My dearest friend

The little kitten,
which your little Mary
wished for, is ready
to leave its mother.
How shall it come,
& where? [I am afraid,
if it were to come by
one of your magnificent
Return boxes, it
would spend the night
at some office in
London, which it
would not like.]

I have never thanked
you for your beautiful
& welcome flowers,
fruit & vegetables -

It is not likely you
should remember our
old Cook, Burton,
who lived with us
more than 20 years.
She is dying a slow
& painful death
near here - & has
shared largely in
the contents of your

generous baskets -
which I am sure
have smoothed her
lingering death=bed.
My brother=in=law, Sir
Harry Verney, finds
time to go & pray
with her. How touching
that is in a very busy
man!

It is three years
today since Sidney
Herbert sent me
the news of Cavour's
death with these
words: "This is the life

I should like to have
lived: this is the death
I should like to die."
In less than 7 weeks
he had his wish. To our
eyes, how incalculable has been the
mischief from those two deaths.

These great things,
as well as small, I
am sure you sympathize
in. I feel for you more
than I can say. I hope
I make some slow
progress in "*laissant
Dieu vouloir pour moi*".
I am sure you make
giant steps -

God bless you
ever yours

F.N.

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen [8:722-23]

Hampstead NW
Sept 1/64

My poor dearest

You cannot think what
a pleasure those beautiful
photographs of your
darling are to me. They
are so unlike photographs -
They are really beautiful
pictures. Thank you so
much for thinking of
me & her together

I did not know
you were at Melchet
Park. I am afraid
the last wrench must
have been a sore one -

But, as you feel it,
your present home is
all lighted up with
the thoughts of him
who created it for you
& whose every wish
was for you -

Thank you so much
too for all your beautiful
flowers & fruit. I wish
I had anything to tell
you that would give you
pleasure. But we have
been so driven lately,

as we always are after
the Parly Session is over,
with trifles concerning
only the lives & morals
of men which Govt always
puts off till then!!

But we have a
tower of strength in
our great John Lawrence.

Last winter I had a
correspondence with
Dr. John Brown of
Edinburgh, which he
began on the score of
his acquaintance with
you. You know he has

since lost his wife. But,
 poor thing, I suppose
 her mental state made
 death a release - He
 sent me his books -
 "Rab" was an old friend.
 But of all he has
 written, I like his
 sketch of his dead father
 the best .

God bless you

Ever yours dearest life

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen [8:723]

32/34 South Street, {printed address:}
 Park Lane,
 London. W.
 May 8/65

Dearest

I did not receive
 your Tuesday's note
 till 24 hours *after*
 "the 24 hours" you said
 you were to be in
 London - Else I *should*
 have been tempted
 ever yours F. Nightingale

to have seen you, as
 you so kindly proposed.
 I do so long to hear
 of you & of your
 dear little one.

I never saw any
 human so interesting
 as she is. And I
 keep her photograph

always opposite me.

She does not look
 unwell - but she
 looks like a spirit
 which might slip
 off its mortal Coil
 like a pinafore.

I believe it was better
 for me that I *could*
 not take advantage
 of the opportunity you

offered me -

I am so pressed &
harassed that I feel,
if I cannot get a
week or two's rest,
my working life may
be merely a question
of days.

This was my reason
dear beloved one for
not answering directly
I received yours - *Indeed*
I do feel your lot a
very suffering one. God bless you

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen **[8:724]**

Jan 28/67

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

Dearest

Be sure that I am
always glad to hear of you
& of your dear little Mary
& that I delight in the
characteristic little
photographs of her which
you have so kindly
sent me. She does
not look (in ~~them~~/these) so fragile
as she did - I trust
that her fragility is
rapidly passing off -

I am afraid I cannot
serve you, as I would so

gladly do - in the matter
about which you write
to me - *Sick Nurses* are
the only people - & those
chiefly for the poor &
for Hospitals - who *really*
come under my cognizance.
And latterly I have
made it a rule never
to recommend any one
whom I did not really
know - For I have been
so deceived by recommendations
myself from those I
thought I could trust.
Whom *does* one know? -

I have made several
enquiries for you, but
without result. If I
hear of any one, be sure
that I will let you know.
It seems to me that the
sort of person you want
is a very experienced
woman - & that yours
is a very easy place
that therefore Lizzie
Herbert's Mrs. Lorton,
or Lady Belper's nurse,
when leaving a place
where they have brought
up a large family of
children are the people
for you - as to *kind*.

I cannot find a person
for myself tho' I give any

wages - & there is absolutely
no Nursing to do - with
me - & mine is a very
easy place.

Dearest I only write to
tell you how much I
think of you - & how
gladly I would help
you - We are over done
with work - especially
at this time of the year,
before Parlt meets. I
have never known for
more than 13 years what
it is to have a half
hour of leisure. And I
am quite a prisoner to bed.

God bless you

ever yours

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen {black-edged} **[8:725-26]**

Seaton

May 12/80

Dearest & best beloved

I am obliged to return
to business & London
tomorrow. & leave this
lovely place & waves
& birds (but a hawk
has eaten my thrush)
& rocks which
your kindness has made
so doubly dear .

Forgive my great
anxiety to hear of your
matters. I think you
can hardly be more
anxious yourself about them. But

the Heavenly Father
will arrange it all better
than we could ourselves.

I am not the less
grateful but the more,
because I put off
telling you how much
I am ever, with
Aunt Florence's love to
Mary, dearest of friends,
your loving & grateful
F. Nightingale

I have had a nice
account of Berry from
Mrs. Hanbury at Mentone.
But she does specify
one thing: (nothing which
would prevent my taking
her) & proposes I
should see Mr. Hanbury
who is in England,
which I will do -

I have not written to
Berry: not at all on
this account - She
asked me for a few
days to go & see her
mother (who is living
at Embley) after she
leaves you. And when

I have seen Mr. Hanbury,
I will write to you
& to her: ascertaining
when it will be
convenient for your dear
self for her to leave
Melchet, (tho' you
generously said 'any'
time.)

Again fare you very
well, as well as God
loves you -

F.N.

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen {black-edged} [8:726]

10 South St.

May 16/80

Whitsunday

O Dearest & best beloved

At this blessed Whitsun
tide I can't help wishing
you all the Holy Spirit
has to give - *what* a
promise it is - not
only from the bottom
of my heart but in
words aloud -

& sending to ask after
you. For I fear late
anxieties have not
been conducive to health.

I am glad you are
going out of London. If

you should be so good
as to wish to see me
before you go, - but
you must be so over=
burdened : only God
takes the burdens Himself.

But, if you should wish,
please say. I *have*
engagements both for
tomorrow & *to-day*.

But I would put
either off so as to
see you *today* or
tomorrow at 5 or at
6, IF you will let
me know beforehand.

But, dear old friend,

I am not *asking* to
see you -

I ALWAYS bear you in
my heart: poor worthless
heart

God bless you ever:
His is the heart to leave
you in:

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil {black-edged} [8:726]

A thousand & a thousand thanks
my dearest friend for the
lovely flowers & fruit.

"I keep them all for me",
as "Rejected Addresses" say -

I am so sorry for your cough
I trust to see you, when you
are able to go out, if you can
spare time

All loves & blessings to
you & Mary -

Glad Mrs. Barry is of
use!

[I am rather broken down
- you ask]

God for ever bless you -
ever your old

Flo

12/6/80

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pencil [8:726-27]

10 South St. W.

June 26/81

Dearest friend

I have only now heard
that your brother, the Keith
I knew so well so many
years ago, has 'resigned'

"that earthly load
"Of death called life which
us from life doth sever"

(my dear mother's
favourite words.)

O may it be so with him!
O may you feel, dearest,
that he leant on you for
the highest comfort, &
that you led him there

where only it can be found
 -O you who are 'highly
 favoured'!
 I have heard no particulars,
 whether the end was
 blessed - whether you were
 with him at the end -
 Aunt Florence's best love
 to dear Mary. May she
 prosper in 'sinless' joy!
 She always reminds me of
 the Paradise state - the
 'sinless' man in the bronze Génie
 Adorant.
 How fares it with her?

We are opening the new
 Marylebone Infirmary at
 Notting Hill - which we are
 to nurse with trained Nurses
 thank God - I have to see
 each of these for 3 or 4
 hours alone before she
 begins work. (760 beds)
 Pray that it may succeed
 in the highest sense -
 that there may be devotion
 & self-denial as well
 as skill & training.

I am sure you do pray
for us.

I have also had great
Indian responsibilities which
do not prosper. Pray too for these

Dearest I have heard
 nothing of you this year -
 I do not know whether
 you have been in London -
 What do you think of
 Amicia's marriage?
 I saw Lady Lothian the
 other day about St. Pancras
 She looks worn to a shade
 May God bless her -
 And may God pour His
 choicest blessings on you
 is the fervent prayer
 of your old friend as ever
 F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:727]

10 South St. W.

July 2/83

Dearest ever dearest

How good of you to
write -

Would 6 o'clock on
"Saturday", as you kindly
propose, suit you?

To-day I am more
than full -

I was in hopes you
were going North with
dear Mary - soon -

ever thy
old Flo

NLS initialed letter, 2ff, black-edged, pen [8:728]

June 22/84

Dearest How good of
you to come yesterday -

I am so very, very sorry
that it is impossible
for me to find a
moment to hear all
that is so near my
heart - before
you leave town - And
you say you go tomorrow
afternoon -

Then - when you come
back, may I not?

How is dear Mary?

I cannot say much for
 poor Parthe. The Nurses
 tell me she has been
 better for the last
 fortnight. But she
 herself will not allow it.

Sir Harry feels far from
 strong : but he is so entirely
 himself again in mind,
 so thankful for this added
 life, & so anxious to dedicate
 every hour to the service
 of God & man.

As you are, my darling.
 I do hope that the blank
 has not been too painful

& has been partly filled
 at least by this
 absorbing interest -

God bless you ever -
 & au revoir shall it not
 be?

I know you would not
 wish me to sacrifice a
 duty even for the great
 pleasure of seeing my
 dearest

ever yours with
 loving love
 F.N.

NLS signed letter, 1f, pen [8:728]

10 South St. W.

June 29/84

Dearest How good of you!

I am very glad you did
 not let Col. Mackenzie come
 to-day. And I shall be
 very glad to see him *tomorrow*
 (*Monday*) at 5, as you so
 kindly propose. I wish I
 could save you the trouble
 of sending to let ~~me~~/him know.

And if you are going on
 Wednesday, dearest of friends,
 would you really come on
 TUESDAY at 5 or at 6?
 I am afraid it is the last day
 I shall have vacant this week.
 God bless you: ever yours
 F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pen [8:728]

10 South St.

July 1/84

Dearest How is Mary?

I feel so anxious about
you both -

Come *this afternoon* at
5 or at 6, if it is convenient
- But do not come if it is
not.

God bless you both
ever yours in loving love
Flo

Col. Mackenzie was so
good as to come yesterday
with such a fund of interest
Many thanks.

Could you give me Lord
Houghton's address, for our
Nursing Commee wants him as
Chairman.

NLS signed letter, 1f, pen [8:729]

10 South St.

July 6/84

Dearest, very dearest
How are you? & how
is Mary?

As you are not going
till "Wednesday", might
I hope that you will
make an appointment
for me to hear your
dear voice again, either on
Monday (to-morrow) or
Tuesday at 5 or at 6

God bless you
with great love
ever yours
F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pen [8:729]

10 South St.

March 10/85

Dearest, very dearest

I am sorry to say that
I am engaged to see Mr.
Commissary Young who is
only a few days in England
& returning to Egypt on
"Thursday afternoon" - & Sunday
I have to see an Anglo-Indian -

Also: Friday & Saturday -
Alas! when can I see thee?

most dearly beloved
ever thine

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:729]

10 South St.

March 18/85

Dearest Mary

God giveth His beloved
sleep. We trust that He
has given rest both of
body & soul to our
beloved, & to you too -

I was so thankful to hear

Mrs. Stewart's account
yesterday. How He has
borne her up in His
loving hands - & will do
so always -

ever yours & hers

Aunt Florence

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pen [8:729]

10 South St.

May 17/85

Dearest I do so want to
know how you are, after
having blessed me with
your dear presence yesterday.
You may have been the worse
for it, I fear so much.

But your spirit is strong -
Thank you, thank you so much
for coming., And God has
been so loving - I am
so glad about Addiscombe -
The pain - how has it been?
God bless you
ever yours F.N.

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pencil [8:730]

Claydon Ho: Winslow Bucks

Aug 7/85

Dearest, ever dearest, & dear

Maysie (who is to rest & enjoy
herself, & not think, for 9 days)

welcome to the dear Baby
Boy - & first, thanks to our
Almighty Father for his
mother's safety & success -
thanks unspeakable -

O may we not say, tho'
in a different sense, still
the same: the Holy Spirit
has overshadowed her -
therefore that holy thing
that has been born of her

shall be called the son of
God -

You taught me to think
of our creation, the
creation of each one of us,
as such an immense gift,
such a divine gift -

Now here is the dearest
man-child born into the
world.

The Jewish mothers rejoiced
& hoped, because each one
of them might be the mother
of the Messiah -

May we not pray with

the fondest hope that *this*
child may be a Gordon
or a Lawrence - not
in profession or in destiny
but in spirit and in
truth?

Let us always be ambitious
for the child of Maysie
But first let us rejoice
with joy unspeakable
that it *is* at all - God
bless it & all of you -
We do pray & we do
sympathize this blessed day
ever yours

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pencil [8:730-31]

10 South St Aug 16/86
 Dearest Thank you so many
 times for your converse on
 Saturday, telling me of so much
 that was deeply interesting -
 Perhaps I may be able to hear
 of some "Manager" - May God
 send him!

Things are so very different
 from what they were 10 & 20 years
 ago - we find it in our Hospital
 wards, & every where - I mean The
 young workmen are now in
 a sense so highly educated.
 All the infidel arguments

are at their tongues' ends -
 Scripture readers are no
 longer a match for them -
 And an inferior Scripture
 reader, who gets into an
 argument with them, only
 hardens them in their
 infidelity -
 They watch the Ward 'Sisters'
 like lynxes - *this is good*
 to see whether their conduct
 tallies with their professions.
 - their deeds & temper
 with their words -

But I send to enquire
 after *Mary* & still more
 after *you*, my dearest. You
 don't look well -

And might, before you go
 to Claydon, *my Messenger*
bring back the collection,
 so invaluable, *of slips*
 you have been so very, very
 good *to make about*
Gordon? if it will not
 trouble you much to find
 it -

There is no danger that I

shall do anything with it
 without you, my dearest.
 But I could now look
 over it, if you could
 kindly send it, as
 you were so very good
 as to say on Saturday.

Don't trouble to write
 God bless you - And He
 does bless you - & your work
 ever yours
 old Flo

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil **[8:731]**

10 South St Aug 19/86
 Dearest

Thanks many for your
 kind letter from Claydon -
 The precious Gordon slips
 did not arrive yesterday,
 as you so kindly wished
 them -

To save you trouble,
 might I send a man
 with this note, who will
 wait in case you wish
 them to come back by
 him?

I was so vexed that on

Monday they took my
 note to you to Mary -
 dear Mary -

How is she?
 & how are you?

Don't trouble to write
 now - a verbal message,
 please

God bless you always
 & your work
 yours ever
 F.N.

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil **[8:731]**

10 South St Aug 25/86

Dearest

I send back the precious Gordon
Extract books to be
continued - Perhaps I ought
to have sent them before
back to you - for the
additions from "Gordon in
Central Africa".

God bless you & Maysie
ever yours
F.N.

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil **[8:731]**

10 South St Aug 29/86

Dearest

Might I have the loan of
the precious books of
Gordon Extracts for this
afternoon?

How are you & Maysie?
& the little (big) soul?

Thanks a thousand for
the lovely flowers & roses & fruit -
God bless you
ever yours
F.N.

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil **[8:731]**

Dearest I was so shocked

to trouble you this
morning just as you
were going to church -

There is a meeting at
Aldershot tomorrow to
interest the soldiers in
the Gordon Boys' Home -
I have been asked to
write a letter - which I do.

Don't trouble about
the books now - Don't
send them now

It is all settled

I don't want to prey upon
 you, especially at this time
 so will only say, if you,
 dearest, feel inclined & it
 is not too much to ask, if only for the day, they
 are to be heard of (as thus)
 during this week

Louis Shore Smith
 c/o W.A. Ramsey Esq.
 Loyal House
 Alyth
 N.B.

And they will be in N.
 Scotland during the
 fortnight beginning
 August 18. Don't think of this
 again, if inconvenient

God bless you, dearest,
 in all your works
 ever yours

F. Nightingale

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil {black-edged} **[8:733]**

March 30/91
 {printed address:} 10, South Street,
 Park Lane. W.

Dearest, ever dearest

Your dear precious note
 only arrived this morning.
 I know now you will be setting
 out - Please, please, don't trouble
 I send my measurements (over
 my clothes) in obedience to your
 great kindness
 45 ½ inches all round under the
 arm pits
 42 ½ all round the waist
 17 ½ inch. from shoulder to shoulder

But please let me manage
 it myself with Finsbury Square
 now - All Easter blessings
 attend you - You do not say if
 you have found Miss Julia Farrer -
 That is the important thing
 ever thy F.N.

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pen {black-edged} with envelope: Ask if she is in London or when coming: **[8:733]**

Louisa Lady Ashburton
Kent House
Knightsbridge
16/7/91

16/7/91

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

Dearest friend

I am longing to see
you; you kindly say
by Telegram "this week's
latter end".

But I have a difficulty
in making an appointment,
having twice failed
on the day you
appointed -

I *could* see you
at 5 or 6 on Friday
(tomorrow) or Saturday.
But I must, please, know
ever your F.

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil & pen {black-edged} **[8:733]**

May 4/94

{printed address:} 10, South Street,

Park Lane. W.

Dearest You cannot tell how
sorry I was not to be able
to see you last night - And
I was so anxious to know
about Maisie -

But I had one of our best
women with me, an Assistant
Matron from the enormous
Workhouse Infirmary at
Birmingham who came up on
business & in fact did not leave
me till the last train to
Birmingham. I am sure
your gentleness would not
wish me to prevent these things,
even if I could.

I will keep this afternoon

(after 4) free, in case you
are able to come, my
dearest

ever your old Flo

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil {black-edged} [8:733-34]

August 29/94

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest It was so good
of you to come last
night. And I was so
grieved not to be able
to see you - But I was
so dead-beat that I
could not have spoken -
And I had no idea
that you were in (or
near) London -

To-day I have work
that cannot be put off -
But if you were staying
in London till tomorrow

afternoon (Thursday) &
could spare me half
an hour in the afternoon,
I should be so glad : if you will tell me the hour.

God bless you -
ever your loving
F.N.

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil {black-edged} [8:734]

Oct 12/94

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest

I am so grieved that
you are so poorly - I
trust in God that he
will raise you up again
soon - dearest child of
God. He is always
with you -

I will not trouble you
now - ever in His name
your loving
F.N.

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pen {black-edged} [8:734]

Claydon Oct 30/94

Dearest

Oh thank you,
thank you a thousand
times for your most
kind & lovely letter -
I am almost sorry
that you are not
going to Egypt &
very, very sorry for
the reason -

I am afraid I
cannot be of any real
service to dear
Maysey about Egypt.

It is 45 years
since I was in Egypt.
The very climate
has changed since then.

And I have not
kept up my knowledge
of books in the least
As a general rule
I think *modern*
books are 50 per cent
better than 50 years
ago - There is ancient
old Herodotus always
new -

But I will think over

things & enquire if
possible: & send you
word.

God speed them.

I do not even know
whether they are
going up the Nile
or staying at Cairo,
or where -

I am sure that
Mr. Robertson will
"do well" "with" you
& "by" you too. He is
so conscientious, so
well equipped for work,

so good. But I
will write more
about him too.
I gave your dear message
to Mrs. Verney. She
thinks of you so much.
ever, dearest,
your loving
old Flo

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil {black-edged} [8:734-35]

July 6/95
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

My dear friend

I am so very sorry
that I do not know of the
sort of person you need -
[You know we do not
train for *private* Nursing.
And the sort of person
does not come in our way.]
I will make enquiries -
But I think if I were
you, I would send to
Miss Pyne
Westminster Hospl
who has a large staff of
private Nurses, carefully

telling her *what* you want,
that she may see if
she has any one that
would suit you -
I am so afraid you are
the worse for coming here
yesterday -

Yours ever

F. Nightingale

Lady Ashburton

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:735]

April 20/97

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest I have not
yet heard from you
as you kindly promised
whether you will be able
to come *this afternoon*
at 5 -

I have arranged to
come down-stairs to
save you a story -

I do not know of
any other day that I

shall be able to have
the great pleasure
of seeing you again
after such a long
while -

We have so much
work -

God bless you &

Maysey

ever your loving
F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:735]

Private May 2/97

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest, very dearest
Thank you again & again
for your most lovely
flowers - your roses of
which the sight & fragrance
are equally delightful,
"I keep 'em all for me".

When you were here
the other blessed day, you
said a few very kind & true
words about the Robertsons.
Would you put those on
paper & send them to me?

It would be a kindness
worthy of you. You know
I would make no bad
use of them -

God bless you
ever yours
F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:735]

Jany 21/98
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest,

I was so sorry not
to see you on Sunday
when you were so
good as to call -

But I did not even
know that you were
in London - & I was
as usual chuck full
of engagements which
I could not put off
& which you would
not ask me to put off.

Is there any chance
of your being able to
come to-morrow
(Saturday) or Sunday
at say 3-30 or 4?
ever your loving
F. Nightingale
R.S.V.P.

NLS initialed letter, 1f, pencil [8:736]

Feb 21/98
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest

Thank you so much
for your note - I am
so grieved that you are
so poorly. PRAY don't
run any risks but
keep warm till you go
off for Cairo - dear Cairo
ever your most loving
F.N.

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:736]

July 7/98

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest

Please come at
one o'clock, as you are
so good as to wish to
come -

yours ever lovingly

F. Nightingale

A thousand thanks for
the most lovely flowers,
& for the rich treat
of grapes & peaches
& strawberries &
vegetables which you
were so good as to send

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:736]

July 10/98

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest

I am so very sorry
that I shall not see
you again, I am afraid,
before you leave
London tomorrow,
now.

I would have been
ready for you at one,
when you were so good
as to call, if I had
known you were coming

Till you return,

& ever, I can only say:
I commend you to Him
who is perfect Love &
Perfect Wisdom.

ever your

old Flo

Take care of yourself

NLS signed letter, 2ff, pencil [8:736]

Nov 24/98

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest I waited &
watched for you to come
yesterday as you kindly
promised - But you
never came - too busy
I dare say -

Will you give my
dearest & most
reverent love to
Maisie, who is a
Saint & an Angel -
I do not know

where she is in Egypt -
nor how to address to
you there -

But if you have not
time to send it, I will
apply at Kent house
for it - your address.

All blessings attend you,
& the dear Saint will
have all blessings -
Fare you very well in

~~Adeli~~, delightful Egypt -

May God bless you &
her - And He will bless
you both.

ever your loving

F. Nightingale

I do not know whether
you are going all the
way by sea or across
France - but I will
learn at Kent house-

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:737]

March 1/1900
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest

I am very sorry -
I certainly shall not
have a free day until
after next Tuesday -
But I am not sure of
that even -

Would next Wednesday
at 5 do? if free

with love

ever yours

F. Nightingale

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:737]

Sunday. March 18
1900
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest

We are rather busy &
Easter coming on -

But I will make time
to see you (WITHOUT your
"Police" is understood-→ happy
Police!) on "Friday at 5"
(not "earlier") as you propose
for a short time - as this
is the last time I can see
thee before Easter -

ever your

Old Flo

The Lady Ashburton

NLS signed letter, 1f, pencil [8:737]

Oct 24/1901
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dearest Many thanks
for your kind note.
I am sorry that I do not
know of any suitable
person that I could
really recommend, as I
have so little to do with
Nurses - now that I have
to keep my room.

I was so pleased to have
a talk with you the
other day. It was good
of you to come - now that

~~Now~~

~~that~~ you are so poorly.
And it is such a drag
up my stairs.

God bless you
With much love
yours

Flo

National Library of Scotland

Note: MS 10088 has 3 letters with the same number, MS 2.1.15 has 2 letters with the same number, ACC 9548 has 2 letters and MS 23183 with 2 letters

NLS MS 7356 signed letter, ff55-56, pen

f55

30 Old Burlington St

London

Dec 20/56

My dear Sir

Would you write
down for me the
subjects which
compose *now* a
Medical Education,
as you stated them
to me (when I last
had the pleasure of
seeing you at Edinburgh,)

f56

excluding as they do
Sanitary instruction -
Believe me
yours most faithfully

F. Nightingale

I shall be very grateful
to you for this information,
clearly & specifically put,
as you will do it.

{in other hand:} George Combe Esq

NLS MS 23183 signed letter, ff179-80v, pen

f179

30 Old Burlington St

W

Feb 28/59

Sir

In sending you,
by Mrs. Harriet
Martineau's directions,
the accompanying
M.S., - I venture
to take the liberty
of asking you
whether you
could forward a

f179v

parcel of books to
Dr. Duncan McPherson,
for whom you
published the
"Antiquities of
Kertch" -

The books (which
the Bearer brings)
are unpublished
"Confidential" Govern=
ment documents.
I do not know

f180

Dr. McPherson's
present address -
He was Principal
Medical Officer at
Madras - Should
you be able to
send the books,
you will perhaps
be good enough
to mention [overtop illeg] the expence
of carriage to the
Bearer, who will
pay it - & also

f180v

to give him Dr.
McPherson's present
address for me -

I remain Sir

yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

G. Smith Esq.

NLS MS 23183 signed letter, f181, pen

f181

30 Old Burlington St W

Sept 9/59

To G. Smith Esq.

Sir

I beg to enclose your account
& the payment of it -

I think there is error in the
number "20" Copies.

I beg to thank you very
cordially for the trouble you have
taken in this & other matters for me and I
regret that my increasing ill
health prevents me from
writing more than this brief
acknowledgment - I am, Sir,
yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

NLS MS 1890 signed letter, ff16-17v, pen

f16

Hampstead NW

Oct 24/61

(seven years this very
day since I began
to fight for the Army)
My dear Mrs Martineau

A qualm has
taken me that I
may not be able to
fulfil my engagement
with you, relative to
furnishing materials
for the Articles (Army)
in the D. News.

Unforseen circum=

f16v

stances have brought
such a press of
business on me for
November -

It is no use my
drawing up anything
for you *now*, because
what you want to
know is where the
H. Guards &c are
thwarting S.H.'s plans.
And just now I
have no communication
with the War Office,
owing to the absence
from London of people.

f17

You may depend
upon my sending
materials, *if I can* -
But my physical
strength less & less
obeys the will.

I send you a
sketch (private) of
what S.H. had done -
printed only because
it is less trouble to
me than copying it.
Probably there is
nothing in it new
to you. The only
other person who

f17v

has it, is Mr. Gladstone
who asked for it. And
I was obliged to give
it him, out of deference
to S.H.'s wife, who
wished it. He
professed himself
ignorant of what
his friend had done
& said all this was
new to him. Alas
if this were true -

Yours ever

F. Nightingale

NLS MS 3650 signed letter, ff192-93, pen black-edged paper

f192

9 Chesterfield St W

July 9/62

Sir

Without an introduction to you or an acquaintance with you, I am doing perhaps a surprising thing in asking you to be so good as to give me 5 minutes' conversation. It refers to our friend, Arthur Clough-

I am so ill that I am obliged to live in almost total

solitude & therefore cannot ask you to name your own hour.

If Friday or Sunday at 3 o'clock would suit you, it would suit me. If not, let me try to find some hour that would suit you -

yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale

NLS MS 10335 signed letter, ff161-63v, pen black-edged paper, copy 7204

f161

Hampstead
London N.W.
Aug 3/63

My dear Sir

I send you by post **[9:234-35]**
to day a copy of the
2 folio Blue Book of
the India Army Sanitary
Report.

Will you allow me
to make two remarks?

1. The I.O. is attacking
our Statistics, as being
exaggerated - whereas
they are in fact
understated - i.e.
the Death rate is

f161v

understated, because
it does not bring
into account the
invaliding from the
Army for disease, including
the men who died on their passage home.

(b) The I.O. says
the war years ~~which~~
yield the highest
Death rates, x (& ought not
to be take into the
averages)- & that therefore
peace, & not
Sanitary measures,
is the remedy.

x not from wounds

f162

As well might it say
that, because the
Army nearly perished
before Sevastopol, *not*
from wounds but
from the want of
every appliance of
civilized life - therefore
peace, & not the supply
of the appliances of
civilized life, should
have been the remedy.

Please tell Sir
John McNeill this.

It is astonishing
how easily the India

f162v

Office is satisfied
of the truth of any
thing it is thought
desirable to assert.

2. Not one single soul
has laid hold of our
chief, our main point,
viz. reform your
Stations first - the
state of your Stations
is such as to account
for any Mortality even
in the finest climate
of Europe - & the
finest climate of
Europe could never
make your Stations

f163

healthy, in their present
state, viz. that of dwellings
of beasts, not of
civilized men - What
must they be then
under a tropical sun?

3. Please let the
reviewer press the
Sanitary organization
recommended - viz.
the Presidency Commissions,
*and the home
Commission* to set
them going with
some experience -
The question is
nothing less than

f163v

to create a Public
Health Department
for India -

Many thanks for
interesting yourself
about the review.
I wish you could have
looked it over with
Sir John McNeill -

Believe me
ever yours very faithfully
Florence Nightingale
Prof: Christison

[end 9:235]

NLS ACC 9548 signed letter, 2ff, pen black-edged paper

{printed address:}

35 South Street, Sept 28/69
Park Lane,
W.

My dear Dr. Balfour

A long, long time passes
("it's a way time has") before I
write on anything but the
most pressing business - even to you.

And yet I have two kind
letters to thank you for - and
your Annual Vol: for 1867.

Believe me that I have
read a great part of this with
the greatest pleasure & interest.
There are some statements in
your part of it which are
extremely remarkable - & about
which I think I may perhaps
trouble you with a longer letter.
But I must not let my
pleasure interfere with my

gratitude - & put off this
already too long deferred letter,
- deferred only by press of work
& failing strength,- any longer.
I trust that you will succeed,
as you propose, in getting out
your next Annual Vol: &
succeeding Vols: before or
soon after the Meeting of
Parliament - And this without
being too great a strain upon
yourself - Both are
points of much importance.
I hope that your trip has
restored you from your
fatigues - a well deserved truce
to your labours - & that Mrs.

Balfour is quite well.

Pray give her my kindest regards - & my sympathy & congratulations, - the warmest, - on the success of her boy at school. Who would think that so many years have elapsed since I had the pleasure of seeing so much of you that you & Mrs. Balfour should have a boy carrying off prizes at School? May he live till he has put a 0 to his years!

Pray believe me
ever yours most truly
Florence Nightingale

NLS ACC 9548 incomplete letter, 2ff, pen, text not by but signed by FN

[2]

quite beyond anything we have done yet. I once saw an attempt at it made by two unprofessional men, wishing to make a Sanitary Statistical Enquiry in a particular district.

There were eighteen columns of figures allotted to each family every one of which was important.

Without praising this particular form of Statistical data, which may have been, & possibly was, unnecessarily complicated, it seemed to me an indication of what might be done in that line.

You have done in the army all that could be done, at that

time, a great deal more than any other men could have done:

You began it before anything had been done in civil life & any one must be ignorant indeed who could underrate what you have thus done.

Still it is not what I mean by Sanitary Statistics which I have never yet seen initiated in or out of the Army. In the army I thoroughly believe they will be before very long, & under your auspices. In civil life I doubt. I am quite sure that

Greenhow & Simon have given no signs of it: Neison still less.

I trust that Mrs Balfour & her son are flourishing like green bay trees. Please give them both my kindest regards & believe me ever my dear sir

very sincerely yours

Florence Nightingale [signed by FN]

PS. I do not forget that I have three valuable books of yours: they are quite safe & with me here, but shall be returned to you if you want them back.

NLS MS 10982 copy of signed letter, f70-v, pen

f70

Copy 25 South Street,
Park Lane W

Feb. 23/78

My dear Lady Tulloch

I give you joy, I give us both
joy, for this crowning in recognition
of one of the noblest labours ever
done on earth. ~~Your yourself~~
cannot cling to it more than I do;
hardly so much in one sense for
I saw how Sir John McNeill's & 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. Martins note is perfect for
it does not look like an afterthought
nor as if prompted by others: but
as the flow of a generous and able
man's own reflection & careful
search into authentic documents
& it also brings back the reader
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
remember me gratefully to Mrs
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

NLS Adv MS 2.1.15 initialed letter, f14-v, pen

f14

June 12/79

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Very dear "Little Sister"

Be very sure that you will
be the very first to hear
when anything is known.

My message to you (I ought
to have written it down) was
NOT that "the W.O. wd= take the
Nursing expedn= under its wing"
"but that we shd= do nothing
'without the authority of
the W.O.ce'

Since you left, the
commns= from both W.O. &
Ly Burdett Coutts have
been fast & furious.

But *nothing* definite
Both wish apply for Nurses
to us.

I am to see a Stafford House
lady this afternoon. (I do *not*

f14v

think we shall give them
our Nurses)

I am also to have a
Commner= from the W.O -
[Col. Stanley says there may
be an engagement any day]-
=====

Nothing is known: nothing
fixed.

I am so overworked that
I write in direst haste
God bless you

God speed the work
PRAY for it.

F.N.

Adv MS 2.1.15 signed note, f16-v, pen

f16

I have so much to say
& so little strength to say it.

Fare you very well -

ever, ever yours

F. Nightingale

f16v

{printed address:} 10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

{not F.N. vert. on page:} New Years Day 1881
10 South Street

NLS MS 10290 signed letter, f106, pen

f106

Jan 18/84

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Mrs. Green

I am so much obliged to
you for remembering me:

it seems as if I had a
fore taste of the happiness
to come, for I had reserved
Saturday, at 5 (to morrow) free

hoping to see you

ever yours in humility

F. Nightingale

NLS MS 6103 signed letter, ff120-23, pen, typed copy 45807 f146

f120

Dec 29/84

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:} [1:763-64]
PARK LANE. W.

Sir

I venture to hope that you will pardon me, tho' a stranger, for writing to you, & not waiting for one of our many mutual friends to introduce my letter to your kindness.

It is to ask you to be so very good as to tell me in whose charge is now Brown's Hospital for Animals (? at Battersea). It had, I know, the advantage of your great name & skill

f120v

at its creation.

My reason for asking yourself, the fountain-head, to direct me is: my unhappy experience of what you would call the brute-like ignorance of Veterinary Surgeons in treating brutes, especially thorough bred cats.

Within the last month a highly recommended Veterinary Surgeon so treated the last of a famous breed of real tortoiseshell Persian cats, (given me 27 years ago by a foreign friend, now dead)

f121

that they died - a mother cat
& her kitten- in 36 hours
in tortures. Both were in
perfect health before. The cat
had scratched a small wound
on her neck, occasioned, as he
said, by "parasites": To destroy
these parasites, he destroyed
the cats by, in spite of my
warnings & entreaties to run
no such risk, steeping both
cat & kitten in a "Patent
Dressing" which, he said, he
"always used with success"--
& which turned out to be an
Extract of Tar. Could any
result possibly follow but
what did follow- viz. a cruel

f121v

death? [It was like the
Centaur's shirt which killed
Hercules. We could not get
the Tar off.] The cats' looks
at me were pitiful to see.
The kitten I was obliged to have
put out of its misery. The
maids sate up with them,
they were such favourites.
[I am myself an overworked
Invalid.] Every cat of mine
whom he had previously treated
died under his hands, tho' I
could not say that they died
of what he did but of his
ignorance what to do.

This man is the Veterinary
Surgeon of a large district

f122

[2]

near London with an
immense practice among
all kinds of animals.

I was advised to prosecute
him but do not wish to
injure him. But I wish
to save future animals from
Veterinary Surgeons.

I am encroaching too much
on your kindness by so long
a letter.

Might I ask you to be
so very good as to give me
such particulars of this
Brown's Hospital or of any
other Doctors for Animals,
of which your name alone
would be sufficient guarantee,

f122v

that I might make use of
the information both for
myself & others.

It is not only for the sake of
valuable pets but for the
sake of all animals that I
write.

Pray believe me
ever your faithful servt=
Florence Nightingale

f123

A Tom kitten of mine,
several mouths old, had taken
the little kitten, about a
fourth his size, under his
protection. He nursed it,
washed it, - it used to lie
between his paws - kept its
food for it. Since its ~~his~~ death
he has been inconsolable:
his mourning for it has been
quite human.

F.N.

Professor Burdon Sanderson
&c &c M.D.

NLS MS 150 signed letter, ff52-53v, pen

[13:368]

answered 5 Au
f52

Aug 4/87
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Sir

How can I thank you for
your beautiful little book,
"Notes on Surgery for Nurses"-
It will be worth its weight in
gold to them & to us too- And
I shall have the *pleasure* of
giving many copies, *and*
the *regret* that its author
is no longer giving to Nurses
the inestimable advantage
of his direct instruction-
& his bed-side instruction.
Joseph Bell Esq
&c &c

f52v

Pray believe me
ever yours faithfully & gratefully
Florence Nightingale

f53

Private

I know that you are kindly
anxious that Miss Pringle
should have a sufficient
rest & holiday between
her works, Edinburgh &
St. Thomas', - which rest is
indeed *greatly* needed.
I fear she only means to
take a mean little holiday
of a very few days about
a week before leaving Edinburgh.
Could you be so very kind
as to advise her to do
what you may think right?
F.N.

NLS Ms 10088 signed letter, ff35-36v, pencil [10:219-20]

f35 Dy Surgeon Genl= }

Hewlett } May 14/89
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Sir Harry Verney

You will remember my friend,
Deputy Surgeon Genl- Hewlett,
of the Bombay Medical Service,
from which he had to retire
last year, after 25 to 30 years
constant {overtop great} work, & come home, as
full of energy as ever. He was
one of the best Sanitary
Officers in India, if not the
best. He was Health Officer
for Bombay, when he was a
Sanitarily=engineered city
in himself. But alas! - they
did not keep it up, after he
was removed to a higher
appointment. He was Sanitary

f35v

Commissioner for Bombay Presy=,
both during the Famine of
1877-8, when he did a
great work, [I wrote a little
account of it in "Good Words",
which I mention only to show
that I have known his
career for years & years],
and during the last 5 or 7
years.

He is now most anxious
for work here. He applied for
the Medical Officership of the
London County Council, but
was too late. And they have
3 good men of English experience
He has now applied for the

f36

Assistant Health Officership;
 and if he could have a free
 hand in the East of London,--
 within two years, please
 God, they should see a change.

Do you think Lord Rosebery
 would allow me or you to
 give Mr Hewlett an introduction
 to him? I have not of
 course told Mr. Hewlett that
 I would ask Lord Rosebery
 this. But I think Lord
 Rosebery would be pleased
 with Mr. Hewlett's energy &
 thoroughness of knowledge,
 experience & work. Few men
 would be so valuable under

f36v

the County Council. And
 he is too a man of rare
 devotedness, indefatigable,
 & of the very highest
 character.

[end 10:220]

ever, dear Sir Harry Verney
 sincerely yours
 Florence Nightingale

NLS Ms 10088 signed letter, ff39-40, pen

f39

May 22/89

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
 PARK LANE. W.

Dear Lord Rosebery

I am touched by your
 merry kindness. And if you
 are so good as to wish to
 see me, would 5.30 or 6
 suit your convenience on
 Thursday (to-morrow)
 afternoon or on Friday?
 Or if that does not suit
 you, shall I find another
 time?

The most pathetic thing
 I thought I ever say was
 Lady Sybil (is that her

f39v

name?) clinging to you
when you were going to
India. And tho' I fear
I have nothing to amuse
any one with, if you
kindly wish to "bring"
"one of" your "children"
with you, at all events
I should see their best
pleasure, yourself
restored to them.

f40

Might I ask the favour
of a post-card saying
what time you will
come?

Pray believe me
your faithful servt=
Florence Nightingale

NLS Ms 10088 signed letter, ff41-42, pen

f41

May 30/89

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Lord Rosebery

You had the goodness to **[10:220]**
appoint Mr. Hewlett, - ex.
Sanitary Commissioner of
Bombay, wishing to be
Assistant Officer of Health
to your County Council -
to see you to-day at noon
at your Office

I regret to have to say
that he has had a sudden
attack of serious illness; and
his Doctor will not allow him

f41v

to stir. It is his wife who writes
to me.

I trust that so valuable a
man will soon be restored,
& that I may still have leave
to ask your kindness to
say a time for him to wait
upon you. **[end 10:220]**

very faithfully yours
Florence Nightingale

NLS Ms 10090 signed letter, ff11-12, pen & pencil black-edged paper

f11

Jan 7/92

Claydon House, {printed address:}
Winslow,
Bucks.

Dear Lord Rosebery

I cannot thank you too **[1:820]**
much for your note. You
speak of writing to the "poor
"imprisoned Captain" & ask
where he is. If this kind
thought does impel you, &
you will send your letter
here, though it cannot reach
him immediately, nor can
he reply, he will be so
grateful.

[He is at Pentonville Prison.
The rules are most severe.
Once a quarter his wife is
allowed to write. All other
letters, even yours, would be
opened & destroyed.] Thank you so much **[end 1:820]**

f11v

You are so very kind as to
 say that you would see "Mr.
 "Morant", the young Englishman
 who has done a great
 Educational work in Siam,
 I would not urge it on any
 account. But he remains at
 the Siamese Legation
 23 Ashburn Place S.W.
 till the middle or end of February.
 He is a man who has done &
 suffered much.

Shall I show other than
 fellow-feeling if I say that. I
 trust the time may soon come
 when you will be able to

f12

resume your public life,
 so fraught with good to
 so many
 and with affectionate regards
 to little Lady Sybil if I may,
 beg you to believe me
 your faithful servant
 Florence Nightingale

NLS Ms 741 signed letter, 1f, pencil black-edged paper]

Oct 10/ {arch:} [?1893]

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
 PARK LANE. W.

My dear Sir

I send a bit of a
 letter of mine for your
 criticism- Perhaps we
 may add something about
 female Missioners of
 Health some day-
 Miss Herford is, I think
 the name of the lady
 who has a Native
 Girls' School at Poona
 What do you think of
 her? Might she know
 of some girls who

[10:772]

would be fit?
I had such pleasure in
hearing of Bombay
Presy= from you- &
of your care of its people [end 10:772]
ever sincerely yours
F. Nightingale
Dr MacRury

NLS ACC 6414 signed letter, 2ff, pencil black-edged paper, also in
Edinburgh University as letter to Louisa Stevenson

Jany= 22/97 [13:376]
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Madam

Miss Guthrie Wright
writes to me that you wish
to see me upon the matter
of "Hospital arrangements"
referring to Edinburgh
R. Infirmary -

I am very much occupied
& far from strong - But if
you are so good as to wish
it, I would see you p.m-
to-day (Friday) at 5.30.

It would however be
greatly to my benefit
if you would kindly
put upon paper any

questions upon which
you would wish to have
my views

I will endeavour to
look them over before I
see you & perhaps put some-
thing in writing.

Broadly speaking, an
experienced Matron is by
far the best judge of what
regulations are suitable
for her Nursing Staff
Excuse pencil

yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale

Miss Louisa Stevenson

{up diag:}

I will send
our Messenger at any
time you name this morning
if you will kindly put these
questions on paper.

[end]

F.N.

NLS Ms 10112 signed letter, ff30-31, pencil

f30

Feb. 13/99

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Lord Rosebery

Thank you for your
very kind note, asking
me to see you some
day this week.

Would Saturday
~~at~~ 18th at 5 suit you?
or if, as is very likely,
it would not, would
Thursday 16th, at 4
or at 5, suit you?

f30v

I trust you will
excuse me for not
answering your kind
note before= I am
a good deal be-colded
& a prisoner to my room
& rather busy

yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

f31

The

Earl of Rosebery
&c &c

NLS Ms 10086 incomplete letter, ff226-27v, pen

f226

[2]

not Lord Dufferin do the same
with the Sanitary Dept=?]

During the last few months [10:702-03]
the Govt= of India have ordered
one at least of the Provincial
Govts= (Madras - qy perhaps
Bombay too?) to revise *at once*
all their educational rules
"so that reasonable encouragement
may be afforded to *Technical*
& Scientific instruction as
well as to Literary instruction".

Qy does the word "Agricultural"
follow the word "Technical" in
the Minute? as "one of the
most important subjects".
For in an Agricultural country

f226v

like India, is not "Agricultural"
to "Technical" as 100 to one?

If it does [overtop illeg], it is the first time
"Agricultural" has been put
'in orders' by the Govt- of India.

And is not this too actually

a political matter? Our
education has made the young
Baboos all look to Govt=
situations - not one in ten
can have them. That makes
them Home Rulers, seditious
writers in newspapers.

The professions of Law &
Medicine are also overstocked
Unless Govt- directs the
attention of these young

f227

fellows to the land, to agriculture
 as a profession, what
 opening is there for them?
 And in the Primary Schools,
 everything is alluded [overtop illeg] to but
 agriculture.

You were speaking of the dangers
 of local self-government.

Yes, it is very true. And, also,
 people will try to get a
 majority- to befriend their
 own poor relations.
 But is there not a greater
 danger on the other side?

f227v

N.B. Madras has taken the
 Govt= of India order as it was
 meant. In their new Educational
 Technical scheme, Agriculture
 is "one of the most important
 subjects". And there are
 several examinations under
 the scheme, leading up to the
 exam: for a diploma in Agriculture.

I am sure that if you are kind
 enough to moot either of these
 subjects, Sanitary or Agricultural,
 with Lord Reay or Lord Dufferin,
 you will do so as from yourself,
 without mentioning poor me, which
 would take away all the authority

Good speed to your enterprise [end 10:703]

& a happy return, full of {printed address upside down to the left:}

India _ And believe 10, SOUTH STREET,
 me ever your faithful servt= PARK LANE. W.
 Florence Nightingale

Royal College of Nursing, paper copies

RCN/FN1/1 signed letter to Maj Gen Storkes, 1f, pen

FNI/1

Barrack Hospital Scutari [14:175]

April 1 1855

Sir

I am truly rejoiced
to be able to inform you
that your brother, John
Hindle, of the 33rd, who
was wounded at Inkermann,
is *gone home* to England.

I remain

yours truly

Florence Nightingale

[end]

RCN/FNI/2 signed letter, 2ff, pen black-edged paper, published in *Times* 12
June 1943 2D

FN1/2/1

Castle Hospital

[14:264]

Balaclava

Nov 10/55

My dear Sir

I was unspeakably
relieved to find (by
the mail which
came in last night)
that no Nurse was
dead or dying - that
Miss Morton was
comfortably sitting up
in my room at my
private House in
Scutari - perfectly
recovered, by her Doctor's

FNI/2/2

& her own account
of everything but
weakness -

And when next [illeg]
Mr. [illeg] brings
such a "cock & bull"
story to the Crimea
to "frighten honest folk
out of their wits," who
have the responsibility
of others' lives & healths,
will you tell him
that, if a *Patient* dies
in our Hospitals at
Scutari, his name is

sent to me - far more
if one of the women dies,
who have been placed
under my charge as
much as if I were
their mother, should I
expect any man to
have the humanity to learn
her name - before he commu-
nicates her death -

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours truly

Florence Nightingale

I have executed all
your commands -

[end]

RCN/FN1/3 signed letter, ff/1-4, pen

FN1/3/1

General Hospital

[14:408]

Balaclava

May 31/56

Sir

I fear that you will think I am troubling you on a "fool's errand" but it is not I who am the "fool" - A poor mother in New York writes to me to forward the enclosed letters to her son (who does not write to her) giving me however neither Regiment, Regimental Number nor other information - If it did not happen to me every mail to find some poor mother firmly believing her own son to be the only soldier in the Queen's service, this would appear incredible -

Twenty months' experience has

FN1/3/2

however given me much of the habits of a "Detective" Policeman I have "detected" so far that this poor woman's son is

Serjeant John Allen

of a Cavalry Regiment in the East
i.e. under your command.

And I trust that you will forgive me if I ask, if it be possible for you to cause enquiries to be made among your Regiments for the said Serjeant & desire the enclosed letter to be given him & desire him to write to his mother -

(She says that I have before written to her - But this does not

FNI/3/3

help me at all-)

I trust that you will
perceive the necessity of my
giving you all this trouble -

[end]

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedt servt

Florence Nightingale

Lt. General

the Honble Sir J.Y. Scarlett KCB

&c &c &c

FNI/3/4

{in another hand}

From

Florence Nightingale

May 31. 56

Balaclava

RCN/FNI/4 dictated letter & envelope, ending and signature by FN, ff1-4,
pen

FNI/4/1

{direction} Miss Pilkington

Chevet Park

Wakefield

{written over and perpendicular to -
Miss Nightingale from Balaclava}

FNI/4/2 not in FN's hand, but signed by her

General Hospital

Balaclava

June 2d/56

My dear Madam

I feel truly concerned
that though your valua-
ble contribution has
been long since received,
& has been most useful
to those for whom you
intended it, the note

FNI/4/3

which accompanied it
has only this very day
been put into my hands,
having been acciden-
tally mislaid. I
trust you will kindly
excuse this long de-
layed acknowledg-
ment, which I must
repeat, I regret extremely.

May I beg you to
express my thanks to

those who have so
kindly contributed to
the comfort of the
sufferers in the Hospi-
tals, & my very sin-
cere regret that the
mislaying of your
note, has prevented
my thanking sooner,
those who gave us
such very useful

FNI/4/4

assistance in the
day of our need.
{in FN's hand}

I remain
my dear Madam
faithfully & gratefully yours
F. Nightingale

RCN/FNI/5 signed letter, ff1-2, pen [6:193] black-edged paper

FNI/5/1

{printed address:} 32, South Street,
Grosvenor Square. W.

Nov 28/62

My dear Sir

I am extremely
obliged to you for the
winding up of the
Colonial (Hospitals)
Tables.

With all the
drawbacks which
you so justly point
out, they tell more
than any papers I
have, or have seen,
as to Native diseases

FNI/5/2

& conditions in those
colonies -

Believe me

yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

W. Clode Esq

RCN/FNI/6 signed letter & envelope, ff1-5, pen {envelope postmarked:
{ILLEG} FE 8}

FN1/4 dictated FN letter, with sign off and signed in FN hand, pen, to Miss
Pilkington, envelope

General Hospital

Balaclava

June 2d/56

My dear Madam

I feel truly concerned
that though your valua
ble contribution has
been long since received,
& has been most useful
to those for whom you
intended it, the note

which accompanied it
has only this very day
been put into my hands,
having been acciden
tally mislaid. I
trust you will kindly
excuse this long de-
layed acknowledg
ment, which I must
repeat, I regret extremely
 May I beg you to
express my thanks to

those who have so
kindly contributed t
the comfort of the
sufferers in the Hospi
tals, & my very sin
cere regret that the
mislaying of your
mote, has prevented
my thanking sooner,
those who gave us
such very useful

assistance in the
day of our need.
[FN hand] I remain
my dear Madam
faithfully & gratefully yours
F. Nightingale

black-edged envelope, stamped, cancelled
Miss Pilkington
Chevet Park
Wakefield

FNI/6 black-edged paper, pen **[8:538-39]**

35 South St

Park Lane W Feb 8/73

Dearest ever dearest friend

It does seem so long
between the times I hear
from you - & of you
Good Mrs. Sutherland
gives me news of you
sometimes - But I have
no one to send down to
bring me word of you -
Yet my thoughts &
prayers are always with
you - O would I could
see you - But that is
a selfish wish.

FNI/6/3

My own work is more of
a struggle every day -
But I have had a nice
letter from the new
Governor-General of
India, speaking of his
wish to help me in it
"for the sake of his
old Master, Sidney
Herbert" -

[10:122]

[end 10:122]

You know that Dr.
Lushington is dead,
aged 91 - such a
peaceful end, in the
midst of his children -

Scarcely a month before,
 he had gone to Oxford,
 to vote for Dr. Stanley.
It is a terrible break-up
 at Ockham for his
 daughters.

 But, dearest, ever
dearest, more than
mother, there is no
break-up, no sorrow
like yours. I think of
it day & night. But
then, how blessed will
be the waking - You will
have "another dawn
than ours" -

FNI/6/2

"To-day shalt thou be
 with me in Paradise,"
as you said.

 For myself, I try to
wish neither to die nor
to live - but to let God
will for me in all things.

 I have been lent two
wonderful water-coloured
drawings by Lear, (who
is now gone to India to
draw) - One is a deep
red & purple dawn, or
rather before dawn on
the Nile, near Osyoot,

FNI/6/4

-2-

such as you & I & he who
was then with us on
earth - have so often
looked at together.

The other is a dark green
& lilac & yellow view
of the Valley of Jeshossaphat,
with the Mount of Olives
such as you have described
to me - I think of the
18th Chapter of St. John,
the taking to prison of
our Lord, & the beginning
of his Passion, & trace
his steps -

FNI/6/5

You know that Sir
Bartle Frere is gone to
Zanzibar to negotiate
with its Sultan - who
was once a prisoner in
his hands at Bombay -
the putting an end to
the East African Slave
trade - I saw him
before he went - & have
heard of his conversations
with the Viceroy of Egypt
on his way out. He says
that Egypt is so changed
-- more good & more evil
- the fellah better off -

but more luxury, &
 Frank dissipation too -
 railways, iron bridges, roads
 & new buildings quite
 transform the face of
 the Nile.

Sir Samuel Baker's
 expedition is not
 succeeding - The excellent
 Dr. Livingstone, having
 received his supplies,
 has plunged again into
 the depths of Central
 Africa -

My father & mother are
 well - But they age very

FN1/6/4

much. They are unfit
 to be left - I spent
 two-thirds of last year
 with them - to the
 destruction of my work -
 & 22 hours out of every
 24 in the room next
 my mother's - And still
 I felt I could not do
 enough for them -

God be with your always
 - May he bless you - And He
 will bless you - Pray for
 me - "I have most need of
 blessing" - ever your loving
 & grateful, living or dying,
 Florence Nightingale

with envelope, black-edged, stamped, cancelled Feb 8

FN1/6/1 Florence Nightingale

{in FN's hand}
 Mrs Bracebridge
 The Grove
 Church Road
 Upper Norwood
 8/2/73 S.E.

RCN/FN1/7 signed letter, ff1-2, pencil, black-edged paper

FNI/7/1

Lying-in Statistics 35 South St.
 Park Lane W.
 June 5/74

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your kind note of March 28, enclosing your most valuable & satisfactory Statistics of the Lying-in Wards of Liverpool Workhouse for 1873

Will you not add to & improve these Statistics by telling us *the state of the Case*

FNI/7/2

for a month after Delivery?

N.B. You have done yourself injustice by stating your "Average Mortality" "for the last 6 years" at "3.2 per CENT." It is of course

3.2 per *thousand* (mille)

This is no doubt a mere slip of the pen - I have no excuse to make for my long delay in thanking

for & answering your valuable note: which was ~~fr~~ immediately made use of - except that I have a little more to do than can be done in the 24 hours with constant illness & - this year - heavy sorrows.

Pray believe me

my dear Sir

ever your faithful servt

J.H. Barnes Esq Florence Nightingale

RCN/FN1/8 signed note, f1, pencil black-edged paper

FNI/8/1

Lea Hurst
Cromford: Derby
21/8/78

Col. Puckle's two *most* valuable
letters returned with very many thanks -

I will write tomorrow to say more
fully how much I appreciate your
kindness in letting me see them

Florence Nightingale
James Caird Esq

RCN/FN1/9 signed letter & envelope, both black-edged ff1-11, pen

{envelope postmarked: RAMSGATE F FE20 80}

FNI/9/1

Wm Webb Esq MD
Wirksworth
10/2/80 Derby

FNI/9/2 [1:210-14] black-edged paper, pen

10 South St.
Park Lane W.
10/2/80

My dear Sir

I should not have waited
for your more than kind
note to write to you
about my dear Mother,
who went home so peace=
=fully with a smile on
her face as if she saw
God just after midnight
on Sunday night, Feb 1-2,
but that I am so broken
down with the last 10 days.

I know your kindness will
wish to hear something
about her last illness: for
illness it was, followed by
inability to eat, which killed her.

FNI/9/3

She came to me on Jan 5, the 6th anniversary of my dear father's death: 4 times she looked at the photograph of his monument: I repeating the inscription. And her last long look at it I can never forget. [But I think I may have mentioned this before.] On Jan 20 she went out in the carriage for the last time [with Morris, her maid. Miss Mochler was taking a two months' holiday in Ireland, & did not return till after all was over.] She was observed to have a slight cold & on Jan 21 she came down stairs (for the last

time,) but did not go out. Dr. Andrew Clark & his Assistant Dr. Burnett, attended her. Dr. Burnett saw her on that day & prescribed for her: & then till the end.

[The Death Certificate was: Bronchial Catarrh & Senility: but she never had a *chronic* cough.]

For several nights the cough at night was incessant: she could not expectorate: & the noise & difficulty of breathing were painful: It was the fog which killed her: But she was so patient: she always said, 'I'm quite comfortable.'

Every day till the last, the Sunday of her death, she was dressed & sat in

FNI/9/1

her great chair in her
bedroom or dressing room
And every day the ceremony
of bringing up dinner was
performed. But appetite
quite failed. The dryness
of the mouth was distressing.
She used to pray to be let
alone. For the last
week of her life a few
drops of Beef Tea was
all she swallowed, except
once.

My cousin Shore, whose
love & devotion to her (&
his wife's too) never failed:
- he strove for her life
as if his own depended on it
- tho' he was suffering & in
bed from slight congestion &
cough

FNI/9/4

2

- he would get up, even in
the night - she always
knew him - because he
thought, she would take
food from *him*. He was
so happy when he could
get 2 or 3 teaspoonsful
or a morsel of sponge
cake into her mouth.
But, after doing this to
please him, she would
take an opportunity to
put it all out again:
quite dry.

At the last Dr. Burnett
thought there was inability
to swallow.

Still there was so much
strength: tho' she was terribly
wasted. Dr. Burnett did

FNI/9/5

not think she was dying.
Her pulse was good:
(tho' the last night but one,
which was a foggy night,
the Trained Nurse said
she had no pulse: that
was the terribly restless
night: but the pulse
revived).

The Bronchial attack
had entirely passed away
some days before the end:
there was little or no cough:
& she had expectorated
quite successfully. She was
always better in the day time.
And when she was sitting
dressed in her chair, her
manner was so courteous
& self-possessed tho' silent, people
did not know how ill she was,

& that she was taking nothing.
To herself she used to repeat
her favourite hymn,
'My God, my Father, while I stray,'
& the Lord's Prayer
in a clear strong voice.
She knew she was dying,
& her whole demeanour was:
"It's all right: I'm going home."

On Saturday January 31
(on this day we had one
of our own Trained Nurses
to sit up, who was of the
greatest use) She had her
bath, but, after it, was
much exhausted, & herself
took a whole teacup full
of beef tea, with a spoonful
of brandy in it, holding the
cup herself. She was laid
on a sofa & was very calm,

FNI/9/4

Rosalind Shore Smith
passing the afternoon with
her. But the night
was restless to a degree.
[The fog of Saturday &
Saturday night killed her.]
She was not still for one
moment. As the Nurse
said: 'she was all over
the bed.' Sunday was
the first day she did
not get up: but the fog
had gone off & she appeared
better.

During those restless nights,
- which thank God are
over now; - she would moan
& put out her hands uneasily
& take off her cap. She
seemed to wish to be 'going'
- but so gentle a wish

FNI/9/6

3

The last night very gentle
rubbing, or rather stroking
of her forehead & hands
soothed her.

She was allowed to keep
her cap off, & died so:
her noble head & soft
white hair looking so
beautiful.

After she had ceased to
speak or swallow, Mrs.
Shore Smith repeated the
Lord's Prayer: & she put
out her arm & beckoned,
seeing something we could
not see, & waved her hand
over her head in a sort
of gentle triumph as if
she would say again:
"It's all right. I'm dying."

FNI/9/7

At 9 p.m. on Sunday
Dr. Burnett saw her: her
pulse was good: & he
thought she had days to
live. But immediately
after he went, she composed
herself to death "decently
& in order" - as she did
all things during her long
life. At midnight the
change came: a bright
light as it were passed
over her face. She saw
what the others could not
see: her face was glorified
& the expression remained.
Then she closed her own eyes
& her own mouth: folded
her hands: & went home

without a sigh, like
a child falling asleep, -
or rather, as I love to
think, like a child
passing into the immediate
Presence of the Father
And His smile rested
on the lovely face: the
'rapture of repose' was there.
Mr. & Mrs. Shore Smith
& Morris & the Nurse
were round the bed.
And Shore was kissing her
& would not believe she
had left him. But with
her all was peace & more
than peace, blessedness.
She looked then & afterwards
50 years younger: like a

FNI/9/6

picture there is of her
at Embley with us two as
children.

There was not a redness of
skin all over the body: -
nor a wrinkle on the face -
the whole body was as
pure & calm as a child's: no
running at the mouth:
no odour about the
breath or anywhere. And
till the coffin was closed
on Thursday night, not
the slightest change, as
she lay surrounded with
all white spring flowers,
telling of spring & rising
again: the children coming
in & kissing her & liking
to stay with their mother

FNI/9/8

4

in the room, as long as
the dear old face, or
rather the young Immortal
face, - for it was the
'mortal coil' of immortality
not of death, - ~~that~~ was
there.

On Thursday night it
was brought down into
the dining room: the
coffin where she lay
looking so beautiful with
all her flowers round her
was closed: & a wreath
& cross of everlasting
& flowers, which our
trained Nurses had sent,
laid upon it: like a dead
soldier's sword & medals. And Shore

FNI/9/9

read a short service, while
the servants could not
restrain their sobs. [They
had all gone up & seen
her.] On Friday Feb 6
it was buried by my
dear Father at Embley -
as she had always said -
borne by the labourers
whom she wished -
Mr. & Mrs. Shore Smith
walking close behind,
never giving up the dear
charge till it was laid in
the earth - with their son
& Sir Harry Verney & his
son - & the servants -
& ~~all~~ the nephews & nieces
But better than all the

Church & Church-yard were
crowded with the people
& tenants. And I do not
believe there was one person
there who attended as a
matter of form: but all
could remember some
20, some 30, some 50
years of kindness which
she had spent upon them.
The coffin was quite
covered with wreaths,
& crosses & a large white
crown of flowers &
violets & rosemary ("that's
for remembrance")

It was just what she
would have liked herself -

And gentle tears rained
down.

FNI/9/8

I have dwelt far more
than I intended upon
what closes the last
chapter of my dear, dear
father & mother: 'thrice
blest to go.'

But I could fill 3 times
the space with remembrances
of her.

My intention only was
to give you some little
Medical history because
any Medical remarks
that you would be so very
good as to make would
be deeply interesting to
me - Previous to the
last illness, she had had
some attacks of restlessness,

FNI/9/10

5

tho' nothing like what she
had at Lea Hurst. And
I understood that Dr. Andrew
Clark & Dr. Burnett said
to my cousin Shore: that
there might supervene
"pressure on the brain"
Nothing of the kind was
however apparent in her
last illness. She was rather
remarkably gentle & lucid:
& even in resisting food,
she would only cover her
face with her hands & pray
to be let alone.

The Nurse said she had
never seen so beautiful a
death-bed.

Morris' care left nothing
to be desired.

FNI/9/11

There were 3 Sonnets of Milton: "When Faith & Love," the Sonnet on his 23rd year, & that on his blindness, which she for years made me repeat to her every day when I was with her: & when we came to "They also serve who only stand & wait:" she always stopped me & repeated it herself. And never, never, never did she fail to respond to these & others of her old favourites. When I repeated the Lord's Prayer & we came to "Forgive us our trespasses" she always stopped me & said "My dear child, *remind me to forgive.*"

There were many other Hymns & Psalms which she always, always, always re-echoed - Gambold's 'O what is death?' I shall never say them to her more.

She knew me without knowing me. The last time but one I ever saw her: she said "Filomena: "And so she does the Hospitals still. That's quite right: I'm so glad of that." After her death my Crimean Hospitals belt was found.

Shore she always knew, & when she heard he was coming, it was not pleasure it was joy: "Bless the Lord, O my soul" she would say.

But I could tell so many things of her.

She had intense joys & intense sorrows in these last years, which few knew anything of.

FNI/9/10

I believe I must go away
for a little: For 6 years
& 6 weeks I have not
had one day's rest of body
or mind: & this time
which ought to be peace
is such a whirl: people
coming & staying 4 hours
when all one longs for is
silence.

I have been unable to
finish this letter till now:
its unpardonable length is
due to hurry & interruption
Forgive & Pray believe me
ever sincerely yours

Florence Nightingale [end 1:214]

20 Feb

Wm Webb Esq MD 1880

RCN/FN1/10 signed letter, ff1-2, pen black-edged paper

FNI/10/1

Feb 17/16/89

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Messrs Spottiswoode

Gentlemen

Just at this time two years
ago you were good enough,
with your usual kindness
& promptitude, to print
in a very ~~short~~ few hours
copies of a paper occupying
about a sheet the size of
letter paper to be sent
out to India at that
short notice

On *Monday* morning next the same day you receive this -
- (I hope by 9.30 am) you
will receive a type-written
paper: not a much longer
paper.

FNI/10/2

Would it be possible for
you kindly to send me
3 Proofs by Monday the same night
- for me to return them
revised on Tuesday before
noon?

& to have - - - - - printed off
copies of them by Wednesday
before noon?

You would much oblige
yours very faithfully
Florence Nightingale

I shall enclose a dirty
copy, (my last) of that
printed paper of Feb 22,
1887 as a pattern
of the form, type & paper
I should like, please.

F. N.

RCN/FN1/11 signed letter & envelope, ff1-3, pen {envelope postmarked:
AYLESBURY G NO 6 91; WINSLOW NO ? 91 } stamped, cancelled

FNI/11/1

Please forward

Mrs. Pigott

~~Doddershall~~ Royal Hotel

Aylesbury Sheerness on Sea

5/11/91

Florence Nightingale }

FNI/11/2 black-edged paper, pen [6:589]

Nov 4/91
Claydon House, {printed address:}
Winslow,
Bucks.

My dear Madam

I felt it such a privilege
to have made the acquaintance
of such a gallant Lady=
Warrior against disease
& death as her of
Quainton - I trust that
you will not think I am
taking a liberty in
complying with Sir Harry's
& Mr. Frederick Verney's
request that I would
send you the enclosed (1) [blue pencil]
letter - Mr. Fredk Verney is
Chairman of the Technical
Education Committee of the County
Council for North Bucks

FNI/11/3

He thought that you might
kindly be able to tell him
of one or more educated
women who would, if
instructed in Health of
the (rural) Home, be able
to teach the poor rural
mothers by showing them
what are the defects which
lead to such a terrible
catastrophe as that of
Quainton; and how to
remedy them, as far as
the power of the Cottager's
wife goes -

It is in vain, I suppose, to
hope that the Lady of
Quainton would herself
join the Class, when formed;
& give us the benefit of
her experience in fighting
such a battle as few
women have ever seen -
I venture to send a rough
sketch of what it is
proposed to teach the
women who are to train
the Cottagers' wives (2)
Pray believe me
ever your devoted & admiring
servant
Florence Nightingale
Mrs. Pigott

RCN/FNI/12 signed letter, ff2-4, pencil

FNI/12/2 envelope

Mrs. Buchanan
12 South St.
F.N.
15/5/1902

FNI/12/3

May 15 1902
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.
My dear Mrs Buchanan
How am I to thank
you for the lovely
flowers & the good
wishes you sent me
on my poor old
birth day
The lilies of the valley
are coming out
beautifully in water
It is almost like
seeing them grow.

FNI/12/4

And the dear little
roses are just as
amenable to love &
reason.

Thank you again &
again.

Yours ever gratefully
Florence Nightingale

RCN/FNI/13 signed letter, ff1-2, pen {not in FN's hand}

FNI/13/1

Scutari
Barrack Hospital
August 18/55

Sir

In answer to your
letter of the 27th
ult I have the great
est regret in informing
you that Private John
Sewell of the 46th Regt
was admitted into
Koulalee Hospital
from the Crimea on
the 2nd February with
Typhus and died
immediately after ad-
mission *on the same*

FNI/13/2

day on which a great many patients were received into Hospital from the Crimea, at that time patients died so fast that we have sometimes lost Seventy in one day

I have written both to the Deputy Inspector General of Koulalee and to our Inspector General here and to the 46th Regiment of the Crimea. But *this* is the only information

I can obtain. In consequence of my demand - the whole of the Savings Bank Books of men who have died at Koulalee have been sent here. But your Nephew's does not appear among them. Still if the money has not been drawn out his father and mother can easily obtain it at the Savings Bank *without* a book by simply proving his death

FNI/13/1

which is attested and their relationship

I remain

yours with true sympathy
Florence Nightingale

RCN/FN1/14 dictated letter with sign off and signature by FN, ff1-2, pen, not in FN's hand, but sign off is

FNI/14/1

Barrack Hospital
Scutari
Jany 21st '56

Sir

I beg to acknowledge with my best thanks the receipt of six sets of Draftsmen, which you have kindly sent for the use of the Soldiers -

FNI/14/2

They shall be appropriated as you desire, & will be very acceptable
[FN hand] I have the honor to be

Sir
Your obedt servt
Florence Nightingale

{ffRCN/FNI/15/1-3, letters regarding a lost box belonging to FN}
letter 14 Dec 1857 fro London to Gentlemen

RCN/FN1/16 signed incomplete letter, ff1-2, pen

FNI/16/1

2

you are.

4 I should be very thankful for any *information from you*: or if there is anything I could do?

=====

5 Anent the *Famine*: what I understand is that, instead of being turned as it might & ought to be to a great account it will be merely the signal for a new outburst of waste & folly, & a pretext for the postponement to another generation of the real duties of Government. I hope that

FNI/16/2

you have better information

6. I have just started my Mother for London
 - I remain here in charge of her sick
 'companion': & hoping afterwards for
 a little rest, in order to enable me to
 return to *London* able for my work: *soon*:
 &, I trust, to see you: & hear from you
 anything that can be done.

=====

7. I send you a pamphlet of Sir A. Cotton's
 which you may not have seen -
 How I wish he could give his great knowledge
 in a different way: & manner of feeling
 I rejoice to be yrs faithfully
 in a common cause
 F. Nightingale

H.S. Cunningham Esq

FN1/19 printed greeting card with FN hand added
 With Greetings
 FN: Florence Nightingale's
 to Miss Pringle 1887

v

[printed] from
 FN: Florence Nightingale
 RCN/FNI/22 signed letter, ff1-2, pencil

1/20 is Fred Verney letter to Miss Negus July 31 [1892], re HV wants to see
 at Claydon House to discuss best way of starting Health Mission work in
 North Bucks, 6 ladies who passed recent exam invited to meet here for this
 purpose, Dr De'ath promised to be present. will refund railway fare

FNI/22/1 incomplete letter, pencil

March 6/96

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dear Mr. Yeomans

A thousand thanks for
all your kindness.

And I am so glad,
indeed we are all so
glad, of your opinion of
Mr. Burton of Lea School,
& that he keeps such
excellent discipline & order.

Also: I am so glad
that you went yourself
to the School children's
performance & found
all going on so well.

FNI/22/2

It is not bad news
that the poor old
woman, Hannah Allen,
is gone to her rest -
- all those painful
delusions over, no more
to return
& all her little affairs
settled quietly.

I will not write more
to-day except to thank
you again & again

& to enclose a Cheque
for £10 for you to
have in hand.

With kind regards to

Mrs. Yeomans

ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

God bless you -

{written the other way on the page}

If there is no
one at Lea Hurst,
should we not
feed the birds?

P.T.O.

FNI/22/1

I meant at the beginning
of the winter to have
sent books to all the
three Reading-rooms,
but illness prevented
me - Is *Lea* Reading
room still in existence?
& does it lend out
books to *women*? I
should like to subscribe
to that -
I shall have 3 histories
of several volumes each
to send to the 3 Libraries
- one very beautifully
illustrated in 4 Vols -
Green's History of the English.

RCN/FNI/24 signed letter, 6ff, pen [9:880-881]

FNI/24/1

May 28.1900

My dear children

You have called me
your Mother=chief,
it is an honour to me -
& a great honour, to call
you my children.

Always keep up the
honour of this
honourable profession -
I thank you - may I say
our Heavenly Father
thanks you *for what*
you do?

"Lift high the royal banner
"It shall not suffer loss"
- the royal banner of
Nursing. It should gain
through every one of you -
It *has* gained through
you immensely.

The old Romans were
in some respects I think
superior to us. But they
had no idea of being
good to the sick and
weak. That

came in with
Christianity. Christ
was the author of our
profession. We honour
Christ when we are
good Nurses. We
dishonour Him when
we are bad or careless
Nurses. We dishonour
Him when we do not
do our best to relieve
Suffering - even in the
meanest creature.
Kindness to sick man,

woman & child came
in with Christ. They
used to be left on the
banks of the great
rivers to starve or
drown themselves.
Lepers were kept apart -
The nation did not try
to avert or to cure
leprosy. There have
been lepers in *England* -
Now it is a thing almost
if not quite unknown.

-2-

There have been great,
I may say, discoveries
in *Nursing*:
A very remarkable Doctor,
a great friend of mine,
now dead, introduced
new ideas about
Consumption, which
might then be called the
curse of England.
His own wife was
what is called "consumptive"
i.e. she had tubercular
disease in her lungs.
He said to her: "now
"you have to choose: either

"you must spend the
:next 6 months in your
"room. Or you must garden
"every day:" [they had a
wretched little garden at
the end of a street]
"you must dig - get
"your feet wet every day"
She chose the latter -
became the hardiest of
women & lived to be old.

The change in the
treatment of Pneumonia
- disease of the lungs -
is complete. I myself

saw a Doctor take up a child-sufferer, which seemed as if it could hardly breathe - carry it to the window, open the window at the top, & hold it up there. The nurse positively yelled with horror. He only said "When my Patient can breathe but little air, I like that little good." The child recovered & lived to old age.

Nursing is become a profession. Trained Nursing no longer an object but a fact. But, oh, if *home* Nursing could become an every day fact here in this big city of London, the biggest in the world, in an island the smallest inhabited island in the world. But here in London in *feeding* - a most important branch of it - if you ask a mother who has perhaps brought you a sick

-3-

child to "look at": "what
"have you given it to eat?"
she answers triumphantly,
"O, it has the same as we
have"(!). Yes, often including
the gin - And a city
where milk, & good milk,
is now easier to get
than in the country.
For all farmers send
their milk to London
or the great cities

A sick child has been
sent to Hospital (and
recovered). You ask what
it had: 'O, they gave it
'nothing - nothing' -

It is true they gave it
nothing but milk -
Milk is 'nothing', Milk
the most nourishing of
all things. Sick *men*
have recovered & lived
upon milk.

"My soul doth magnify
the Lord: & my spirit
hath rejoiced in God
my Saviour."

The 19th Century (there was
a tradition) was to be the
century of Woman. How
true that legendary

prophecy has been!
 Woman was the home drudge,
 Now she is the teacher -
 Let her not forfeit it
 by being the arrogant -
 the "Equal with men"
 She does not forfeit it
 by being the help "meet"
 Now, will you let me
 try to thank you,
 tho' words cannot
 express my thankfulness,
 for all your kind thoughts,
 for your beautiful Book

& basket of flowers
 & kind wishes, all.
 God bless you all
 and me your mother chief -
 as you are good enough
 to call me,
 my dear children
 Florence Nightingale
 To
 all our Nurses

RCN/FN1/25 incomplete initialed note, 1f, pen black-edged paper

FNI/25

Please also make
 any of your M. P.
 friends apply to
 Mr. Vardon for the
two folio copy of the
 India Sanitary Report.
 F.N.

1/26 fragment of black-edged note

We might get the
 figures of the Chinese
 War as a counterpart
 of the Crimean War.
 Indeed some are

v
 yours very gratefully
 Florence Nightingale

FN1/27 typed letter by L.H. Shore Nightingale to Sibella 9 Dec 1937, sends sketch of Life of Florence Nightingale by sister

1/29 FN letter, pen, semi dated, to unknown recipient

Dearest

I fear that you could not let Lady Cust know that it is quite impossible for me to see any one this week, now especially at the hour she mentions. I have the less regret, because it would be equally impossible for me to undertake any other business than what I am doing now, at present.

v

But, if at any future time, she should be in town, I shall be to glad to see her-
ever yours
F.N.
Sunday

1/30 returned to Manchester, was letter, framed to Dr Little, Eye Hospital, Manchester re operation on husband of a friend, with note of intro from HV
16 Ma 1892

RCN/FN1/31/1 signed letter, 5ff, pen and pencil with envelope copy RAMC 1029

Private Immediate Wait
 a verbal answer, [pencil]
 please

Major Young
 Grand Hotel
 Charing Cross [15:976-77]
 Florence Nightingale }
 19/3/85 }

Private March 19/85
 10, South Street, {printed address:}
 Park Lane. W.

My dear Sir

You were so good as to say that I might apply to you for information & advice.

1. *Coffee Tents*

Could we help you with one or two *discharged men* (of 18 or 20 years' service - under 40 years of age) who have seen service & managed *Coffee Tents* in *India*? for your *Coffee Tents* or *Huts*?

If so, I believe Mrs. Hawthorn (whom you know) could lay her hand, thro' Commanding Officers, on two such men in England now?

Recipes for these men to use

Mrs. Hawthorn could give to these discharged men ~~to use~~

Currants }
 Custard Powder } to make cakes
 Baking Powder }

Tins of butter or its equivalent

Eno's Fruit Salt

to be sold in *Coffee Tents*

as a drink { which the men
 { are very fond of

would be required - would not they?

Did you say that you had sent out the excellent *flour* you mentioned? for bread?

This about whether you wish
for *one or two discharged men* x
is the thing which seems to
call for an IMMEDIATE ANSWER.

Water-melons & sweet melons
- are these fruits which you
could add to be sent from
Cairo to Souakim for your
Coffee Tents? or huts?

Tobacco I believe you give.

x Should you like to communicate
with Mrs. Hawthorn direct: her
address is: Little Heathville
Charlton
S.E.

2. *Pajamas* & flannel shirts

For the men *not* in Hospital: -
the Commanding Officers will
certainly not let them wear
their pajamas except in the
very early morning:
but would they not let them men
wear *flannel shirts* (without
jackets) with their Regimental
trousers?

And might not these flannel
shirts be made *not* of the
Regulation flannel but of
some thinner softer lighter flannel,
~~not~~/tho' of the same grey colour?

Their own flannel shirts
must be worn out & torn to
pieces, if, as we hear, their
trousers are.

-2-

Might not *Pr. Frederica's*
Socy make these *lighter*
flannel shirts

And if so should they not
get the *Government pattern?*

In the Advertisement in the
papers, it looks as if *Pr.*
Frederica's Socy & their
pajamas were only for
the "Sick & Wounded." But
this is not the case, is it?
You want them to make flannel
shirts & pajamas *for the*
men also who are NOT in
Hospital?

Yellow Leather Slippers

with low heel

are not these required for
Hospital?

Probably best got in Egypt (or
Constantinople)

Socks (Government)

not knitted - which are too
heavy -

are not these wanted

for men *not* in Hospital?

Their socks must be worn out
& torn.

Helmets (lost)

Some must have lost their
helmets. Are they replaced by Govt?

Doubtless the Nat. Aid Socy
provides *pith hats*

(instead of Govt helmets)

where wanted?

Crutches for Hospital

These are *supposed* to be
provided by Army Med Dept

Are they always?

If I have the great advantage
of seeing you again, you would
kindly answer these questions
to me viva voce - to save
your writing -

And I could also tell you
some good news about your
gifts to Cairo Citadel Hospital,
& about your Q. Victoria boat
& its Patients **[end 15:977]**

Success to you in all you
undertake for the good of
our men ~~with~~/in your ceaseless
activity

& believe me

ever your faithful servt

Florence Nightingale

{printed address, upside down:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Major Young

RCN/FN1/31/2 signed letter & envelope, 3ff, pen

[envelope]

If Major Young might possibly come *this*
afternoon? *a verbal answer*

253 [not FN hand]

Major Young

Grand Hotel

Charing Cross

Florence Nightingale

24/3/85 }

black-edged paper

March 24/85

10, South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W. [15:980]

My dear Sir

Are you gone?

And if not is there any
chance of my seeing you,
as you kindly promised?
- *if this afternoon*, I would
put off gladly another
appointment I have for
this afternoon.

A verbal answer, please.

If you are not gone, would
you like me to make an

appointment, if possible,
before you go, for you
to see one or two discharged
men, accustomed to
manage Coffee Tents in
India, that you might
be able to judge whether
you should approve them
for any future time?

If I have the pleasure of
seeing you, I would ask you
about for HOSPITAL

- Feather or Paper Pillows for the very sick
- Very light woollen coverlets
for wounded & fever cases
- Towels
- Handkerchiefs

for CAMP

Pillows: the commonest

(to be thrown away when camp
moves)

- Handkerchiefs
- Stout leather slippers
(such a relief to get off their
boots) [end 15:980]

But at present I will
only ask you to say if there
may be a prospect of
seeing you this afternoon :
if not, I would not put
off another appointment
Pray believe me
ever your faithful servt
Florence Nightingale
Major Young

RCN/FN1/31/3 signed letter, 4ff, pen, copy RAMC 1029

Private Ansd 4/6/85 May 8/85
10, South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W.

My dear Sir

I have often wished to write
to you but have not ventured
to trouble you you are so
fully employed in good
works. I meant to have
reported to you rather of
things going on here. Perhaps
by next mail I may muster
up strength to do so -

This morning I saw a
letter from a Commandg officer
high up the Nile, speaking
of the great difficulty of
transport & getting things
up to the men beyond Wadi
Halfa which of course no
Major Young

[15:986-87]

one knows so well as you do.

It was suggested whether a few Camels might not be bought by the "Society", - if not in Egypt, imported from elsewhere - & "sent up with books, games, "pipes (? & tobacco), for the Nile Force."? [I dare say this is a quite wild idea; ~~but~~ for if it could be done, you would have done it already.]

Do you know a small box, called The Guinea Cabinet, which contains 14 games? The men are ~~she~~ so delighted with them - Miss Williams, our Supt. of Nurses, took out the box to Souakim, & lent the games about among the Patients, who were most careful with them

There are 14 games in the space of a lady's work-box. Shall I send you out some? Or have you them already?

To return to *up the Nile*:

"Each Regiment has a large hut "built for a Recreation hut," & are "pretty well provided with "Newspapers", thanks to you tho' where one Regiment is occupying "5 different posts, 30 "miles apart," it is difficult to get enough papers. "A few books, "for each Station, & a few games, "would be very acceptable". "Lord Wolseley, supplied each man with a "pipe but they are not to be bought "& would be a boon to the men."

As I said, if this can be done, it *has* been done by Major Young.

The want of a Coffee hut is terribly felt both by Commandg Officers & Nursing Sisters at *Souakim*. I have not the honour of knowing Mr. Kennett

Barrington. He means, I believe,
to put *off* the putting of it *up*.

The men go into the mysterious
spirit-shops at Souakim. they
have no other place to go to -
& get drunk & worse - A

Commandg Officer said that
he had never in his life heard
such foul language as among the
"navvies" at Souakim - *they*
have no decent place to go to.

Could nothing be done?

A Capt Symonds R. N., offered
me a ton of Cocomatina for
the Hospitals: 500 lbs of his
present went out last Wednesday
week, April 29 - by Mr. Lamb's
agency. Might some of this
go to the ~~men~~/troops? a small
quantity was sent up to Korti
some time ago & received by the men with
transport.

-2-

I have found some prepared
unsweetened milk - the Patients
cannot take the Swiss sweet milk
- tho' your *cocoa & milk* is much
appreciated - I am afraid
the Cocomatina will not be liked
by the Patients *without* milk
May I send out this unsweetened
milk?

A man who came over
himself with a fruit-boat
from the Arabian coast to
Souakim told me that a
constant supply of grapes,
water-melons, fresh figs &c &c
could be had by & bye from
Jaffa - And one of our Sisters,
here from Souakim, said that
there were water melons, a few,
selling in the village of Souakim
now - but she had seen none
among the soldiers -

[end 15:987]

I will not trouble you longer
now - Whatever can be done has
been done I know by you

I assure you you have my
best wishes for your highest
success - Good speed to you ever
yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale
I am just starting Miss Williams
& 3 Sisters on their return to
Suez by Brindisi mail.

RCN/FN1/31/4 signed letter, 2ff, pen copy RAMC 1029, pub *The Lamp:
Newsletter of the friends of the Florence Nightingale Museum*. No. 7 (spring
2008):4

Private Ansd 9/6/85 May 15/85
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

My dear Sir

Am I troubling you too
much by writing again?

Yesterday I sent by the
Steamer 'Kaiser i Hind' two
cases of unsweetened Condensed
milk 4 doz. each for your kind approval.
If it keeps as well as the
sweetened Swiss milk, which
the men in Hospital really
cannot bear when it is
ordered for them instead of milk,
- & it is not allowed them in their
tea, - it will be a real
discovery. [That in the sealed
Major Young

bottles in the cases is said to keep perfectly] One of these cases would you be so very good as to forward to Miss Williams, Supt of Nurses, at Suez or at Souakim, or wherever she is? The other would you have tried in what Hospital in the front you please? If you approve, if the ~~men~~/Patients like it, I would send as much more as you please.

Two of that small box of games containing 14 in such a portable compass, are gone out by the

Kaiser i Hind. I thought that you would like to have these games, so exceedingly easy of transport to send up to the 19th Hussars, at Dongola & the neighbourhood, considering the extreme difficulty in reaching them. Would you like some more?

Good speed -

Miss Williams, Supt. of Nurses, with her three who came home with her nursing the wounded Men & Officers, in the "Iberia". went out by Brindisi mail on the 8th (this day week) , nominally to Suez. I know you will help her

A propos to milk, your
cocoa & milk is always most
 highly appreciated

Pray believe me
 ever your faithful servt

Florence Nightingale

Have you been able to carry
 out your most excellent plan
 of a garden near Cairo to
 give a weekly supply of
 vegetables to Hospitals &
 Coffee-tents at Souakim &
 elsewhere? Oh those Coffee-
 tents - how they are needed
 at Souakim with good tea
 & coffee, cakes, cooling drinks, games
 & newspapers! And up the Nile about ~~beyond~~ ~~near~~
 Dongola, with all your admirable organization, scarcely
 newspapers enough reach the detached posts -

RCN/FN1/31/5 signed letter, 4ff, pen copy RAMC 1029

Private *Destroy* May 22/85
 and 10, South Street, {printed address:}
 CONFIDENTIAL Park Lane. W.

My dear Sir

I always scruple to trouble you
 with a letter, because probably
 before you receive it, every thing
 that could be suggested will
 have been done.

[15:987-89]

Private letters tell us of
 great want of supplies, high up
 the Nile, for troops, both sick &
 well - Difficulties of transport
 enormous. Your Stern wheel (?)
 Steamer will be a God send.
 Both Government camels & your
 camels sick. Could not more
 Camel Transport be obtained
 by your unceasing activity for
 N. A. S. & Pss of Wales' Branch?
 The Prss of W. Branch have plenty
 of money. They were rather

disposed - I tell *you & confidentially* -
to spend it on Invalids after their
return. but they are now
convinced that there is much
still to be done for the troops
in the Soudan up Nile - &
that till *all* the troops have
returned to England, they, the
Pss of Wales' Branch, must not
discuss questions of what
can be done for them then -

Troops up Nile have been
suffering much for want of
Hospital Marquees: 2 young
Officers, as you know, died in
a Bell tent because there was
no other room for them - But
now they are building huts.

But why do I tell you these

things? You know far more than
we do. Only perhaps you may
care to hear what we hear from
private letters. One Regiment
high up the Nile had received no
books at all but from a
private hand, a lady.

We hear of Sisters Hicks & Dowse
- they seem to have been used
more as substitutes for Army
Hospital Corps Men than any
thing else. But the report
was like the reports of some
Hospitals & Dispensaries
in England, where every thing
is told, except the one thing
needful viz. the injuries &
diseases of the ~~cases~~/men, their
progress & results of cases.

This is so very interesting &
important to know. Could you
kindly furnish me with the
barest list of the cases, of what
nature

they were, - under nursing charge
of Sisters Dowse & Hicks?
Cocoatina Capt Symonds would wish
some of it to be given, if it
could kindly be done, to the
Marines & Seamen in Hospital,
query at Suez? & some to
the well troops, if you approve?
Some was sent up Nile to the well troops
& was snatched at.

I am almost sorry that Miss
Williams & her Nursing party
& the Sisters at Souakim are
coming home almost directly -
I will whisper to you that,
altho' the Sisters (Prss of Wales's)
have done capital good work
at the Auxiliary Hospital,
Souakim - (Sisters Wrigley & Machen)
yet the two selected were the
very ones who, tho' good Nurses,
had had not the slightest
experience of organization or

-2-

independent work - [And this
must always be the risk
where the selection is made
of Nurses as if they were beds; & they are posted haphazard in this way
like
bottles]

Fortunately Miss Williams, who
is first rate as a head, was
on board the Ganges, & came on
shore, & set them to work - &
organized the Nursing & Supplying
the Patients, to which Mr. K. Barrington
most powerfully contributed by
his great kindness & his
supplies, especially of Cooking Stove
&c There was not a thing, except
a bucket, to wash the Patients in -
nothing for wounds or poultices
no 'enamel' crockery But Mr. K. B.
has no idea - small blame to him!
- & in this he is no different from our
"Ladies Branch", who is a 'head' &
who is a 'tail' among the Nurses.

When Miss Williams came home
with severe cases on board the
'Iberia', she brought Miss Wrigley

home with her as one of her 4
Nurses & left them her Miss
Byam, who *is* a head, at the
Auxiliary Hospital.

Of course you will kindly
understand that I write this
~~you~~ whole letter in the *strictest confidence*

Yet more real Nursing work was put
under these Nurses than under the two Nile Nurses.

The troops *left behind* at
Souakim will want to be
especially looked after. The
Ladies' Branch say that the
Coffee Hut &c *has been*
established at Souakim,
& is to be left there for the
use of the "permanent Garrison."

But on the very same day
there was a detailed account,
only two days ago, in one of
the newspapers, how much
the want of it was felt.

I am quite sure that *your*
(Wadi Halfa) Coffee hut is put up
already.

And, as you know, a third hut
has just been presented to the
"Society by Pratt's Club at a cost
"of £561.16" "for use wherever
"it may be considered advisable"

Success to you wherever you
work.

God save our men
ever your faithful servt
Florence Nightingale

Do you approve the
Unsweetened Condensed Milk?
Major J.S. Young

Please destroy.

[end 15:989]

RCN/FN1/31/6 signed letter, 2ff, pen copy RAMC 1029

Private ansd 9/6/85 May 29/85

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W. [15:993]

My dear Sir

Only a note to say that
Mr. Lamb has sent for me
by your kind leave by last
Wednesday's Steam Ship
500 copies of the "Life of
Gordon" pamphlet which
I have had reprinted for
the N. C. Officers & men whose
comrades died to save him
& beg them to accept.

I wish the Australians
could have come in for a
share.

And I wish it could have
come in time for
those who have left for England
to read on their voyage home.

It is a small Gift but
it may help to influence
the lives of these men who
tried so hard to save
Gordon's life.

We hear from private
letters that the most
acceptable things that
could be sent to the men
up Nile (as soon as they
can be sent from Wadi Halfa)
would be

Tins of Cocoa & Milk
Unsweetened Milk
White Biscuits

The Officers buy these things
from Greeks at an inordinate
price; but say it is worth
while because they prevent
sickness.

Some Salt has at last
reached them up Nile,
but they want vegetables
& their Jams are all gone
Tea also is wanted.

Moir's "ration of Meat &
Vegetables" would be much
liked

It seems impertinent to make
any kind of suggestion to

you: & so I refrain. But
I know that if these Greeks
are so clever at getting
things up - only I suppose
it is too late now - &
you approved, the
"Ladies' Branch" would gladly
provide the money.

[end 15:993]

Pray believe me
with many apologies for
writing
ever your faithful servt
Florence Nightingale
Major J.S. Young

RCN/FNI/31/7 signed letter & envelope, 5ff, pen, copy RAMC 1029

envelope {postmarked: LONDON W 4 JU 19 85 12}, stamped, cancelled
via *Brindisi*

Major J.S. Young
Commissioner Nat. Aid Socy
Shepherd's Hotel
Cairo

19/6/85

Egypt

Private & June 19/85

Confidential

10, South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W.

My dear Sir

[15:993-94]

I thank you very much for
your kind & interesting letter
of June 9 - I trust that you
are now quite well again yourself.

1. *Unsweetened Milk*: its success
is delightful: for if the fever
cases believe it to be "fresh milk"
they must like it, & it is so
important for that class of
cases. The moment I received
your desire for more, I telegraphed
to Mr. Lamb, & he sent me
a Clerk for the address where
it was to be had - and eleven
cases were sent out by last Wednesday's
steamer - May they be useful!
Please, could you give *Miss Williams* at

Suez some of this unsweetened milk.

2. *Suez (Royal Victoria) Hospital*

I write in the greatest anxiety
about this Hospital - that is
to say we *should* be in the
greatest anxiety, did we not
know that you were on the
spot. The Hospital is
crowded: typhoid & dysentery
on the increase: difficulties
in getting things: Orderlies, tho'
willing, kind to Patients, &
dutiful to Sisters, - sadly
untrained & ignorant - Sisters
terribly overworked - one laid up,
one on night duty - one ~~besides~~ &
the Supt have the whole day =
=duty with the men, including
sick Officers. All this is of
course *in the strictest confidence*
We hear it from private letters.

No doubt things are ameliorated by this time. The Medical Officer had telegraphed for more sisters, but when I/we last heard, none had yet come. What I write for is to ask: could you not be so very kind, as, - in consultation of course, with P.M.O. & officials, - to send to Miss Williams, the Supt, her Sister Byam, who originally went out as a Govt Nurse to serve under Miss Williams? & then was exchanged at Souakim to serve for you instead
or another Sister

I will recall the circumstances, if you will allow me but first you are in such easy reach of Miss Williams that you have very probably already, in communication with her & with due deference to the Medical authorities given her Sister Byam - I have of course written to N.A.S. & Pss of Wales' branch to ask for her but

have just received a reply:

"We do not know of Sister Byam's whereabouts - nor has she every been reported to us in ~~that~~/any way". They did not in fact know she had left Souakim. We cannot therefore do any thing at this end. We heard that Sister Byam had come home to England in nursing charge of Invalids by ship - not the Ganges. It is undesirable for us to interfere with arrangements on the spot. Sister Byam seems now, I conclude, to have resumed her post as Govt Nurse. We hope & trust that Miss Williams has now been provided with Govt Nurses: But I am sure your kindness will, if it can, give her Sister Byam or Sister Hind, - both her own Nurses, - if, in communication with her, matters can be so arranged

2

3. Might I ask if Cooking Sister

Durham at Suez could be given some charge over the *General* as well as the Extra Cooking? We have received a request as to this; or at least a hint: This too is in confidence.

4. Might I ask if you have had regular receipts for your newspapers &c from up Nile, that is from the neighbourhood of Dongola & Korti & all above Wadi Halfa up to the time the troops left on their return, according to the admirable system you kindly explained to me?

5. *Pratt's Club Hut*

I immediately on receipt of your letter asked the Ladies what was to be done with this Hut.

It was needed at Souakim so that unfortunately it could not be had for up Nile - And this they then telegraphed to you

6. *Souakim*

We hear from private letters that they *hope* you will not relax your efforts there: but send

(1.) "Jams, jams, jams" they say they want (sic) not in pots but in large tins of say 2 lbs. & tinned fruits

(2) SLIPPERS

(3) tobacco & pipes -

Is the Coffee Hut put up there at last?

I suppose all kinds of fruits could now be had from Syria via Jaffa - fresh fruits, But you will have managed all this - **[end 15:994]**

7. *Cocoatina*

On receipt of your letter I at once telegraphed to Capt Symonds R. N. whose gift it was. And notwithstanding the short notice it was sent & shipped on board the last Wednesday's steamer.

If you could kindly some day send some Report of how the *Cocoatina* has been used & liked, it would be much appreciated.

8. "*Life of Gordon*"

I have sent 200 more copies by last Wednesday's steamer with the hope that you will kindly distribute them for me - perhaps among the *men* themselves - as we sent 5 doz. of the *large Vols*: of his "*Life*", some of which for the *Reading Huts & Rooms*, as you wished.

Success & good speed -

Pray believe me

ever your faithful servt

Florence Nightingale

Major Young

RCN/FN1/31/8 signed card, 1f, pen, copy RAMC 1029

July 17/85

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

My dear Sir

Might I ask you if they have
plenty of soap at Suez - & also if
you have been so good as to send to
Suez Hospital (to Miss Williams) some
copies of my little "Life of Gordon"?

[15:1003]

[end]

Excuse me for troubling you

yours faithfully

F. Nightingale

Major Young

RCN/FNI/31/9 signed letter & envelope, 2ff, pen and pencil, RAMC 1029

via Brindisi

Major Young

(Nat. Aid Socy Commissioner)

Shepherd's Hotel

Cairo

24/7/85

Egypt

Private July 24/85

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

[15:1004]

My dear Sir

Might I trouble you ~~for~~/with
respect to some mistake which
appears to have arisen regarding
the sending out of a Miss Coates
to the Suez Hospital by the
"Princess of Wales' Branch"?

You will kindly remember
the immense pressure that there
was for a considerable time on
the few Sisters at the Suez Hospital
from the great number of very
severe cases. Application was
made for more Sisters. The
Princess of Wales' Branch
telegraphed out to Suez twice
for information, in answer to

the last they received a Telegram
from the Suez Hospital:

"One *Nursing* Sister has arrived"

Letters from the Princess of
Wales' branch stated that they

"~~we~~ sent out two cooking
Sisters, Miss Shiplen &
Miss Coates" "No Nurse
but two *Cooking* Sisters"

Letters received from Suez
state that the name of this
"*Nursing*" Sister was "Coates":
she was of course put on
full nursing duty - with
what result may be readily known.

At Suez Hospital where the
great pressure of sick has latterly
been, after the Hospital
organization had left Souakim,
there had been a very good
Cooking Sister who was
removed just when she
was most wanted. The
present one does not
appear so satisfactory. **[end 15:1004]**

Pray believe me

my dear Sir

ever your faithful servt

Florence Nightingale

Major Young

{the following is written diagonally across the page, continuing on the
next page} **[15:1004]**

We understood that
the Coffee Hut at
Souakim was

put up &

in use

P. T. O.

RCN/FN1/31/10 signed letter & envelope, 2ff, pen, RAMC 1029, draft Add Mss 45815 f105, published 10 February 1900. *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* NSW "Jottings."

envelope postmark OC 27 99
Col J.S. Young
13 Gloucester Street
S.W.

27/10/99

London Oct 27/99 [15:1023]

Dear Sir

I am so extremely happy that you are going out to South Africa as Commissioner for Aid to the Sick & Wounded.

I envy you & I envy them to have such an able helper. It is a sad & painful business & how much of evil there has been in it. But how much of

good it has called forth!

And I hope, may we trust that the Nurses & every one will prove themselves worthy of the great opportunity afforded them by God's goodness. Each may be a good Samaritan. Each may humbly & vigorously and

"leaning hard" on God
be a helper in His
work. What an honour
to be God's helper!
That honour you have
been chosen for.
And may they all
rival one another
in the same. That
is a holy rivalry.

I wish I could go;
but I am chained to
my room by illness -

Nevertheless I SHALL
be with you all in
spirit.

Three cheers for you
wherever you go. They
will be hearty cheers.
But they must strengthen
& not disturb the sick.

[end]

ever, dear Sir,
yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale
Col. J.S. Young

RCN/FN1/31/11 signed letter with envelope, 2ff, pencil

11 Dec/99

10, South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W. [15:1025]

Dear Mrs. Young

I have received Col.
Young's most interesting
letter, for which I thank
him with all my heart.
I also thank him most
sincerely for the two
papers, Cape Times &
Cape Argus
which are most
acceptable - telling

us ~~all~~ so much about
the War.

Thank you very
much for calling this
disagreeable morning.

I am so pleased to
hear that Col. Young's
work is making such
progress & trust that
it will continue to
do so, ~~as~~/or rather I am sure

it will - God bless
him!

Excuse pencil -
ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale

Please, as you are
writing, give him
my most enthusiastic
thanks & admiration [end]
F.N.

envelope, pencil
Immediate
Mrs Young
13 Gloucester Street
S.W.
F. Nightingale
Dec 11/99

RCN/FN1/32/1 photo of signed letter at Kaiserswerth II B40, 2ff, pen

Barrack Hospital
Scutari {arch: IIB 40}
18/1/55

Lieber Mütter

Je n'ai pas un instant,
j'écris seulement ce mot
pour remercier mille fois
Herrn Pasteur de sa bonté
en me proposant 6 ou 7
de mes chères Soeurs pour
cette oeuvre - A tout autre
moment cette proposition
m'aurait été bienvenue -
Mais je n'ai pas un
lit, pas un pouce de
terrain à leur offrir
Nous sommes déjà trop serrées pour la Santé.
J'ai été obligée de refuser
même une partie des

Gardes-malades qui m'ont
été envoyé de l'Angleterre.
et de les placer ailleurs -
Il est indispensable aussi
que tout le monde ici parle
Anglais - trois seulement,
je crois, me dit Herr Pasteur
le parlent.

L'armée entière passe
dans les Hopitaux &
l'oeuvre devient gigantesque.
Hélas! où est-ce que tout
cela finira? Nous
sommes dans les mains
de Dieu - Priez pour nous,
Nous avons à présent
cinq mille malades - et
blessés -

Ma seule consolation c'est, Dieu le
voit, Dieu le sait, Dieu nous aime -

Recommandez moi à mes soeurs

Toujours à vous

Florence Nightingale

Cette lettre est aussi pour M. le Pasteur -

RCN/FNI/32/3 unsigned note, 1f, pen

"Four things, O God, I have to offer Thee,
Which Thou hast not in all thy Treasury -
My Nothingness, - my sad Necessity, -
My fatal Sin - & earnest Penitence -
Receive these gifts & take the giver hence.
(Translated from the Arabic)

Kaiserswerth Aug 13th 1850
Florence Nightingale, - who, with
an overflowing heart will always
remember the kindness of all her
friends at dear Kaiserswerth
"I was a stranger & ye took me in."

RCN/FNI/32/4 letter fragment, 1f, pen

I had a sickly childhood,
the climate of England did
not suit me, after that
of Italy (Florence) where I
was born - I could never
like the plays of other
children - But the happiest
time of my life was during
a year's illness which
I had when I was 6
years old - I never learnt
to write till I was 11 or
12, owing to a weakness
in my ~~wrists~~ hands - And
I was shy to misery.

At 7 years of age, we had
a governess, who brought
me up most severely - She
was just & well intentioned,
but she did not understand
children - & she used to
shut me up for 6 weeks
at a time - My sister,

RCN, C502/5/2/1/4 Gertrude Baker collection, letter, pencil

May 28/87

[printed address] 10, South Street,
Park Lane, W.

Dear Madam

Your uncle ever to be revered,
Mr. Rathbone, to whom I
in especial am ever grateful
has asked me to write to you
on the subject of "Woman."

I shall be very glad to
become a subscriber, & shall
read with interest the proposed
"Nursing Notes"; & earnestly
hope the paper may prove
a success, in being a useful
help to the Nursing cause.

▼

I must however, alas!, tho' with
deep regret, because so bound
by the ties of gratitude to
Mr. Rathbone, ask you to
excuse me from writing
anything destined to appear
in the Paper in print.

Pray pardon one always
under the severe pressure
of work & increasing ill-health
- & pardon this pencil note
but always believe me,
assuring you of my very

best wishes for your noble
career in future

yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale
Miss Rosalind Paget

National Archives of Scotland, formerly Scottish Record Office

NAS signed letter, 8 ff, pen, paper

London August 29 1862

My dear Sir Harry

In answer to Lord Elcho's enquiry about Mr Alexander, {diagonal lines through the two names} I can only say that I have never seen his like for directness of purpose, unflinching moral courage & honesty.

Those were the qualities which made his loss a public disaster. His independence, his high ~~moral~~ disinterestedness were so undoubted.

He never sought advancement for his own ambition, -- never except to carry out the public

service. And when he had obtained it, he never used it except to do the highest service he was capable of.

Throughout the whole of the Russian War, his published correspondence shews that he cared for no man or thing, if either stood in the way of the public interests. He might have gone on smoothly enough in his routine duties, would he but have let *ill* alone. But that was not his character. Everywhere, at Gallipoli, where he seized the blankets for his sick, - in Bulgaria, where he fought such a fight for his men in that opening prologue

to the Crimean tragedy (which {the following end of the paragraph has diagonal lines drawn through it} dimly shadowed forth, as in an ancient drama, the crime to be evolved in the play & the retribution which was to follow.)

- again, throughout the Crimean tragedy itself, he showed the same fearless devotion, - incurring thereby a serious personal responsibility, in order that his men might not perish X through the negligence of others. [line crossed thro on diagonal]

Most able in the discharge of his own professional duties, he at the same time knew that the Army Medical Officers were not dealt with as they ought to have been. And he was looked up to as the

representative of all the best of them - their wishes & ambitions.

Even in the Crimea, his character had pointed him out to all observers for the highest position in his Department.

When the Royal Commission on the "Sanitary State of the Army" was issued, Mr Alexander's service on it was considered so necessary that he was sent for from Canada. He, afterwards, served on a no ~~less~~ important, tho' less well-known Commission for drawing up the new "Army Medical Regulations," which give our Army Medical Officers Sanitary powers, & a position of usefulness, which no Army Medical Officers in Europe have but ours.

In all these, he shewed the same clearness of sight in discerning, the same directness of course in bearing down on his object. {the following two paragraphs have diagonal lines drawn through them}

The eagle is a hackneyed metaphor. But he was more like an eagle than any of those Sovereigns who bear it as an emblem.

~~He was~~ Without any prejudice of his own/in himself, regardless of it in others, he had no film to his

eyes.

On the retirement of his chief, Lord Panmure called him to be Director-General. And the short time he occupied the office, he shewed high administrative ability, as well as his old firmness & honesty - his great

characteristics.

He had great difficulties - But he manfully breasted them all, doing the work personally of nearly his whole office, lest any failure at so critical a time ~~uncture~~ should ensue. At this time, he used to keep medicines beside him in the office to relieve the effects of hard work, which no inducement would make him lay aside, because he was convinced that it was in the way of his duty. As was predicted more than once to him, he fell at his post, as true a sacrifice to duty as if he had fallen on the field.

His death caused a regret

extending far beyond the limits
of his own Department, for the
public instinctively knew
that it had lost one of its
best servants. {the following paragraph has diagonal lines drawn through
it}

As for Sidney Herbert, under
whom he served during part
of his brief career - Sidney Herbert
was not a man who ever gave
cut-&-dried opinions of his
friends & officers. But, if he
hears me now, he will
endorse every word I have
said of Mr Alexander. All
this *he* thought. And what
he did proved what he
thought of him

ever yours

Florence Nightingale

I send the Analysis
of part of the Army
Medical correspondence
in the Crimea (made
by me in obedience
to Lord Panmure) for
Lord Elcho to see
what kind of a man
Alexander was.

I think the Devna
Cholera correspondence
(pp. vi to xii) is the
most characteristic
episode of the whole.
I have marked in
red the passages
relating chiefly to

Alexander.

ever yours

F.N.

NAS signed letter, 6ff, pen {reference GD 45/8/337/1-12}

Private Scutari Hospital
August 19/55

[14:217-18]

Dear Lord Panmure

I am very grateful
for your kind letter -
That you should think
of me & my health in
the midst of this painful
& pressing war must
indeed surprise and
please me -

I am well enough now,
thank you a thousand
times for your kind thought,
to remain at my duties
for another winter, if the

war keep us here so long
& my attentive Medical
Advisor, Dr. Sutherland,
sanctions my doing so -
I have no one now to
leave in my place - and
could hardly therefore
desert it, except I were
compelled -

You will, I am sure,
be glad to hear that
these Hospitals, in what
regards *Matériel* & all
that depends on the War
Office, are worthy of
England - As to the
Personnel, I will not

venture to intrude my
opinion upon Lord Panmure
whom I know only from
his kindness -

I may perhaps venture
to say that I hope our
Purveyor = in = Chief, Mr.
Robertson, will be supported
from home - & have his
supply of *men* & things
continued to him -
efficient clerks & plentiful
stores - He has already
done much for us - The
physically deteriorating
effect of Scutari air has
been much discussed.
The morally deteriorating

influence exercised by an
atmosphere is much more
remarkable - the first
may be doubted - the
men sent down in the
winter died, because they
were not sent down till
half dead - the men sent
down now live & recover
because they are sent
in time - But the
second, the mental
exhaustion of our Officials
here is beyond any doubt -
Nor does it appear to
vary with the season
of the year -

Would it be too much
presuming on Lord
Panmure's patience to
mention the disproportion=
=ate number of Patients,
especially from pulmonary
disease, which comes to
us from the Artillery -
inevitable perhaps during
a siege - where practised
men must be upon
severe duty - But it has
been said by Officers
who may be esteemed
authority in the matter
that the duty is unnecessarily
severe - that some inferior
functions might be dis=

charged by other men
now less hardly worked
that men of the Horse
Artillery might now assist
& that it is bad economy
to kill men with hard duty whom every
day makes more valuable
because they cannot be
replaced -

May I add that, had
our troops had a dress
for working in the trenches
last winter - & had they
been hutted - much of the
destruction which we have
witnessed would not have
taken place - Doubtless

ample preparations have
already been made by
Government for supplying
these wants next winter,
should we remain the
winter before Sevastopol.
But I am told that,
though there are huts at
Balaclava, they take forty
horses to get each up to
Sevastopol - the rail=road
being pre=occupied by the
Commissariat necessities -
& the huts therefore
remain at Balaclava -
A light waterproof dress
would be desirable for the

trenches - the men's boots,
tho' waterproof, are heavy -
And the hands should be
guaranteed like the feet -
It is not the cold but the wet which kills -

Again entreating Lord
Panmure's pardon for taking
up his attention with
affairs not strictly belonging
to the department of a Nurse,
but upon which he can
obtain information from
those really competent to give
it - & again thanking
him for his kindness

[end 14:218]

I remain, dear Lord-
Panmure, your truly obliged
Florence Nightingale

NAS signed letter, 9ff, pen GD45/8/337/2

Private Barrack Hospital
Scutari

[14:233-35]

September 24/55

My Lord

It has just been reported to me that Miss Clough died this morning on board the "Orinoco" in consequence of an attack of Epilepsy -

The Orinoco is lying off Scutari -

I immediately gave directions that the body & all the effects should be removed to my own private house in Scutari

accompanied by the woman who attended M[is] Clough, during her life - & that the remains should be buried tomorrow in our Scutari Cemetery - for which {I} have made the necessary arrangements.

It appears desirable that I should lodge with you, as head of the party of Female Nurses in the East, the circumstances attending & preceding the death of the late Miss Clough -

I am, besides, entirely

ignorant of/as to who &
where her relations are -
Your Lordship will perhaps
kindly ascertain, & forward
to them such of the following
particulars as you may
think fit & *such only*.

In December, /54, Miss
Clough came out with
Miss Stanley's party, to
join our Staff of female
Nurses in the East. After
a stay of six weeks at
Therapia, seven of that
party, including Miss Clough,
proceeded to Balaclava
to nurse in the General

Hospital there under my
charge - After a time,
she seceded from that
Hospital & went accom=
panied only by a soldier's
wife to the Hospital of
the "Highland Brigade" -
As this step was sanctioned
by the late Field Marshal
Lord Raglan, & by Dr. Hall,
Principal medical Officer
in the Crimea, I did
not feel myself called
upon to interfere - farther
than by taking the name
of Miss Clough off our Books
as one of our Staff - Her
secession ~~The step~~ was coincident

-2-

with, but not consequent upon (as I am informed by a letter to me ~~of~~/from the late Miss Clough herself) a letter of discharge, written by me at the request of ~~my~~the then Superintendent of the General Hospital, Balaclava, signifying to Miss Clough that her services were there no longer required - She, however, then informed me that, even when leaving England, her intention was to proceed *at once* to the Hospital of the "Highland Brigade" - that

she came out as one of my Staff, in order only to execute this resolution & that circumstances {have} alone delayed its exec{ution}

My letter to Miss Clough was prompted by the facts, communicat{ed} to me by the then Superintendent of her having led the Nurses into drunkenness & insu=
bordination, & her conduct was otherwise such as appeared undesirable for a member of our Staff -

I subsequently learned that she had taken three of the Nurses at

Therapia to drink at a
Spirit = shop -

I heard nothing more
of Miss Clough for many
months, except occasional
reports that tallied in
purport with the above,
till (~~illeg~~) a months ago when
I learnt that she was
very ill of Fever. She was visited
by both my Superintendents
at Balaclava - & she
subsequently was moved
on board a ship in the
Bay at her own request
& contrary to the opinion,
I believe, of her Medical
Advisers - She was there
uncomfortable - & at

her own earnest request
& at the desire of the
Medical Men, she was
admitted into our own
hut at the Castle Hospital,
Balaclava - where she &
the woman who accompanied
her occupied my rooms,
& Mrs. Shaw Stewart,
the Supt. there, attended
upon her -

Dr. Hall, P.M.O, became
exceedingly anxious that
she should be removed
to Scutari to me - probably
intending her subsequently
to return home & the
day before yesterday ~~she~~
he had her removed on
board the "Orinoco" - She had

-3-

two Epileptic fits during
the transit - & never
completely recovered her
consciousness - but, as I
have stated, died this
morning here without being able
to be moved on shore -

After the funeral, which
I shall attend, I will look
over the effects, in which
I shall probably find some
direction as to whom I
should send them to at
home - & I will settle
any debts she may have.

I understand that
there is a letter which
she desired to be opened
~~after~~/in case of her death only by me.

I have stated as brie{fly}
as possible to your Lordship
all the circumstances wh{ich}
have come under my
own personal knowledge
regarding this melancholy
case - Should I learn
anything more, I will
at once communicate
with your Lordship

& beg to remain,

my Lord

Your Lordship's obliged

& obedt servt

Florence Nightingale

I have never seen the
late Miss Clough, as her
secession took place before
I went to Balaclava -
And I was personally
quite unacquainted with
her, which must account
for my ignorance concerning
her family.

I ought perhaps to add,
as a pathiation of what
may appear erroneous
in her conduct, that
strong doubts have been
entertained of her sanity -

[end 14:235]

{in another hand: Miss Nightingale
24/9/55
as to "Miss Clough"
not for publication.

NAS copy of a signed letter, 2ff, pen GD45/8/337/3

Copy Castle Hospital
Balaclava
October 31st/55

My dear Sir

I was sure that you would not leave

55]

Scutari without one word of farewell to me. I was
very sorry to go without seeing you again, and
should have gone to your quarters for the purpose,
had I not been so hurried at last, and had I not
hoped to return to Scutari before you forsook us.

You have been uniformly kind to me during
a twelvemonth that we have worked together -
You have always acted towards me like a straight
forward gentleman - when you wished anything
altered in our conduct, or saw anything which
you disapproved, you have always come to me
and stated your wishes and I hope that I have

[14:254-

always obeyed orders - I believe that you have never said anything behind my back, which you have not said to my face, and I thank you for it.

I am very sorry to lose you, and I wish that I had met with the same upright conduct & gentlemanly feeling in all our authorities.

In case we never meet again & that I should not live to return home, - I should ~~here liked~~ like to have thanked you personally for all your kindness, and to have asked you the reason of some few things which I did not understand.

I hope that your health will improve

at home - & believe me to be

[end]

My dear Sir,

Ever yours very truly -

Signed: Florence Nightingale

a true copy }
2nd April 1856 } T.G.F.

NAS signed letter, 1f, pen GD45/8/337/5

Lea Hurst

Matlock

August 8/56

My Lord

I have the honor to report myself to you as having arrived in England, bringing with me the last of the Female Nurses attached to the service of Her Majesty's War Hospitals in the East.

[14:441]

I shall be happy to wait upon your Lordship at any time & place you may appoint, should you desire an interview with me -

I have the honor to be

my Lord

Your Lordship's obedt servt

Florence Nightingale

[end 14:441]

The Right Honble

the Secretary of State for War

NAS GD45/8/337/6 signed letter, 2ff, pen

30 Old Burlington St.

Nov 15/56

Dear Lord Panmure

I await your
convenience as to the
time of our meeting -
May I however add
that I earnestly hope
that you will not,
previously to that
meeting, have
definitively settled
either as to the names
to be placed on or

[14:463]

the instructions to be
given to the proposed
Commission?

I have the honor to be
your faithful & obedt
Florence Nightingale

{in another hand:}

Miss Nightingale

15/11/56

- she was infd that
Lord Panmure
will call on her
at 12 oclock on
Wednesday mornng
on 14/11 /written again 18/11

signed note, 1f, pen GD45/8/337/7

[14:489]

Dear Lord Panmure

I will be at your
orders at 11 on Friday

Yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

30 Old Burlington St.

Jan 29/57

[end 14:489]

{in another hand}
Miss Nightingale
29/1/57
call on her
at 11 oclock
on Friday

NAS GD45/8/337/8 signed letter, 2ff, pen, draft 43397 ff18-19

30 Old Burlington St
W May 3/57

[15:149]

Dear Lord Panmure

You directed me, last week, to make suggestions to yourself as to the organization of Female Nursing in Army Hospitals. The Director Genl, A.M.D., directed, last week, the expulsion of all Female Nurses but two from the Woolwich Artillery Hospital, & the substitution of the "Hospital Corps" -

Certainly this was not

by your orders, nor did you contemplate "after this manner", the introduction of Female Nursing.

I have a little pencil composition, "to be dedicated, with permission to your Lordship," exhibiting the order emanating from the S. of S. to introduce Nurses, & a simultaneous order from the Army Medical Board to turn them out.

I enclose a Memo (merely tentative &

experimental) as to the duties of Nurses. I cannot expect the S. of S. to enter into the details - Perhaps I may ask to hear his decision as to the ultimate steps to be taken =

I have the honor to be
 dear Lord Panmure
 Yours faithfully & obliged
 Florence Nightingale

NAS GD45/8/337/9 signed letter, 2ff, pen

Private

30 Old Burlington St

W July 1/57 [16:253]

Dear Lord Panmure

I have seen the revised Plans for Netley Hospital, which have undergone very great improvements - viz. the throwing open the Corridor. 2. the giving more window = space in the wards 3. the abolition of borrowed

lights & odd corners

4. the ventilation separation of the appurtenances

5. the abandoning {of the} {the side of the page is folded} idea of artificial ventilation & trusting to air = shafts, doors, & windows, & giving the fire air to itself -

Capt. Laffan has done the very best that could be done with the impossible

problem given him
to solve -

Now, the ~~very~~ best
plans I have ever seen,
for a Field Hospital,
were those made by
Mr. Brunel for the
Renkioi Hospital,
sent out by you to
the East, in huts -

The principle applies
equally to Permanent
Hospitals -

`Should Lord Panmure
wish for another opinion
before he finally decides
on the revised Plans
for Netley Hospital,
Mr. Brunel's opinion
would be the very best,
probably, to be had -
his Hospital having
been tried & succeeded.

I would only suggest,
should the above idea
be at all taken into
consideration, that,
before a consultation

be held over the Patient,
(viz. the Hospital,) Mr.
Brunel should see the
revised Plans, first,
without any other
Engineer - Consultations
are always fatal -

[end]

I remain
dear Lord Panmure
faithfully yours
Florence Nightingale

NAS GD45/8/337/10 signed letter, 2ff, pen, black-edged stationery

30 Old Burlington St

[14:981]

London W

Oct 5/58

Dear Lord Panmure

As you were my
first master, I am
bound by my allegiance
to send you a copy
of the Report so long
ago commanded by
you - though you
are in no wise
bound by the same
to read it -

It has been long

in coming - partly
from ill health &
partly from other
reasons - and has
only lately been
sent in to Genl Peel.

I shall be in
no degree surprised
if its only effect
upon you will be
to make you say -
what, is that
"turbulent fellow",
(as you once called

me,) alive still?

[end 14:981]

Nevertheless I am,

dear Lord Panmure

your faithful & obliged servt

Florence Nightingale

Rt. Honble

Lord Panmure

&c &c &c

signed report, 6ff, pen GD45/8/337/11 [some drafting by Jane Shaw Stewart?
Overlap with beginning to Subsidiary Notes, *Panmure Papers* 2:381-84

[14:490-92]

Private & Female Nurses
Confidential in Military Hospitals

1. If their introduction is eventually commanded by the Secretary of State for War, it would be adviseable to consider, beforehand, that their service admits of two distinct kinds -

2. Their chief duties may be limited to "taking charge of the linen & superintending the issue of extras."

They will thus contribute materially to the comfort & the well = being of the sick; - the real difficulties which undoubtedly beset the introduction of women into ward = service will be avoided, and (an important consideration, not lightly to be discarded,) their exclusion from the ward = service will materially diminish the opposition of adverse masters, some of whom are also unscrupulous masters -

3. On the other hand, the experience of every woman admitted to ward - service in Hospitals where women were not before, is that many lives are annually saved by such admission, which would otherwise, in all human probability, be lost . In time of

-2-

war, some ciphers may safely be added to the many. So with any other great emergency.

That, the experience of many Surgeons is identical their conduct has proved; no other testimony, under present circumstances, can rationally be expected from them.

4. It is often right to begin with the smaller & less = opposed good, & to introduce gradually & as it pleases God, the remainder.

5. *Practically*, it is of little avail to "superintend", ever so carefully the "issue of "extras" to the sick, unless there is permission & opportunity to pour the nourishment, often drop by drop, down the throat of reluctant suffering or torpor - And it is of little avail to have this permission, unless there be also that of raising the decent covering under which Cholera, Erysipelas, Bed = sores, or the discharging wound, or the recent operation lie, & seeing to matters within.

It is a further question whether the painful cleansing of painful wounds, & the important minor dressings, as poulticing &c, - which things, generally speaking, never have been done & never will be done by Surgeons,

-3-

are best left to Nurses, Orderlies or the Patients themselves.

6. At the same time, nothing is more pernicious than to under = rate the objections of opponents. There is no doubt that the admission of women to ward = service is beset with difficulties. Military Hospitals are & must be essentially different in important details from Civil Hospitals.

"Sisters of Mercy", as regards the ward = service, are decorous & kind, & sometimes inefficient & prudish - Nurses are careful, efficient, often decorous, always kind; sometimes drunken, sometimes misconducted.

Misconduct of women is far more pernicious in a Military or Naval Hospital than in any other, as regards the result of things - The crime is, of course, equally crime everywhere.

7. It is desirable to simplify & condense, as much as possible, female service in these Hospitals - Let there be as few women, & these few as efficient & as respectable as can be - Let all that can really be done by men be so done -

8. Head = Nurses are alone desirable to be employed - i.e. persons of the

-4-

character, responsibility & efficiency of
Head Nurses in other Hospitals -

9. The Patients should be distinctly
classified, though, of course, this is not the
business of the Nurses -

It is a question whether convalescents
require Nurses at all. But, if they do, - of
chronic or of convalescing cases, probably 100
would be efficiently served by one Head =
Nurse, having under her orders Orderlies -

Of acute cases, probably one Nurse
should take charge of not more than 40.

10. The Nurses should be strong, active
women, not less than 30 nor more than 60
years of age - of unblemished character -
irreversibly dismissed for the first offence
of misconduct, drunkenness, or dishonesty
or proved impropriety of any kind.

11. Their wages the same as those of
Head Nurses in Civil Hospitals - pensioned,
after service, if possible.

12. Their rules should be simple; very
definite, should leave them at the absolute
disposal of the Surgeon as to ward = matters,
& at the absolute disposal of the Superintendent
in all other matters -

13. Their dress should be uniform

-5-

14. Their duties should be strictly defined, in concert with & under the Surgical authorities. And it should be provided that the scheme of such duties & the book of Army Hospital Regulations be consistent.

15. Give them plenty to do & great responsibility - two effectual means of preventing mischief.

16. The nurse's lodging in command of her ward renders her far more efficient, but this requires some special arrangement. It would not do to have the chance of the nurse being suddenly taken ill, with only Patients & Orderlies within immediate reach. Were the Nurses' rooms so arranged that two or more were on one floor (as is the case in all Hospitals) so as to be entirely separate & yet, when so desired, easily accessible to each other, which might be contrived, this would probably answer all purposes -

17. Their food should be sent them cooked - And their Dietary should be fixed according to modern Sanitary authorities on this subject, which give variety in food as an essential element of health, & fix the proportions & nutritive values of different kinds of food in their best combinations for health -

-6-

18. The powers & responsibilities of the Female Superintendent must be absolutely fixed -

19. "Confidential Reports" must be so ~~far~~ modified, as far as women are concerned that the humble boon, granted to pick = pockets, of being informed of accusations laid to their charge, must be extended to the Superintendent of the Nurses -

20. "The training of the Hospital Corps "has been so defective that the material "remains now almost as raw as it was at "the beginning -" (Opinion of an eminent Army Surgeon.) And so will it always remain in respect of the niceties of nursing, if it be not tutored by skilled Female Nurses in these. The principle of the "Hospital Corps," is excellent - And it should be trained in those Hospitals where female attendance is possible for the occasions in the field where it is not.

21. "*Fuss*" has been & is equally injurious to Nurses, as regards the opinion of the Surgeons, their own & that of people who are neither Surgeons nor Nurses - The more quietly we are allowed to do our own work, the better.

Florence Nightingale

[end 14:492]

NAS GD45/8/327/34/2 FN letter to Sidney Herbert

8 Feb 1855 Barrack Hosp Scutari

Dear Mr Herbert

[14:137]

I will not write by this post as everything at home & abroad seems turning round upon a loose pivot.

The expected arrival of the Eagle is the only thing which fills us with satisfaction.

The French are buying up everything at Stamboul for two reasons-1st their severe loss by fire -2nd they have received orders to prepare for 3000 wounded. We have received no orders.

The French have taken possession of the Russian Palace at Pera & of every available place. They have bought all the blankets at 20/ yesterday in the presence of one of our Deputy Purveyors, which blankets had been refused by Wreford, our Purveyor, at 19/

All the women are sewing for the French, who are beforehand with us in everything. They are making 30 000 sheets & 30 000 dressing gowns.

I am getting things now from Malta, as nothing farther can be done at Stamboul. The French have received 4600 sick in the last 12 days.

We are burying at Scutari at the rate of 400 a week.

I will say no more but that I really feel how ill served you have been here & how little fault there is elsewhere. [end]

ever yours

F. Nightingale

NAS GD45/8/327/14, ncomplete letter

March 1 1855

[14:155]

Scutari

Dear Mr Herbert

As the Queen takes an interest in the proposed enclosure of the British burial ground here, I am desired to ask what she would wish to have done with regard to a private chapel & a public Monument in it. The wall & planting will be begun directly. If she wishes to give her own Orders about the chapel & monument it would be a gracious thing to do- will you kindly ascertain what she means us to do or whether she wishes us to proceed without her? There need not be a Chapel, but there

must be a Monument. It is a magnificent position, on the cliff above the sea- & the monument must be of sufficient size to greet

~~like the Temple of Sunium~~
our ships, as they come up
the Sea of Marmora, with
the memory of our poor fellows.
The temple of the Winless Victory ~~Summum~~ would
be a grand model. ~~& the~~
~~Wingless Victory~~ for the Chapel,
if not too heathen-I am
writing by this mail to my
sister to put herself in
communication with the Chaplain
General, to get us working
drawings-But we shall do
nothing of course till we have
the Queen's orders & know whether
she wishes to ~~have done~~ interfere

[end]

NAS GD45/8/327/7/3 FN letter to SH March 22/55 re enclosed copy

Barrack Hospital
Scutari

March 22/55

Enclosed is a copy, dear
Mr Herbert, ~~which~~ of a
Memorandum I have just
received from Mr. Milton

I have no time to write
now what I think of the
expediency of this. H M's
Government will perhaps
remember that every little
town in England has its
eyes upon Scutari-& Lord
Panmure should look upon
this as a Minister.

I will write next post
but I will now suggest

some heads of consideration

I. The Purveyor's office
divides itself into two heads

1 necessaries

2 luxuries or extras

II The Paper is so worded as to embrace both - to embrace
all parties & *all* gifts,
including Her Majesty's
Is Mr Milton to buy the
Queen's Eau de Cologne?

It is for Govt to strike
a middle course & say
what is to be ~~taken~~ done by
the Purveyor, what by the
Public.

III The Public has given
itself two almoners.

1 F Nightingale who with a

Proviso that her almonry
should not interfere with
the duties of her office was
accepted as such by the
Govt vide the Advertisement
you allowed Mr Bracebridge
to put in the Papers before
I left London-the Proviso
I have strictly carried out by
giving away nothing without
a Requisition.

2. Mr Stowe, with
his £25000, without this
Proviso, unaccepted by Govt

IV The Store I have, &
the extensive circle of Donors
from Ohio to Bombay
from Orkneys to Devonshire

V. It is repeating the
request to me to purvey the
Purveyor
I have no objection to do as
by last letter to you. Viz
cease purveying in the gross
as soon as the wards are
furnished according to rate
approved by your Commission,
which might be done, if they choose, in ten days-
& purvey extras only.

Mr Milton has sold
himself to the Purveyors in
general & to Mr Wreford
in particular & having
received a few Purveyor's
clerks from England, has
undertaken to do the thing
secundum artem. He himself
is writing in the sense of
a mere Purveyor's Clerk.
yours ever in haste
F. Nightingale

P.S. The word "collision"
is used in the enclosed.
There has been no collision.
I give you my word of honor
that I have in every
single item carried out
the system of Requisitions,
& they cannot prove their
case against me nor find
any one fast, though they have tried.

NAS GD433/2/297/21 FN incomplete letter [8:983]

June 2/84

[printed address] 10, South Street,
Park Lane, W.

Florence Nightingale begs to
acknowledge Lady Frances
Balfour's enquiry after the
character ~~of~~ as a housemaid

of Mary Dowding who was
in FN's service as under
housemaid. She was
remarkably clean & active.

In answer to Lady Frances
Balfour's questions she
is sober, honest & steady
& good-tempered, with the
good temper not of pliability
but of capacity. She would
be much liked by a mistress
who interested herself in her,
(Mary Dowding)

NAS letter, restricted access cd not get photocopy, microfilm RH4/195/4, item 60

Granton Ho
Edinburgh

April 13/57

Dear Lady Dunmore [wife of 6th earl]

It is very kind of you

to remember me & very
kind to wish to see
me at your beautiful
home- I should have
had real pleasure
in accepting such an
invitation. But I came
to Sir John McNeill's
on business & I am
afraid that business
must be the order of

my day- I shall have
to go back to London
so soon as it is over.

I hope that Mr
Herbert is not the
worse in health
for his very tiresome
& closely contested
Election. It was a
great relief to hear
that it was so
successfully over.
He will do a great

work for the Army
yet, as well as
other great things.

Believe me

dear Lady Dunmore
most truly & gratefully
yours
Florence Nightingale

NAS RH1/2/855 letter, black-edged with black-edged envelope, stamped, cancelled

Private

James Alexander Russell, &c &c
Lord Provost of Edinburgh
Woodville
Canaan Lane
Edinburgh
F. Nightingale
5/8/93

10 South St. Park Lane W.
"Corporation" Hospl Aug 5/93

Dear Lord Provost

In reference to our
conversation of the other day
which very much interested
me, pray let me ask
you, when time and
opportunity serve, to let
me see you again, as
regards the admirable
work in Edinburgh, "i[n]
which you are taking
so large a share, and
for which many years'
interest, both from
personal & local reasons
gives me, I venture to hope

some right to show
sympathy.

The tenure of office of Lord
Provost of Edinburgh is
long enough to make a
real & lasting impression
upon a great community-
And to be a Medical
Lord Provost is an
enormous advantage for
making that good &
lasting impression.

Pray believe me

yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

James Alexander Russell Esq MD
Lord Provost

NAS GD45/8/327, paper copy

GD45/8/327/34/2 2A3 signed letter, 2ff, pen

Barrack Hospital
Scutari

8 Feb 1855

Dear Mr. Herbert

I will not write by
this post as every
thing at home & abroad
seems turning round
upon a loose pivot.

The expected arrival
of the Eagle is the only
thing which fills us
with satisfaction -

The French are buying

up everything at Stamboul for two
reasons - 1st their severe
loss by fire - 2nd they
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to prepare for 3000
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received no orders -

The French have
taken possession of the
Russian Palace at Pera
& of every available
place - They have
bought all the blankets
at 20/ yesterday in

the presence of one of
our Deputy Purveyors,
which blankets had
been refused by Wreford,
~~the~~our Purveyor, at 19/

All the women are
sewing for the French,
who are beforehand
with us in every thing.
They are making
30000 sheets &

30000 dressing gowns -
I am getting things
now from Malta, as
nothing farther can be

done at Stamboul -

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4600 sick in the last
12 days -

We are burying at
Scutari at the rate of
400 a week -

I will say no more
but that I really feel
how ill served you
have been here &
how little fault there
is elsewhere -

ever yours

F. Nightingale

NAS GD45/8/327/6/2 8A3 signed letter, 8ff, pen

Bk Hospl Scutari

[14:171-74]

March 26/55

Dear Mr. Herbert

They are inspecting
Mitylene, as you know -
they have taken Smyrna,
at an enormous expence
& are now thinking of
transferring it to Mitylene -
They are also inspecting
Princes' Islands, close to us -
i.e. Lord W. Paulet & Lady
Stratford go out pleasuring
there - Ld William's
Aide de camp, a Major
Burke, (of all the stupid
dandies of aide de camps,
the most inane,) & old Dr.
Cruickshanks, (the most melancholy

specimen of a Staff Surgeon
here, were sent down to
Mitylene to perform this
Inspection.

In England you go upon a
fallacy - you think we want
to save the men's lives -
we don't - we don't care
whether the men die or not.
that is the reason we pitched
on Smyrna - where, even now,
the mortality is twice as great
as it is here - tho' we pick
all the ships, as they go
through the Bosphorus, of
their worst cases - & send
on only Convalescents. Here
our mortality is now little
more than 1/4 per cent - at
Smyrna 1/2 per cent.

There is Rhodes, for
 position, for harbour, for
 climate, for product the
 best of all the islands -
 key to Alexandria & Candia -
 most important to us -
 which, if we once had,
 we could have an excuse
 for keeping as a Sanatorium
 to Malta & Corfu -

it is forty miles along
 the gulf of Smyrna & forty
 miles back - put those
 eighty miles on South,
 instead of East & West -
 & we are within 100 miles
 of Rhodes -

Princes' Island is better
 than this, because this is
 alluvial, & Princes' Island is

pure limestone but the
 Bosphorus is like Gibraltar
 all the fogs & winds of the
 Black Sea come blowing
 down here - & Princes' Islands
 are not out of them.

Rhodes is the Montpelier
 of the Mediterranean - Princes
 Islands may be the Richmond
 of Constantinople - but people
 only go to Richmond when
 they can't go further from
 London -

In a month Smyrna
 will be untenable - so will
 the Palace Hospital here -
 so will, in all probability,
 Koulale, when the hot weather [Koulali]
 comes, so will Balaklava,
 at least the bay - Mitylene
 has fever from May to Nov=
 ember - Pray look at Rhodes

Doubtless the best of all courses is to send men back to England.

-2-

II I sent you a curious specimen of the Milton genius last post. I pass over the unparalleled impertinence of our hearing of this from a Purveyor's clerk -

But I am sure that they do not know what they are about - It would be enough to turn out a Ministry - to turn the balance of a General Election. They have not the least idea of the real state of the case - They look upon it as Purveyor's clerks.

There is not a small town nor a parish in England from which we have not received contributions - there is not a town

& hardly

~~not~~ a parish in England from which I have not had letters - Not one of these contributions is worth its freight - but the smaller the value, ~~the~~/of course the more importance the contributors attach to it. A "good" parcel contains perhaps 14 lbs Arrow Root, (we use 25 lbs every day) 3 prs Muffetees, old rag, a few flannel bands, 3 doz Comforters & some Welch wigs - If I had all the money which the freight has cost, I could build a Hospital with it - But do you think these good ~~people~~/contributors would be satisfied

-2-

if they received back
fourpence from the Purveyor?

These people here think
that it is a pleasure to me
to dispense these things -
If you knew the trouble of
landing, of unpacking, of
acknowledging! The good that
has been done here has
been done by money - money
purchasing articles at Con=
stantinople - The contributions,
till ~~quite~~ within these last
two days, have been nothing
to make any use of - But
that will make no difference
in the eyes of the people of
England, who have taken
pleasure in sending all these

things-

I could easily clear myself with them -
I should just put a line
in the newspapers to say
that I had been ~~forced~~/ordered to
sell these things - ~~B~~

Or I should fall back
upon my constituents
including ~~the~~ Victoria,
including you, (two bales
from whom are now standing
at the door of our store=room),
& ask, Do you choose your
~~contributions~~/free gifts to be sold?

But the absolute *impossi*=
bility of the thing never seems
to have struck these people
here - We might pay the
Queen - we might pay you -
But how could we pay a
parish, where every housewife

-3-

has contributed a child's old pinafore, every grandmother has knitted up her old wools into a Muffetee? It has been the one pleasure of the small towns this winter . Two thirds of these contributions are anonymous - at least two thirds utterly valueless - How are we to return the money? They have been contributed thro' the clergyman or the Mayor or a Committee. It is as if the whole of England had thought of nothing but Scutari. In five years, who will know the name of Wreford, or Cumming, or Lord W. Paulet? Dressed in their

little brief authority, they think they can settle the matter with the people of England by a few pence - ~~They~~ You do not know in Belgravia what the feeling of the City, what the feeling of the small towns is.

I have said my say. I am certain they do not know what a storm they would raise in England by returning the old Pinafores - You will do, I am sure, what you think right - I should be glad enough to be rid of the trouble of these frightful Contributions - But I have thought it my duty to make a statement of the ~~magnitude~~ number of the gifts of which I believe few people are aware -

III You would be pleased to see the difference which Dr. McGrigor's brief administration as Dy Inspector Genl has already made here -

Soyer is come, which I hope will make some difference in our cooking. In regard to the distribution of food, - to the sending it in bulk to the kitchen, instead of that horrible drawing of raw rations - to the dining & sleeping of the Orderlies out of ward & thus making a comfortable mess for them, - Dr. McGrigor has already introduced great reforms - We received 280 sick yesterday from the "Severn" - & for the first time since I have been here, they were all

bathed, their hairs cut; their dirty blankets, kits, clothes taken away, inventoried & stored - & their clean Hospital clothing put on them before they were brought into ~~Hospital~~/the wards. We have appropriated in one of the towers four rooms ~~f~~ & placed in ~~it~~/one twelve baths for ~~this~~/the purpose. And now we shall have some cleanliness & some order -

IV We have been getting off 800 men to England this week. The very best thing that can be done with the Convalescents is giving them a trip to England & back - The "Adelaide" & "Indiana" are gone - the "Tynemouth" going - The Bombay Convalescent ship, horrid place, is emptied - the Turkish hulk nearly so -

-4-

V

All the nurses who have
 been sent off from here
 (including those whom I have
 taken in here from Koulale) [Koulali]
 have been paid by me -
 & always will be - So that,
 if they should come bothering
 Mrs. Herbert, she must
 conclude that they are settled
 with - *Williams, Blake,*
Hunt, Harding, went by
 "Indiana" - all paid & settled with.

I am sorry to say rather
 a malignant type of typhus
 is setting in - few have got
 it, but it is very fatal -
 The foreman carpenter, the
 D.A. Quarter Master Genl,
 two Ward=Masters, two of
 my Nurses have had it - the
 two first are dead & ~~three~~/two

of the four latter viz one Ward=
 Master & my poor Nurse are
 dying.

Still the Hospitals are
 beginning to look healthy,
 cheerful & comfortable -
 Great changes are making
 & we are looking up -

But it is a real calamity,
 leaving Dr. Andrew Smith &
 Mr. Wreford in office -

The Sanitarians are doing
 their work well -

Mr. Bracebridge & Dr.
 Sutherland are gone to
 Smyrna -

The hot weather has begun
 here -

Ever yours
 F. Nightingale

P.S. I am sorry to learn that there is a probability of Mr. Sabin being superseded here as Senior Chaplain - & that a Mr. Parker, who achieved no very good reputation in the Crimea, is coming out as Commissioned Chaplain & Senior here - The change, I think, would be a bad one for these Hospitals. I need not speak of Mr. Sabin's merits, who was well known as Senior Curate at St. Michael's - Belgravia - & is well known to the Bp of Oxford, who took him from there -Mr. Parker was considered in the Krimea a toady, a bustler & a boaster, He was there only a short time -

P.P.S. While I am writing this letter, there have come in to me three announcements of "Free Gifts" - & one requisition for shirts for men going off to England from Palace Hospital, these shirts having been made requisition for in vain from Quarter Master's store.

[end 14:174]

The *printed* paper of an= nouncement of a "free gift" news - "*agreeably to the directions of the Right Honble the Secretary at War, we have received voluntary gifts from all parts of the country &c &c*"

NAS GD45/8/337/2 letter

Barrack Hospital Scutari
24 September 1855

Private. It has just been reported to me that Miss Clough died this morning on board the *Orinoco* in consequence of an attack of epilepsy. The *Orinoco* is lying off Scutari.

I immediately gave directions that the body & all the effects should be removed to my own private house in Scutari accompanied by the woman who attended M [missing piece] Clough, during her life, & that the remains should be buried tomorrow in our Scutari Cemetery, for which [I] have made the necessary arrangements.

It appears desirable that I should lodge with you, as head of the party of female nurses in the East, the circumstances attending & preceding the death of the late Miss Clough.

I am, besides, entirely ignorant as to who & where her relations are. Your lordship will perhaps kindly ascertain, & forward to them such of the following particulars as you may think fit & such only. In December 1854, Miss Clough came out with Miss Stanley's party, to join our staff of female nurses in the East. After a stay of six weeks at Therapia, seven of that party, including Miss Clough, proceeded to Balaclava to nurse in the General Hospital there under my charge. After a time, she seceded from that hospital & went, accompanied only by a soldier's wife, to the hospital of the "Highland Brigade." As this step was sanctioned by the late Field Marshal Lord Raglan, & by Dr Hall, principal medical officer in the Crimea, I did not feel myself called upon to interfere, further than by taking the name of Miss Clough off our books as one of our staff. Her secession was coincident with, but not consequent upon (as I am informed by a letter to me from the late Miss Clough herself) a letter of discharge, written by me at the request of the then superintendent of the General Hospital, Balaclava, signifying to Miss Clough that her services were there no longer required. She, however, then informed me that, even when leaving England, her intention was to proceed at once to the hospital of the "Highland Brigade," that she came out as one of my staff in order only to execute this resolution & that circumstances [have] alone delayed its execution.

My letter to Miss Clough was prompted by the facts, communicated to me by the then superintendent of her having led the nurses into drunkenness & insubordination, & her conduct was otherwise such as appeared undesirable for a member of our staff. I subsequently learned that she had taken three of the nurses at Therapia to drink at a spirit shop.

I heard nothing more of Miss Clough for many months, except occasional reports that tallied in purport with the above, till a month ago when I learnt that she was very ill of fever. She was visited by both my superintendents at Balaclava, & she subsequently was moved on board a ship in the bay at her own request & contrary to the opinion, I believe, of her Medical advisers. She was there uncomfortable &, at her own earnest request, & at the desire of the medical men, she was admitted into our own hut at the Castle Hospital, Balaclava, where she & the woman who accompanied her occupied my rooms, & Mrs Shaw Stewart, the superintendent there, attended upon her.

Dr Hall, P.M.O, became exceedingly anxious that she should be removed to Scutari to me, probably intending her subsequently to return home & the day before yesterday he had her removed on board the *Orinoco*. She had three epileptic fits during the transit & never completely recovered her consciousness, but, as I have stated, died this morning here without being able to be moved on shore.

After the funeral, which I shall attend, I will look over the effects, in which I shall probably find some direction as to whom I should send them to at home, & I will settle any debts she may have. I understand that there is a letter which she desired to be opened in case of her death only by me.

I have stated as briefly as possible to your lordship all the circumstances which have come under my own personal knowledge regarding this melancholy case. Should I learn anything more, I will at once communicate with your lordship....

I have never seen the late Miss Clough, as her secession took place before I went to Balaclava. And I was personally quite unacquainted with her, which must account for my ignorance concerning her family.

I ought perhaps to add, as a pathiation of what may appear erroneous in her conduct, that strong doubts have been entertained of her sanity.

Edinburgh University Library, microfilm, also in Add Mss 47765

Edinburgh Univ letter #1 signed letter, 10ff, pen & pencil

35 South Street,
Park Lane

[13:332-37]

London W.

Dec 6/73

My dear Friends: our good Nurses

Often I do wish that I could go amongst you all; at least twice in the year. I feel as if I were always with you in the work & indeed I am always with you in prayer.

1. The greatest of the Apostles said that, even though he preached to others like an angel, he himself might still be "a castaway": and indeed he entreats his followers over & over again to pray that this may not be the case with him.

What may that mean for us Nurses?

Does it not mean that not what we feel or say we feel - not what we believe or say we believe - not any high-flown talk or protestation - is *what God asks of us*:

but what we *do*: what *work* we do for Him: & *how* we do it: this is what our Master looks for: this is what will tell in the long run. [Any one can make a short run.]

"Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, but she that doeth the will of my Father in heaven" that is the test. - not His will for an hour, or a day, or a moment of religious enthusiasm: but His will in our every hour's work, for every day of our working lives.

And what is His will for us Nurses? -

I will not tell you how He likes His wards kept: for *that* you know right well: as well as I do - Nos 1,2,3-20 Medical Wards, and Nos. 1,2,3-20 Surgical Wards, are *His* wards, are they not? And all those patients in them, are *His* patients, And we are *His*, *His* nurses. And our Probationers and Ward Assistants are *His* Probationers

and Ward Assistants. And He has put
our Physicians & Surgeons over us: & called
us to this place.

And it is His *work*, & *how we do it*, that He
thinks about, is it not? - & that we must
think about: ~~not how well we can talk~~

Will He say to us some day: Well done thou
good & faithful Nurse: my Ward was
kept clean & wholesome & in order & quiet
- my Patients were all cared for, & kindly
& patiently done by, as thou wouldst
have done it for me: and Nurses are
being trained up for *me* in my Probationers

Or will He say to us: There was only eye
service: ye thought of your own credit
& glory, even when ye did ill: & not of
mine, or of your duty, even when ye did
well?

My dear souls: even at my age, & old as I am
in this experience & in the world's work,
I find it never too often to ask myself;
- may I not be preaching & talking fine to
others, & be myself "a cast-away"?

[47765 f127v]

It is easy enough to be stirred up to enthusiasm
& feeling - even to intend to be a Martyr
or a Missionary. but steadily to go
on forming the Christian life in oneself
-that is, becoming like Christ in our
every day's work - for years & years of
toil: that is a hard matter.

Yet do you think that Christ is formed in
us in a day?

2. The first year of any work: how
important it is: how much depends upon
it!

People often talk of the "good old
times". May we be the "good old times"
to those who come after us: the foundation
of the work.

But, if we fail, who can build
upon us?

-2-

And oh when these poor Patients go out from here, let them feel that they have been in the "house of God" - let them never have seen the neglect or careless performance of duty : let them never have seen lightness, or temper, or drink, with us! They will have temptations enough outside.

Alas! we Nurses all know how very many of our Patients, men & women, come in for 2 sins: those against temperance & morality: to speak plainly, from drinking & unchaste conduct.

But I suppose we hardly think how much a Ward may speak & say to them, like Christ: *Go & sin no more*: or the other way: *Go & sin again*.

Is it by preaching, by talking that we are to say: *Go & sin no more*? Oh no tho' a word in season by a really good woman may do much: the same word by an inconsistent woman & Nurse absolutely nothing.

It is by the silent influence of a consistent Christ-like life that a Nurse in charge of Wards makes her Ward say: *Go & sin no more*.

And what is it that makes a Ward say: *Go & sin again*? ah! we all of us know. It is: habits of carelessness & self-seeking: habits of ill-temper: habits even the slightest of levity or want of modesty or of temperance And how much the word temperance includes!- habits of self-indulgence; habits of petting the Patients or women=Assistants at one time, neglect or unkindness towards them at another; seeking one's own glory or credit: not being the same before men's eyes & behind their backs.

"And every one that striveth for the mastery is *temperate* in all things." how much she who is the Ward=*mistress* in charge of bodies & almost souls must be so!

Oh what a charming thing is a perfectly modest, moderate, temperate woman.

May we not humbly fancy Christ presenting such an one to his Father, & saying: Here is the daughter Thou hast given me.

You know that the word intoxication means self poison.

3. Habits of Self=poison: you know what 'intoxication' means: it means *self=poison*: habits of self=poisoning: -in how many ways can this be done besides actual drinking!

We shrink with horror at the bare idea that by any means of ours Patients may be carelessly poisoned by having the wrong medicine given them: -that Patients may have Pyaemia or Erysipelas or any Infection or blood=poisoning by any neglect of ours in cleanliness or ventilation: that Nurses may poison their hands & be maimed for life or have dangerous illnesses thro' some want of

care of ours.

But the self=poisoning of the *soul* the poisoning of the *souls* of Patients or Nurses from any want of care or of purifying of our own - when we let *this* get in: how can we expect our Wards to say to the Patients; Go & sin no more: how can we expect to have any influence over them, over our Probationers or Ward Assistants, for good?

And the corruption & the world, the flesh and the deivel, is not that self What does that mean?

Self=poisoning by the world:

is: for us Nurses:

- half=heartedness in the work:
- not doing all that we are called upon by God to do in it:

-3-

- doing it for our own sakes: our own credit
- not doing it with all our heart,
 & with all our soul & with all our mind
 & with all our strength.

What will our Master say to that?

- what is He saying now?

Is that not a *moral* Pyaemia, - a moral

Erysipelas? say -

Self=poisoning by the flesh:

we all know what that is:

it is: habits of excitement

 or of sluggishness & carelessness

whether produced by self=indulgence

 (of any the least degree)

 in lightness or flirting

 in drinking & eating

 in disregard of rules & proper

authority

or in conceit or presumption or

 wilfulness & love of one's own way.

Self=poisoning by the Devil:

is not that malice, ill=temper with

or neglect of the helpless creatures committed

to our care, who may yet be very

 provoking creatures sometimes:

spite, anger with the women, in charge

 of whom we are:

disobedience to those who are in charge

 of us: especially secret disobedience

or open defiance.

- ~~And oh let us guard against this corruption if if any of this self=~~

~~is fermenting within ourselves:~~

we would have ~~how can we expect that~~ our work

~~will be~~ accepted by our Master

or even by man:

if we would have ~~that~~ our Wards ~~will~~ speak & say:

Go & sin no more.

And to *Night* Nurses our Master

says ~~that~~/take care; even more than to

Day Nurses.

poisoning

4. Christ told his disciples to beware,
& be on their guard, & do & say nothing
before a little child whom He set
in their midst which could injure
the child's innocence, or make it in
any way the worse.

When Christ puts an innocent child
as He does sometimes into our wards,
does He not say the same thing to us?

[It is supposed that that little child
remained with Christ & his disciples
as long as Christ lived: that the
Apostle John then took charge of him

& that he was afterwards that Ignatius
who after 90 years spent as a doer
of Christ's work, in all sorts of
dangers & temptations, died a
glorious death thrown to the
wild beasts - for confessing our Master.

Some letters to his converts are
preserved to us: he says that it
was his highest wish to be ~~sifted~~

ground, like wheat, by the teeth of the wild beasts
so that he should become good bread
for his Master's little ones to feed
upon.]

Shall we not confess our Master:
we who can do it without being
thrown to wild beasts?

and help our little ones in the Wards
to confess Him afterwards in
the midst of trial & temptation; -
as the Apostles did by refraining
from all coarse or worldly talk
or cowardice or passions at the
bidding of Christ before the little
boy: & so helped Ignatius to
become a great Confessor?

Or shall we throw ourselves of our own
accords to the wild beasts - the
beasts of careless, flighty, coarse ways
& vanity, ~~immodest~~ & intemperate ways,

-4-

angry & ill-tempered ways - want
of self-denial & of devotion to our work?

These are wild beasts indeed -

Shall we not rather say this day:

No, in Christ's name we will go
forward & do our work in spite
of all our own infirmities & weaknesses:
for we have not a Master who cannot
be touched with the feeling of our
infirmities.

On the contrary he came to earth on
purpose that he might be in all
points tempted as we are. *He* knows
a Nurse's temptations He will help us
in them.

5. But perseverance: oh how easy it is
to talk: ~~yet~~ it is not to the talkers
[-we may 'prophesy' 'in His name,' we
may rant & hold forth 'in His name':]
-it is to those who persevered TO THE END,
in whom patience has her *perfect* work,
those who *endure* temptation: that our

Master promises His help, His spirit.

My dear friends: may I speak to you of
this? - I who am twice as old as
most of you - no woman & few men
have gone through what I have.
But I "glory in my infirmities" if I may
speak to you of this: -

The work of Nursing: [our Master called
you to it: He called you to Edinburgh:]
is to be built up day by day by
little details: by conscientious care,
from the smallest thing to the greatest,
in the charge of Wards:

To work is to pray: said one of the
greatest & earliest of Christian missionaries:
(the place of whose first colony I have seen in the
far East.)

In Nursing, each of us may be
about her "Father's business," each
in her degree, *as Christ was.*

If she is not about her "Father's business,"
but her own,

hers is no true Nursing: she is no real Nurse: somewhere or other, she will fail.

Christ was not above earning His bread in the sweat of His brow, as a carpenter, till He was thirty years old.

I will send you as soon as it is to be had an engraving of a picture of Him - not in the great events of His life, His Crucifixion, or His transfiguration, or His preaching & miracles - which we cannot imitate - but in His day's toil, at the sawing=tressel, as a poor working man - yet with all His human thoughts & purposes absorbed in doing it as *His Father's* business - as ours may be: let us hope, as some of our are.

6. Now, may I say this:-
if there are any of us who are half-hearted, any who cannot "endure temptation," who lack perseverance, who cannot give their whole souls to this: 'Lord, take me as I am: here are my arms & my legs, my head & my hands, my heart & my mind: take them & make what Thou will of them:'
let her go out from among us:
she will never make a Nurse:
a Hospital Nurse: one of God's Nurses.

Not to the timid & the conscientious:
not to those distrustful of their own strength but trusting to *God's*:
is this said. For such are they whom our Master loves: He says to *them*, Be of good courage: He gives them His best gifts: But to the presumptuous & ~~the flighty~~ is it said: to the double-dealers & the deceitful -

-5-

7. But no work is of any use which
springs up in a night; & withers
in a morning.

It takes long, long years of patient,
steady, persevering endeavour to
bring any work to perfection.

And when it is grown, still O still must it
be watered every day with constant care,
& with heaven's own dew. Or it will die:
die like the rice-crops which have failed
in India: throwing as many millions of
people as there are in England & Scotland
upon our Government to feed for 9 months:
& perhaps more.

Now let me tell you the reason: - we had
plans all ready for irrigating this very
country with the Famine hanging over it,
- which, had they been finished, would have
put these millions of people beyond the
reach of Famine.

By some obstructions they were not carried out.
It takes years to do them: years of patient

labour: like our Nursing in that.

The Engineer spoke of this failure with
tears in his eyes - Yesterday he was asked
if these works could be immediately put
in hand as Relief Works to employ the
people; & to have ~~them~~/water ready, (altho' too
late now) to save the crops in time to come.

Now these Irrigation Works, like our Nursing,
cannot be done in a moment of enthusiasm;
and, when done, must be always kept in order;
crops tended & fed with their waters every day
or the people will have Famine and Fever as
before.

So it is with our Nursing - It must be
renewed day by day -
Now, will you kneel down & ask God with
me that we may do our work -
that we may keep our work in order -
that it may be fresh every day -
instead of its getting dry & dead -
And shall we, my dear Friends, join in prayer
every morning & every evening - [and in the
nights that I have been thinking of you

all before God to say this to you,
 I join in spirit with the *Night Nurses* -]
 prayer that this time next year in 1874 we may
 it please Him meet together
 & ask each other & Him:
 how fares it with this our Master's work
 committed to our hands?

Florence Nightingale

To the dear Nurses
 of the Edinburgh Infirmary [end 13:337]

Univ of Edinburgh letter #2 initialed letter, 1f, pen

Glasgow Association for District Nursing

My dear "Little Sister"

I send for this Association

1. the Preliminary Report to our London District
 Nursing

Except that people never read anything, this
 would give them a tolerably good idea of the
 experience put together

(a) we do not think it possible to try to mix up
 Private Nursing of the rich with}

District " " " poor } because such

a trial has always ended in the RICH *absorbing* the poor

(b) we do not think it right to mix up ~~with~~
Midwifery Nursing with *General* Nursing of ~~the poor~~/any

[In a hurried scrawl I gave you my reasons for this]

2. I send you also two copies of my letter to
 the "Times" on District Nursing.

3. Dr. Donald Macleod has written (~~illeg~~)/to me: but
 not to ask me for a 'rifacimento' of my "Una"

which I might possibly have been able to do:

but for an entirely new Article on District Nursing for "Good Words".

It is not a thing which one can do 'at call' with an

overworked brain & worn out body: & with

every body asking one to write for some Report, Preface,

Dictionary Article or &c &c; & with never an hour's

rest since my Father's death 2½ years ago: besides

all old engagements. If I can do it, I *will*: but I cannot

engage to do it: I am sorry to say. ever yours F.N.

[I can hardly write this.]

{in the top margin:}

All our matters

I leave to

Miss Williams

to tell you

with best love F.N.

1/7/76

Univ of Edinburgh letter #3 signed letter, 3ff, pen {lithographed}

To Nurses
Lyons
Bothwell
Barnard
Upton
-
Papps
Hignett
Downes

Robinson
Monk
Watkins
Attwooll

London Christmas
1873

My very dear friends,
You know that I
would send you my very
best & most heart-felt
thanks for your good
brave work of the year
that is passing away:
as indeed I do:
but that I think we
may hope that a higher
than I, the Most High,
the Lord of all, sends
you His thanks in as far

[13:337-38]

as His patients have been
well cared for: and
His wards well managed
Think what that is:
that the Almighty Goodness
condescends to thank
us, His poor unworthy
children, for having
helped Him in His
work!

And shall we not thank
Him, too, for having
called us to a work,
in which we may, if
we please, deserve &

receive the thanks of the
Great God of all?
O let us not spoil such a
privilege!

Let us not by being frightened
or grumbling, - let us not
by failing to act up to
our very best, - let us not
by any unfaithfulness,
any self-indulgence or
worse, - forfeit so
great a privilege!

I have written you so long

a letter lately that I
will not now say more
thank (how much I cannot say
namely:) how very warmly
we feel your good work
done at Edinburgh: how
much we hope to find
it still improving in
your hands at the end
of 1874: this time next year
& beg you to believe me ever,
my dear friends,
your faithful & affectionate
Florence Nightingale.

[end 13:338]

Univ of Edinburgh letter #4 signed letter, 1f, printed [13:345-46]

[31 December 1874]

MY DEAR FRIENDS,- I do not like this Old Year to pass away without a meeting, at least in spirit, with our dear Nurses. Did you, as we said we would in December 1873, join in prayer every morning and evening (through the year 1873), that now on this last day of 1874 we might, if it please Him, meet together, and ask each other and 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 and 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; and to say for myself that, as I grow old, I feel more and more every day the need of being renewed every day, me and my nursing, and 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), and ask God, with all my heart, and will all my soul, and with all my strength, that we may do His work, which is ours, better and better every day, with fresher and more lively hearts every year; and every night with the Night Nurses I join that we may do our work better and 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 and every little thing we have to do so well as to make a perfect whole; doing it 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,

[end exp]

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Univ of Edinburgh letter #5 signed letter & envelope, 3ff, pencil

35 South St
Park Lane W
Xmas Eve 1875

[13:350-51]

My dear 'Little Sister;

I cannot let Xmas Eve pass without one word of greeting: poor tho' that will be-

Say a word to Miss Williams & all the Nurses for me of love & gratitude to those who have worked so well thro' the year -

Say, as Lord Shaftesbury said (about the Training=Boy Ships for Sailors:)- a legacy of £100 000 would have done much for us:

but oh it is a much better legacy to the country these well-trained sailor=boys: that is a bequest to Great Britain worth making So ~~is~~/is yours the well trained Nurses you give to Great Britain.

Say to all the Nurses that, while we are making ~~these~~ little presents to one another, there is a present that we can make to the Great Saviour & Deliverer whose birth day we are keeping: a birth day present that He values & wants above everything in the world: a present that He cares about from the lowest creature on earth just as much as

-2-

from the greatest & most distinguished:
the present of - oneself-
May we each & all of us make Him
that birth day present to-morrow!
-remembering what it is to make it:
that it costs something: otherwise it would
not be worth making - It is: to give
up all bad habits: to give up our own
way & to take His -
And may we each pray for one another, as

I ask them to pray for me; that I may
remember each Christmas more & more
till the Christmas we hope to spend in
heaven: that I am God's Florence
& not my own.

-3-

Poor Miss Pyne: how long has been her trial:
& yours:

-~~pray~~/please, if she has not left you yet, give
her my warmest Xmas love.

I will send you by rail two books, please,
for Nurse Hancock & Nurse Plummer -
I am afraid they feel rather lonely:

I hope they give satisfaction - Is there any "professional"
book that I could send to each?

God bless you ever: ever yours, my dear 'Sister',
whether I am able to write or not, ever yours,
as you well know: Florence Nightingale

{envelope postmarked: London X De2{illeg} 75} [end 13:351]
Miss Pringle
Royal Infirmary
Edinburgh

24/12/75

Univ of Edinburgh letter #6 signed letter, 3ff, printed [13:354-56]

DEAR NURSES ALL, VALIANT AND TRUE,

I bid you God speed, and many, many happy New Years in our calling.

Let this be really a new year, a year of deliverances from all our faults and mistakes (if you knew me, you would know how much I need deliverance from these); a year of pulling our patients through; a year of work such as angels might envy; a year of blessings for our sick, of blessings for their nurses; the "acceptable year of the Lord" for us all.

And, oh, remember, that each one of those sick is a temple of God! Let us not shame Him in His temple; that each one of those "little ones" has an angel which beholds the face of our Father in heaven! Let no bad news of us and our doings with each be brought to our Father. He has given us a post; let Him find each one of us in it; true to every one of His creatures as He is himself true to him.

Otherwise, can there be any devotion to nursing-and real care for the sick-any real love of the work? The place becomes a place of mere selfish occupation, under colour of "serving the sick," where each nurse may seek her own personal satisfaction, although in all the hurry and strain of hard work for others. I know you never shirk your work; yet, even a hard-working nurse may not care about the sick; she may only care about her credit and her business.

I was going to say, What would I give to escape my present life and lead my hospital life again, and be one of you? but I perceive that would be doing what I have just said I would not do, seeking my own personal satisfaction; so, we will remember, let who will forget it, the old fable of the "bundle of sticks."

If we hang together in raising the standard of training and of nursing, we can't be broken. And let me at this time, the beginning of a new year, "take stock," as it were, of ourselves, our progress, and our work. I ask myself, rather sadly (but though I am an old woman, I don't mean to be beaten, I mean, please God Almighty, to reform yet)-I ask myself, I have been asking myself all night, *Am I* keeping up to the motive that led me to choose this work? or do I look upon it merely as a thing

-2-

to be got through? Do I still think it a work to live and die for, a work to which God calls and called me?

King Harry the Fifth said, before he fought the battle of Agincourt with a few starving soldiers, and won it, that if any man were afraid and wanted to go, he should be welcome to go, and "crowns of convoy put into his purse."

"I would not die in that man's company
Who fears his fellowship to die with me,"

I would not nurse in that one's company
Who hears her fellowship to nurse with me."

Am I daily pressing forward more and more to do the daily work for the good of others; not for habit, self, or the glory of self?-not merely because others are doing it, and we must do it, like creatures in harness.

"Be not like dumb driven cattle,
Be a hero in the strife."

I knew a woman who said, and who did it too (she was the foundress of a great work)-Be happy in your *every day's* work, your *every day's* resolutions, even if you don't work up to them quite, you can do better every day.

We talk of rules. *This* was *her* rule. It was the rule of her life.

And if a heroine is one who does great things for the sake of another-(no conceit, all humility in it, if she thinks herself a heroine she is none); and if any woman may be a heroine in small things and in daily life, just as much as in great things and on grand occasions, surely any *nurse*, who has to do every day and to do for others, any *nurse* may be a heroine.

Now hail to the Conqueror,
O praise to the Lord;
Our life is His Spirit,
Our strength is His word.

My very dear friends and fellow-nurses, let each one of all us nurses be a "heroine;" that is, let her do *and* be her very best, in herself, in her common work with others, the common work in the "Home," the common work in the Infirmary, with every one of the patients,-the common work with the other assistants, and all in doing *their* best. Then, if she does her very best, intending it to be better and

-3-

better every day, till God raises it to the perfect work, she will be "heroic" in her daily work.

May we all be blessed in the New year. May the New Year be blessed in all of us, is the fervent prayer of

Your affectionate Servant,

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

NEW YEAR'S EVE 1878 7 A.M. [end 13:356]

letter #7 January 1905, printed card New Year's Message from Florence Nightingale to the Nursing Staff of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary January 1905

"I wish you to convey to all your Nurses and Probationers my most hearty good wishes for the New Year. I pray with all my heart that God will bless the work abundantly in Edinburgh Infirmary, and enable the workers to do it for Him, in the love which we owe Him."

[sent to Miss Spencer]

with note This is last general message sent through Miss Spencer, this is one of the several copies sent to me lately by Mr Bonham Carter A.L.P. 1914

letter #8 short message for Mrs Porter, fragment, pencil

Dec 18/73

[13:341]

Mrs Porter

Please give her my kindest Christmas wishes
& tell her I remember her perfectly & her care
of me 16 years ago when Mr Syme took me over
the Infirmary.

[another fragment] pencil

May this New Year
bring us blessing.
ever yours
F. Nightingale

24/12/75 to Pringle

Letter 8 scrap of paper, 1f, pencil

The Edinburgh Christmas people do indeed
put our London Xmassings to shame -
Poor Edinburgh & rich London
Dec. 28/73 {vert. in r. marg}

letter #9 26 June '75 to L.S., signed letter and envelope, 2ff, pen

Address

35 South St [13:348-49]
Park Lane W
June 26/75

My dear 'Little Sister'

In answer to your letter; I think that we must leave it to you to decide whether it would be desirable *not* to postpone - beyond the Monday's Meeting of Committee - bringing forward our proposal to have a few Probationers always in training under you when the new Infirmary is opened.

Mr. Bonham Carter is gone abroad

for a month.

And I should think of course have preferred waiting for his return before making a formal proposal. I wrote those few lines to you, because he thought such a proposal might possibly facilitate some of your arrangements for the new Building. But that, it appears, cannot be.

If you consider it desirable to bring our proposal *now* before this Committee, I think it would be quite safe to say that I had mentioned to you our desire to have some- say six-Probationers in training with you by paying for them= (to be in all respects under the same authority as your own): for whom six rooms would be needed: in the new Building:

& that Mr. Bonham Carter, who was of course a party to the desire, would make our formal request to the Managers on his return from a short holiday abroad.

I wish with you that you were to have a separate 'Home' for the Probationers.

I write in haste, in order that this may reach you by Monday: & add no more, because I am not quite sure that it will God help you, my dear dear friend
ever yrs affly

Florence Nightingale

Miss Pringle

{postmarked envelope} LONDON S [stamped] cancelled Ju 27 on back

X
JU 26
75

Miss Pringle
Royal Infirmary
Edinburgh

26/6/75

{vert. in l. marg. above date} To belong to the Edinburgh
Royal Infirmary

Letter #10 {fragment of letter, balance was destroyed as it was confidential} lf, pen

"IF otherwise suitable". Do
not go back from this= - I
know nothing whatever of her. {line at an angle thru prev. 3 lines}
3. I am authorized by Mr. H.B.C. **[13:356-57]**
to write & ask:
- how many Probationers you
can *accommodate* in the
new Infirmary?
- how many you shall *require*
for the service of the Infirmary
itself?
- whether you think well of a
project of having always an
Assistant Supt= in *training* for
one year for us?
- And, if there is any plan you
favour for putting the training
of Probationers on a more
systematic footing, on which
the "N. Fund" could help,
he would be glad to consider it

with a view of "assisting"
in "putting the whole
"training on a footing"
that you would like.

Do not hurry about answering
this: there is time & to
spare. And I am afraid
that you have not strength
& to spare.

My best love to Miss Spencer
& Miss Pyne:

God bless you, dear friend.
ever yrs

F. Nightingale

{vert. in r. marg. very faint:} Mar 8th 1879
{perhaps not FN hand} 10 South Street

letter #11 18 Sept '79 L.S., signed letter and envelope, 1f, pen

Lea Hurst
Cromford
Derby

[13:358-59]

Sept 18/79

Dearest Little Sister

It is 'proposed' to
'propose' to you as
Extra Asst- Supt-
for a year's training -
a Miss Wilson just out
of her year's training
with us (she has been
18 months with us: but
nearly 6 of them she
was laid aside with a
poisoned finger) who
was training with us for
a Hospl= Supcy= in
New Zealand. But she
is advised not to go ~~on~~ now

on
account of defects there.

We have a good
opinion of her= she is a
zealous woman -

But you will hear
more details from St. Thomas'.

God bless you -
ever yrs

F.N.

We have no one else, as I
mentioned, till January
to send as Extra Asst= Supt= } F.N.
for training with }
you:

{envelope} {smudged CROMFORD postmark}

Miss Pringle
Royal Infirmary
Edinburgh

18/9/79

letter #12 24 April '80 Provident Society, and envelope, 3ff, pen black-edged paper

Nurses' Provident Socy-

April 24/80

Dearest "Little Sister"

I am infinitely touched by your [13:361]

letter= but one question only

I must ~~only~~ ask now=

There is going to be a sort of
Conference on Wednesday
next, at Mr. Fred: Verney's
house of Actuaries & one
or two who have taken a
prominent part in Friendly
Societies-, - which Mrs. Wardroper
& Mr Bonham Carter will,
I believe attend, - to give
us sound advice upon
Provident Societies for Women,
as touches possibilities for Trained Nurses.

I should like a little
more information upon

what your Nurses' wishes
are as to "sick pay"
especially

At St. Thomas' we
dismiss entirely any
necessity for provision
for *temporary* illness,
because the *Hospital*
provides for that, as
long as there is any hope
of the Nurse returning
to her duty.

I conclude that it is the
same at the Edinburgh
Infirmary:

When you ask "what
they would be entitled to
in illness or old age."
I conclude that this
means: *disabling* illness
or *permanent* infirmity

and old age superannuation
 weekly pension or pay.
 Is there any other provision
 that your Nurses would
 specially desire?

The St. Thomas' Nurses all
 ask: would our money
 or what portion of it be
 returned to us in the
 event of marriage, or of
 our ceasing to 'pay in'?

I think it is so beautiful of
 your Nurses saying
 "If we never need it
 ourselves, it will be all
 the better & we shall
 be helping those that
 do need it."

{part of page missing}

~~have hoped or thought for]~~
 Pray think them from me,
 if you think well, for
 their generosity in
 taking to this scheme
 And I am so glad they 'have'
 If you have any thing
 particularly to urge by
 return of post, please
 write to me at

Seaforth Lodge
 Seaton

S Devon -

If NOT by return of post
 to South St.

I am afraid my "Little Sister" herself
 does not much care for the scheme.

~~It naturally takes off what
 would be a great pull on~~

{next line is swallowed into crease of page:}

~~{illeg St. T. is the Hospital?}~~

{page cut off}

[2]

~~trained Nurses do provide
— for temporary sickness.~~

[And you, I believe, provide
for convalescence, too.]
without stoppage of ~~pay~~ wages
or salary.

Pray tell Mrs. Barker,
with my sincerest sympathy
how deeply I feel with
her at the loss of her friend
{page is cut off}

& tell her I have not
forgot the book she
asked me for.

F.N.

Since I wrote this, I have
just received yours.

God bless & reward the
dear Nurses, & say, for
the high & noble spirit
with which they
approach this Provident
Socy= scheme

God bless them: & He
will bless them.

F.N.

{scrap of letter placed on top of first folio of this letter:}
am not worthy
ever yrs

F Nightingale

{date vert. In left marg. not FN:} May 19/80

{back of same scrap of letter:}

out have {illeg text cut}
far. We were delighted
with your Nurses' spirit
Mr. Hardy, the Actuary,
has now put together a draft

Edin U black-edged envelope, stamped, cancelled

AXMINSTER
E
AP 24
80

Miss Pringle
Royal Infirmary
Edinburgh

24/4/80

Edin U letter #13 29 May '80, incomplete letter and envelope, 1f, pen black- edged paper

Address

10 South St.
Park Lane
W.

May 29/80

Dearest "Little Sister"

Mrs. Wardroper told

[13:660]

me last week that
about a month ago
she had had a deputation
from a new Glasgow
Workhouse Infirmary,
asking for a trained
Lady Supt= -

I understood her to say
that they had previously
been to you, as was
most probable.

And she added that
you had refused them,
"because it was not good

enough".
She said she had
"told them to apply
to me." But they
have not done so.
Could you kindly tell
me anything you
know or think about
this, in regard to its
being a desirable
thing for a devoted
woman to accept &
~~or~~ work out?

black-edged postmarked envelope, stamped WINSLOW MY 29 80

Miss Pringle
Royal Infirmary
Edinburgh

29/5/80

Edin U letter #14 7 May '81 to L.S., signed letter and envelope, 2ff, pen & pencil

May 7/81
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dearest "Little Sister"

How many grievous disasters!
You will know how mournful
I am about Miss Spencer -
for your sake, for hers, &
for all. Thank you, - I
cannot thank you enough -
for sending me the Medical
opinion. It is better than
I expected.

But how shall you do,
dear friend, without either
of your Assistants? One
must feel so very anxious for you
But the Father knows.

Thank you very, very much
for your kindness about Mlle=

de Cornberg.

Unless I hear to the contrary
 - & I cannot but think she
 will be a trouble to you now -
 She shall write to you from
 Liverpool (Workhouse Infirmary)
 naming the day & train.

~~And I dare say you will
 be so very kind as to send
 some one to meet her at
 the Station (tho' indeed it
 is not necessary.)~~ {additional vert. line drawn thru same lines}

It will be about June 1.
 God bless you both again &
 again. Why is it
 such hard work to trust
 one's treasures to Him

except that one is so bad
 oneself - & so untrustworthy -
 for you both
 ever yours

F. Nightingale

I am afraid your note means
 that Miss Spencer will be
 a Patient for some time.
 Can you help making
 yourself anxious about
 the work? You *must*, dearest.
 It seems to come all at once
 - our Edinburgh misfortunes
 - I mean all together
 I am here at Claydon by myself
 for only a few days.

postmarked envelope, stamped, cancelled WINSLOW

D
 MY 7
 81

Miss Pringle
 Royal Infirmary
 Edinburgh

7/5/81

Edin U letter #15 30 Aug '87 to L.S. signed letter, 1f, pencil

Claydon Aug 30/87
Dearest, ever dearest "Little Sister"

About the "Jubilee Fund": [13:368]
we do not understand that its
surplus is to be distributed in
grants to Hospital Training Schools for Nurses

If it were so, who would
have such a right as you
have to a share?

Nor do they appear to
"hold to exclusive service
"to 'women & girls', as was
put in the "Times" -
Let me tell you more when

we know more -

But you may depend
upon it that should there
unexpectedly be any such
plan as Mr. Fasson believes,
no effort will be wanting,
were it *wanted*, to secure
Edinburgh her share -

[end]

in great haste
ever yours

F. Nightingale

Edin U Letter #16 21 Sept '82 to L.S. and envelope, 2ff, pen

Lea Hurst Cromford: Derby

Sept 21/82

Dearest ever dearest "Little
Sister"

I do so joy at seeing your
hand again & at having
a good account of you.

But I was 'mad' with you
if I could be 'mad' with
my dearest for not
giving me your address
abroad. I did write to
Dr. Balfour & I had an answer.

O hear Miss Spencer - how

I grieve for her & with her -

Please tell her so with
my best love -

Miss Vincent has lost her
Mother.

About the War Nurses

I must speak when we meet.

Joy that the War is over -

And let that meeting be not
so long hence.

with great love

ever yours

F. Nightingale

postmarked envelope, stamped, cancelled WINSLOW

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AP 21

82

Miss Pringle

Royal Infirmary

Edinburgh

21/4/82

Edinburgh University, letters to family

Edin U family letter 1 signed letter, 2ff, pen practicing cursive hand, large and small hand; n.d.

Mama will send you a cake [1:520]

Dear Fred

I am afraid
that I cannot
send you a cake
since mama is not well,
and I don't like speaking to
her about such trumpery
things. Do not be offended, I beg.

Blanche was
in such a good-
humour last
night, I jumped
along the passage, and
she laughed so, and shook
herself, and she

jumped almost
out of nurse's
arms; and when
I play at peep-bo
she laughs so.
She does not

wear a cap now.
Your affec-
tionate cousin
Florence N.
P.S. Miss Chris-
tie sends her love
to you.

Edin U family letter 2, in Keele XXI initialled letter & direction, 1f, pen direction postmarked

Rome - Dec 18 - 1847

[7:158-61]

Dearest Aunt Jenny - Many thanks and grateful kisses from my heart to yours for a letter from your busy hands, containing news which I so much wanted to hear, painful & disagreeable as it was. But you will have this letter so long after date, that I will not say any more about it, but only hope that by the time the children are pretty well again, & that you are spending your Christmas somewhere at Embley or at Waverly. By this time the cold clouds have begun here too, & my paws are so stiff before breakfast, that they almost refuse to convey the feeling which comes loaded with New Year's wishes to you all. Though we shall spend our New Year's Day in a very different manner, yet I trust that our hearts will not be far apart. I hear from other people that Uncle Oc seems very well, & that you who do not mention yourself, are pretty well, barring the toothache - would that you could get rid of that - Rome however is not the place, but we, by keeping at home o'nights, keep out of colds.

{The rest of this letter is in 9016/25, which I have copied here. The whole of the Edinburgh letter is in FN's hand}

How Uncle

Oc would laugh at the way business is done at Rome. The other day at the Baths of Caracalla, there were 50 or 60 men, employed at 10d a day which is high pay {9016/25 has wages} here to move earth from the ruins, which might have been moved {9016/25 has done} with a tolerably sized cart and a jackass in a few hours. They had wheelbarrows which we measured 18 inch. one way, 12 another & 7 deep & these were rather {K. has rather}{9016 has almost} lighter when they were filled

than they were before - they had to wheel them about 50 yards & running, singing, screaming, most of them in long cloaks & some in spectacles they set off. Half way they stopped & sat down to refresh some smoking their pipes, others improving their time & giving themselves up to study (while we were wasting ours) by reading books of devotion - & after a short recreation the sixty {9016/25 has 60} men set off again to their journey's end, where the earth was taken out of the barrows by twice as many spades, every single spadefull performing a circuit & describing two sides of a square (going from A to B upon the man's spade & from B to C on another's) before it arrived at its destination thus B C it having an objection to the Diagonal - A I never laughed half so much & they seemed to enjoy it too - The wheelbarrows had semicircular bottoms to take up as much room as possible, fastened in with large wooden pegs - Val would have undertaken the whole for a small consideration & a donkey -

The ruins of the Baths of Caracalla are something so enormous that one wd have thought they were barracks for a whole species - There are immense halls for the Gladiators' fights but when I found that I could not be in my bath & look on at the murders all in one, which would have been the beauty of luxury, or the "luxury of beauty", I thought the whole concern contemptible.

We went one day to the subterranean Church of St. Peter's which is truly wonderful, loaded as it is with bas reliefs, mosaics, pictures. What a

belief they must have had in invisible eyes in those days
for surely all these things could not have been placed
there in profound darkness for ours - There is a
whole garrison of dead popes & kings & emperors
& exiled princes there (three {9016/ 25 has 3} of our own) to mount guard
over them - beginning from the time of the old
prefects of Rome, one of whom the earliest
Xtian monument that exists has the most extra
ordinary representation of our first parents - Adam
& Eve are there having just concluded their greedy
trick & by them a figure riding upon a small
pony as there was no other created being at
that time who could this have been?

I have carefully concealed this fact up
to this time having always believed and
asserted, {9016/25 has operated} on the authority of many books
on Xtian art, that the early Xtians were
so imbued with the spirit of reverence that
they would not ~~even~~ make any actual representation [9016 image {K. has representation}
even of our Saviour, but contented themselves
with representing him by symbols - And certainly
in all the early mosaics I have seen here, this
is the case, the first figures of Him having crept
in with the Greek monks, but confidentially who
could this have been? The worst of the subterranean
St. Peter is, that you must follow your guide who
has the torch, & if I wanted to tarry a little,
I was obliged to claw hold of my immediate
predecessor's tail, that I might not be lost
in that labyrinth of tombs, at least without drag=
ging a fellow sufferer into the scrape, so that you ne'er should
see our pretty faces more - There is no pleasure which

is commanded pleasure, where your fancy may not
 have its own caprices - From the Sotterranei we went
 to sun ourselves at St. Onofrio - where poor Tasso lies
 buried under a modest stone with the monks
 among whom he went to lay his weary bones -
 Every thing is beautiful in his garden, even the
 roses & lemon flowers there were more beautiful
 than I had seen them anywhere else - and such
 a view from his own seat - of towers & palaces &
 domes & colonnades & the laughing villas of Rome
 & the great St. Peter's himself who looks more vast
 from there than anywhere else. But even these
 {direction}

via Massaglia

Mrs Octavius Smith
 46 Bedford Sq,
 London

Inghilterra

we know could not light up his days of darkness
 nor heal his wounded spirit as indeed the view
 of beautiful Nature or still more beautiful Art sel
 dom does - And one felt ten times sadder, as he
 did, at the thought of how little happiness had to do
 with it or him. We were not allowed as obnoxious
 females to go into the Cloisters tho' there are but 6
 monks left. that race being at a discount now and
 declining from its former flourishing beauty & preser=
 vation - {The following sentence is not in 9016/25} I do trust that the Boats have sold well,
 {written on the side of the direction}
 & that you, with all yours, are
 thriving, - dearest, Aunt Jenny -
 & believe me yours as ever
 lovingly, gratefully FN - in haste [end 7:161]

Edin U family letter 3 incomplete signed letter, 1f pen

best love to
dear Val & all. Burlington. Friday. [1:521]
My people stay
another day in
town i.e. my females.

Dearest Aunt Jenny, I
would not write to you till
I had seen Uncle Oc, of
whom perhaps a bulletin
from a *fresh* person may
be acceptable - I rushed
up to see him this mornng
before breakfast, ~~filled~~
knowing that was the only
time when I could see him
without people of business.
I REALLY thought him looking
well, & in good spirits. He
told me a great many
funny stories about

{pages missing!}
could we have expected,
with such an accident,
that there would have
been so little wretchedness,
so few miseries, so few
distressing scenes- No, really
it is all thankfulness
that it is so well - As
for the feeling of the Public,
that must go against
this iniquitous verdict - I
only received your dear
letter yesterday-it having
followed me here - I am so
VERY glad you are going to
stay awhile longer where
you are - Yours overflowingly
Flo.

Edin U family letter 4 initialed letter, 5ff, pen [1:524-526]

Embley. Oct. 11. [1847]

Dearest Aunt Jenny, I was so glad of your letter, you cannot think, though it was a week before it reached me - & now I have scarce time to tell you how rejoiced I was to have any tidings of you- All I can do in return is to tell you about Uncle Oc- he was very much pleased with the interview he had had the day before with the foreman of the Jury, a most sensible man, who had been entirely against the verdict from the very first, but, as the others had declared they would rather be "starved out." than not give it, he "didn't choose to be made a fool

of." The Coroner too, you know, was against it, but as you have heard all that from Aunt Julia I will not trouble you /with it The article too in the Economist was very satisfactory & Uncle Oc, taking such a right view of the case. Of course you will see, it. Uncle Oc was in his tub when I arrived, so I had not so long time with him as I should have wished - "Cock burn's" really seems to have been what has vexed him most (so aggravating, coming just at that time) but that shows that he does not take this so very much to heart. They have not the least fear

about Heasman's trial which
comes on about the 31st
It seems that /the expense will come
to between 2, & 8,000 £.
I am very glad the boats
are to be given up, as it
was too much anxiety for him.
There is ~~now~~ no very distressing
case now except one boy
who has lost his leg. A
great many people have
got new hats for old ones,
good clothes for bad ones,
& are really the better for
it. Your Jews, who asked
£10 a piece for a basket of
fruit, are gone off satisfied
with £5. The Irish widow
I told you of, appeared to think

it a perfect Godsend which
had rid her of her husband,
whom she "wished she had
never seen." altho she had
only been married 8 months.
Two of the others who are dead
do not, by their deaths,
reduce their families to
poverty.

The person, who is giving
Uncle Oc most trouble, is that
beggarly attorney who was
advertising in the Times. If
it were not for the lawyers,
/he said everything would have gone
right, they have done all
the mischief. However he
sees now the end of his business
& of his liabilities, as Friday

2

had been the first day without
an application. There were
really supposed to be (although
it seems impossible,) 100
people in that part of the
boat, which was utterly
destroyed! When one thinks
of this, one feels as if one
could hardly be thankful
enough! Take courage, dear
Aunt Jenny, you will see
that all is for the best, now
as ever-that the feeling of
the public will be against
the verdict, that the tide
will perhaps have turned
all the other way long before
Heasman's trial, that Uncle

Oc will ride out the storm
courageously, as he always does-
That every body will come round
to the belief that, if no risks
are run, there can be no
improvements-that if there
be government Superintendence,
& every thing go on in the
same jog=trot way it has
done since King Alfred's
time, when we had not a
"stool to sit on", there may
be no accidents, but there
will be no progress. We
might as well say that
the actual amount of
happiness produced by the
rail roads carrying the public

cheap & fast, was entirely
neutralized & annihilated
by the few dreadful accidents
there have been - People who
never try to walk, will never
stumble, that is certain - &
those who never try to benefit
the public in any way, will
never be exposed to cantan-
kerous juries & accidental
failures- But they will
never either have done any
good in their generation -

You will have heard all
this so much better from
Aunt Ju, that I am shy
of inflicting more upon
you. I wish too I could give
you more facts but during

the short time I was with
Uncle Oc, we talked about
other things too, about you &
how glad he was that you
& Val should have a little
more Scotch air - how he
hoped to get down to you, but
I am afraid that is doubtful.
He looked well. I missed
Aunt J. by half an hour-
for I could not stay as I
was coming down here with
my father- You will see,
dear Aunt Jenny, that there
will be nothing to regret after
a while. So mind you do
not let sad thoughts spoil
the Scotch breezes. But I am
writing before breakfast, & I

[3]

must go - & instead of applying
a fixed rule for the investiga-
tion of your thoughts, apply a
fixed rule for the laying down
of the carpets.

My friend 's "little possession"
is a dark headed nice little
strong affair, a stormy little
bab, who I should think would
box the maternal ears "Thank
Heaven, I've got rid of you", she
said. poor woman, she never
was more mistaken - she has
with it
only just begun - has she?

Fanny Hanford is to be
married in the end of Novber=
(& Parthe is to be bridesmaid).
She is very happy & the future
Mr. Fanny with whom I had
a long tête à tête, appears to
me a most satisfactory person.
One cannot say any thing with

her, poor dear, but what a
relief generally, that she should
be turned over to a wise &
good protector) with such a
father, I mean) but this man
seems all that her strong sense
& confiding spirit can require
in order to be able to look up.
I wish she were a little less
delicate looking now.

Farewell, dearest An Jenny
my next letter will, I hope,
have a little more variety.
till then I am yours hastily
but ever lovingly & gratefully
with best love to all.

FN

Edin U family letter 5 initialed letter, 4ff, pen [1:522-23]

Best love to the boys & all the children & to the dear Bab, of whom we were defrauded- Lea Hurst Sept 21 [1847 dated from Mohl marriage] Dearest Aunt Jenny, I was so glad to hear from Uncle Sam such a good account of you & of your capabilities, land & water. Truly we should be very thankful to Ardtornish, if it is able to perform such wonders - and have you had no more tooth-ache? I trust that Uncle Oc will be able to return - how too unfortunate was it that this poor Accident should have happened just when he was enjoying himself. Mr. Kroff, who has been staying here, & whom I ~~++~~ like so very much, says to me, "Mr. Octavius- I did tremble to see him again. I did think he would

look disfigured- but I think he do look so venerable- dat is, worthy of veneration- the eye is so prettily closed- he look like a general, who has lost his eye in the love of his country, he really look like a hero". Mr. K. has such a warm feeling for you all. "I do love Miss Flora like my daughter"- he often said.

Laura & Lothian were here for a week on their way to Scotland-- they surprised me while my people were at Lady Sitwell's - however, there was plenty of house=room - & I sent up into the village for ¼ lb of tea & they had to find the spiritual dinner themselves. Mrs. Plunkett has a little girl-

(I know that you are kindly interested about her) & though her family desired a boy, yet they had been sufficiently anxious about her, not to make much difficulty with Providence.

Our little visit from your two boys was very short & sweet- Poor Shore was desolated not to stay as long as they staid - But I will say for your boys that , in all matters of conscience, they are the greatest moral Heroes & moral Helps I know- they really, when they know a thing to be right, they actually do it!. and though it does not sound a very astonishing thing upon paper, yet it is in life, as we all know, the rarest of all astonishments. They always say to my boy, "Do what you think they will like" -meaning his father & mother & as *they* do it, it is not only words - And they are the only boys I know, who do say so to him -

You will be glad to hear that poor *Cupid*, whom you took so kind an interest in, is to be taken from her present Bible & muffins place, & as she has given up her visions of the stage & announced her desire to be a dancing mistress, is to be apprenticed to a respectable dancing teacher.

Aunt Julia & aunt Maria are again ensconced at Combe. but we mean to keep Aunt Mai &

her children some time longer here,
 as we do not move South till
 the 1st. They are now at Grand
 Mama's. I cannot help fancying
 that Beatrice is a little better -
 The rail-road here is progressing,
 it makes sad havoc in Aunt
 (Evan)'s field, but not in her
 peace with us, on the contrary,
 it destroys our peace, but not
 our field. I hope that dear Pat [**end 1:523**]
 will have his run down to you
 before you go. Every body says
 that he has done his Cricket work
 beautifully. Pray tell Willie that [**1:523**]
 I am quite reconciled to your friend
 M. Mohl - I say "your friend", because
 I believe you harboured him more
 than all the rest of the family

put together: He came here and
 I dragged him, (as in duty bound
 by Miss Clarke's command) all over
 the Manufactoryies, & all over the
 Workhouse & the Board of Guardians,
 & all the remark he made was
 upon a carpet in the Governor's home,
 that if a German governor had a
 carpet, he would be turned off for
 speculation - so said I in my head -
 you are a thorough man of the
 world, who are labouring under a
 delusion (you know they say we
 have all of us one mental delusion,
 some two - in some it takes the
 form of imagining themselves tea=
 pots, in others, Napoleon) now
 M. Mohl thinks himself a Political
 Economist. Besides, I was very

angry with him for not seeming
to interest himself about Miss
Clarke. Well, since he went, he
has written such tender letters
about his brother's marriage, so
full of eager curiosity about Miss
Clarke, & of fraternal certainty that his
brother will make her happy
(having had no idea of the
marriage, while with us) that
I have put dust upon my head
& eaten all my words, though
they were many & tough against him.

But you are probably not quite
so much interested about the
Clarke marriage as we are -
We went last month to hear Jenny
Lind at Birmingham - though I scorn
to be disappointed, she does not
shine in a concert room. **[end 1:523]**

Pray remember me to your sweet
Christian Tytler, if she is near you
as I think I heard she was. We **[1:523-24]**
spent one night at Mrs. Brace-
bridge's lately - they were over-
whelmed with delight at having
just been able to buy Shakspeare's
house at Stratford, of which he
had been the prime mover - I
cannot quite understand this en-
thusiasm - Is not one line of Julius
Caesar more a remembrance of
Shakspeare, than the house where
his old clothes lay? We have himself,
we have his whole mind, & what
do we want with the room, where
he passed the night? It seems to
me like going to visit a friend's
dirty linen, when we have his
own living self by our side. But
you will be very tired of my own
living self wherefore believe me ever dearest
At Jenny yours overflowingly FN

Edin U family letter 6 signed letter, 4ff, pen, black-edged paper

Embley March 5/71

[1:526-28]

Dearest Aunt Jenny

I know not whether you can care to read another letter in your sorrow - your sorrow which one can think of only before God - as being too great for man to meddle with - but infinite & holy like Him.

Ah you have had two such sorrows in your life - and alas many others -

The flood of recollections of your 52 happy years with him, for you told me they were the happiest of years - in spite of all sorrows, perhaps because of all sorrows - comes back

[2]

without you. Yours would never be the unloving cry" 'oh that I had died first.'

Ah why need I bring to your mind all, ~~the~~ or any of the great & noble & affectionate things he has done since, (since 30 years ago)?

Fifty two years of such married life as yours - how few, how very few can shew anything like it how few can even know what it means -

You said once, in the midst of agony, that you were the 'happiest of women' - I should not wonder if even at this moment, tho' it seems like a miracle, you might be saying the same thing.

I see you as you were when you showed me the little house, with the cinders before it, where you first went, - a newly married wife, almost a girl - with him & which you told me was Paradise - where Fred was born -

I remember your saying that, in the holy joy of that birth, you felt the pain as nothing - nothing but a sort of cheerful excitement - that June 26 1820 -

Then I see you all as you were during that time when I knew you all so well 31 years ago.

- how great, how manly, he was - what a noble charm in all he did - doing great helpful things for people which no one else could do because no one else had his grace & strength of unselfishness & manliness in assuming the powers & duties of responsibility -

There was a primitive saying about him - that he was "adored in the yard" - But to us who knew the causes of this & how justly it was so, the expression was a good one, for it was so.

That agonizing but happy time in 1840 - how can I tho' I have passed thro' such scenes since, such battle-fields, such national calamities & catastrophes - how can I ever forget? -

I remember your saying: - "while he is with me, while I have *him* to be with, i can bear anything".

And, once you said: - Since I married him, I have really no will ~~now~~ but the will of God. I never wish to do any thing but what I believe to be agreeable to God.

And, about Fred, I remember your saying: "oh Flo I had rather have him lying there, as he is, on the ~~wild~~ desert sea shore, than have him as so many people's sons living just from breakfast to dinner & from dinner to tea" -

I ~~am sure~~ that, tho' I can hardly imagine you without dear, dear Uncle Oc, you can rather rejoice that you have lived to be without him than that he should have lived to be

But I will not weary your eyes, dearest Aunt jenny,
with telling you what you know - and so much
better than I -

I thought of you so much in the last terrible
wrench yesterday -

I told my dear mother of her loss. She took it
quite beautifully - but, I could fancy, has been
a little more feeble since - & I was glad that
she was quite quiet in her bed & alone to tell her.
She has talked of you incessantly ever since -
And each day I repeat to her all the particulars
I know - She has said constantly: Would they all
come here?

I do not know even that you are well enough,
alas! to move - Dear Gertrude's happy prospect
which we trust will bring a great joy to her & also
to you, would also prevent you for a time -
Still I mention what my dear mother has so
frequently said. Do not think of answering it yet.

I know how you & Flora share the same thoughts
- and dear Val - and Willy.

God bless you, dearest Aunt Jenny & support you
all. I can scarcely fancy you without *him*.

But then you are *not* without him.
All yours & ever yours in thought & heart

Florence Nightingale (your old Flo)

Edin U family letter 7 signed, with envelope, both black-edged, 3ff, pen

35 South Street, March 28/71

Park Lane,

[1:528-29]

W. [printed address]

My dear Flora

i was very grateful to you
for your kind note on Monday
week about dear Gertrude &
her baby, you may be sure.

I have heard every day
since direct from Onslow Square -
as there seemed, alas!, some
cause for anxiety -

But I would not trouble
any one to write at such a time
- when I could have my news
for sending for it - I felt
so much interested about all
the poor baby's perpatetics about
its wet-nurse -

[envelope] black-edged, stamped, cancelled London Mr 28 71

Miss Flora M Smith
28 Prince's Gate
Hyde Park
W.

I trust that now all anxiety is over - & though one is very sorry that Gertrude cannot nurse herself, yet we will hope that both new mama & new baby have settled their affairs for the best for this time.

The one who must have felt most of anxiety, dearest Aunt Jenny, I have thought of most. I fear that she has suffered from it- but in a short time she will, we may trust, be receiving the joy which the dear new mother & grandchild will be able to give her -

Please give her my dearest love - & thank her very much for sending me Mr. Martineau's address -

If you have another copy to spare & would kindly send me one for my father, he would truly appreciate it. I do not like to give away my copy, sent me by dear Aunt Jenny herself -

I did not like to write & give you joy in answer to your note till all fears were over - but believe me, dear Flora, ever yours
Florence Nightingale

Edin U family letter 8 signed, 1f, pencil

July 14/71
35 South Street, [printed address]
Park Lane,
W.

Dear Gertrude

It is *extremely* kind of you to think of me & the India rubber carriage - [I had not dreamed of asking for it.]

I leave London *to morrow* (Thursday) for Lea Hurst - I start from here at $\frac{1}{4}$ before 11 for St. Pancras' Station -

But, indeed, dearie, you must now send the [not?] carriage if it is the least

inconvenient.

I am thankful to hear that dearest Aunt Jenny has started off even so well as she has done -

I have the picture she gave me of Uncle Oc set up ever before my bed - & take it with me.

Thank God your little man is well -

Yours ever, with many thanks,
F. Nightingale

Edin U family letter 9 signed, 3ff, pen and pencil black-edged paper

35 South St **[1:529]**
Jan 9/74

Dearest Aunt Jenny

Your sympathy is very dear to us. My dear Father was taken from us quite suddenly at 8 o'clock on Monday morning. He had got up at his usual hour.

But it is not sad for *him*: it is *his* New Year: we are sure, could he have chosen, *he* would have had it so.

It is very dreary for us not to have seen him again:

that he should have had none of us by him
 at the last: & we no last word or message.
 But one who saw him just afterwards told me
 that he looked so peaceful & happy in death
 one seemed only to wish that a like quiet
 dismissal from care & toil might be granted
 to one self -
 No one knows what the break up is to us:
 especially to me who never once thought that
 I should survive *him*. I thought he had 10
 years of life in him. I perhaps not one.

My dear mother is very sweet & gentle
 in her grief: she begged so to see him "&
 kiss him once more": but was persuaded to
 give it up, by being told that it was only
 his "old garment" lying there: *he* was not "there".

They did not wish her to see him then:
 for by that time the grand old head was much
 altered: tho' there was not the least
 convulsive struggle in death - The breath ceased,
 just as if the Burden had been suddenly removed
 & the rest came

[pencil]

I am not to go down to Embley just now:
 for there are almost too many people there: for
 my mother: but she is fond of Sir Harry Verney
 And Aunt Mary is everything to her -
 I am afraid though that Aunt Mary was
 to go back to Combe to day: She is so overcome,
 She could not bear to stay over the Funeral,
 which is to morrow.

I am sorry to hear that you are so unwell

I will write more to morrow when the last of him will be hid away
 from us.

- Your own standing sorrow is never out of my head -
 ever, dearest Aunt Jenny,
 Your loving old
 Flo

Edin U family letter 10, black-edged paper, pencil

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
Jan. 28/74

Dearest Aunt Jenny

Many thanks for so kindly offering me your carriage-

I trust that you are better.

I am going down to Embley on *Friday* by the 12.45 train from *Waterloo* Station. And if you happened not to

be using the carriage at that time, should be very grateful for it:

but *pray*, if you are using it, only let me know: I can get another.

My dear Father used always to say "I must write & thank Aunt Jane".

ever dearest Aunt Jenny
your loving old
Flo.
Thanks for the brace
of woodcocks.

Edin U family letter 11 signed letter, 2ff, pencil, black-edged paper

Embley

Romsey

Feb. 17/74

[1:530]

Dearest Aunt Jenny

You are so good to me
that I venture to tell you
that I am obliged to come
up to London on *Thursday*
& shall be at

Waterloo Station at 4:32 p.m.

If you are so kind as to
send your carriage for me,
& it is not inconvenient,
I shall be truly obliged

But please believe that,

if it is more than usually
inconvenient, I can
quite well get another
carriage, if you will
kindly tell some one
to write to me.

I leave the Verneys here:
& shall probably return
soon -

My dear Mother varies
much: always gentle:
but sometimes quite
realizing her loss : & saying
what she wishes to put

on his grave-stone: & with
more of mental & spiritual
insight than ever she had:

At others, not able to
understand that he is
gone, & wandering - I hope
less painfully to herself
than to us - Sometimes,
I think she may not live
thro' the day: at others
that she may live for
years: she is so much
stronger than I.

For me, the place "all withered
when my Father died":
but, for me too, it is: here to

lie expecting to hear his
voice & his step coming
in to the rooms below:
expecting always & always
disappointed.

Aunt Ju is here:

Believe me ever
dearest Aunt Jenny
Yours affectionately
Flo

I hope that you are
tolerably well.

Edin U family letter 12 signed, 2ff, pencil, black-edged paper

Embley

[1:530-31]

Romsey

March 17/74

Dearest Aunt Jenny

You are very, very good
in writing & calling - to offer
me your beautiful carriage

Parthe lent me hers: so I
would not trouble you: &
took it - to my cost.

'Sarv'd you right': you
will say, dear, kind Aunt
Jenny.

My dear Mother's welcome
of me this morning was

inexpressibly touching: she
shed tears - She is so
gentle, so gentle: what
treasures of goodness there
are in people - Often I
think there is more of
spiritual insight &
generous tenderness in her
than ever she had in her
life. And sometimes I
wish that God would
take her so.

Aunt Ju seems thriving -

Poor William Nicholson:
 what a break-up to him:
 do you hear how he
 bears it?
 in haste
 ever, dearest Aunt Jenny,
 your old
 Flo

Edin U family letter 13 initialled, & envelope, 3ff, black-edged paper, pen

35 South St.
 July 21/78

[1:531-32]

Dearest Flora 6 am
 I have not written but you & she are ever
 present with me. I think your house
 is ever before me, just as much as if I were
 in it" & her as I knew her at a time
 when all those magnificent qualities of
 devotion & heroism ever in her shone forth: the
 time of Fred's death till after her
 confinement: You were a little child then
 God bless you always.
 I was with her then for months.

And now she has the peace which
 passeth understanding. I give her joy.
 & I know that you take the joy too.
 I bless God that I have ever known her
 tho' I find it hard to bear life without
 her in it: how much more must you.
 Thank you, dearest Flora, for
 writing to me.
 Do you know that she wrote to me
 twice, in her own clear beautiful hand -
 the last time but a fortnight before her

death. She wished me a "farewell",
 & she spoke "in the name of the
 "precious grandchildren": How dear
 they must be in her name & in
 their own to their mother & to you.
 May they have every blessing that *she*
 could wish them!

And I know how their mother
 mourns ~~them~~ too her mother, as well
 as you do.

But I think of *her* you know, as
 saying how much better it is to be

with God, what gain, what joy,
 but that that joy will be *greater* by
 thinking of you all gallantly braving
 life for God's sake & for hers &
 being made perfect thro' suffering -
 Dearest Flora I cannot but give you
 joy because I know you have the
 joy in this which nothing can
 take away from you -
 It is such a thing to have lived, *to live*
 with her who *lived*, who *lives* in the

[2]

highest.

And I think of dear Val too -you
 know I remember him before & soon
 after you were born: I know how he
 was "wrapped up" in her, so to speak,
 & she in him. And I pray that he
 may feel the joy & the peace.

I should so like to know (if you
 would be so very kind as to tell me)
 what were those 3 prayers which
 she asked dear Gertrude to read to her

- in Mr. Martineau's "Common Prayer",
 was it? It would be such
 a very great comfort to me to read
 over those often to myself that *she*
 chose if I knew what they were:
 And to have them from your hand
 would still increase their price.

Dear Flora: some day I should like
to write you my recollections of her,
of her love creating heroism in her,
at a time when you cannot recollect
her"

I trust that you are somewhat better:

Fare you very well - & God be with
you as He is with her

ever your

old Flo

I can scarcely hope that Gertrude remembers the time
when at Embley with my dear Father & Mother
she used to throw her arms round my neck: my 'ife, my

'ife, my precious Foey": she was the most
lovely thing I ever had: & so I doubt not
she is still. God bless her -

But I must not run on.

F.N.

I hope the "precious little grand children" will be
well & not sorrow too much

[envelope, no stamp]

To enquire

answered [in pencil, prob not FN]

Miss Flora Smith

28 Prince's Gate

21/7/78

Edin U family letter 14 initialled, & envelope, 2ff, pencil

10 South St Dec 23/85

Park Lane W

My dear Miss Lennox

How often I have thought

[13:386]

of you and 'your family' since I
had the great pleasure of
talking over things with you,
so interesting to me -

And how often of Miss
Pirrie; & wondering whether
she is getting trained lady=
=help, & anxiously thinking
over her future & that of her
work. [I did not see my
way to writing the ~~letter~~ appeal you
kindly suggested]

May all the best
Christmas blessings rest
upon you & your little ones
from the Almighty Father
whose love is only bounded
(not by what we are but)
by what *He* is.

And may you have the
best New year that *He*
can give whose Love
is infinite -

Will you kindly accept
a little sum to help in
things which must be

always cropping up
that you want to do among
your little ones?
Please tell me when you
write how is going on
the boy that bought the
pig for his family with
the money given him
for his own wooden leg.

God bless you again &
again. And God bless
Miss Pirrie - [You will say
that I do not "believe in

"God" - for being so
anxious about her, when
I am commending her to
Him all the while] -
ever yours sincerely
F.N.

[envelope] stamped, cancelled
Ireland

Miss Lennox
Children's Hospital
Belfast

10/4/87 {archt;} (Sept. 1. 1929
Given by Miss Lennox to Miss Lamont

LETTERS PRESENTED TO THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH BY MRS ALEXANDER MAITLAND

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~^{pts}

Edinburgh University, Pringle extracts of letters,

Note by A.L. Pringle: Dec 31st 1908.

I have made a copy of these extracts, with some omissions, and prefaced by the Recollections here written on a separate sheet, to be sent after revision by Mr Bonham Carter, to Miss Nightingale's Literary Executors, on condition first, that nothing is published from them during the lifetime of Miss Nightingale, and next that I may be at perfect liberty to use again all or any of them in a volume published by myself or those who represent me.

A.L. Pringle

Jan. 6th 1909.

I have also requested that the Literary Executors will not refer to me by name, but, if it is necessary to mention me as the recipient of these letters simply to say they were written to "one of her pupils" I have now destroyed (because they contained confidential matter), after taking great care to make

the copied Extracts accurate, the greater number of the letters hitherto preserved. A.L.P.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~²

Edin U {[2]}

35 South Street, Park Lane. W. Dec. 3rd/71.

[12:197]

"Would you like, - unless you have it already - to look at the Life of Faraday? I read it with the greatest pleasure - not so much on account of its science (which I am incapable of appreciating as it deserves) but of its philosophy, which appears to me equally good for all classes & conditions of men, women & children - (*Cottage Philosophy* as well as *Royal-Institution Philosophy*). I suppose it is only the highest philosophy which is applicable alike to all, the wisest and the lowliest - I should not have marked it & dog's eared it, if I had thought of lending it to you - but, having done so, I hope you will not like it the less, if you read it - I am in no hurry for it back. = Nurse ----- will, if you are so good as to arrange it see Mr ----- - - - & I shall be glad to pay for any measure he may recommend, beyond medicine.

Could you tell me the title of a book, "Physiology in common things", I think, by Lewes?

I wanted the book for a present & cannot remember the exact Title. And, in order not to trouble Mrs. Wardroper (to whom my best love - & please tell her that I wrote about ----- to you - not to overdo her) I ask you kindly to tell me." [end 12:197]

The next 3 notes are dated Jan. & Feb. 1873: not of general interest
Those on page 5 should have come next
{text vert. in margin:}

This seems to be the first letter I received from Miss Nightingale. It is written in pencil & signed with the full name. I leave it to Ruth, my niece & she will keep it as an heir-loom. A.L.P.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~250~~50

Edin U [3]

Letters of May & June/73 should have come here, see pages 5 & 6. Then letter of page 4 - July 19/73.

Lea Hurst, Matlock

Aug. 11/73

----- did what was best and wisest. The rest is with God. - - - - - But He is displeased when we enquire too anxiously. A soul which has really given itself to God does His will in the present & trusts to the Father for the future. Now it is 20 years to-day since I entered 'public life' - and I have not learnt that lesson yet - tho' the greater part of those 20 years have been as completely out of my hands to mould, & in His alone, - as if they had been the movements of the planets. - - - - -

I should like to know what you particularly referred to when you said that 'every day' had been 'tragic' since March.

----- seems a woman of good feeling and bad sense - much under the meridian of anybody who will try to persuade her. I think her praises have been sounded exaggerated=ly. She wants a very steady hand over her. Such long-winded stories 5 points or at least half of the compass *off* the subject in hand - - - Had I not been intent on persuading her I should have been out of all patience. - - - - -

And now - - - God bless you - Let us trust Him"

{vert. in margin:} August 11th, the date Miss Nightingale gives here as that of her entrance into 'public life' is day of the {illeg FAINT}

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~25~~5

Edin U [4]

35 South Street, Park Lane. W.

July 19/73

[ref 13:322]

"I have seen ----- again. The only thing which will do her any good is to have September for exercise of body - not of mind - & sea bathing.

In the meantime, I do think what she wants is: to be fed like a baby." (Here follow detailed directions.) - - - - -
"get the things out of my money.

Humanly speaking, I believe Agnes Jones would have been alive now, had there been any one to do this for her. And humanly speaking I believe that I should have got thro' the Crimean War - had there been anything of this kind done for me.

Miss Barclay will be with you on Monday - - - - -
She brings with her 2 prints for the Nurses" (of the E.R.I.)
"Christ blessing the children
The Nutcrackers & Piper

Please have these framed as she likes out of my money. And please tell me when you want more.
- - - - - & remember that there is danger too of unselfish people taking what they *don't* like, because they think: *that* is the finger of God - that He often guides the 'pure in heart' by giving them a liking for what is His work for them -

& that we may be misled by scruples . . . as well as by following our own way.

I will not say another word, sure that our Almighty Father will lead ---. God guide us all."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~258~~

Edin U [5]
35 South St. Park Lane. W.
May 7/73

"I have been seeing a good deal of our Probationers [12:270-71]
lately - also have had some of our ex-Sisters staying
in the house - And it takes a great deal out of me - just,
for the reason that you say: - I have never been used to
influence people except by leading in *work* -
And to have to influence people by direct talking - is
the hardest work, the one for which I am the most
unfitted - I pray - & you must pray for me - that
I may be led at last thro' any discipline so that
I may be able to say like our Master: The words
which I speak are not mine but His that sent me -
When we can really know that that is the case with
us, I suppose nothing is hard.
A more dreadful thing than being cut short by death
is being cut short by life in a paralysed state -

==On Monday afternoon, to my immense astonish-
ment and joy, Miss Williams presented herself
here (after having seen Matron, of course)
looking quite beautiful & *seeming* in perfect
health. - - - {illeg Mr. C?} thinks that after some weeks at the sea - she might return to her
'Alexandra'
As for poor St. Thomas's needs they are frightful
- - - - - And I have never seen
poor Matron so overcome as when she came
to tell me that she had no Sister to place over
'Alexandra' - - - - - I put this about Miss Williams in

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~253~~53

Edin U [6]
the hands of God."
35 South St. Park Lane. W.
June 4/73
to E.R.I.

"I sent you by Nurse Hignett 2 Autotype Prints
for Miss Barclay, which I understood her to say were
favorites of hers. One is the Prophet Ezekiel - & one the
Archangel Michael slaying the Evil Spirit.
I should be very much obliged to you to have them
framed for her, sending the account to me - I be-
lieve there is a very good framer close to the
Infirmary - I think myself, for these Autotypes,
a plain gold rim is the best. But I wonder if
you could get Mrs. Barclay's opinion as to what
frame *she* likes best. I will, if you kindly allow me,
send you the money for the frames in a cheque
I dare say Miss Williams has written to you -

[Besides the pleasure of becoming acquainted
with Miss Wms=, it was quite a pleasure to my bodily
eyes to look at her. She is like a Queen - & all
her postures are so beautiful, without being in the
least theatrical -] Had she more experience, her
'masterfulness would be so valuable." [end 12:271]
July 19th/73, see page 4, should come here.
August 11th/73 - see page 3, should come here

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~254~~

Edin U [7]

Aug. /73

"We are so *one* in anxieties just now, as well as, I trust, in things which will last this Eternity, when anxiety shall have been drunk up in the light of perfect trust, that I cannot help writing though I have nothing particular to say - Our dear stricken friend writes to me just as usual, most affectionately. - - - - - There are trying days before us. - - - - - However, we cannot change a single 'hair' - we must look to Him

'Alike who grasps eternity
And numbers every hair.'

[I don't know that it is ever difficult to me to entrust my own 'hairs' to Him - but to entrust -----'s and yours, and poor M. I find very difficult. And I thought He did not take care of -----'s 'hairs'. What a reprobate I am!]

I *offer* you up to God daily & nightly in my prayers, with myself & *her*."

Lea Hurst, Matlock

Aug. 30/73

"I am much pressed today: & yet cannot help writing a hurried word, for I am if possible more anxious than you are.

You say you "cannot imagine" what our plans are. We have none. I cannot imagine" what we shall do. But my dear Emily Verney used to say in her last illness: the greatest trial of all was not to know: not to know whether she was to die or live.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer²55

Edin U [8]

But then she used to say: it is *better not to know* that so I may leave all more entirely to God's will - [She will have been dead a year on Wednesday. How much she must know now.] It is quite useless for either you or me to take upon ourselves the solution of this enormous difficulty: we must leave it to God.

----- it is quite certain that ----- has done some admirable work, and has laid the foundation for a sound reform. -----

But anxiety is an impertinence towards God. [12:287-88]

It is trying to teach Him instead of His teaching us. He seems to answer me: 'I have charge - you are only like an assistant Nurse: what you have to do is to be faithful, honest, attentive to orders, & hard-working. You can't understand the Physician's practice: much less, take it out of his hands. I am the Infallible Physician'.

----- I feel all the anxiety of the position more than I can say. -----

But at present the duty - - - is plain. And God always helps those who are obeying His call to duty: often gives them the privilege of saving others.

Do you remember the great London theatre which was burnt down at a Christmas pantomime?

Who were the heroes then?

The poor clown & the poor pantaloon who were at their duty!

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~256~~56

Edin U [9]

The audience who were there because they liked it made a selfish 'stampede' - and but for a lucky accident might all have been crushed or hurt.

But the clown & the pantaloons, though there was not a moment to save a shawl or a coat to throw over the ballet-dancers, gauze dressed women who if a spark had fallen upon them would have been instantly in a blaze, actually carried out every one of these women safe into the snow, gauze and all.

And the carpenter collected the poor little ballet-children and dragged them all out through the snow & slush to his own house, where he kept them in safety.

Brave clown - brave pantaloons - brave carpenter - (while the selfish audience who were there for amusement almost jostled each other to death)

So does God always stand by those who are there for their duty - tho' they be only a clown or Harlequin.

All our cares arise from one of two things: either we have not taken up our work for His love, in which case we know that He has bound Himself to take our cares upon Him: or we do not sufficiently see His love in calling us to His work.

I have been 20 years, as I told you, in learning this lesson. And I have not learnt it yet

I am thankful to say we are rid of -----x----- for the present. I think this will be a relief to Miss Williams, as {to the left in margin} x is a great hospital.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~253~~²⁵⁷

Edin U [10]

'I am sure it is to me -
Does she know it?

And does she know that there is no danger of our letting
her go out of our grip?

In our present state of crisis we could not properly have
undertaken -----.

[end 12:288]

Now pray for me that I may lay the above lesson to my
own heart. For I want it more than you do."

35 S. St

Nov. 18/73.

"It seems as if God were saying to you & me: *Be
still & know that I am God.*

For what can we do in this great over-throw but
trust Him who is all goodness, all Wisdom - Him
who seeks the poor lost sheep & carries it in
His bosom? & has proven to save?

Please keep your health. Your path at least
is plain. -----

Dearest: God did not spare His own Son from
the Cross -

we must "leave all", all our consolations, to "follow Him".

----- Ever yours - "

These are the times when we must act & live
in pure, naked faith - that He is our Father (as Christ
did in the Garden."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~258~~58

Edin U [11]

Nov 22nd/73 it is morally certain

"Let us drink Christ's cup: let us share His cross, even tho we fall under it.

The Saints & Martyrs of old said that we never do God a service but He rewards us with a Cross - and how should we embrace that Cross did we but know its value. - - - - -
You will find, you have found in life, how often you have to do things for His sake alone - even to make mistakes - for we cannot be sure of results, & without any earthly strength or comfort. But His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Remember St. Paul: how often I have to remember how he said: 'All they in Asia are turned away from me' "
35 S. St.

Nov 24/73

"I do not write now about our affairs - - - - -
but merely to tell you & Miss Williams that dear Matron has lost her daughter: she died on Oct. 25th.
I had a few very touching lines - - - - - when I sent, on the Indian Mail coming in. I cannot think that dear Matron will ever be the same
- - - - -

You may be sure we shall do all we can to soothe and please her and give her rest.
And she is very fond of Miss Machin: & has too a niece staying with her. Her affections are so strong that I think the blow is terrible: but we will pray for her.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~259~~59

Edin U [12]

with all our souls - - - - - God help us all."

Dec. 1st 1873

"You are going through the deep waters.

And so am I.

But there is One who said: Lo, it is I: be not afraid.

And He it is who was despised and rejected of men, denied
and betrayed by His own familiar friends - - - - -

I have never felt sure that I was doing the best - - - - if

I have been mistaken let me bear the penalty: not -----.

The strongest most surviving element of "(honour)" is this:
to help and not conspire against order & discipline.

God help us all"

(same date?)

"My dear Mother is at Embley. I see dear Matron tomorrow.

And I may go the next day, or Thursday: for I am full
of business: Indian & otherwise: here.

Ever yours in sorrow

& yet in faith,

cast down but not destroyed.

35 S. St.

2nd 12/73

"I have had two miserable comforts and I make haste to
share these with you: - - - - -

if " (what she has learned is true) half the sting is gone. The
other is -----'s wisest friends think I have done the best

thing for ----- . Latterly the thought has been almost

too terrible for me to bear: that I had done the worst

thing both ways - - - - -

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~260~~

Edin U unnumbered

----- has never taken any 'notes' at all, though a woman of considerable observation: & has read with us Medical books - - - - - I venture to tell you all this

1. as it may decide you as to *which* Night Wards to give her:

I think her a woman *able to take care of herself*: & thoroughly trustworthy.

2. I do think it possible that she may make better progress under ----- than under -----.

I have ventured to tell her that she may ask you or -- -- to *put her in the way* when at a loss. [she is not at all a presuming woman - - - -] also: that she may consult you as to beginning at once to take 'notes of cases' as Night Nurse in her Ward. This is the most of what I have to say about her:

- - - - She is a healthy woman: not at all afraid of work. - - - - - wishes very much to be cautioned ~~and~~ & instructed: this clever, perhaps because clever: i.e. because she knows enough to know how little she knows."

"Those have the only real authority who do not wish for it, for authority's sake - The greatest fallacy

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~26~~1

Edin U unnumbered)

[13:346]

of all is: to suppose that those who like authority are -
they who are fit to use it - - - - -

I have never told you how I grieved about your first
Probr=: Miss Matthew.

----- you can perfectly trust in any Ward: she
is still unformed: but she is entirely above all
temptations: tho' a little boyish, there is no possi-
bility of impropriety in her. She is a real fine
creature: not presumptuous. - - - - -
----- decidedly has a head.

but I should guess not ~~a~~ exactly a Surgical
head, - - - - nice & simple, is able to give a
very good account of things - accurate & straight
forward. - greatly admires a good Nurse -

She cannot give *sub-cutaneous* injections:

or *cup*: or test urine: or apply galvanic
battery: very anxious to learn. I told
her I would tell you."

[end]

If genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains?

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~262~~263

Edin U continued from page 12

[13]

I have prayed to God all night: Father let not this error fall
upon ----- upon -----: upon me, me only be the suffering. - - - -
God help us all. Doubt not; dearest child, He will bring all
right - - - - - "

Date uncertain

Evidently Dec. 1873

And now - - - once more Christ asks us to drink of the
cup that He drank of -
we ought to be proud and humble to drink of
that cup. He is with us in the dark waters - may
He be with ----- too.
I have just parted with ----- . She is so dear: and
her little defiant ways do one good.

35 S. St.

Dec 9/73

"I feel as if I could not bear any one but God to speak
to me about it yet.

I do not find that as I grow older these things are
more easily borne -

This seems, tho' my life has been no easy one, the
worst thing that has happened yet - - - - -

I pray for you hourly."

35 South St.

Park Lane W. Jan. 7 /73 This date is evidently a mistake

"On Monday morning at 8' 0".clock my dear Father
was taken home quite suddenly: he had got up at his
usual early hour.

There was a large family party in the house: but when

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~263~~63

Edin U [14]

my sister & Mrs. Clough ran in to him, there was no breath,
nothing -

For *him* it is best so: The Almighty goodness has done
with him what is best. But it is dreary that none of
us should be by him at the last: no last word or
message."

35 South St
Park Lane. W. Jan. 26/74

"The one wrestling of Jacob happens with me
every night: and without his success: for the last many
weeks.

But I can thank God who has taken your dear
Mother to His own divine life - which we might have
even here if we liked - & do not - & that you were with
her to the last: - - - - - *she* has found life: not last
it.

It is a precious comfort to me that she should have
sent any message to me: who am unworthy of it:
& that she should have found comfort in any words
I wrote. It must have been God who said them:
not I: for it is to my shame that I do not really act
in that faith & trust & 'sympathy' with God: without
which we are nothing but little bits of dry straw: with which
we might be Saints & Martyrs if we chose.

O that I really believed what I say I believe: namely,
that all that happens is to lead all to that path on
which the image of His Son shall truly be formed in us.

I cannot write anything to-day which will give you

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~264~~64

Edin U [15]

strength - - - - - though you may well find that in considering
the dear Saint who is gone: & in following after Him - - - - -
And now - - - do come to me."

Embley, Romsey -

Feb 3/74

My dear Mother wandered (much & painfully) when I first
came. But now there is sometimes a gleam of divine
happiness on her face - worth living to see.
Since my dear Father's death I have lost Mrs Bracebridge
- she who went with me to the Crimean War -
- She was more than Mother to me - I never knew
any one like her: hers was faith: real sympathy with
God.

Other people live together to make each other worse:
she lived to make others better: & such real Xtian
humility: with the most active heart & mind. Now
let us fetch a real blessing from our Father in heaven
& I am ever yours."

35 South St.

Park Lane W. Feb 27/74

"from my Mother I came back here last week,
overwhelmed with painful business: *her* business:
--- Bengal Famine business, we are now in the
thick of it:

--- Nurse business -

--- School business -

If I am worse than usual I have no time to attend
to illness.

I return to my poor Mother in 10 or 12 days: we

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~265~~65

Edin U [16]

have to remove her from the homes in which she has lived for 56 years: - it is a hard trial: for myself I only mind it, because, scarcely able for my own business I have now to do my Mother's - But it is God's I do, not mine: - & He will provide, if only we remember that we have no works of our own to do at all - on earth - Wherever I am, whether here or at Embley - - - - - I hope you will come to me, my dear child, in March.

I seem to have gone out in the desert with our Lord this Lent. [12:290]

Miss Hornby has broken a blood vessel: she undertook the Magdalen Ward at my earnest desire only three weeks ago: & I had such work with the Treasurer etc. to make them consent. And now in all probability - even should God grant us her life - she may be months & months before she recovers -

It is a hard blow. [end 12:290]

So is Livingstone's death, his loss is irreparable, a heavy blow. - - - - -

The greatest pleasure that I can be capable of (E.R.I.) is to hear that you are getting good Probationers & are doing well - - - - - my best love to (Miss Williams) & blessings on her - - - - -
- - - - - May the Almighty Goodness bless you."

X See pages 21 & 22 for extracts & that should come here.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~266~~

Edin U [17]
Embley, Romsey
April 15/74

"I am writing almost before it is light in the morning,
that I may say something in answer to yours received
last night. I am always praying for light on that subject.

But the light must come to you & not this means.
I would therefore say first: when we have a great decision
to make [are not *those* only great decisions which in -
volve the moral welfare of others?] must we not begin
by making a sort of 'wrestling' with God: (a sort of
trial of arms, or rather of generosity:) - which of us,
God or I, can be most generous? We know that it
is always God who is the most generous: because we
see what His Son did: but let us try to 'hold our
own' with Him: don't let us let *Him* beat us out of
the field in generosity.

He put you there - - - - Are you not deserting
this your post in coming away, because ----- -
(or you think -----) thinks you ought?

I don't know:

It may be that you are being led - - - - -
- - I am speaking against my own interests:

but of one thing I am very sure: if you come
away for any such motive as what ----- will
think - - - - - your eyes, as mine have been
every time I have done that sort of thing (in my
life near twice as long and 200 times as varied
as yours) - will be cruelly opened.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~263~~263

Edin U [18]

I mean I have never done that kind of thing - letting myself be guided by 'public opinion', which is always made up of the weakest & meanest & not the highest of thoughts - & I have done it often - without the very people who had led me reproaching me for it afterwards.

They change in the afternoon and forget what they said in the morning: - they say 'I never thought it': or 'how could you let yourself be led by me?'

And you stand there punished and justly punished - & feeling like a fool.

--- A very good rule is: to ask ones self how one should advise *another* in *one's* place? Now: how should you advise me or ----- or ----- in your place?

I could of course multiply many words on these subjects but - - - - - that it is rather to your common sense than your generosity that I want to offer considerations.

Undated

Probably May 11/74

"Nurse Winsall is " (at Highgate) & is doing capitally:
& very happy: with a heavy charge - - - - . God Bless you.

I write in haste but you are ever in my thoughts

May we all love & and serve Him & only Him: & do our duty in His holy service holily."

35 South St. Park Lane W.

May 25/74

"Every time ----- writes to me she has some

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~268~~268

Edin U [19]

fresh plan.

I think she is decided by dint of being undecided.

And I think she mistakes change for activity: & restlessness for force of character. I suppose her to be clever, for persons, e.g. ----- for whose judgement I have ~~ill~~ respect, tell me so.

But what I have seen & known has been the reverse: however, she has a grievance against us, & is always trying to appear to us something 'great': & there is nothing like an untrue effort of this kind to 'fausser' the whole tone in that one relation.

With all this, I have a true regard for her: she is thoroughly conscientious. And I would give much to see her in some settled position: led, not leading."

35 South St. Park Lane W.

Aug. 2/74

"I think of you, as you may be sure, in God's heart, on this day - - - - - .

It has pleased God that ~~on~~ this Anniversary should have been one of dreadful trouble to me: 13 years ago it saw the death of my great friend, Sidney Herbert, the War Minister, with whom I had worked for 5 years every day at the Army both at home & in India. That death was as if God had cut off my arms & thrown me back the thumbs. The work has been hard since.
- - - - - I believe that I have

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~269~~269

Edin U [20]

taken Lea Hurst for two months: & got together a little home-
hold to take my poor mother to what she calls "home" - - - -

My business has been so heavy - as it always is just before
the breaking up of Parliament: & I have been so ill - that
I am unable to write: O what a good thing that is: for
of much writing there is no end: nor or talking either.

35 S. St.

Aug.6/74

{in margin:} (see page 182
for a letter
from this lady
A.L.P.)

I had never been able to finish this scrap: - - - -
----- I have engaged servants & arranged every
thing for my poor Mother so that she may be able
to go to Lea Hurst, whether I am too ill to go, or not,
with her - She has a Companion: and 'Aunt Julia'
will be with her. - - - - - I have not said anything to any
one that it is possible God may not let me go.
Perhaps He means it still.

I should be glad to be at peace."
out of London
but " address

35 South St at. Sept 2/74

----- I have been very much over
worked = India, Highgate etc. but most of all / for, could
I be freed from the other cares of life, in order to
devote myself wholly to these great questions, my
life would be easy) by the aimless to - ings & fro - ings
----- connected with my dear
Father's death or succession. The endless & aimless
correspondence takes away all one's strength for
greater things. Patience: as a persecuted woman

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~^{pts}

Edin U [21]

of the 17th century (that great century compared with the 18th) said:

God's will gives an equal sanction to very employment:
& in proportion as you are truly devoted to Him, you
will be without choice.

I have been compelled to postpone sine die (they
could not vacate the house) taking my poor mother
to Lea Hurst. And *after* depriving *her* of seeing
what she calls 'home' once more, the greatest grief
to me is: that I can no longer invite my friends,

----- "

x The next four extracts should have come on pages 16 & 17.

35 South St. Park Lane W.

March 3/74

"I am so driven by Indian Famine & Nurse
business that I shall not leave London till the latter
part of next week, if my Sister can stay with my
poor Mother till then. - - - - - I have appointments every
day this week."

undated

but probably Mar. or earlier

"You ask whether my work does not slacken:
it never will while I live: & my strength decays
day by day

Embley, Romsey,

Easter Day/74

"I have been so tried and tired that I am
unable tho' not from want of thought to write
to you as I would wish.

This Easter Day I must send you my greeting:
[tho' I have been writing business letters, as every
day of my life, since 6 o'clock in the morning]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~^{pts}

Edin U [22nd]

May Christ rise again in all our hearts to-day- & may we find nothing hard we do for Supreme Goodness - but love Him the better for what He *costs* us: as He loved us the better for what we cost Him -

Please give (Miss Pyne) my best love: and tell her that if she had wanted as much to hear from me as I have to write to her, - *and always* hindered, - she would be in a poor way -----

My father has been dead 3 months this Easter

morn - "

35 S. St.

May 21 / 74

"Mrs Hy B. Carter & I have been most anxiously consulting together to do the best for dear Nurse -----'s (Bothwell) {name added later} truest welfare.

If ----- were really a good place for her, I am sure that I could persuade him to let her go - tho' he is unwilling: on the score that she cannot do much single-handed at -----, as Training Nurse: & is doing much more good where she is.

He wrote an enquiry to ----- and I send you the reply.

I confess that, tho' I, of the two, was far the more anxious to *let her go*, it does make me very doubtful whether the situation of *Head Nurse* is tenable - there.

1 It is obvious that there is no proper *Matron* -

2 The *Head Nurse* is responsible to the *Apothecary*

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [23]

who appears to "do" Matron -

3 The *Head Nurse* is over a multitude of (22) small wards - - - - - There are only 21 Nurses to 230 beds - in small wards.

4 It looks as if she had to go & get the Patients' meals.

5 The house is divided against itself: for it does not appear whether *Matron, Head Nurse* or *Apothecary* is "in charge of" the 21 Nurses. [Probably any one puts the saddle on her own back who is disposed.]

6 And two contradictory statements are made as to Nurses: being engaged by *Head Nurse*, being engaged by *Matron*."

Lea Hurst, Matlock

Sept. 23/74

"I have brought my poor Mother down here after all, this with much pain & trouble. I could not refuse her being once more at what she calls 'home': probably for the last time Your letter was put into my hand - - - - - an hour after my own arrival. And I hasten to answer it as well as I can.

- - - - -

Miss -----

Mrs. Wardroper has written to me about this.

And I have answered that I should give her leave to take this private situation: without severing

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [24]

her connection with us: but distinctly as a quite exceptional case:
& on these grounds: - - - - -

But I am quite sure that Mr Bonham Carter will justly
& strongly object: as being a bad precedent, which it *is*: &
say that people will be applying to us for our best women
for great ladies: that we have hitherto steered clear
of *Private Nursing*: & wish to have nothing to do with
it. [& I do not see that the lady's reason: that "never
could our Nurses be more usefully or kindly em-
ployed" is any reason. Of course every body says
that:] - - - - -

Miss ----- If the ----- Hospital does
not offer and subject to your recommendation,
I have told Matron that Miss ----- might do
for Miss Hannon's Assistant Supt at Liverpool
Work-house: - - - but that as we are asked for one
who will "develop into a *first rate Supt*," we must
not say that *she* will, but asks if they will have
her *so*, taking your character of her first -

God bless you: au revoir, please God."

Lea Hurst

Matlock, Nov. 1 / 74

"I shall be" (on Nov. 6th) "either in all the misery
of moving my poor Mother from her 'house' as she
still thinks this, or of settling her some where
which is not her 'home'. And when I myself
return to South St; I shall be at first quite over-whelmed
with an accumulation of business.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~274~~4

Edin U [25]

But I have a load of anxiety & 'hurry' taken off my mind
by ----- saying that she is not as anxious to know
& settle her plans. And, this being the case, provided

-----,
we can settle things comfortably: & my mind is
greatly relieved by this. -----
----- I am very sorry ----- is giving
trouble: I did like her much ----- .

I am so occupied with making up arrears of work
with the India Office (put off by the Famine): &
with very heavy family cares: that I cannot even
say 'to-day how much I wish you 'God speed' - &
am ever yours"

Lea Hurst, Matlock

Oct 15 / 74

(Accompanying an invitation to come & take counsel with her),
"Open the enclosed: & you will find the ' de {illeg quaero}?'
for both of you: that is, if this be not enough,
more shall come".

35 South St

Park Lane, W. Nov 28/74

"I am almost glad that ----- & ----- are too
busy to come up *conveniently* = before Christmas.
For I have only settled my poor Mother at my
Sister's till then. And then begins all over
again the weary work of finding the
house where a homeless one may finish
her days least unhappily: & most of her

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~2~~75

Edin U [26]

daughters' care. - - - - -
- - - - -

If Miss ----- will but give *herself*, she has good
work in her. But that is the difficulty. - - - - -

I feel now (you kindly ask) more than I did at the time
the not having had one day free from acute anxiety
& cares all this year; & returning to my winter's work
without one day's or one night's rest. - - - - -
- - - - - God bless ----- & ----- - and - ('I
have most need of blessing')

35 S. St.
March 9/75

"As to whether ----- should take
Cleveland Street we cannot offer an opinion,
till she has seen the buildings.

They are (tho' princely in conveniences
compared to what Edinburgh is now,
such a tight fit that, if we give her a
Training School, - without which the place
is not worth *her* - we must hire a
house in the neighbourhood for it."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~²⁷⁶

Edin U [27]
address
35 South St.
Park Lane, W.
June 26/75

"In answer to your letter, I think that we must leave it to you to decide whether it would be desirable *not* to postpone beyond the Monday's Meeting of Committee - bringing forward our proposal to have a few Probationers always in training under you" (at the E.R.I.) "when the new Infirmary is opened. - - - - -"

If you consider it desirable to bring our proposal *now* before the Committee, I think it would be quite safe to say that I had mentioned to you our desire to have some - say six - Probationers in training with you by paying for them: (to be in all respects under the same authority as your own): for whom six rooms would be needed: in the new Building: & that Mr. Bonham Carter, who was of course a party to the desire, would make our formal request to the Managers on his return from a short holiday abroad.

I wish with you that you were to have a separate 'Home' for the Probationers". The letter from which this is taken has the full beautiful signature. I bequeath it to the Managers of the dear Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~^{pts}

Edin U [28]
35 South St.
Park Lane. W.
May 8/75

" - - - - -" about reporting to the
Medical Supt. = - - - - -
it is contrary to the *principles* which we have found
essential to good Nursing administration = & contrary
to the arrangements which were made both when
we undertook the Nursing of the Edin= Infy= & when
there was a subsequent discussion about it:
- - - - -

As for Cleveland St., I was very sorry to lose it:
for I thought it would make an admirable centre
for District Nurse = training. - - - - -.

In the meantime as I am sure you know, "
(she refers to her satisfaction that Miss Williams had given up {illeg Col. St.?) ~~for~~ to remain at
Edin.)

"the welfare of Edinburgh was the first thing in
my thoughts = & the securing of that a greater
blessing than the undertaking anything new."

Lea Hurst
Cromford: Derby
Aug. 18/75

"I think that it is very likely that your "two [13:746]
trained Lady Probationers" might find "employment"
among the Lady "District Nurses" now organizing
in London: - perhaps within the next 2 or 3 months:
Apply (you ask) to the Sup. Genl. *Miss Florence Lees*
8 *Queen's Square*, Bloomsbury, London. W.C. And I will
write too saying what we think of you training." [end]

{in left marg. beside other text:} In view of the great part
the E.R.I. has taken in the
training of pupils & supply
of Supts for Queen Victoria's Institute
this should also be given to
the Managing the E.R.I.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U {[29]}

"Bonus-es to Nurses"

35 South St. Park Lane, W.

Oct. 5/75

"I quite agree in all you say about the [13:350]
undesirableness of Bonus-es: the desirableness of
forming higher i.e better paid posts: for merit -
- It is confirmed by all my life's experience. I have no
time to tell you what.
- Mr Bonham Carter agrees too.

*Might you not perhaps make the training of Probationers
a cause for additional pay? pay good Training
Nurses as Sisters?*

I think that Bonus es never answer: only posts
should reward merit: i.e. better paid posts.

2 Is it not a pity that you have taken so many
Lady Probationers?

Should not the first consideration at Edinburgh
be the proper supply of the Hospital?"

[At that date it was expected, in the case of ladies, that they took
the training to qualify them for the superior appointments, not with
the view of remaining in the ranks: thus, a proportion had to
be observed]

3 "I am delighted at your account of the Ward
Assistants' & what has been done for them

4 Tho' Nurse Bothwell's powers as a Trainer are
a very great loss, I hope that she has the Aberdeen
place

If Edinburgh wishes to keep good Training Nurses,

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~^{pts}

Edin U {[30]}

they ought to pay them as Sisters" (the technical term for a Nurse *in charge* of Wards to distinguish her from her subordinate assistants & pupils: derived from the regulation made by parliament when it took over the Monastic Hospitals, namely that such Nurses were to retain, in these Hospitals, the title of Sister.) "ought they not? [end]

Please give my love & kindest wishes for her future to Nurse Bothwell.

My love to Miss Williams & Miss Pyne. - - - - -

- have come up here yesterday on urgent *Indian* business: - obliged to go back in a week to my

Mother at Lea Hurst (for 3 weeks): "

35 S. St.

Oct 20/75

"I cannot help writing a word of thanks for yours: & of anxiety for our dear Miss Pyne.

I do not feel that I ought to trouble you to write: but still I shall feel very anxious to hear again.

I cannot but think it providential that she was" (in the hospital): "under the best of Nursing & the best of Surgical attendance. - - - - -

Will you when she is well enough give her my kindest & most anxious love: & might I send a message to Mrs. Pyne?"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~288~~

Edin U [31]

35 S. St.

Nov. 20 (/75)

"I thank God that Miss Pyne is out of danger. - - - - -

Let us thank God too for what you tell me about

Miss Williams: to whom my best love:

Miss Walker, I understand, does not come to Miss Lees

till Dec 1: Miss Phillips has created a good first

impression as a handy worker: - - - - -

God speed:"

35 South St, Park Lane, W

Xmas Eve 1875 [this is in book also]

" I cannot let Xmas Eve pass without one
word of greeting: poor tho' that will be -

Say a word to Miss Williams & the Nurses for me

of love & gratitude to those who have worked so
well thro' the year.

Say, as Lord Shaftesbury said (about the training -

Boy Ships for Sailors:) but oh it is a much

better legacy to the country these well-trained

sailor boys: that is a bequest to great Britain

worth making: So is yours in the well trained

Nurses you give to Great Britain.

Say to all the Nurses that, while we are making

~~these~~ little presents to one another, there is a

present that we can make to the Great Saviour

& Deliverer whose birth day we are keeping: a

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~

Edin U [32]

birthday present that He values & wants above every thing
in the world: a present that He cares about from the
lowest creature on earth just as much as from the
greatest & most distinguished: the present of - *oneself* -

May we each & all of us make Him that birth-day
present to-morrow! - remembering what it is to make
it: & that it costs something: otherwise it would
not be worth making - It is: to give up all bad
habits: to give up our own way & to take His -

And may we each pray for one another, as I
ask them to pray for me: that I may remember
each Christmas more & more till the Christmas
we hope to spend in heaven: that I am
God's Florence & not my own.

Poor Miss Pyne: how long has been her trial: - - -
- please, if she has not left you yet, give her my
warmest Xmas love.

I will send you by rail two
books, please, for Nurse ----- & Nurse ----- - I am afraid
they feel rather lonely: I hope they give satisfaction -
Is there any 'professional' book that I could send
to each?

God bless you ever: ever yours, my dear 'Sister,'
whether I am able to write or not, ever yours,
as well you know:"

I have made an exception in copying this entire. The original is to
belong to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. It is written in
pencil & is much soiled, probably from being long carried about with me.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~

Edin U [33]
35 South St
New Years Eve 1876
envelope marked
31/12/75

" I must send you our love & greetings for
another New Year: & to Miss Williams = & to all.
I will do *our* very best to "lend you" some one "in
Miss Pyne's place" "for 6 months": it would be the
{in left margin} (Home Sister &
housekeeper for Nursing
Staff.)

very best practice for a future Supt=. I pray to be
directed. But at present we are not clear about my
person: & you are in a hurry.

I send by rail two books (under your address) for
Nurse Barker: - - - - -

& I send for ----- in the name of ----- who is
dead: a curious present: a cake & feather pillow:
which ----- wished for: & ----- would have sent her.

I have no particular wish that ----- should
know they come from me= & merely send this
envelope as a reminder to you that you may
know what to say with them: if you are so
good as to give them yourself. With all my
love for the New Year to the Nurses" - - - - -
In a postscript to the above

"I think you will think me a goose for
humouring -----'s fancy about a cake. ----- was
to have made it for her: also the pillow.

And if it carries -----'s thoughts to the spirits of just men
(& women) made perfect: the innumerable company in that
other world, it matters not whether it is a cake by day and a pillow by
night: or whether it is the pillar of fire & the pillar of cloud."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [34]
35 South St.
Park Lane. W.
Jan 8/76

"Miss Alice Fisher is certainly what would be called a
"very superior" woman: tho' I should not have thought
her 'great' in the line she is to be in with you.
I think it is good of her to do: especially as she
has been put off & on: & I think it is excellent prac-
tice *for her*.

How well I can understand how glad you will
be to have done with "judging".

35 South St
Park Lane. W.
Jan. 26/76

"I would not let you go out of London without
seeing me: no, not even if it were impossible
to see you:

kind regards to Miss Fisher: I am so glad you
find the something really 'great' in her."

35 South St
Park Lane W.
Feb 5/76

" I saw dear Matron last night : & engaged her to
come here to spend *Saturday & Sunday* (Feb 12 & 13)
WITH YOU next week.
Do not disappoint her & me."

35 South St.
Feb. 16/76

"Au revoir - - - tomorrow."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~284~~

Edin U [35]
35 South St
Park Lane. W.
June 8/76
6.30 a.m.

"By this same post goes a letter to Miss Williams, [13:105-06]
asking her to come up here *at once* to see
for herself whether she would like the
Matronship of a London Hospital for
which we have been asked to recommend
a trained lady.

I have very good reasons for thinking that,
under her, & with the help both in trained
Sisters & Nurses, & in other ways, which we
could give her, if desired: it would prove
an immense opening for good: & probably
become a first class Training School. We
have MUCH more work now at St. Thomas'
than we can do: & are obliged to decline both
CANDIDATES, & sending out Staffs: we are so
full. We should be thankful for a second
London Hospital to train in: - - - - -

I say that you are called to ----- as far as
one can see, as distinctly as God often calls
any one: - - - - -
we are quite sure to have one " (a hospital) "to offer
her" (Miss Williams)" [which is now the case]
In fact, the main difficulty is: that people
give us so little time that, when the thing
happens we are able to give others so little
time that your Edinburgh Committee *might well*

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~285~~85

Edin U 36]

complain : & you too.

Miss Staines is to have the Herbert Hospital: with 4 Sisters (from us).

== Is Miss Alice Fisher gone to that Newcastle place after all?

- I am very sorry indeed about Nurse -----.

As she was rather a friend of mine, I felt inclined to write to her, and tell her that she is 'bruising her nose to spite her face' (as in the good old homely Proverb). But as you very likely might not wish to keep her now, I will not do this unless you wish me.

- *Is it not likely that you might have another Trained Lady, or even two, to supply Miss Lees with? The sooner the better.*"

[end 13:186]

In a p.s to the above: "You say: you are so tired of "judging" - But oh think of me:

how I can sympathize with you - "

35 S. St

June 10/76

" I am sure I can feel as you do : even more

than you do. - - - - -

The die is cast however: - - - - -

Do you think ----- would do as Night Supt=

[13:658]

for Highgate? [There are 10 Night Nurses = 6 of whom are untrained}: perhaps 4 are ours - - - - - .

- - - - - We must have Miss Hincks (who is now Highgate Night - Supt-) for the Herbert Hospital."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~286~~

Edin U [37]
35 S. St.
24/6/76

" I write a word, in case Miss Williams has not, to say
that she is requested to be at St. Mary's ("with
other" (selected) "Candidates) on Thursday 29th. - - - -

vol 8 (LMA) H1/ST/NC1/28

I have not heard from Dr. Donald Macleod, - - - - -

I cannot refrain from saying (remark upon the printed
paper) that experience shows the extreme danger of
mixing up *Midwifery* Nursing with general District Nursing
& therefore of ever giving a *Midwifery* "3 months' training"
to a general Nurse. The Nurse shd- be an entirely
separate Nurse from the *Midwifery* Nurse: one
should never take *the other's* cases: & it is even
better that the two *bodies* should be apart: the
body of District Nurses from the body of
Midwifery District Nurses.

Do tell your friends this:

----- is always worrying us to do *Midwifery*
Nursing: but hitherto we have stood firm upon
the above principle."

3 (shd- have come on page 35

35 South St.
Park Lane W.

April 4/76

[13:351]

"He" (Mr Bonham Carter)" means to give some account of it" (the E.R.I. training)

"in his *Annual Report*: just being prepared: & I own

I thought of the opportunity which it might afford - of making

some public acknowledgment of the great kindness of you Professors: Dr.

Bell & others - in tracking the Nurses & Probationers. [Also: it will be a

reason for our paying for (say) 6 Probationers in your new Hospital]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~283~~

Edin U [38]
Sept 30 / 76
6 a.m.

Address

35 South St. Park Lane W.

"This comes that you may know, (tho' you can -
not know) how much *one* is thinking
of you - here below - in what *must* be a
terrible wrench in our lot: - - - - -

But if I am thinking & feeling & praying for you
so much, how must the ONE Above feel for you?

A sober new both you & I take of the possible
futures of life: veiled in mist & sometimes, nay often,
in drizzle: with gleams of the Father's love: in
bright sunshine: & both of us knowing well that
"behind the clouds" He is still shining brightly: brightly shining the
Sun of Righteousness. Though I ought to
take a far soberer view than you, - - - - -
for I have undergone twice your years. And
for the same reason I ought too, though I am
afraid faith often fails me, to take a brighter
too.

But whether I do or not, & whether I write
or not, your trials shall always be my trials,
- - -, your "people shall always be my people", as
my God is your God.

There can be no stronger tie
I think this letter will reach you just as
Miss Williams has started. She will find a
letter of welcome from me at St- Mary's.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~288~~

Edin U [39]

30th Sept/76 continued

I daresay just now she feels dreary enough. But her great spirit will soon buckle to her work: & find a joy in it. I am glad, she takes some of your own people.

I do earnestly trust that you will find help & comfort in Miss Pyne, to whom my best love, & Miss Mitchelson.

I am sure you do not feel so stranded as I did when I was left at Scutari in the Crimean War alone when Mr. & Mrs Bracebridge went home: or many, many times since - when Sidney Herbert, the War Minister, with whom I had worked 5 years in the War Office: died:

when Sir John Lawrence, the Indian Viceroy, left India: & many other times when

[10:880

]the future fell across my life like a great black wall, not (as in other lives) making a change but completely cutting off the future from the past:

& again when my Father's death brought upon me a load of cares which would have been too great had I had nothing else to do & had I been in health - -

I tell you these things - - - - -
- - - - - because,
because- - - - -

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~289~~

Edin U {[40]}

I was going to say something, but I can
only pray.

I will not write about other things today, [15:835]
but some other day: this dreadful

Turco - Russian War: these Bulgarian miseries: [end]

----- how much I hope that ----- will make
her repentance good & her "calling" "sure"

- if you like you can tell her so:

I am glad too that ----- tho'

sounds ungracious, does not come to us - - -

- - - - - the Herbert is a great harass

to us, but God rules all things well: [better
begin in difficulty than be imperious, easy and
self confident:]

I am sorry that ----- leaves you:

And oh I am so thankful that you are
adding those indispensable accommodations
in your present quarters, not waiting to move
into the new building.

Give all our members (of our common calling)

with you who remember me my heart=

felt sympathy that they are losing Miss Williams:

God bless us all: a solemn blessing."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~⁰⁰

Edin U [41]
35 South St.
Park Lane W.
Jan. 1 1877

"My first thoughts in the New Year are for you:

You know what they are - - - - -

There is such terrible loss, suffering - loss
of the best things, suffering of the worst things -
everywhere that I can only cry all night
to the God of the Old Years & the New =

O God, send Thy Life boats to save us all:
for Thy storms are very terrible.

And I cannot enter into things now: I
can only say how often I echo your prayer
for being released from "judging".

O God = & I have often judged gratuitously:
& when I see every body round judging
gratuitously & all day long: oh how little
can they really conceive of the evils of the
world to do this:

But now I will only send my love to Miss
Pyne: & all the Nurses who may care for it.
God has given us (His fig trees) another
year: that we may bear more fruit: If *He*
has purged & pruned each of us (His branches)
let us thank Him for this mark of His fatherly
goodness to each of His children.
I do not feel it in me to write them an
exhortation. I want an exhortation so

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~

Edin U [42]

much myself.

{in left marg:} The E.R.I. gave Miss Williams at the out set for St Mary's, an Assistant - Miss Richardson two Ward Sisters - Miss Vetch & Carter, Miss Grant, & three Nurses. Miss Richardson married Miss Vetch & Miss Grant after long service in St. Mary's came back to the Infirmary, the latter as Home Sister. She died there 27th Sept 1900.

{2nd para in marg:} I think it was then she said the verse done on purpose for us now hanging in the Nurse's Dining-room.

"To hands that work & eyes that see give wisdom's heavenly lore.

That whole & sick & weak & strong may praise Thee evermore" {back to text from here:}

But if you would kindly tell me any book or picture or other thing you would like for the Nurses' Dining-room, as a proof of my poor love, I would so gladly send it down by Miss Williams as a token for 1877.

I cannot help feeling so very anxious about you, - - - - -

"As for " (Miss Williams)" She does not come under the head of wanting a Life - boat: Though she is worried, though she has tremendous uphill work- - - - - she is looking beautiful: twice the woman she was: - - - - -

I think she will come back to Edinburgh when she has set St Mary's on its legs. She has no cause to despond. In three months she will have instituted 8 New Nurses - - - - - (5 from you & 3 from St- T.s) - - - - - also made many notable im- provements: & is making many more. This is a famous three months work. - - - - -

----- says from 11 to 1 at night is the only time she has for reading & writing. That is the snare of all young Supts- - - - -

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~⁰²

Edin U [43]

1 Jan / 77

continued

May all the highest blessings of the New Year
be yours & hers: pray for me."

35 South St. Park Lane. W.

Feb. 5/77

"Welcome south: - - - - - .

[I have asked 'Matron' to come & stay here from
Saturday till Monday to be with you]

Please not to make your London stay a
continual drive."

35 South St.

Park Lane. W.

Feb. 15 / 77

" I shall hope to see you tomorrow. - - - - -

What do you think? ----- has written to me

- me by myself me, who have seen her for
one hour in her life - & who thinks of her
as a genial delightful woman, a poor Nurse,

She has written to me to recommend her
to the Matronship of - - - 280 beds
& to decide if she is *fit for it* !!

35 S. St.

May 23/77

" I know you to be as anxious about this - -
affair as ourselves: so that I cannot help
writing such words as I can - to you.

It is trying to - - almost beyond her

endurance: - - - - -

I trust that the Goddess will be roused in her.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~⁰³

Edin U [44]

There are the great moments of a Goddess' life
when she is in hand to hand fight with
the contradictions of circumstances, with great duties
dragged down by circumstances to a low level:
when she has to *do the truth* in difficulty
& surrounding *falsehood*.

I have never yet seen (I could not have
believed) such unanimity of all the best men of
-- in determination to stand by her or resign
themselves - after having only known her for
months.

I give the Goddess infinite credit that so far
from this turmoil in her favour pleasing
her: the disgust of the whole thing over
rules it in her mind: -

----- for Dr. Bell. I well know how
much we are indebted to him."

35 S. St.
May 26/77

"I have a sacred message for you -----
-----"

We are yet more on our trial than
-----.

And the next two years will in my belief
see us everywhere on our trial again as to our system.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~204~~04

Edin U [45]

May 26/77 continued

especially that of the trained Matrons' authority & their fitness to exercise such authority - after our 20 years of existence - Never mind. Trial, if we are worth anything is the only test & the only virtue."

35 South St.

Park Lane W.

June 13/77

"I write first on business.

[13:512]

A Miss Richards, a Boston lady, Training Matron to the Massachusetts General Hospital, has in a very spirited manner come to us for training to herself. She would have taken the ordinary year's training with us: but her authorities would not hear of it: & we admitted her as a Visitor. [I have seen her, and have seldom seen any one who struck me as so admirable. I think we have as much to learn from her as she from us] I strongly recommended her to try and enter the Edinburgh Infirmary in the same way as she has done St. Thomas'. And this morning she writes to ask *whether you could admit her in the middle of July for 6 weeks - as a Visitor.* Could you? - - - - -

She is a thorough gentlewoman & a hardworking woman of sense & intellect.

Would you go away & take your much

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~2~~05

Edin U [46]

needed three months holiday this autumn yourself?

That is at least as near my heart as anything else.

3 We send you Miss Spencer: her loss is [13:352]
irreparable to St. T.'s: I will not say to us
because 'us' includes you, does it not? -
but I think her so wise in going to you: there
is no better School for Supcy:

She is so perfect in her own way. - - - - -

4 - - is better & in smoother water. - - - -

5 You two young ladies make much
hot water for me. - - - - -

6 *The Brompton Consumptive Hospital*
has asked us again for a TRAINED LADY
to fill the (new) Lady Suptss post there -
[I have seen the (new) rules & think they secure
sufficient power for a woman of experience]
We have no one whom we wish to disturb.
- Miss Notcutt would have done: but I do
not like to tempt her to leave Belfast:
Have you any one?
[Salary rising from £100 to £150]
I should have very much liked to have had
this Hospl- under a good woman: because I

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~²⁰⁶

Edin U [47]

June 13 / 77 continued

think the Hospl- knows what it wants."

35 South St.

Park Lane. W.

Miss Richards, the American lady - - - - -

- - - - - to come to you on August 11,

- - - - - for one month."

22/11/77

" - - - - - tho' such long months roll between
us without words of speech or of writing.

I do trust that you are supported in your work.

I know you are, whether you feel it or not -

& that you laid in a stock of physical
strength, tho' I am sure you must have a

holiday again before spring. I hope

that part of it will be, if I am here, with
me in London.

I have always wished to tell you about - - .

- - - - -
- how true it is, not only for - , that

we sometimes find no room for repentance

tho' we seek it carefully & with tears. - - - - -

- - - - -
How truly I re-echo in myself every day of

my life what you once said that to have

'no judging' to do will be heaven.

Poor Nurse ----- I must most earnestly

wish that she never enters a Hospital again.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~203~~

Edin U [48]

Miss Richards was truly - & - justly delighted with
what she saw with you - - - - -
I think one may learn a great deal from
her observations.

I have had a hard autumn, pressing out my
life: I am waiting to get a little strength - which
does not come - to return to *London where*
please address

Please give my love to Miss Spencer &
Miss Pyne: & to any who remember me -
Fare you very well - - - - - "
35 South St.
Park Lane, W.
Jan. 31 / 78

" - - - - - It has been best that
you should not come this week for the
reason I am about to tell you: for 3 weeks
my little cook has been laid up entirely
with so severe a sore throat that I was
quite doubtful it would not turn to
something else. On the 19th I sent a cab
in great anxiety for the only Trained
Nurse I knew - out of place, Nurse
Whayman & she is still here: but
the Patient is quite convalescent: & it is
certainly no Fever: but I am having all
the rooms she has been in thoroughly

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~^{ps}

Edin U [49]

Jan 31/78 continued

cleansed & disinfected: for she was missed
3 times in order to give her better air:
At one time she was attended twice a day by
Dr. Armitage, an old Edinburgh man.
Pray give my best love to Miss Williams,
whom also I long to see: "
35 South St.
Feb. 14 / 78

" I should like to tell you some day
what I think - ----- & Matron have
(unavoidably) mis-understood one another
upon: & that is, why we like to hear
any changes among your people. We
(at least Mr. B.C. & I) do not propose
any promotion to old Probationers of ours
at the various establishments where they
are during your engagements: & never
except through (thro') the Supts- [We have often
negatived such proposals being made.]

E.g. We should have been thankful
to have had Miss Spencer for either of
two Matronships during the last 6 months:
(both of which have fallen into incompetent
hands in consequence=) But Mr B.C. & I
thought we ought not to disturb her
during her twelvemonth with you.

On the other hand some of our Supts=

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~⁰⁹

Edin U [50]

(not Edinburgh) have allowed some of our best people to drift, when we had good appointments going & begging.

Au revoir to-day - - I hope.

I feel so far from able to give good gifts to "my "children" that I often dare scarcely pray for the Holy Spirit, the Gift of which, as the Gift of forgiveness - seems to be on that condition. Yet who such need of it as I?"

35 South St.
Park Lane, W.
March 7 / 78

" - - - - - this is only to announce that I sent off to-day a box (carriage paid) of 17 * Vols. to your address, which Vols. I hope will please.

- - - - -
I am very fond of some of the sketches, particularly Elijah, in Dean Stanley's Jewish Church: tho' it looks such a long book. Jacob too.

- - - - -
I have filled up the box with loves: but I was afraid if I put in all the love I have, the train would require an Extra Engine - or two to draw the weight.

God for ever bless you. - - - - -

Mr. Croft is giving us some very good Clinical lectures now."

* These volumes were for Miss Spencer, ("what she asked when we lost her") various Nurses & me: also

carefully chosen, some procured with difficulty: one (German) to follow, for Miss Pyne. The Jewish Church was for me.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [52]

opinion is not that of an Expert. - - - - -

I hear that Miss Williams is getting on so well:
doing so much for the Hospital - *so much*
for the Nurses: so beloved & so cheery.

It is 25 years to-day since I 'retired
into public life': my silver wedding -
and I am thanking God - - - - -

I am so unable to write. I had to
come down & take charge here without
a day's or an hour's rest: & the only
time I have to write the most important
things, is between 5 and 7.30 in the
mornings.

My best love to Miss Pyne & Miss Spencer
& all who remember me:

Thanks for Dr. Balfour's Lecture on Nursing - many.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [53]

10 (35) South St. Park Lane W.

21/11/78

" - - - - - We have

always intended, as perhaps you know,
to re-open our School for training Midwifery
Nurses, (which we had for 6 Years at King's
College Hospital) if a suitable opportunity
& place occurred.

The Lying-in Hospital of ~~illeg Road~~ Lambeth which had
been closed on account of puerperal fever,
is to be re-constructed both in building
& system & has been offered to us to Nurse.

- - - - - My idea would be to have

a trained General Hospital Lady as Matron.

(NOT Midwife) & under her a student Nurse

& a skilled Midwife &

Assistant Midwife

- by degrees, from 12 - 15 Pupil Midwives

- probably for the first year a Trained

general Hospital Nurse

- cook, housemaid etc. etc.

You will see that the "lady" must have a

power of organizing (not necessarily a

knowledge of Midwifery)

- with great tact & discretion.

There will be 20 or 18 Lying-in beds:

and the Committee's Scheme, a very

good one, is to train District Mid-wives

for provident Dispensaries, with which

Edin U [54)

it will be in connection & remain in connection in its neighbourhood. Without this scheme we should scarcely care to undertake it. With it, there is an enormous opening for good.

The Committee wish to take a recommendation for a Matron & for a while scheme of organization from us. Any lady we recommended & they accepted would select & organize her own female Staff:

But, you understand, we should only recommend the Matron, - as we do in the case of general Hospitals.

She would then pass *under the Committee* as in those other cases: (*not remain under us*;) We should not of course be able to help her even in those other ways in which we can help in the case of General Hospitals: viz. by training & by contributing a Staff of Nurses:

It will be a new thing which the lady will have to spin out of herself, as Miss Jones did so successfully --- as regarded the Midwifery training - tho herself knowing nothing of Midwifery - in our case in King's College Hospital - - - - -

If the Midwifery *Training School* is a prominent feature, we should probably have a good deal to say in *this*: & should help

[55] in money, as we did to a very considerable extent at the K.C. Hospl- as in other things.

Assuming that the salary is what she would have a right to expect *do you think* - here comes the question - that *Miss Spencer* would be the person to undertake this sort of *creation*, for it would be a creation?

I send my "Notes in Lying-in Instns-," which probably you have seen before, by book post *not* at all as a guide, for whoever undertakes this Lying-in Hospital & Training School must work out the problem by herself & *not* by a *book*:

I have scarcely been able to raise my head from the pillow since I came here - I have been as it were ground to powder this autumn. May God grind me into good bread for Him!" {vert. in left marg.} I do not recollect clearly the issue of this offer but think Miss Spencer decided not to undertake it.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp04

Edin U [56]
March 8/79
10 South Street
Park Lane. W.

"- - - - - five years ago last Christmas - - - - -

And a week afterwards I lost my Father:
since when life has been a series of changes
too heavy to fulfil. I, like you, have been
tempted to pray for annihilation: but then,
I say to myself, I should not know God.

2 - - - - -

3 I am authorized by Mr H.B.C. to write
& ask:

- how many Probationers you can accomodate in the new Infirmary?
how many you shall - - - require for the Service of the Infirmary itself?
Whether you think well of a project of having always an Assistant Supt- in training for one year for us?

- And, if there is any plan you favour for putting the training of Probationers on a more systematic footing, in which the "N. Fund" could help, he would be glad to consider it with a view of "assisting" in "putting the whole training on a footing" that you would like.

Do not hurry about answering this: there is time & to spare. And I am afraid that you have not strength & to spare. - - - - - "

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer³⁰⁶

Edin U [58]

{vert. in left marg.:} (continued) The most useful idea I gained was that of having a Sister over each domestic department equally with the Wards. And from that time we aimed at getting the head laundress & head cooks of the standing of Assistant Superintendents. It impressed me greatly to see the Sister ironing in the Laundry among her poor women, the Sister handling pots in the kitchen, etc.

A.L.P.

{return to text} particularly admirable.

Do not overdo it & make it a task. If you wish to see more Hospital, I would recommend

Lariboisière Soeurs Augustines
Vincennes Sisters of Charity.

(Military)

I send my Notes on "Hospitals" if you would like to consult the Paris Map of Hospitals at the end, & some other things in it on Paris Hospitals & Religious Nursing orders, see Appendix p. 181.

God speed your rest & your Hospl- visits: & give
you a good journey - - - - -"
June 12/79
10 South Street
Park Lane, W.

My message to you (I ought to have written it down) [15:857]
was NOT that "the W.O. wd- take the Nursing EXPEDN- under
its wing" but that we shd- do nothing 'without the authority
of the W.Oce-'

Since you left, the communs- from both W.O. & Ly
Burdett Coutts have been fast & furious.
But *nothing* definite.

Both apply for Nurses to us - - - - -
- - - - - [Col Stanley says there may be AN ENGAGEMENT
any day] - - - - -

I am so overworked that I write in direct haste - - - - -
God speed the work. PRAY for it." [end]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp03

Edin U [59]

Lea Hurst, Cromford
9/9/79

Post-script not marked private to a letter on hospital business, marked "private": I do not think the injunction extended to the post-script. "How terrible the news from Cabul. I am almost glad that Ld Lawrence did not live to see his prediction verified - his warning justified."

[15:849]

[end]

Lea Hurst
Cromford, Derby
Sept. 16/79

I am writing in even a greater press than usual: for there has been considerable anxiety about my dear Mother the last day or two. Yesterday I held her in a sort of spasm for 4 hours - - - - -

I do not express half of what I feel: my prayers for you & your work - - - - - & that the new Night Supt- may be well chosen."

Lea Hurst
Cromford
Derby
Sept 18/79

[13:358-59]

"It is 'proposed' to 'propose' to you as Extra Assistt- Supt= for a year's training - a Miss Wilson just out of her year's training with us (she has been 18 months with us: but nearly 6 of them she was laid aside with a poisoned finger) who

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [60]
was training with us for a Hospl- Supcy= in
New Zealand - - - - -".
Lea Hurst,
Cromford, Derby
Oct 12/79

Another letter marked "private".
This & the letter of 9th Sept. were necessarily
confidential because discussing the
merits of various people proposed for an
important post: therefore marked "private"
& destroyed: otherwise, as marking the
pains she took to help us in the
preparation of the Staff for the New
Infirmary, I should have wished to
keep them or at least to quote from
them. We were concerned to find a
Night Superintendent who could do justice
to the great change. In the end we re-
called one of our own training, Miss
Pauline Peter, whose subsequent career
show how fit she was for the position.
She left us afterwards to become Matron
of the Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children,
from there she became Superintendent
of Queen Victorias J.N.I. in Scotland
and, later she was appointed General Inspector of
the whole Institute.

Perhaps I may be allowed to quote from
the post-script of this letter of Oct, 12th,

[61]
as it is not marked "private":
"May God make your work in this great
Edinburgh Infirmary a model work (& not to
kill you) is my unceasing fervent prayer."
2 The New Infirmary was opened on the 29th Oct. 1879
"Christ's Palace" Miss Nightingale called it.
A.L.P.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp09

Edin U [62]
New Year's Day
1880
10 South Street
Park Lane. W.
1/1/80

"The first thoughts of the New Year
are for you.

But indeed I am *always* writing to you
in my heart: & praying for your strength
to be as your day.

For each & every one of you & yours I do send
up the warmest prayers. We have a
Heavenly Father in common: that is
my comfort: thy God and my God:
thy people and my people. Love
for all.

When it grieves me that you can
expect nothing from me, I comfort
myself that you can expect all from
God. - - - - -

And may the New Year be a good step
in the narrow road to all of us.

I send a printed copy of our
Instructions to Sisters for teaching Probrs= & [13:359]
should like to know your opinion of
them & of how far they can or will
be carried out.

And . . . you often ask about me: it is the
last straw which breaks the camel's
back, (let alone an old womans, with a
pulse at 120°.) you know: And mine is a
sheaf of straw: it is the {illeg charge?} of Lea Hurst

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [63]

-1/1/80-

This is the cause of my not writing.
Pray for me that spirit & faith fail not.

The constant feeling of duties accumulating
& left undone - Indian work, Training
School work, Lea work & family work,
is a heavy one coupled with every Doctor
saying You must go away for at least
3 months & neither speak, write nor
think: & the impossibility of doing
this for one month, one week, one day
or night: not to speak of ~~three~~ 3 months.

- - - think whether I feel for you
in the great work of occupying the
new Christ's Palace for the Sick: &
long to hear how you cope with
it - - - - -

God bless you again & again. And
may our prayers for you - - - - -
be all answered by God's chosen
gifts in the New Year"

Postscript to above. "As I looked at the moon
shining last night (between the gusts)
on a white flower, I was thinking
of that very day 6 years ago when
she was shining on two Arums I
had from Embley - - - - & writing to
your Nurses, - you remember when."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [64]

17/1/80

10 South Street

Park Lane. W.

"Miss C. speaks so very highly of Miss E. Pringle"

(at St Thomas's) "I am so glad that Miss

Peter turns out admirably - & that you like

Miss Wilson.

My love to Miss Spencer & Miss Pyne."

28/1/80

10 South Street

Park Lane, W.

"My dear Mother has been very much worse for the last week. And, tho' she is slightly better, we know how serious is the danger - danger must we call it? danger of going home? at her age."

1/ 2/80

"I reproached myself all night for letting

you go in that dreadful fog. I can

only hope that God was more careful

than I was. -----

Poor Mother has had a very restless suffering night."

2/2/80

10 South Street

Park Lane, W.

"My dear Mother fell asleep just after midnight - after much ~~restless~~ weariness & painfulness - tho' not so much as during an attack at Lea Hurst this last year. The last three (3) hours were in beautiful peace.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [65]

& all tho' she had been able to listen to & repeat her
favourite hymns & prayers: & to smile
a smile as if she said:

'I'm dying: it's all right.'

Then she composed her own self to death
at 9 last night: folded her hands: closed
her own eyes: laid herself down: & in
3 hours she was gone to a greater love
than ours.

I will send you tomorrow my first
2 Vols. of Plato 2nd Edit. The Apology
the Crito, the Phaedo & the Phaedrus
are those I think you will like.

Do you remember what Ezekiel
says: "And at even my wife died:
And I did in the morning as I was
commanded."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [66]
10 South St.
Park Lane W.
Easter Sunday 1880

My first New Year's thoughts were
for you: & now the first Easter
thoughts - - - - -

May all the best Easter blessings be
for you and your charges: And may God's
work go on in the true spirit of the
risen Christ. May all our cares & diffi-
culties & disappointments only tend to bury
us with His body: that so we may rise
again to-day to work His work as He
would have it done. - - - - -

[13:359-60]

But first I want to ask you about the
Nurses saving. The idea originated 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 & corresponded with Secretaries
of all kinds of Friendly & Provident Socies-
& have got together no end of information,
which I shall impart to you, please God,
sometime when we meet.
Also information about what our
Trained Nurses desire in this line.
Then, you know, 183 of the trained

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpt 14

Edin U [67]

Nurses send me & request that I would
'sit' for my 'picture'. And I answered
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 ap-
peared under the following heading x

[13:360]

Now - - - would your Nurses form some
similar engagement?

x but of 68 Nurses 57 signed this: (Probationers
not counted) Of the 68 ~~23~~

23 already saved

one paid for a life annuity

one had invested

two had invested

two had insured their lives

five supported relatives.

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
of *other safe investment* a sum quarterly
in proportion to our means
Sisters not less than £1, Nurses 10/

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [68]

And as much more as may be convenient.

I rejoice to hear of Miss Pyne's triumph: please give my love to her & to Miss Spencer
Please remember me to Nurse - & Nurse -
& to all whom I know - & to any Nurses
who remember me or do not, my
kindest Easter regards & good wishes, &
poor prayers. For God is rich tho' I am poor.

You ask after me, ---. I have come
back from Ramsgate where I went for
3 weeks' silence, for the first interval for
23 years, rather worse than I went. But
at this I am hardly surprised. I have
had 6 years & more without one day's rest
of body or mind, ending 23 years of over
work & illness, & themselves ending with
my dear Mother's death. And the Drs tell
me I must be "free", for at least a year,
(it's a poor Easter topic,) from the
responsibilities which have been forced
upon" me (& which, they might say I have
so ill fulfilled) & from "letters".
But when is that year to come?

I believe however I must go away again
for a time, if only to work up the arrears
of my Indian work, which weigh heavily
on my mind. But God's will be done.

Do you know that the trained Nurses

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [69]

gave a most beautiful wreath & Cross for
my Mother's funeral? They were returned
to me afterwards, & now hang by my bed side.
She was buried by my Father. And to-day they
spend their first Easter Day together in the
Heavenly Father's house: (speaking after the
manner of men) This Easter she has
"Another morn than ours."

I hope ---- you care about the Elections.
You are in the thick of them.

Sir Harry with patriotic pluck is in
his 79th year fighting a losing battle in
Buckingham, - - - - - .

But what delights me is that the
Liberal side find that the labourers
& the working men have waked up
during the last 6 years to interests
entirely new to them.

Then, 6 years ago, we could hardly get a
hearing: now Men jam themselves
into small hot rooms, struggling for
standing room while for 3 hours they
listen to political talk
Whether we win or not, such interest
will never die.

And while the Conservative beer is
flowing like water, with all sorts & sizes

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [70]

of bribery, the Liberal baker and grocer & furniture maker & even the Solicitor all canvas for love & even refuse fees. The enthusiasm is pure.

May God guide it, & keep it free from beer, & give us a House of Commons to serve freedom & justice.

I do so like what you say about Plato & St. Paul."

10 South St. W.

April 29 / 80

A postscript to a noble letter, written to admire me in a personal crisis, marked "private", & from which therefore extracts cannot be made.

"Since I wrote this, I have just received yours.

God bless & reward the dear Nurses, & say, for the high & noble spirit with which they approach this Provident Socy=scheme

God bless them: & He *will* bless them."

April 24th

see next page.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [71]

apparently written from Seaforth Lodge, Seaton, S. Devon
Nurses' Provident Socy-
April 24/80.

I am infinitely touched by your letter but one question [13:361]
only I must ask now: There is going to be a

sort of Conference - - - - -
to give us sound advice upon Provident
Societies for Women as touches possibilities for Trained Nurses.
----- I should like a little more information upon
what your Nurses' wishes are, as to "sick pay"
especially.

At St. Thomas's we dismiss entirely any ne-
cessity for provision for *temporary* illness, be-
cause the *Hospital* provides for that, as long
as there is any hope of the Nurse returning
to her duty.

I conclude that it is the same at the Edinburgh Infirmary.
When you ask "what they would be entitled to
in illness or old age," I conclude that this
means: *disabling* illness or *permanent* infirmity
and old age (super-annuation) weekly pension
or pay.

Is there any other provision that your
Nurses would specially desire?
The St Thomas Nurses all ask: would our
money or what portion of it be returned to us
in the event of marriage or of our ceasing
'pay in'?

I think it is so beautiful of your Nurses
saying, * "if we never need it ourselves, it will
{vert. in left marg.:} * Said by dear Nurse Mary Fraser and approved by the others.
Nurse M. Fraser died about January 1885 of Typhus Fever
caught from a Patient admitted as a Pneumonia case & given
up by the Doctors. She nursed him devotedly & he recovered.
The she fell sick of typhus & it was discovered the
Patient had suffered from that. She died while I was
in the south of France - alas! - The Residents followed her
to the grave & I think erected a tombstone to her memory - in the
{illeg Grange?} Cemetery: She was older than the other Nurses & advised & cared
for may a young Resident who need it. A.L.P.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [72]

be all the better and we shall be helping those that do need it." - - - - - Pray thank them for me, if you think well, for their generosity in taking to this scheme. And I am so glad they 'save'.

I am afraid (you do) "not much care for the scheme. It naturally takes off what would be a great pull on the Funds, if the Hospital, as all good Hospitals with trained Nurses do, provides for temporary sickness. [And you, I believe, provide for convalescence, too.] without stoppage of wages or salary" [end 13:361]

10 South St.
Park Lane. W.
May 19 1880

Trained Nurses League -

We had our Meeting: but have not got on very far. We were delighted with your Nurses' spirit".

Address
10 South St.
Park Lane. W.
May 29/80

Referring to "a new Glasgow Work-house Infirmary"

"Could you kindly tell me anything you know or think about this, in regard to its being a desirable thing for a devoted woman to accept & work out?"

10 South St.
June 30/80

"- - - - - ("Ma fille, j'ai mal à votre poitrine," somebody says: Ma fille. I take holiday in your holiday, I say) that is, "at the end of July" Then we

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [73]

will talk all things over"

10 South St.

10/7/80

"PRAY do not come to any conclusion ~~till~~ before I see you at the end of this month."

10 South St.

Park Lane, W.

July 17/80

"I am glad to hear from kind Miss Pyne that you think of coming up on the 24th - - - - -"

I will keep Sunday, 25, open for you at 5."

10 South St.

Park Lane. W.

August 30/80.

"I am in all the 'drive' of winding up affairs & seeing business people.

But I cannot resist seeing (you.) - - - -

10 South St.

7/9/80

" - - - - - I am leaving London in half an hour.

It is a most serious business. - - - - - [13:362]

I am appalled at the idea of your taking any Probr- of a year's standing and a stranger to you as your "junior Assistant" in such an important post.

I do not think 3 years as Sister & 2 years Matron of a Provincial Hospl- too much for the Assistant of so very important a Hospital & above all as your helper, - - - - -

God guide us: & He will guide us -

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [74] (inexperienced)

Lea Hurst

Cromford

Derby

Sept 9/80

[After telling me admirable things about the lady in question - Miss Hogg, who came to help us for a few months and eventually became the head of H.M. Naval Nursing Service, she goes on to say, speaking of the practice of taking inexperienced Assistants - a practice to which we were driven in early days by the absence of others - A.L.P.]

"But neither - - I am sure, nor - - - I think, have any idea of the horror with which I look back to the harm we have done ~~by~~ in recommending one-year-old Probationers to responsible posts." - - - - -

I will not say another word for or against but only pray that we may be guided." - - -

Lea Hurst

[13:362]

Dec. 18/80

"I am so thankful that Miss Hogg suits you and is a help to you: & that you are desirous & she is desirous that she should stay on for the present. - - - - - [- - - - - it is the greatest relief that she has been a help & not a hindrance, a comfort & not a discomfort to you - at this time which I fear you have felt much.

- - - - - Judge then how I give God thanks that Miss Hogg has done you good service, so untried as she is] - - - - - My autumn has

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp22

Edin U [75]

been full of troubles. - - - - - It has been
a time of trials, too sad to ~~relate~~ tell. But out of
darkness comes light.

Since ---- left, I have been working through the
work I came here to do, squeezing the work
of months into days, among the people, 'tant bien
que mal' or rather 'tant mal que bien:
Such has been the harass that all power
of continuous work is leaving me - I am
losing my memory. And old age is coming
fast. - - - - - . - - - - -

May all the best Christmas blessings be
showered upon you & yours: May the
child Jesus be born in each one of us:

May our souls be given us for a
New Year's present."

"Do you know anything of a Dr- Barbour - - -
- - ? - - - - he kindly wrote to me."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [76]
28/2/81
10 South St.
Park Lane. W.

"Unspoken thoughts go with you. - - - - -
but I will not write settled thoughts now: only a
little prelude (which I wish I could make musical)
because you ask my poor thoughts." [Followed by
wise counsel for the circumstances in which we
were placed: - the great new hospital, with the Fever
house at the old Infirmary still attached]

A.L.P.

"One may easily be too officious."
10 South St
Park Lane. W.
Feb. 6/81

"I don't like planning for you till we know [13:363]
what is best for you and what you would like.
But when we know that, nothing will be im-
possible.

Miss Hogg is coming to see me tomorrow.
I am so thankful that she has been a help
to you.

Miss Pyne looks radiant as to life but not as
to you."

13/2/81
10 South St.
Park Lane. W.

"I write you a letter every day in my heart
- - - - - but you can hardly imagine how
difficult it is to me to put pen to paper except
on the most pressing business. I am interrupted
five or six times in the shortest note. - - - - -
- - - - - I saw Miss Hogg last week: - - - - -
- - - - - -She has the great "points"
of straight forwardness, a good judgement & no

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp24

Edin U [77]

self-conceit, & an earnest desire to do right, besides others which were mentioned before.

And she is capable of giving a very good and observant account, *without* criticism, of any Institution she sees. - NOT at all wedded to her own first training or anything of her own.

I am interrupted again - is there any amusing book you would read * ? I think I will send tomorrow Macdonalds 'St. Michael & St George', & then his 'Sir Gibbie'. But I am afraid you may know these - [end 13:363]

{vert. in marg.:} *in a time of illnesses

A.L.P.

Ld Beaconsfield's 'Endymion' is so low [5:771]

vulgar & libellous that I cannot read it and will not send it. Is there no law to put down such mean libels against the dead?" *

"We are lending 1 lady from St Thomas' & 4 Netley Nurses to the Transvaal War." {vert. in marg.:} * Query: if this is available for publication:

only if *the* criticism apart from party, will do *good*, as stern things from a gentle person sometimes do

A.L.P.

20/2/81

10 South St.

Park Lane W.

My whole thoughts are with you.
And I am always thinking of what
your next step is to be. - - - - -
How then have I not answered your dear

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp25

Edin U [78]
letter - - -? If you knew how I have been "driven" this last
week and still am - - -" [Then follows a careful
consideration of my then difficulties based on the
assumption that they were due to a necessity,
instead of being, as I seem to see now, largely
the consequence of my own unwisdom.]

A.L.P.

" - - - - - But - - - I have told you some
of my thoughts about you. Will you not tell me
yours about yourself, even though I ask for them
so scrimpet-ly? God bless you.

Ever yours, not scrimpet-ly."
"My very best of loves & thanks to dear Miss Spencer."

6/4/81

10 South St.

Park Lane. W.

[13:363-64]

"I am always thinking of you and
always "praying for light" -- And I say
"Our Father which art in Heaven" & then
stop there - is that not enough? your
& my Father. I know He will take care
of you. & I try to satisfy my anxiety
with that, faithless me - who can do nothing
for you - - - - -

My very best love to Miss Spencer who so
nobly fights the battle.

I think the "light" that visits me now is
simply as you say, that you must get as well
as you can - - - - -
I will write again, when "light" will come.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~26~~26

Edin U [79]

6th Ap./81 continued

--- do not depend upon "light" in one sort of mystical way. There are things, as I know by experience, in which He sends us "light" by the hard good sense of others, not by out going over, in sickness & solitude, one thought, or rather feeling, over & over again by ourselves, which rather brings darkness. I have felt this so much in my lonely life. May He send light to us in your care thro' your health - - - - -
I have been writing to you every day for the last 3 weeks: but could not. I have been to Seaford for one week."

Easter Day
10 South Street
Park Lane. W.

"The deepest Easter thoughts turn to you. May the richest blessings of the risen life be all yours - now, here, to-day & for ever.
- - - - -

Your last letter was more cheering -
Thank God for it. - - - - -
My best devotion to my Goddess - whom I hope to see again."

April 28/81
10 South Street
Park Lane. W.
& 29th April.

[Expressing her desire that the charge of the Fever house should be separated from that of the Infirmary, that the drainage should be perfected, and that we should be able "to find a lady in the Convalescent Hospl who" would "take

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U {pg [80] folio cont.}
{in shaky hand:} (This sister was also
(trained at St Thomas's
She died in 1914.)
(J.L.)

Edin U [81]
letter of June 20th/81
continued

I know so well what that is - to be so uneasy
about a person, & then find out that God is smiling
at my terror, & that she is all right.

I am writing in the early morning: the
"sweet hour of prime", as we can (hardly) call
it in London. - - - - -

I know how impossible it is to do "next to nothing"
at Edinburgh, but am sure you are wary.
Give my very best love to Miss Spencer, & tell
her I trust July will do her (almost) all the
good I desire her - - - - - -Fare you very well"
10 South St
Park Lane. W.
July 8/81

" - - - - - You will think me the
blackest, or at least the brownest of villains.
- I who am always preaching 'have nothing to
do with the Fever house' & now have sent you
an encumbrance to train there. Like other
villains & traitors, however, I had no idea that
my hint would be taken" (by 'the Liverpool people')
- - - - - Of course the wretches, - but I
did not know it till long afterwards - im-
mediately telegraphed to you. Tread me
under foot - I deserve it - - - - -".
- In a postscript - "Pastor Fliedner used to say:
when towns applied to him to send Deaconesses -
"have you sent me any? - any Probationers? I
can't stamp material out of the ground."

[13:364]

[end]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [83]

letter of Sept 3rd 1881

continued

& know. What a noble eager worker he is."

25/10/81

(From Lea Hurst)

" - - - - - I always feel - - - - more & more
the uncertainty of what Probationers may
turn out in the second year. - - - - -

I have 16 more afternoons I must give to
the Village people here - then rest a day or
two - then come to London.

Pray, pray do not think of "giving Classes"
yourself. Do you know I think it would be
madness - "

In a post-script: "I shall bless Miss Pyne
for ever if she provides you with a good
Home Sister." (Miss Pyne sent us Miss Butterworth from
Westminster, a graceful & pleasant lady)

New Year's Day

1881

(evidently a slip of the

pen for 1882 A.L.P.)

10 South Street

Park Lane. W.

" - - - - - With what great love I would
give you & all yours a happy New Year,
if I could. Then may I commend your New
Year to Him whose love is greater than
mine, & so try to satisfy my trembling
untrustful heart?

But this year I feel so uneasy about
Miss Stain{e}s at Liverpool with all her
great difficulties, - - - - - .

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [84]
10 South St. Park Lane, W.
Feb. 1/82

"I feel so anxious about you and your charge," (at Chelmsford) lest you should be getting too anxious. -----

- a We want
- a Night Supt- for Miss Stain(e)s at Liverpool Royal Infirmary
- a Matron for Hull Infirmary
- a Lady District Nurse for Paddington District Nursing Home

And I am afraid shall not be able to provide either, or any!
{next 4 lines have been crossed off with 3 diag. strokes of a pen}
omit A.L.P.

(And Highgate has lost its - - Matron - - - - -) And we might possibly have had Highgate again (if omit we could have found a Successor.) A.L.P.

My dear Mother died tonight a little after Midnight it was 2 years ago - - - - -"
10 South St.
3/2/82

"I hope you will have 3 good days' rest before returning to a charge yet more anxious - - - - -"

As for Miss Spencer - - - there is a tragic line in Mrs. Browning
"Judge the length of the sword by the sheath" -
Without being tragic "judge" of the necessity I feel to leave Miss Spencer with [you] that though it has not unfrequently happened to me

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [85]
letter of 3/2/82
continued

to have 3 Matronships or the like offered us in one week,
some of them very important ones - & we have none
to recommend - yet none shall ever be offered to
Mis Spencer with my consent until after you tell me
that you offer her --- i.e that she "[finds it a
duty to seek promotion] "I think it is so very hard
upon you to have had to change your Home Sister so often."
6/2/82

" - - - - But one thing I must stipulate for: IF
there should be a fog tonight, come prepared to
sleep here. - - - - I heard such accounts
yesterday from the parents of people who had
been lost in the fog of Saturday Night (& found)"
Date uncertain

Feb or Jan of 1882
" x Miss Vincent is aware how -- --- - - - - -
allowed the Patients to be troublesome & insubordinate
& to get beyond all bounds: & that this will
give your Sister extra difficulty."
{vert. in marg.:} that {illeg} be x
published

10 South St.
Park Lane. W.
March 8/82

" - - - - alas! Miss Williams had not been with
her sister at the moment: & I am afraid this
embitters it. - - - - -
I think that when the immediate shock is over
they cannot but find comfort in the thought
that this good dear woman has entered so soon
into her rest without her sufferings having
been prolonged, with little or as it turns out no

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [86]

no hope of recovery. She was ripe already. - - - - -

Date uncertain

but in Mar. or April

1882

{vert. in marg. :} x {illeg too faint}

Sister: not to be
published.

" x Miss - - - - - is doing capitally as you
know, & getting her Wards into beautiful order.
Miss Vincent writes on March 1 = "Miss
has had charge of her floor now for just under
four weeks - I saw a very great change for the
better both in the tone & appearance of her
floor when I returned." [- - - - -] "I hope she
will go on as well as she has begun - - - - -"
I too say: may God bless her & prosper her in
her work: & may she win success! as I believe
she will."

In a post-script. "We are going to part with our
dear Miss Rye. I don't know whether most to
~~her~~ our reluctance or ~~ours~~ hers. The London Female
Mission has offered her the Supcy= of all the
Refugees with charge of the Central Paddington
Home. It is no more pay than our Sister -
ship - And we could have got her, over &
over again, a well paid Matronship of
Hospital or Infirmary - which she always
declined - because she thought her call was
to the fallen. So she accepts this - And I think
she is right - but she is a sore loss to us."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 384

Edin U [87]

April 21 1882

" Your Easter greetings were very precious to me.
- - - - - The more you can please
yourself (about the matter of the "Ward Assistants' "
"pictures") the more you will please me ever -
Send me the bill, & do not scrimp it - - - - -.

I have come to Claydon for a few days to be
quite alone - being almost broken down."

{vert. in marg.:} alluding to the Verse in
the Ward Assistants Dining room

in Edinburgh: we had got a
lady to illuminate the words:

"But I am among you as
he that serveth." and this
at Miss Nightingale's expense

10 South St
June 24th/82

" - - - - - about Dr- Bell's Candidature: first of all
I wrote to Sir Alex: grant thro' Mr. Jowett -
then to the Lord Provost - - - - -

I think that ----- is now passing thro' a (not un-
natural) interval or weariness of & 'indifference
to her work - - - - -'

10 S. St.
July 5 1882

" What can I say about -- -- -- I think
of it Night and day - - - - It is not a plan
at all - it is an idea, a chimera, a soap-
bubble, crystallized for the moment by - - -
being in England - - - - - She says her-
self it is a fancy begotten of her troubles"
[to leave her present charge & go to the Colonies) " is
as if we planned that London were to be
removed from the Thames to be placed on
the Test - You desert the great source & river
& constant flow, for an insignificant streamlet.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 385

Edin U [88]

which you ought to supply - - - - -
Any one trained & recommended by "(her) - - - -
would do as well for --- as --- ----.
- - - - -

Miss Hogg is doing admirably."

July 23 1882
10 South Street
Park Lane. W.

"I have nothing but good to tell you about
--- --- - - - - - she thought that ----- would
fade away out of her mind. - - - - -

Will you come out and see me at Lea Hurst,
if I am there?

Alas! How grieved I am for Dr- Bell!"

Lea Hurst, Cromford Derby

Sept 21/82

" - - - - - O dear Miss Spencer --- how I grieve
for her and with her.

Miss Vincent has lost her Mother.
About the War Nurses I must speak when
we meet. Joy that the War is over.

And let that meeting be not so long
hence."

Dec 22 1882
10 South Street
Park Lane, W.

" Great love & God's glad tidings of great
joy,' & every Christmas good hope &
blessing - - - - -

Pray, - - - -, that the child Christ may be
born a new in each of our hearts this
Christmas tide.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [89] letter of 22nd Dec. 1882 continued

"You never think, I know, that I forget when I do not write. In the Arms of the Almighty Father I take not my leave of you but meet you there - we are not apart:

` 'A Dieu," my dear Mother used to say, every day when we parted. ` A Dieu, my dear child,' with such expression. Her heart long survived her reason. Now she has both.

Your letter about my dear Sister did us such good. - - - - - Each day seems to me to make her a little worse: not *Doctor's* 'worse' but *Nurses'* 'worse'. I think it is the most distressing attack of Rheumatic Arthritis I ever saw: no sleep without narcotics & very little bad sleep with - great wandering: great mental irritation and distress, constant restlessness: & pain.

We have two Nurses, besides her faithful Julie. I received the Nurses' reports & went in as often as I could till 10 days ago Mrs. Verney came up leaving her own sick child as the angels used to come to give Ishmael & Elijah food & drink, you have. What should we do without her?

I am so - - - - - glad if your Fever Wards are satisfactory without trying you

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [90]

too much. - - - - -

I am immersed in Egyptian Army Hospital
enquiries, when I can -

I send my little Angel to carry Christmas
greetings better than I can to my dearest
"Little Sister", to all her work & all her workers -
& my very best love to dear Miss Spencer - &
ask her to write to me. - - - - -
The crisis is arriving when "(Mrs Deeble)" will have to
furnish all the Army Hospitals with Nurses.
Pray for her and the work.

I have so much to say & so little strength
to say it." - - - - -

Fare you very well."

Feb. 3/83
10 South Street
Park Lane, W.

- - - - - And now I approach you
"like a lion with a roaring mane". Is
this your February conduct, promised to be
perfection? Is this, - this mean poking little
heart of a holiday, not bigger than a rat,-
to be the well developed, full blown, fair
woman of a holiday which you promised
us all to take in February?
Souvent femme varie
Bien fol qui s'y fie
I have always BEFORE declared to be a

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [91]

libel written by a *man*, & what is more, a
faithless King.

1st Commandment

YOU ARE to stay in the south 6 or 8 weeks
at *least*, including a visit to me and one
to Claydon.

2nd YOU ARE NOT to return to ----- till the
third week of March, at *earliest*

3 And you are to have two months in the
Autumn. Or if you do not behave properly
~~and~~ & honorably now, three.

I cannot say much for my Sister
tho' the terrible restlessness which was
really the most dreadful of her sufferings,
has passed away, -----
Sir Harry's Jubilee was celebrated at
Buckingham most touchingly & satisfactorily
on Tuesday. And tho' she, who would have en-
joyed it the most, could not be there, still
she enjoyed it much. All the *people*
were so truly fond of him, & proud of
his Parliamentary 50 years.
Yesterday my dear Mother's birthday
3 years ago into heaven was celebrated -
by me. -----"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [92]
10 South St.
Dec 29/83

- - - - - I always repeat - - : Let the
child Jesus be born again - in our hearts

Alas! How long He is in coming to mine -
with His purity, His simplicity, His
innocence.

May all the highest Christmas & New Year's
blessings be yours & your work's.

And may I have the blessing you wish
me - peace. - - - - -

May your work prosper in your hands - - - - -
- - - - -

Do you remember Aunt Julia? & do you know
that she is gone home? - She died quite
peacefully at Hastings on Dec. 21 - & was
buried on Thursday last at Keaton near
Ravensbourne

The 'fervid little soul' is at rest - or
rather she is gone to a wiser activity,
where her keen sympathies will be in
full employ -

My poor Sister who was getting somewhat
better is, I fear, now nearly as suffering
as ever - - - - -"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [93]
10 South St.
Jan. 20/84

" - - - - - that the most weighty thing concerning which
you write, it cannot be discussed by letter. There is so
much to say of the most anxious kind & to hear & to
consider.

Jan. 1884
brought another long letter of wise and loving counsel,
too personal to be quoted, too precious not to be re-
membered gratefully. It was characterized by a large
hearted patience, and strong good humour.

Feb. 17/84
"I may truly say again, your dear soul is never
out of my thoughts. As Genl= Gordon who is gone to
Khartoum writes: I am with you in spirit every
day - - - - - It is in sad earnest that
I say: Pardon me, for I could not [write] - - - - -
"I struggle in to her [her sister]" as much as I possibly
can, & see the Nurses & Doctors here - - - - -
Next month she will have her daughter-in-law,
Margt- Verney here, whom I bless God for having
created. She is God's own daughter - - - - -
To Miss Spencer best love. To Dr- Bell kindest remem-
brances, please."

10 South St. W.

March 5/84

" - - - - - Any day after tomorrow - - - - I will
keep open ` [to see me] - - - - -
"Tomorrow (Thursday) Sir Harry has two Swedes
to luncheon - on Evangelical Alliance business.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [94]

Mar. 5 continued

" - - - - - You are quite right to be at home for the April University Solemnities, of which Mr. Jowett, now His Chancellor of Oxford, who is going to them, had apprised me. God speed & with worshipped love to my Goddess - - - - - [her 'Goddess' was a lady "divinely tall", & for that & other reasons she often called her by this fond & playful title]

Mar. 13/84

"I send you the tickets for the Speaker's gallery for to-day. - - - - - & Sir Harry will go with you to the House of Commons.

You see I must give up seeing you to-day. But I shall depend upon tomorrow. - - - - -"
[The tickets were for Miss Williams & me. We saw Mr Parnell, Mr Gladstone, & many others. I remember the speech of Mr O'Sullivan and the reply of Mr Trevelyan]

July 11/84

10 South Street
Park Lane. W.

" - - - - - I don't think - - is in the "deepest distress" but in spirited indignation which is much better.

Aug 1/84

10 South Street
Park Lane. W.

" - - - - - She must, & I think she does, feel for ever a glow at her heart attaching her to - -, where a vexatious business has only made her find more than kind friends on all sides.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [95]

Aug. 1st continued

" - - - - - She must bless the occasion - and a little lively indignation has done her no harm. - - - - -"

Apparently

11th July 1884

or

1st Aug. 1884

A card undated found with these two.

" - - - - - I am very weak after a month's coughing - & ought to go to the sea, they say,= but cannot - Miss Airy sailed from here on Wednesday for Egypt: very boring."

Claydon

[address 10 South St.]

finished

Oct. 11/84

" - - - - -

It is charming how you received the Crown Princess 'in naturalibus' - how many of her German Nurses have you now?

- - - - -

You see that Nurses are going up the Nile to Wady Haifa - - - - -

But Luther says - that he looks out & sees the firmament which God has made without pillars, & we wretched men are always afraid that it will tumble down, unless we make our little pillars half a foot high.

It is 34 years since I was at Wady Haifa - how little I could ever have thought that there would be trained Nurses now there. O faithless me that think God cannot make His firmament without pillars. And India - - - that he could do so [pillar]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [96]

much by means of Lord Ripon - but we are very, very sorry Ripon is coming home - and that He cannot do as much by Lord Dufferin.

No: I have the highest reverence for "Sir Stafford Northcote" - x he was one of the very best Ministers at the India Office - the only reason why I have not the great pleasure of seeing him now - is that he was at the India Office & is not now - And I can never see any one except on business - unhappily. But I have hardly done a day's work this twelve-month.

- - - - - " [In post script] "words but not thoughts in haste -

And God in whom we are is never in haste". {vert. in marg.:} x Alluding to what I had told her of Sir Stafford Northcote's visit to the Edinburgh Infirmary, when he had remarked to the best of my recollection: "I used to see Miss Nightingale, but not now."

A.L.P.

Nov. 6/84
10 South Street
Park Lane W.

" - - - - - And let me say now how very glad I was for your Sister's appointment at Belfast" Lisburn
A.L.P.

"Please give her joy for me".

Dec. 6/84
10 South Street
Park Lane. W.

" - - - - - the scene shifts every day - - - - -
- - - - - On Monday we were all agog, because there was a report - - - - - on Friday - - - - -
Friday passed innocently away".

[from p.c.] "Let our anxiety know how you are".

Dec. 10/84
10 South Street
Park Lane. W.

" - - - - I cannot tell - - - what I feel at your being

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~³⁴⁴

Edin U [97]

ordered away for the winter - sorrow & yet a sort of joy
- - - - - Do the *Doctors* choose for you Pau? Have you
friends there? - who is going with you? - - - - - "

Dec. 30/84
10 South Street
Park Lane, W.

" - - - How thankful I was to hear from you after
that terrible voyage. We prayed and sang for
you "Eternal Father" & "O God our help in ages past"
in our family prayers here & at the Home. How
thankful we shall be when the warm weather comes
at Pau. - - - - - " You must help our prayers, as a poor man once said"
[And she enclosed, with delicate words, a gift of money to
get little comforts for the invalid]

~~Jan 30th~~

1885 Destroyed: "private".

Feb. 19/85

[15:967]

" - - - - - It is in the path of duty. It is a grand
& noble work. They want her " [Miss Williams] " She is at
liberty and willing - - - - - I - - - - - am
now perfectly satisfied that they have offered her a
post worthy of her, with no particular wish, as SUPT= of
Nurses, in a Base Hospital of *wounded* only, with
plenty of work, severe cases, who want her, & in charge;
in charge both of Sisters and of the Nursing - that is,
of the Orderlies' Nursing too - under the Medical Officer
in charge - - - - - If you were to
see her how brave, how noble she is, not at all excited,
you would thank God & take comfort - - - - -

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp#5

Edin U [98]

Feb. 19th continued

- - - - - But, he " [the Director Genl] " said "we want you", &
he is quite right.

- - I did not like it at first - - - - -
But now I am convinced that God has called her to
the best thing that He had & could have managed -
& He has been arranging it - for His beloved child -

- - - - -
She is to have the Base Hospital at Suez - where
the severely wounded - no sick - are to be nursed,
coming by water direct from Souakim, near to
which it is supposed a great battle will be fought
almost as soon as the Guards who start today
land at Souakim. - - - - -

- - - - - -Nursing proper of the severe
cases to be done by the Women - & training of Orderlies
& Management of the delicate feeding of severe cases -

It is the greatest possible comfort that Miss Byam
is to be with her. - - - - -

Think of them as *wanting* her - of the call for
such as her-how she will do it better than anyone else." [end 15:967]

March 4/85

10 South Street

Park Lane. W.

[Mrs Williams] " has started this morning by the
Navarino - - - - - Miss Byam & Miss Hind
go with her as her own Nurses. Miss Machin, Miss Dowse,
Miss Wrigley, all her own, as Nurses of the Ladies Branch
of the Nat. Aid Socy= - to remain with her at Suez - or be

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~3~~⁴

Edin U [100]

death of "material things to the " life of righteousness." [end 15:982]

10 South St.

April 30/85

" - - - Miss Williams looks better than she has done
for years. - - - - -

Our Father has done it all. - - - - - "

- - 5 p.m. {in marg.}

"Joy to you both. You will see her tomorrow

(Friday) - - - - - "

10 South St.

May 18/85

" - - - - - 'She' left in good care - - - - - We
shall soon hear of her arrival" [Miss W.: 2nd term in Egypt]

A.L.P.

- - - - - & if I may, my kindest regards
to Miss Grant - - - - -

If there is a War with Russia, which God forbid, [15:852]

& which is quite unnecessary - they will not send

Nurses to Affghanistan - quite right - but to

Constantinople they may. - - - - - " [end]

10 South St.

Park Lane. W.

May 20/85

" - - - You will not be surprised & I am [15:991]

afraid you will not be sorry to hear that the

Nursing Staff from Souakim & Suez are

coming home - - - - - " [end]

10 South St.

July 4/85 {penciled 5 on top of 4} [15:999]

" - - - - - must not say that

the Orderlies are "hopeless" - - - - -

The very most important part of a Sister's duty in the

Army is training the Orderlies who are essentials

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [101]

July 4/85

continued

in the Field. It is the very 'raison d'etre' of the Sisters.
But that made me the more raving that the Sisters at Suez were so over-worked
that they *could* not train the Orderlies as they would
have done so well - and that the Sisters who were
sent up the Nile were actually employed *without* Orderlies -
their very "raison d'etre" being thus gone. - - - - -
But enough of this - God will direct - God has directed. [end 15:999]
- - - - -

Miss Hogg, you know, is now Head Sister at Plymouth.
She speaks highly of your 'Sister' "[a pupil of the Edin. R. Infry]
A.L.P.

"who it seems has been teaching the boy Nurses
very nicely - - - - - Our excellent Miss Styring
- - - - - is going to be Matron of the New Paddington Work-
house Infirmary - - - - - You know
they have a Training School now at St Marylebone.
Miss Jull who has been 'Sister Edward' at
St Thomas for 8 years - the last of our old Sisters -
is gone to be Assistant Matron (to Miss Abbott) at
Brompton - as preparation for a Matron-ship - -
I do not think it is regrettable that
Mr- Gladstone should go to the General Election
untrammelled by Office - - - - -
I am going to see Sir Peter Lumsden - - - - -
in a p.c. to above. "Some kind instrument at Argele's has sent
me some roots - which I suspect to be the roots of
the lovely red anemone - - - - - I have planted
them out - beautiful Argeles - beautiful remembrance - - - - - "

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~349~~

Edin U [102]
July 17/85
10 South St
Park Lane. W.

"-----
Almost, if not quite glad that the Fever House is off
your dear hands ----- It is always a
question with us whether we will give Nurses to be
under a Matron not of our training or of a
training we know - And I think we always decide
it in the negative. We will not give Nurses
except to be under a Matron of an approved
training. -----

How sorry I am that the wilful Linen Mistress will go."
10 South St.
Sept 23/85

"----- is full of the work in Egypt.
As for the best, what can one say except: God bless her?
10 South St

Dec 8/85
"Thank you so much for your account of the
marriage. May God bless her - may she be happy, - -
-----"

10 South St.
Dec 31/85

"----- My first thoughts for the New Year are for
you always - On this last day of the Old Year I pray
with all my heart and strength for all the
highest blessings for a Good New Year on you - -
----- on you & all yours -----

And I always remember to pray - - - - for the child Jesus
to be born anew in my heart at this season
with His purity, His innocence, His simplicity.

Pray *thou* for *me* -----.
Will you be so very good as to present my kindest regards & good wishes to each

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~35~~35

Edin U [104]
10 South St
Aug 21/86

" - - - - - 'Thank you' - - - - - for your sending me
your month's bill of fare, for July - I think I shall ask you
for another month's bill of fare in January - - - - -
- - - - - Mrs. Wardroper, poor Matron, has
been very ill & is now away. Miss Crossland has come back
from her holiday in Ireland - - - - - She saw - -
& Miss Pyne of the Workhouse Inf-y at Belfast."

10 South St.
Nov 7/86

" Now I do bless Dr- Affleck - - - - - ! I wish we had
a gold medal for those sorts of exploits. - - - - - .
- - - - - Dr- Affleck deserves our heartiest
thanks for his Lectures in Dr- Bell's place, tho' we can
never cease to regret Dr- Bell.
I am delighted that ladies have become head
laundresses & I wish they would become head cooks -
Do you admit your laundress in any sort of,
consultation or intercourse with your 'Chapters?' - - - - - [10:761-62]
- - - - - I have been rather bothered for the
last twelvemonth by enquiring for and despatching
Sanitary & Domestic Economy books to India - to be
boiled down by some sort of process into Text-books for
native girls & women, & for European girls' schools -
as an adjunct to Lady Dufferins Fund. Believing as
I do that the conditions of England & India are so different
that each country should have its own books, I did it in a cold perspiration.
I am now engaged to do the same thing in *Medical*
books for her Doctresses - to send out the best books on

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpt 352

Edin U [105]

Nov 7/86

continued

Midwifery & Disease of Women & Children -

I have already collected several recommended to me by
Medical authority- But they are so elaborate - they,
especially the Mid-wifery books, treat Child-birth, not as a
process of nature but as a terrible Surgical disease.

And there is a description of every kind of operation
that can possibly be invented.

Could you - - - - - ask the authorities of the Lying-
in Hospital, or the Physician Accoucheur of your

Infirmary - for the names of the *simplest & most*
useful books on these matters, telling them it is for
India; for native & other *Lady Doctors* - & for
whose Fund - - - - - I should be so grateful.

But they in India ought, as for Sanitation, so for
Midwifery & Women's & children's diseases to write
Manuals for India. The Mortality among
native women, & even among European women
in India, is far higher than with us - The Sanitary
conditions (of the Natives) in Childbirth are fearful.

And they have many other draw-backs. - - - - -

If there were any book dwelling upon the
conditions which should produce *health* in pregnancy
& child-birth, that would be a God-send for me.

- - - - - They "[the books]" will be chiefly for (trained)
native women-doctors AL Dr- Affleck is the [end 10:762]

real Doctor who consults the Sanitary conditions -
- - - - -

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~353~~

Edin U [106]

I came back from Claydon very much run down to a sick household - & to somewhat hard work with every body going to or returning to India

10 South St.

Dec. 20/86

" - - - - -many thanks for your letter about midwifery [13:366] books - - - - - Do you think I might write to [Dr- Croom's]" 'friend Professor Arnot of Bombay' - - - - - asking Prof. Arnot to advise me?

I had already sent that particularly good little book "Obstetric Aphorisms" to Lady Dufferin, & to a Madras Vernacular Education Soc-y - which asks me almost the same questions as Ly Duffn= & also Dr- Croom's Minor Gynaecological Operations" the same, to both - - - - - I did send out "Combe on Infancy," but I think I will send another copy or two.

Do you think Dr. Croom would publish his Lectures to Nurses on Mid-wifery and on the Nursing required in the various diseases of women"?

It would be so valuable. Then I would send that out.

And pray make Dr- Affleck publish his Nursing Lectures on "Fever". - - - - - I should like to send him my very grateful regards, if I dared.

Oh! Make "a beautiful Edinburgh series of Nurses' books" - how invaluable they would be - - - - -

- - - - -

As for the "paper=weight" - - - - - Will you kindly say to Miss Matthewson & Miss Simpson how beautiful their work

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp354

Edin U [107]

Dec. 20/86

continued

is. - - - - - My love to all, if I may.

God bless you with His Christmas love - I always think of -----'s saying that the child Christ must be born again at this time in all our hearts. Pray for me that it may be so."

10 South St

Dec. 31/86

"A happy New Year be yours. I send my two little children "[a card]" praying for it in a picture, because I think they pray better than I. [13:366]

And I send the peasant girl giving food to the child sitting on the door-step in the cold, & finding out it is the Lord Jesus - for dear Miss Spencer.

And Miss Grant & Miss Reith two cards if they will accept them from me - - - - - with my New Year's love. And that good old Nurse" [dear Mrs. Porter] " whose acquaintance I made at

A.L.P.

Edinburgh before you were born" [a mistake!] " - - - - -

- May I send her the verse on the New Year under the icicles?

And poor Nurse Monk" [in fatal illness]" may I send her the tower on the cliff - & the tossing sea?

And would your Cook take a card from me -

the Rising Sun & Peace? - - - - -

The choicest of the Loving Almighty Father's blessings upon you and dear Miss Spencer - & all your Nurses

& all your work for the New Year - - - - -

ever & ever yours

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp55

Edin U [108]
10 South Street
April 9/87

"Easter greetings, love and blessings.
May we rise again tomorrow with new life from
the Lord & Giver of life - - - - - I have been
trying to write to you every day this Passion week
on the subject so pressing on both our hearts x - but
must still put it off till tomorrow".

x Referring to the proposed change - my going to St. T.'s and the Nightingale
School, Miss Spencer remaining in charge at Edinburgh.
10 South St.

April 25/87

"Today is the Annual Meeting of our Probationers
at the N. Home at St. Thomas's It will be
an unusually large gathering of old & new -
even Miss Stain(e)s of Liverpool etc etc. - for it is
the last over which poor Matron will preside.
- - - - - 34 Years Matron
- - - - - 27 head of Training School.
She looks very ill - - - - -

Sister Airey from Cairo was wrecked on
board the Tasmania off Corsica Sunday (yesterday)
week. Thank God, thank God: they were
saved, & sent home over-land from Marseilles,
after being rescued in Corsica. She arrived
"quite well" at Bedford, as she, like her
own dear self, says quite cheerily, writing,
which I only received this morning. It will be
announced at the Meeting to-day. But I have
some hopes others may have heard of it in

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~356~~56

Edin U [109]

time to ask her to the Meeting, where she would
be so welcomed. I believe they lost everything".
10 South St.

June 20/87

" I am sure your people enjoyed their Jubilee"

[On the day of the first Jubilee of Queen Victoria
- a glowing summer day - we had about 300 of
the Patients carried out by Students & Porters on the grass between the
Medical & Surgical hospitals, gave them tea
there, and telegraphed congratulations to Her
Majesty, to which she graciously replied,
though she had ceased, overwhelmed, replying
to congratulations in general. This entirely
impromptu fête was a most happy affair] A.L.P.
10 South St.

June 21/87

"The Westminster Abbey function is over -
Miss Crossland" (and others) "saw the Procession - - - -
Sir Harry had tickets for the Abbey but gave
it up at the last moment - very wisely. He had
300 tenants & labourers & wives & children for
cricket, dinner, little Service in Church, games
fireworks, bonfire, at Claydon.

I have heard nothing yet of Abbey or
Procession from those who were there."

x see next page

for letter of July 16/87

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~353~~

Edin U [110]

July 23rd/87

"Arrangements, how thankful I am to think, seem making at Edinburgh to your satisfaction. - - - - -

My dear love to Miss Spencer.

God bless you all the night I say at even:

& God bless you all the day I say at morn - - - - - "

2 Claydon House,

1 August 21/87

2 " - a friendly feeling, when so truly deserved,

& not catered for, is a gift of God"

1 "The difficulties no doubt at St Thomas's will be

great. But what is it that Gamaliel says: 'If it is

of God, it cannot be over-thrown: if it is of man,

it will come to nought'."

From this time till April 1890 the letters are addressed

to me at St Thomas's, not at the Edin. R. Inf-y.

Except the following which should have come on previous page.

10 South Street.

x July 16/87

"Well, may you and dear Miss Spencer enjoy

some sort of a holiday together. The holiday is

really in the *heart*.

"In the heart of duty there is rest": in the

heart of duty & of love.

My best love to Miss Spencer. And please remem-

ber me to Miss Grant & Miss Reith with all

my heart. I do so feel with you all. I enclose the

£5 for poor Nurse ----- . - - - - - God bless you all."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~358~~

Edin U [111]

Addressed to me at St. Thomas's.

10 South St.

Sept 16/87

The day I was
travelling from

Edin. R. Infy-
to St Thomas's

"This day of pain & of joy has at last
arrived.

Welcome home - welcome home.

And God speed you and the dear home

you have left . - - - - -

And I prescribe a course of 'masterly inactivity'
for the first few weeks.

Sept 17/87

10 South St.

"Every Sister, Nurse & Probationers has been
expecting their dear new Matron with hope & eagerness -

Every Sister, Nurse & Probationer contributed
to show her welcome. - - - - -

Our love & duty shall wrap you round -

- - - - -

One little word to tell me now you are."

Oct. 1/87

10 South St.

"Thank you for writing me word about the

Treasurer's wish; - - - - -

The Treasurer has been so good & reasonable

that it would be desirable to accede to his

wish if possible. But he is also so good &

reasonable that he will not "wish" for it if "there

are too many 'buts'."

I shall think of you to-day being introduced to

your Doctors. It might be an awful ordeal - -

but I am sure it will not - - - - - Whatever comes

naturally in the way of our Profession is

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~359~~

Edin U [112]

'by the grace of God.'

Oct. 16/87

10 South Street

"Yes, surely: 22 beds &
3 cots?

- shall we have

2 dozen big flannel red jackets for the big beds
& because the little cots sometimes overflow into
the big beds,
shall we have

1 dozen little red flannel jackets? - - - - -

I don't think it is extravagant to have 3 dozen
because an occasional holiday to each jacket

certainly makes them last longer -

shall I send you the money beforehand? Send
me in my Bill now, please."

"Many thanks for Mr Burdett's paper - & the "Hospital"

Oct 21/87

10 South Street

"I feel so very anxious for you & to know how you
have settled the Elizabeth Succession. It is as im-
portant as "Jamie the first & sixth" succeeding

2. Elizabeth - - - - -

About a photograph of the Statuette: I do now know
of any, but then I did not know of the Statuettes

at St. Tom's till a fortnight ago. - - - - -

I must send off Messenger in haste. I have been
feeding the Police at Grosvenor Gate, who were
almost worn out."

Along with this letter Miss Nightingale send some notes

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~360~~

Edin U [113]

upon the project of the 'Hospitals' association of Matrons to meet for discussions: from them I make the extracts which follow:

"Hospitals Assocn. Commee of Matrons

It is difficult to suggest whether *or no* a Matron should accept the invitation of the "Hospitals Association" to join the "Committee of Matrons" without knowing what the Committee does when it meets.

- 1 Does it meet for mere kindness & social communication?
- 2 Or for seriously discussing certain points of administration etc. given out beforehand & for which those members who choose *prepare* such questions or such answers as they may think useful?

[N.B. It is difficult to guess how Matrons=regnant can find time - ex= Matrons could do so - to at - tend these meetings. But that is for each to decide]

It is far from certain that even mere social meetings may not do good. It is shocking how often there is a jealous, not friendly rivalry between Hospital Matrons, chiefs of Training-Schools, instead of their union, all working for the great cause. - - - - -

But these Social Meetings, tho' they may be good for bringing Matrons to-gether, will not be

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [114]

good for improvements.

2 If on the other hand, they meet seriously to discuss points of administration, in which they want information & counsel, there are two different kinds - As to questions *material* it might do good. As to questions *personal*, regarding the management of & influence over Nurse & Sisters, over women, still less communications with men, I doubt whether any good Matron could bring herself to discuss these delicate & sacred subjects.

As to the questions which *can* be discussed, there is this consideration: [I have constantly to see official men who generally write - beforehand the subjects they wish to discuss - I have to "get it up" before they come. *Often* it takes me the *whole* day]

A Matron who wishes seriously to gain information or a final decision upon any thing of importance or to give it must "get it up" beforehand, in order to be of any use.

Has she time?

Is the labour worth it?

Oct. 21/87

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp62

Edin U [115]

Nov. 6th/87

10 South Street

" No: I am very sorry but -----'s letter was taken away by you, sharing as I thought in my feeling that we cannot recommend people whom we don't know who are recommended to us by people whom we don't know & who probably don't know them when we have people of our own whom we do know who may be in want of posts - e.g. -----."

X See page 117

Nov. 19/87

10 South Street

"I give you joy of dear Miss Spencer's arrival.

-----" (after all) "we have not killed you. I hope Miss Spencer will reflect upon this, & judge us leniently -

I was going to press you both to come & spend as much as possible of tomorrow here together in order that you should be able to enjoy one another leisurely, & give me a few minutes of each too, according to your good pleasure. But, between fogs and rioters, it would be murder to bring you out. As you know there is to be a Monster Meeting in Hyde Park, an Army of Special Constables. The fog may close in at any moment & almost prevent your getting back, unless you would sleep here. My best of loves to dear Miss Spencer."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp63

Edin U [116]
10 South St.
Nov. 20/87

"A very good morning to you and Miss Spencer.

I shall hardly expect you here to-day-or indeed to-mor-
row, not to stay late because of these foggy nights &
mobs,- tho' tomorrow, please God, there will be no
mob -

Do let me see " (Miss Spencer) " before she goes."

10 South St.
23/11/87

"Miss Spencer does not look a day older than
she did 10 years ago - - pure souls never do. ~~illeg~~
[Michael Angelo said he made his Virgins always
young, because the pure soul is always young]

I did not ask you how your kitchen trouble
had arisen or was passing off - - - - -

Could you kindly tell me something that Miss Spencer
would like? to take with her?"

10 South St.
Nov. 24/87

"I shall gladly expect you & Miss Spencer, to 'play'
together, & forget care, - but I am afraid I am 'care', -
on Saturday. - - - - -

The pheasant & rabbits were for you, not that
I think you are starving Miss Spencer, but I wanted
to have a paw in the pie."

X The letter following first on the next page should have come
on page 115, after that of Nov. 6.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~364~~

Edin U [117]

x see page 115 & note on page 116

10 South St.

Nov 12/87

" as you ask me I believe this is the way we should answer the application: - viz. Send the Special Regulations, & ask for answers, - state that you have no vacancies till ? June next, or - as the case may be - that the Secretary is absent for a time that you do not train at St. Thomas' for "private" Nursing - that "foreigners" are generally only admitted by you to be trained for some post in their own country as Matron or Head Nurse etc. that if she decides to wait till ? June, for the chance, *not* promise, which depends on her answers, etc. etc. etc, of being admitted, would she tell you what prospect she has of a post in her own country? or something to this effect. [It has always appeared to ~~me~~ us too great a risk to bring a woman from her own country, who could not possibly be seen beforehand, unless she was recommended by referees whom we intimately knew, - for *us* to find her a post here, - not only because she might prove unfit, but because Institutions here might not choose to have a foreigner. At the same time we have had excellent foreigners. But Finland, you see, is a good way

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp365

Edin U [118]

off. She probably knows Russia better than we do.

----- [The best Institution for

Lady Physician Accoucheuses was in Russia. The
Grand Duchess Nurses were excellent] -----

Should she be asked, in case she decides to wait
till June whether she speaks and understands
English spoken - with ease?

Do you know that Miss Hogg is promoted
to be Sister Superintendent of Haslar?
This is the Naval Blue Ribbon".
10 South St.
Dec. 5/87

"I am writing all I can to-day & to-morrow - for
on Wednesday my Doctor 'turns off' the eye-sight,
in order to prevent me from working."
same date

"What is Mr. Jowett's story about early rising?" x
10 South St.
Dec. 17/87

"Did you make a 44 hours' séance with Mr
Bonham Carter, like an Irish member?
I am going on Tuesday.

Do you think that Sister Victoria or any one who
wants a little 'go' in the country would come
down & see me at

Pine Acre

Sunningdale?

----- I suppose no one would come from
Saturday till Monday, 24th to 26th, because it is Xmas Day?

I shall write with my warmest Xmas wishes
{vert. in marg.} Miss * When on a visit to Miss Nightingale at Lea Hurst
one of the party begged Prof. Jowett to lay an injunction on
on another member against early rising. Instead
of reasoning or enjoining he turned to the one com-
plained of with a kind and merry tumble in
his eyes and said only: "Haven't you
heard of the man who rose early, & who was
*conceited all the morning and cross
all the afternoon?"*

A.L.P.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp366

Edin U [119]

best Xmas, blessings to you & all your children.
Two hampers of Xmas Evergreens, & 10 flowering plants
will come to you on Xmas Eve for the Probationers' Home.
May Xmas & New Year's blessings rain on you."

[120]

Pine acre, Sunningdale, Berks,
New Year's Day
1888

"May 1888 be yours, "one with
Omnipotence" in the highest sense.
But we must take care of His little "temple" -
I am afraid that you have quite overdone yourself
with Christmas business & Christmas benefits,
including beautiful Santa Claus - Would it not do you some
little good to come into the fresh but very cold air here "for one
or two nights this week -"

Pine acre

Jan 4/88

"I have had much pleasure in making {illeg S. Victoria's}
acquaintance.

[The winter " (of an enclosed letter) "Miss Eleanor Martin,
is the niece of one of the oldest friends we had -
who is dead -]"

address, please,

16 South St.

Jan 19/88.

"How much I have been thinking of you &
fearing "(for you)" those 15 "Ward Parties" in a fortnight

I know, indeed I know, I know the immense
difficulties " (of a Hospital) " for one who really takes
up the Government -----

'Make haste slowly' says the Latin proverb -
Get victory silently, gently & slowly, say I - - - -

Yes: the worst difficulties "arise" from one-self,
no doubt - - - - -

But God knows all the work. And it is
His work, not ours.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpt 363

Edin U [121]

continued from page 120

That makes all the difference. I am appalled at your -
difficulties, at Indian difficulties, at War Office difficulties
& Sanitary failures. But Infinite Love says: your
affairs as you call them which are Mine are in
the charge of Infinite Love. Why should we fear?
Why should we be appalled? We are "about
our Father's business." I say that to myself.

Address

10 South St

Feb 6/88

"I trust, now that you have really taken the reins
- - - - - that that incessant vigilance
going into all minutiae yourself, may be 'relieved
guard' - Your Sisters know you now & you
know them - And they must share your diffi-
culties - not be difficulties. And so I hope it
will be. - - - - - And I hope
by night as well as by day - - - - -
When the horses all run in a team, when we
are "all made perfect in one", the necessary
daily current supervision ought to be less onerous.
- - - - -

[12:399]

I know you kindly ask after me. I went away
with one 'exhaustion' (in eyes & all) - & am coming
back with two - - - - -

x I have always thought that you should write a book on Hospital Management & Nursing.
x I do not understand their plan of the book. If it is
to begin with a Man's Anatomy & Physiology, is it to be
a Class Book, such as a 'Home Sister' is to use in
her classes? Then why go on with an ESSAY on
{vert. in marg.:}x This relates to a proposal from a firm of Publishers
that I should prepare a book relating to Nursing work.
Writing some & compiling some contributions from Doctors.
- a suggestion from the latter: proposal declined, as
incompatible with the duties of my position: a small book
was written many years later "on ones matured conclusions
from many experiences": called "A Study in Nursing." A.L.P.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~368~~

Edin U [122]

Nursing? You don't want an *Essay* - do you? But actual precepts *what is to be done*.

There is no book on *Hospital Management*. The Military Regulations on this matter are absolutely misleading.

This would be a book indeed, - - -.

But *is* this what they want? It requires some thought to answer your letter - & it requires to know what *they* want & *you* propose."

In a p.s. "Have you thought that the publication of this book might embarrass you in Hospital work, especially in new work - - - - - I do not mean that this is at all conclusive against it -"

[end 12:399]

Address

10 South Street

Feb. 7/88

"I think it is "(right) "that you *should*" (write the book-) [12:399]

"(on Hospital management - which is a subject almost untouched in any systematic or

experienced way - & Nursing) A book not *about*

Nursing - - - but *on* Nursing, & on Hospital management would be simply invaluable

- - But is Mr -----'s "Mapping out" the one you approve? And does his view commend itself

to you - viz. That "every point as it occurred

could be studied on the spot?" Must not a

book be written on one's matured conclusions

from many experiences? And is there not

danger if one runs out to look at a "point"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~369~~

Edin U [123]

continued from previous page.

[end 12:399]

that one's view will be only from that individual occurrence? - - - - -

I hope to be in London to-morrow. I have to see the Supt= Sisters going to India."

In a post-script "Do you think with Mr ----- that the wisest thing is to say 'Yes' "in the first moment of courage" - or to say it as the deliberate result of consideration?

Say 'Yes', if the last."

X See page 143

for letter of Feb. 26/88, also one of Mar 1/88 - both important - March 16/88

"Great satisfaction that the dreaded things is to be put off "for a year"!

I believe the General Register will be put off even longer - & we shall stick to our own Registers."

April 3/88

In a post-script

"I am not sure that I quite agree with you as to Nurses not saving - But I quite agree with them "that they can't afford so much." And after a great deal of enquiry I think Mr Burdett's plan so unsuited to our Hospital women. Do they intend to stay in Hospital life till they are 60 "or 55 or even 50"? Do Nurses marry more or less than other women? Dr- Steele himself says "More: because they make such good wives" -

If it is for Private Nurses, how does Mr Burdett's plan apply?

Then what Miss Lückes states is so true that

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [124]

Mr Burdett's plan should not interfere with what the Hospital does for its Nurses.

It is of course desirable that the Nurses should have it all thoroughly explained to them - It is our duty".

April 18/88

10 South Street

"I hope that you are not - - - - - going away very tired.

Mind, please, you tell Miss Spencer that I was obliged to forego sending Xmas & New Year's cards to any one, except to a poor old desolate soul in Derby shire, who lost the Sister she lived with just before Xmas, pensioners for many years - & to some sick children & Sta Claus people - - - - - It was not that I ever forgot Miss Spencer or any of them at Edinbro' -

But I was at Pine acre alone on Xmas & New Year's

Days - with no eyes - no nothing. - - - - -

Forget us all "(at Edinburgh)

"We will all be 'good' -"

May 4/88

10 South Street

"I sadly wanted to have ~~seen~~ written my greetings to dear Miss Spencer - & perhaps, had she had time, to have seen her to-day. But, happily for her. I have been so I will not say driven to-day & yesterday

that there is not strength. - - - - -

I have much to hear- And I have two appli-

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [125]

cations to send or show you."

May 10/88

"Thanks very many for the letters.

I do so feel for the great troubles"

In a p.c.

"Don't however retire to New Zealand without one, please.

I will tell you why."

May 12/88

10 South Street

"One we are in this terrible ----- business. But you

know, if ----- had been the Archangel Michael, it

would have been just the same - - - - - .

At all the events, we must put it in God's hands.

- - - - - I don't think we - - - - - half believe in

the victory of good and truth in His hands. - May

it never be *against* us, but always with us!

When does Miss ----- go? - - - - -

But both with her & Miss ----- I cannot help

feeling that they are going into not at all the

purpose for which they are trained. - - - - -

- - - - -

I don't think I shall write even my poor little

letter to the dear Probationers for Wednesday.

- - - - - .

bale - and Au revoir.

Do you want a book?"

In a post-script. "You don't know how much I sympathize with

your wish - not exactly for a "New Zealand farm" -

no, I would not leave much = suffering England,

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [126]

hardly even for a War - but to be a Ward=Nurse or a District Nurse.

Nursing was my calling. All this Govt- work has been something else - And yet I was called to it too. That is the only strength.

I feel so ungrateful for what you call my 'lovely room' - & for those sorts of blessings.

And the immense opportunities I have had given me - no one has had more - do not think but that I know *how badly* I have used them - in how little of the true Spirit."

[O Nurses, now and of the years to come, whether at St Thomas's or Edinburgh or in any of the branches, take notice how humbly our Chief estimated her work: and remember that Miss Spencer-dear, ever dear Miss Spencer - spoke of her work during her last illness in the same terms. A.L.P.]

May 15/88

10 South Street

"Very anxious I feel - - - - - But one thing you may be sure of: forgiveness & love - - - are never wasted; they will tell some time or other. What " (we suffer) " is part of the vicarious suffering of the world, which we *must* have, whether we will or no; & which if we suffer willingly we are like Christ. - - - - - "

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [127]

May 19/88

"Poor ----- She does seem so listless -----

a painful contrast to Miss Loch of S. Bartholomew's [10:786]

from whom I have the most vigorous letters from the Military Hospital at Rawul Pindi, notwithstanding difficulties truly appalling to one who had never seen any thing but a well ordered Hosp- like St. B.'s.

----- talks calmly of failing & returning in a year!!

'But screw your courage to the sticking-point & you'll not fail'.

[end 10:786]

I hope ----- is vigorous at continuous employ-ments. -----

Do you know what I think?

I think that half " (-----'s) " indifference & ill-health is due to tight lacing - I never knew a woman who {illeg word erased} laced tight who did not seem to have squeezed out the best part of her soul & strength - "

May 26/88

10 South Street.

"I have been thinking a great deal of that poor

Nurse -----

If she is really trying to lead a new life she is bound to" (let us know her address) through some one)

"And I am bound not to let her fall entirely out of sight.

Her letters to you do not seem real - But her best chance is for us all to believe in her wish to lead a new life -----."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [130]
10 South St.
July 21/88

" You have been 'driven', I am sure - And so have I -
with India, (new Viceroy) Gordon Boys etc etc. etc etc.
now with Schoolmasters for Lea Hurst: all Sunday

I have these: - - - - -

All this week I have been trying to have the
luck to write to you - no such luck.

I enclose one letter - - - - - And some
cuttings from an unknown friend at Philadelphia
about Miss Alice Fisher."

10 South St.
July 31/88

In a post-script: "I wish we knew more of that
Female Garrison Hospital at Woolwich -
As they give a year (instead of 3 months) do you
think it might possibly develop into a
Training School for Mid-wifery Nurses? or are
the cares all too slight & too few?

10 South St.
July 31/88

"Only ought we not to know what we are about?
- - - - -

I hope I echo your own sentiments - It is so im-
portant that the first trained London Hospital
Nurse who goes out, under authority, to Cairo,
to do private Nursing should be a mirror of
Morality, is it not? of sense & womanliness, as
well as of skill-"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pts~~^{pts}

Edin U [131]
10 South St.
Aug 3/88

"A good journey & a refreshing holiday to you & a casting
off of all your cases - & not putting them on too much
at Edinburgh - I wish almost you were going to France.
- - - - - rest, peace & joy to you is the dearest
desire of my heart

So no more now - - - - - "
In a post-script. "I had this morning a letter from
Dr- Sandwith of Cairo giving a good account of our
Sisters
but begging for the third Nurse."

Claydon Ho:
Aug. 26/88
(addressed to Edin.)

"I am grieved to the heart for dear Miss Spencer's
failure in health & breath. Her strength was
never great. Her noble spirit kept her up.
- - - - - Pray give her my tenderest love
- - - - -

I have never seen my Sister so ill since 1883 -
The Arthritis began in 1882 - - - - -
- - - - - Indeed I have ~~not~~ been more than a
week without being able to write"

4/9/88
Claydon House
addressed
To St Thomas's

"Welcome back - - - - I have a dear little note
from Miss Spencer. - - - - - she must
not hasten back.
I hope there is not a throng of anxieties awaiting
you."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [133]

Oct 17/88

10 South Street

" 'Here I be' again. - - - - -

The last hour that I was at Claydon Miss {really says way though meant to be 'was'}

----- was with me [- - - with the dear F. Verney children]. - - - - - I cannot think her

physically fit for " (Nursing) "Morally &

devotedly she *is* quite. I recommended

her to try one of the smaller Hospitals where

there is not such a 'drive' as at St Thomas'

and some others"

Oct 18/88

10 South St

"I hear a rumour that you are going to give

Miss ----- to Liverpool Workh: Hospital - Now you

were thinking of having her for yourself - I have

no further opinion about it than that, if you

wish for her, you should keep her - *That* is of the

first importance for the work.

I too wish we could have this good little woman"

(the lady mentioned in previous letter) - such a tower

of strength in everything (but?) physique & spirits - - - - -

In a post-script " I wish we could put Miss Spencer in an

enchanted Garden for a time. The sleeping

Beauty in the Wood."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~³⁸⁸

Edin U [134]

Nov 27/88

"But it is God, with His perfect & faithful tender-
ness, moment by moment, who guides & comforts".

Dec 1/88

8 a.m.

10 South Street

"But - have you considered that God may take
altogether out of your power the health of body
& mind to stay? - - - - -
I never leave Claydon without thinking I shall
never go there again. Sir Harry's life *may* be
numbered by days. - - - - -"

In a post-script

"Shall I come to St Thomas's next week to carry
you off?"

10 South St.

Dec. 7/88

"Our dear young charge is now in
the Immediate Presence - how sweet to
her! *She* has passed the rough waters -
'Joy, joy' to her, happy soul! She has gone
home.

How much she knows by this time! how
much she has to enjoy.

- - - - -
Will you take an opportunity ~~of~~ kindly of
telling her Mother how deeply I feel with
her?

She has parted with her dear sweet child
willingly - - - - -.

At all events I should like to send some
flowers. It would not be a mere farce
{vert. in marg.:} This letter refers to the death from typhoid
fever of a dear young Probationer or Nurse, of Scotch
descent. The act of dying was so prolonged, it
seemed as if she could not pass: at last
her Mother said: "Ye cannot pass till
Mother bids you go. Go, Jessie, go, 'tis
Mother bids you go!" (Jessie Craig.)

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [135]

in such a case as this. For she is now a precious
flower in the Lord's crown - or rather, He is holding
His flower in His hand."

10 South St.

Dec. 8/88

"And will you have there flowers laid on
dear Nurse C-----'s gentle breast? The Cross is
now what I meant exactly - I asked for
drooping *corn*, because it is so beautiful what
St Paul says about us being buried like
the seed - corn - & coming up like the
wheat.

It is a good day to die on, the 7th, be-
cause the Lord died on the 7th (of April) -
I used always to keep the 7th of every month.
Her last night was indeed long & sore.

But

A convoy attends,

A ministering host of invisible friends,

Ready winged for their flight

To the regions of light;

The horses are come,

The Chariots of Israel to carry thee home.

How beautiful is that story of Elijah

and Elisha - Elijah so anxious to spare

Elisha the sight of his death -

Elisha so persistent in following, following
to the last - & seeing the fiery death - (so

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp88

Edin U [136]
was Nurse C-----'s a fire) & receiving a double measure
of the Spirit thereby.

And now what is her growth? Rather, what
is it *not*? receiving higher & higher errands
from God.

Perhaps our temptations are greater in heaven.
But how much greater the progress, how
great the strength vouchsafed by our
loving Father's own presence - which we
might have *here* - but how few care for
it?

O grow, grow, dear Nurse C-----. We do not
grudge it thee -"

In a post-script:

"O why does not the Chariot of fire
come now for us? I once heard a
much tried woman say -
But it is a poor thing to be choosing
death in the sudden way we should like
& not in the way God likes - a cowardly
thing - is it not? - - - - -"

22/12/88

10 South Street

"This bit of paper comes with so much of
Christmas love that, as it says, it is all too small
to bring it. - - - - -
As ----- once said: Let us pray, each for the other,
that the Child Jesus may be born anew in
our hearts this Christmas."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp83

Edin U [137]

Post-Script to preceding letter

"Alluding to the gifts of the Wise Men .

'Love us thy gold, they service a gem -

Bring these to the Babe of Bethlehem'".

Dec 27/88

10 South Street

"Sir Harry is now lying in great danger - - - - -

Sir H. Acland - - - - - has actually

put off his journey to Genoa with his daughter for

which the wagon-lits were taken, on Sir Harry's

account. What goodness there is in the world!

- - - - -

Sir Harry's butler is the best nurse I know -

& he is devoted."

10 South St

Last Day of

the Year 1888

"I send 20 New Year's Cards with my kindest

regards & my best wishes for a happy New

Year to each of the Night Superintendents &

Night Nurses in the "(main)" building.

And I send two framed texts which I hope

Miss Baylis of Block No 8- & Miss Mayne of

Block No 2 will kindly accept with my very

best wishes for the New Year.

And I will send New Year's Cards most gladly

to {written on top of for} the Night Nurses of both Blocks 8 and 2,

if you will kindly say *how many* - - - - -

- - - - - I pray for the most blessed of all

New Years to you."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp384

Edin U [138]
10 South St.
Jan 5/89

"the day of my father's death (or both) 15 years ago."

"It occurred to me that you might like some books for a Library for the No 8 Block Nurses. - - - -
Would you kindly ask Miss Baylis to make a List of Books desirable, & submit it to you for you to send to me, if you approve?

I am so fond of the Feast of the Epiphany -
Do you know the lines.

"Love is thy gold: thy service a gem:
Bring these to the Babe of Bethlehem."

x See note on
page 139, regarding
letter of Jan 7th

Jan 10/89
10 South St

"I send you a book very precious to me, because for the last 2 or 3 years I have read (& marked) it with Sir Harry. - - - - -

I think you will like the 14th-
"In his Oneness with the Father" p. 106.
but others too"

10 South St
Jan 16/89

"Sir Harry makes no progress - - - - -
He cannot now bear being read to; though he writes to me. And - we have the winter before us.

My Aunt at Embley is dying with great suffering. She will not probably live over to-day.

And I think that perhaps, before the earth has put off its winter's solemn sleep, two homes will have been broken up, Claydon

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~385~~85

Edin U [139]
& Embley.

We must trust them with God. - - - - -
Is not every thought for those we love a trusting
them with God? How else could we do anything?
But that does not preclude, rather it encourages
our doing everything we can for them.

Sir Harry trusted himself & his wife entirely
with God on the night of the fire at Claydon -
But everything was being done, & he was satisfied
that it was, to put out the fire.

Otherwise it is not trust, it is *fatalism* -

x Jan 7/89

10 South St

x this letter

should have come

on p. 138, pre-

vious to Jan. 10/

"Sir Harry, though he cannot get set up
- so much the better - is wonderful to be what
he is - My sister is very suffering. On
Saturday at 7.30 p.m the Saloon chimney
was on fire & was not quite out till 2 a.m.

On Sunday morning. - - - - -

We cannot be too thankful for the
deliverance - but more, yet more for
Sir Harry's perfect calm thro' the whole
- awaiting God's will in peace.

He writes to me himself this morning
(in pencil). "We were under God's hand -
& where else could we be as well?"

{vert. in marg.:} Between this & the next letter

I think occurred my visit to

Claydon.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~386~~

Edin U [140]
10 South St
Feb. 3/89

"First: about the Coffee pot. You make the Coffee
in the pot and you drink it out of the pot. - - - - -
I send if you will allow me, every Wed 1 1/4 lb fresh
roasted coffee, Saturday 1/2 lb
And I hope you will take it.
Don't part with Miss Eames if you like
her for yourself.

'There's my sentiments!'

I have not been able to write - there has
been much to do - much distressing business
besides.

Sir Harry had a relapse - cold & hot fit -
tempe up etc - the very afternoon of
Monday - the day you left. - - - - -

There will be another home broken up -
Poor Sister! But God is Almighty Love -
how can we say that anything goes wrong?
Please tell Home Sister x with my best love."
{vert. in marg.:} x Home Sister, - Miss Crossland
who was a stay and a comfort to
Miss Nightingale for 20 years.

Feb. 5/89

"I saw your Miss Peter x for 2 1/2 hours last night.
It would be impertinent of me to say how much
I liked & admired her".

{vert. in marg.:} Miss Pauline Peter
a pupil of the Edin. R. Inf-y
& eventually Supt Genl-
of the Q.V.J.N.I.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~383~~

Edin U [141]
10 South St
Feb 23/89

"I have been so busy with India - & have had some
little "Congestion" both of lung & business"
10 South St

Feb 24/89

"I hope to see you soon - And how much I have to
ask & to hear from you -

I hope you are pretty well. And when the new
{illeg Salentines, or "Valentines" ?} come in, - but that is not yet, - we
shall be anxious to know how they do.

The account of Sir Harry is good -
& the feeling with him, whether he is better
or worse, is always: "I thank God."

In his last letter to me: he says. "It is a sweet
feeling that of thankfulness; and I am so happy
in the thought of looking *upwards* in all
that I say or do - I desire to add - *think*."
Please tell "Home Sister", with my love, about
Sir Harry.

My Sister is very suffering. To my great
comfort, Margaret Verney x went down there yester
day.

A good little Lady Secretary who does a good
work among the Factory girls of Clerkenwell
writes me the enclosed note:

I thought that it was out of our beat - that the
first thing was to teach these poor things how
to make a bed, how to put a poor room
clean & tidy, how best to make it wholesome,
{vert. in marg.:} x Of this lady for whom she had a
reverent affection Miss Nightingale
said to me once: "We all lean on
Margaret: and Margaret leans
on God."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp88

Edin U [142]

how to make a little gruel good etc. etc etc. - & that it was difficult to do this in a "School-room". The trained District Nurses are doing it all day long *in the poor rooms.* - - - - -

Perhaps I am wrong in what I think of Ambulance Lectures. But "8 p.m" is often the busiest time in a Nurse's day- is it not?"

x This letter should have come at page 128

June 6/88

10 South St

"Thank you so much for your letter. It tells me, as always, so much of the deepest interest to me.

I am very glad that you are going to make real acquaintance with Miss Solly in Alexandra.

- - - - -
Which are particularly the "dear Sisters"? I want to love them too.

I hope the "Chapter" on "caps" was eminently successful. - - - - -

I am glad Miss ----- is off your mind - but can hardly reconcile Miss ----- taking her at -----, if she *has* taken her - without asking St Thomas for a character - with justice or prudence. - - - - -

I have seen & admired your Miss Hughes & feel at least hope now. I have been trying to help them *with Arabic.*

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~389~~

Edin U [143]

"You wished Mr Bonham Carters address on Registration of Nurses "could be read by all besides those who were there"

He had made such slight notes that he could not print anything. But the paper I enclose covers the ground as to Register It is by him - - - - -
[He may be able to prepare a short statement as to the Pension Fund]

- - - - -
I hope the Infirmary Baby wont be "wamblin" too much "off" dear Miss Spencer's "knee". My best love to her."

x This letter should have come at page 123
10 South St.
Feb. 26/88

{ illeg faint, possibly erased?}
"You may be sure I am very much interested about Miss ----- & her present Emigration undertaking? But does she know anything about the over-looking of the *health* of children cottages earth, air & water, cleanliness, privies etc etc. ?

And can Midwifery responsibility be undertaken at "3 months training"? I have written with Mr Bonham Carter's sanction to enquire about the best Lying-in Hospital training, & also about {vert. in marg:} This & the following letter refer to a plan [13:556] of Mr Arnold White's. He applied to us for a trained lady Nurse to be sent out as a "Colony Sister" with 25 families from Hampshire to found a village in Africa.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~00~~

Edin U [144]

Bloomsbury Sanitary training.

Has Miss ----- the 'motherly' element to supervise these 25 "Agricultural" families? - can she create such an odd position? & be a kind of "spiritual mother" & "mother of health"?

I hope you, who are as much of an enthusiast as I, - - - - - about emigration will advise her. There is not much of a "trained Nurse" about looking after healthy families. Would she like to see me? [end]

I send you my favourite morsel - a very 'digestible' morsel - the Volume in which (last article) is my dear Part Royal that I am so fond of. [The other Articles too are admirable]

Please return it to me when done with - And I will send you Beard's Port Royal: 2 Vols: in English if you do not know it - & afterwards Ste Beuve's Port Royal: 5 Vols. in French - full of dainty morsels - & all very favorite reading of mine - but I shall only send one Vol= at a time [Excuse my marks which I am afraid are all over them].

I have not looked at those Articles of Stephen's for 40 years - & it is just as perfect & telling with me as ever - they are just as fresh with me as even in interest." [ever?]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [145]

Post-script to previous letter
(of Feb. 26)

"N.B. The male heads of the "British Nurses' Association" [12:524]
have been to see me at their own desire (Register for Nurses)
And I have spent 4 weary days in writing out things
for them & talking over things with them.

In my own mind I think it hopeless - all
sentiment - no practical grasp of any detail [end 12:524]

10 South St.

March 1/88

"I have written & enclose a letter to - - - - - [8:389]

But for ourselves, we always insisted, as perhaps
you know, in the Midwifery School we kept for
6 ½ years for Nurses, I have always stoutly
stood by it since, on 6 months training
(2 months in large *out-door* practice)
& *then* would only certify not as Midwife
but as Midwifery Nurse - In most, if not
all of the places where these 6 months women
afterwards served, the Doctor was not
"9" but 2 miles off - he might even be
in the next Street.

[N.B. All *abnormal* as well as normal
cases were under the skilled Mid-wife at
the head of the School]

Would it not be better - - - - -

And should not Mr Arnold White take the
matter in hand - we having done what we
can to ascertain the best place to go to for

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~02~~

Edin U [146]

his purposes?" (The best Lying-in Hospital as Training School) - - - - -
"I want to clear up my own ideas about Miss -----'s
"high enterprise" by a little confab with" (you.)
x We are not sent, are we? Except to the lost sheep
of the house of - - Britain.

Is it not a higher "enterprise" to be District Nurse
to "25" poor Holborn "families" that to "25
agricultural families" in E. Africa? Or even
to be a trained Sister in a Hospital Ward?

[end 8:389]

If of those wretched boys who rioted for
3 weeks in Hyde Park & were driven about by
the Police, a number could be trained & or-
ganised by competent men for some Colony
into a Mettray, a Ranke Haus, or a Dutch
Settlement (I do not say it is possible), *that*
would be a "high enterprise": and one would
say even to a trained Sister: Go, if you have
a calling to look after their health & morals.

If of those poor Seamstresses & London
work women - often on the verge of
prostitution but not prostitutes -
a number could be trained & taken out to
Colonies by competent ladies (I do not say
it is possible) as domestic servants, perhaps
as working women in out-lying farms, at
last as good wives far from the towns,
that would indeed be a "high enterprise" -

{vert. in marg.:}x Observe how clearly Miss Nightingale defines the object of her work - to
train Nurses for the Sick *poor*, to work not desultorily but under
satisfactory organization. Observe not less the clearness of her conception of what is necessary in
training - the 6 months stoutly held to & then only for the qualification of Midy. Nurse not *Mid*
wife: observe again the pains she took to train a Superintendent, and her beautiful courtesy.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [147]

& a high calling even for a trained Lady Nurse to "Mother" them out.

But to take 25 "sober, industrious" healthy "Agricultural Hampshire families" out to the Colonies is an interesting thing as benefiting & raising the individuals, but could almost be done by a devoted landlord in England

[And is there much more to be done for 25 good labourer's families in East Africa (possibly less) than in Hampshire in influencing & looking after them. Only no one thinks of giving a lady at £200 a year to look after them in Hampshire?]

Seems not the present plan rather a step *not* to the depauperization but to the pauperization of England - not to reformation but the reverse - taking away the "sober & industrious" & leaving the idle, drunken & destitute. It is not those who are doing well here, or anywhere, but those who are doing ill or going to ruin - our lost sheep, that one wants to save. Does one want to take the best labourers & workmen out of England, or the worst, & save *them*? [The best, the young & sober stone-masons near Lea Hurst are emigrating to

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~304~~

Edin U [148]

Ohio - leaving the idle drunkards behind

Is this a movement one longs to help?

Everything about Emigration is interesting
- everything about the reward & prosperity of
good labourers -

But it might almost be said that it is another
step to filling the Gaols & workhouses here - to
take away the best & leave those boys
& girls who populate prisons & unions - but
whom no one thinks of giving a lady to
help & reform -

In short, the plan may be a good thing
as benefiting individuals who deserve it -
but is it a great work - a 'high enterprise'
a saving of our lost sheep, a depauperization
& reformation? I don't know.

Does not the work of a trained Hospital

Sister, certainly of a trained London District

Lady Nurse partake much more of

all these things?

Why do not people seriously think of
taking & reforming a wretched London
Court of "25 families?" [Miss O. Hill did-]

All the while I am enthusiastic
about Emigration - but for the lost sheep,
as far as we are concerned."

[end 13:558]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp05

Edin U [149]

March 21/88

"In all my illness, the thing I have thought & prayed about most is - you & Home Sister".

March 15/89

10 South Street

"I should be so sorry not to see Miss {illeg Grisue?} whom I suspect & love without ever having seen her. I trust she is going to stay with you some days - - - - -"

I send to enquire about Miss Howes who I do feel is very much for"

April 1/89

"I return your letters with many thanks

Dr- Bernays is very satisfactory. - - - - -"

Sir Harry has had the most acute & severe relapse he has had yet. Thank God the intensity is subsiding. But Sir H. Acland who slept in the house says the recovery will be slower."

April 7/89

"To-day is the day that Christ died. - - - - -"

But this last week I have had my young cousin, Rosalind Shore Smith, who calls me Aunt Florence, ill in the house.

Sir Harry, please tell dear Home Sister, appears to be weathering the worst attack he has had yet - - - - -"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [150]

I think the serenity of his faith has carried him thro'
But you know I have never shared the jubilation of
his supposed recoveries - I thank God who has been so
good to him & us - "

10 South St

April 19/89

Good Friday

"How is Miss Howes?

The Good Friday blessing - the day of the
kingdom of heaven which the Penitent Thief
was the first to recognize in the King man
hanging on the cross - the day of divine
suffering & divine progress - be with you."

10 South St

April 22/89

"I did indeed pray yesterday, as I am
sure you did for me:

"Christ is risen to-day.

"And may He rise again in our hearts to-day"!

10 South St

April 27/89

"So Mrs de Laney is appointed after all
as Miss Gibson's Assistant.

I feel so very anxious that *she should*
succeed - - - - -

Sir Harry & my Sister are come to
South St - He looks sadly feeble - - - - -
But *she* looks far, far worse - - - - -
Her courage is undaunted -
He has been reading with me as usual.

- - - - - I had to be writing to Home Sister And

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~pt~~³⁰³

Edin U [151]

she was reproaching herself for having allowed R. Elsmere
But Miss Howes told her that she had not opened the
book since you disapproved of it.

I have myself been a Convalescent from all but fatal
Fever. One's brain is as clear - clearer than it even
is in health. But it is the clearness of intense
sunshine - or blue like the clean cut of a ~~g~~ razor - And
an unsuitable book burns into it.

I send, please, two books for small stones! for her."

May 3/89

"I did like Nurse De Laney so very much. I was
going to write you a long letter about her - but had
no time - How I wish she was ours!

She is so genial, so sympathizing with Patients, -
& Nurses - each for himself or herself - not only
for the whole & so deeply religious.

Could, if you have a Catalogue of the Nurses'
books

1 in the Hospital

2 in No- 8 Block, you kindly lend them

me? It would help me about the books

not to send duplicates."

10 South St

May 11/89

"I send the two books for dear Nurse Mold - Combe shabby
but (I find) the best Edition - I wish her the prize of her
high calling - success with the minds & bodies of her little charges - success
in the highest sense for herself here & hereafter. And the highest sense, as we know, is
to lose ourselves in others for our great Master's sake.

Please send my love to Miss Winterton - At the Egyptian time I knew her well
- & should like to have seen her again - -

Have you "(a Patient)" a nice woman (with nice children) from Embley Romsey."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp08

Edin U [152]
10 South St
May 25/89

"You asked me to write a Letter to the Probationers; [12:402]
which I did not mean to do for I have no strength.
And *then* you would not help me.
I have asked Miss Crossland to come on Monday.

- - - - -
The thing is this: not to scold the Probationers
but to hold up sketches of the noblest workers
& Sisters to them - without seeming to teach
them how the Sisters are to behave to them!
And this is quite impossible for me to do
without help from the present heads.

[end]

Would you and Miss Crossland have
a hymn on Thursday to please Sir Harry,
as you told me he wished last year?"
In a post-script

"I presume you go from Southampton to
Jersey. Embley is all in your way - And
the going to *Southampton* from *Embley* a matter
of every day

Please be persuaded."

May 29/89

"I am afraid they are having VERY rough weather
in the Channel - And when they have, the
passage, as we know, is very ~~rough~~ bad, & long &
uncomfortable. Would you *put off the voyage* for a
day or two till the weather moderates & go down *on Friday*
to Embley - - - - -
which is now in glorious beauty, if not dashed by storms--"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp~~09~~

Edin U [153]

May 31/89

"May God send you a good voyage. May He be
with you - - - - -"

If you like to send the enclosed letter to Mrs Hawthorn,
the wife of the Lt Governor, I am sure you will
love her - No one knew Gordon as she did -
(He was her cousin). She did such good work
in Nursing the sick & wounded after Majuba
at Newcastle & elsewhere in Natal in
the War - And she reformed the
men at Pietermaritzburg by her Coffee-rooms
& other-wise- She is such a good
'Assistant' to 'God.

O fare you very well."

10 South St.

June 15/89

"Welcome home! - - - - -"

Does not the Nosegay say: the red flowers,
the love of God of Christ to thee, to me, to us all:
- the white flowers speak of purity of intention,
- - - - - , putting preferences aside:
- the green, ever fresh, ever upspringing hope
- "chastened, never "killed" - sorrowful,
yet always rejoicing" -

10 South St.

June 17/89

"My heart & mind are always with you - now
especially

I hope you have been able to get thro' the
accounts without too much fatigue - - - - -"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [154]

"I pray that the coming things may not weigh too heavily.

We are "to rejoice evermore in His holy comfort" -

10 South St.

Mid-summer Day

June 25/89

"I don't know why I am so fond of this day.

John the Baptist's Day (which you will say was yesterday) But it is the day of "comfort",

when God speaks "comfort" to us thro' Isaiah:

in our "iniquity" - that it is pardoned -

when He assures us that His "way" is being

"prepared" & the "crooked made straight & the

rough places plain" - that He will "rule" &

that His "work is before Him", His dear

shepherds work - He will do it. O in the

seemingly inextricable work which lies

before me: Indian B.N.A. & other,

He will do it - which I am so unequal

to, mentally & bodily, He will do it. And

you will pray for me as I do for you.

Please give my love to Miss Solly - and say

how much I feel with her her Mother's illness. - - -

The Lord says that He will "gently lead

those that are with young", that is those, the

virgin mothers, to whom He has entrusted to

'bring forth' His difficult plans - He will "gently

lead," He will not drive - O how we drive

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [155]

"one another!

Please eat my Embley strawberries, fresh from country.

- - - - - Thanks for Nurse *Mold's* note.

Nurses *Jackson & Mowat* - I should so like to give them books - - - - - And Nurses *Greenop,*

Lawrence & Fay too - - - - -

Don't weary yourself.

My love to Miss Buchanan - - - - - "

10 South St

July 12/89

"*Memorial (B.N.A.)*"

"With regard to signing this Memorial, we think that - believing as we do that you not only see no objection to it, but that you share, and to a vivid degree, the conviction of the objections to the course of the B.N. Assocn-, & of the mischief that course is doing to the steady quiet progress of Nurse-training & Nurse-life, - it is highly important that you should sign. The blank the absence of your name would leave would be so serious that those who are taking the course we think so unhappy for Nurses would of course take advantage of it to represent you as being on their side.

It is not as if you or we had been forward to appear in the fray - for fray it is - On the contrary we have, as you are aware, done every

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Edin U [156]

thing we could to avoid it - perhaps more than we ought to have done, judging by the result - which is that, unhappily, party spirit, which ought of all places to be banished from a Nurses's life is raging furiously.

The opposition to the B.N.A. Registration scheme has by no means originated with us - & other considerable Hospitals & Training Schools are even more convinced of its evils than we are -

To take a public part in the matter as experience & judgement dictate has been forced upon St Thomas' - do you not think so? & upon you.

We also think that Miss Crossland should sign, as being in charge, under you, of the daily instruction & 'home' of the Training School - - - - -

Sir Harry Verney has signed the Memorial, as Chairman, which I now return. I think Mr Bonham Carter's signature, which is in Sir Wm Bowman's possession, should be obtained, as his name has been prominent".

Friday

"I am much exercised in mind about not signing myself - it seems so cowardly - But the advisers on our side seem so confident that I should reserve my signature to the

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 103

Edin U [157]

"opposition we should be compelled to enter to a Charter
- which opposition would be a legal document.

Nevertheless I should have liked to sign the Memorial
- because the Nurses (I don't mean St. Thomas's) wish
it."

10 South St.

Aug 7/89

"33 years to-day since I came back from
the Crimean War."

10 South St.

Aug 13/89

"I do not like to propose to see dear Miss Spencer,
for I feel sure that she ought to stay quiet with
you on Thursday. But if on Thursday you think
she would like it, I should. - - - - -
- - - - -But I would *make* time for her."

10 South St.

Aug 23/89

"To come to lesser things - might I send you the
parcel of books for *Nurse Emily Stubbs* - - - - -
same for *Nurse Alice Lawrence*
is "Buchanan Cottage Hospital" enough? - - - - -
Nurse Jackson: shall I send her her books
at Birmingham W. Infy? - - - - -
Dearest love to Miss Spencer & oh give me
good news of her - - - - -
God for ever bless you both."

In a post-script

"I am afraid I have not done the books very well.
I felt too tired."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 104

Edin U [158]

Claydon Ho:

Sept 27 89

"You will be pleased to see how highly" (Miss Winterton) speaks of your Nurse Mold."

10 South St

Nov 2/89

"I wrote to Mr- B.C. our views about the St John's Ambulance request. I don't know whether he said anything to you about it on Wednesday - I thought him so careworn & oppressed when I saw him."

Nov. 4/89

"I was musing with considerable sadness as you know on this day - it is the 35th anniversary of our landing at Scutari, including my Revd M - when your letter came. - - - - -"

You have chosen your path. Do now read the great old books, true for all time of your as of our, Church & not these ephemeral productions - - - - - made to suit the taste of the present day. - - - - -"

I hope you will let me see Miss Eames & Nurse Charlton - - - - - And you asked me to see Miss Mayne & others -"

10 South St

Nov. 18th

"I should so like to see Nurse Charlton. Is it asking too much of her to give me an hour her last day, Sunday? [13:563]

- - - - - I see Miss Eames to-day"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp105

Edin U [159]

Nov 20/89

10 South Street

"I then asked her if there were any other books
she would like - She said only one on Obstetrics -
- - - - - But I do think, particularly
as it is uncertain that she will have any
women at all, that a pen & ink knowledge of
midwy= or ovariotomy is such a bad thing. [end 13:563]

I wish poor Mrs Wardroper were safe."

Nov 28/89

10 South Street

"I am considerably disappointed because
you did not let me know as you kindly
proposed-

Are you gone to Edinburgh? - - - - -

In a postscript

"Do you know I believe last Saturday was
just 18 years since I saw you first.

Dost remember?

10 South St

S. Andrews Day

(1889)

"Could you & Miss Crossland be so very
kind as to enable me to answer this
question about a Mrs ----- (enclosed)?"

The sheet addressed to Miss Crossland & me conjointly ? ran
thus:

"Would you be so very good as to tell us "had [13:572]
we a Nurse called Mrs -----?"

"She says she was trained by Miss Nightingale
at *St Thomas'* London. And *what sort of*

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Edin U [160]

person is she? She is trying to be Matron & have sole charge of the Hospital in Honolulu."

The Mother Superior of the Devonport Sisters of Mercy writes: "As I have been thirteen years in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, I take a warm interest, and our Sisters who are there write to me about this Mrs -----"

This 'Mother Superior' was out with me in the Crimea & remained to the very end. She then went to the Hawaiian Islands with Sisters - collected 130 girls with whom she & her small party lived & slept night & day - each one in charge of a 'family' of girls [The state of morals there then is impossible to describe]

After 13 years, she was summoned home to take the Mother Superiorship here. But the work is continued & has borne great fruit at Honolulu.

It has so very often happened that people have been appointed matrons without enquiry because they said they had been trained at St T.'s or been with me in the Crimean War, - of whom we had either *never heard* or knew no good, that I am very

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Edin U [161]
anxious to sift this "Mrs -----" & hope I am not giving
too much trouble." [end 13:572]

10 South St.

Dec 11/89

"Welcome "home".

I send the £5 - shall it be more? - for your
Christmas 'go's - Tell me what more you
want." †

Dec. 31/89

10 South Street

"May the New Year be yours with
Gods blessings."

27/2/90

10 South Street

"I cannot say what I feel about the
loss of our good Treasurer.

Sir Harry Verney has just been with
an Everlastings Cross from me, which he meant to put in your hands for
Mrs Stone.

But you, alas! were poorly - He went in,
& poor Mrs Stone chose to see him, tho'
in bed. She was terribly overcome, but
sent me word it was her "first comfort"
seeing him- so, I am glad he went -
tho' in the snow -

I do not know what to say - It seems
too hard for St Thomas' to lose you & Treasurer
at once, & fall into the hands of strangers.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 108

Edin U [162]

But God is always the same - or rather ever new in love. He never changes."

Mar 8/90

10 South Street

"Ah what a villain you are - -

I KNOWED YER - If any one were to do as you do - - - you would discharge them from the face of the earth. And see the results! - - - - -

You are very naughty, very:"

Mar 14/90

10 South Street

"It will help you to do "(the accounts)" to [12:413] drive out every day by sunlight for 3/4 hour - If I did but know the what time you ought to let me send a carriage - - - - -

I am so glad of the good news of Patients both at St Thomas & Edinburgh. "

In a post script

"You say poor Mrs ----- wants to see me - - - - - poor soul - I will try.

But I will tell you a story of a man, a hero, like Gordon in character, who for 30 years in India was our guide & instrument, - whose death, last October, has greatly increased all our work & difficulties, - both Indian & War Office. And we have others - And I am & have been too hard pressed - to see a stranger but with difficulty."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 109

Edin U [163]

March 27/90

"I am delighted when you know me
by letting me send something -

6 Picture books (Life of our Lord)
& will send more.

2 "Convalescence" a very great favorite of mine -
perhaps it is for older children - And
it requires some one to tell them the
stories of the pictures at the end
of faithful Roman soldier at Pompeii
- of Admiral Casabianca's boy standing
to his post in the burning ship
- of the Three who kept the Bridge
- of Excelsior

1 Modern Giant - killer who tames
the three Giants, Water, Fire, Steam,
to a beneficent use, *instead of killing*
them, is, I think, very pretty -

1 Soldier's Children in which the prayer
☉ of the little boy "for all the poor
"naughty ones too" is, I think, beautiful.

1 The Parables of our Lord is too black
6 promiscuous one (not directly religious)
5 (smaller) play-ones

1 Dandelion Clocks - the 3 last beautiful -
but perhaps too old for children
God bless all yours."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [164]

March 28/90

"I wish you would tell me anything
you would like to give to the Wards.

The two cherubs are supposed to be both
looking up at the infant Saviour - the
one with its chin resting in its hands
in child-like adoration - the other with
its little hand up to its head has an
inkling of what the Saviour has to go
thro' - & its eyes are just filling with
tears, tho' no cry escapes its lips.
Au revoir tomorrow."

Easter Day 1890

10. South Street.

"I suppose Miss Gordon sleeps in London
on Thursday - If it could be contrived without
interfering with her hours with you (- - - - -)
& she wishes it, I think it would be
rather wise if I were to see her some
time in the late afternoon on Thursday,
if you would kindly mention it to her."

10 South St

April 13/90

Sunday after Easter

"I hope you got home last evening/night without
standing in the E. wind - - - - -
A Dieu - - - My poor pen can say no
more.- A Dieu."

April 14/90

10 South Street.

"If you care to keep the "Claydon photograph" you speak
of, it is for you & nobody else, - - - - - 'A Dieu' ".

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [165]

15/4/90

"A few flowers - don't give them all away

Ah wae's the day -

May God bless you."

April 16/90

"Only one word more to say what I cannot say

And I have a letter from Miss Spencer herself,
seeming cheerful, very thankful for her re-
newed health - hoping to return to her work
in June - will not go to Oban till middle
or end of next week.

A Dieu, - - - - -"

On the 16th April 1890 I left St Thomas' and the Nightingale
Home, and ceased to work under the dear direction
of her who I had learned to call my "Mother-Chief":
the occasion of my full and frequent communication
with Miss Nightingale was both loved and loved to do together
came to an end in material action for me: but
the correspondence was continued: Miss Nightingale's
interest in my work was ever generous: and to this
day, in spirit my ties with her and with St Thomas
are unbroken. (4th June 1908.)

We have had Miss Spencer, so beloved of both, till this
year; she died at Dollar N.B. on the 15th April, having been
able to retain her charge at the Edinburgh Royal

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [166]

Infirmary till last June.

Miss Gordon survived but a few years and was succeeded at St Thomas's by Miss Hamilton - who had been there with me.

Ten of the letters quoted as addressed to me at St Thomas's reached me by post: they were mostly sent by 'Messenger'- a Commissionaire: and very commonly they were accompanied by flowers, eggs, coffee, books or other thoughtful kindnesses,

O dearest "Mother-Chief."

Sometime between 16th Ap. & 13th July 1890, Lady Verney died, July 24th 1908

Mrs Norris formerly Miss (Rachel) Williams, she whom Miss Nightingale used to call her

'Goddess', died at Boulogne on this day.

Miss Williams worked at Edinburgh (as 2nd in command) (old R. Inry)

from Nov. 1873 to Oct. 1st or 2nd 1876, leaving us to be-

come Matron of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington from

whence she went, in 1885 to Egypt, at the head

of the L.N.A. Society: contingent of Nurses, receiving

the Royal Red Cross. With Miss Alice Fisher, she

wrote, while at Edinburgh, one of the first little Nursing

books - "Notes on Nursing". She was one of the first pupils

at the New St Thomas's, coming before I left; Miss Spencer joined

also before I left, a little later. I did not dream they would go before me.

A Dieu, A Dieu.

continued at pages

167 & 169

[167]

Miss Nightingale was seventy in May 1890. Very shortly after, she lost her only sister, Lady Verney. This loss cut deeply into her life; different trials had pressed sorely towards that time; she stood bereaved at an age which looks for support; it seemed to me that from this time she first took an impression of age, and began to withdraw from the 'fray' of affairs. I saw her from time to time as the

years went in, & had letters from her, and little remembrances

as long as she could write. Later her Secretary has kindly

written to me with messages from her.

[168]

{blank page}

P.T.O.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [169]

July 13/90
10 South Street

"Burdens always accumulate as one grows old -
& disabilities. The only thing is pleasing God,
to do as well as one can."

July 26/90

"Shall you be able to give me a little time
this next week - - - - - There is the
Report - - - - -"

Aug 5/90

10 South Street

"I might to have told you that Mr B.C. is charged
with sending you a copy of the Resolution - - - -
- - - - -"

Once more, God speed."

Claydon Ho.

"It is a matter of more than two months
since I have heard from you - And I have
longed to hear. It has been an impossibility
for me to write And I have staid here
very much longer than I expected. But
I believe I shall be back in South St.
next week - - - - -"

Claydon Oct 14/90

But what I write for now is" (about)

[13:369]

"Lady Roseberry has Typhoid. And I
have twice been written to by her desire
to advise about the Nursing: I am so out
of the practical work now - and I feel how
little can be advised at a distance - - - - -"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 114

Edin U [170]

Lady Roseberry says she is so "very uncomfortable"
& "her nights are so terrible" - - - - -
"if there are any little dodges for alleviating
bed-discomfort" she wants to know - - - - -
- - - - -

Oct 10 was the ninth day of Lady Rosebery's
illness. It was only declared to be typhoid
the night before - - - - -

It is added that her "symptoms are all
favourable" "pulse fairly good" "two charming
Nurses" "two more" coming - - - - -
One would think *they* were the persons to
advise & the Doctors -

But I know how fanciful Typhoid is in
the conscious stage - *One* person is to give
relief.

Will you help? with *any* "dodges" if anything
occurs to you, - - - - -

Lady Rosebery is at Dalmeny - [I had a
pathetic little letter from her anxious little
daughter Sybil, who is not of course allowed
in her Mother's room]"

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 15

Edin U [171]

March 6/94

10 South Street

"With daffodils"

"An offering of Spring flowers which bring love on every petal"

July 18/94

10 South Street

Referring to a project of a private hospital.

"I think the fatigue & anxiety of a Hospital (which accompanies the blessing) quite enough without the anxiety of the money matters - [The opportunity of Nursing compensates for all else]"

In a post-script

"I have kept a Hospital for people "who were not rich"- & tho' I had a Treasurer & Committee, it was anxious enough.

And you will find so many pulls upon you of Patients going out - I am afraid." x This should have come on

page

June 21/95

6 a.m.

10 South Street

"I heard last night from Mrs Roscorla (Sister Victoria) of the death of our Miss Barclay. - S - - - - - She was very happy - - And she had done much good in Nursing her poor neighbours in Cornwall - - - - -"

We have never had a Sister Victoria who equalled Mrs Roscorla in her extraordinary influence for good over the babies in Victoria. But now I think I see in a young Sister who needs much experience but who has the gift of love to each baby to know its cry

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 16

Edin U [172]
& its individual character - a real S. Victoria."
In a post-script

"I hold long conversations with you. I
wonder if you ever hear them."
Should have come, page 171

Oct 17/94
10 South St.

"I have been waiting long to hear from thee
& am so glad thou are settled - - - - -
I know you kindly wish to hear about me -
worse lately - now quite confined to bed - - -
When people ask me to correct a book,
or find a country District Nurse or re-
commend a special Lady Nurse, that is
what worries most - - - - -

I have written to dear Miss Spencer about
her Mother's death.

It has happened to me in 6 months to
lose the two nearest & dearest left sur-
viving - The last is my cousin, Shore Smith
Nightingale, owner of my father's estates
& homes - both are let now.

I thank God I am still able to work."

Oct 27/94

"But my Doctor forbade my seeing
any one which practically amounted
to my having a long business interview
every day. I did not dare to add any
pleasure to it."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [173]
10 South St
Nov 24/95

"I feel very anxious to know what you are doing there - I am afraid it is on account of your health - If so may it be restored to you by God's love."

Dec 7/95
10 South Street

"Pardon this scrambling note. I do not know & have not known these 40 years what it is to have an hour's leisure. A Dieu"

In a post-script

"What preparation is there for "the end," for death but life?"

May 13th/96

("In hurry & haste) but not of heart."

Aug 23/96

10 South Street

"My most earnest prayer is that you [13:403] should be enabled to do fore Ireland what you did for Edinburgh Infirmary - what you were doing for us.

It is all gratitude to Lady Monteagle for making you so happy - And when she comes to London I hope to see her.

I am most anxious to hear what you are doing.

God speed you."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [174]
New Year's Day 1897
10 South Street.

"You know when you were at Edinburgh
my first New Year's thoughts were always
for you. - - - - -

Au revoir - - -
Jan 11/97

"Would you come I have a meal here say
at one or two or whenever you like? - - - - -
Take care of yourself, don't do anything foolish.
Dec. 28/97

10 South Street
"I shall be so glad to see you again - - - - -
Would Monday afternoon, 3 rd, at three suit you?
- - - - -

I say nothing about a happy New Year
& many of them for you - But I think
a great deal."

Nov. 1/98
10 South Street

"I shall be delighted to see you tomorrow
- - - - -

All blessings be with you - - - - - "
Sept. 24/99

10 South Street
"I am over-joyed to think that I may
ask you to come "next Wednesday" - - - - -
Now, mind, I ask you; it is not you who
propose yourself."

In post-script
"Au revoir then - - - - -."

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edin U [175]
June 17/199 1901
10 South Street
"I shall be more than delighted to see you
Wednesday 19th - - - - - "
April 26 1902
10 South Street

"I should be more than delighted to see
you on Tuesday 29th at 5 o'clock -
With very much love to yourself &
Lady Monteagle"
Lady Monteagle died at Mt Trenchard April 1908

[176] {blank page}

Edin U [182]
copy of 1
letter from Miss Julia Smith, dated Lea Hurst Matlock June 26th 1873
(Miss Nightingale's Aunt.)

My dear [13:321]

~~My dear Miss Pringle~~ (omit name)
Truly glad am I to hear of & from you. I have not been without tidings all this time, tho they were
rather scanty till your letter came. I do hope now that you and Miss Barclay have passed the
greatest of your difficulties. And if you can go on to better & better things, will you not by & bye
rejoice on looking back on the conquests you have made of the bad? [end]

Knowing nothing of hospital life

National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2NG, 1 letter

National War Museum of Scotland, signed letter with envelope, paper copy

Scutari
Barrack Hospital
Jan 29/56

Sir
I am about to presume
upon your kindness in
asking you to give me
some information as to
the character of
Arthur Theodore French
of the Regiment A Troop under
your command. He was
a Lance-Corporal, but
is now a Private, wherefore
I was afraid, as all the
other Lance-Corporals have
been
promoted, that he
might have "got into trouble."

His mother, a Frenchwoman,
has supported herself, a
widow, & two sons by her
own labor, till they were
able to earn their own
livelihood. This man
is a Saddler by trade,
21 years of age- he has
not very strong health
& if it were thought
desirable to employ him
in the Saddler's shop,
it would be a great
boon to himself & his
poor mother.

I do not mean that

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

all these are any reason

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpt 121

for promoting ~~for~~ employing
a man not deserving
of it. But if you would
kindly enquire into
the character of the man
& act accordingly, you
would greatly oblige,

Sir,

your obedt servt

Florence Nightingale

The young man is a
good son & that is
strongly in his favor.

Lt Colonel White

6th Enniskillens

envelope:

Lt Colonel White

Commg

6th Enniskillen Dragns

Palace Hospital

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary scan. Presented by Canon Robertson in 1910.

March 18/84

My dear Miss Robertson
How very good you have been [to]
Alexander Crooks. Thank you
a thousand times for all you
have done to get him a berth in
a Hospital - & for your kind note.
You are very scrupulous to return the
money £3. Pray believe me ever yrs ffully
Miss Robertson Florence Nightingale

University of St Andrew's Ms 38787 scan 1 letter. pencil;

June 4/97

30, South Street [printed address]
Park Lane, W.

My dear Sir

In answer to your question,
I have not the least idea
where the "original
"photograph" is, or how
"could obtain a copy,"
or where the "original
"negative" is, or if at all
it is. I have never seen the
photograph you send.

I remember that some
years ago Sir Harry Verney
(my brother -in-law who is
dead) made me sit
for one *on the express*

condition he made that it should
not be sold. I did not
see it.

It is possible that
Lady Verney
Claydon Ho.
Winslow
Bucks

who has the general
knowledge of Sir Harry's
things might be able
to tell you more.

I may remark by the way
that I never saw for
my photograph between

1857 (by the Queen's
command) & this one.

All the "portraits" of
me are fictitious.

yours sincerely
F. Nightingale
Theodore Dyke Acland
Esq MD

I am interested in
work.

F.N.

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, RCSE, 1 letter and 1 card, missing pages (letter on display)

RCSE letter, black-edged paper

Private

& Confidential Jany 18/97

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpt 123

10, South Street [printed address]
Park Lane, W.

My dear Sir

I have never thanked
you for your very kind note.
- & at the end you said
that you hoped "good" & not
~~rather than~~ "harm" would
come out of the present
business for Miss Spencer
at the R. Infirmary.

Your kindness will easily
believe my anxiety about
the change in the "Rule"-
also that I beg to apologize
for venturing any opinion
in the matter, but may I

2

I am so sorry that
your "term of office" is
over - as a manger.
Pray excuse this long
letter & this pencil-
I scarcely pretend to
offer an opinion but
rather to follow what I
believe to be yours:-
And I am sure we both
of us agree in "not harm
"but good" resulting to
Miss Spencer as Matron [rest of letter unavailable]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpt 124

RCSE, black-edged large card

Offered to
Mr Joseph Bell, M.D. FRCS &c &c &c
with the kindest regards
& most hearty thanks for all he has done
so wisely & so well for the cause of
Trained Nursing:

Florence Nightingale
London June 12 1880

Bell's *Notes on Surgery for Nurses*
dedicated to FN. 1887
written up from his lectures.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerp125

Edinburgh letter LHB1/111/1 signed letter, 2ff, pen, black-edged paper, paper

Telegraph, [printed]

Steeple Claydon, Bucks. {2 lines printed up at an angle}*
[5:823]

Oct 25/91

{printed address:} Claydon House
Winslow,
Bucks.

To the Secretary
of the Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals

Sir

I have been encouraged by
Professor Flower & others
to ask you if you would
be so very good as to send
me the leaflets you
publish for the protection
of wild birds

Perhaps you could also
kindly send me a copy of
the Wild Birds' Preservation
Act, which I have sought
for in vain.

In parts of this country
the agriculturists & gardeners

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts 126

are intent on destroying
their best friends, the birds
The allotment men, in particular
trap & net small birds,
singing birds, all birds
wholesale -
Gentlemen often say to me
'Surely no one would kill
a Robin'. Unluckily the
trap (& still less the net)
does not distinguish between
a robin & a jack-daw.
There are Sparrow Clubs -
& prizes given to those who
destroy the most birds!!
I need hardly say that
every kind of small bird
is destroyed by these
Clubbists -

Luckily an allotment man
trapped a pheasant - and
immediately the magistrates
saw the error of our ways.
But meanwhile one singing
or small bird is scarcely seen
where there used to be
hundreds.

Any assistance that you
can kindly give me in the
way of leaflets, Acts, or
recommending books which
show what small birds do
eat, will, Sir, be
gratefully received by
your faithful servant
Florence Nightingale
John Colam Esq

[end 5:824]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excer~~123~~423

Edinburgh letter LHB1/111/2 typed copy of signed letter, 1f, paper RP
original Boston 1/1/8

Great Malvern.
Aug 17/58.

My dear Sir,

If you still think that the question of the general improvement of Hospitals can be raised with profit, and that the "Builder" would take in two or three articles, will you take the trouble to glance over the enclosed, and if you think it useful, to alter or add to it in any way you think fit? Any succeeding article ought to be illustrated with wood-cuts of what ought to be done and not done, which I would gladly furnish.

I have been so impressed with the idea that Hospitals, in their present condition, are a curse and not a blessing, (and I am so little likely, I believe, to recover enough to make any great improvements myself), that I should feel a real consolation in thinking that you and the "Builder" would lend your powerful aid to this cause.

Ever yours faithfully,

(Signed) F. Nightingale.

If this paper is too little architectural for a "Builder", perhaps you would kindly have it returned to me, as I think I should make some other use of it.

F.N.

{handwritten at bottom not FN hand:}

With S. Rawlinson's

Kind Regards

J. Mills Esq [card says Joseph Mills, Crossley Rd.]

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edinburgh letter LHB/1/111/2(2) signed letter, 1f, pencil, paper

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
Nov 9/73

Dear Mr. Rawlinson

Do you know Col. Haig, [10:123]
R.E., who has done the
Irrigation schemes in Bengal?
He will be in London
for Monday & Tuesday:
(I don't know his address
here.)

I have ventured to send
by telegraph to him asking him
to call on you at your Office
If he does not know
you already, I want him

to make your acquaintance
& Dr. Sutherland's
& Captain Galton's {name written over top of other text}
Pray believe me [end 10:123]
ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

{handwritten not FN hand at bottom:}
With Mr. S. Rawlinson's
Kind regards -
Joph MILLS Esq

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Edinburgh letter LHB1/111/6 (1) signed letter, 2ff, pencil, black-edged paper, paper

London Feb 7/74

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 = a free
Admissions]
who will fulfil the enclosed
conditions (see printed paper)
subject to the selection of Mrs
Miss Phillips

Wardroper, 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 { unclear copy at fold; 3 or 4 words missing}
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

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

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
for employment are still
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

[Note]

The enclosed copy of a letter
from Florence Nightingale to Mrs.
Phillips, dated 7/74, was in the
possession of Professor R.W. Johnstone.

Following his death, it was
presented to the School of Nursing,
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, by

Mr. Patrick McLean, W.S.,
28 Inverleith Terrace,
Edinburgh 3

in 1970.}}

Edinburgh letter LHB/111/6 signed letter, 2ff, pencil black-edged paper, paper

Jany= 22/97

10, SOUTH STREET, [printed address]
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Madam

Miss Guthrie Wright
writes to me that you wish
to see me upon the matter
of "Hospital arrangements"
referring to Edinburgh
R. Infirmary -

I am very much occupied
& far from strong - But if
you are so good as to wish
it, I would see you
to-day (Friday) at 5.30 p.m.
It would however be

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

greatly to my benefit
if you would kindly
put upon paper any

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpt 182

questions upon which
you would wish to have
my views

I will endeavour to
look them over before I
see you & perhaps put some-
thing in writing -

Broadly speaking, an
experienced Matron is by
far the best judge of what
regulations are suitable
for her Nursing Staff.

Excuse pencil

yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

Miss Louisa Stevenson

{up at an angle:} I will send
our Messenger at any
time you name this morning
if you will kindly put these
questions on paper

FN

{typewritten by arch, separate folio from letter:}

LETTER FROM MISS NIGHTINGALE

now in the National Library of Scotland,
to Miss Louisa Stevenson, first lady
manager of the Royal Infirmary, dated 22
January, 1897.

Photocopy gifted by the National Library
of Scotland.

Edinburgh Pringle letters/excerpts

Letter Dc.4.102-3 (Misc) 76-77 initialled letter, 1f, pen black-edged paper, paper

115. Park Street. W. [printed address]
June 15

Dearest

I am so overwhelmed
to morrow I am
afraid I could not
see you - I have
scarcely any pulse
ever yrs
gratefully
F

Letter Gen 784/9 copy of signed letter, 1f, typewritten [arch. by hand: Original Presented to National Library for Scotland. Nightingale (Florence). 25]

Edinburgh University, typed copy of Letter from Florence Nightingale to Professor Christison of Edinburgh General 784/9, paper, NLS Ms 120335 f163

Hampstead [9:234-35]
London N.W.
Aug 3/63

My dear Sir,

I send you by post today a copy of the 2 folio Blue Book of the India Army Sanitary Report.

Will you allow me to make two remarks?

1. The I.O. is attacking our Statistics as being exaggerated -- whereas they are in fact understated -- i.e. the Death rate is understated, because it does not bring into account the invaliding from the Army for disease, including the men who died on their passage home

(b) The I.O. says the war years which yield the highest Death rates n. (ought not to be taken into the averages) -- & that therefore peace, and not sanitary measures, is the remedy.

As well might it say that because the Army nearly perished before Sevastopol, not from wounds but from the want of every appliance of civilized life, should have been the remedy.

Please tell Sir John McNeill this.

It is astonishing how easily the India Office is satisfied of the truth of any thing it is thought desirable to assert.

2. Not one single soul has laid hold of our chief, our fain point, viz. reform your stations first --the state of your stations is such as to account for any Mortality even in the finest climate of Europe--and the finest climate of Europe could never make your stations healthy, in their present state, viz. that of dwellings of beasts, not of civilized men --What must they be then under a tropical sun?

3. Please let the reviewers press the Sanitary organisation recommended, viz. the Presidency Commission, and the Home Commission to set them going with home (some?) experience -- The question is nothing less than to create a Public Health Department for India--

Many thanks for interesting yourself about the review. I wish you could have looked it over with Sir John McNeill--

Believe me
ever yours very faithfully
Florence Nightingale

Prof: Christison
n. not from wounds

Glasgow Royal Infirmary, paper copies, 4 letters

Glasgow Royal Infirmary, HB 95 12/1/1 signed letter, 1f, pen

My dear Sir James Clark

[15:368]

Dr. Sutherland has
begged me to send you
the enclosed Programme
of Sanitary Course at
Medical School -

I only came back
to town on Saturday.

[end]

Yours ever gratefully
F. Nightingale
30 Old Burlington St
Nov 3/57

Glasgow Royal Inf, HB 95 12/2/2 signed letter, 1f, pen

30 Old Burlington St

W

Dec 20/58

[14:571]

Messrs Harrison

In each of the
copies of "Notes on
Matters" &c which
I have recently had
from you, the "Plan
of the Lariboisière
Hospital at Paris",
marked in the
"List of Illustrations"
as to face p. 479,
has been omitted -
yours faithfully
Florence Nightingale

[end 14:571]

Glasgow Royal Inf, HB95 12/2/3 signed letter, 2ff, pen

April 21/79

My dear Miss Lennox

Many, many thanks for
your letter.

I take the liveliest interest
in your New Children's Hospital.
And I give you joy & your
little Patients joy & Belfast
joy of this extension of a
good work:

I am going to ask you a
favour -

could I have *tracings* of the
plans, - of the Ward floors, (storeys)
- the Administration floor -
& the Out Patients' Department?

Also: sections of patients'
baths } or W.C.s, meant
(fixed)}

more

expressly for children's use?

I need not say that I
would joyfully pay for the
tracings that may be kindly
made for me from any plans.

Your excellent Secretary,
Mr. Herbert Darbishire,
would, I believe, further my
wish.

My reason for this request
is: not only that I could not
write to the Ladies' Committee

(as you desire but as I very
much deprecate, feeling unfit
for such an honour,) without
seeing the plans - but
also because they will be
really useful.

In Germany

They are going to build a new Children's Hospital at Heidelberg, (Baden): & the Grand Duchess of Baden, who has done a great deal in training of Nurses, has written to me for plans of the best new Children's Hospitals in this country.

I am collecting & having plans & tracing of plans, made to send her. And I should be very glad to add to them the new Belfast Children's Hospital.

Thanking you again for your letter, & again giving you joy, pray believe me dear Miss Lennox

ever sincerely yours

Florence Nightingale [Over]

Thank you much for telling me about the Belfast Ladies' Socy for giving work to poor mothers. Again I say God speed the Children's Hospital - under severe strain of overwork & illness but ever theirs & yours

F.N.

Since I wrote this, I have received your newspaper slip: it is very interesting but makes me wish all the more to see the plans.

F.N.

Glasgow Royal Infirmary HB 95/2/4 incomplete, signed letter, 2ff, pen to an unnamed recipient, undated [12:289-90]

I therefore enclose a Form.
Will you be so good as to
fill it up & forward it
to Mrs. Wardroper to whom
I have already mentioned
your desire.

If an opening occurs, I do
not anticipate that we
shall have any difficulty
in suggesting something
to answer your other
perplexity - the very
reasonable one that you
could not take the long
journey merely for an
interview -

But it would be well first
that you should determine
after receiving the Form
& we after seeing it filled up,

whether the conditions will
suit you.

I will then consult our
Committee.

I do most earnestly trust that
God will bless your purpose,
believing as I do that there
is scarcely any career at
this time in which a
woman can so well serve
God, if He calls her to this
service & if she is willing "to begin
at the very beginning," as you so wisely say.

Pardon a short note - I am
overwhelmed with business
& also with illness - But
I will earnestly recommend
this matter to God -

Pray believe me
ever your faithful servt
Florence Nightingale

[end 12:290]

Skail House, Breckness Estate, Sandwick, Orkney, KW163LR, paper copies, 2 letters
signed letter, 2ff, pen

Private May 20/92 [13:866-67]

10, South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W.

Dear Miss Guthrie Wright

You were so good as to wish
to see our plan of *Health*
rural lectures, which, (after
the first opposition, because
they wanted *Nursing Lectures*,)
were enthusiastically attended.
The Lecturer himself sifted
out of those educated women
who came from all parts of
the County & were allowed
to attend for their own profit,
a Class of 12, who appeared
willing & able to become
instructresses or missionaries
of Health to the uneducated
rural women at their own
homes - the object of the

whole course being not simply
to give information
but to teach how to teach.

These 12 were again examined
by an independent well-known
Sanitary authority, both in
writing & by word of mouth,
(to test their power of speaking
to the uneducated) - And
six of them passed the
examination with the
utmost success - three indeed
were far above what had
been expected.

The whole/main object of the
Examination was - not only
to see 1. if their book ~~or~~/knowledge
or ~~theoretical~~ were competent -
but 2. if they could give

in the most PRACTICAL and
PLAINEST, in the most lively
and dramatic manner their
knowledge to uneducated
women in their own houses
- translate in fact the
object lessons they had
received with their own
hands & tongue into the
cottage life. Some of
these were really capital
- not book-like but life-like.

No doubt addresses at
Mothers' Meetings &c do
good, just as addresses to
Hospital Probationer-Nurses
do good.

But this was not our
object - Our object was to teach
practical work to the class

just as we teach practical

Ward work at the bed side
to the Nurse Probationer in Hospital
without which Lectures have no
sense - the object-lesson of the
latter being the Ward & the Patients
- the object lesson of the former
being the Cottager's home & its
inmates - the rural domestic
life. Just as the District Nurse
goes *into* the cottage & teaches
what to do about the Patient
to the family with her own
head & hands, so would the
Health Nurse (Missioner)
teach what to do in the cottage
for health with her own head & hand

It remains to be seen how it
is to be worked out - say a Meeting in
a willing cottage - visits to each
cottage -sent for when in touch
with the cottager's wife by the wife-
-mother herself.

ever yours sincerely Florence Nightingale

[end]

Skail House, Orkney, signed letter, 1f, pencil

Monday Dec 6/97

{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dear Miss Guthrie Wright

Thank you for your
most kind letter.

May I hope to see you
tomorrow (Tuesday) at
3.30 - I say 3.30, because
it is dark here often
before 4 - and I cannot
see [*but I can* HEAR]
by candle-light.

So glad that you
are so much better -
ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale