

Add Mss 41977D

BL20gen, Add Mss 49977O, 52427, 56105F, 59786, 61991, 63520; correspondence with Verney family: 68882-90, 72832, 907 pages

Add Mss 49977O ff75, pen, letter, presented by Mrs A.H. Dawson, Alicia Hugh Dawson

**f75**

Scutari [14:289]  
Barrack Hosp  
Dec 22/55

Sir

My duties are essentially  
to the sick & Wounded  
But, having seen wants  
among the troops which  
led directly to sickness,  
I have in some instances  
stretched my powers  
to meet these wants.

I have been especially  
alarmed by the large  
proportion of Land  
Transport men now in  
Hospital & shall  
therefore, if you will  
be kind enough to

**f76**

send me in a Return  
of the Names of men  
who want warm  
clothing & *the Articles*  
(by each) wanted, be happy  
to supply these Articles  
as far as I am able.  
This Requisition has  
been sent in to me in  
every case.

**[end]**

I remain, Sir  
your obedt servt  
Florence Nightingale

Add Mss 54221. Adam Matthew reel 86. 104 folios, Lytton Strachey Ms of Eminent Victorians chapter. Beginning is different:

f1 l. There are some who come to greatness by devious paths and accidental by-ways who linger for long - unconscious of their destiny, in idleness or in misdirected effort, and who drift at last into glory without provision and even perhaps without desire. There are others who bear, so to speak, the mark of Fate upon their brows, who, sealed from the first of the Tribe of Heroes, rush through thick and thin straight at their life's achievement, like hounds upon their quarry and of these was Florence Nightingale. [above omitted]

[book begins] Everyone knows the  
otherwise a draft of the book. No notes from sources

Add Mss 52427, microfilm, 137 folios, 63 pages, miscellaneous notes, correspondence, Adam Matthew reel 85. "offered as a gift by Mrs Mary Dunlop, the Deanery, Lincoln, 1964; According to a note in the dept. file, 'these papers had at one time formed part of the main body of the Nightingale Papers.' No further information available."

ff1-1v, printed 1, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C , November 23, 1870 from Edwin Pears, general secretary of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science

Dear Madam

On Monday next Mr Ernest Hart (who has recently returned from the Continent) will read a paper on "Medical organisation in time of war." Colonel Loyd Lindsay will be in the chair.

The Committee have directed me to make this known to you and to request on their behalf that you will do them the honour either of attending or, if this be not convenient, of *communicating such* [FN red und] remarks on the subject as your experience may suggest.

ff3-4, printed, Park Cottage, East Sheen, Mortlake S.W., November 22, 1870, from E. Chadwick

Dear Miss Nightingale

A paper is to be read tonight at the Association for the Promotion of Social Science, by Ernest hart, on "Medical organisation in time of war." Col Loyd Lindsay is to take the chair.

If there be anything that you desire to have said on the subject, and you can send me a note on it for the association, I shall be very happy to try and say it.

I have been trying today, mischief as well as to advance what I feel to be good on the education question, and have not been in the way of doing anything hitherto, for the advancement of sanitary principles in connexion with the war. I have imagined that if anybody in England had opportunity of promulgating doctrine upon it, you would have and would make the most of them.

Having done as much as I could on educational reform, I may now probably go back to sanitary reform.

Yours ever faithfully, Edwin Chadwick

since I wrote the above I have seen Rawlinson who tells me that it is known that the deaths, from disease in the Prussian Army, number 2000 a day.

If you have anything you wish read, the messenger shall call for it at any time you wish, before seven o'clock.

It would be open to you to say anything you thought fit to say yourself by letter.

f5, written in German from Karl Fliedner 27/6/71

ff6-7, Kaiserswerth, April 17, 1871, written in German from Karl Fliedner

ff8-8v, Kaiserswerth Villa, 6 Halliford Street, Essex Road, N., London, 27.7.1871 written in German by Theodore Fliedner (son of)

f9, February 24, 1872 written in German by Theodor Fliedner (son of), requests visit of mother in London

f10-11, printed, undated appeal on behalf of the Protestant Infant and Elementary School in Islington, signed Theodore Fliedner, pastor of the German Evangelical Church, Islington, 6 Halliford St., Essex St., London N.

f11v, undated from Hy Bonham Carter. Th Fliedner. It may interest you to see this, a translation for a German Prospectus which Th Fliedner asked me to make for him. Re eliciting info about the school

{f12 blank}

prayer, ff12v-15, pencil **[4:109-10]**

**f12v**

Almighty & merciful Father, grant that this ~~the~~/day  
~~time of my Confirmation (Communion)~~ may be  
the beginning of a new life to me that I may  
not forget the good lessons I have learnt - to  
be thoughtful & not hasty - to be as kind to all  
as if they were Jesus Christ himself - to be in  
submission to all that are in any authority over  
me, remembering that to resist them in anything  
that is right is resisting God, to prefer others in  
honour: to be as glad that they should be praised  
or happy as oneself - to listen to what is told me :

**f13**

to be modest in every look & word: to have no  
 jealousy or dislike, especially not against any  
 who have offended me if any such there be,  
 remembering that if I love not my brother/neighbour,  
 I am a murderer in my heart & even that  
 if I love not my enemy or any one that I  
 dislike or that has done me hurt I am a  
 murderer in my heart -

to do everything in my daily work in God's  
 name, & particularly my housemaid's or cook's  
 work as Christ would have done it & did  
 do it when He was here as a village workman

**f14v**

-2-

to do God divine service *every* day & not  
 only at Church - thinking of Him in everything,  
 as the handmaid of the Lord, & doing  
*everything* as Christ would have it done;  
*making it my Father's business as He did:* &  
 commending my mind & spirit, my whole life  
 into my Father's hands as He did .

Grant me to renew these resolutions, ~~every~~/this day  
~~time I eat & drink the Lord's supper~~, & that  
 they may be a guide & help to me thro' life,  
 & at last bring me home to Thine everlasting

**f15**

kingdom, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A prayer to be used particularly  
 before every communion : as a  
 reminder of the resolutions I  
 make at my first Communion

March 1877

"You have taken pains  
 & given thought to your  
 preparation - It will be well  
 for you to write out a prayer  
 for your own use - God grant you grace  
 to fulfil all that you have learnt" W.H.F.

ff16-20v, December 15, 1886, printed article in Italian about a School for Nurses

ff21-27v , February 3 and 12, 1887, printed article in Italian about Florence Nightingale, from a  
 biography by Elisa Aldridge. Trad. *Florenza Nightingale*, trad. E.C. Giornale dell' Associazione  
 Politca Progressista in Lucca.

f22 Lucca printed newspaper article 5 Feb 1887

f25 excerpts from biography

{f28 is blank}

unsigned notes, ff28v-31, pencil

**f28v**

10 S. St. Feb 18-19 night 2-3 a.m. Feb 19-20 night 1887

[Feb 7 1887 - from 1837 - G called when I was 16 -

My Jubilee over - what have I done with my 50 years?

Feb 8    Sacrament                      self in all: Harley St.

---

*Army San: Comm:*                      Sir A. V. Morey                      very ill

intense impression

Come O thou Traveller unknown                      Whom yet I feel but cannot see

My company before is gone                      And I am left alone with Thee

With Thee all night I mean to stay                      And wrestle till the break of day.

Thy nature & Thy name is Love -

*I surrender to Thy love -*

O spare me that I may recover strength - this one more chance - & do

Thee yet a little service - never yet - never yet

To do the

best for Mrs.

Bathen -

To do the

best for

Mrs. Neill

**f29**

intense impression

Feb 19-20                      "He will give thee all thou needest".

Army San: Comm:                      public & bad houses (Glasgow): Chatham

Sany Commn in India - Hewlett                      Aldershot

St. Thomas' Matronship:                      servants

all going by the board

Not mine, *but Thine & theirs*, Lord -

that all should be done "to the *honour & glory x of God*" -

not to work my own works but the works of Him that  
sent me -

Come in Lord Jesus, come into my heart now: what

does that

imply?

1.        that I may love others as Thou hast loved me

(this little household)

2.        that it may be all x "*my Father's business*": I belong to my Master

[Behold the handmaid of the Lord "Lea Hurst - Shore, a child]

- alas for me!

**f30v**

-2-

"The Voice - in answer to my cry:

"Here I am, my child"

"Fear not, for I am with Thee" W. H. Smith  
transferred from  
W. O.

"Be strong & *work*, for I am with Thee - x x my spirit

remaineth with thee: fear not" - Haggai

India Mail day Feb 18/87

What wouldst thou that I should do unto thee?

Lord that I should receive my sight -

Am I to give all my time & strength, 10 a.m. - 12 noon to Mrs

Field, to Sir H., when such matters as India & Army San =

Comm: & Nurses are waiting? W

**f31**

What wilt Thou have me to do?

India, A.S.C. waiting

reprobate

f32, index, 1887

{f33 is blank}

copy of letter, ff33v-38, pencil [8:497-98]

**f33v**

Letter to C. Acland M.P. from Dr. Curtis

Senior Surgeon, Cork General Hospl - in charge of Lock  
Hospl Cork

"Cork. Feb 21/87

"The greater the privacy, the greater the success in

persuading the present class of prostitutes to

enter an Hospl or Home for them; attaching Lock

Wards to existing Hospls could never be done here

A small house in a quiet place capable of working

from 12 to 20 beds; in fact a Cottage Hospital

& call it a Magdalen home [No: F.N.] In a week

every prostitute in Cork wd know what it was for

**f34**

"And then the proper (i.e. the bad) cases who wd rather rot than go to the Workhouse or any other Hospital would go there - the young particularly - disease would gradually lessen"

X X X

"I have done my best to work the Hospital here Since the compulsory clause was withdrawn as a voluntary Hospl - & was very much disheartened - Applicants with only trivial diseases applying, trying to make it a place of rest - And the cases that were doing most injury never coming near the Hospl. It had been so long a compulsory & Govt Hospl that they shunned it. It is a younger class of females employed

**f35**

in public houses, stores, shops &c that are now doing the most mischief - the old hands during the continuance of the Acts having gradually passed away

**f36** [cda]

Mr. C. Acland

whether any proper Hospl accommn had been provided at Chatham for female Lock Patients & if so what?

**f37v** [cda]

-3-

"Cork March 3/87

"Take any 20 cases in any of our Public Hospls - the cure in 15 out of 20 is retarded by Syphilis, either hereditary or acquired X X X

"The real good the compulsory clause of the C. D. Acts did was ~~the~~its deterrent power in preventing young girls from becoming Prostitutes X X

"A young Prostitute is more prone to disease than an old one - a young girl gets seduced; her first step is to plunge into drink, & take refuge in a Brothel - She soon gets disease, & if she wishes to get



**f38**

cured or give up sin, & that there is no proper place for her to go to, she remains spreading the disease broadcast - What I mean by a proper place, I don't mean a Union Hospl, or Workhouse, or any Public Hospl, for the nature of the sin makes her shun publicity - And they rather die rotten than go to such a place, perhaps to be taunted by their former friends -

2. What is the best & cheapest method of saving young Prostitutes both body & soul  
voluntary "Magdalen Home" for the cure of disease  
-largely subsidized by Govt 12 to 20 beds £500 a year"  
15 at £33 "

less than half what it cost Govt under the C. D. Acts

unsigned letter draft, ff39-44, pencil [8:501-03]

**f39**

10 South St Park Lane W.  
March 5/87

My dear Miss Hopkins

I fain would say what I cannot how deeply touched & greatly interested I am by your work & your letter. It is so kind of you to write me such a letter - It will inspire me to my life's end.

God speed your brave work - & give you health to pursue it

It is ~~one~~/a work indeed in which all the women of England should unite - you who *can* to address the men & form the White Cross - others

**f39v**

to influence the wives &  
 mothers to keep up a  
 higher standard, & to rouse  
 those who have none to make as  
 the standard for men as for women  
 others to get legislation  
 if legislation is needed - or  
 to get it enforced. {the following lines are interwoven I have deciphered them as best I can}

Eg There are two Acts most useful ones  
 under one of which drugging beer could be prevented  
 & under the other harbouring prostitutes in  
 public houses but neither ~~are always~~/is often  
 enforced  
 others to help poor women  
 who live by hand-work  
 & eke out their most  
 scanty wages by the wages  
 of sin, to do good work  
 & obtain the market value  
 of good work, by all means  
 including combination - For  
 the starvation pay of women's

**f40**

work is one great cause of  
*her* vice -  
 & to help them by a house of call  
 for industries - by good  
 lodgings & the like not to  
~~fall~~/run into temptation while yet innocent -  
 You are on the right tack who  
 try to *prevent* it -  
 Others to make a life, for  
 soldiers & sailors especially,  
 which will make it not so  
 easy to sin -  
 others to bring civilians, in co-operation with  
 the Police The subject is as large  
 as woman hood - & embraces  
 all the relations, all the  
 doings of womanhood. It is inextricably inter-

**f40v**

mingled with all that women  
 have to think & say & do -  
 It is not like any other sin  
 which you can 'go at' by  
 itself - It is with us  
 from the cradle to the grave.  
 For the question of a nation's  
 health, the Sanitary point  
 of view, is lines & doubles  
 the web/warp & the woof, the web all  
 through -  
~~It must be prevented/ion as even~~ is more hopeful  
~~more~~ than cures -  
 In Hospital work it meets  
 one at every turn - Every  
 Nurse knows that in a large

**f41**

-2-

number of cases this horrible  
 disease is the complication  
 which delays ~~or makes~~  
~~impossible~~ recovery or carries to the grave  
 The ~~weak~~/health of infants  
 who can have done no sin -  
~~there is another thing/our~~ cradle question -  
 foreign traffic in women is another  
 cruel subject  
 The new short service ~~question~~  
 in the Army - that tells  
 against us -  
 Prostitution takes younger  
 women & women of a  
 somewhat higher class than  
 it did, we are told.  
 Poverty & love of dress are the  
 more common incentives -  
 Everywhere, at every turn, this

**f41v**

question - no question but  
this evil - starts up & meets  
us, if ~~we~~/you who have ~~but one~~ the  
touch of the Ithuriel's spear -  
know this

~~Every minute of our lives~~  
Then, it is so interwoven with  
drink, with the public - house  
business - The drink Bill,  
the gigantic interests of  
capitalists & brewers mixed  
up with the drink Bill,  
war against us -  
~~drugging, using public houses for improper~~  
~~purposes~~  
~~2 Acts~~

Here are but a very few  
of the relations, touching us  
at every moment of our lives -  
almost -

**f42**

If we could each do the  
part of our work which  
God, misnamed Circumstance  
has placed before us, as  
nobly as you have -----

But, with regard to your  
request, I think you must  
let me go my own poor little  
way - Will you kindly  
thank Lady Laura Ridding -  
for doing me the honour of  
wishing for me to be upon  
her League, & ~~say that~~  
ask her to pardon me & say  
that I think I must keep

**f42v**

to my rule of not giving my  
poor name where I cannot  
give my work -

I am an overworked  
Invalid, hardly ever going  
beyond my rooms or even  
my couch - with far more  
to do than I can do justice to  
- ~~never seeing any one but those~~/ only those  
with long standing claims of  
business upon me - I could  
not join in any Meeting,  
could not indeed see any of  
those whom I so honour.

**f43**

-3-

I grieve more than I can say  
for your suffering - but  
while I have but too much  
sympathy with the longing  
for rest, I cannot but  
hope that you will have  
those "ten years' more work"  
which you are so generously  
willing to live -

And surely that willingness  
to live will be accepted  
It is harder to live than  
to die -

Hurra then for the White  
Cross - & the lady of the  
White Cross - Your

**f43v**

letter is so inspiring while  
so suffering -

"Who follows in her train?"

I say -

"A noble army, men & boys  
The matron & the maid"  
will be your recompense -

**f44**

I have to ask you a question :

Mr. Acland, MP. who is  
as you perhaps know, going/~~ab~~ to  
bring in a Bill, about which he & has  
consulted Mr. Parey Bunting  
& others ~~about it~~ - I do not  
enter into the contents of that  
Bill, because you probably  
know them :

asks "whether Miss Hopkins  
"is opposed to ~~me giving~~/making  
"generally in our towns  
"the power of search of bad  
"houses, provided that  
"Civilians are in co-operation  
with the Police" -

signed letter draft, ff45-51, pencil

**f45**

Please                      London. March 5/87  
return to

F.N.

a brave work in which all the  
women of England should unite  
some, for  
the "White Cross" -  
others

to influence wives & mothers to  
keep up a higher standard & to  
rouse those who have none -  
to make same (purity) standard  
for men & / as for women

others  
to get legislation if legislation is  
needed or to get it enforced -  
e.g. two most useful Acts  
under one of which drugging beer  
~~could~~ be prevented & under the other  
harboring prostitutes in public houses  
- neither enforced

others  
to help poor women who live by  
hand-work to help themselves

**f45v**

& to be helped by other women  
 who would otherwise be a poor  
 as themselves - to do good work  
 & obtain the market value of  
 good work, be every means,  
 including combination.

For many, ~~es~~ perhaps an increasing  
 number, & of classes higher up in  
 'respectable' life, eke out their  
 most scanty wages by the wages  
 of sin. starvation=pay of  
 women's work one great cause  
 of "Social Evil" -  
 to help them by a House of Call  
 for Industries - where they  
 can get information as to work  
 to be had -  
 by good cheap lodgings for  
 single women - ( *not* a charity)

**f46**

by women's Clubs & recreation  
 & refreshment rooms where  
 they can spend their evenings  
 respectably & cheerfully

&c &c  
 to help them  
 not to run into temptation  
 while yet innocent -  
 [those are on the right tack  
 who try to *prevent*.]

others

to make a life for the young  
 working-men (who flock into  
 London & the great towns) where  
 they can have similar advantages  
 for *their* evenings, their meals & sleep  
 (especially for soldiers & sailors,  
*mutatis mutandis*), {with the necessary changes made -GW} which will make  
 it not so easy to sin & drink

**f46v**

others  
to bring civilians into co-operation  
with the Police  
as at Glasgow -

---

The subject as large as woman  
= hood or women kind -  
embraces all the relations, all  
the doings of woman kind -  
inextricably interwoven with  
all that women have to think  
& say & do  
with us from the cradle to the  
grave  
question of a nation's health  
Sanitary question, lines &  
doubles the web all through -  
prevention here too more  
hopeful than cure -

**f47**

-2-

In Hospital work it meets one  
at every turn -  
Every Nurse knows the disease of  
vice complicates the case, perhaps in 15-12/0  
out of 20 men Patients, delays  
recovery or hurries to the grave  
And there the poor babies  
who can have done no sin -  
*there* is our Cradle question  
- foreign traffic in women  
- ~~new~~ short service in Army  
against us -  
Above all, protect the *girls*,  
the *young*: help them to  
protect themselves -  
Poverty & love of dress - the  
occasions of fall - *not* love  
Everywhere, at every turn, this  
question, this evil, starts up



**f47v**

& meets us, like Milton's Devil  
at Ithuriel's spear

interwoven with drink, with  
the public - house business  
The 'drink Bill', the gigantic  
interests of capitalists & brewers  
mixed up with the 'drink Bill,'  
*war* against us -

Here are but a very few  
of the relations of this question,  
touching us at almost every  
moment of our lives -

If we could each do the  
part of our work which  
God, miscalled Circumstance  
has placed before us,  
quietly, stedfastly, unselfishly -  
And having done all, to stand

**f48**

decline being upon Purity  
League General Commn  
could not join in any Meeting,  
or even see those who have  
not long standing claims of  
business on me  
those whom I so honour.

ask questions about Mr.  
Acland's Bill - do they approve?

sympathize with 'longing for rest'  
but hope that you will have  
those "ten years' more work"  
surely that willingness  
to live will be accepted  
It is harder to live than  
to die -

Hurra then for the lady of  
the White Cross -

**f48v**

"Who follows in her train?"

x x

"A noble army, men & boys

The matron & the maid"

The

Socy called "Women's Protective &

Provident League: Its chief object is to  
enable women who work to gain  
the highest market-wage - Its  
- chief champion was Mrs. Paterson  
who lately died - the wife of cabinet maker,  
An obscure socy; numbering but some  
hundred women belonging to  
various trades - obscure &  
the more remarkable - it has lived  
for 11 years a hard but healthy  
life on what has practically been  
its own independence & the  
sympathy of a few friends who have  
shared in its work.

**f49**

-3-

The funds of its various Sections are  
created out of weekly two pences  
of its members - invested in  
Savings Bonds, & utilized when  
members are *sick or out of work* -  
Intended to have (x)  
*Labour Registry Office* where a  
woman can have indicated to  
her where to get work, & its  
value

which both employer &  
employées can make a House  
of Call. employers to find  
hands - employées to find  
work - & money - wch they do not  
desire should ever come  
without it/work to a healthy  
working woman

**f49v**

(x) or Women's Friendly Society

2. to be extended to a Fund  
where any woman may by  
paying in receive sick pay  
- any woman, not necessarily  
a member of the Women's Unions -  
a Fund or Socy which strange to say  
does not exist in this England  
of ours - practical England?

3. where conferences can be  
held of women of all classes  
- where those who buy can  
learn what firms & business  
houses & shops give fair  
wages & fair treatment to  
their work women - are not  
'sweaters' - And this would  
indirectly & gradually influence

**f50**

those who *are*

4. Speaking quite roughly, 20-15 years ago, there was not  
a decent lodging or a decent  
place where the young single  
working-*man* who flock/come into  
London could have their meals  
or spend their evenings pleasantly  
without drink - or sleep -

Trained Nurses who first began  
in *Workho: Infies* about that time  
ago can speak to how the poor  
fellows used to say: 'Sister,  
you don't know what it is; -  
we shall come in & come in  
& come in again here till we  
come in to go out no more' -  
And so they did -

Now things are different,  
thank God, even in the suburbs  
of London - 'The Coffee- houses

**f50v**

(many of them ~~only~~ on the  
principles of trade) have  
done ~~much~~ something tho' still  
but a drip in the ocean.

But, speaking roughly too,  
little or nothing has been done for  
single young *women & girls* - There are no women's  
Clubs, places where they can  
spend their cheerful evenings,  
with a good loving Matron-Manager  
to consult with & guide -  
[*such* an influence over young  
women] - where they can  
have meals or refreshments  
& pleasant, warm, *clean* amusement  
This in a dense working population  
is a sine qua non - when women  
earn their fair wages, this would  
soon become self-supporting

**f51**

-54-

And so all these objects  
would work into each other's  
hands for each other's good -

It is not intended to  
limit these Women's Clubs to  
~~wom~~ members of Women's Unions.

It is sought to add ~~these~~/is  
to the Houses of Call, which  
is the immediate object of  
this Memorial

God speed the right  
Florence Nightingale

ff52v-5, rough copy of ff48-51, pencil

{f56 is blank}

unsigned letter draft, f57, pencil [8:503]

**f57**

March 6/87

Dearest Mrs. Hawthorn

Mr. Acland brought me some interesting  
letters last night - I have to return them to night -  
with my criticisms

So could not send them to you -

But I have made some Extracts for you & me -  
(tho' we should neither of us concur with all  
the letters) - if you care to read them - And here they are

Dr. Curtis is a C. D. Acts man -  
I am obliged to ask you to return me these pages.

Excuse greatest haste with your criticisms  
or information, if you will  
be so good

---

-4-

F.N.

Closing brothels without a provision of Lock Hospls & Homes  
is simple cruelty. What is to become of these poor women,  
our fellow creatures?

They suffer for us

And we suffer by them.

But the Lock Hosp is to lead to the "Home" & to rescue  
- not to re-entering prostitution

Please  
return  
to F.N.

unsigned letter, ff58-9v, pencil [8:503-04]

**f58**

*Private*                      March 9/87  
{printed address:} 10, South Street,  
                                Park Lane. W.

Dearest Miss Crossland

Could you tell me what  
was the Staff of Magdalen  
Ward in Miss Rye's time?  
for say 28? beds & 2? beds  
                                small Ward.

[I am not wishing to include the  
Ovariectomy cases or attendants]  
Was it

Miss Rye: trained Nurse : lady

1 Day Nurse

1 Night      "      qy were these two  
                                always *trained*  
                                Nurses?

1 Ward -maid - was there one?

1 Probationer:    was there always  
                                one?

**f58v**

They had their meals, I presume  
from the General Kitchen  
but drinks &c from the Ward  
Kitchen                  ?

They were generally BAD cases?  
I suppose?

not allowed to do Ward work?

nor      "      to syringe themselves?  
                                or dressings      "  
                                even under supervision?

were operations performed in the  
Lavatory?

were they allowed to attend Chapel  
*without* being in a gallery where

they could not be seen, as at Kaiserswerth?

**f59**

what objections would  
you or Miss Rye make to *any*  
of these arrangements?

was there any objection to  
the Students?

I am troubling you, because,  
tho' I have a particular  
dislike to giving advice, I  
cannot well refuse in this  
instance - a particular friend  
of mine, a Colonel's wife,  
in one of the worst Garrison  
towns in England, having

**f59v**

thrown herself into the  
work, which she does  
admirably -

If you return *this* to me  
I hope it will not give  
you very much trouble  
writing the answers -

God bless you  
ever yours affly

initialled letter, ff60-1v, pencil

**f60**

10 South S April 6/87  
{archivist: Recd 10/4} *Italian lady*  
Yes, thanks; I have a copy  
of the "Quain" Article, &  
adopt your suggestion -  
About the Sabilla Novello  
translation of "Notes on  
Nursing": it is 25-28 years  
since I gave her my leave  
& neither the letter nor my  
memory could possibly now  
be found. I do not  
know whether I have a  
right to give this new  
lady leave - nor, as you say,  
whether she would do better

**f60v**

Yes. I noticed about  
the Infirmiers -  
Even at Paris, in the *Civil*  
Hospitals, there are in ~~the~~/each  
male Wards, i.e. in my day,  
2 Infirmiers to one Infirmière  
(under the Nuns)  
in ~~the~~/each Female Wards  
1 Infirmier to two Infirmières

I know not what to recommend  
about training the Infirmiers  
I presume but do not know  
that there is a Military  
Training School for the  
Military Hospital Orderlies -  
in Italy -



**f61**

with Sisters (there were Sisters in  
the Crimea in the  
*Italian War Hospls* )  
who gave the finishing touch  
to the Nursing - but had  
not at all the powers we  
had)

A Military Training School  
is a poor thing without  
Sisters - except at Paris  
where the Military Training  
School is or was so  
admirable that, tho' there  
were Sisters, the men  
actually nursed better  
than the Soeurs -

**f61v**

Our Training of Orderlies  
here remains almost as  
bad as it can be - in spite  
of all the Doctors & all the Commissions

If you could kindly  
return me this WITH  
YOUR REMARKS, perhaps  
it would help me in  
answering that part of  
the Italian lady's letter  
F.N.

unsigned note, f62, pencil

**f62**

Easter Day April 10/87 Matronship

"Lord, Thou knowest all things: it is *all Thy* work;  
Thou that art Love, do *in us* what Thou wilt have  
us do. For the Father is the 'irresistible King '  
For Love is irresistible  
Pray, pray

initialled letter, ff63-74v, pencil

**f63** {there are notes in ink by Hy Bonham Carter-I will put them in bold GW}

-1- *Immediate*

*Matronship* 25/5/87

*Miss Crossland* 10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W. **[12:395]**

You said that I should wait  
to answer Misses *Solly & Scott*  
till it was known who our  
candidates would be

Did you mean me to do  
it now? **No Wait till Miss  
P's acceptance has been  
received by the Treasurer &  
has been in all known by him. -**

I think you can scarcely  
be thanked enough for having  
conducted the negotiation so  
ably & so quietly - no clash  
of candidates - in a position  
so very difficult that one can hardly  
rejoice.

If only poor Edinburgh could  
be suited!

**f63v**

Do you think *I ought to see  
Miss Crossland now* (I am  
engaged to day & to morrow)  
& *talk it out with her?*

I am cowardly;  
but I suppose it would be  
absurd & wicked for me now to  
ignore that the formal offer  
has been or is being made to *Miss Pringle?*  
And, *Ought I to write to Miss  
Crossland at once, asking her  
to come ? in that case?*

*Please say.*

[xx I suppose all the Hospl knows  
it ~~at one~~ by now?] **xx No, I THINK NOT.**

**f64**

Yes: thank you - I should  
be very glad to see you on  
*Tuesday*, unless Miss Crossland  
bargains for that day

May I write or telegraph  
to you? **Send on Tuesday** [end 12:395]  
**morning to Hyde Park**  
**Square -**

ever yours gratefully  
F.N.

**Let everybody have**  
**their Bank holiday &**  
**Whitsuntide, including**  
**yourself, & don't do any**  
**thing till after Monday.**

**If Miss Crossland wishes**  
**to come on Tuesday I think**  
**that you had better**

**f64v**

**put her off, unless in**  
**the meantime you have**  
**heard that Miss P. has**  
**accepted. There is many**  
**a slip &c. & so much**  
**time is wasted & anxiety**  
**caused by discussing**  
**possibilities &c. I may**  
**say vague reports &**  
**gossip, to which I am**  
**afraid you are, from**  
**no fault of yours, much**  
**exposed by your visitors**  
**from St. Thomas' & elsewhere**

**HYBC**

**28 May**

{f65 list of contents}

unsigned letter, ff66-7, pencil

**f66**

*Mrs Wardroper*      -3-  
May 27/87  
{printed address:} 10, South Street,  
Park Lane. W.

My dear Harry

I had much talk with  
poor Mrs. Wardroper on Tuesday.  
- With regard to the Testimonial  
I have scarcely got much farther  
She said first that she  
should like "something to  
"leave to *my boy* or the Probrs"  
- perhaps a "tea-service" -  
[I do not think really that the  
contributors ought to be  
asked to give money for the  
first purpose : " my boy"'s  
future pleasure - But of course I  
said nothing of the sort

**f66v**

Then I sounded her about  
the "portrait". She said  
at first that really she "could  
"not sit" then that she did not  
"like so much money to be  
"spent on her" - But it  
appeared she thought it  
would be 300 or 400 -  
And I think it *might* be only  
100 or 120.

Altogether she was rather  
hazy - no wonder, poor soul -  
And she kept falling back  
upon: "I wish *you* to settle  
- "*you* will know what is nicest."

**f67**

She left promising to  
"think over it & write" -  
But I know she won't -  
I believe she is incapable of  
coming to any decision -  
She often promises to send  
me information which  
seldom or never comes -

I feel much in a 'fix' -  
*What do you think I should  
do next?*

qy consult *Miss Crossland*  
as to what Miss Wardr would  
really like?  
or what?

f67v May 28 from HYBC. Testimonial

I spoke to Mrs W on Wednesday or rather she to me. She seems to have set her mind entirely against a picture & I think that it would be hard to force it upon her. I have recd no other such difficulty in deciding on something else. She was rather musing about the proposal of a "pony illeg" to the boy. This can wait.

unsigned notes, ff68-69v, pencil

**f68**

Miss Pringle May 31/87  
write to

W.I. Ford x  
Chairman of Committee  
17 Grosvenor Crescent  
Edinburgh

taking him with us  
Mr. Fasson

Miss Spencer

x qy merely stating in an affectionate/sympathetic  
unofficial manner that we feel  
this loss to Edinbro' the more, the more  
we felt after great consideration  
that *she* as the one for us.

- *not* to press Miss Spencer upon them

{f69 is blank}

**f69v**

to Miss Spencer

hoping but not pressing that she  
will take Edinbro' if offered  
& feeling for her?

All communications to the Board  
sent thro' Mr. Fasson -

such a true friend to Miss P.  
such a gently considerate truthful  
head

unsigned letter draft, ff70-72, pencil

**f70**

Mr Ford

Dear Sir

Your great & unfailing kindness to Miss  
Pringle ~~makes~~ & to all her Staff  
makes me feel as if I might  
approach you & yet I feel as if I were  
approaching you as a criminal  
in having so much as thought of disturbing Ed  
taking her/Miss P. away from you which  
we know she deeply feels.

**[13:367]**

I cannot hope to carry you  
with us -

so

disturbing the great & important attempt at the  
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh &

I only trust you will believe that the more  
we feel the loss to Edinburgh  
the more we were convinced after  
long consideration that she was a/the

{f71 is blank}

**f71v**

-2-

~~necessary~~/matron for St. Thomas'

I feel/know that we have no excuse  
except on your kindness - I cannot  
even urge the greater importance of  
St. T.'s as a Hospl - far from  
it - but only our need.

You must forgive us for being  
selfish We have no other  
plea -

That the Resolution offering  
Miss Pringle the Matronship /~~or~~ was  
unanimous show that all/ the conviction  
~~were~~ united in thinking that  
St. Thomas' was right /interest was deeply concerned/involved in  
asking for himself this sacrifice  
from Edinburgh

I assure you it was with no little  
pain & hesitation that we asked it

I hope that you will at least say  
God bless her future career as indeed

**f72**

May I say, tho' that is small consolation  
to you that in long & anxious thought about  
this matter, the wrench & grief to you were  
ever uppermost in my thoughts.

I would fain have found a better way -  
But Miss Pringle once proposed to St. Thomas.,  
there was never any doubt in their minds  
that she was the one they must have if  
possible - This may be some small comfort  
to you, that, as soon as it was brought forward  
it was like fate which is God's will to  
their minds

tho' others were ~~in the field~~ which she was not  
~~But they were not entertained for a moment~~

I am with you if I might think you cared  
as the mother feels the operation to her child/son  
more even than that son/child does for himself I would  
gladly have bought at any sacrifice to myself  
your & Edinburgh's immunity ~~for~~/from this trouble. But it was  
St. T.'s we could not sacrifice - You will say  
we have sacrificed Edinburgh Then do not

**[end]**

unsigned letter draft, f72v, pencil

**[13:370]****f72v**

Dearest Miss Spencer

What can I say? I come before you as a  
~~criminal~~/thief & a robber - And I can truly say I feel like one -  
 If possible I feel more than yourself about  
 this - We are taking away your spiritual/(practical)  
 mother, your head under whom you were happy  
 & oh how useful.

Can you say you forgive us? I feel for/with you more than I can say: But  
 may we not hope that ~~you will see your~~ /there might be found a way  
 to follow up that usefulness & ~~take~~/in Miss  
 Pringle's place at Edinburgh, if offered?

{page missing?}

let us have sacrificed it - You are the person,  
 dear Miss Spencer, who can prevent  
 Edinbro' from being sacrificed, who can  
 carry on Miss Pringle there - & who can save  
 us half the pain of what we have done,  
 & above all, above all to *you* & to *me*,  
 save *her* the pain of having given up  
 & perilled Edinbro'. *She* would be so  
 relieved to leave it to you - Cannot you  
 think of this? But let me not press you - †  
 you must look upon us as the guilty ones - It is  
   God who must press you,  
   if at all                   **[end]**

signed letter draft, ff73-4, pencil

**[1:382-83]****f73**

10 South St                    June 3/87

My dearest Pop    The account from Embley  
is much better to-day

Miss Jones died yesterday morning - She is my  
 oldest friend in the Nursing cause        - When  
 dying & apparently speechless, she said all at once in a  
 distinct voice to her two oldest "Sisters", kneeling by her:  
 "Little children, ~~love one another~~ keep yourselves from idols;  
 "Little children, love one another" - What would one  
give to know what she is feeling now!                    **[end 1:383]**

A certain sum of money has been collected



**f74**

from a very large number of old Nightingales,  
for Mrs. Wardroper, on her resignation - & is to be  
expended, after consulting with her & taking  
her wishes, which are: for a Photograph after  
the sort of Sir Harry's, & I have already written  
to Melhuish - & a tea service which has  
been already chosen -

On the Salver there must be an Inscription  
- the ~~larger~~ longer the better, they say, because  
it hides scratches - & the Salver is large, plain Silver.

But this is a very difficult matter -  
The contributors won't have the word "old"  
(her "old" Probationers)

nor will they have the word "pupils" -  
(they say she didn't teach us :)

If you could help me : we have no one of  
the least literary 'ring' - I should be very much  
obliged.

I send the enclosed merely for the facts  
- not for the language -  
God bless you & Sir Harry:        ever your old  
   Flo

{f75 is blank}

unsigned letter, ff76-77, pencil

**f76**

*Most Private* Please "Aldershot Camp: [15:558-59]  
return June 24/87  
to  
F.N.

Genl Philip Smith went up yesterday after his  
Field Day to discuss the "two points" - (with Chaplain Genl  
[Public Houses viz. 1. harbouring prostitutes  
2. drugging beer

"With regard to the Women, he has brought a copy of the  
'Licencing Act', and is in correspondence with the  
"Hampshire authorities; also with Sir R. Thompson,  
"the very efficient permanent Under Sec. of War" -  
and as to the adulteration of Beer, he has applied  
to the Local Police & the Board of Guardians (?)  
"Adulteration is punishable by Law. It is the duty

"of the Police to get samples of the beer sold, have  
them analysed, & if there is adulteration, have the  
defaulters punished - [At the Quarter Sessions, there  
are always some Publicans fined for adulterated Beer]

*Genl P. Smith.* "With regard to all these *Local*  
questions, Aldershot is *in a Ring* - The authorities  
may be all in fault, but the difficulty is to make  
them *act against each other*: some outside  
authority is necessary.

There is the prospect that that can be effected,  
for there is a good deal of Government property  
here, to protect which is the duty of the Metropolitan  
see p. 2

**f77**

Police; and *the Home Secretary has been applied to*, to send some to Aldershot.

If they are sent, as Genl P. S. confidently anticipates, they will be the 'outside authority' to see that the Hampshire & Aldershot authorities do their duty

**[end 15:559]**

The two objects are in train for accomplishment

X X X

unsigned letter, ff78-9v, pencil

**f78**

<i>Most Private</i>	Please	"Aldershot Camp
	return	June 26/87
	to F.N.	

Genl P. Smith wishes for our "views" upon the state of things which is now as follows:  
"The Senior Chaplain who has been here for 5 "years has just retired. And he intends to send to the Chaplain Genl a Report stating what are the chief causes of mischief in the place and what is most required to be done. This will be a great assistance to the Chaplain Genl. He intends to see Sir R. Thompson & Col Grove before he goes abroad", (which is immediately) "& bring his views

f79

-2-

to their notice -

There *are* evils in *Canteens*  
*Serjeants' Messes*  
*Places of Entertainment*  
*in the town* -

1.

"It might be well to have a Aldershot or a WO much better COMMITTEE to take evidence upon all these, to draw conclusions & to suggest remedies

2. "It might greatly assist to have a *Resident Stipendiary* by the MAGISTRATE, and a detachment of *Metropolitan Police* under him - not only for the protection of decency, & the prevention of the infringement of the licensing Act, but also for the prevention of dishonesty as regards Government Property. They would also be useful for the detection of adulteration -

"3. "In the mean while the Government have offered to the Board of Guardians the *Lock Hospital*, with an *annual sum* to assist in the expences, and the Board have accepted the offer -

f79v

-3-

"As soon as the Hospital is opened, we shall be able to take measures for the protection of the men from disease -

4. "I am in communication with  
 Mr. Foster the Clerk of the Board  
 Dr. Coleman Barr &  
 Captain Forrest first rate the Chief Constable for  
 Lord Carnarvon Hants  
 Ld Lieut's

5 x x x some direct effort for the improvement  
 "of the situation which at the present moment  
 is *certainly disgraceful* and *scandalous*"

x x x

signed letter, ff80-1v, pencil

**f80**

MOST PRIVATE                      10 South St  
                 *Aldershot*                      June 27/87

Dear Sir Douglas Galton

Many thanks for your letter  
on this painful subject -

I enclose you the news I  
have this morning, which is  
on the whole satisfactory - I  
think Genl P. Smith does not  
let the grass grow under his  
feet.

And it is a great thing that  
the "evils" are allowed,  
see top of p. 2,  
& admitted to be "disgraceful"  
& "scandalous", which has  
been denied - (end) -

**f80v**

[O that we had W. H. Smith  
at the W. O.]

Would you give me your "view"  
upon (see) 1. "a Committee"

                 " 2. "a Resident Magistrate"

- might he be a Civilian  
- or would you push for a  
Military Officer? We need  
not wait for a your proposed  
"Act" to have "a Military  
"Officer appointed as  
"Magistrate for that district  
"to deal with these cases"  
need we? as you propose

**f81**

As to "3" - I am very glad  
they are to have the Lock  
Hospital &c. You know we  
knew that was pending -  
They could do nothing without  
it -

If it would save you trouble  
to give me your answers  
by word of mouth, as I  
ought not to delay  
answering Genl. Smith,  
I could see you to-day  
or tomorrow (Tuesday)  
at 5.15 or 6 - *Please say.*

I am nearly "hors de combat"

**f81v**

II      You have not told me  
what you have heard of Dr  
Sutherland & his plans -

I have heard, & think I  
ought to tell you

I do not think it will  
do to let slip Ld Cross &  
Col Yule -      There is  
probably scarcely a month  
available before people  
go out of London

yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

Please return me

enclosed

when (if ) you come or with your  
remarks

unsigned notes, ff82-3v, pencil

**f82**

to get Hospitals for all the garrison  
towns  
& if possible Home in commn  
with them  
interchangeable  
beyond the sound of bugles  
from Kent to Devonshire

Soldiers' Institutes & interests

Aldershot      increase of  
Farnham      disease?

**f83**

can't Acland make his Bill  
touch the keepers of the houses  
rather than the individuals?

place upon the Municipality  
the duty of supporting these Homes  
out of the rates  
make it part of the duty of the  
SANITARY AUTHORITY to collect evidence to provide  
Lock Hospls & Homes out of the rates  
give them the powers to prevent the  
necessity of having many of them  
& to suppress the places

**f83v**

Acland to try & urge the W. O -  
to get some of the houses closed  
by getting evidence against them  
Philip Smith  
do the houses often do such  
illegal things as to supply  
evidence against them for the  
Magistrate to close them?  
then the W. O to write to the  
Magistrates  
{upside down}  
Douglas Hamilton      Claude {Illeg Hern?}  
{illeg Celerham ?}

[N.B. She died in *August* 1910]

**f85**

f86

May the Father Almighty, Irresistible - for Love is irresistible - whose work & none other's this is conduct it always , as He has done, while I have misconducted it -  
May He do *in* us what He would have us do



incomplete letter, ff87-7v, pencil

**f87**

Ly Louisa Egerton -2- {archivist: [bef. 14 Aug 1887]}

She did not say this in so many works,  
but another person did, that perhaps the  
higher kind of what we call 'Ordinary Nurses'  
would under supervision do the work in  
some parts as well as ladies - better than  
*not* highly competent ladies - & some of a  
higher kind still of 'Ordinary Nurses' without  
supervision, as e.g. when one Nurse only is  
wanted in the country

I was struck by another thing my lady said,

**f87v**

that we have not yet succeeded in enlisting the  
better sort of trades women, that is women of  
tradesmen's families, who generally lead, she  
said, the most useless or ~~melancholic~~/uninteresting lives  
- unlike the lives of "ladies", so improved in  
usefulness & interest in the last 30 years -  
& in what they are allowed by public opinion  
to do - while the little world of tradespeople  
does not allow any but the most energetic &  
individual - to be anything but "genteel" -

The tradeswomen might lead such useful &  
interesting lives , if they would embark in the same sort of things - And she hoped it was coming

f88, {archivist: F.N.'s Criticisms on Plans sent by Louise, Grand Duchess of Baden for Hospital at  
Carlsruhe other papers destroyed on this subject}

signed letter, ff89-91, pencil [hosp80s]

**f89**

*Carlsruhe proposed Hospital*

{printed address:} Telegraph Aug 28/87

Steeple Claydon, Bucks Plans} {printed address: Claydon House,  
Sent you Winslow,  
to day Bucks.

Dear Sir Douglas Galton  
By your kind leave I  
send the G. Duchess of Baden's  
Plans for Clinique & Training School  
for your criticism  
& also my notes which  
are merely a Nurse's Notes  
I hope that, however tiresome,  
you will be so good as to  
read them - as they must  
have your criticism as well  
as the plans -  
What *you* will do is to show  
how these great defects can be

**f89v**

avoided or diminished  
I have taken up your time  
too long  
& with love to Marianne &  
Gwendolyne  
pray believe me  
ever yours truly  
F. Nightingale

**f90**

The first two pages, 1, 2,  
are extracts from the Gd Duchess'  
letter, necessary for understanding  
the plans -  
A to H are mine  
The plans were posted to-day  
to your address.  
F.N.

**f91**[line drawing]      *Training School*      *Upper Floor**Left hand Wing*

	9 beds	3 Windows	too little air for health
Supt	1 bed	1 "	good
_____	4 beds	1 "	not good

13      *Stair-case*      large window      good*Private Patients : Are they for men or women?*

6 beds      in 4 wards      It seems good but same

Nurse 1      remark applies as to  
                          3 bedded Ward , viz want of  
                          ventilation - not even opposite  
                          window in passage

Is not a Scullery wanted here?

W.C. Nurses one:    Patients one : (If men, they must have one &amp; women one)

*Centre*

18 Pupil Nurses appear to sleep here in 6 rooms

13 \_\_\_\_\_ each 3 with only one window - & *not* an

31 \_\_\_\_\_ uninterrupted window=ed Corridor opposite

Ample W. C. & Bath & Lavatory accommodation should be  
 provided for them [Certainly 4 Baths to 31 Nurses -]

No part of which of course should be used by Patients -

Ample Slop-sink accommodation also

It is considered better for each Nurse to have her own  
 washing apparatus, if possible, near her own bed - & for  
 this purpose each bed to have a window, & curtains to  
 make a compartment round each bed to be drawn far  
 back in the day-time. It is better still for each Nurse  
 to have a room to herself, however small, with a window  
 to herself -      if possible.      [end hosp80s]

unsigned letter, ff92-95v, pen &amp; pencil

**[13:788-89]****f92** {archivist: [Aug. 1887]}

Jubilee Fund see notes {the preceding not in FN's hand}

*Mr. Rathbone's Memo*

I see on p. (1) a pencil ? after "lady" (Nurses)  
 which ? is I suppose yours

A little lower down comes, in pencil, "to train

"ladies & other intelligent women" -

[Mr. Rathbone has characteristically left out

Liverpool altogether (in this Memo) for *training* Nurses  
 not Superints

tho', in his printed Memo, p.p. 2 & 3, he has

entered into it - viz. the training of *Nurses* as well  
 as of ladies/Supts]

Practically, is it not the real difficulty of the  
 whole affair? You cannot cook up your hares

**f93**

before you have caught them - You cannot

form your two new centres, ~~or at or pl~~

- much less "place out in new districts for work",  
 your new Staffs - without trained "women"  
 as well as trained "ladies"

Hitherto Bloomsbury has trained only "ladies"

for its own works, & has supplied Lady

*Supts* to Liverpool (& elsewhere?)

Hitherto Liverpool is the only School of any importance which

has actually trained "women" for District

Nurses - [E. London's, I presume, cannot be  
 called trained women.]

Roughly speaking

M. & N. only trains ladies

Liverpool " " *Nurses*

where are *these* now to be trained? for the Jubilee  
 Fund?

Would it be possible, as it would be so very

desirable, for some Nurses (women) & Supts (ladies) to be  
 trained together?

[*Private* - I have heard much from some of  
 ours (from St. Thomas') of the difficulties they  
 found at first as Nursing Supts of Liverpool District work  
 These difficulties ~~were~~ very likely arose from  
 themselves as much as from their Nurses

I am only noting what is however a very  
 common experience in all Nursing Staffs *not* trained together]

**f93v**

A more practical remark is that Liverpool is really the only place which has large experience in District *women* = *Nurses*  
- the only place with which you, the "central school & agents" of the Jubilee Fund will have real, honest, systematic consultation & communication, (as compared, I mean, with the to be created "centres" of Edinburgh & Dublin)

Would not Liverpool be better to train the "other intelligent women"? - some of them at least? Bloomsbury certainly will not be able to train them all

**f94**

I understand that Bloomsbury has expressed its willingness to train "women" as well as gentlewomen for the Jubilee Fund, if 'room' could be provided "in another house".

And possibly this awkward "St. Katharine's" might provide that 'room' - tho' it is rather far -

**f95**

p. (5) Mr. Rathbone's Memo M.S.

It is mentioned that "10 or 12" trained Nurses might be ~~had~~ sent out from Bloomsbury "yearly "or half yearly" - X X note And it is hoped that a "proportionate" number may be had from " Dublin "& Edinburgh -

This is certainly far better than Sir R. A. 's "1000! women in 2 or 3 years"!!

[But it is not mentioned whether these are to be ~~Supts or Staffs~~ - "ladies" or "women" tho' Mr. R. has entered into this rather fully in his printed Memo.

Perhaps it is not wished to raise the question - And most certainly we ought not to raise difficulties, provided you are satisfied that the high standard of the M. & N. Nursing will be maintained

But should we not have some clear idea in ourselves?] ~~e.g. "10 or 12" trained Supts would be absurd — & where are the trained women Nurses to come from?~~

while "10 or 12" would only make 2 or 3 small Nursing Staffs - And ~~of~~ are they to consist of ladies? Nursing Supts or pioneers are just what we fail in

X X

& agreeing to furnish these Nurses with a Nursing Supt.

[end 13:789]

**f95v** {notes on ff92-5, not in FN's hand}

unsigned notes, f96, pencil

**f96**

Sept. 1887

It is His work  
not as an indulgent Father

He *chooses* to do nothing without us

{upside down}

Jacob wrestling

& finding Him to be 'Love'

& himself blessed

f97, 1887, {archivist: notes &c by F.N. & 2 letters from Mrs. Sutherland}

f98, 1887, {archivist: Mrs. Sutherland to F.N.}

ff99-100v, Alleyn Park, October 18, 1887, from Mrs. Sutherland to F.N. thanking her for gifts sent and giving details of Dr. Sutherland's illness

ff101-2v, October 30, 1887, telling of an improvement in Dr. Sutherland

f103, 188 {archivist: [Hints for Mr. Jowett's health] He was ill at 10 South St this year October}

unsigned notes, f104, pencil [1:739-40]

#### **f104**

Meals - The rule for luncheon & dinner - is: to give  
*2 a whole hours at least to each* - not for continuous eating but for  
that function & digestion, before resuming the business  
of life This ought ~~really~~/certainly to be adhered to

An amusing book interesting enough to prevent the  
thoughts from scraping about but not enough to excite the  
labour of thought may be taken - &/or conversation  
~~answers~~ answering to this - or after lunch a little  
easy walk.

but never hurry over the meal in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour -

All young meat, such as veal, is difficult of digestion Veal shd be prohibited

Eg Fish, game, poultry, mutton, were the articles put  
down for his dietary

Stewed fruit is desirable 3 or 4 times a week, but probably

#### **f105**

better with luncheon than with dinner. Fruit is gold in  
the morning, silver in the afternoon & lead at night is a proverb  
But the main thing is to roll the food well about in the mouth  
till it excites the saliva, & ~~then is~~/so becomes a pulp well incorporated with  
~~the~~ saliva before it is swallowed - And NEVER to drink with food in the mouth  
~~which the main/great good of toast~~

Toast or a crust of bread is indispensable whether at  
breakfast or dinner or lunch, as *that must*

be ~~chewed~~ ground with the teeth & chewed before being swallowed

It cannot be swallowed whole or nearly whole -

Avoid anything, including haste, that produces flatulence

I record with indignation that a ~~plateful~~ of jelly which is good  
merely to take a little of when there is a bad taste in the mouth

~~is~~/was bolted by Mr. Jowett, standing up, in a plateful after a dinner of  
fish - of course producing flatulence & sleeplessness

**f105v**

Supplementary  
Instruction or for you to give Mr. Jowett -  
Information

Much/Much better on the whole especially as to sleep thanks to some carefulness  
but too much inclined to presume on finding himself a little  
stronger than he was & to over tax himself,

especially as these are the two heaviest weeks in  
the year in consequence of the fishing for men -

He must not wait for signs of fatigue to appear  
for when such signs appear the mischief is already done -

He works too late -

He hurries his meals too much -

He does not take exercise enough -  
yet he pays little

Attention to cold

**f106**

I say again : it matters very little what I think,  
It matters very much what Nature thinks - Nature sends  
in her Bill without asking whether you could not help  
it or no. And that is a Bill which always has to be paid.

This is a supplementary Instruction merely  
to what has already been written

**f107**

Exercise - It is very undesirable for Mr. Jowett

to fatigue himself with walking - But ½ an hour a

day cannot be considered enough fresh air - It is

besides so very tiring to the brain to have always the

same surroundings all day & all night - no break - no looking about. Take to driving -

One drive cannot be supposed to supply air enough for

6 weeks -

I hope Mr. Jowett takes care of his cough -

~~& also record with indignation that he~~/Disapproval must be felt for his having heralded in  
his fortnight's fishing with coming to London on  
an early cold morning -

ff108-9v, Rushett, Faversham, November 7, 1887 from Mrs. John Howard to F.N. wishing to adopt a  
Persian cat



signed letter draft, ff110-1, pencil

**f110**

10 South St. Park Lane W.  
Nov 18/87

Dear Madam

First, let me thank you many  
times for your very kind note  
about Persian cats, & next let me ask  
many, many pardons for not  
having answered before, seeing  
I was unable to accept the  
*most* tempting invitation to send  
a kitten by your cook from Upper  
Berkeley St on the day you named,  
as I should so have wished  
By some mistake your note of the 7th arrived only a  
few hours before the 10th when your cook was to join you.

My only "he" is not a kitten  
but grown up, & is 'boarding out'  
in the country! I would have

**f110v**

~~had~~/sent for him back tho' it could not have been in time to go by  
your cook to you; but I  
~~reflected that he was/is~~ I fear too ~~old~~/much grown up  
to be a ~~good~~/nice companion  
for your children in the  
"School-room" or Nursery -  
My mouth waters at such a good  
home for a cat as yours - But I must  
be the more conscientious - I  
cannot conscientiously say that  
any cat I have now is a  
kitten - the more's the pity -

But if you will allow me,  
I will claim the privilege when  
I have ~~one~~/a kitten of asking you

**f111**

whether you would like it -

Pray excuse pencil - Possibly  
Miss Irby may have told you  
that I am always under the  
stress of work & illness -

And pray believe me  
yours very faithfully  
Florence Nightingale  
Mrs. John Howard

I will preserve your very  
kind note as a Memo  
that you are a lover of Persian  
kittens for your children -  
& would make a 'pet' of one -  
F.N.

unsigned notes, ff112-4, pencil

**f112**

Nov 20,21/87 6.a.m.

~~{illeg}~~ The Lord = You are a broken vessel which can hold  
no water -

~~{illeg}~~ "Come in, Lord Jesus, come into my heart now

There is no heart which I *can* come into - There is  
nothing that I can enter into. *The heart is a sheet of  
paper - How can I enter in there? a sheet of written  
paper*, on which you write to others your grievances  
& complaints & criticisms of others -

"O then Lord let me into Thy kingdom

He says,

Enter in.

Over

**f113**

O then Lord

“I thirst, I faint, I die to prove  
The greatness of redeeming love  
The love of Christ to me”

O Lord, *prove* it - prove it Thy own way -  
God only knows the love of God -

If Thou canst not enter into me, O give me a  
place, let me enter into Thy kingdom  
He will not refuse -

But I have no wedding garment  
Save me & cleanse me  
Save me & cleanse me  
Wash all my sins away

Nov 21/87

He dragged me in at the door, into His kingdom  
He knew he was the only One who could

cholera

**f113v**

Thursday Nov 17/87

Mr Cunningham: Letter to Lord Dufferin - They Could not find  
the Times (Galton) Cholera  
Lizzie: indifferent  
was I as bad?

Nov 21/87 The letter to Ld Dufferin - not yet written  
O did I think what Cholera meant? Or was I merely  
thinking of writing a good letter?

Fire/Messenger

Punctuality

Cooking

Not what I am, O Lord , but what Thou art.

Not for my comfort but for Thy glory /love  
Pray for

Nov 23/87      2-6 a.m. over night Miss Spencer, Miss Pringle  
Lord have we/I not done many wonderful works in Thy name?  
I know you not; depart from me, ye wicked [I did it all for my  
own satisfaction,  
intense impression                          success  
or for sympathy]

{f1 15 is blank}

**f1 15v**

“Bismark, “I remember at 14 thinking prayer needless,  
“for it struck me then that God knew better than I -  
“I think much the same now, except that the  
“usefulness of prayer is in that it implies submission  
“to a stronger power. I am convinced of that Power.  
“which is neither arbitrary not capricious”  
“Of a future life I do not doubt, the present is too sad  
& incomplete to answer to our highest selves, it is  
evidently a struggle - then why in vain if it is to end  
here; ultimate perfection I believe in”

Bismarck "If Europe knew without doubt that England, Germany & Italy were firm allies, Peace would be certain."

Richmond : Friedrich's ruh - "There is nothing artificial here - solid grandeur, *simple dignified daily work & interest* make the atmosphere most agreeable to me"

His *Serene* Highness  
Prince Bismark  
Friedrich's ruh -

**f117**

-2-

Bismark's remarks - of Nov 29/87  
And is this all? Can Reason/Bismark do no more ?

Is "prayer" only *asking* for what certainly  
God knows much "better than I" ~~about~~ how to  
give?

Even the R. Catholic mystics knew more than  
this 3 centuries ago -

They said prayer is not to ask of God  
what we want but to ask of Him what He  
wants of us

And quite lately a Protestant has said:

**f117v**

The child must have a poor opinion of a  
Father's love who only communicates  
with his Father when he wants to get  
something out of him

Surely The "usefulness of prayer" is not because  
it "implies submission" to Power - even  
un="arbitrary" power - but because it  
puts us into union with the interests,  
the life, the love of Almighty Goodness  
& Wisdom -

**f118**

Is not this a want of thought  
in Bismark?

while the remark on a "future life" is  
capital

We have criticized very much Christ saying:

If ye shall ask the Father anything in my  
name, He will do it -

But what is "in my name" ? Does He not  
speak with the exactest meaning?

"In my name" means ~~with~~ in union with 'my'  
interests, 'my' love, 'my' life - And these, He tells

us Himself, were always in union with the Father's - Is it not therefore certain that the Father will act/do as Christ says?

Mrs. Scharlieb                      Nov 29/87                      [10: some notes in]

## Lady for Ahmedabad

servants                      food 50r a m

free passage out

remaining languages if required to visit  
5 years conveyance to the Patients

have it  
drawn up

Mahometans of course will have only women/women  
but then they ~~do~~ won't take English medicine  
only Greek

Miss Scott      Matron Madras  
R. Victoria Hospl ?  
Miss Stewart   Bombay Matron

## Barnes Art & Science of Midwifery

Lady Drs

{f120 is blank}

**f120v**

No of abnormal Midwy cases inert uterus bad hæmorrhage  
1 in 10

Miss Pechey - not more than in England

Time for Midwife's training

Miss Pechey: 3 mo 1 year

Dr. Branfoot

Madras

then what does she do with abnormal  
cases?

any Statistics of abnormal cases at

English Lying- in Hospls?

in India?

Lady Grant Duff {the following notes are written on the side}

BP Supt for each Presy

European = Lady Doctor

Lady Doctor for each large

town or group of towns

natives

or Eurasians are being trained

to order

3 Decens ought to train the Dhais

not examine

them {written on the other side}

Miss Cock

Miss Buss {written at the bottom}

Miss Pringle

any Nurses to

out=door Obstetric

cases

unsigned letter draft, ff121-22v, pencil

**f121**

Dr Cunningham            Dec 1/87

Bangalee

plains people    no observation

can't tell you what they see

splendid memories

book learning

Medical students can't tell you what  
they

will look at a photograph upside down  
can't trace his journey on a map

sitting on bamboo bridge over open drains

no public spirit

**f122v**

Bhooteas: hill people: Turanian

powers of observation

deputation

photographs

maps

Eastern - no sense of individuality

Absorption

does not care to die/live - gives himself

up to die, without much the matter

with him - race : realism

Nirvana

Kismet: fate

does not signify what you do

local deities



Add Mss 41977D

57

incomplete letter, ff123-3v, pencil

**[12:398]**

**f123**

Dec 13/87

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

Dear Madam

Mr. Richmond wrote me a  
most kind note about your  
charming daughter of 19  
some time ago - telling me  
about her great wish to learn  
Hospital Nursing & asking  
me to see her -

I seemed so ungrateful to  
him; but it was not so - I  
answered as soon as I could,  
& wrote to him submitting  
the very strong reasons there  
are, moral & physical, against  
so young a lady being introduced

**f123v**

to Hospital life even for a time  
too early - & offering to see  
her, when I could.

I am most anxious to  
make her

**[end 12:398]**

hand printed note, f124, pencil

**f124** {archivist: [1887]}

Thanks for letter & question  
Jubilee is to jubilate over  
fifty years progress in education  
civilization/2 and purity/1 under good  
Sovereign. this cannot be jubliated  
over in public houses. Pray  
suggest way out of it -  
Nightingale

f125, index note, pen

initialled undated letter draft, ff126-29v, pencil [1887]

[13:481-82]

**f126**

Signora Elena Comparetti  
Calle del Ridotto

Madam Venezia

Accept my earnest apologies for not having answered your letter sooner. My strongest sympathy is with you, with Italy, with this first attempt at Padua to form an Italian Nursing School.

I have been making enquiries in order to be able to answer your questions rather more worthily

1. as to books to translate which you wish/might be useful  
to translate for Nursing purposes

I send a copy of my Notes on Nursing as you kindly desire. But it was translated some 25 years ago by Sabilla Novello with my But it is however so long ago that I believe I might again grant leave to translate it if you wish it

{written along the side}

in the special conditions of the Hospl question in Italy where you see all has to be done.

**f126v**

I also send a copy of my some "Suggestions" which perhaps might be of some use to you for translation. I have drawn the pen thro' the ~~second~~ part relating to District Nursing in order not to confuse the two subjects.

It has also been suggested to me to send you my Articles in ~~Qua~~ out of Quain's Dictionary which I do - & another little pamphlet

Also a book on Nursing by Miss Wood's Handbook of Nursing

This is all I have to suggest at present in answer to your kind question.

**f127**

2 next as to sending ~~a person~~/an Italian  
to be trained in some English or Swiss  
Institution

This is the difficulty, as you say  
You ask about Switzerland

We have made particular Berlin  
enquiries as to Nurse Training  
there. but can find nothing  
organized to answer your  
purpose - a few lectures,  
that is all. In fact they send  
their Nurses to be trained here

I should/might I suggest that it  
would be of advantage to send  
some intelligent lady who  
understands English well to pay  
a visit to London & she might  
learn more in a few weeks of the  
system than in any other way.

**f127v**

& might satisfy herself as to how  
far it would be possible for a  
Roman Catholic to submit to the  
routine of Hospital training here.

There are London Hospitals  
which admit Roman Catholics,  
for training, but scarcely as a  
part of the regular organization.  
Besides as you say it would  
not do to clash with the ideas  
of the public in Italy.

St. Thomas' Hospital in London  
is, as you possibly may know,  
our own Training School for Nurses -  
And we have from time to time sent from there  
Matrons to Dublin & Belfast  
in Ireland to take charge of  
Training Schools - I have even

**f128**

-2-

written to the most considerable  
of these to know whether they  
would take in an Italian  
as a 'Probationer' - They certainly  
would. Still I/it could not/scarcely  
~~be recommended~~ it. There ~~are~~/is no  
~~few coun~~ country belonging to  
England where division &  
party spirit in religion runs  
higher.

As to the Male Nurses: spoken of almost as if they were on a par with Female Nurses,

So far as our practice goes  
we do not as a rule employ  
male nurses in General Hospitals  
It is very probable that men  
nurses may be usefully  
employed in Italian Hospitals  
where the habits are so different

**f128v**

But we have not the experience  
here to guide them, beyond  
what may be drawn from  
female Nursing & Military Hospitals  
And the latter does not go for  
much

**f129**

Your letter, ~~has~~ I am ashamed  
to think dated how long ago.  
did not reach me at once -  
I am always under the severe  
pressure of overwork & illness  
Then I had to make enquiries -  
This is only to excuse to your  
kindness my unwilling delay  
I trust I am not too late to be  
of use -

May the proposed Institution  
at Padua, may Italy make  
the astonishing steps in  
Nurse training that she has

done in everything else. But  
let her be 'slow & sure' -

You have my best wishes for  
your success

How Padua & Venice live in

**f129v**

my memory - as the perfection  
of beauty - May they be as  
useful as they are lovely  
is the warmest wish  
of your ever faithful servant

F.N.

I should be so glad to hear  
from you if you will  
kindly tell me what steps  
you are taking.

**[end 13:482]**

unsigned notes, ff130-32v, pencil [8:507]

**f130** {archivist: [1886-1887?]}

*Despatch* -1-

In 20 Cantonments where Contagious Diseases Acts, over the supervision of prostitutes was in force still, ratio of Admissions *rose* in 1885 (from the last {illeg decade?})

& in one of these Bareilly rose to 527 in 1885

more than half the entire garrison in the course of the year

men ~~wi~~ once affected with the more serious diseases

~~are~~ have to be invalided within 3 years

But (he argues) it's because Act not *Sufficiently* put in force

while in Calcutta where Act is suspended

it's because it *is* suspended

31 per 1000

of population

treated for Venereal

within Calcutta Hospls

in 1885 - only 7

in 1873

{f131 is blank}

**f131v**

Fault of water supply

in Hill Stations

the too high mortality

Abnormal sickness & mortality

in Qualton

Enteric & all Fevers

appear to be increasing

a third of entire mortality

of Army in India due to

Fevers

"A young Army involves, as one

of its conditions of service, the most

rigid attention to every Sanitary

requirement"

Runchorelal

Chotalal

Pres

Ahmedabad

**f132**

*Despatch* -2- if the mortality might by sanitation  
be reduced by 10 only in the 1000  
of 2 ½ millions preventible Deaths annual to late  
50 “ ” severe sickness/disease  
working power of the community seriously impaired by disease

fever mortality of India within the last few years  
represents fever attacks several times over the entire  
population

of registered Deaths for 1885 78 p.c. due to preventible disease  
38 millions Deaths  
in the last 10 years

{f133 is blank}

**f133v**

villages 19? rural areas

one Sany Engineer  
don't exclude 2 or 3 Ld D has prevented  
3 or 4 Par 20 doubling up of  
most excellent San Comm  
San Comm

After 25  
go into action  
for rural areas  
see end of 27

**26 ? 1879**

Make where general pop begins  
more prominent

**p.12 Para 13**

{f134 is blank}

unsigned notes, f134v-5, pencil

**f134** {archivist: [1891?]} [1893]

Dear Lady N,

What can be said to such a parting as  
yours from dear blessed Lothian but that it  
cannot be believed that such love can be broken  
off all suddenly as it were. Rather may we not  
think of it as more intense than ever & that  
he is begging & praying of you not to allow grief  
to turn your love to loneliness - praying you  
to be still happy/blessed in his love - & his children too  
~~God bless~~ He sends you these roses - God bless & support  
you all

**f135**

Roses in Lothian's dear name  
to his wife

initialled note, f136, pencil

**f136**

Aug 17

{archivist: [1890-1893?]} [1893]

Dear Mr. Morey

Sir Harry did look so  
cold. (for the Funeral)

Has he warm under-clothing  
on? or will he wear a  
cloak? No one

but you could persuade him

The day is not warm

F.N.



unsigned notes, ff137-8v, pencil

### f138

Muff - a Persian tom cat ~~about between 3 &~~ under 4 months old  
 has been brought up for cleanliness with a pan - with  
 an inch or two of fine dry sand in it - emptied every night  
 & morning a clean pan put into the room where he sleeps  
 in at night - & a clean one ready for him in the morning  
 But he could of course be brought up to other ways Only he must not be  
 He is always brought in at night & shut up in a  
 room not too cold (where he cannot throw down any  
 thing) for the night as these cats suffer from cold  
 punished if he is dirty till he gets accustomed to the new ways  
 He is a remarkably clean cat - has never made a mistake  
 in fact  
 He is so affectionate that he needs to be petted & caressed  
 & talked to. And he will require it amply Mufti has  
 been to me a great pet

### f138v

He requires to go out in the garden ~~{illeg}~~  
 & if not to have fresh grass brought him in the house  
 No cats are healthy without grass -  
 He will be happier if/when shut up if with a she cat  
~~He has never~~ But two Tom cats are impossible  
~~His meals~~ He has been fed as follows  
 Breakfast 8 a m      milk      bread & milk  
 Luncheon      11      sometimes a little sop of bread  
                          in beef tea or broth  
                          but this not necessary  
 Dinner      2      meat chopped up ~~small~~ with  
                          remains of cauliflower or asparagus  
                          or potato or carrot  
                          or chicken bones  
                          or remains of fish

**f137** {archivist: [n.d.]}

Tea        5                milk

Supper        8                same as dinner  
                  but too much meat not good for these  
                  cats -  
                  no sauce or seasoned food or dressed fish  
                  or meat pie food ever

Bed        10                milk left on floor for him  
                  & perhaps a little supper

Always fresh water in some vessel he can't upset  
 put on floor for him at night : & indeed in the day  
 where he can get at it in the ~~house~~ room he is most  
 often in -

**f137v**

He always eats ~~on~~/from a plate or saucer on the floor (with a  
 little cloth (a newspaper) under it like a gentleman  
 most sociable animal I ever had  
 a little combing & brushing now & then  
 improves ~~their~~/his coat very much  
 He has once or twice had something like a fit, rushing about  
 & then hiding himself - But if taken on the knee or  
 laid on something & covered up ~~quiet~~, head & all, in the  
 dark & {illeg} has always recovered directly

Add Mss 41977D

67

Add Mss 56105F f15 two FN letters, presented 11 April 1970 by beneficiaries of estate of Mrs E. White

f19 letter, folded, with name on back pencil

Oct 26

Dear Emily Would you kindly see that Mrs. Verney's *temperature* is taken to night, & indeed every night? Dr De'Ath is not afraid of feverishness, but he would like to know to-morrow what her temperature was to-night.

yours

F. Nightingale

f23 envelope

**f19v**

Mrs. Emily France

**f21** pencil letter and envelope

Saturday

Dear Emily

The Inhaler & Friar's Balsam & directions were to come from Dr. De'ath tonight (for Mrs Verney to use to-night if she coughed) to Verney Junction-

But you have an inhaler - could you get some Friar's Balsam from Mr. Morey or Mrs. Broadhurst?

yours

F. Nightingale

Add Mss 41977D

68

Add Mss 59786, unbound materials, miscellaneous notes, drafts and letters, Adam Matthew reel 86

f1 ISC printed "Letter from Miss Nightingale"

f2 Table showing the rates of deaths per 1000 living at different ages. Note in FN hand: To be returned to F.N.

f3 Lord Herbert diagram, with FN corrections

f4 FN note: Cost of Regimental Surgeons for 1864/65  
(not to be had for 1854/54)  
excluded from the Estimates

Regimental surgeons 142 at 15/a day	£38,872.10
“ Asst Surgeons 176 at 10/ a day	32,120
Additional Pay for Ditto	14,920

	<hr/>
	85,954.10
Forage for Surgeons	4,751.1.8

	<hr/>
	90.735.11.8

Numbers of men  
119,000 1853/4  
146,000 1864/5

**f6** diagram representing the relative annual mortality ... printed, with FN corrections, used for comparison before and since Lord Herbert's admin, pastes in several years of data

**f8** letter from W Farr to FN 17 Jan 1866 ff8-9, embossed General Register Office embossed stationery with note on method of determining prison mortality for Dr S., she to look through and a note from Quetelet. I enclose a note on the method of determining prison mortality for Dr Sutherland who will perhaps look through it and tell me to whom I am to address it.

You will perhaps like to glance through the enclosed note from Quetelet as he refers in it to a letter I wrote long ago mentioning the loss of the dear friend we all deplore,

You may perhaps recollect that you had the goodness to right [yes!!] to Lord Palmerston-who chiefly at your instance Lord Shaftesbury said put down Dr Thomson's widow's or children name for a pension from the civil list. Lord S told me that it would count from last year--so that the poor woman will be disappointed as well as deprived of pension if Lord John does nothing.

....P.S. Some of our best men have been helping the cattle plague problem I have thus left in with rough handy. Would that any good would come of it But I put no trust in illeg.  
and re Palmerston.

f8v

You may perhaps recollect that you had the goodness tonight to Lord Palmerston, who chiefly at your instance Lord Shaftesbury said put down Dr Thomson's widow's or children's names for a pension from the Civil List. Lord S. Told me that it would count from last year, so that the poor woman will be ....

PS re cattle plague

**f10** black-edged paper letter from Quetelet to W Farr in French 14 Janv 1866 re English stats and international stats. When you think of going to Florence ..my health, re Dr Berg. I thank you for *English Life Tables* 59786 f10.

f12 W Farr embossed GRO letter to FN encloses paper on jail mortality Jany 18 1866

f14 Jan 19 1866 Farr to FN thanks for her letter, India report, hare and pheasants, embossed Gen Reg

f15 March 14 1866 W Farr letter to FN re her forms, embossed Gen Reg. We have *one* copy of your forms. You *cannot* give that away--but may lend it. It will serve as a model to be copied in either illeg or print by hosp governors. I have had a note from Dr S who I am glad to see is returned from Algeria.

I have looked over "Statistique centrale de prisons." They calculate the mortality at so much percent per annum, on the mean prison population. There is nothing in their sanitary forms

f16 letter from Robt Hamilton, Southern Hosp, Liverpool to J Sutherland re adopting Classification of Diseases rec by FN, asks for forms, FN: to the returned to F.N. Jan 18 1866

We are desirous of adopting at this hospital the classification of diseases recommended by Miss Nightingale and for that purpose require the forms which she sent round a few months ago (we have mislaid ours) not knowing where to address her, I trouble you on the subject, perhaps you would kindly put me in the way of obtaining them. Yours obediently Robert Hamilton. Jan 16 1866

f17 note JS hand re classif of diseases

f18 letter Jan 30 1866 from Robt Hamilton, 1 Prince's Rd, Liverpool to FN thanks for her letter recd today (missing) and forms. I have referred to your work on hospitals and one of the forms there given for the registering of hosp cases are adopted at our medical board last Saturday. FN note: To be returned to F.N.

f19 Feb 22 1866 W Farr letter to FN, re cattle panic, fruitless slaughter, asks for a line to say she is, hope better, embossed Gen Reg. I shd be glad when convenient to have one line to say how you are...We have been saying a word or two about he cattle panic and fruitless slaughter. I wrote a letter in the Daily News wh you did not see and with which you wd not entirely agree. The panic wd not have sprung up if we had known more about the matter and the cattle had been insured on a plan I sent G. wh he gave to Childers of the Treasury, where it was kept until the evil was done. He proposed to take the "premium" 5d per head of cattle and to pay anything in return unless the beast was slaughtered by order of inspector.

f20 March 16 1866 W Farr letter to FN re French prison returns, asks if cd not take list of diseases for her book, with annexed instructions, to accompany form, embossed Gen Reg. Cd not they take their list of diseases from your book with the annexed illeg/ Something like the accompanying *form* of sheet would do.

If you will return anything you wish sent (unpaid post) we will forward the same from here.

I have looked through the French prison returns. Our form containing all that they give and a good deal more. Mortality frightful!

f20v FN note pencil on back of Farr letter.

Walker has sent exactly what you asked  
for - & you make me ask Ellis for it  
And Ellis (as usual) has *not* done it  
& Walker *has*.

I beg your pardon-

Ellis told us of this in this house.

You said: Walker, who was the Secretary  
to that, would not have sent you the  
M.S. (which you made me send to Lord  
Stanley) if it had not been necessary.  
What Ellis says (you said) does not  
alter the question- And you made  
me ask both Walker & Ellis for that

then why did you make  
me write for that  
*after* Ellis

Write in pencil for me to  
write.

This pencil lead is  
*much* better than mine.  
I am so very poorly.

f22 Robt. Hamilton letter to FN re hosp forms 21 May 1866, thanks her for several forms and papers she kindly sent.

"Carrying out the suggestions contained in your letter we shall be able with these papers to arrange a classification of cases as complete as we require.

We hope also that the arrangement will be in conformity with that adopted in several large Hospitals and so be available in a Statistical point of view." thanks esp for Bart Hosp report, a useful guide as Southern essentially an accident hosp

f24 March 28 1866 W. Farr letter to FN re Pall Mall attack of mgt of Fund, embossed Gen Reg. You have probably seen in the Pall Mall an attack on the mgt of your Fund, not emanating from St Thomas. I have a man here who wishes to write an article on the subject, if you think it wd be of any use. He has written to H.B. Carter and do not take the trouble to write unless you have anything.

f25 Robt. Hamilton, 1 Prince's Road, Liverpool letter to FN re her letter of 24th (missing) and the two tables for operations reg. "We shall adopt them at the hospital and have sufficient particulars of the operations since January to be able to do so for this year." March 28 1866

I have to ack your note of the 24th and the two tables for ops (reg). We shall adopt them at the hosp and have sufficient particulars of the ops since Jan to be able to do so for this year.

With many thanks for the great assistance you have afforded us in improving our registers.

f27 Aug 2 1866 embossed Gen Reg W Farr letter to FN re outbreak of cholera in East London, alas that we have no such organization as you would have produced. The case against the water is very strong. We are going to publish daily returns.

You will see that we have had a terrible outbreak of cholera in East London. Alas that we have no such organization as you cd have produced. The case against the water is very strong. We are going to publish daily returns.

f29 Sep 14 1866 embossed Gen Reg W Farr letter to FN re cholera down in London. "You will be glad to see that we have got cholera down in London. It ought not to have broken out. The Manchester Social Sc meeting is to come off Oct 3 -10th. Have any of your colleagues time to give any account of the results of your labors in India?

f30 Oct 17 1866 embossed Gen Reg W Farr

"I notice that your letters are post dated Romsey. To save time shall I send the inf *which I wish you to see* direct to Romsey?

F31v FN pencil note on back:

What the demand of the demander is has to be considered (in any question of progress) as much as the means of obtaining the supply.

In all questions of reform, you have to create the demand as well as the supply.

Hospital Governors & Doctors are such fools that, were there 200 ~~places~~ matronships at £150 a year to be given away--the most helpless brother's & cousin's widows would certainly have them.

f32 Nov 17 1866 embossed Gen Reg W Farr letter to FN. I enclose "article" as per order of today and I trust that it will answer your purpose.

with pencil note of JS on back

Dr Farr, In order to help on with the sanitary work here please send me the diseases, esp the zymotic ones which make up the Romsey death rate

f34 Farr letter to FN embossed Gen Reg Nov 29 1866

I enclose the calculated mortality for various diseases, and am ever your faithful servant

f36 embossed GRO Nov 29 1866

"I do remember the card, and when I get a copy of the proposed figures, which I am promised, will not forget to send it on to you.

Did you see in the Times of Tuesday a notice of the frightful amount of sickness in the 23rd at Juffulpore. I fear that there has been some juggling *more* than real work on some of the depts, or why is this regiment suffered to remain in such circumstances in such a station. I forbear from suggesting a note of interrogation, lest you shd consider yourself answerable for all that is left undone in India.

Thank God--cholera is down and I think that we shall now keep it down.

I know your fidelity to Lord Palmerston of old--and cannot help suspecting from paragraphs I see in the papers that some conspiracy is hatching, or being hatched. I do not know which, in the Island of illeg which Dr Mapleton has celebrated (vide polytheism). The spirit of good appears to be as restless in some people as the spirit of evil in others! There is a reflection!

Dr Mouat has referred his reports on Indian prisons to me, and I am going to look through them at his request...PS Wd you like to be troubled by the weekly at Embley?

f38 Dec 18 1866 embossed. Wm Farr to FN Will you take the trouble to glance over ... Mr Constance; JS draft reply. Dear Dr Farr, Your note about Mr Constance "in 'Middlebury' is not the first card of the kind that has come to me, but you have only put your man up for secretary, while the elections are not in secrecy and general superintendent, an officer of a very different character. I have always refused in a heavily backed application that the sup for hospital must not only be a competent man, but must have had training and that in my position should do to recommend any ....

f41 Dec 31 1866 Farr to FN embossed Gen Reg

A happy new year to you! Happy as it can only possibly be made by consciousness of high beneficent life.

I enclose the proof of P Stat wh I wish you to see before I send my answer.

In re Constance, you did quite right not to stir w/o personal knowledge of the candidates' qualifications. You know that I think well of him as a man and he has plenty of the right sort of courage, but he has not been tried in the office of supt any more than his rival Watson.

His prospects he tells me are good.

Sutherland promises me something good about cholera, resulting from his Gibraltar investigations. The Mediterranean medicine was never more imbecile [?] than it is in the present day, if we may judge from its display in Constantinople the other day. The Foreign Office refuses to send the Reg Gen a copy of their report.

JS note

f43 Husson to FN 11 Oct 1866 from Assistance publ. In London visit was at King's College Hosp, midwifery. Lors do mon dernier voyage a Londres j'ai visite a KCH, le service d'accouchement qui a



ete fonde par votre generosite et comme je vais publier bientot une statistique tres etendue de la mortalite des femmes en couches, en Europe, je ne voulais omettre ce service, ainsi Je susite illeg pour que le Dr Priestley ou les administrateurs de l'hop voulent bien me remettre la staistique des services illeg de l'hop pour les accouchements. Je tenai d' illeg plus a en parler que l' illeg d'un *service interieur* de ce genre illeg singlante ..les hopitaux illeg de Londres illeg de Dr Priestley les chiffres que je desirais mais qui les reporter au questionnaire qu illeg avai remi, et je .....

Dans la reponse a mon questionnaire qui s'applique a la nature illeg:  
Le service d'accouchement de l'hospital de King's College est une. charitable attachee a illeg . Il a ete fonde -- ..[long quote]  
Et plus loin: "Les cas ordinaires ...sages-femmes....  
Il semble d'abord qu'il a ..

Y a til des eleves sage femmes? Sans elles a l'interieur  
[seems like Husson asking FN to get data for him Priestley would not provide]

f45 Nov 21 1866 embossed Gen Reg W Farr letter to FN, encloses calculations on mortality from various diseases  
with a pencil note of JS on back

Here are true vital statistics which  
appear to indicate a generally depressed  
state of health and liability  
to epidemics if they are about  
Could you prepare a sanitary  
sketch of the state of the town  
illeg drainage, water, cesspits  
crowding, paving, cleansing, the  
conditions of the houses &c  
We want facts before  
we can answer at a illeg  
opinion as to what  
should be done.

f43 11 oct 1866 Assistance publique Paris A. Husson letter to FN, "Miss" in French 59786 f43, on last trip to London visited King's College Hosp, midwifery (le service d'accouchement), founded by your quixotité. as I am going to publish bientôt stats very widely extended of mortality of women in childbirth in Europe I wish ...visited Dr Priestley and the administrators of the hosp, re stats of service... re assistance of an interior service  
[this is a long, detailed letter, with questions] quotes reply to his questions, asks if there are student sages-femmes, asks if a school [seems does not know that the school/ward to be closed], also re workhouse

Je viens seulement de recevoir du Dr Priestley les chiffres que j' désirais, ainsi sur les réponses au questionnaire que je suis avais remi, illeg je vois des remerciements à ce jeune médecin qui m'a paru très capable et très sympathique.

Dans la réponse à mon questionnaire qui s'applique à la nature du service on dit:  
Le service d'accouchement de l'hôpital de King's Collège est une fondation charitable attachée à l'école médicale de King's Collège, Il a été fondé au moyen d'une parti des fonds illeg en l'honneur de Miss Nightingale, après la guerre de Crimée, et dans l'intention de former des sages-femmes pour la province. Mais tous les cas difficiles sont admis à l'intérieur our servir de ces cliniques our l'instruction des étudiants." et plus loin:  
Les cas ordinaires .... [nothing on mortality  
Les cas ordinaires....on his last visit tried to present his hommages...

f46 memo to FN from Arrowsmith Bristol, at request of Miss A. Manning [?] sends revise for Indian journal

f47 printed form of Association for promoting Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmarys and Sick Asylums, pres HRH Princess Mary Adelaide, duchess of Teck; gen com: Acland, Surgeon General Bostock, Bowman, Countess Brownlow, Rev H de Bunsen, Lady Edward Cavendish, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Rev Dacre Craven, Countess of Ducie, Lady Camilla Fortescue, Miss Fortescue, Mrs Fox, Mrs Henry Grenvfell, Mrs Russell Gurney, Hon Mrs Vaughan Johnson, duchess of Leeds, Hon

Mrs Loyd Lindsay, Mrs Frederick Paget, Mrs C Whitworth Russell, marchioness of Salisbury, Mrs Hugh Seymour, Dr Sieveking, Rev Canon Spence, Lady Sarah Spencer, dowager Lady Stanley of Alderley, Lady Jane Taylor, Dr E Symes Thompson, Rev W.T. Thornhill Webber, working committee incl Constance marchioness of Lothian. Then printed statement, re training workhouse nurses. Council of Nightingale Fund, ex Highgate.... "This paper was read at meeting of house of Constance, marchioness of Lothian, 10 Hyde Park PI 25 July 1879

Friday July 9. probably 1880

f51 printed form Assoc for promoting Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmarys and Sick Asylums, pres Princess Mary Adelaide, duchess of Teck, first Annual meeting, 9 July [1880] Kent House Knightsbridge, by permission of Louisa, Lady Ashburton, resolution proposed:

1. That as the Workhouse test is now being advantageously extended, it is desirable that the Workhouse Infirmarys shd be in all respects fitted to receive sick inmates and that a sufficient staff of trained nurses be employed to ensure their more efficient care and speed cure.
2. That as the working committee find great difficulty in obtaining properly trained nurses to meet the numerous applications they receive from boards of guardians, it is desirable that this association should train nurse probationers and therefore it is necessary to form a fund for this purpose.
3. That it is desirable to extend by all possible means the co-operation of private voluntary aid with the Poor Law machinery, in order to promote the objects of this Association.

f52 letter to FN 25 02 1881 C.E. Trevelyan letter to FN from embossed 8 Grosvenor Cres, re trained nursing for poor, with FN comments. FN und. Blue: Please return to F.N.

As I am sure you will not be indifferent to the undertaking wh has for its object to extend to the body of the people, of terms quite within their means and consistent with habits of independence and self respect, the adv of medical tr on the same satisfactory footing on wht is now enjoyed by the rich, I venture to ask your perusal of the accompanying papers. The duke of Westminster and Mr Jones Lloyd have each taken 500 shares in the subsidiary financial company and the duke expressed a wish that a nursing assoc shd be engrafted on the undertaking, to which I replied that he wd see from the 9th Rule at page 15 that each dispensary will be a nursing venture in connection with any  
 ////////////local arrs there may be for this special object, for it was considered that the machinery wd work with more freedom [FN und and added ?] if every dispensary committee was left to make the best arrs they cd with nursing associations, parish nurses or whatever other available means there mt be, than if we confined ourself to the reg of a single nursing assoc.... also send printed letter bearing on the interest medical men in the matter

[on top, blue pencil]

Please return to F.N.

f53, "Is it "freedom" we want or efficiency?"

ff54-55 Nov 26 1881 Louisa Twining letter to FN re a conference on extension of work. Assoc for Promoting Training Nursing in Workhouse Infirmarys [printed stationery] Twining hon sec, patron Prss Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, pres Prss Mary Adelaide, duchess of Teck. FN und. I shd like to tell you about and enlist yr sympathy for a conference wh has for its object the extension of our work in wh I know we have yr kind interest and helpful advice...asks for "a few words of further encouragement wh can be read at the meeting " how welcome it will be

"I should like to tell you about, and enlist yr sympathy for, a Conference wh has for its object the

extension of our work, in wh I know we have yr kind interest and helpful advice, I dare say you think it long since we have shown any signs of life--as I am not aware of *any* notice of our annual meeting in May ever reached you. I left England immediately after for 3 months rest abroad and left all the work to others.

In the course of one year and half's experience, various *difficulties* [4 red und] as you may suppose have arisen and finding that they really *block our way for further progress* [red und] it was suggested that we should *boldly bring them before a conference of Guardians & influential person who have the power in their hands* [red unds]. This good suggestion of Lady Mary Scott's was adopted, and I am glad to say it can take place at the *new Marylebone Infirmary* [red und] wh I feel we can in most [Twining und] respects (not [ref und] *all* [Twining und]) hold up as a standard under Miss Vincent's excellent management. I am glad to say we have recommended 4 or 5 nurses to her from our Register.

I have written a paper on this conference wh no doubt will be printed and so bring the matter still further before the public. I doubt not we shall have a good attendance.

If you shd feel able and inclined to send us a few words of further encouragement wh can be read at the meeting I need not say how welcome it will be.

ff56-65 is report of that conf, with FN Report of a Conference held at the Board Room of the St Marylebone Infirmary to consider the question of Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaryes. Association for Promoting Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaryes. Conf 8 Dec 1881 20 pp. Has 1 page letter by FN, input into pub letters because charge of 12 for 1 page, letter read by L. Twining p 9

f57 printed form for 1st annual meeting of Friday July 9th [1879] check a Friday] to consider 3 resolutions:

1. That as the Workhouse test is now being advantageously extended, it is desirable that the Workhouse Infirmaryes should be in all respects fitted to receive sick inmates, and that a sufficient staff of Trained Nurses be employed, to ensure their more efficient care and speedy cure.
2. That as the Working Committee find great difficulty in obtaining properly trained Nurses to meet the numerous applications they receive from Boards of Guardians, it is desirable that this Association should train Nurse Probationers, and therefore it is necessary to form a fund for this purpose.
3. That it is desirable to extend by all possible means the co-operation of private and voluntary aid with the Poor Law machinery, in order to promote the objects of this Association.

Letter of FN read by Louisa Twining to the Conference held at the Board Room of the St Marylebone Infirmary to consider the question of Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaryes. London: Association for Promoting Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaryes. 59786 f56

f60 letter read by Louisa Twining at a meeting 8 December 1881

[6:478-79]

Miss L. Twining, Hon. Sec. of the Association for Promoting Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaryes [note phc3]

My dear Madam

Pray let me thank you for, and heartily rejoice at, the information which you so kindly give me respecting the proposed conference on the subject of trained nurses in workhouse infirmaryes.

I am sadly afraid that it is not possible to me to answer your appeal, as I should wish, to any good purpose. Your association and your efforts have--I need hardly say how much--my warmest and

deepest sympathy in the aim they have set before them, to introduce trained nursing into these immense homes for the sick poor. Much good will, I am sure, arise from your practical work in providing nurses, but yet more by your having induced inquiry and discussion on this vital and mortal subject (for it *is* a subject of life and death, of recovery to work or pauperism for life in many cases), and by the more living interest which you have thereby aroused on the part of many who have hitherto been ignorant both of the evils existing and the remedies required.

All of us who have the work at heart must be deeply and truly grateful to the Guardians of Marylebone for the enlightened example which they have set in the organization of the nursing staff of this noble infirmary (said by those of the Americans who had been all over the two worlds in search of the best model, who were at the International Medical Congress last August, to be the first in the world).

It is not merely that they have employed solely paid nurses, but that they have acted on the sound because common-sense principle--first, that a nurse's duties can only be learned by a thorough and systematic training, and can only be efficiently performed by good, trustworthy women, and secondly, that no staff of women can either be properly chosen or, when chosen, can properly be superintended, that is kept at the best standard of nursing, unless the head of the staff herself possesses the qualifications of a first-rate nurse in addition to the requisite administrative capacity.

Our great want now is a *training school* for infirmary nurses. Would that the Marylebone Board under its present most able administration could see their way to supplementing their good work by the addition to the infirmary of such a training school. Good speed to the work is the unceasing fervent wish of,

your and its ever faithful servant  
Florence Nightingale

f66 Apr 21 1885 James Paget letter to FN with St Bart's report, he used her name in the pamphlet. I shall send you today a pamphlet in which I have ventured to use your name. And in sending it I am ... printed pamphlet. St Bartholomew's Hospital and School Fifty Years Ago 31 pp. An address to the Abernethian Society. P 26 refs to nurses, sisters were good: The ordinary nurses were not so; the greater part of them were rough, dull, unobservant [27] and untaught women; of the best it cd only be said that they were kindly, and careful and attentive in doing what they were told to do." Nursing then and never had been the subject of careful study. Orders. "It was not till twenty years later, in the Crimean War, that Miss Nightingale showed what might be done in hospitals by highly cultivated, courageous and benevolent gentlewomen, and the noble example which she showed had, I think, more influence than anything else that can be told of in the production of the happy changes in the midst of which you work."

f84 July 5 1886 letter to FN from Octavia Hill, 14 Nottingham Pl, W. thanks for hers and for generous gift, sends "Letter to my Fellow-Workers" with accounts for 1884 and 1885 letters" 59786 f84, [date not perfectly clear] FN gave a "generous gift" to Octavia Hill for use on her "far flock." Letter 5 July 1886 to Nightingale from Octavia Hill, Add Mss 45786 f84. FN underlining. P7 has ref to need for poor to get away from smoke and see the sun setting in coloured glory wh abounds so in the earth God made, but of which so small a share remains visible to the inhabitants of our huge town. Thank you most sincerely for your generous gift, which was most welcome and for the letter which accompanied it. I shall be delighted to avail myself of the former for some of my *large* flock and the letter I shall always prize. Such words of enc from one worker to another are a *great* cheer, helping on the not always smooth path that lies before those who have anything to do wh is really worth doing.

I send with the greatest pleasure a few of my "Letters" which I suppose are what you have happened to see. If you referred to any other paper kindly let me know..

April 1859 FN sent her "mite" to the Neapolitans, after consulting Monckton Milnes.

f93 copy of FN letter to Fred Verney re Health at Home 17 Oct 1879, 59786 f93, original in 68887 f22

f95 Appendix B Memorandum from Indian committee of last International Congress of Hygiene and Demography. Signed by Douglas Galton (chairman of organizing com of ICH) George Birdwood, W.H. Corfield, W. Robt Cornish, W Guyer Hunter, W.J. Moore, Dadabhai Naoroji, G.V. Poore, W. Wederburn, Thomas Holbein Hendley, that the insanitary conditions of the rural villages in India is a very serious evil and that active measures are reqd to obviate the existing injury to public health, re funds raised and spent, only small portion spent on village san and water supply, removal of present san evils in the rural villages is the first necessity as regards these village, shd be a first charge on the cess raised in that village; "Until the minimum of sanitation is completed, until the cess of that particular village has been appropriated to this, while typhoidal or choleraic disease is still prevalent, it appears to the undersigned that the claims for any general purposes shd be postponed." good local communications are desirable, but second in importance to removal of insan conditions wh are undermining the health of the rural pop

f98 typed copy of FN letter to T.G. Clarke (dup) re Balaclava anniv

f103 note poss by Sutherland on Alex Soyer, was trained to be choir boy at Cathedral of Meaux, parents wanted him to be a priest. Born at Meaux in 1895...

Add Mss 41977D

79

Add Mss 61991 f58 FN partial letter, pen, Adam Matthew reel 86

I would like to see you  
for half an hour before  
the post goes out  
tomorrow, but not  
while Mr MacDonald  
is there. If you are not  
well enough, will you  
tell me, & I will come  
to you either this evening  
or tomorrow morning?

Florence Nightingale

**f69** FN note, pen

I have the very great  
pleasure of congratulating  
you upon your promotion-  
Mr Herbert says "Dr  
"McGrigor's promotion will  
"go out to him next week.  
"You had better however  
"not know it. As it will  
"be attributed to you, & there  
"will be jealousy and  
"dissatisfaction."

**[14:147]**

Pray therefore do not

**f69v**

mention this even to Mr  
Bracebridge.

It is the only pleasant  
news I had yesterday.

**[end 14:147]**

Florence Nightingale  
February 21/55

f100 pen on black-edged note paper

Combe Hurst  
Kingston-on-Thames  
Jany 22d [arch: 1866]

Sir

My niece Miss  
Nightingale has de-  
sired me to send her  
thanks for the Photograph  
you have been so  
kind as to send her.  
She regrets that she is un-  
able herself to

**f100v**

write from illness.  
I beg to remain, Sir  
your obedt Servt  
M. Smith



Add Mss 41977D

81

Add Mss 62711 1 fragment f29

10 South St.

Park Lane W.

Oct 1/79

with Florence Nightingale's  
thanks

Messrs Isbister

Add Mss 41977D

82

Add Mss 63520 ff24-25, 1 letter

July 17/67

35 South Street [printed address]

Park Lane

London, W.

*Confidential*

Dear Mr Rawlinson

Our Indian affairs are  
going on but ill.

But I have been asked  
by a government official  
in India whether a  
few good sanitary engineers  
who "know how to drain"  
& "can build" & are  
conversant with Sanitary  
works could be had  
out from here-

If there are such, I  
know of none but you  
who would point them

**f24v**

out.

Also - what kind of  
salary they would expect.

If you would be so  
very good as to inform  
me, I would transmit  
the information to India  
to my applicant.

At present, as I need  
scarcely perhaps mention,  
it is a mere private  
enquiry - & no formal  
application is meant  
to be conveyed through me.

ever yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale

**f25**

I enclose a little book by  
Mr Rathbone of Liverpool,  
which I think may  
interest you He has done  
a good deal in organizing  
the charities of Liverpool,  
& especially in Nursing  
(dividing Liverpool into  
districts to nurse the  
sick poor *at home*,  
the most efficient of all  
Nursing, & nursing  
the Workhouse infirmary,  
1272 beds, with our  
Nurses) to realize his  
own ideal, as I dare  
say you know.

**[13:721]**

**[end]**

F.N.

Add Mss 68882, microfilm, 204 folios, 107 pages, correspondence with Frederick W. and Maude Verney 1870-82; Adam Matthew reel 39; volumes 68882 to 68889 "Purchased at Sotheby's 27 September 1988, lot 207" available 1989

signed letter, ff1-2v, pen [8:880-01]

**f1**

35, South Street, May 1/70  
Park Lane, {printed address:}  
W.

Dear ideal maiden ("stella  
matutina", "ancilla Domini")  
I come praying that your ideal  
may be accomplished, in this  
world & another - through  
all difficulties, through all  
troubles - through all joys  
& hopes & fears & sorrows.  
I pray not that you may  
be delivered from these,  
tho' gladly, if only you might  
go free, I would lay down  
my life -) but only that  
they may bear you safe

**f1v**

to your ideal in both worlds  
- & to your ideal for him  
whose "star" you are to be -  
"Soyez comme l'oiseau, perché  
pour un instant  
Sur un rameau trop frêle  
Qui sent ployer la branche et  
qui chante pourtant  
Sachant qu'il a des ailes."  
May *your* Ideal always be  
winged!  
You will have pretty  
presents enough - darling of

**f2**

many hearts - But I,  
prosaic, sure that I can  
find nothing worthy to  
deck such a gem, &  
mindful too that,  
when you are an Ancient Briton,  
you may not have *a stool to sit on*,  
humbly & like Caliban,  
tender a 5 'fipun note' to  
procure 2 such articles  
for you & Mr. Fred to sit on.  
*Does he know anything about  
furnishing? This un-ideal  
question rather engages  
my anxious mind.*

**f2v**

Though that 'ancient Briton'  
Sheffield is a tough kernel  
to crack yet I have many  
dear recollections connected  
with it. & almost look  
on it as my native town -  
I rejoice to hear that you  
are going to Lea Hurst. It  
is of the most rustic, but, I  
think, one of the loveliest spots  
in England - tho' perhaps it  
is only the eye of my childhood  
that sees it so.

Will you thank Lady Sarah  
Williams for a very kind note  
for me - &, will God bless you,  
believe me, dear lady fair,  
ever your affecte old 'aunt'

Florence Nightingale  
Miss Maudie Williams

signed letter, ff3-4v, pen

**f3** {written in the top margin}

I should like to have known  
how "Mrs. Fred" likes the rough  
but sterling Sheffielders.

---

My dear "Mr. Fred"

I have not received much [6:544-45]  
information of very high value  
for you -

What I hear is that "the  
next thing" for you to do is  
to memorialize the Home  
Secretary stating the facts  
about the nuisance & the  
steps you have taken to  
stir the local authorities  
without effect -

But I understand that  
it is doubtful if the present  
law will reach the case.

A similar instance occurred  
not long ago, and "the Board"  
was made to work under

**f3v**

threat of a Mandamus.

But this is a private  
remedy.

"The thing" to do however  
I am told is for you "to  
memorialize - & tell the  
authorities".

If you are not much  
enlightened by this  
oracular answer, please  
try me again - I mean, if  
you wish to know the  
precise mode of "appealing  
to Head Quarters".

And pray, if any expence  
is incurred in the appeal,

**f4**

please remember that  
I consider myself a  
Sheffield woman & hope  
to be allowed to bear a  
share in the expence.

A rude map of Sheffield  
with the bearings of your  
habitat as regards the  
main spots I know so  
well - would oblige.

I scarcely ever regretted  
my disabilities so much  
as in not being able to  
see "Mrs. Fred" when here  
& Lady Sarah Williams -  
Pray make my best love  
accepted by the former -

**f4v**

I must tell you what  
wonders Emily's sense &  
prudence & energy &  
wisdom are doing in  
*restoring our affairs*  
at 2 St. Martin's Place.

in greatest haste  
believe me - ever your  
affecte tho' disabled  
old Aunt

Florence Nightingale  
Lea Hurst  
Matlock      Aug 25/70

signed letter, ff5-6v, pen [6:545-46]

**f5**

Lea Hurst  
Matlock Aug 31/70  
7 a.m.

My dear "Mr. Fred"

I have asked for information again from London and here is the *second* oracular answer.

that all you have done is quite right  
& that all you have to do is to do it again.

or in official language you are advised  
under the circumstances & in the present  
state of the law to continue the pressure  
on the authorities -

both the cases could be dealt with  
under the existing law on informations  
laid by persons aggrieved by the nuisances.

but the existing law is so diffuse that  
*a solicitor* only, in a place like Sheffield,  
could tell where the information should  
be laid.

as next year the law is to be consolidated  
you are recommended to expect a full  
remedy then - And as, providentially,

**f5v**

winter & not summer is coming now, it is  
hoped that much harm will not ensue  
in the mean time - IF you cannot move the  
Sheffield authorities this year.

But if this should prove not to be the case,  
if the worst comes to the worst - & the  
nuisance becomes dangerous - then you  
are recommended, as before, to memorialize  
the Home Secretary.

The ultimate remedy at present is the  
Mandamus -

Repeat your applications in the mean time.



This is really the substance of the "opinion".

And I who feel as hot about your  
"nuisances" & "grievances" as you do,  
am quite ashamed & grieved to give  
it you -

What a state of the law in a country  
like this where the Sanitary cry has  
become quite fashionable & in the mouth  
of every body! "Much cry & little wool".  
And your case is not at all an isolated

**f6**

one which I tell you not to comfort  
you but to increase your sufferings  
for I have known many such, even in  
the country - where the law is not so  
complicated as at Sheffield & such like Boroughs, & yet  
where it has been impossible to find  
the authority whose duty it is to  
redress the "nuisance" & where Fever  
has been the consequence.

But persevere, I say: you will succeed  
at last.

I have not returned your two copies of  
letters, because I will write to-day  
to the Local Governmt Act Office - in  
London - & see if I cannot get you a  
better answer. But I do not feel very  
hopeful. However, next year, if not before,  
it shall go hard but the thing shall be done  
for which you are working so energetically.

Do you know that, in the last 22 years,  
we have lost just half a million - of Scarlet

**f6v**

Fever, mainly owing to "nuisances" like  
 these in this country -  
 'Keep on going' (I need not say that -) &  
 keep me going - tho' I have not been of  
 much use yet.

Lady Sarah Williams delighted my father  
 yesterday by her great kindness in  
 sending him a book on South Wingfield  
 My tenderest regards to the "ideal" Maude  
 Pray believe me (tho' in haste)  
 ever your affecte old Aunt  
 Florence Nightingale

My sister is gone up to 32 South St.  
 to keep Sir Harry & Emily company -  
 And M. Mohl is there too -

signed letter, ff7-8v, pen, black-edged paper [6:546-47]

**f7**

Lea Hurst  
 Matlock Sept 8/70

My dear "Mr. Fred"

I have received my  
 answer from the  
 = "Local Govt. Acts Office" -  
 But I am afraid it is not  
 more practically satisfactory  
 than the other -

[They seem to know all  
 about it, however.

They state that Sheffield  
 is not properly sewered -]

"Complaints as to nuisances  
 which cause fever may  
 be made.

by Memorial to the Home  
 Office - or to the Privy  
 Council Office" -[they say -

**f7v**

-this we knew before -]  
 "The Memorial need  
 contain no more than  
 is stated" (in my letter  
 which was merely a  
 summary of yours to me.)

But, as Local authorities  
do not like to be complained  
of to the Governmt Departmts,  
you are again advised  
(as before) to try the  
Local authorities again.

This (private) note from  
Mr. Rawlinson, the Consulting  
Engineer to the L. Gt. Acts Office

**f8**

to the Town Clerk of  
Sheffield is enclosed for you,  
*in case* you like to present  
it.

[I think that your judgment  
is better than theirs  
as to whether it will be  
of use or not.]

This is literally all.

At least they add that  
you had better look at  
the Sanitary Act of 1866  
which I dare say you have

And that it is expected  
that there will be a  
consolidation of Sanitary law  
next year - the R. Commission  
reporting in time for Parliament

**f8v**

Here end 'my Lords'.

But never despair - Try me again.

As for the Pr. Council Office, you have probably seen Mr. Simon's (its Medical Officer's ) résumé of powers to Local authorities for preventing the half million of death from Scarlet Fever, occasioned by such nuisances as yours. *Not one word* about *removing* them but "disinfection", "special Hospital carriages", not to shew oneself in public - it might have been the ~~work~~/ advice of an old woman of last century - I only wish that *you* were the Medl Officer of the Privy Council or the Privy Council itself - & that the Govt Col: L. Lindsay & Sir Harry thought of Mr. Simon as I do - in great haste every your affecte old Aunt F. Nightingale

signed letter, ff9-9v, pen

**f9**

35 South Street, Jan 13/71

Park Lane, {printed address:}

W.

My dear "boy" (Sybil Maude -  
pray excuse me)

I think I am even more disappointed than you can be, first, for the sake of Sheffield, & then for yourself -

But I hope & am sure that you will not give up your plan of making "Education" the object of your life, on account of your not having this particular Secretary -ship Every young man (& woman too) who wishes to devote himself (or herself) to any particular branch of usefulness has

**f9v**

disappointments of this kind,  
in early as in later life -  
And, instead of shaking the  
purpose, such disappointments  
generally confirm it, where  
it is a real & healthy purpose,  
as I am sure it is with you.

I hope still to hail you: a  
great Educator, "making the  
education question your  
profession for life," as you say.

God bless you & Maude  
ever yours

Florence Nightingale

ff10-11v, 3, Kenwood Road, Sheffield, January 14, 1871 from Fred Verney re his unsuccessful attempt to be elected clerk of Sheffield School Board and his interest in the Oxford School Board

ff12-13, February 21, 1871, re Fred Verney's desire to be elected to the Oxford School Board

signed letter, f14, pen

**f14**

Feb 23/71

My dear Mr. Fred Verney

I hear that you are trying  
for the appointment of the  
Clerkship to the Oxford  
School Board.

I am sure that you will  
do the work zealously & well.  
And I most earnestly wish  
you success.

Believe me

Yours most sincerely

Florence Nightingale

The Revd

Fred: W. Verney  
Sheffield

signed letter, ff15-21v, pen [5:212-15]

**f15**

Embley Romsey

Feb 23/71

My dear boy (if the dear lady Maude will allow me  
to call you so)

You will remember that you wrote to me 5 or 6  
weeks ago that you were thinking of trying for the  
Clerkship of the Oxford School Board.

I felt then rather aghast - But, as I am quite  
sure my mission in this world is not: to give  
advice - and as it is an employment to which  
I have never devoted myself, - I held my tongue.

I sympathize too warmly however in your &  
Maude's life not to be always anxious to know

**f16**

how it is likely to go - And I asked privately  
the very few friends I have left at Oxford,  
not mentioning or mentioning (once) your name,  
what chance there was

They were not encouraging.

Those, to whom no name was mentioned, said  
that they did not think a clergyman would be  
taken as Clerk - because the High & Low Church  
parties run so very high in Oxford that they  
are less likely to agree on a clergyman than  
even on a layman -

They said also that a man must be living  
~~on~~ the spot & work hard for himself to be chosen -

Of course you have better information for  
yourself than this. You have doubtless personal  
friends on the Oxford School Board -

And I only mention it to shew at once that  
it was not from want of interest in your plan  
that I did not write.

—own to a very strong feeling that, on the one  
hand, the quality of clergyman will not at Oxford  
contribute to the good working of a Sch: Bd Clerkship  
- and, on the other, that the quality of Oxford  
will not contribute to the good working of a  
future clergyman's life.

**f16v**

I think it is not "opinions" which a clergyman wants so much now-a-days to form, as to work out habits of hard & wise ~~work~~ action & knowledge of the ways to work -

[You tell me that you don't like to have only "opinions recd secondhand & not worked out -"]

To win souls to God & not to discuss opinions seems to be the great, the crying want for the young clergy now-a-days. to 'proclaim the name of the Lord' - not merely by preaching, ~~the like a herald~~ but by studying the modes of Elementary Education, of Criminal reformation, of raising people's habits sanitarily and in their dwellings & streets. For it is nonsense to talk

**f17**

-2-

of preaching 'the name of the Lord' to creatures who have not the faintest elements of education, who live in indecency & filth & degradation.

They can as little receive 'the name of the Lord' as the brute beasts -

All this I think you were doing at Sheffield.

And I very much applauded you & Maude for taking the hardest curacy you could find -

- the hardest opportunity for becoming acquainted with a very stiff necked race, very unlike the peasantry of the South

I thought you wise too for taking it for 2 years -

**f18**

At a place like Sheffield ~~too~~, no doubt the Clerkship to a School Board, if it were to be had, would be the finest initiation for a young clergyman - just because it brings him into contact with Dissent of all kinds, on subjects which are not the discussion of speculative opinions but which are the first elements of our fellow-creatures education & welfare -

'To proclaim the name of the Lord' seems what is wanted - not to know that this or that verse is interpolated - that the four first Councils say this & not that - &c &c -

No doubt that there are great & masterly spirits whose very calling is to shake the human spirit loose from superstition, from blind authority, 'assimilation, ignorant or bigoted sympathies & antipathies', like Luther, Huss & Wycliffe, to whom this *is* 'proclaiming the name of the Lord.'

And I, for one, believe that we want & shall have many more Luthers, & S. Bernards, & Reformers of all kinds. For I believe that there is now in & *out* of the Churches proportionally just as much error & superstition & slavish bowing to authority & indifferent flippancy for Luthers to break us out of as there was in Martin Luther's time -

**f18v**

But *that* spirit is as far from the puny Magazine-kind of criticism of what are called the "Liberals" of the present day as the awful mental struggles, - hand to hand conflicts "with the Devil", as they truly call them - of St. Augustine & Luther & Savonarola & Whitfield ~~are~~ were from the "cold goose" longings of a Hurrell Froude -

There is nothing very inspiring in examining the "Evidences" - there is nothing very inspiring in denying (or in defending) the Miracles - there is nothing very inspiring in having "opinions" upon this or that translation, text, Article, Council or Father -



**f19 3.**

If a man feels in himself an overmastering calling & power for Theological Research or for Religious Ecclesiastical Reform, then, in God's name, let him follow it - let him be an Ewald or a Vico - or a Luther or a Wesley.

But don't let him higggle-haggle at superficial criticism, like the "Liberal" Magazine writers of the day - which criticism is the very reverse of the spirit which animated the great Reformers.

Neither the Church nor the world can be reformed or even improved by discussing or criticizing "opinions"

**f20**

'To proclaim the name of the Lord' or the character of the Lord (as in modern tongue we should call it) may be done in two ways:

1. by the great Theological Reformers who find out the 'ways of the Lord' for us in & create Churches & doctrines & systems.
2. & by those who seek to win souls to God - But no approach to finding out the ways of God or the character of God is ever made by verbal criticism or technical or literary discussion -

The making the clergyman's a mere literary business is the end of all religion - & indeed of all Theology, or study of the character of God.

But how much is included in the business of those who seek to win souls to God?

Not only Education, Criminal reformation, Sanitary improvement - but Politics, Political Economy, De-pauperizing &c

And if for the next 30 years, people would bestow as much painstaking in making discoveries how to depauperize England, how to raise the pauper & educate the pauper child, how to give industrial & elementary education which shall really make a man a man, how to reform thieves - in discovering the ways of God about *these* things, - as they have during

**f20v**

the last 30 years in making discoveries about  
 Steam, Telegraphy, Communications by Sea & Land,  
 Chemistry, Mechanics &c - it is probable that  
 we should make as much progress in the  
 former as we have done in the latter -  
 My dear boy -pardon your old Aunt for giving  
 you her experience which of course you need  
 not mind- I have no time to put it into  
 form - indeed have been interrupted 20 times  
 in this incoherent scrawl. Pardon me -  
 I feel sorry that you should be leaving Sheffield  
 before your 2 years are out - where I think is

**f21**

-4-

much valuable experience to be gained more than at Oxford  
 But you will tell me that, if you did not  
 try for Oxford now, later it would not be to be  
 had.  
 Of this I am no judge -  
 I am afraid I cannot do you any good at  
 Oxford - All my old Oxford friends are dead  
 And a new generation has arisen that 'knows  
 not Joseph. They would look upon me as  
 a 'strange woman' - And I very much advise  
 you not to send the Lilly Scrap I enclose -  
 I have but one or two friends there now. -]

**f21v**

I am quite ~~ashamed~~ reluctant to send this letter as it  
 is but have no time or strength to re-read  
 or re-write ~~it~~ /it. I am afraid you will not sympathize  
 with it  
 At least you will see in it how much I  
 sympathize with your & Maude's ~~future~~  
 life - present & future - God bless you both -  
 & direct this ever your affecte old Aunt  
 matter for the Florence Nightingale  
 best.

ff22-27v, February 24, 1871 re Fred Verney's difficulties, as curate, with his Incumbent, the  
 disapproval of some for going in for the Clerkship, and his establishment of a working man's "Club"

ff28-29, Wednesday, asking for the return of various letters to Fred Verney

ff30-30v, March 9, re his unsuccessful attempt for the Clerkship of the Oxford School Board

signed letter, ff31-38v, pen, black-edged light blue paper [5:215-19]

**f31**

Embley March 12/71

My dear boy Mr. Fred

As you well know, I am truly sorry that  
you have not the appointment to the Oxford Board.

- first because you wished it; & next because I  
am sure you would have done it very well.

But you were in an *honourable* minority.  
And *that* I am glad of.

I cannot say that I am sorry when a rising  
young clergyman does not spend his early  
Ministerial years at Oxford, or such like place  
I think he should always spend them in the

**f32**

hardest, most practical work of his profession  
- just as you are doing at Sheffield.

Oxford does little else in such a case but  
encourage all that Magazine-y, critical, verbal,  
literary examination of texts, versions, opinions,  
evidences, which never brought one human being  
nearer to the *character of God*, & never taught  
one clergyman to win souls to God.

[You will bite me for saying this. But I can't  
help that - And at all events you will quite  
acquit me of wishing to "give advice".]

= I must say that I feel the very deepest interest  
to know that you will be able to finish your  
2 years at Sheffield -

*That* seems to me the real place to gain  
experience in really valuable things - now -

You say that the spirit of your profession  
is against your going in to such things as we  
have talked about - Education, Sanitary improvements,  
Political Economy & the like -

I don't see that at all -

The "spirit" of your Incumbent & the circumstances  
of your position of curate may be -

But some of the very best things in the  
above lines that have been done have been  
done by clergymen -

And, my dear boy, you are still *under 60, I believe*

**f32v**

[I think, with you, that, while you are with  
your Incumbent, you should not run against his views  
& wishes -

But 2 years will not put you upon crutches -  
And meanwhile you are gaining valuable experience -  
- the most valuable perhaps you will think in after  
life you ever have had - which cannot be {pr address: 35 South Street,  
~~gained~~ in books or conversation.] vertical} Park Lane,

Yes, I think the very best things, it may be W.  
said, that have been done in *unprofessional*  
clerical duties have been done by clergy -

E. g. Dean Dawes' School, at King's Sombourne -  
He must have been 40 when he began that School,  
as clergyman of the place -

Much of the most valuable information & help

**f33**

-2-

received by the (first) London Boards of Health  
came from young "Puseyite" curates -

And so on &c &c &c -

I do not think the worse for/ of Mr. Lamb for  
staring when you said the Club was "religious".  
Nor do I think you can expect much from  
governess-ing your Incumbent, even in the truth.  
Great reformers, my beloved friend, "educate  
their public" - And only D'Israelis tell their  
"public", while they are educating it, that  
they *are* "educating their public" - And only animals  
pounce, the moment they take a thing into their heads.

f34

I read with the deepest interest all the letters which you were so good as to send me - & will return them whenever you tell me. You say: "keep them for me" - I like your friend Mr. Warren's letters extremely.

=

With regard to the deeper question of taking Priest's Orders, it is one, of all others, on which I should not venture to *have* an opinion even, as applying to a particular individual

There are only 2 or 3 things, quite general, which often strike me in these days of superficial discussion, when every body, even the Cabinet, is like a periodical & a Magazine - *g* - that is, getting up a subject from a little reading, whether a pauper or an iron clad - whether a soldier or a Colony - it does not matter - as people get up leading Articles, or periodicals - and calling *that* Administration -

[Ten years ago, we *did* the things people now prate about, write about, speechify, debate, report about.]

These 2 or 3 things are: -

1. There is such a thing as truth of *feeling*, truth of *mind*, - a far higher thing, a far higher truth than truth of *words* - People are such martinets about the truth of their *words* - words which (in spite of all the Johnsons, all the Académies, all the Lexicons, all the Della Cruscas,) every body has

**f34v**

a different meaning for - And they think little  
of the great convictions, the great feelings &  
purposes, in which, tho' every body has  
different words to express them, every body,  
who thinks at all, thinks alike.

E.g. (it is an extreme example.) A very large  
{printed address, vertical:}

35 South Street,      proportion of the devout of our race  
Park Lane. W.      call the *goodness* of God the Virgin Mary  
while many of the orthodox in another  
portion of the race, while loudly asserting the  
"goodness of God", practically deny it.

Which of these two is nearest the truth of feeling? -  
[There are words in the Ordination Service which  
we must deeply deplore as being a stumbling block,  
said to a young man at the most solemn moment of his life]

**f35**

-3-

But is not this the case with all Services  
Nay, we may almost say with all Institutions,  
all Societies?

Are we to live alone because of this? -  
2 - I agree with your friend Mr. Warren entirely  
when he says that people who separate themselves  
from others  
on the ground of opinion who try to do good alone seldom  
succeed in doing good at all.

To me such lives as Travers Madge, (whom I knew  
in early life a ~~man~~/boy of uncommon mental power  
of unique moral power) or as le Père Hyacinthe  
are a great mistake.

I mean that *negative* & solitary Dissent is a mistake

**f36**

Every great Reformer began by being a ~~single~~/solitary Dissenter, that is true.

Our Great Master Himself was a solitary Dissenter, to begin with -

But in every case it was a *positive* Dissent. ending in a great Reform, not in a protest.

I do not understand people just separating themselves from their Church, party, Institution negatively - as a mere protest -

E. g P. Hyacinthe does not ~~all~~ intend, - I believe he does not *wish* - to make a schism.

Then I think he had much better have stayed where he was - & preached the truth, the truth of *feeling* in his own Church - where his great powers of preaching would have been useful.

The only other road that was open to him was, I think, to follow in the track of the Armies, succouring the wounded as many Benedictines did.

But what use is this maundering & wandering of his about England?

3. Tho' I entirely agree with the words "one  
"holy season lasting all the year, one temple  
"including all the habitable world, one  
"priesthood coextensive with mankind" -

I do not see why that should prevent a man from taking Priest's Orders - He might as well say: it prevents him from Going to Church - because he must wait till the church "includes  
"all the habitable world."

"Holy seasons", churches (or "temples") clergy (or "priests")

**f36v**

are on purpose to bring about, are they not? - in practical reality  
 what those beautiful words express as a  
 far - off idea -

My dear Mr. Fred, I will leave off here  
 partly because I have no time - partly

{printed address, vertical:}

35 South Street, because I really have no advice, nothing  
 Park Lane. W. but sympathy to give in these great  
 subjects, especially when they concern  
 your & Maudie's future life.

I do not think the critical, what are called  
 the "Liberal" discussions of the present day  
 contribute one iota to ~~th~~ our knowledge, which  
 ought to be ever increasing, of the character of God.  
 (which *is*: Theology) - nor to our knowledge, which

**f37**

-4-

ought to be ever- increasing, of the ways to win  
 souls to God which *is*: the work of the Ministry - And, in both, there are still  
 immense discoveries to be made - And Christ  
 never could have supposed (I speak as a fool)  
 that we should have stopped short -  
 As to Renan's "Life of Jesus", I read it with a little  
 pleasure - not much - without the shock the  
 orthodox feel in it - at least not much -  
 It is an attempt to turn Christ into the hero  
 of a Novel - a very good Novel - which may  
 arouse a real, (not fictitious) feeling, in some.  
 But I don't think he has *in fact* contributed  
 to our knowledge of Christ's character, Mission,  
 ways of "doing good" -



**f38**

I agree extremely with some of your friend  
Mr. Warren's views as to some doctrines -  
e.g. about the Atonement -  
that "to lead a Godlike life" is what "it is destined  
to introduce man/us to" -

And is there one word, taking *the Scriptures*  
*themselves*, in them about the "Atonement" -  
which could arouse *practical* opposition in  
any Christian the most *unorthodox*?

— I agree with you that the clergy would be quite  
as well (or much better) in the Ho: of C. as the Bishops  
in the Ho: of Lords - *cæteris paribus* - {things being equal -GW}

But that is rather beside the mark -  
— I do not think that "faith" means "the  
enthusiasm of humanity" - but the "enthusiasm"  
of *God* - And that is what it was in Christ  
(And includes the other). And every body  
who, like Him, "loves" God with all his  
heart & soul & mind & strength &  
contributes to others' knowing God's character  
better, so as that they too may be *able* to "love  
God" - [ how *can* paupers & prostitutes &  
inhabitants of fever dens & the like love or  
know God at all?] every body, I think, whose  
object of life is to do that may enter or "join

**f38v**

the Society, Church or Institution which  
enables him best to follow that path,  
without regarding differences of words - (tho'  
they were best away) or ~~metaphysical, not religious~~  
distinctions in metaphysics, not religion

{printed address, vertical:}

35 South Street, I am afraid you will think this sounds like  
Park Lane. W. advising. But indeed it is not - It is only  
sympathy (& perhaps a little experience  
which you need not mind)

for all those who are treading that path,  
as I am sure you & Maude are -  
If you write God bless you both -  
please write ever your affecte old Aunt  
to 35 South St. Florence Nightingale

ff39-42, March 15, 1871, in reply to FN's letter of March 12 and announcing that FV will leave Sheffield the next June since he wishes to defer taking priest's orders

ff43-4v, March 17, 1871, re an essay written by Mr. Stubbs which FV is sending to FN

ff45-6v, the aforementioned essay

signed letter, ff47-8, pen, black-edged light blue paper

**f47**

35 South Street, April 1/71

Park Lane, {printed address:}

W.

My dear boy Mr. Fred

I hope that your interview  
with Dr. Vaughan was satisfactory  
& that the papers reached him  
in time. But I have a  
misgiving that the letter did  
not go to the post so soon as  
it should have done - And I  
regretted afterwards that I did  
not send it by hand. I should  
be very glad to know that this  
caused you no inconvenience.

Also: I feel *a little* anxious  
about your future.

I never thanked you for your  
friend Mr. Stubbs' Essay - nor for

**f47v**

the short Poem, which is *real*  
poetry & philosophy too,  
upon Conscience & a Judgment  
I read it with the greatest  
pleasure - & was very much  
obliged to you & Maude for  
sending it me -

So also the Essay -

I do hope the prospect which  
you say Sir Harry can hold out  
to Mr. Stubbs will be fulfilled  
& that he will be able to marry -  
I feel quite interested in both  
these conjunctions. [their?]

**f48**

This note which was to be  
one of enquiry & was written  
some days ago will never  
get itself finished - & must  
go as it is -

I shall really be thankful  
to hear what your plans are -  
& that they end in "health, joy"  
& all things good to you &  
Maude -

your ever affecte  
old Aunt  
Florence Nightingale

ff49-50v, April 7, re an offer FV has received from the Archbishop of a position at Middleborough  
which would be "practically a sole charge"

ff51-2, April 12, 1871 re FV's acceptance of the position at Middleborough

signed letter, ff53-56v, pen, black-edged light blue [5:219-21]

**f53**

April 16/71 [3:501]

Well, my dear boy Mr. Fred

You *have* "gone in" for responsibility "with a  
vengeance" - a responsibility which implies love of the largest kind -  
as where does it not? -

As it was not I but people whose {pr address:} 35 South Street,  
judgments were to be depended upon who [sideways] Park Lane,  
advised you to accept Middlesborough, W.

I may say that I rejoice "with unfeigned  
joy" at your having done so - & admire your  
determination - I bid you 'God speed' with  
all my soul & strength -

"Behold, He sends you out as a "missionary" among  
"wolves" indeed! You have to begin everything

**f54**

from the very beginning!  
You will find fine scope for your activities in  
Schools & Clubs!  
5000 is quite a town - [I do not know what there  
may be in the way of a School Board at  
Middlesborough]  
In our Southern notions, a 2=membered Borough -  
You will find your 2 year's experience at  
Sheffield very useful.

I agree with you that it is very difficult to  
enter all at once on what is called "spiritual"  
conversation with intelligent, thinking artisans -  
some of whom, we know, have thought more  
on some subjects than we have - who think  
themselves (& perhaps are) quite on a par  
with ourselves in intelligence & some kind of education -  
& who perhaps may think, however unjustly,  
that such conversation is "shop"  
Nor am I sure that it is desirable -

To become intimate with them, as you do,  
on political, on moral, on educational, on Sanitary, on  
working subjects, is the way to begin:

Then, when they are sick, or unhappy, or in  
difficulties, above all when they have a sick  
or dying child, is the time when "spiritual  
conversation, as it is called, comes of itself - not that  
I allow that the *other* subjects are *unspiritual*.

**f54v**

Working people, above all things, I think,  
dislike that we should seem to be using a  
different tone & language of conversation for  
them to what we do among each other - that  
we should seem to be suiting or bringing down  
our style, even altering the tone of the voice, to them -  
They are so quick, like children, to perceive this -

If we talk about what interests *us* as well  
as them, that is the way to their hearts.

Indeed no talk has any effect (but that  
of weariness) which does not spring naturally  
out of a man's own thoughts & feelings or  
character & is not verified by his own life -

*Such* talk is never "shop".

**f55**

-2-

I do not know what sprinkling of Wesleyanism  
 there is at Middlesborough -  
 Where do you mean to have Service? You say  
 there is no Church -

I feel very sorry for the trouble that moving {pr} 35 South Street,  
 will be to you & Maude - [address sideways] Park Lane,  
 But I know that is but a slight things for W.  
 your courage -

You have taken the hard in early life - And we  
 may entirely trust that you will see of the  
 travail of your soul & be satisfied -

**f56**

My dear boy, instead of being a Curate - you **[3:501]**  
 will want a Curate -

I wish I could be your Curate.  
 And now I will not chatter any more - (at present)  
 for you must have enough to think of & to do -  
 I hope you will take a holiday between  
 Sheffield & Middlesborough -  
 God bless you - and He *will* bless you -  
 you & Maude - & give you all things -  
 ever your affecte

F. Nightingale

There is nothing in my youth that I wished  
 for so much as such a position as the one  
 you are going to have at Middlesborough,  
 in a Northern town or in the East of London - beginning from the  
 beginning -  
 God has turned my path another way -

But I have an everlasting sympathy - still  
 the strongest of all - with such a task - i.e. taking  
 the thing from the very first & constructing in  
 it as God leads the way - like a Missionary  
 in fact.

F.N. **[end 3:501]**

No man can do much good to others who is not constantly  
 thinking about them, who does not consider their  
 characters & temptations & thoughts & wants, as another man

**f56v**

considers his own interests - with all the minute thought  
which a man would take in making money - who does  
not pass them often in review ~~before his own mind~~  
before his own mind, as they & he himself are in  
the sight of God - ~~whose prayer is not~~ /who does not pray that he may  
be able to say 'of them that thou gavest me I  
have lost none' -

I give you that thought as my life's experience -  
- how imperfectly I have fulfilled it!  
but the substance of the thought was given me by  
another who nobly fulfilled it in the heavy  
charge of his own life -

F.N.

ff57-8v, April 27, 1871, re various friends of FV and the progress of his club for working men

ff59-60, New Club, 9, Spring Gardens, S. W. re FV's proposed visit to Paris and his offer to do any  
errand for FN

signed letter, f61, pen, black-edged light blue paper

**f61**

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

My dear boy Mr. Fred

*Barbédienne*

*30 Boulevard Poissonnière*

is the address of the *shop* of the  
"Collas" 'Bronzes d'Art'.

The *Ateliers* only are at the Rue de Lancry  
address which I gave you -

Now, tho' these *Ateliers* are of  
course very interesting to see, yet I  
doubt very much whether they  
can be going on now - Indeed I  
think it is so doubtful whether the  
whole thing may not be in ruins that  
I almost regret having mentioned it  
to you at all - The article varies so  
extraordinarily in its excellence, because  
of course it is the ability & finish of  
each separate 'ciseleur' which gives to  
the individual 'réduction' its excellence  
My love to Maude, please - & to Lady Sarah,  
if she will allow it - ever your affecte

25/6/71 F. Nightingale

ff62-63, {archivist: early July 1871}, asking to convey anything FN might wish to Claydon and sending  
her a memento from Paris

signed letter, ff64-65v, pen [5:221-22] [1:709-10]

**f64**

Embley

Romsey Feb 9/72

My dear boy Mr Fred

I make an opportunity (of restoring to you a letter, which I think you told me 'to keep till called for') to congratulate Middlesboro' and the Lady Maude upon your great doings there -

I knew you would be successful, in the higher success -

A clergyman without real thought about any kind of knowledge human or divine, or personal interest in his fellow creatures is sure to fail & ought to fail, however many Bishop's hands he may have had on his head. For a clergyman may call himself

**f64v**

a clergyman, but he will never really be anything unless he has a knowledge of business & of human nature & has worked out in his own mind some lessons or truths which he is able to impart to others (such as Clubs & the like.) But if he *is* a real clergyman, what glorious opportunities he has - call them secular, if you please - and the less he is bound to Conventionalism, the better. whether like Bishop Patterson he gives his life for the "little naked wretches" *he* was so fond of - whether he works nearer home,



**f65**

as you do, putting in light  
in our dark overgrown towns.  
However, I'm not going to preach -

And as an atonement, I send  
you two letters about your  
belongings, which please return  
to F.N. here - [end 5:222]

I am greatly distressed about  
Emily's fever, which I fear  
she has not lost at Athens.  
She has suffered as every one  
does who goes to Malta. They  
have allowed the rock to become  
a dirty sodden sponge & hence  
the fevers - The question now lies  
solely with the local people -  
We have advised the Home Govt  
to give them 30 000 as a  
contribution to the improvements

**f65v**

leaving them to find 50 000  
But they prefer crippling their  
commerce by Quarantine. Strange  
preference!

And this has been no little  
pandered to by the Health  
authorities both here & at  
Malta.

My writing days are over - & I [5:222]  
will ask your leave to finish,  
~~illeg~~/here by being now as ever  
your and Maude's loving  
& admiring old Aunt  
Florence Nightingale

I must add, tho' I scarcely need to add,  
that I entirely agree with your Keble Coll:  
friend that the 'secular' duties must really  
be inspired by love of God & man, or they  
will be 'drowned in bustle,' - but that the  
'reality' of that love is best shown & known  
among the 'unconventional' & in all kinds of  
methods for raising them morally, 'secularly' &  
spiritually, I also think.

ff66-70, Gunnergate Terrace, Middlesborough-on-Tees, February 10, 1872 re FV's establishment at Middlesborough and his plans to establish a club there for working men

ff71-74v, Claydon House, Bucks, June 14, 1872 re the state of health of Emily Verney

ff75-78v, September 11, 1872 re Emily Verney's death and funeral

ff79-80v, Grange Road, Middlesborough-on-Tees, December 20, 1872 re announcing his appointment as Private Secretary and Chaplain to the Archbishop of York

ff81-82v, December 22, 1872, re FV's hope that Maude's health will be improved by their move from Middlesborough

ff83-84, September 25, 1873, re a visit of Maude to FN

ff85-88v, October 25, 1873, re FN's opinion of prisoners and criminals and FV's visit to America where he visited Boston State Prison

ff89-90v, November 4, 1873, expressing opinions about American "thievery" and announcing his plan to leave the employ of the Archbishop

ff91-91v, 32 South Street, {archivist: January 4, 1874}, offering to take anything to Embley

ff92-94v, Embley, January 10, 1874 re funeral at Embley

signed letter, ff95-96, pen [5:222]

**f95**

35 South St  
April 16/78

My dear boy Mr. Fred

I feel very much interested in your  
Mr. Headlam's advocacy of good stage &  
music entertainments for the working people

Good Coffee Public houses & lodgings  
for the body - good drama, music & literature  
for the mind - really interesting discourse &  
prayer & hymns for the soul - would go far  
to moralize & spiritualize our working people.

And of the two, I believe a man less likely  
to get drunk after Shakespeare than after a Methodist

**f96**

Meeting. I am grieved & distressed that  
some of our working young men at Lea Hurst  
have adjourned from Sunday afternoon Meetings  
in the Reading room, held by an excellent  
Mr. Myers to the public house:

As to saying that there cannot be good Theatres  
because there are bad Theatres, it is surely as  
ludicrous as to say that there cannot be  
good Coffee houses because there are bad  
Public houses or good Music halls because  
there are bad ones -

In our humble way, we try to give Shakespeare  
& other Recitations & Lectures at the  
Lea Hurst Reading rooms: & other entertainments.

I enclose very meekly 1 for Mr. Headlam's  
Fund, if you will be so very good as to give  
it; but not with my name. This is not  
any nonsense about 'losing influence': but  
because I really do not agree with some things  
e.g. I dare say it is as disagreeable to us to hear  
them shout: 'Safe in the arms of Jesus'  
"as 'Whoa Emma'", but it is certainly better  
for them.

ever affly your old  
Aunt Florence

initialled letter, f97, pencil [8:73]

**f97**

4/8/79

My dear Mr Fred

I was just going to write you a line to say that Miss Simcox wrote me a very kind answer to my question to you.

And I was going to ~~answer~~ ask you several questions of this sort: -  
how many years have your (most useful) Women's Provident Leagues ~~have~~ been going?

I mean, has it been long enough to prove them perfectly solvent?

Are not (Men's ) Trades' Unions, which give such very high advantages, often *not* solvent?

Could you give me any information of this kind?

I have not been idle - I have seen all our

Trained Matrons. And I saw Harry Bonham Carter yesterday who is going to have some actuarial calculations made for me -

I meant then to apply to Miss Simcox again who is kindly willing to answer me some further questions

But I wanted to *know* from you on *what sound* & *permanent* basis the Women's Societies are, as to granting Sick Allowances & Superannuation Allowances & not becoming bankrupt. yrs ever F. N.

{f98 blank}

signed letter, ff99-100, pen [8:72-73]  
**f99**

June 23/79

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

My dear boy Mr. Fred

I delight in your Women's  
Protective & Provident League.

Some day I want to consult  
you about all these women's  
resources or no resources.

Working *men* have their  
Benefit, Medical, & Union  
Clubs: in Derbyshire where  
wages are high, every man  
can, if he please, by putting  
into his Club, have his Doctor,  
his 10/ or 12/ a week when he  
is ill, & his old age provision.

*Women* have nothing; & for  
the old spinsters & widows,  
tho' wages for *women* are in  
Derbyshire very high too,  
(3 girls may earn 25/ a week,  
sisters,) they have nothing but

**f99v**

charity or parish relief for  
sickness or old age.

Owing to my want of time and  
strength to organize anything,  
Lea Hurst costs me £500  
a year, chiefly among the old  
& sick women:( the Doctor's Bill alone is  
£160 a year): & the children of widows.

About our Trained Nurses, I  
feel there is no investment  
more attractive than the P.O.  
Savings' Bank. There is no  
'Home', where, in intervals  
between employment or in  
sickness, they could go.

There is no sickness allowance  
or Old Age Allowance to be had  
anywhere.

*Employment* we can find them  
more than enough: & well paid

Add Mss 41977D

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But I have no time to organize any  
of the rest.

**f100**

[Mr. Gladstone was explaining  
to me that in the P. O. Savings'  
Bank every shilling costs the  
Govt eleven pence.]

2.

I am obliged to refuse my  
name as Patroness so much  
(on the score that I don't like to  
give my poor name where  
I can't give my work) that  
I hardly like to give it to your  
Concert.

But *take it if you like it*  
Only I had rather it had been  
in some other way.

I send 1 1, & hope (when I am  
less 'hard up' than I am now,  
with Lea Hurst & Bosnia &  
some other things) to make it  
more

3. You "band together working  
women to lay by small sums  
to help themselves" *How do you*

**f100v**

*invest this money?*

*And what interest do you  
have?* Please tell me.

Please my best love to  
Maud & Ralph & to  
Margaret. I am so happy  
to think that they are well.

ever yrs affly

Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff101-01v, pen

**f101**

June 29/79

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

My dear Mr. Fred

You were so good as to say  
that you would send tickets  
for the Concert at Mr. Brassey's  
wherever I would direct.

Did I understand you  
that it was *next* TUESDAY July 1, at 3.

I have just found out that  
3 of our St Thomas' ladies  
would like to go.

If you have not given  
away the 3 tickets you had  
for me, will you send them  
to me, ~~or~~/or (whichever is most  
convenient) to Mrs. Wardroper,  
at St. Thomas' Hospital,  
naming, in either case, *day*,  
*hour*, & *place* - may I trouble you?

But if you have given them  
away, would it be possible  
for you kindly to get 3 more



**f101v**

tickets for me? And I will  
send the 1.1 to you.

*Write me a post card*, if more  
convenient to you that I should  
send for them tickets *to your house*.

Lord Lawrence's death on Friday night  
was a great shock to me, as to all  
India. I had a letter from him,  
(received the afternoon *after* his  
death) dictated but signed by  
himself, with a parcel of Indian  
Famine Reports *marked*  
that he wished me to read, & the  
page turned down where he had  
left off.

He has gone into the presence of  
God, for which his whole life had  
fitted him.

My love to Maude & Ralph  
ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff102-05, pen

[12:354-55]

**f102**

TRAINED NURSES' LEAGUE

July 27/79

7 a.m.

10, South Street,  
Park Lane. W.

My dear boy Mr. Fred.

I cannot thank you enough  
for the trouble you have  
taken about this - viz. suggesting  
a Provident Society or "Union"  
among trained Nurses nor  
for Miss Simcox's most valuable  
letter & promised help & also  
Mrs. Paterson's.

You must not think that  
it has not been continually  
in my mind: † not that  
my delay in answering has  
been due to anything but a  
wish to consult with all  
our trained Matrons as to

Add Mss 41977D

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what number of the Nurses of each  
she thinks would join.

**f102v**

& with our  
Secretary Hy Bonham  
Carter.

But I have not been able  
to do much of this as yet  
not from want of interest,  
but because July is a month  
when outsiders, about to  
leave London all pounce  
upon *permanent* people  
like ourselves, bringing  
them work which might  
*just* as well have been  
done any month since January.

And I am now only going  
to ask you one question:

Miss Simcox says:  
*I should say that a subscription  
of from 6 to 1/ a week would* [blue und]

**f103**

*provide members of a  
"Trained Nurses' Union" with  
everything Miss N. Mentions:  
a sick allowancex a central  
"home" or Lodging House & an  
Old Age Allowance (& a Savings  
Bank) But would a sufficient  
number of Nurses join in  
paying such a subscription?"*

*What is "a sufficient number  
of Nurses"? how many - tens? [blue and red und]  
- hundreds?  
or  
- thousands?*

If I could have some general  
answer to this by tomorrow  
or Tuesday, I should be truly  
obliged. [blue und]

[I see our Trained Matrons, *yesterday,  
today, tomorrow & Tuesday.*]

x Miss Simcox is quite right in supposing  
that Hospitals would always receive in  
sickness Nurses connected with them.

**f103v**

I see that Miss Simcox most kindly says that she, having an "interval of comparative leisure" now, & would "hunt up any requisite information". But I am sadly afraid that we are not ready yet to avail ourselves of her generous kindness.

2. About "Mrs. Paterson" going [8:73] "on a Missionary tour" among the "Derbyshire girls", that too is a delightful prospect.

But I must go down first to enlist the "Mill" manager (a son of an old Schoolmaster of ours) who is the greatest man in the place, & who must

**f104**

-2-

think that *HE* has originated it himself, if it is to succeed at all.

A thousand thanks for all you have done.

God speed the Provident Leagues & all your works.

N.B. It will be a difficulty, I fear, instead of an advantage, bringing Nurses together of different Training Schools -

You see the Nurses of any Hospital with its Training School must be an *organized body*. or they are nothing. with an 'esprit de corps' *of their own*, & a fealty *to their own authorities*. Nursing is unlike any other occupation in this.

**f104v**

If you club together  
the Nurses of different  
training Schools with  
an authority & an 'esprit  
de corps' *from the* OUTSIDE  
you run the risk of  
introducing a foreign element  
which may have the  
tendency of sinking the  
highest to the lowest,  
much more than of raising  
the lowest to the highest.

But this is too immense a  
subject to touch upon now.

**[end 12:355]**

in haste  
ever yours most truly  
& hopefully  
Florence Nightingale

**f105**

I heard of Maude from  
our Probationers who were  
(27 of them) at Claydon  
on Friday:

F.N.

ff106-09, Claydon House, Bucks, August 13, 1879, sending to FN the annual reports of the  
Bookbinders' and Upholsteresses' Societies and additional information about Friendly Societies for  
working people's benefits

initialled notes, f109v, pencil & pen [8:73]

**f109v**

Apparently  
the Mill (Lea)  
is a sort of Provident  
Socy for it *professes*  
to give half pay to women  
(sick) for 13 weeks: &  
quarter pay for another 13 weeks  
But this also prevents them from  
saving. What relation has this to the Female  
24/8/79 F.N. Friendly Socy  
Who is its Doctor?  
Does the Lea Mill provide  
& pay a Doctor?

give 10 to Guarantee Fund  
men. a third  
13  
a sixth  
13

Guy's Hospl contemplates only superannuation pay  
Female F. Socy only sick pay &  
Medl attendance

which appears is given by the Mill

Why does it not contemplate *old age pay*?

Is it connected any way with  
a SAVINGS BANK?

Are there *Crich* Women's  
Clubs?

Is this only for *Smedley's*?

signed letter, ff110-42, pen & pencil [8:74-85]

**f110**

*Women's Provident Societies*  
Lea Hurst October  
1879

My dear Mr. Fred

I cannot thank you enough  
for all the trouble you have  
taken & are willing to take  
for Provident Societies for  
women in general & for  
~~our~~/Trained Nurses in particular.

What you have done for  
your Upholsteresses' & Book

binders' Socies is quite  
extraordinary: tho' as you  
say it does not give many  
data for actuarial calculations.  
Yet it does one good to see  
how much real benefit  
& of the best kind must  
accrue to these women by

**f110v**

helping them to help themselves.

It is well to take care,  
as you do, that each  
member is a "competent  
workwoman". This is something  
towards the same security  
that we obtain by 'training'.  
You cannot train your  
Upholsteresses: but you do  
the next best thing; &  
you have outstripped us  
sluggards by making them  
'save" -

2. *Upholsteresses' Socy*. The increment  
of Balance steadily decreases  
every year during the 4 years.  
This I think you pointed  
out yourself. I suppose it may  
be easily accounted for, & need not  
continue.

**f111**

3. The rate of Subn, /2d a week,  
to provide 5/ a week for 8  
weeks in the year is wonderfully  
small. In our Lea "Female Friendly Socy" for  
the same 2d, it is 4/ a week for 10 weeks  
3/ for 10 weeks more.

4. May you keep free from  
strikes! No: there is no  
danger of Strikes among  
Trained Nurses. Only imagine  
if there were!

Where the feelings are so  
strongly interested as the Nurse's  
about her Patients, there scarcely  
could be, however, strikes  
among Trained Nurses. And  
the point of honour among  
them is too high. To desert  
her Patients would be like  
deserting in the Army before  
the enemy. The others,  
instead of 'striking' with her,  
would be more likely to execute



**f111v**

some kind of summary  
punishment upon her.

5. *Would you thank Mrs.  
Paterson very much for  
her kind trouble?* It is

impossible to over estimate  
the good that is being done  
by raising women not from  
without but from within -

- the employment register
- the sick or 'out of work'

allowance

- the pleasant 'tea'
- the lending library
- the co-operative store -

6.[N.B. I am sorry to say the  
*Cooperative Store* at Lea  
Hurst is going the wrong  
way like Turkey.

And this from very obvious

**f112**

-2-

& rather disgraceful causes.

One is the men don't  
know how to choose a  
Manager: they don't like  
one *above* themselves: &  
they never have one who  
knows how to *buy*. It is  
said that the refuse, the rejected  
goods of Manchester are  
palmed off upon our  
Co-operative Stores: The  
Secy's wife who knows  
nothing about it being  
now the buyer.

(2) They allow some members  
to run deeply in debt:  
& refuse others who might  
be better leniently dealt by.

The consequence of this & other  
causes is that their dividends

**f112v**

are small & uncertain:

And the people do not make  
it their Savings' Bank,  
with 5 p.c. interest, as  
they used to do.

And a man I know, the  
best man in the Village,  
with drew himself first  
as Secy & then as Auditor,  
because when they could  
not otherwise declare a  
dividend, they grossly  
over estimated the value  
of the goods in store.

We have no clergyman & no resident  
landlord or gentleman who ought to & generally  
does see to these things.

It is well, when one  
hears of "Cooperative Stores"  
'not answering', to enquire  
the *homely* causes: & to see  
that it will hardly do to leave the  
people altogether to their own management]  
while carefully adhering to open, business-like ways

**f113**

with them.

7. To return to your Women's  
Societies, I have understood  
that the temptations among  
poor young girls in trades  
from the want of good  
homes & interests are  
untold & unknown.  
that this temptation to vice  
prevails even among those  
quite 'respectable' in  
dress & appearance.

I should think the good  
of a well conducted Women's  
Society is also untold.  
And it is also well to enquire the  
homely causes of Female Friendly  
Societies not answering  
of this more anon.

**f114**

-3-

II. Thanks for the  
"Hearts of Oak" Friendly Socy  
book.

But, as you say, they only  
recognize the existence  
of women "in giving 10  
to bury the wives when  
they die" - & apparently in  
giving Lying -in benefits  
to help them when they lie  
in.

Hy Bonham Carter had  
some indirect communication  
with Mr. Marshall as a  
very able, trustworthy man  
the society being one of the  
largest in the Kingdom ? is it  
not? after "Oddfellows" & "Foresters".

HBC did not however get so  
much out of them as you did.

**f114v**

We do not agree with Mr.  
Marshall that "women" are  
a "bad lot", in being "so apt  
to be ill, or to think they are".

Our experience is just the  
reverse. A Nurse will hold  
out at her work when ill,  
where a man would give in.

*Our* rate of sickness at St. Thomas' among  
our Nurses in Training is  
very much lower than it is,  
I am sorry to think, at some  
of our other Hospitals, e.g.  
Edinburgh. But in  
the new Edinburgh Hospl  
we trust it will prove  
otherwise.

The Nurse's occupation is  
not necessarily an unhealthy  
one, I am sure: far less so  
than that of 'mill' women  
when Nurses are properly cared for.

**f115**

III. The South Bucks  
 Friendly Socy (Mr. Hardy)  
 gives valuable information,  
 because it admits *women*  
 But as you say, that  
 information is by no means  
 encouraging. And the  
 prolonged rates of illness  
 of women are indeed  
 alarming.

(a) Sanitary conditions & rules  
 should always be introduced  
 into all Benefit Socies' rules:  
 should not they? as  
 having a two fold advantage  
 1. increasing the allowances,  
 2. & encouraging Sanitary practice.

It *is* done in Lying-in clauses  
 for wives of members. E.g.  
 the woman is not to be  
 employed, except at light

**f115v**

household work, within her  
 Lying-in Month. Or the  
 money is forfeited. But in Lea  
     "Female Friendly  
 Socy" she is not to be employed even at household work.  
 [This gives them some idea  
 that women are not to be  
 allowed to work in the  
 mills or the fields or the  
 wash-tub (Laundry) at certain  
 times, & so saves wives from  
 a common cause of "prolonged  
 illness."

But why not make other  
 such simple Sanitary rules  
 or conditions for receiving  
 "benefits"?

rules about    drainage  
                  sinks  
                  water supply  
                  vicinity of pigs  
                  &c &c &c

This would have extreme

Add Mss 41977D

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value as a Sanitary education.

**f116**

-4-

besides so facilitating the operations of Friendly & Provident Societies by diminishing this alarming rate of "Sick Allowance" for women as to increase their "benefits" all over town & country.

In this (Lea & Holloway) which ought to be the healthiest of all villages, I should NOT like to tell the experience of this one summer:

a Typhoid Epidemic:  
solely attributable to the most obvious causes:

abominations of pigs  
percolating into the drinking  
water -supply (3 Patients in one  
room

Drink

**f116v**

overflow from cesspools  
allowed to lie: or to percolate  
poisoning water or air:

contaminated "Holy" wells,  
which gives its name to the  
village (Holloway)

sink stone drains not  
ventilated

traps taken up & left aside

A woman, a farmer-ess on  
the estate, a Laundress,  
& altogether a substantial  
yeo=woman, is just dead  
in her first confinement  
of blood poisoning (baby  
dead too) under the most  
provoking circumstances  
of stupid blundering.

There ought to have been  
an inquest.

**f117**

A sink in the kitchen owing to the lead pipe being corroded & having been corroded for years, had completely saturated the wall of the dwelling-house. The smell had been smelt for years, & taken but little notice of. The Masons went to put in the new lead pipe & stench trap on the very morning the woman was taken in labour!! There was an immense fire in the kitchen: & thro' the hole in the wall, then open, by which the pipe passed, there blew in by means of the great draught created, all the

**f117v**

foul air from the saturated wall & open sink=stone drain; & so up the stairs. The woman had a remarkably good confinement: but was seized within 20 hours by the most intense symptoms of blood poisoning & died within the week.

Death in the sink:  
Had it not been for the most extraordinary neglect, she might have been here now.

[Possibly that poor Lady Constance Amherst Middleton's heart-rending death may have had some cause akin.]

Oct 7. 1879

It is well too if these isolated cases do not become Epidemics of Puerperal Fever.

**f118**

-5-

*Would the enforcement of some Sanitary rules by "Benefit Societies" be an expensive & therefore difficult operation?*

It would seem as if the same machinery which is or ought to be set a going by Boards of Health, or as there are in the country Boards of Guardians, - the same principles which are or ought to be laid down to govern these local Boards of Health. might be set a going for "Friendly Societies".

There *are* Officers of Health, Inspectors &c - all the

**f118v**

apparatus of local Boards of Health even in such a place as this: (small gain we had to let them come, less loss to let them go)

*Could "Benefit" & "Friendly" Societies, not large enough to have Sanitary Inspectors of their own, make use of the existing Health machinery?*

It would be of countless importance.

*Medical certificates are required. It would seem as if there should be no more difficulty in having "Sanitary" certificates.*



**f119**

(b) *Lord Norton*, you say,  
has established a "Friendly  
society for *women*": & you  
*kindly promised me* its  
Rules & Tables, worked out  
by MR. HARDY. *Are they come?*

(c) *Mr Mark Knowles*  
a most capital man:  
May success shower upon  
him "Women's Lodge."  
The wisdom of his rules  
strikes one especially:  
the power of leverage in a  
"Friendly Socy" for moral and  
sanitary purposes might be  
made much more use of.  
I see "*improper or immoral*  
*conduct*" comes under investigation.

**f119v**

also: the rules about  
lyings-in:  
& again one asks: MIGHT  
NOT SOME SANITARY RULES BE  
ALWAYS (logically) attached to  
"PRIVILEGES"?

I note what is to be done  
with married women.  
& that he EXCLUDES  
women  
employed in "manufacture  
OR SALE " OF ALL SPIRITOUS LIQUORS  
BEER, &c as well as  
in "hazardous trades".

**f120**

-6-

(d)

I wish 'Godspeed' with all  
my might to the proposed  
*"Women's Division" of the*  
*"Church of England Temperance*  
*Sick & Burial Socy"*

And if they have not  
completed their *"Guarantee*  
*Fund"* for it (25 guarantors  
of 20 each") I would  
gladly ask to be a *guarantor*  
of £20.

I enclose a Cheque which  
I shall be grateful to you  
to make use of. This is  
*not* enclosed.  
*Shall I*

*Send it?*

Or is it  
*too late?*

[I am rather 'hard up' this  
year: *not thro'* a course of  
'riotous living': & should be  
rather glad if not called  
*this* year to pay up the money.  
But - the good of the 'Women's Division'  
before all.] Oct 1859

**f120v**

I see that "*Total Abstainers*" receive *one tenth more sick pay* than "general" members.

I do most strongly appeal to experience in favour of this rule & *more than this rule* being enforced in ALL "*Friendly Socies.*" it is a truly 'friendly' rule.

[It is a common thing in our neighbourhood in Derbyshire for quarrymen to be in the receipt of 28/ to 40/ a week. If single young men, they ~~as~~ may spend all this, say from 18 to 32 years of age, in eating & drinking, but specially in *drinking*, - except what they pay to their Club. And this they often forfeit by not paying up.

**f121**

Is it not a crying shame that these men whose health suffers so much from drink (that the excellent Club Doctor told me he said to them:

'Stick to your sobriety, & you will be able to stick to your work. Drink again = And you're a dead man')

should have *the same sick pay* as those who have denied themselves every self-indulgence to bring up their families & that the latter should *suffer* in a *lower (general) rate* of sick pay, or of old age pay?

There ought to be a DRUNKEN *sick pay*: and ~~an~~ *sober* sick pay: ought there not?

**f121v**

In agreeably conversing  
with Quarry men, they have  
informed me that they  
could easily have saved  
200 by the time they  
were 30, & *have* - not a  
penny:

that the *minimum* loss  
every week of drinking  
on Saturday night & Sunday & making  
"Black Monday" is 6/ a  
week.

& that they frequently attend  
neighbouring markets (hiring  
a fly for the purpose)  
after 8 o'clock p.m. for  
the sake of getting drink  
& not being seen: because the  
Lea Mills turns off drinkers:

The terrible custom of  
being paid in gangs, & adjourning

**f122**

7

to the Public house to divide  
their money is the root  
of much of this evil.

[Much of the above may be  
said of the *miners*, too.

And people call this a  
"civilized" country! & talk  
of us having a 'Mission'  
of 'civilization' in India!!]

But what I would ask  
again is:

could those observing certain  
Sanitary rules, & certain  
rules about SOBRIETY  
be entitled to a certain  
*higher rate of sick pay?*

[It would be vain to have

**f122v**

an Abstinence or even  
a Temperance club in  
Derbyshire for it would  
starve for lack of members  
but something like the above  
must be possible.]

Just as it is hard that people  
who pay their Bills should  
suffer in high prices  
for those who do not,  
so it seems hard that  
those few who are *in spite of us* models  
of every Sanitary & moral principle  
of carefulness & cleanliness  
should suffer in a lower  
rate of sick pay or of  
*old -age pay* (I see there  
are *prospects of annuities*  
*at 65 years*) for those  
who bring on their own sickness  
by every kind of carelessness, dirt  
& neglect.

**f123**

The 'Allowances' seem  
extremely liberal even for  
"long continued sickness",  
which will be the main  
insurance in the way of  
*sickness* necessary for  
any *Trained Nurses'* Socy,  
because, for all ordinary  
illnesses, they are provided  
for in their own Hospitals, &  
their pay not stopped.

They would not be parted  
with while there was  
prospect of recovery or  
death, if they wished to  
remain.

**f123v**

*Would you kindly* THANK  
MR. KNOWLES for his great  
goodness in being *willing*  
*to obtain information* for  
*me?* & say I shall no  
doubt avail myself of it.  
Probably the progress of  
his own "*Women's Division*"  
will be my best information.

*I suppose we could not*  
*tack ourselves on to* THEM?

"Entirely self-supporting".  
- that is the thing to aim at.  
- & *that* he does aim at.

**f124**

-8-

You see we shall for our Nurses necessarily  
labour under a disadvantage  
as to *numbers*, because  
we do exact the conditions  
as to morality  
as to sanitary & other  
good conduct  
involved in the circumstance  
of her being a *trained* Nurse  
It is the highest & longest  
test of her being a  
"competent workwoman",  
a good woman, &c &c.  
(because all are dismissed  
who do not fulfil our  
requirements as to "duties",  
competence & good conduct,  
whether during the year's  
training or after. And the

**f124v**

grand difficulty will be  
 how to prevent these dismissed  
 ones, who are all taken  
 on without a "character"  
 by the Advertising Nurses'  
 Offices as "*Trained Nurses*,"  
 from entering any Benefit  
 Society of ours.)

The tests which are required  
 more or less feebly in  
 other Associations are  
 in ours necessarily most  
 strictly carried out -  
 during a year of constant  
 testing under organized 'eyes',  
 & during subsequent service  
 & promotion.

**f125** black-edged light blue paper

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*Woman Thrift Movement* {archivist: ?20 Nov 1880}

IV. At my request, Hy  
 Bonham Carter sent the  
 following questions to  
 Mr. Sutton the Govt. Actuary  
 for Friendly Societies on this  
 subject to whom you also  
 were so good as to apply.  
 'Do the Friendly Socy returns  
 afford any data on which  
 to base allowances to women  
 during sickness or by way  
 of superannuation?  
 'It is desired to establish  
 a Provident Fund for Nurses  
 with these objects.'

[Hy B.C. did not mention

the proposed Central Home for Nurses  
 permanently infirm or Sick or out of place - (While  
 actually serving in Hospital,  
 a Nurse, i.e. a trained Nurse,

**f125v**

would always be cared for  
during temporary sickness)  
And he did not mention  
the Savings Bank movement which might be  
connected with it.

I think we should *call* this *the growth of the  
Woman Thrift Movement.*]

And you are its 'prophet'.  
'Is it likely that any existing  
Friendly Socy would admit  
women?

'Or if a Union of say 50,100  
or 200 members or more  
were formed from women  
employed exclusively as Nurses  
for the sick either (a) in Hospls  
or (b) as Private Nurses or both,  
is it likely that any Friendly  
or Provident Socy would  
affiliate such an Union?

signed Hy Bonham Carter.

**f126**

Mr. Sutton replies to Hy B. C.'s  
enquiries in the same sense  
he says that he did to you when  
you were so good as to go to him.

'That the Friendly Socy Statistics  
afford no trustworthy data,  
in fact no data as to female  
lives:

'That in his opinion the best  
course to pursue would be  
(1) to deal with Superannuation  
Allowances by providing for  
each individual separately  
thro' the means of the Govt  
Deferred Annuities granted  
by the P. O.'

[This would be *very*  
unattractive to Nurses: a  
FEW of our Nurses insure  
their lives: but as far as I  
can make out only for to  
*bury* themselves. One only of our  
Nurses, a lady, has a deferred



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Annuity: (& that is not a P. O.  
one): that is, as far as I know.]

**f126v**

'(2) to provide for Sick Allowance  
by an annually divisible  
Fund until such time as  
sufficient experience shall  
have been acquired to found  
a permanent Table.'

[This would be more attractive  
owing to the 'division' but then,  
as Hy B. C. knows, this is the  
thing which is *least* wanted  
because a *Trained Nurse*  
was never otherwise than  
cared for, & her pay continued,  
in the Hospital where she  
was serving, as long as  
there was any prospect  
either of her returning to her  
post, or of death.

F.N.]

'Assuming that there would be  
always sufficient new  
members coming in to maintain

**f127**

-10-

'the original number, he, Mr.

Sutton, considers that the  
plan of dividing any surplus  
annually will not give  
rise to any great inequalities,  
while the division avoids  
much difficulty as to rate  
of contribution, the members  
getting back the surplus.'

signed L. Sutton

Excuse all repetitions:  
I have been so interrupted.

**f127v**

V. Shore Smith next went to the "Prudential" Assurance Office for me, "a sound concern, which takes something like a million a year in pennies or small sums' & "do every sort of Insurance."

The "Prudentials" however came to the conclusion that there was no way in which they could bring it/us in with their own business. They recommended that the Nurses should be formed into a separate Benefit Society for themselves: & thought there was no difficulty about their being women & since sent their Industrial Tables. Since this however the Secretary of the "Prudential",

**f128**

(who must be a good fellow,) has written to me, saying he has made further enquiries. After mentioning that there are Friendly Societies "who do the class of business referred to", but do not "warrant unlimited confidence in their stability": & that "most Insurance Offices only transact ordinary Insurance business (together of course with the granting of annuities), & *do not make any provision for being laid aside by old age, sickness or other cause,*"

he says  
 "There is one excellent Office however with a *"Benevolent Fund"* attached to it viz. *'the Provident Clerks' Mutual*

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*Life Assocn'*, which might  
answer the requirements in

**f128v**

“some degree”

And he encloses their Prospectus.

This Fund seems to grant

“*Annuities to distressed members*”

“Annuities to Widows

“*Annuities & Allowances to  
distressed members*”

“Loans &c.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING  
ABOUT THIS ‘BENEVOLENT  
FUND’?

[The Prospectus gives their  
‘Deferred Annuities’]

Mr. Goodman, my correspondt  
goes on to say:

“If you thought it advisable  
to adopt a separate scheme  
for Nurses, & the numbers  
are not sufficiently large  
to warrant its being floated on

**f129**

-11-

“a sound actuarial basis,  
I feel confident that the  
public would readily supply  
the deficiency & thus enable  
the amount payable to be  
much more liberal”

And he actually goes on to  
offer his own subscription:  
& also his “services” in very  
earnest words.

[I should however, if it is only  
possible, try to make this  
NOT a charity - by taking only  
business & not charitable subns.]

I think ‘charity’ is particularly  
to be avoided here, because of  
its probable effect in  
preventing Hospitals from  
raising the Nurses’ wages -  
if they see us stepping in  
with pensions & the like -  
thus doing what *they* ought to do.

**f129v**

Already we, i.e. our Training School, have an effect we little anticipated in keeping wages down instead of keeping them up.

Not only does St. Thomas' Hospl take advantage of our Probationers to do at least half their Nursing.

But it takes advantage of a clause by which we bind our Probrs to take service for \_\_\_ years to engage them at a lower rate of wages than the great Hospitals give our Trained Nurses & all the Nurses in St. Thomas' are of our training.

Liverpool ~~it~~ obtains higher wages for its Nurses than ~~we do~~ St Thomas': & gets HyBC itself repaid for its training by the Institutions which it supplies with Nurses.

**f130**

VI ~~The Autumn~~

*Guy's Hospital*

the only Hospital I know which has a Provident Fund for its Nurses: but it is *compulsory* for 'Sisters' & not *one* Nurse has ever joined it.

At Guy's the principle is that the Sisters contribute *one half* (& it is stopped out of their 'Quarter') "of the amount that will be necessary", & the Governors the other half. [Virtually tho' not nominally it is, I suppose, a deduction from their pay]

I had thought of for ours (& *that* I thought was high)  
1/ a week for Nurses (or 12/6 per Qu.)  
2/ " " Sisters (or 25/ " "

**f130v**

Guy's payments are: from  
*6/3 a month, (18/9 a Quarter)*  
 entering at the age of 30 -  
 (they only allow Sisters to  
 enter between 30 and 40.)  
 to *10/9 a month (32/3 per Qu.)*  
 entering at 40.  
 that is 3.15.0 to 6.9.0 per ann.  
 for 12/ a week Pension at 65.

The Nurses' payments were  
 to have been  
*12/6 a qu. entering at 30*  
*21/6 " " " 40*  
 for 8/ a week Pension at 65  
 But as I said no Nurse  
 has ever joined.  
 [Our Sisters now pledge themselves  
 to save 1 per qu.  
 Nurses 10/ " "  
 More anon of this.

**f131**

-12-

#Guy's is simply a Superannuation  
 Fund & not a Sickness Allowe.  
 Fund. That is fair enough,  
 because Guy's like all other  
 Hospitals of any repute  
 takes care of its Nurses in  
 temporary sickness.

The Pension (Superannuation)  
 is *12/ a week at the age of 65.*  
 Or in the event of death or of  
 leaving the Hospl *before 65,*  
 the *amount is returned* with  
*3 p.c. interest* (except in cases of  
 misconduct.)

Owing to the number of Sisters  
 dying or leaving, [the contributions  
 of the Governors are invested]  
 Guy's can now afford to give  
 each Sister £36 a year Pension  
 (instead of £30.)

**f131v**

[A great Mill Manager  
in the North told me  
that he had wished to do  
this with his own "hands"  
but found that it was  
"illegal"]

But Hy Bonham Carter  
says that it cannot be  
illegal if it is made  
a matter of contract.]

**f132**

VII Now we come to our own  
affairs at *St. Thomas' Hospital*.

after great delays &  
questionings (which I shall  
afterwards explain), the  
Matron was persuaded to  
go round all the Nurses,  
taking their views:

*'In case we marry, what  
portion will be returned'?*  
was one common question  
on the *Nurses'* part.

*'In case we leave the Nursing Service,  
or in case we could not  
afford to pay up our Subn,  
what then would happen?  
should we have the money  
returned to us? or a portion  
of it?'*

was another universal question.  
[As needs scarcely saying, the  
case of women & *especially*  
of *Nurses* is so different



**f132v**

from that of *men*. Men  
do not change their professions  
when they marry: nor  
do they give up their professions  
till old age becomes disabling:  
perhaps not even then.

Nurses must of course  
leave their profession when  
they marry: but, less & less,  
perhaps in consequence of the  
very excellence or rather  
*advance* of the training now  
given, is it looked upon  
as a *life* profession. A woman  
over 40 can scarcely obtain  
a new engagement as Matron  
or Sister, or obtain a training.  
Nor will private sick people  
take a sick Nurse over 40.  
Because, they argue, training  
makes such rapid strides  
we wish to have the last  
& best. Besides,

**f133**

-13-

in Hospitals generally, if not  
in ours, Nurses wear out  
sooner than in other professions.

But so much the more  
reason for making them  
save & lay by for a provision

[It is sometimes made a rule  
that Matrons & Nurses must resign  
at 60. In that case Superannuation  
allowances shd begin at 60 instead of  
65.]

Of their own accords, as  
a New Year's day (delightful)  
surprise/ gift to me: & it was [surprise back in....]  
delightful; the Nurses  
of St. Thomas' sent me under  
the following heading, a paper which  
was signed by about 60.  
(out of a number of about 70:  
Probationers *not* counted

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in either case: who number  
about 35 more)

**f133v**

"We the undersigned Sisters & Nurses of St. Thomas' Hospital, from the Nightingale Training School, & others, agree to enter into a 'self-benefiting' Provident Society, by depositing in the P. O. Savings Bank or other safe investment x a sum quarterly in proportion to our means

Sisters not less than 1

Nurses " " " 10/

and as much more as may be convenient."

x as I devoutly hope some better investment & (as safe) may be devised for them by us with your help & that of Societies.

**f134**

[I must premise that, in the autumn, I had received a petition, signed by ~~between~~ a few less than 200 & 283 of our trained Nurses, at St. Thomas' & elsewhere, for me to 'sit' for my 'picture' for them.

And I had responded that, if they gave me some assurance of saving (some 'saving' assurance) then I would think about it.]

Appended to this document, besides the names of the 57 undersigned were notes of those who already saved 23, some two who had insured their lives (but chiefly to bury themselves) & one or two who had 'gone in' for annuities not more {'not more' encircled} i.e. one for a life annuity one had invested

**f134v**

To return to "*Matron's investigations among the Nurses*:"  
it would seem as if - with  
almost all - the sine qua non  
were ~~to have~~/ the power of taking THEIR MONEY OUT  
again WHEN THEY WANT IT: -  
as in Savings' Banks.  
[More than you would  
believe have, too, relatives  
depending on them] 5 out of  
68 of St. Thomas' Nurses.

For *disabling* illness they  
would like an 'allowance':  
for superannuation:  
[for Convalescence the Hospital  
provides]  
for being *bona fide* out of  
place there is not so much  
call as you would suppose  
for an 'allowance' & for  
idlers it would not be  
desirable.  
A Central 'Home' smiles to some;

**f135**

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but it was agreed to put off  
the consideration of that for the  
present.

~~But~~ The scheme does not seem  
applicable to Hospital Nurses  
viz. of sinking their individual  
interest in a Common Fund  
for the sick ones, or those  
suffering from other  
contingencies to profit by:  
(the Hospl is their 'Common Fund' for this)  
as in a Women's Club,  
or Men's Friendly Society.

Nurses *must* have their  
money out again when  
they want it. [They were told this  
wd necessitate a larger contribution to any  
Provident Fund.]

In Hospitals where the food  
is not very well served, Nurses  
frequently buy the food which  
tempts their appetites for themselves

And their annual holidays  
(which are quite necessary)  
cost them something.

**f135v**

~~Altho'~~ *Ultimately* there  
seem to be 3 things desired:

1. keep to the Savings' Bank  
or as I fervently hope  
some as safe & better  
investment.  
IS THE BIRKBECK QUITE SAFE ?
2. allowance or insurance  
for superannuation,  
permanent infirmity  
disabling illness
3. Central Home for  
Nurses infirm & out of  
place.

**f136**

-15-

N.B. [Causes of this great delay in answering you:

- autumn: holidays in all Hospitals  
for Matrons & Nurses

- Winter Session very busy time

- All our trained Matrons  
were to ask their Nurses  
whether & what they would  
subscribe to a Nurses' Provident  
Socy.

- Nurses asked: for what  
contributions *what advantage?*

Societies asked: what numbers  
& what contributions do  
you offer?

Nurses what advantages  
do you offer if we contribute?

This was rather awkward.

**f137**

-16- *Lea Hurst*

10 South St. March/80

LEA HURST

WOMEN'S PROVIDENT SOCY

The excellent *Mrs. Paterson*

was actually so kind as  
to propose coming or  
sending on a Missionary  
visit: *Would you thank her?*

The state of things is as  
follows:

there *is* a "Female Friendly  
Socy": but the numbers are  
very small.

only 78 members altogether  
of whom

only 45 in Lea & Holloway

& only 265 fund

benefits: Medical attendance

*annual* Subn 2/6 to Surgeon

benefits: *sick pay 4/ a week for 10 weeks*

" " 3/ " " " 10 more

20?

on death 30/ to next relative

*monthly* Subn *eight pence*

or (weekly: 2 pence)

**f138**

There are other small  
Subns & small benefits  
Yours gives 5/ a week for 8 weeks for  
2d. a week *Do you give a Doctor?*

Last autumn I went very  
thoroughly into the case  
(in order to ascertain the  
reason of the smallness  
of the numbers) with  
the mill women I knew,  
& with the Manager of  
Lea Mills himself,  
& told him in guarded  
language what I had  
ascertained from the women.

1. They have no confidence  
in the 'Master' (Secretary) of the  
'Female Friendly Socy',  
who is a/ one of the mill officials/ warehousemen, &  
capable of injuring them.

These homely reasons are  
good to know.

**f138**

2. *No Annual Meeting*  
is held: & *no* statement  
of funds read out with  
balance sheet & rules &c.

And they commissioned  
me to find out!! whether  
the Socy was not 'insolvent'.

[I ascertained that the  
money was in the Mill Manager's  
hands: & the Lea Mills  
paid 5 p.c. upon it]

These things are typical,  
& show how very careful  
~~we~~/one must be, in village  
politics, to let the whole  
thing be placed in open  
business-like form before  
the village 'commères',  
the members.. They feel It is *their*  
money. It is not a charity.

**f138v**

3. There were other things:  
Such as that the sick  
Allowance was ~~not paid~~/stopped,  
if the Sick Member  
was even taking exercise out  
of doors by Medical orders.

Then the Lea Mills Manager  
himself complained to me,  
that *married women*  
always took themselves  
off the Socy's books.

The reason appeared to be  
that, if a Lying in woman  
could occupy herself at  
home in household work & about her children,  
altho' she could not go to work or out,  
she ceased to receive the  
Lying-in allowance.

[There is so much to be  
said on (3)/this on both sides]  
But your *Bucks Socy* gives *sick pay*  
to *Lying - in women* doing *HOUSEHOLD work*.

**f139**

-17-

[Also owing to there being no annual gathering,  
no regular reading out  
of the Rules &c, they  
fancied that *only mill-*  
women had the right to  
belong to the Socy, which  
is not the case.]

Still, the fact is that Lea  
Mills is itself the most  
important enemy of its  
Friendly Socy: for it *professes*  
to give half pay to its women  
in sickness for 13 weeks:  
& quarter pay for 13 weeks  
more.

This appears to cut both  
ways: neither good ways.

(1) It is not certain: it is  
a matter of favour: not of  
claim.

(2) *And* it prevents them from



**f139v**

saving: & even from putting  
into the "Female Friendly Socy",  
which, as you see, contemplates  
only sickness, & not old age  
or Savings Bank.

Besides, all is uncertain  
& confusion:

There is no fixed claim:  
I have often paid for  
Medical attendance & all  
its concomitants for  
Mill-women. And then  
but not till then the  
Mill Manager has written  
to the Doctor that he  
would undertake it.

**f140**

Latterly I have made  
it a condition of my help  
that the young women  
should put into the Friendly  
Socy; & they & the young men  
into the P. O. Savings Bank  
~~or both~~ - I doubling the  
money in the Savings Bank.

It is a sad unsatisfactory  
& anxious place: is Lea Hurst.

The women earn as much  
in mill-work as *men* earn in  
*agricultural* counties.

They spend on dress much  
more than I do: & they come  
upon me for Medical  
attendance & sick comforts:  
They come upon the parish  
for old age.

**f140v**

*What is wanted is: a  
safe & attractive means  
of saving:* OR INVESTING SAVINGS.

The Co-operative Stores  
used to afford this: but  
they too have been  
mismanaged, & no longer  
afford it. Their dividend is  
uncertain.

I look upon *you* as the  
Apostle of the Women  
Thrift movement: &  
*appeal to you for a  
this scheme for investing  
women's savings:* as well as  
for information for *all* my  
ignorance.

I see there has been much  
discussion lately about modes  
of *investing the People's savings:* -

**f141**

-18- March 18 1880

1. Could you send me a  
*Report of a Meeting*  
(*not* at the Mansion house)  
on Thrift some *3 months*  
ago, where Prof. Bryce &  
Mr. Blackley were ?/ & spoke?

2. And is there any  
*published Report of*  
*the Mansion house*  
*Meeting on thrift of*  
*March 12?*

3. Please also tell me  
IN WHAT TRADES were  
those two *Women's Strikes?*  
& what was the *result?*

[It is a curious fact that  
there has never been a strike  
in the great Lea Mills.]

**f141v**

4. Please also answer  
*question about Cheque*  
*for £25 ("Women's Division")*  
*p. 6 "guarantee Fund".*

**f142**

You see what Ld Derby  
says that, if there were  
a *Penny savings' Bank*  
*in every mill or workshop*  
*or place of employment or Pay office*  
*some millions of £ would*

be annually added to  
the country's riches -

Q.E.F. I would we could say

{there is a line drawn from here to attach this paragraph to the former; f141v continues}

**f141v**

I had to ask your forgiveness  
for my long delay. I have  
now to ask it for my  
long letter. Give it me  
for both, dear Mr. Fred.  
I have had 6 years &  
more without one day's rest  
of body or mind, ending with  
dear Mother's ~~death~~/going home. Dr.  
says my future work will  
depend on being "free" for at  
least a year 'from all the  
responsibilities that have been  
forced upon " me, (& he might say  
that I have so badly fulfilled)  
& from "letters". When is that "year"  
to come?

**f142**

*10 South St. W. March 20/80*

Success, Success, success  
to the ever young & gallant  
old Paladin for Buckingham: it must  
be real success whether  
the Election is lost or won.

ever yours & Maude's  
& Ralph's loving old  
Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

164

Fred Verney Esq

ff143-44v, 139, Sloane Street, London, S.W., March 23, 1880, acknowledging receipt of FN's long letter on the Trained Nurses' Provident Society and FV's political work in the election in Buckingham and Portsmouth

ff145-46v, April 8, 1880, re the reasons why FV has not replied to FN's long letter: a sewage case in which FV is engaged and a lecture on Plato's Republic he is to give

ff147-49, April 12, 1880, re FN's long letter and his proposal to have a tea to discuss the issues she raises

signed letter, ff150-53v, pen, black-edged paper

**f150**

Address

10 South St

Park Lane W.

April 16/80

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you very much  
for your two notes about  
the "Woman Thrift movement"  
- & our trained Nurses in  
particular regard to it.

I am in the greatest  
hopes that something  
good will be worked  
out, thanks to you,  
not only for Provident  
Funds for women:  
but for as far as regards  
Sanitary & *sober* 'conditions'  
& allowances, Friendly

**f150v**

Societies & Benefit Clubs  
in general.

But so much the more  
reason for not hurrying  
yourself to your inconvenience.

Pray do not trouble  
yourself till your  
great sewage case is  
over.

It is I who ought to  
apologize for having  
sent in a document at  
such a time as this  
when all sorts of gravest  
interests are at stake.  
But my time (for work)  
may be short. And I

**f151**

was anxious to 'lodge  
a plea ' with you  
where I know it will be  
safe for development.

But it is a matter for  
years not for weeks.

Things *are* fructifying -  
As far as the Nurses  
are concerned, those of  
St. Thomas' are not now  
throwing away their  
money but obliged *by*  
*themselves* to put it in  
the P.O. Savings' Bank. -  
& I am corresponding  
with others of our Trained  
Matrons to join.

**f151v**

As far as HY BONHAM  
CARTER is concerned, I am  
always afraid of him:  
he is so overworked.  
And, with ten sons,  
he as it were dreads  
some new thing to  
attend to. And as to PROVIDENT FUNDS he thinks the  
difficulties so great in the way of NURSES.

[You know how I try  
to find some younger  
man to take a part  
at least of his duties on  
the "N. Fund."]

I propose now to send  
him a résumé of your papers & mine, such  
as I sent you. Except  
his own part, he has not  
seen any. He has always been too  
busy.

**f152**

-2-

Then, if you are so good  
as to carry out your  
'tea', if he can attend,  
he will be at least insensed:  
& would be in many respects an  
excellent "*Nurses' delegate*."

I scarcely know how it  
will do to have a  
'delegation' of one or two  
trained *Nurses* to represent  
the Trained Nursing interest,  
as you are so good as to  
invite. The *Matron*  
*ought* to be their Delegate.  
But I am afraid she, Mrs. Wardroper, in  
the multiplicity of her  
affairs, would not make  
a good Delegate, tho' I  
have of course, as in duty

**f152v**

bound, put her forward,  
as is her right, in this  
matter. And she has  
entered heartily into it  
for the moment.

I put down, in the paper  
of deplorable length with  
which I troubled you  
the MAIN WISHES of the  
St. Thomas' NURSES, as  
far as they could agree  
upon them/se at present.

But I quite concur that  
it would be much better  
to have "some one who  
would be ready to undergo  
cross examination on  
the details of a Nurse's  
life", as you invite.

**f153**

Perhaps I may have time to think  
about it, please ? & to  
insense *Hy Bonham Carter*  
[I wish I could be that one  
myself. In Derbyshire  
the women of the 'Friendly  
Socy' make me their  
'Delegation of one' to find  
out how their funds stand  
with the Treasurer at the Mill.  
&c &c &c. But then  
I have only to cross examine  
& be cross examined by the  
Mill Manger.]



**f153v**

II. I very much give us joy  
that you are going to 'do'  
Plato's Republic to the people  
'in the East'. And I very  
much wish that, as you ask,  
I could make some suggestions,  
(tho' I am sure they are  
not really needed.)  
But I have not my Plato  
with me: much less my  
notes.

Pray thank Maude very  
much for her kindness in  
going thro' my letter.  
Money market not so tight,  
now: quite ready with  
my £20 for Mr. Knowles.  
ever yours affly  
Aunt Florence

ff154-55v, 4, Paper Buildings, Temple, E.C., April 21, 1880, re statistics produced by Mark Knowles  
for the Trained Nurses' Provident Society

ff156-56v, 139, Sloane Street, London, S.W. April 22, 1880, re FV's planned supper

signed letter, ff157-58v, pen, black-edged paper

**f157**

*Woman Thrift* Address

35/10 South St.

April 24/80

My dear Mr. Fred

Very many thanks for  
your note & its enclosures.

At present I will only  
trouble you with one or  
two remarks, pending  
the arrival of your  
great 'tea', which I hail.

1. I have always felt  
what you say about the  
'total abstinence' &  
'temperance' question:  
& about the "premium on  
falsehood" if/in the consequences  
to/of confessing to a glass of  
beer"

**f157v**

This especially for *women*,  
as you say.

It is a choice of difficulties.  
And I was chiefly thinking  
of *men: of illeg/excellent* (North country) young  
workmen squandering  
yearly on drink what is  
in fact a good income:  
& falling back in sickness,  
*the result of drink*, upon the same say "Hearts  
of Oak" allowances as the  
sober worn out striving father of a  
family.

You understand that,  
for "*Trained Nurses*," the  
question does not come  
up at all. The Total  
Abstainers are few or **none**.  
The intemperate are **none**.

**f158**

For they are dismissed.  
But we have not had a  
case at St. Thomas' for  
years.

*Mr. Mark Knowles.*

2. Thanks for the "Rules"  
which I have read with  
great care & interest.

Of the 3 objects,  
(Short) Sickness Pay  
Burial Money Allowance  
LONG SICKNESS PAY  
we should only want the  
last: (for our Trained Nurses)  
and Old Age (Superannuation)  
Allowance, of course.

I have some letters from  
our Trained Matrons  
which I will abstract  
for you.

**f158v**

Since I began this this  
mornng, your letter received  
about Wednesday's  
"supper" ~~come in~~: I have  
written to Mrs. Wardroper,  
as you desired: & asked  
her to write *to you*,  
whether she can come  
"& a friend". Must  
catch morning post. This  
prevents me from  
finishing this.

Delighted to be a  
guarantor for Mr. Mark  
Knowles: Shall I send  
you the Cheque?

Should like to see your  
lecture on Plato.

ever your affte

Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff159-63v, pen & pencil, black-edged paper

**f159**

Address

10 South St

April 28/80

My dear Mr. Fred

I have sent to Hy Bonham  
Carter an Abstract of  
the answers of our Trained  
Matrons.

---

*Edinburgh Infirmary:*

(135 Nurses, { Assistants &  
Probationers  
*included*

- All without exception  
warmly in favour of a Provident  
Society.

- "If we never need it ourselves,  
it will be all the better:  
& we shall be helping  
those that do need it."

They want to know

**f159v**

*"what the rules &  
conditions would be -  
what they should have  
to pay in.*

& what they would be  
entitled to in *illness*  
*and old age* - (that is, ~~permanent~~/*disabling*  
*(illness or*  
*(incurable infirmity*

-- "say they have often  
been surprised that there  
was not such a Society

— "a great many old  
pupils would like to join

— "all at Edinburgh would  
join, if allowed.

— "Nurses' hearty approval

— "waiting for more information

**f160**

[You see Edinburgh Nurses  
don't make the condition, as  
St. Thomas' do, of being  
able to take their money out,  
as out of a P. O. Savings Bank]

*St. Mary's Hospital:* London

say much the same thing  
- Nurses wish for the same  
information before giving  
their promises to contribute.

**f160v**

*Lincoln Hospital*

(about the Nurses)  
all sign same paper as the  
St. Thomas' heading  
which I sent you -

*St. Bartholomew's: London*

wish to hear more  
our Matron has been  
there too short a time

---

Good cheer for your Thursday's  
supper (Marriage of Cana  
between provident tendencies  
& Trained Nurses)  
And God speed the work!  
ever yours & Maude's & Ralph's  
Aunt Florence (F. Nightingale)

**f161**

-2-

3./2 Do you know anything [5:183]  
of the Liverpool Penny  
Banks' Association:  
supposed to have been  
extraordinarily successful?

I have just procured  
an introduction to the  
Actuary, Mr. Newton, at  
Liverpool, & propose  
to follow it up by corres=  
-pondence.

The questions I wanted  
principally to ask him  
(he is an enthusiast)  
are: 1. whether they can  
possibly be made to  
answer in a business  
point of view - & if so  
on how small a scale?

**f161v**

[the Liverpool Penny Banks,  
I believe, number upwards  
of 13/00: of which 30 [100?]  
in *elementary Schools* -]

And what is their machinery?  
especially in Schools?

[Mr. Gladstone told me  
last year that no Penny  
Bank could answer  
whose machinery was  
not unpaid: & that  
every shilling put into  
the P. O. Savings Banks  
did cost, or might cost,  
the Govt *elevenpence*]

2. whether there could  
be a Penny Banks  
Assocn in a *rural*  
District, as e.g. that  
about Lea, Holloway,  
Crich & Cromford: thickly  
peopled

**f162**

Success to your "supper"  
(the marriage of Cana)  
I have writ to Mrs.  
Wardroper to put her  
off to *Thursday*  
& asked her to write  
to you.

Aunt Florence  
23/4/80  
in great haste

**f163**

But I have no doubt  
that you could suggest  
to me many questions  
out of the experience  
of yourself & your "tea"  
friends, which would  
not occur to me - if  
you would kindly  
do so - Or that  
they themselves are  
sufficiently acquainted  
with its working.

F.N.

P. turn Over

**f163v**

I should like very much  
to see your Lecture on  
Plato: & give you  
joy of that & of your  
Sewage speech.

I shall be delighted at  
being a Guarantor for  
Mr. Mark Knowles'  
"Lodge": I think I  
had better send you  
the Cheque for £20?

(I enclose it)

F.N.



ff164-65v, April 29, 1880, re the results of the evening meeting about the Trained Nurses' Provident Society and the difficulties raised

signed letter, ff166-68, pen, black-edged paper

[13:361-62]

**f166**

TRAINED NURSES April 29/80

PROVIDENT FUND

My dear Mr. Fred

In case this should arrive in time for your "Marriage of Cana" Supper, which may God speed: -

I venture to trouble you with an Extract from a letter from Miss Pringle, Matron of EDINBURGH INFY, in answer to my enquiries based on the Extract which I did send you:

She says:

"I called a Meeting of the day Nurses in the afternoon which most of them attended, & I met the Night Nurses

**f166v**

"when they were assembled in the evening. After reading your letter to the day nurses, we discussed it & found ourselves in one mind as to NOT

WITHDRAWING THE MONEY, ON ACCOUNT OF MARRIAGE OR ANYTHING ELSE but leaving it always FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

"This was expressly declared by Nurse M.F., a plain woman much given to grumbling in speech, but known to abound in kindness of heart (one of those who saves *and* helps relations)

**f167**

"And it was heartily agreed  
to by all -

"The Night Nurses all agreed  
to the same recommendation  
& had nothing further to ask:  
except that a dear illogical  
Night Nurse (M.Y.), speaking  
with a great effort &  
burning blushes, said:  
"Surely old Nurses that have  
worked already many years  
won't have to pay in so  
much as us young ones."

"Miss P. (the First Assistant  
Matron) "asks further  
whether there will be the  
option of INSURING also  
for a sum of money at  
DEATH AS A PROVISION FOR  
those who are DEPENDENT on us".

**f167v**

["I will write today to some  
of the Hospitals we have  
supplied or helped with  
Nurses.

"I do feel now quite bound  
to this mutual provident bond,  
& I earnestly hope the dear  
Nurses will remain on the  
spirit they have shown.  
None of them being pledged  
to the scheme, it is very  
possible we may have  
some disappointment when  
it comes to action; but some  
will be very stanch, I know."]

"One of our Nurses also asks  
whether the fund would  
PROVIDE FOR BURIAL.

"[ The custom of the INFIRMARY  
CERTAINLY is to pay & provide for  
the Nurses DURING TEMPORARY ILLNESS  
& also ORDINARY CONVALESCENCE]"

**f168**

-2-

Would you kindly  
communicate this to Hy  
Bonham Carter, who is,  
I rejoice to hear, to attend  
the "supper"?

I have the highest hopes  
of your success  
& will not trouble you  
with more at present  
ever yours sincerely  
F. Nightingale

ff169-70v, 4, Paper Buildings, Temple, E.C. April 30, 1889, re the difficulty in providing a sound basis  
for a superannuation fund for nurses

ff171-72v, 139, Sloane Street, S.W., May 2, 1880, re additional difficulties with the Provident Fund

ff173-74v, May 16, 1880, re a draft proposal for the Nurses' League and mention of FN's  
disappointment at Lord Ripon's becoming a Roman Catholic

ff175-75v, August 10, 1880, asking for the return of his MS on Book IV of Plato's Republic

signed letter, ff176-77, pencil, black-edged paper

**f176**

10 South St

Aug 24/80

My dear Mr. Fred

I read your lecture  
on Plato with the  
greatest possible interest  
- seldom anything have  
I read with so much.

I hope you do not  
think I have forgotten  
it. I kept it that  
I might make some Extracts  
which I have never had  
~~any~~ strength to do, except  
a page on the mission  
of the newspapers in  
national education which

**f177**

I particularly liked -  
Also: do not think I  
forgot your hint about  
Mr. Hardy, to whom we  
are so much obliged.  
- I forwarded it at once  
to Harry Bonham Carter.

God bless you all:  
I am a wretched selfish  
old creature -  
but still your affecte  
Aunt Florence  
Many thanks for all:

unsigned, incomplete letter, ff178-80v, pen [8:882-83]

**f178**

*Mrs. Brown*

27/4/81

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

My dear Maude (if you  
will allow me to call you so)  
I come to your kindness to  
ask you to give me a  
*searching* character ' of  
Mrs. Brown.

If it had not been that  
*you* were her last mistress,  
I should not have had  
the courage to try her: I, an  
incompetent, tho' I hope  
careful mistress.

1. You see her *antecedents*  
are: 2 places of 5 months  
before that 1 " of 6 weeks  
before that 6 years with an old  
gentleman who is dead  
- *no* mistress at all -

**f178v**

These are such very poor references.

2. Add to this, she was so excessively nervous when with me jumping up from her seat & bursting once, à propos de bottes, out into tears, then begging my pardon for her "nervousness", that indeed I should have suspected - - ? drink.

But it is such an immense thing to me to have a servant from *you*, - who I know will take pains to tell me the truth, & kindly allow for my 'incompetency' which makes me ask

**f179**

troublesome questions, - that I very much incline to Mrs. Brown, if *you* know her *thoroughly*.

3. She told me that she left you because it was "such very hard work" during your "confinement." This seems a queer assertion. Will she leave me in the same way?
4. She told me that you gave her " 25, everything found" ~~ex~~/including "beer". ~~but~~ "there was beer, but she hardly ever drank it." [This was the *very* thing told me by a cook who was *never* quite sober.] I foolishly did not ask her who kept the "beer" with you. With me it *is* the cook.

**f179v**

5. She confessed to taking  
“perquisites”, but said she  
“never *asked* for them” - (from  
the tradesmen)
6. She said she was “used  
“to cooking for *Invalids*”: but  
could not think of anything  
she cooked for them, except  
“Mutton Cutlets” & “Beef Tea”.
7. She said she was “a  
Brother” - [I always give  
a seat to each servant  
wherever she is accustomed  
to attend: but am not  
fond of “Brothers”: & don’t  
want my poor little  
foolish Derbyshire girl=servant  
to become a “Brother.”]

**f180**

-2-

It is so difficult to ask you  
questions when they are  
“confidential” ones, other than by  
telling what one’s impressions  
from seeing her were.

do you feel you know  
her enough to be sure that  
she is a perfectly *trustworthy*  
*upper* servant, in all the  
senses?

I liked her dress: not  
much, as I have said, her  
manner:

the cook has so much in  
her power, as regards the  
other servants. How does she  
*behave to them*? What is her *temper*?

What is her principal  
FAULT? Everybody has faults.

Is she punctual? She came long  
*before* the time appointed: a very inconvenient  
time.

**f180v**

Is she a good cook for  
an *Invalid*, that is, in  
making *tender* little dishes  
of meat, so as to be able  
to cut it with a fork &  
not with a knife -

delicate, *not* sauce-y,  
little dishes of fish fillets.

minced, quenelle & warmed  
up dishes,

rather, common things, done  
exceedingly well, than  
“made” dishes -

She could not tell me  
any Invalid’s dish.

[I told her that I had only  
one thing at a meal, so  
that if it was not good, I  
had nothing.]

Forgive me, dear Maude,

ff181-82, May 8, 1881, acknowledging FN’s willingness to contribute to the Journal and enclosing the Balance Sheet for the “societies”; women are now to be admitted as representatives at the annual trades’ congress

Add Mss 68882 unsigned letter, ff183-87v, pen & pencil [15:534-36]

**f183**

*British Army Leading Article*

~~40, South Street,~~ {printed address:}

~~Park Lane, W.~~

Sept. 6 1881

6 a.m.

My dear Mr. Fred

I think that this is most  
excellent as a Leading  
Article & as such I do  
not think that ~~you~~/it could go  
any further. The end is capital.

People do not at all  
estimate the force of your  
point that in our possessions "abroad" the  
English standing army is  
*always* in an "emergency" - in  
that "emergency" which calls out  
our Reserve at home.

I have often wished that  
some one would, *not* too  
professionally, write something  
more than a Leading Article.

**f183v**

on these points -

dwelling perhaps particularly  
on India.

1. you know that in our Indian  
Army Sanitary Comm: we  
have especially worked out  
the point of the destruction  
it is to these very young  
soldiers to be sent to India  
[I *think* we found 23 to be  
the earliest proper age -  
but we are not now insisting  
on details.]
2. Maiwand, one is told by  
Officers & alas! by the  
German Militär Wöchenblatt,  
was a yet more disastrous  
illustration than S. Africa of all that is  
imperfect in our British  
Army, including the



Add Mss 41977D

185

unprofessional character of

**f184**

our officers - & the terrible  
~~chaos~~ results of seniority.  
 The man in command had  
 never been anything but a  
 carpet knight in his life.

It was yet more disastrous,  
 because the old soldiers fought  
 like heroes.

3. The whole question of age  
 both in the Civil & Military  
 Service for India is  
 now rising to the surface -  
 & must be settled.

[I showed Sir H. a letter  
 I had been advised & compelled to write  
 to the I.O. about the young  
 Civil Servants in training at Oxford  
 - age too young - *two* years  
 quite too short to teach them  
 what they must know -  
 for India. ]

**f184v**

4. The present necessity  
 for British Officers, especially  
 Company Officers, becoming  
 professional as they are in  
 every other Army but ours,  
 & not leaving every thing to  
 Colonel & Adjutant -  
 this *everywhere* in British  
 possessions but especially  
 in India -  
 the Captain to teach himself  
     Musketry  
     Military Geography  
     Military History  
 the art of throwing up small  
     defence works & entrenching -  
 - (plain Fortifications)
5. ~~the~~ revolution of the  
 whole practice of Musketry  
~~drill~~ Instruction to the  
 common sense one -  
 (as practised in Germany -&c)

**f185**

-2-

6. the absolute necessity  
of keeping middle aged  
experienced trustworthy  
N.C. Officers in the Army  
[in my day the British  
N.C. Officer was the most  
valuable of men: he was a  
prince of men} - not a boy.]  
I believe Mr. Childers is  
awakening to this fact.  
Without such men an Army  
is not an Army.
8. the increased necessity  
especially in India,  
especially with these short  
service boys, of making  
the Regimental School a  
real Institution, which  
it is not as long as the  
Officers never enter it.  
The Company Officer should  
~~enter it~~ everyday. see after it.

**f185v**

9. the terrible results,  
especially for these young  
~~men~~/Privates, especially in India,  
of the Government keeping  
canteens, of these youths  
not being ordered up first  
to the hills, & encouraged  
to shoot about - & wander  
about there & catch butterflies.

These & many more  
points there are.

**f186**

You have touched upon  
all these points - & quite  
as much as could be done  
in a Leading Article.

But every one of them  
might be extended into an  
~~Lead~~ Article.

10

The age of enlistment has  
been raised one year, has  
it not? - And the term  
of short Service extended  
one year - this Session?

But there need far greater  
reforms than this.

11. As for the Army Hospl Corps,  
it is a mere drunken rabble &  
worse. They are well paid.  
And these boys find  
themselves in the possession  
of money, without any proper

**f186v**

N. C. Officers over them, just  
at the age when money is  
most misspent -This  
was notorious in S. Africa.

12.

Two small illustrations I have  
been told on almost  
unquestionable authority:

- a. N.C. Officers have now to be  
chosen merely because  
they/se boys can read & write  
instead *of fathering* the boys -
- b - Even Artillery Officers at Woolwich  
think not of their men  
but only of getting up to  
London to their Clubs -

13.

We are revolutionizing our Army  
- & it is necessary ~~But~~ by  
abolishing Purchase - by Short  
Service - by greatly altering  
the Regimental system, as a {printed address, upside down}  
10, South Street, family, as its  
Park Lane, W.  
Officers' family, possession, as  
their *levy*, property, estate.

**f187**

-3-

But we do not see the  
results of all this: & that  
one of them is: our  
Officers must become  
*professional* especially  
the Company Officers -  
professional in the sense  
that lawyers, tutors,  
schoolmasters, even school mistresses & Head Nurses are professional.

They must not lurk behind  
the spirit of the age -

Why even we women are  
becoming professional -

thank God for it -  
it is what I live for.

14

N.B. the misery of the wives  
& children when our Reserve  
was called out was untold  
This detail must be settled if  
the Reserve becomes an Institution  
We are mocking old Roman

**f187v** Institutions without differentiating the difference. **[end 15:536]**

{f188 blank}

ff189-90v, Claydon House, April 30, 1881, re family news, especially how a cat has settled in

signed letter, ff191-91v, pencil

**f191**

Lea Hurst  
Cromford Derby  
Oct. 3/81

My dear Mr. Fred

Many thanks for your  
most kind note.

I am very glad to think  
of Maude again with her  
children: [to her my great  
love, please.] You know  
that I think Ralph, little man,  
requires 'intellectual' society

Will you not take this place [see]  
on your road from  
Pleasley to Rhianva?

It will be very dull:  
~~but~~ Aunt Florence would  
gladly see you for an hour.

There *is* a bed: & the

**f191v**

Butler = Valet = Coachman =  
Relieving Officer, aged 14,  
of this Genteel Establishment  
will gladly take care of you.

I wish I could be sure  
that the Shore Smiths witt/ould  
be here.

Mr. Jowett was here for  
a few days: & I talked to  
him of Mr. Stubbs -

ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

{f192 blank}

signed letter, f193, pencil

**f193**

Lea Hurst

Cromford: Derby

Oct. 6/81

My dear 'Capt. of Cavalry' Mr. Fred

I am very glad that you  
are coming tomorrow. I hope to hear  
by morning's post *at what*  
*hour*. that I may send  
for you at Whatstandwell  
or Cromford Station.

There is no fly to be had  
at either Station.

ever yours

F. Nightingale

initialled letter, ff194-95v, pencil

**f194**

8/10.81,

My dear Mr. Fred

Give me the benefit  
of your help.

E. Brooks is a poor  
girl from a bad family  
at Crich whom I took,  
all but naked, 5 years ago  
& provided for in various  
ways. but inveterate  
habits of lying & unstead:  
=iness & a sort of malignant  
way of currying favour with  
one servant & setting her  
against any other servant  
who had offended her, E.B.,  
& various other faults -  
made me feel it would be



**f194v**

better for her if I could  
find her another place.

[Also, I found that she  
thought whatever she  
did I should always  
provide for her]

With the greatest difficulty

I found her a good  
place with this Mrs.

Whitfield - And, having  
been kept 'au courant'

by Mrs. W., I believe that  
in this County Court suit

matter, Mrs. W. is the  
victim & not E.B.

Altogether it is a bad job -

**f195**

[You will say: & *I feel*:

"in 5 years could you  
do nothing better for this  
girl?"]

Tell me what I should do: -

should I *not* answer at  
all? Should I write

something like the enclosed?

could you give me  
another word for "not  
dishonest" - I mean  
not stealing -

I am so very glad to  
have your advice -

I fancy that Mr.

Chambers (who is for aught

**f195v**

I know, a pettifogging  
attorney) has found out  
the case will not hold  
& wants to bring me into  
it

My great misery is  
what will become of  
this girl without a  
character? She is  
unsteady enough already

Yrs

F.N.

8/10/81

initialled letter, ff196-97, pencil

**f196**

*E. Brooks* 8/10/81

My dear Mr. Fred

E. Brooks "never was  
admitted into Mrs. Whitfield's  
service" - It was a series  
of blunders (on Mrs. W.'s  
part as well.) *She*, E.B.  
wrote from home after  
an interval breaking her  
agreement to enter Mrs.  
W.'s service - In the  
mean time, Mrs. W. sent  
her 1

which she had asked for (the letters  
crossed) which E. B.  
chose to take as re=  
engaging her. [her real

**f196v**

reason being, it was understood, that she tried to get *another* place & *failed*.]

She arrived at Hastings at night without warning: & Mrs. W. had engaged another servant, but offered to put her into the Servants' Home till she Mrs. W. could part with the pro-tem servant.

E.B. refused, & was, Mrs. W. says, abusive - went straight *with the*

**f197**

*Cabman* to an Attorney & has been staying since at the Cabman's - (about 3 or 4 weeks)!!! after making Mrs. W. pay her fare to *London*. (where I am thankful she did *not* go) & threatening Mrs. W. with proceedings

It is a long story but this is the outline.

Does this modify your view?

F.N.

You *may* not find Dr. Webb at home.

signed letter, ff198-200, pencil

**f198**

10/10/81

My dear Mr. Fred

I hope Dr. Webb gave  
you a good account of  
yourself yesterday?

What time will you have  
the Waggonette for Maude  
to-day?

Do you approve of this  
arrangement for yourselves?

[Please go over the rooms  
with Fanny & tell me.]

Nursery Bed-room & Nursery  
for 2 chicks & their  
Nurses - a sofa made

**f198v**

up as a bed for  
Gwendolen (I cannot find,  
alas! a Crib) to be by  
the Nurse's bed -  
the Nurse-maid to sleep  
either in the Nursery  
or a small room  
opposite which  
Fanny will show you -  
I am going to put up  
another Iron bed stead  
side by side with  
yours at 10 this  
morning - for Maude

**f199**

I propose that you  
should have the Study  
for your dressing-room -  
& the Study & Garden  
Hall for you & Maude  
& 'Strad' -

[I will put more  
furniture into these  
rooms which were  
my Father's - & I can  
make them pretty comfortable:]

I deplore the fact  
that the room you  
are now in is so small  
for two -

**f199v**

Would you think it  
better till the chicks  
come for you & Maude  
to have the Nursery  
bedroom?

[The large bed is a good bed,  
recently had by myself  
from Maple's]

I wish I could give  
you better rooms &  
not change you about

~~There~~ is one other  
plan, viz. that you  
should have the whole  
Nursery floor for

**f200**

-2-

yourselves. [Fanny will  
show you the "Long"  
Room with 2 beds]  
for the children]  
& ~~you~~ the Study for  
your dressing-room -  
But I don't think  
this will be so  
comfortable for Maude  
as the other -  
I have not yet heard  
about Shore's man servant.  
ever yrs affly  
Aunt Florence

ff201-02v, October 11, 1881, re FV's plan to see Mr. Wildgoose and enclosing a paper about coal dust

unsigned note, f203, pencil

**f203** {archivist: 11 Oct 1881}

Dear Maude

I think it was very rude  
& bad manners of Aunt  
Florence not to furnish  
Ralph's drawing-room Table  
with the "Periodicals of the  
day".

Will this do?

11/10/81

Mrs F. Verney

signed letter, ff204-05, pencil

**f204**

11/10/81

My dear Mr. Fred

I hope Maude is well  
& that you have good tidings  
of the chicks.

How I wish that you  
would, if agreeable to you  
call upon Mr. Wildgoose,  
the Manager of Lea Mills,  
(at the "Poplars", not 5 min:  
from here) & perhaps go  
over the Mills with him.

As for the 1/6 Portage,  
I am ashamed to say I have  
always paid it. You, village

**f204v**

Hampden, are quite right.

But, I am sure I should  
not fight it after you were  
gone. I have so many fights

I should question if any  
one in Holloway had  
Telegrams, except Mr. Wildgoose,  
Mr. Yeomans, (from me in  
London which of course I pay)  
& I - & Mr. Sims

Would you mind delaying  
the fight till Shore comes,  
or till you could see Mr.  
Wildgoose & Mr. Yeomans  
& learn what they do?

**f205**

with best love to Maude

ever yrs affly

At Florence

Would you like the

Shandrydan to have

*a drive to day?*

Thanks for the Stamps

wh I am sure I

ought not to accept.

Add Mss 68883, 294 folios, 92 pages, microfilm, correspondence with Frederck and Maude Verney  
Part 2 1881-86, Adam Matthew reel 39

signed letter, ff1-1v, pencil

**f1**

12/10/81

My dear Mr. Fred

I think this note is very  
neat & appropriate. As you  
are so good as to ask me,  
I think, if I were writing,  
I should leave out the  
word "flagrant" in the last  
line but one. I think  
it reads almost stronger  
without it.

Thank you 1000 times for the  
pens. A good pen is the  
Summum Bonum of my life  
- I shall try them & then  
ask you for the address -  
Claydon has kept us

**f1v**

most magnificently in game -  
And we are indeed thankful.

Ralph brought a pheasant  
yesterday - & Baby a pheasant  
And Nurse a hare - This  
was an unlooked for generosity

I hope to see you this  
evening before dinner -

yrs affly

At Florence



initialled letter, ff2-2v, pencil

**f2**

13/10/81

My dear Mr. Fred

I have read this  
Report with the deepest  
interest -

How many hitherto  
unaccountable explosions  
it must account for !

[Abab we used to have  
a great deal to do with  
at the W.O. & particularly  
with his father who, poor  
man, destroyed himself-]

I should have liked a  
copy -

Do you suppose it possible

**f2v**

that in neglected basements  
in London where a  
gas escape produces an  
explosion, the dusty state  
(including even coal-dust)  
of the premises, may have  
anything to do with it?

F.N.

signed letter, f3, pencil

**f3**

13/10/81

Dear Mr. Fred

I am so sorry about  
Maudie's tooth ache -

There is a first rate  
Dentist at Derby who  
'removes' with Gas -

[Derbyshire people come  
from London to go to him!]

Is it quite wise for her  
to go down '*the pit*' at all?

Thanks very many for  
Institute news -

I am sending down Mr.  
Hey's paper -

Aunt Florence

14 October 1881 f4

signed letter, ff4-5v, pencil

**f4**

14/10/81

I am so sorry

The Dentist's name is *Murphy*.

But I should like to have  
telegraphed to him.

He is so much in request  
that he goes to other places.

I think however that  
*Friday* is Derby *Market*  
day: in that case he is  
sure to be there -

Will you take the risk?  
Or shall I send down to  
Cromford & telegraph?  
And will you not put  
off the fête to-night?

**f5**

Will it not be too  
much for Maude,  
(to whom my best of loves)?  
Shall I send up to  
Yeoman's to know if  
this is Derby Market day  
&c &c?  
At Florence

**f5v**

Mr. F. Verney

signed note, f6-6v, pencil {archivist; [14 Oct 1881]}

Dear Fred It *is* Derby  
Market - day to-day, I  
find. Murphy will be there.  
I am afraid it will rain again  
Will you not have Young's  
Shandrydan -  
& to meet you in the  
afternoon?  
Will you have some  
food with you, ~~illeg~~ what?  
It is no use telling you  
how sorry I am.  
At F.

**f6v**

a verbal answer  
Mr. F. Verney

ff8-9, October 14, from FV, re Maude's visit to the dentist

ff10-10v, {archivist: October 1881}, re personal news of the children and their visit to FN

signed note, ff11-12v, pencil

**f11**

15/10/81

My dear Mr. Fred

1. how is Maude? in  
the very first place?  
and 1001 best blessings  
on you for the entertainmt

I *should* like to see the  
Programme of what you &  
she did.

2. *Must* I order you  
Shandrydan for to be at  
Whatst: at 12.10?

3. Did Shore give  
orders about removing  
the fallen tree by this  
morning?

4. I shall trust to

**f11v**

see Maude before you  
start.

5.

The next question is about  
the chicks' Railway  
journey without you:  
if you will give me  
exact orders, I will  
send an astute female  
to help the Nurse with  
the children and  
Here I received yr note

**f12**

Dear Mr. Fred  
I had got so far when  
I received your welcome  
note -

I assure you the *only*  
thing you *can* do for  
the relief of Aunt  
Florence's mind is  
what you propose:  
viz. return here on  
Tuesday. And I bargain  
that you come in time  
to see her, At. F.

**f12v**

6. *This* will wait -  
- I wanted you to explain  
to me about the  
Undergraduates' (Cambridge  
or Oxford)  
Course of Ethics: what  
are the books read?  
What the effect on the  
Undergrad: mind? &c  
&c  
ever yours  
& Maude's  
Aunt F.

ff13-14v, Station Hotel, York, October 16, 1881, re Maude's recovery and the illness of Mrs. Monk

ff15-16v, October 18, 1881, re visits made by FV and Maude

ff17-18, October 19, 1881, re family news

unsigned letter, ff19-20v, pencil [8:883-84]

**f19**

Lea Hurst

Oct 19. 1881

My dear Maude

God speed you both & the  
chicks.

Give me a post card  
from Rhianva to say that  
you are alive & well.

You were so good as to  
offer to show me the Stradivarius  
And if I might hear the  
mistress of the Stradivarius  
draw from it a little Mozart  
or Beethoven - & then  
"Home, sweet Home," that  
would be indeed a pleasure.  
You will smile, but there  
is perhaps nothing in the

**f19v**

world I should like so

much to have heard  
as you leading 'Home, sweet  
Home' &c & the people  
singing -

I heard last night an  
ecstatic account of your  
performances & the Entertained from Mr  
Haywood, the Schoolmaster,  
by no means an ecstatic  
person.

Thank you a thousand times  
for it & again 1000 times

*To Maude*

Does Mervyn look in that  
spiritual manner?

Some day perhaps you will

**f20**

tell me exactly how you  
feed him - with *what*  
biscuits? qy sopped in  
milk?

*To Mr. Fred*

The County Court suit for  
that girl, E. Brooks, has  
been decided

1 month wages (only)	1. 3. 6
Rec'd from Mrs. Whitfield	<u>2</u>
Court	3. 3. 6
Paid Solicitor's & fees	<u>1. 19. 6</u>
barely paid, she	1. 4. 0

says, her journey home

What will become of her?

**f20v**

*To Mr. Fred-*

If you have a moment to  
spare, please tell me what  
you thought about reading  
*Ethics* at Oxford -

- the books read:

- the effect on the mind

of the Undergraduates &c

I have seen Ralph &  
baby. I hope baby has  
not a little cold.

They excited so much  
interest at the Sunday  
School singing on Sunday  
that the boys could not  
sing, but kept looking up at  
Ralph. God save them both:  
(as we say, without thinking, of the Queen)

ff21-24v, Rhianva, Bangor, October 23, 1881, re the uses of philosophical studies

signed letter, ff25-27, pencil

**f25**

Lea Hurst  
Cromford: Derby.  
Oct 28 1881

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you very much  
for your Aristotelian letter,  
in which you have put  
*much better* what I  
have felt the greater  
part of my life, & what  
I hope to have some talk  
with Your Excellency  
some day about -

For the moment I must  
descend from Ethics to a  
vulgar subject. But  
what a pity that we cannot

**f25v**

put Ethics, as we might,  
into vulgar subjects.  
Anent Mr. Young's Bill,  
if you do that 9/, you will  
compel me to keep a  
carriage - And who is  
to manage the coachman  
who is to manage the horses?  
Besides they will always  
want shoeing just as I  
am sending down for an  
elderly or sick friend, &  
no time to order a fly -  
Now, Mr. Young manages  
me - And his horses never  
want shoeing - As he says:  
in answer to kind enquiries,



**f26**

'My 3 horses are quite  
well, but I've got the  
Rheumatismcs'.

So if you are not too fine  
to ride in Mr. Young's  
shandrydan, please let  
him be my coachman -  
I send 10/- the extra 1/  
is for Ralphinello, not for  
'goodies', horrid thought -  
but for mud=pies, a little  
spade, or any thing that  
has to do with *out of doors*  
dirt which so delighting  
the youthful mind &  
embrowning the youthful  
hands & cheek -

**f26v**

to whom, Ralphinello, ~~illeg~~/Aunt  
F's best love, & also to Gwendolen  
And especially to Maude  
& very many thanks for her  
dear little notes. It was  
a great relief to my anxious  
mind that she arrived  
alive - And I ought  
rather to ask her to  
forgive, (and but I know she does)  
the discomforts of this  
half monté house  
And I hope to *hear* the  
Stradivarius & its mistress  
some day -  
And does Mervyn have his  
Albert biscuits *soaked* in

**f27**

-2-

his milk?

And I wish I had time  
or strength to write about  
more worthy subjects than  
"shandrydans" at present.

but am always & ever  
yours & Maude's affecte

Aunt Florence  
if you will have such a  
poor old Aunt

with love to all the  
dear people at Rhianva  
& thanks for the Harrison book  
very interesting

signed note, f28, pencil

**f28**

Lea Hurst

28/10/81

In my letter (in the Registered  
envelope) I forgot to say:

you left here a beautiful  
piece of fernery from  
the depths of the  
Pleasley pit-

Shall I *bring* it to you in  
London? It will not  
travel safely in the

Reg. Env - Meanwhile  
I keep it as a memento  
that Maude came safe  
"out of the pit"

Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff29-31, pen

**f29**

What the Health Missioner is to be  
paid: how Supervised &c &c

Claydon House, {printed address:}  
Winslow,  
Bucks. 5 Nov/81  
7 a.m.

My dear Fred

I have consulted with **[6:584]**  
Margaret.

1. The Health Missioner must  
certainly be paid, otherwise  
it will be mere amateur  
work. She should be  
paid certainly not less  
than the other ladies  
who would be teaching  
cookery & other subjects.

2. She should be under the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for supervision - but  
sent by the County Council.  
For she might be serving

**f29v**

under more than one  
Medical Officer of Health

[But I strongly feel that  
IN TIME TO COME (as it  
is absolutely impossible  
for the M. O. of Health  
to supervise the minutiae  
which this women is there  
on purpose to carry out)  
perhaps a Lady Supt.  
more perfectly experienced  
than herself will be  
required to ~~look~~ supervise  
- But say nothing about  
that at present]

The Village Committee  
or whatever you call it  
which you have so wisely

**f30**

instituted will no doubt  
look sharply after her  
in *some* respects. But  
as the supervisor ought to  
know more than the  
supervised, *real* supervision  
of domestic sanitation  
cannot be exercised by  
them, any more than the  
Governors can really  
supervise the Nurses in  
a Hospital.

3 "How she is to be fitted  
into the system." Will  
not the same machinery  
that works the cooking  
& other classes do for this?

Those districts who ask

**f30v**

for "Nursing", by which  
we understand they  
mean Health in Home,  
will have the Health  
Missioner.

A lady must go from  
house to house, as we  
understand has actually  
been done in ~~an~~/your other  
case & announce time  
& place of class to the  
poor rural mothers &c/~~women~~

4. But what Margt and I  
both most strongly feel  
is that, in a perfectly  
untried scheme (perfectly  
untried except by failure  
- that of the Nat. Health ladies  
from London) we must find

**f31**

-2-

out what local material  
there is ~~befo~~ for to  
make Health Missioners  
out of before we go  
abroad, & invite them  
from Liverpool & London.  
We must consult Dr.  
De'ath too  
ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

f31v, notation, I.E. Miss N. Health Missioners Organization

ff32-33v, Claydon House, Bucks, October 11, 1882 explaining why they have not been able to pay a visit to Lea Hurst

ff34-35v, 4 South Street, Park Lane, W., December 9, 1882 re Sir HV's state of health

signed note, ff36-37, pencil

**f36**

10 South St.  
12/18/82  
Thank God that dear,  
dearest Margaret is  
coming to-day!  
It was more than  
I had dared to hope -  
How loving & noble  
of her! & to leave  
Ellin!!

The night last night  
was rather worse than

**f36v**

better -  
If there was any hurry  
or ruffling of the  
Patient before the  
Subcutaneous, it  
would account for it -  
- I do not know that  
there was - but it  
is difficult to avoid,  
*without* Hospital  
discipline, *or* a lady's  
supervision.

**f37**

Thank you all:  
ever yrs gratefully  
F. Nightingale  
I was quite in real despair  
when I heard of the  
bad night till the  
news that Margaret  
was coming.

ff38, 139 Sloane Street, February 6, 1883, re a win at Nottingham and a reminder of a note to be written

ff39-40, Travellers' Club, Pall Mall, S.W., March 18, 1883, re FV's willingness to read a paper of FN's and to take greetings from FN to the Hague

ff41-41v, March 23, 1883, re FV's travel plans

ff42-43v, 139 Sloane Street, London, S.W., April 23, 1883, re lodging arrangements for Sir HV and a suggestion that Stubbs read FN's paper

ff44-44v, The Siamese Legation, 14, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., April 7, 1883, re a chest of drawers for papers

ff45-46v, 139 Sloane Street, London, S. W., June 1, 1883, re his reading of FN's paper

ff47-47v, June 9, 1883, from Maude Verney, re some papers FN wanted and offering to take anything to Claydon

signed note, ff48-50v, pencil

**f48**

10 South St  
June 10/83

My dear Maude

How very good you are  
to me! I was so sorry  
not to be able to go to  
the window yesterday &  
look at the little people  
in their panniers -

I will send down to you a  
very small parcel of books  
(returned) for Claydon  
to:tomorrow, according to your  
very kind desire - Do not  
trouble to call

2 Please, in thanking Margt  
tell her that "la reconnaissance"

**f48v**

"n'est qu'un vif sentiment  
"des bienfaits futurs" - &  
that I trust she will write  
to me again about my Sister.  
Could you & she ascertain  
*when* it will be best  
to fix the day for our  
Probationers to go to  
Claydon? You know they  
were first most kindly  
asked for "early in June" -  
- then for "late in June" -  
Miss Crossland *must* go  
on her much needed  
holiday not later, I believe,  
than July 1 - We have

**f50**

no one but her to bring  
the Probationers - Probably  
Sir Harry's time & my sister's  
may exactly fit in with  
Miss Crossland's - As Sir  
Harry *will* kindly run about  
with the Probrs, I hope  
his shin will be well  
first -

3. I trust he is not  
using my "Calendula"  
without constant supervision  
from Dr. Denton -  
No doubt Margt sees to  
this - She is like an  
angel from heaven - healing  
our wounds - setting the captive  
free - bringing the year of the Lord

**f50v**

4. Please do not let me  
bother you - there is  
still an instalment of my  
Indian paper - the *last*  
part - not come - *Please*  
do not hunt for it. But  
if it *should* fall under your  
hand, let it be put out for  
my Messenger, who will  
call with the books about  
12 tomorrow -

Thank you, thank you: &  
Forgive me. Success to  
all you love - I was going  
to say - but that would  
not include one very dear  
(yourself) to Aunt Florence  
I hope Ellin is better.



signed note, ff51-51v, pencil

**f51**

June 11/83

My very dear Maude

I troubled you yesterday  
with a wish that the day  
for the party to Claydon of the  
Probationers might be  
settled so that it might  
annoy as little as possible  
its kind inviters & hosts.

Miss Crossland does not  
go way before *Monday*  
*July 9*: so if any  
day of the *first week*  
*in July* would suit Sir

**f51v**

Harry & my sister  
better (who asked  
them for June) there  
seems nothing to hinder  
it.

Success to you all, all  
you dear ones -

I heard from Sir Harry  
this morning.

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

signed note, ff52-52, pencil

**f52**

Aug 7/83

My dear Maude

Are you pretty well &  
strong now? I hope so -

I am rather in trouble  
about fixing my movements  
with regard to my going to  
Claydon - not in reference  
only to my Sister but  
also to dear Margaret's  
convenience & movements -

Could you kindly tell  
me first *what day*  
*Capt. George Verney's party*

**f52v**

*leaves Claydon?* [I cannot  
learn this from Sir Harry}

If you are going out *at all*  
events & could see me  
for a few minutes *today*  
at 4 or 5 or at 6,  
should be very glad -  
but *not* unless you are  
coming (permiscuous) in  
this direction -

If you are not, may I  
write to you?

**f53**

Aunt Florence's

Love to Mr. Fred  
who I believe is returned  
ever yours  
dear Maude  
F. Nightingale

signed note, ff54-55, pencil

**f54**

10 South St

Aug 10/83

My dear Maude

Dr. Acland was here  
yesterday. He is in England  
for one day on purpose,  
among other things, to see  
my Sister - I telegraphed  
to Claydon - Dr. Acland  
will go down to Claydon  
to day (Friday) at one  
to stay till *five* o'clock -  
Would it be possible  
for you to be there?  
I think with joy of your

**f54v**

going. [I do not  
think it is much use his  
giving directions unless  
there is some one who  
will remember accurately  
what he says, as you do]  
But I do not know ~~by~~  
whether you go early  
in the afternoon.  
I hope you are pretty well  
& not over hurried.  
Sir Harry's anxiety must  
be great for he not  
only writes to me twice a  
day but telegraphs

**f55**

I telegraphed to Dr.  
Denton to meet Dr. Acland  
[I hope they at Claydon  
will not take this amiss].  
Both the Nurses are new: a Nurse  
Boomfield from Oxford instead of  
Nurse Dare - I am afraid my Sister  
*may* refuse to see Dr. Acland.

Would you be so very  
good as to take the  
Review enclosed to Sir  
~~Harry~~? my sister?

God bless you both,  
dear Maude. I am so  
very sorry Mr. Fred loses  
his Prince -

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed note, f55, pencil

**[8:884]**

**f56**

Aug 15/83

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

Dearest Maude: just starting for Claydon,  
-What a Godsend you have been  
at Claydon. I hope you are not the  
worse.

Would you be so very good as to  
tell me what you think of each  
respective Nurse at Claydon:  
any hints I am to observe about them:  
& what hours on duty each Nurse is,  
I mean whether day or night.

I wish I could save you the trouble  
of writing this: God bless you:  
ever your affecte Aunt Florence

signed note, ff57-58, pencil

**f57** {archivist: 27 Sept. 1883}

My best love to Maude &  
little God-daughter - & Margt  
and best, best wishes for  
your Dutch journey & all  
your Siam reforms.

I cannot express my  
thanks for what you did  
for me last night, nor my  
Sorrow that it should have  
been at such an inopportune  
time for you.

How is your cough?  
& I hope you are none the

**f57v**

worse.

I send last page  
of Proof, apparently left  
~~out by mistake~~ dropped  
off the pin

God bless you all.  
ever affly

Aunt Florence

Sept 22 83

7 am

**f58**

Since I wrote this,  
I have your kind packet.

This is the missing  
Sheet.

F.N.

ff59-60v, 139, Sloane Street, London, S.W. September 29, 1883, from FV re his return and Maude's recovery and a speech he will make

ff61-62v, 4 South St, October 22, 1883, from MV re some stockings for Parthe and a photographer

ff63-64v, November 12, 1883, re Fitzjames Stephen's Indian letter to the Times

ff65-66, November 28, 1883, from FV re a book called "the Expansion of England" and his wish to discuss laissez faire & laissez défaire with FN

ff67-68v, December 4, 1883, re FV's wish to have the Queen invite a Siamese prince to dinner

signed letter, ff69-70, pencil

**f69**

Dec 5/83

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

My dear Mr. Fred I feel almost  
as anxious as you that Prince  
Prisdang should have what is so  
right.- a dinner with the Queen.  
I wish I could help you. but

I hardly know how.

Lady Biddulph, the widow of  
Sir ? Thomas Biddulph (she lives in  
Henry the VII's tower at  
Windsor) is, I believe, the person  
who fills most nearly "the  
"place of Lady Augusta Stanley  
"with the Queen" - but with  
a difference -

Sir Henry Ponsonby is undoubtedly  
"the right person" to ask - but I am  
afraid you will think him "too official"

**f69v**

When is Prince Prisdang leaving?  
[- To my sorrow -] How much  
you have done for him!  
And how I hope that you may  
be the means of doing great  
things for Siam -

How vulgar, rude & brutal  
is the tone of the Times about  
Lord Ripon's policy - Yes, I  
could never have thought that  
Sir B. Frere would have  
written such a letter.

God bless you

ever yours affly

Aunt Florence

**f70**

I want so much to see you  
as you kindly propose - & dear  
Maude & hear about some  
important operations of my  
God=daughter's - And I have  
so much to hear from you -

I hope to compass it soon.  
But I am pretty bad - And  
now is come the flood of work  
for the Offices which I am  
unable to do - I am at my wits' end.

My poor Fanny at her own  
eager desire & by Doctor's orders  
went to St. Thomas' Hospital  
on Monday - & ~~the~~ on Tuesday  
wanted to come out - And the  
Senior Physician came to tell me  
so last night.

signed letter, ff71-72, pencil

**f71**

9/12/83

My dear Mr. Fred I feel  
almost as anxious as you  
do that any such  
recognition as that of  
dining with the Queen  
should be given to Prince  
Prisdang. I did write  
[there has not yet been  
time for an answer]  
but am quite uncertain  
as to the result.

I am so little knowledge=  
=able that I do not know  
whether you had better  
employ any other (better)

**f71v**

agency at once - it is  
always well to have two  
strings to one's bow - &  
could do no harm -  
or wait for my answer -

When does Pr. Prisdang  
leave?

You see the Q goes to  
Osborne in a week or ten  
days

ever yours

Aunt Florence

**f72**

I am so pressed this  
ante-Christmas time  
when all the Offices are  
getting up their work  
& people are going back  
to India

But I should like "our"  
engagement to come off  
If you are at home about 6,  
would you look in for half  
an hour? But don't come  
home on purpose - I might  
not be able to see you

F.N.



signed letter, ff73-74, pencil

**f73**

11/12/83

My dear Mr. Fred

I have failed miserably  
in getting Pr. Prisdang a  
'command' to dine - I am so  
very sorry.

"The readiest way," I am  
told, is "for Sir Harry Verney,  
"as his host, to ask Lord  
"Granville to bring it about,"  
as if you could not have  
thought of that for  
yourself, if it had been  
desirable!!

**f73v**

I am reminded that  
the "approaching anniversary  
of the Prince Consort's death  
makes this a bad time" -

& your letter is returned  
to me as being "very  
interesting", which  
indeed it is.

I am afraid I can do  
no more. How gladly  
would I have done it  
you well know-

I know how very difficult  
it is for any one now to

**f74**

persuade or bring about  
these things -

I hope you were not  
hurried or wet last night  
on your Eastern expedition.

ever yr aff  
Aunt Florence

signed note, f75, pencil

[8:884]

21/12/83

Thanks very much dear

Maude

I think about 25 or 20

Xmas cards would  
satisfy my rapacious maw,  
(IF you are getting some  
for yourself -)

I have a good many  
already - but they are  
always the same things -  
a trailing flower & a  
text - not always well chosen  
especially *not* for children - who like  
faces & ever yours gratefully  
scenes Aunt Florence

signed note, ff76-77, pencil

[8:884]

**f76**

Dec 22/83

*PRAY*, my very dear Maude,  
don't trouble about the Xmas  
cards for me, unless you are  
getting them for yourself. I  
will never give another Xmas  
card again, if you do -  
You are so very busy -  
Mervyn says you must not.

Last night, when your  
kind message came, the  
Chairman of the great St.  
Marylebone Infy (which  
we nurse) was settling

**f76v**

with me the details of  
the building & the Regulations  
for a new School for  
Probationers which we  
are going to help in having  
there -

*And I did not know  
what I wrote to you.*

It is wonderful, it is  
extraordinary that after  
20 years that trained  
Nursing has become almost  
a fashion, the difficulty of

**f77**

getting Nurses for Workhouse

Infirmaries whom you  
can *bear* about a Patient  
unless you train them  
yourselves is almost  
as great as ever

with love to chicks  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

initialled note, f78, pencil

**f78**

-3- {archivist:[?22 Dec 1883]}

Please tell me if Capt Verney  
is not now, as I hope & trust,  
pursuing his canvass from  
his father's house - & if  
Margt is not coming back  
to Claydon -

F.N.

If you come on Sunday,  
will it be at 5  
or at 6? And, please,  
I am afraid I must say  
that I have *no* strength now  
to go on longer than 7.30,  
however willing.

signed letter, ff81-81, pen

**f81**

10 S. St.          April 27/84

Thank you, thank you very  
much, my dear Mr. Fred  
There is scarcely any thing  
in this world that I  
should like better than  
to attend your Buddhist  
conference, so valuable  
& so important with  
its knowledge from the  
source -

But alas! how is it to be  
done? I am ordered  
never to be in company  
except with all the  
precautions you see when

**f81v**

you are kind enough to  
visit me. You will say  
that I break these now every  
day of my life - Yes; but  
with the effect of entirely  
destroying my power of  
work - All the same,  
I would have come, had  
it been only possible,  
to enjoy your Symposium.  
You will gather for me  
what books there are  
to read for "my Sam".  
And you will tell me  
all about it.

**f82**

in haste  
not to keep you  
Ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff83-84, pencil

**f83**

Aug 15/84

My dear Mr. Fred

Please to give me those  
valuable hints for the letter  
to be written to the Committee  
- v. the impending conversation -

We both of us know how  
entirely a Constitution, supposing  
one to exist, may be over  
ridden by "*Instructions*"

- how the way in which  
"Regulations" are carried out wholly  
depends on the "Instructions"  
-[many years of my life were  
spent in writing, inter alia,  
"Regulations" & "Instructions" ordered for  
the War Office & India Office.

**f83v**

Sanitary & Administrative Departments

- & this truth has been burnt  
home to me]

I think all Girton Constitutions, if  
they exist, have been  
superseded by verbal  
Instructions given by a  
person of the Committee  
supposed to be paramount,  
*in this case* which interests  
us both -

The more I think over my  
3 years' experience, the more  
I believe that the tradition  
which has existed since  
Gn existed, altho' Gn is young,  
has over ridden everything  
else. And the more I feel

**f84**

our friend's position -

Please help us as you  
*have* done - I am so helpless.

I was sorry to interrupt  
the music last night  
but this is so important -

~~And I have so illeg~~

[I am glad I did not  
remember the music.]

But I am *more* sorry  
that you are going to -day.  
I quite understood that  
you were staying till Saturday  
I wanted to ~~talk to~~/hear you  
about many important things  
specially Buddhism

God bless you  
your affecte helpless Aunt Florence

signed note, ff85-85v, pen

**[8:885]**

**f85**

Aug 16/84

Dearest Maude I trust

that you slept & are not *very*  
tired. *You* did all the work  
- all our work & made the  
Nurses so happy - Our very  
best love & God's blessings  
on you -

You have to command the  
Light Cavalry to-day - & the  
Heavier, in the person of my  
distinguished God-daughter -  
You & they will be so missed  
here where every face is  
wreathed with smiles as they

**f85v**

go by the carriage -  
Gwendolyne behind with 22  
able-bodied females to keep/required to  
maintain order in the House  
(i.e. the Dickey) - & Ralph  
in front: 'Mr. North, will the  
horses stop while I ask  
Granma whether we may  
all have whips?'

You will think of Mrs. Green -  
& pray that the thing may  
come to good - It is so  
important -

God bless you dearest Maude  
ever your loving old  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff86-87v, pencil

**f86**

4/9/84

Dear Mr. Fred

You were once good  
enough to help me with  
writing a difficult (servant's)  
character -

May I ask you to  
help me now?

I am wavering between  
the fears of giving a too  
good & a too bad  
character.

Ellen Merritt is  
unfit for any *charge* - &  
unfit for Mrs. Custance's

And yet I think her  
more weak than ~~bad~~/sinning -  
She is a religious woman -  
I would have kept her  
myself

but I cannot/ with difficulty recommend  
her - I received  
an unsatisfactory character  
with her. But it  
is *for her own sake* that  
I dread Mrs. Custance's  
place for her.

It would be easier for  
*me* to let her go to it.

Would you be so very good as to criticize?

But you know I have  
far more important

things to ask you about  
ever yrs affly  
F. Nightingale  
Excuse my troubling you.

ff88-90, October 6, 1884, discussing whether one can judge England or America by its fictional depiction

ff91-92v, The Siamese Legation, 14, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., October 24, 1884 re FV's return from Germany and a verse about Lord Lucan and Nursing

ff93-94v, October 24, 1884, re FV's diet



signed note, ff95-96v, pen and pencil

**f95**

Nov 21/84

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

The majority is always in the  
wrong.

A minority is always in the  
right.

Perhaps not exactly true: but *this*  
is true; Every right begins  
by being in a minority - perhaps  
by being in a minority of one -  
How are such minorities  
not to be quashed?

**f95v**

The fault of all Redistribution  
schemes is that it/they considers  
only "Seats", not members.  
only quantity (numbers) not  
quality. Yet *numbers* MUST  
be represented.

Your "self-adjusting Candle"  
shines clearer than the other  
lights. But is it not probable  
that the "seat" transferred to the

**f96**

-2-

new Borough will not be  
occupied by a better man  
possibly by a worse, than that  
"seat" disfranchised?

Any "Redistribution" will,  
however, it is to be feared,  
eliminate ~~many~~/ some valuable  
members from the Ho: of C.

Is it not a mistake to rest "Seats"  
solely on numbers - 20,000 children  
do not make one man: nor 10,000  
'roughs' one Patriot - but the contrary

**f96v**

You know that I have always  
avoided (glittering) politics &  
faithfully served administration  
My political opinion is not  
worth a straw - You have  
doubtless consulted better men.

But no one has a warmer  
wish for your success than,  
my dear Mr. Fred, your affte  
10, South Street, {printed address: upside down}  
Park Lane. W.  
F. Nightingale

signed letter, ff97-98, pencil      **[8:885]**

**f97**

10 South St  
Dec 9/84

My dear Maude

I wanted to have  
caught you before you left  
South St, not only to have  
the great pleasure of seeing  
you but to ask you  
what I should do about  
giving leave to have my poor  
"private" letter to Lady Stanley  
about Mrs. Green's  
candidature      printed.

Mr. Fred knows pretty  
well what was in it. Indeed

**f97v**

it was concocted by him  
& me - And I dare say  
you do -

I cannot of course remember  
the letter exactly -

What shall I do?  
With a kiss to the childer 3,  
& especially to my  
distinguished God-daughter,  
& kind regards to Miss  
Shalders  
ever your loving old  
Aunt Florence

**f98**

I have just had a  
message thro' Mr. Gardener  
from Mr. Green that  
'all her difficulties with  
'Mr. Freeman are settled'  
'(overcome)' - Does this  
include the possession of the  
letters? I thank God.  
F.N.

signed letter, ff99-100v, pencil

**f99**

PRIVATE 10 South St  
Dec 21/84

My dear Mr. Fred  
May I ask your advice?

My quasi-nephew, Arthur  
Clough, is a candidate for an  
Examinership at the Privy  
Council, (which post his  
father occupied)

There is only one rival  
candidate, a Mr. Lockhart:  
but Mr. Lockhart is an  
unusually good candidate  
& has higher claims on 2  
grounds

Arthur Clough's claims rest

**f99v**

on his father's name & on  
his being undoubtedly  
competent for the post  
And Mr. Cumin would be  
very glad to have him  
[Till yesterday we thought  
he was secure]

I am asked to write to  
Lord Carlingford about  
him - & also to Mr.  
Mundella.

There is *no time to be lost*  
My ONLY acquaintance with  
Lord Carlingford is that of

**f100**

a beggar - Sir Harry  
took my letter - But he/L.C.  
did what I asked.

I believe you are all  
intimate with *Mr. Mundella*  
- I thought of writing a letter  
to Sir Harry for him to  
forward to Mundella by  
to night's post

Should I do the same  
for Ld Carlingford -  
or write to Ld C  
direct?

Any advice - & any hints  
how to put the case to

**f100v**

both Ld C. & Mr. M.  
would be most acceptable  
to your helpless old &  
affect

Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff101-03, pencil

[8:886]

**f101**

10 South St

Dec 22/84

My dear Maude

Mr. Fred says that you  
will be so good as to take  
some lots of Xmas presents  
(if I send them to-night)  
to Claydon on Tuesday -

But pray leave them  
behind if you find them too  
heavy -

Would you be so very good  
as to choose out of the  
Picture Books I send  
1 for my beloved Ralph  
I wanted a *Bird* Book for

**f101v**

him, because he used to  
be so fond of hearing about  
the little birds whispering  
to God before dawn at  
Aunt Florence's window  
1 for Gwendolen  
1 for my distinguished  
God daughter  
and 1 for little Morforwyn  
(G Verney) whose name I  
can neither spell nor pronounce

If you wish their names  
written in their books, would  
you kindly return them with

**f102**

the Who's who? marked -  
 and all the other books  
 which I shall give to less  
 worthy but perhaps more  
 necessitous applicants -  
 † [I am afraid the G. Verney  
 parcel will be rather bulky.  
 That is to wait till at Claydon till they come]  
 The Of course you are  
 kindly to keep these most  
 important secrets in deep  
 in the caverns of your  
 breast till *Xmas morning*  
 Xmas Cards will come  
 too -  
 And I will if you give me leave  
 send the whole parcel tonight -

**f102v**

for your kindness to take -  
 And that a joyful  
 Christmas & peace & good  
 will & a blessed new  
 Year & many of them  
 may rest upon you, dear  
 Maude, is the faithful prayer  
 of ever your affte  
 Aunt Florence  
*Pray* don't take the G. Verney  
 parcel if too heavy -  
 They are books the boys &  
 Catherine suggested they  
 shd like, when I saw them at  
 Claydon

**f103**

*favoured by Mr. & Mrs. F. Verney*

1 large parcel - the George Verneys  
4 to wait at Claydon  
till they come  
1 " ----- Mrs. F. Verney  
for Xmas Day  
1 very small ----- Sir Harry Verney  
1 ----- Mr Morey  
1 ----- Mrs Greig  
5

F Nightingale  
with many thanks  
Dec 22/84

Please ~~leave~~/send back the heavy  
one ~~behind~~, if too cumbersome  
to take F.N.

ff104-05v, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. {undated}, from MV, re news of MV's children & their illness

ff106-06v, {undated}, re news of MV's children

ff107-08v, {undated} more news of MV's children

signed note, f109, pencil

**f109**

10 South St  
Jan 6/85

My dear Maude

Mr. Fred said I might  
send this little parcel if  
you would be so very kind  
as to take it tomorrow to  
Sir Harry -

I am so very sorry that  
beloved little Ralph is not  
strong - entailing upon you  
perhaps ~~the~~ some separation  
between him & home. I  
will not talk about it.

God bless you: ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff110-11v, January 8, {archivist: 1885}, re a concert given and the health of the children

incomplete letter, ff112-13, pencil

**f112**

10 South St

Jan 8/85

My dear Mr. Fred

I think your enclosed  
per=oration will 'do' ~~very~~/admirably  
well. I have only  
hazarded two verbal  
alterations - which may be  
quite wrong.

I send you a copy of  
the Pioneer which Lord  
Reay lent me. Please  
read at p. 622. "If it be  
real, what does it mean?"  
It is by Auckland Colvin,

**f112v**

the Financial Member  
of the Viceroy's Council -

I thought it might  
give us some hints for  
our Crusade -

[Eyes have prevented  
me doing more than  
glance at it.]

Please return it to me  
*in 2 hours*, read or  
unread, to return to Lord  
Reay -

Eyes have also prevented  
me this morning doing  
what we intended: sending



**f113**

you Ld Ripon's principal  
measures with a word  
or two to each.

I hope to do so in a  
few hours.

But I send what  
is probably perfectly  
useless a hint  
or two ~~such~~/(in order to do as you  
asked) of the sort of  
things which would be  
"a welcome" to Lord Ripon

initialled note, ff114-14v, pencil

**f114**

9/1/85

My dear Mr. Fred

I send you an  
Extract from a very  
private letter which  
was shown me **A**  
from a very high authority  
indeed.

I thought you might  
make use of it in  
the "Articles" - I could  
not because the  
words would run in  
my head

It seems

**f114v**

excellent common sense

Please return it  
to me. It is quite Private  
2 is what I mentioned  
in great haste  
ever your  
F.N.

{f115 is blank}

signed note, ff116-17, pencil

**f116**

Jan 11/85

My dear Mr. Fred

There is the 'Devil & all  
'to pay' at one of our Hospitals  
And I am sorry to say  
that that gentleman, of  
whom I see a great deal,  
will take up the whole of  
my Sabbath.

I will read your paper  
with thanks tomorrow  
morning before day light  
It is ~~beautifully~~/exceedingly clear -

Please thank Maude for [8:887]

**f116v**

Kathleen (the Rape of the  
Lock) Her Godmother  
thinks her hair beautiful

- Titian would have  
painted & poets sung it.

Excuse great haste  
as the Dr is waiting

ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

**f117**

I hope little Ralph is  
better & Gwendolen hurra-ing.

signed letter, ff118-19v, pencil

**f118**

10 South St. W.

Jan 12/85

My dear Mr. Fred

I have read you 'Letter'  
with the greatest pleasure.

I tried in vain to limit  
my 'Observations' which your  
instructions were to make  
'fierce' to separate  
sheets of paper

But I was obliged to write  
on the fair sheets themselves -  
so beautifully written. Pray  
forgive me & rub ~~the~~ out my  
remarks - And don't attend  
to them, except for matters of

**f118v**

fact or at least put  
them in *your own* words -  
As to the Queen's Proclamation,  
it is strangely difficult to  
get a copy. I have one  
somewhere - but know not where.  
But I send you a 'XIX  
Century' with my "Indian  
Stewardship" in it. Perhaps  
at p. 332 & Note you  
may find the words of the  
'Proclamation' which you  
want

I *think* there is another

**f119**

quotation from the "Proclamn"  
in the Article.

Please restore me this 'XIX  
Centy,' as soon as possible,  
as this is the only copy I  
have left.

Success to the newspaper  
letters - May I do something  
more? ever your affte

Aunt Florence

Sir Louis Mallet writes

[10:329]

that what I say of "Lord  
"Ripon's Government is quite

**f119v**

"true & very important" -

I mean what I have said  
in recent letters to him -

That is a great deal from  
*him* in favour of Ld Ripon

[end 10:329]

I have been interrupted at  
every line of my work

Pray excuse -

in greatest haste  
ever your affte

F.N.

I should show my God  
daughter's legs to Dr.  
Brodie.

signed letter, ff120-21v, pencil

**f120**

10 South St.  
Jan 13/85  
on

My dear Mr. Fred LD RIPON

**[10:329]**

About the publication of  
the letter concerning Ld Ripon  
you ~~say~~ ask

1. in MAGAZINE?

Is it not a fact that only  
the best *monthly* Magazines  
have any influence -  
that this could then at all events  
not appear till February:  
perhaps not till March,  
because they tell you they  
always make up their No  
by the 7th of preceding month

**f120v**

Also: a Magazine Article

- should it not be more  
full & precise? These are only,  
of course, 2 or 3 of the remarkable Acts  
Ld Ripon has  
passed

2. in PAMPHLETS?

Is it not true that a  
pamphlet has no  
circulation, unless 'touted'  
in a way we could not do?

Also: I *could* not put  
my "name" to a "Preface"

3. in DAILY PAPERS?

Are not these the only  
means for getting up  
such a *feeling for Ld Ripon*

**f121**

*on his arrival* as he  
deserves? & we desire?

[He was to be in England  
*this week*]

You kindly said that you  
would see Editor of  
*D. News, D. Telegraph*, &  
one other you mentioned -

I am such a very poor  
adviser on these subjects.  
The thing would be, I suppose,  
to get a different letter  
into two of these papers,  
[would this letter cut into  
two?] & to get one or more

**f121v**

Editors to write a Leading  
Article ~~on based on~~ in a similar sense to  
the letter.

At least I think I/you said  
so

Must it not be done  
THIS WEEK? Two or even one  
daily paper THIS week wd be  
better than many later, I suppose.  
And then later we must do  
what else we can  
Success to your efforts for  
Ld Ripon

**[end 10:329]**

I am afraid I have not  
a moment till "Thursday  
"4.30" (as you kindly propose)  
to see you: in haste F. Nightingale  
I have made only one or two more alterations

signed letter, ff122-23, pencil

**f122**

10 South St.

Jan 17/85

My dear Mr. Fred

Would you be so very  
Good as to take this  
Calendula Cerate for his  
chapped Hands to  
Sir Harry?

You see in the "Times"  
that Lord Ripon is expected  
at his house in Carlton  
Gardens on the 22<sup>ND</sup>  
that is, *Thursday* next

A thousand thanks for  
all the trouble you have

**f122v**

taken about articles in the newspapers  
Thank you for sending back  
my XIX Century.

If you have any scraps  
of mine by you, & could  
'lit' on them without trouble,  
& *send me them back*,  
I should be grateful -  
But don't trouble about  
it. I cannot at all  
promise myself to write  
an Article -

**f123**

Love to Ralph &  
the ladies

ever yrs affly

F. Nightingale

You don't think that the  
Editor of the Pall Mall  
will suspect Ld Ripon  
to have prompted your  
letter in/for his paper?

signed letter, ff124-25, pencil

**f124**

10 South St.

Feb 2/85

My dear Mr. Fred

I like your letter  
enclosed very much, particularly  
the part where you say the  
Land Banks ~~can~~/might do (in principle)  
without the Govt. aid.

But I think it will  
hardly be held to be an  
answer to the question in  
the P. M. G., which I re-inclose,  
Nevertheless I think it *can* be  
completely answered

But you may judge better  
than I that it *is* an answer

**f124v**

The only remark I should  
make is: (p. 2 - line  
4 from top), the transaction  
between money lender &  
ryot is entirely *on paper*,  
*no money* passes at all.

I like your word "commercial  
success" - Rothschild  
did actually offer Mr. Bright  
capital for the purpose,  
provided &c &c

**f125**

We must remember that  
the Land Bank project  
as yet belongs to  
*Bombay* alone, not to  
"India" -

How long shall you be  
absent?

ever yours affly  
F. Nightingale



incomplete, signed letter, ff126-27, pencil

**f126**

-2- {archivist: [?2 Feb 1885]}

Have nothing to do with  
the R. C. unless Ld  
Ripon is Chairman -  
or names the Chairman

**f127**

-3-

I am glad you think well of  
this Ministry. I am so anxious  
to do so.

One cannot help feeling sorry  
for Childers & Broadhurst,  
Chamberlain & Jesse Collings,  
beginning their administration  
in such troubles -  
troubles made almost  
ridiculous by our want of  
administrative power.

Please take care of the knee  
ever yours affly  
F. Nightingale  
You see the Article on Maine -  
- XIX Centy for this month.

signed letter, ff128-28v, pencil

**f128**

10 South St.

Feb 13/85

**[10:329-30]**

My dear Mr. Fred

My Doctor entirely  
repudiates the idea of any  
possibility of my doing  
any work "under pressure,"  
such as writing & reading  
within a given time, for  
the present. I should not  
mind what he said, or  
what any Doctor said  
but that I feel so ill &  
suffering that it 'points  
his moral'-

And I have this morning,

**f128v**

after telling Mr. Knowles,

of the XIX Centy, what

you said about the two

Articles, with drawn -

with what feelings you may

guess - from writing ~~the~~ *his*  
Article myself at this time.

I have not told Lord Ripon

yet, & know not how to do

so. But I have left it

open to Mr. Knowles to

suggest another writer -

**[end 10:330]**

ever yrs affly

F.N.

signed letter, ff129-32v, pencil & pen, Feb: 26.95

**f129**

*Most Private* 10 South St.  
Ld Napier Feb 26/85  
My dear Mr. Fred  
You asked me to let you  
know about Lord Ripon  
'before/by to-day.  
He was with me on Tuesday  
It was finally settled that  
an Article in the *Fortnightly*  
should comprise the  
- Diplomatic - i.e. Affghanistan  
    & relations with  
        native states  
- Finance  
- Military  
policy of his Vice-royalty

**f129v**

- that you should, if you  
would be so good, write  
to Mr. Escott & suggest  
as from yourself to him -  
that if he ~~will propose~~/likes to select  
a man to write an  
Article on these subjects,  
he may go again to  
Ld Ripon, & propose  
~~him~~ the writer to him -  
Ld Ripon does not  
wish to be the instigator  
[It was Mr. Escott who  
went first to him]

**f130**

2 that the article in  
the ~~Fortnight~~ *Fortnight XIX Century*  
should comprise

- Land questions
- Local Self- Govt (Sanitary  
included)

- perhaps short bits on  
Education Promotion of  
Natives, Local Industries

And it seems settled  
that I am to write it -

It is thought better to  
postpone it till *May* -  
both because the fate of  
several measures, including

**f130v**

the Bengal Rent Bill, will  
then be known

& because it is quite  
impossible for me to write  
it by March 15 -

I fear the over strain  
on my head, with all  
I have to do especially  
at this time, both as  
being dangerous & as  
being likely to incapacitate  
me from doing justice  
to *the subject* -

Nothing could be more

**f131**

-2-

full, or more kind, than  
the information ~~with~~  
which Ld Ripon ~~supplied~~/gave  
me ~~with~~ by word of mouth

But I was a little  
disappointed - on account  
of my eyes being so bad  
- to find that the "materials"  
he proposed to "supply"  
were: Blue Books &

printed Minutes -  
It is true that he offered  
if when I had "got" my  
"Article into shape", I would

**f131v**

put down the things on  
which I wanted more  
information, to come  
& give it - & to look  
over my Article.

But I have ~~terribly~~  
little mind at leisure  
to write, or to con  
Blue Books, in these  
terrible times -

---

N.B. I did not enter into the  
question whether the  
"Fortnightly" Article should  
appear in April or May

**f132**

Please if you have  
any conversation with Lord  
Ripon on this subject,  
let it not be before *any*  
one, not even Sir Harry.  
Ld Ripon wishes - & I  
think he is so right  
not to appear in the  
matter *at all* -  
which is much the most  
dignified course, we shall  
agree -  
ever yrs affly  
F. Nightingale  
It was decided that the

**f132v**

Ilbert Bill question  
should not be treated of  
until the enemy attacks  
- when a full answer  
can be given -  
F.N.

signed letter, ff133-36v, pencil

**f133** {another hand March 5. 85

10 South St.

Miss N to Self March 5/85

Article

My dear Mr. Fred

In answer to your question:

e.g. "Fortnightly" was to have

- Diplomatic Native States:  
Affghanistan

- Finance

- Military

"XIX Century" \_\_\_\_\_

- Land including Revenue  
(Land Banks) but / say only  
incidentally as  
regards e.g. Bombay  
Settlement Dept &c

- Local Self Govt: including  
"Sanitary"

& ( treated in a cursory way)

**f133v**

- Promotion of Natives

(*not* Ilbert Bill)

-Education (Popular)

- perhaps Civil Service Candidates

age &c (about which he Lord Ripon gave me  
papers)

- Encouragement of Native  
Industries

**f134**

But I am now anxious to  
point out

1. 'XIX Century' Knowles  
knows nothing at all of  
the scheme compared with  
'Fortnightly' Escott.

Mr. Knowles knows  
neither that another  
Magazine is to have an  
Article - much less  
that there is a common  
plan & division of labour  
- nor that Ld Ripon is  
to give materials -  
I trusted Mr. Knowles with  
neither -

**f134v**

- no information -

Nor did I give him  
my subjects -

Will it not be extremely  
awkward when he  
finds out not only that  
there is to be an Article  
appearing simultaneously,  
but that Mr. Escott  
(who is very likely to  
tell him ) is cognizant  
of the whole scheme -  
& that I am one of the  
perpetrators - Any how



**f135**

-2-

he will know when the

Articles come out - for  
then he will ask me

2. you are so good as  
to ask & to offer help -  
which I shall certainly  
accept - indeed I could  
not undertake the common /my article  
scheme without -

This will give a similarity  
in the style of the Articles -  
let alone our names  
which will reveal a  
good deal -

**f135v**

All this makes me  
more than ever anxious  
to withdraw myself -  
*not you* -

N.B. Mr. Knowles whom

I know well is not  
at all the man to forgive  
himself *not* having  
been taken into the secret,  
while Mr. Escott was -

And Mr. Escott, you see,  
resents ~~because~~ the plan altogether, and there  
being a common scheme.

**f136**

Altogether, I think,  
from these considerations,  
which will certainly  
strike you too, I must  
re-open the question -

My head & eyes which  
were kept going for 26  
years by limiting myself  
absolutely to *work* have  
failed during the last two  
under a different régime.

**f136v**

Lord Reay has just been.  
so this was interrupted -  
in haste

ever your affte  
F. Nightingale  
Have you ~~the~~/my paper (M.S.)  
that was to have gone  
into the Spectator?

The "Times" never prints a  
paper when it finds that  
something similar has been  
sent to other newspapers.. I  
believe "XIX Century" may do the  
same - It is specially jealous.

initialled letter, ff137-38, pencil

**f137**

10 South St.  
April 1/85

My dear Mr. Fred

I am afraid that even if I  
could see you, my head is not  
in the state to bear reading  
aloud to it or to be of the  
least use to you if it did.  
Yet I am - you know *how* much  
- deeply interested in your  
Article -

Could you lend it me to  
read? & me discussing ~~it~~ it  
afterwards with you?

**f137v**

I am getting so much  
worse & more useless that  
I am really thinking of  
going out of London for the  
Easter for a week or 10  
days; it seems my only  
chance.

So you know that I  
have not written to Lord  
Ripon, telling him that  
I have been compelled to  
abandon all idea of his

**f138**

Article for the present?  
Ought I? - & that  
Mr. Knowles is determined  
to wait for me?  
ever yrs affly  
F.N.

signed letter, ff138-38v, pencil

**f138**

10 South St.  
April 2/85  
My dear Mr. Fred  
My foolish young woman  
does not seem to have said  
that I am going out of London  
perhaps tomorrow (Friday)  
And I feel that I can do  
no good by staying -  
But I would read what  
I could of your Article  
tomorrow, see you tomorrow  
at 6 - I should have some one at  
5 - if I could be of the least

**f138v**

use - but I fear not -  
    & go out of London on  
Saturday (for a week) if  
any how I can restore  
my failing powers for  
work

    God bless your work  
I should not go if it were  
not imperative & I quite  
useless

    ever yr affte

    Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff140-40v, pencil

**f140**

    April 3/85

My dear Mr. Fred

    Very many thanks for your  
report of Sir Harry. And  
please give me another.

    You see I am not gone -  
I read thro' your M. S. before  
7.30 this morning - And  
it strikes me as remarkably  
good but wants working to a  
point.

    I have nothing to say worth  
your hearing - tho' I have  
made a few notes, & would tell  
them, If you w/could find time  
to come in about 6.15 or 6.30,

**f140v**

& you would tell me about  
Sir Harry -

    ever your affte

    Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff141-42, pencil

**f141**

Ravensbourne  
Keston  
Beckenham  
April 9/85

My dear Mr. Fred

I feel rather uneasy about  
Sir Harry in this bitter North  
Easter. I have not heard  
to-day.

No doubt you will take [10:330]  
an opportunity of pointing  
out in your Article the  
burst of loyalty in India (& native Press)  
towards England in this Russian  
Crisis - & the offers of troops  
from Mahometan & other  
Native Rulers. Now this is

**f141v**

entirely Lord Ripon's doing -  
It is he who conciliated India  
to British Rule. Before he  
came home I used to hear  
from India: "Lord Ripon is  
worth an Army in himself."  
"While *he* is here, England  
need fear no danger from  
Russia" - &c &c &c

It is more remarkable than  
the colonial outburst of loyalty  
because the Colonies have certainly no  
love for Russia - & India  
always had till Ld Ripon's  
reign - owing to Russian  
intrigue & cleverness, I suppose.

**f142**

You see how yesterday's 'Times'  
has changed its coat -  
remarkable only because the  
'Times' is the times - But  
it still worships at Lord  
Dufferin's shrine - & carefully  
avoids justice to Ld Ripon.

[How calamitous the turning  
of attention from internal  
reforms in India]

**[end 10:330]**

Love to Maude &  
childer three  
ever yr affte  
F. Nightingale

initialled letter, ff143-44, pencil

**f143**

April 19/85

My dear Mr. Fred

I am so very sorry about  
Mr. Escott's proposal,  
because I think with you  
that to curtail it much  
[I thought *some* might have  
been screwed up with  
advantage] will take the  
life out of it - And it is  
none too long - the facts  
are so important.

I should prefer putting  
it off - But I am no judge.

**f143v**

I have heard people say  
that an Article upon any  
thing but Egypt or Affgha=  
=nistan or European policy would be wasted -  
on people's minds for the  
next month or two -

Lord Ripon would be the  
best judge upon the  
curtailing or delaying -

I should be so very glad  
to see you but this  
morning I am too ill  
to see any one except

**f144**

Miss Williams who has  
been expected to come here ~~home~~ (in/from the Iberia)  
every hour since Friday night  
- no tidings of the Iberia -

I could gladly see you  
this evening about 5 or 6,  
IF she does not come,  
for half an hour - But  
that would be inconvenient  
to you?

I was so very  
sorry about the  
miserable reception &  
tea at Ravensbourne

But - I was so ill  
And your gallant walk so  
unexpected.

F.N.

initialled letter, ff145-48, pencil

**f145**

10 South St.

May 4/85

My dear Mr. Fred

The circumstances make  
your question very much more difficult to  
answer, for me always stupid. but on the  
whole I incline to your own  
view to send the "Army"  
*alone* to Mr. Knowles - & not  
the Finance.

But do I understand  
aright that Mr. Knowles  
will ~~only~~ take an Article "Army" for  
*June*, only if you have no  
other Article "under your own  
"name" in any other periodical

**f145v**

for *June*?

Also: that Mr. Escott  
will not take "Finance"  
& "Public Works" without  
"Army"?

This makes it rather  
serious -

You run the risk of  
"Army" *alone* appearing -  
anywhere -

Would Mr. Escott take  
for *July*        *Diplomacy*  
                  Public Works  
                  Finance        ?



**f146**

As you say, "Finance" has less to do with "Army" than with "Public Works" - which is a reason for Finance & Public Works going together.

Would it be possible for you to assure yourself that Mr. Escott who I think has not behaved well would take D

P. W.

F.

in July?

**f146v**

I like them all - & the Quotation from Mr. Gladstone much It would be a thousand pities they should not appear.

Afraid that I have made darkness darker.

ever yrs affly

F.N.

**f147**

N.B. - I see that I *had* read '*Finance*' before & I think it much improved - 'Salt' strengthened &c &c - Finance of the "16 millions" & India Council added or rather worked in - very well

I see my question about the number of mills in Bombay still on the margin - unanswered

**f147v**

*'Public Works'*

I have put, as you desired,  
a ? & + 'off' the passages  
about Lord Hartington -  
They scarcely add to the  
strength - And even  
"says Lord Hartington"  
is I think doubtful.  
F.N.

**f148**

*Private*

Mr. Godley says that the  
India Council Office  
does good in preventing  
financial 'jobs' of  
the *Local Governmts.*

signed letter, ff149-50, pencil

**f149**

10 South St.

May 16/85

My dear Maude

If you are going to the  
Max Müller's, would you say  
to him that 'Sam Shore Smith  
has taken seriously to Sanscrit  
- & Buddhism! - & thank  
Prof. Max Müller very much  
for his assistance in recommendg  
books on Buddhism: a curious taste  
in an idle boy. But his  
grandmother & aunt (à la  
mode de Bretagne) had it  
before him -

Let us hope it will come  
to something real - The Blavatzky

**f149v**

taint is, I illeg/trust, dropping  
 off. It was at your  
 house that Prof. Max Müller  
 gave his help - & thanks to you -  
 With love to childer three,  
 ever, dear Maude,  
 your affecte  
 Aunt Florence  
 I hope the Yeomanry will  
 be a beneficial change  
 to Mr. Fred.

**f150****[8:887]**

To mix matter & mind:  
 do you have ~~meat~~/mutton &  
 chickens from your Bala  
 butcher in the *summer*?  
 & would he supply so very  
 small a consumption as  
 mine? & would  
 another customer not rather  
 interfere with *your* supply?  
 If you approve, would you  
 be so very kind as to  
 give me his *address* again?  
 You probably have a hamper  
 twice a week? do you have  
 anything besides mutton,  
 chickens & eggs?  
 F.N.

signed letter, f151, pencil

**f151**

Address 10 South St. Sept 16/85

My dear Mr. Fred

Welcome home and

welcome home to Maudie -

And the children were so dear

& delightful here at Claydon

I return some letters of

yours -

And remind me to tell you

of a letter about Lalmohun Ghose

I received some weeks ago.

God bless you & yours &

your work:

ever your affte

Aunt Florence

{f152 is blank}

signed letter, ff153-54v, pencil **[5:348]**

**f153**

10 South St.

Sept 22/85

My dear Mr. Fred

All hail to the Tonbridge

Division - And may it live long

to rejoice in being reigned

over by you - & you live

long to reign over it -

Tho' I trust in a seat for your full

success, yet I will not

allow that the greatest

successes in the world

have not oft times come

out of failure - as I am

sure you do not - And

**f153v**

surely there will have been  
much political truth &  
principle spread among  
the uneducated by the  
speeches of the Liberal  
candidates whether  
they succeed or fail at  
the Gen. Election

But I stoutly expect  
a success -

**[end 5:348]**

**f154**

I very much hope to see  
you soon: but have every  
day this week taken up  
with Matrons & ladies  
from a distance.

Is it very bad of me  
to send you this letter  
from a Cavalry soldier  
who has had & wants  
to have again some  
appointment (store keeper  
or other) in the Bucks  
Yeomanry or otherwise?

**f154v**

[It is impossible for me  
to do anything for him & I  
suppose of the 20000 Patients  
who passed through our  
hands at Scutari, some  
thousands have in 30  
years asked me for  
"appointments" -]

But *you* will probably  
find it equally impossible  
to serve him. Don't trouble.

ever, dear Mr. Fred  
your affte

Aunt Florence.

signed letter, ff155-55v, pencil

**f155**

10 South St. Oct 6/85  
Good speed to Kent & N. Bucks.  
All hail to Maude & Margt  
as Electioneers - And may not  
Kathleen too?  
I return 2 letters I ought to  
have returned before -

Sir Harry says, as you know,  
that he is coming up "for a  
few hours" on Thursday to Lord  
Shaftesbury's funeral. It is  
bad for him: unless he  
slept at your house.  
I have one of my Matrons  
of whom the air is full at

**f155v**

this season sleeping here.  
so cannot offer him a bed  
Shall I lunch him?  
or will you? -  
in haste  
ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff156-57v, pencil

**f156**

10 South St  
Nov 1/85  
My dear Mr. Fred  
I am so really grieved,  
but I have a man here  
to-day on War Office  
business whom I cannot  
put off, for he is only  
for a day or two in London.  
Had I but known that  
you were here, I think I  
should have tried to make  
another appointment with  
him.  
Three times three for

**f156v**

your candidature. Success  
& good speed - And  
thanks so many for your  
speeches.

It takes one's breath  
away to think that  
this day four weeks we  
shall *know the "Great  
Secret"*.

I have been seeing the [10:831]  
Indian Delegates sent  
over to urge the claims  
of India on the candidates.

You are put down as  
one to be depended upon

**f157**

I send you the Report of  
a Meeting of the Bombay  
Association, in which  
*Capt.* Verney's name seems  
to be put down by mistake  
for yours p. 7 -

I long, too, to see you.  
- I heard from Margt a  
capital account of your  
speech at the Buckingham  
dinner -

Lalmohun Ghose's brother Man Mohun Ghose,  
is here. He is 52 times  
the man his brother is. I  
have seen him. I wish  
*he* were the candidate [end 10:831]

**f157v**

Is Maudie in London?  
Success & God bless you  
again & again -  
ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff160-63, pencil

[1:710-11]

**f160**

10 South St Nov 11/85

My dear Mr. Fred

On Sunday next my  
doors will be closed to

every one but you -

'Blow me' if I let any one

else in, angelic or

diabolical, but you -

[I have already put off the

Lea Assistant School=

=mistress coming up to London

to me till a later Sunday]

I am miserable because

Sir Harry is so unhappy -

**f160v**

It is his brother much

more than P. who pitches

into him about his

candidate=sons & the

"Church in danger"!

And I can't help thinking

that, if he Sir Harry could but see

it so, it is ~~all~~ a mistake -

- a hopeless confusion

on both sides whether

Disestablishment includes

Disendowment -

on Lord Grey's side

a more than hopeless

confusion            between



**f161**

Disestablishment &

“overthrow” of the Church,  
including “overthrow” of all  
religion! (sic)

And - but I must stop -  
I read your Address - &

like Warren Hastings, I  
think you must say:

“I am astonished at my  
own moderation” -

I hope Sir Harry may see

it so - But he complains

of Mr. Calvert’s Toryism -

& then lets his ‘old Whiggism’  
be guided by it.

**f161v**

If you could but be  
‘moderate’ with *him*?

He says he wishes so  
much to ~~help~~ “exert himself for” Capt. Verney  
& you - but, as he cannot,  
being an “old Whig”, & you, “Radicals” -  
he wishes he were “out of  
“the way”!! He is quite  
miserable.

Some of the best friends  
of the Church, & I think  
I am one, consider that  
her power for good would  
be ~~vastly~~ increased by  
dis establishment !

She must have a poor

**f162**

-2-

opinion of herself to be so  
frightened -

But all must wish that  
this agitation had not  
come on now -

~~Can~~ you tell me *Mr. Lal  
Mohun' Ghose's address?*  
It is *not* 14 St. George's Sq  
now - I think I told  
you that his brother, a  
most capital man, had  
had a long talk with me,  
& wanted to introduce his

**f162v**

wife, an educated native lady  
- & two other Delegates  
(from Madras & Bombay),  
one by one -  
I sent to 14 St. George's Square  
yesterday to make  
appointments - but  
Indian - like they are  
gone off without leaving  
any clue. even their English  
'God-fathers' did not know  
where they are - And they  
leave England in 2 or 3  
weeks!!!

If you could give me

**f163**

*Lal Mohun Ghose's address,*  
you would much 'oblige'  
your ever affectionate  
Aunt Florence  
Success to your campaign  
& to Capt. Verney's  
How I wish Margaret  
were back at Claydon!  
Is she?

Best love to Maudie  
& the chicks - Are they  
in London?  
Thanks for the newspapers

signed letter, ff164-64v, pencil [8:887]

**f164**

10 South St Dec 24/85

My very dear Maude

So many, many thanks  
for your two dear

comforting letters from  
Claydon: so many thanks.  
& for your kind trouble  
about the Xmas cards  
which were just right -

And the happiest  
Christmas that the  
Almighty Father can give  
be yours - & the best New

**f164v**

year for you & *all*  
yours -  
Fare you very well -  
your loving  
Aunt Florence

10/ enclosed  
in another cover  
with thanks -  
The new 'constituents'  
cannot commit any  
excess with the 1/ over.

incomplete signed letter, ff165-65v, pencil [8:887-88]

**f165** {archivist: Found at Dec 1885}

-2-

but that God is listening! -  
more than listening - sitting  
as close as the man by the  
'refiner's fire' that it  
should not be a bit too  
much

The country is coming thro'  
the "refiner's fire" - We cannot  
keep the present generation  
back. We would not wish  
it. ~~How~~† Would that the  
dear old people of my  
generation here could see it  
so!

Fare you very well, dearest Maude

**f165v**

Thanks for all your dear kind  
notes -

I am afraid I must come to  
London on Saturday - But  
I hope I shall leave them  
all convalescing, except  
indeed my poor sister  
She is no better -

ever yours lovingly

Aunt Florence

ff166-67v, January 7, 1886, re difficulties with an Eastern (Siamese?) appointment

ff168-69, January 10, 1886, re a proposed visit to FN and a book, Maine on Popular Government

ff170-71, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., January 13, 1886, re some  
intrigue about a recall to Siam

unsigned letter, ff172-73, pencil

**f172**

10 South St Jan 22/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I am so grieved about the  
knee - I am afraid your visit  
to me & other things have not  
had a reparative influence -  
in this weather when it, the  
knee, ought not to be out -

Sir Harry's cold is, I  
fear, no better - Sir A. Clark  
came lat night -

Pardon me for not  
sending your notes on Sir  
H. Maine back yesterday  
It was the first moment of  
leisure I had had to look

**f172v**

at them & Maine together,  
(which Maine Mr. Jowett  
brought me ) -

I concur with your "notes"

altogether - & should very  
much like to look at them  
again -

It seems as if the Periodical  
Literature of the day which requires  
a condensed literary treat,  
but by no means *considered*  
*conclusions* - on the contrary,  
rather a flashy, flimsy  
treatment - were bearing  
its fruit in all branches -  
The admirable clearness of

**f173**

Maine's & Stephen's 'form',  
 its charm, at least in  
 Maine's - its brilliant  
 illustrations & simile - their  
 its total disregard of depth  
 & almost equal disregard  
 of truth - are all  
 "periodical"-ly, if I may frame  
 a word. Periodical-ism  
 which = criticism, conscientiously disregards  
 considered truth, because it  
 aims at keeping the ball  
 going. Criticism is like  
 cricket -  
 Answer & retort are the  
 conscientious aim of Periodica;=  
 =ism

**f173v**

Still Maine's book, besides  
 being eminently readable, has  
 its value. As Mr. Jowett,  
 who won't allow criticism  
 of Maine's criticism, says:  
 It shows that the essence  
 of a Govt does not go with  
 its name. The U.S.A. Republic has  
 the greatest amount of  
 political, the least amount  
 of social or individual liberty. No one can  
 doubt that France, tho' a  
 republic, ~~has~~ is less free a  
 country than England -  
 I like your notes immensely  
 & am sorry to part with them.

signed letter, ff174-75, pencil

**f174**

10 South St Jan 23/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I admire your goodness  
about the poor knee - &  
prophecy its reward -

Here is Messrs Street's  
post-card about the  
Official Gazette of India -  
(which I had stupidly  
mislaide.)

If you will be so very  
good as to write & order  
the Gazette for one quarter

**f174v**

for me - the Qu including  
the Proceedings in the  
Council (including Ld  
Dufferin's speech) on the  
Finance & Income Tax, -  
I shall be very much  
obliged - & will forward  
you the money - 17/6

Success to the knee -

**f175**

Sir Harry much better,  
Sir A. Clark says, if he  
will stay in bed till  
tomorrow afternoon, he may get up  
to dinner

ever your affte  
Aunt Florence

ff176-77v, January 25, 1886, re a crisis in Siam and the return of the Siamese princes there

initialled letter, ff178-79, pencil

**f178**

10 South St Jan 28/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I hope the poor knee is  
doing its duty & making a  
royal progress not with  
'éclat' but with quiescence -

Thank you very much  
for letting me see this most  
sorrowful letter - It is  
lamentable that Siam's  
welfare should be so  
compromised - Let us  
hope that the presence of  
the two Princes in Siam  
yet

**f178v**

may work some favourable  
change yet.

I would gladly see Prince

Swasti (you ask) if it  
could be arranged some  
afternoon before he goes -  
Is he in London? I would  
put off almost any  
appointment to see him.

[Mr. Jowett comes here  
to-day- ] Is Pr. Swasti  
to give up Oxford?



**f179**

What do you think of the  
political out-look?

The first Meeting of the  
National Indian (Native) League  
(at Poona at Xmas) passed  
off most satisfactorily -  
- worthy of what shall I  
say? we must no more  
say of an English Parlt -  
They were practical,  
sensible, constitutional,  
loyal -

**[10:854]**

the one question asked  
me by Anglo - Indians &  
educated natives is: can

**f179v**

*anything be done to put*  
LORD RIPON *into the* INDIA  
OFFICE? It is the  
one thing which would  
keep India satisfied in  
*hope* & loyal & progressive

[Their great dread was,  
Ld Lytton - Nothing cd  
have secured their loyalty  
then.]

I echo their question:  
*Could anything be done?*

**[end 10:854]**

ever yours in much sympathy  
Love to Maude F.N.

signed letter, ff180-81, pencil

**f180**

10 South St Feb 6/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I am so thankful the knee  
is going on well -

As for the Ministry **[10:330]**  
*administratively*, my  
disappointment is deep,  
but it is heart breaking  
when I think of the grief,  
“~~curse~~”, “not loud but deep”  
in India which had  
shown such admirable  
self-restraint. To put  
Ld Ripon to mend boats!!  
& it appears really out of

**f180v**

fear? of the India Council,  
& with a sort of idea that  
~~they wanted him~~/he was reserved for  
Ireland! And to put Ld  
Aberdeen in Ireland!

But this is not all the blunders -

It is the worst Ministry  
*administratively* in my  
time, i.e. more than 30  
years - don't you think so? **[end 10:330]**

Thanks for these interesting  
letters -

& thanks for the “Radical  
Programme” & your comments

**f181**

My love to Maudie &  
Aunt Florence's love to her  
three young friends who  
she hopes are returned in  
great force - four,  
including Mervyn -  
Pray take care of the knee -  
I feel incapable of sense,  
see Ministry  
but am  
ever your affte  
F. Nightingale

initialled letter, ff182-85, pencil

**f182**

Feb 10/86

My dear Mr. Fred

Prince Swasti will be welcome  
next Monday "15th" - Would  
5 *p.m.* suit him?

The enquiry into Indian  
Govt. is a very serious matter -  
Unless it is a R. Commn &  
unless *Ld Ripon* is Chairman,  
it can but be a failure -

[10:835]

If it is a Commee of Ho: of C -  
there are but 4 men in the Ho.,  
who know anything recent about India,  
& they are all sold to retrogression.  
- Sir G. Campbell is no use, if

**f182v**

only that he has been 12  
years out of India.

Ld Ripon

Sir E. Baring, to represent finance  
Ilbert, " " Law  
Sir W. Wedderburn " Judicial  
Sir L. Mallet " everything  
I.O. (land tenure &c)

these would be the *Progressists*

If there is a strong element  
of the strong members of the  
I. Council on it we shall  
be ruined - of course there  
must be one or two - Strachey is  
too strong powerful -

Then there must be  
Mr. Bright " " Ho: of Co

**f183**

& a strong business man, who  
knows all about exports &  
imports - crops - silver - wheat &c  
Sir Jas Caird might do, but he  
has his head too full of Famines -

There should be one or two  
distinguished natives - men  
like Sir Salar Jung, *if we had*  
them. Mr. Ranadie might do  
But these men won't come to  
England.

a good Military man of high  
rank - how well Sir Nevill  
Chamberlain would do it!

there must be a man to  
represent Diplomacy & foreign

**f183v**

affairs? Agriculture (Buck)  
[not less than 3 of the number  
must go over to India to  
take evidence on the spot  
from distinguished natives]  
there should be a good  
Educational man - ? Wordsworth  
of Bombay

But if Lord Ripon is not  
Chairman, especially if, as is  
probable, such strong men as  
Strachey & Maine are on it,  
to represent the Retrogradists  
the R. C. will be a great  
deal worse than useless -

The worst of India is, as  
you know, there are none but  
*officials* who have experience  
- no public element, as in England

**[end 10:835]**

**f184**

-2-

2. What do you think of the  
Queen's Speech? Maude was  
so very good as to bring it me  
- & of the Debate last night.

I was very glad that the  
enquiry into Indian Govt  
was mentioned in the Speech

Mr. Gladstone, I think, did  
exactly as his best friends  
expected of him -

Else - all dark -  
How very good of you to  
tell me various things  
I was so anxious to know  
- & also to take trouble

**f184v**

about the India Proceedings  
in Council -

I will subscribe for this Quarter,  
please, to Street for the  
Gazette of India, provided  
it takes in the Speeches,  
including Ld Dufferin's,  
on the last Finance, Budget &  
Income Tax debate -

**[end 10:835]**

[I will return Street's

Post Card immediately -]

**f185**

Ld Randolph's conduct of the  
enquiry (Queen's Speech)  
cannot in the least be  
trusted - And there is not  
a single M.P. except  
Mr. Bright left in the  
House who could be  
trusted on it *as far*  
*as we know* -

The Council here will  
override them all

ever yrs affly  
with love to Maude  
F.N.

signed letter, ff186-87, pencil

**f186**

Claydon May 9/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I was very glad indeed to have your "notes" which I shall carefully study - I was always going to write to you to know the success of your last 2 speeches

Would that I could give a better account of my sister! Would you be so very good as to put in the name of *Dicey's* book on Popular Govt, or whatever he calls it, & post the enclosed note?

She has not yet seen it, (Dicey's book)

We have anxiously watched

**f187**

whooping cough at both houses - May it be now disappearing ! Poor Ellin & Gwendolen seem to have been the worst with best of loves to Maude

ever your affte

Aunt Florence

How anxious is to morrow

I gave Sir Harry

Honble

Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's X  
present address

for you

to wit 35 Hogarth Road

S. Kensington

X Member of Legislative Council of  
Bombay - father of the Reformers

- wants a seat in the Ho. of C. (Parsee)

signed letter, ff188-89v, pencil

**f188**

Claydon May 19/86

My dear Mr. Fred

Some years ago Lady Blomfield wrote to me for advice about establishing her Fund - And a great corresponde followed - & some, I believe, Meetings - But no good. It seemed, - it, her Fund's course very impracticable - Latterly, Mr. or Dr. Burdett, who is busy in these directions, & has organized a sort of Hosptl Nurses' or Matrons' League, with Committees

**f188v**

has taken it up - & there is a sort of Association between him & Ly Blomfield And latterly he wrote to Hy Bonham Carter for leave to address Mrs. Wardroper to see if the St. Thomas' Nurses would join it - which leave was of course granted

You know our general difficulties in Nurses' payments - Nurses marrying, not remaining in Service &c &c



**f189**

I do not remember the  
*particular* difficulties -  
& have no papers with  
me - But if you can  
wait I will find out  
something of what passed  
among us -

I cannot at all give a  
Good account of my sister  
But she has been going out  
in the rain - She saw  
Sir H. Acland yesterday -  
It was impossible to go on  
without her seeing some one

**f189v**

She is so set against the  
babies going to Rosshire  
- fears it will be so cold -  
wants to have them here,  
separate from herself -  
Best love to Maude. We  
have been following the  
whooping cough lovingly  
ever yr affte

F. Nightingale  
Thanks for your List of  
Indian books - It  
makes me sad -

I entirely agree with your  
estimate of Home Rule Bill &  
Parliament

ff190-91v, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburton Place, London, S. W., May 20, 1886, re a family  
visit to Scotland

initialled letter, ff192-92v, pencil [8:888]

**f192**

*Dictated*

Claydon House, May 28/86  
Bucks. {printed address:}

Dear one

I am very unhappy about  
the poor babe - & am so thankful  
that Margt is with you -  
Pray do not scruple sending  
the two elders here, if they  
are not ready for the great  
journey. The nurseries & the  
garden-room are like  
another house. And I will  
avoid my babies as if they  
had the plague -  
end

**f192v**

Dearest Maude

My little God daughter  
lies on my heart - We pray  
God that she & you may  
come well thro' this -  
*well* it will be, we know.

The Doctor & Nurses think  
her not worse by your account.

*To Margaret*

My dearest love to Margaret  
I wish I could give a  
better account of my sister.  
She was very seriously over  
tired the day before yesterday  
God bless you. ever yours F.N.

signed letter, ff193-94, pencil

**f193**

Claydon May 29/86

My dear Mr. Fred

Don't think that my sister is too poorly to have Ralph & Gwendolen. If it is thought right for them to come here, it will do her good, not harm, to know that they are here - She has been longing for them -

She is thinking so much of dear ~~little~~ Kathleen-

I am in a state of abject penitence that you were with me instead of with her till so late last night, when y she was so

**f194**

poorly & you so tired - I did not know it was so late.

Dear love to Maude

& pray remember me to Miss

Shalder

ever your affte

Aunt Florence

Add Mss 68884, 198 folios, 82 pages, microfilm correspondence with Frederick and Maude Verney  
Part 3 1886, Adam Matthew reel 40

unsigned letter, ff1-2v, pencil [8:888-89]

**f1**

Claydon June 1/86

Dearest Maude & Margaret

How good of you to write so/us  
much about the darling little  
child. Your anxieties are our  
anxieties. Your relief ours - The  
Telegram this morning an  
inestimable comfort. The wind  
here this afternoon is S. W.  
& balmy: quite a change.  
Pray God it may be so with  
you -

We hope for a Telegram this  
evening: but if Mr. Fred has one,  
he will send it on here-

He came/rode over this afternoon for a  
is in a dusty world

**f1v**

couple of hours - was satisfied  
with the looks of Ralph &  
Gwendolen - Their Grandmama  
is so very glad to have them  
here - She sees them thro' windows

They arrived all right last  
~~night~~ evening about 5 -  
were very merry over tea  
had a capital night -  
have been out since their  
dinner to-day: splendid  
afternoon -

"Hobby Gee gee" transferred  
to their nursery.

They are relegated to the  
rooms beyond the back  
stair-case - & to Miss Shalders'

**f2**

room - the one over Cedar-room  
-- but do not seem to regard  
themselves at all as convicts -

Miss Shalders gave me a  
long account of all three,  
including dear Babe, last  
night. She is, as you know,  
so very interesting. Her  
narrative of Gwendolen's  
tastes, of her suffering with  
others' sufferings "as much  
"as they do" - of her love for  
the poor people - is wonderful

Mr. Fred looked, as you  
may suppose, rather grey

**f2v**

with anxiety - but much  
cheered by this morning's  
Telegram - (God grant the  
improvement betters itself-)  
& able to care a little  
about the amazing turn of  
the political tide - and alas!  
it appears prospect of  
dissolution ??

Fare you very well  
you pair of Sisters dear to  
the Almighty Father. May  
God bless you - and He *will*  
bless you - I always think of  
you two as standing on green  
grass plots let down ~~from~~/out of Heaven

signed letter, ff3-4v, pencil

[8:889]

**f3**

Claydon                  June 2/86

Dearest Maude

We hang upon your notes  
& Margaret's - How kind  
of you to write -

The darling little child  
seems to keep her ground  
And that is much -

We must not be  
discouraged, I believe, because  
no steady progress is yet  
made - but thankful that  
these most distressing attacks  
of fever in the afternoons  
seem not to leave exhaustion

**f3v**

behind -

Ralph & Gwendolen have  
been hay-making in the little  
mounds of grass mown &  
left for them on purpose  
on the lawn both morning  
& afternoon which were  
still & very warm &  
delightful to-day - their little  
voices sounding so ~~ill~~eg/cheerful.  
Now it has turned to rain

**f4**

5.30

O thank God, thank God,  
thank God for the favourable  
blessed Telegram just  
received Thank you so  
much

We give you joy &  
put our trust in God  
ever yours  
Aunt Florence

I almost hope Margaret's  
children may not be  
coming for a day or two  
that she may be able to  
be more with you -

**f4v**

I wish I could send a  
better report of their  
Grandmama -

Bless God -

ff5-6v, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S. W., {archivist: ?1887 3. 6. 86?} from MV re the sickness of all  
three children

initialled letter, f7, pencil

**f7**

Claydon                  June 3/86

Dearest Maude

We trust & believe that  
it is very good news about  
Kathleen since Margt & you  
are coming to the Ball.

I think I must go to the  
Ball too & dance to  
Kathleen's recovery

Sir Harry has a bad cold  
- obliged to give up Buckn Dinner tonight  
Thanks for this morn's Telegram

Yours ever  
F.N.

signed letter, ff8-11v, pencil

**f8**

Claydon                  June 4/86

Dearest Maude

It was a great disappoint=  
=ment not to see you - but  
no doubt you were wishing  
not to leave Kathleen for a  
night - (who, I trust, is in no  
way worse) And we hope that  
it will not worry you too  
much to hear that Ralph  
had a little eruption this  
morning out behind his ears,  
& watery eyes, & a cold in  
his nose, which made us  
(Miss Shalders & me) send for



**f8v**

Dr. Benson, who pronounces  
it, as we expected, to be  
Measles - but of a very mild  
kind - He says: "keep the  
"child warm in bed - The Eruption  
"will be all out tomorrow -  
"& it will in all probability  
"be but a short attack" -  
He sees nothing at present  
to be uneasy about & does  
not expect that there *will*  
be anything to alarm you -

Miss Shalders separated  
Gwendolen from ~~him~~ Ralph

**f9**

as soon as the Eruption  
appeared. And as soon as  
we found you were not  
to be here to give your  
orders, we felt sure that  
you would wish Harriet  
to be sent for from Marsh  
Gibbon - And Miss Shalders  
is now writing to her. She  
will probably be here as  
soon as you receive this -  
Mrs. Broadhurst is as  
helpful as possible -  
My sister knows that Ralph

**f9v**

is not so well. But we  
have told her nothing  
more - nor Sir Harry who  
is laid up in two rooms  
with a very bad cold,  
induced by the circumstance  
of his being only 8 years old  
& 5 months - which justifies,  
you know, the most extraordinary  
proceedings. My poor Sister  
also is 6 years old & 7 months.

I have seen Ralph twice  
to-day - & also Gwendolen -  
taking care not to go to  
my sister immediately after

**f10**

-2-

Ralph And I thought  
well of its not being to be a  
severe attack -

I trust that you are  
pretty well - You may be  
sure how much we grieve  
that all this anxiety should  
come upon you, who have  
too much already -  
& that every thing will be  
done for the two dear little  
souls - Every body is  
helpful -

**f10v**

God bless you  
in haste  
ever yours  
Aunt Florence  
Give us a good account  
of Kathleen  
Please not to mention the  
Measles in writing to  
Parthe or Sir Harry -  
I am so glad that you  
will soon have Mr. Fred  
with you again .

**f11**

Dr Acland is coming here  
tomorrow to sleep - and  
I am very glad of it -  
on my sister's & Sir Harry's  
account - And he will  
see Ralph, if there is  
occasion  
Of course Scotland is out  
of the question for the  
present.

initialled note, f12, pencil

**f12** {archivist: 5 June 1886}

Harriet is come, as you  
know & will be glad -  
Would Maude like Sir  
Henry Acland to see  
Ralph to night?  
Best love to your childer  
F.N.

5/6/86

ff13-16v, June 5, 1886, re the sickness of the children

ff17-18, June 7, 1886, from FWV, re Kathleen's condition

ff19-20v, undated, from MV, re Kathleen's sickness

ff21-23, June 6, 1886, re Kathleen who now has measles

signed letter, ff24-25, pencil      **[8:889-90]**

**f24**

Claydon      June 7/86  
Dearest Maude  
I felt quite appalled at  
this new trouble come upon  
you in Kathleen's measles.  
But really these young people  
of yours seem to know their  
own affairs best. Or rather  
God our Father does -  
I should call Ralph's measles  
indeed I shall *advertise* it  
as - "A Simple & Natural  
Cure for the Whooping Cough"  
He never coughed all night till 8 this

**f24v**

morning - And your Circus  
is a delight to him

He orders his own meals

with a judgment which  
nature might envy - & is  
to have Jelly tomorrow -

He asks after Grandpapa  
who is out riding -

Gwendolen "as fresh as  
a daisy" still - playing at  
ball very happily on the lawn  
by herself -

I am sorry to say it is a  
bad day with Parthe -

We have got a fresh Nurse as third from Oxford - The two were quite worn

**f25**

I do trust Kathleen is  
developing recovery as well  
as measles -

But it is very sad that  
you should be separated from  
Margt

Miss Shalders will write you  
all details of childer dear -

Sir H is here (Blue Room)  
in haste  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff26-27v, undated, re Kathleen's worsening condition

ff28-29v, June 7, 1886, re Kathleen's condition

ff30-31v, June 8, 1868, re Kathleen's sickness

signed letter, ff32-33v, pencil

[8:890]

**f32**

Claydon June 8/86

Dearest Maude

So thankful got this  
morning's Telegram about the  
darling little child -  
"From her enemies defend her, O  
Christ" -

Ralph had not a very good  
night - but to-day is the  
best day he has had - Doctor  
not coming tomorrow, he is so  
well - And on Thursday, please  
God, he is to get up for awhile  
"To verify quotations," I am  
to tell you that I found him in  
great delight putting your

**f32v**

Circus performers mounted on  
their heads, on their stomachs,  
in their proper way, on horseback  
that he is going to teach Aunt  
Florence a game, a "very  
difficult game", where you  
must "keep" your "head cool" -

He has taken all his food  
well to-day - & been asleep - no  
company -

We are a very fortress of  
Carbolic

Thank Mr. Fred for his box -  
But the "pure Carbolic" I have  
absconded with - he must  
let me pay Cooper's bill -  
Gwendolen as well as possible

**f33**

Miss Shalders gone to bed  
(by my orders) in another room,  
but *quite* well.

Gwendolen sent some May  
by me to Ralph. She is so very  
tender to him -

Grandpa *much* better -

Poor Parthe so very bad, but  
I trust to-day will be the  
turn -

Please tell Mr. Fred I will  
answer his letter to-morrow,  
if not to-day - but things are  
going to go better -

There was enough to account  
for it in her bodily state

**f33v**

We are so grieved for your  
separation from Margt  
except by *shouts* - It is so  
difficult to shout one's love.

ever dearest Maude

your loving

Aunt Florence

not by *shouts* - but in spirit  
always -

Gordon wrote to us. "I come  
daily to see you in spirit" -  
So do I -

I take daily messages from  
"mother" & "father" to Ralph

ff34-35v, June 9, 1886, from FWV, re Kathleen's improvement

ff36-37v, June 9, 1886, from MV, re Kathleen's improvement

signed note, f38, pencil

**f38**

June 10/86

{printed address:} Claydon House,  
Bucks.

Dearest Maude

Ralph up & looking charming  
- sends all sorts of messages to  
"mother" -

Gwendolen will write to  
"mother" to morrow if I will  
tell her "the spelling" - charmed  
with her new doll.

So thankful, so thankful for  
Kathleen's wonderful progress  
Poor Parthe as bad as ever -  
God bless you all -  
ever yours lovingly  
Aunt Florence

ff39-40v, June 10, re Kathleen

ff41-42v, June 12, 1886, re Kathleen and a slight relapse

signed letter, ff43-46, pencil **[8:891-92]**

**f43**

Claydon June 14/86

Dearest Maude

I hope you will not be too  
much distressed to know  
that Gwendolen has measles -  
You would not be if you  
saw them as I do -

Gwendolen's face is as fresh  
& as beautiful as if she  
were running about the  
lawn. And General, Major=  
General Ralph is exercising  
on his charger, the hobby  
Gee-gee - You understand



## f43v

that they are both now in  
the inner East Nursery - since this  
morning.

Gwendolen in bed, of course,  
with her doll and two picture books -  
but without a trace of apparent  
illness - And Dolly “has *not* got measles”!!! Aunt Florence’s orders  
were to come back & read  
to them. “Mother’s birth-day  
Review” - And of course she  
obeyed her General & General’s  
sister - ‘Them’s my orders’.

Both send "love & kisses"  
to "mother" And I think  
there is some idea of  
getting up a "birth-day  
review" with 7 donkeys

## f44

for mother's next birth day  
in Onslow Gardens .

You see we're not very bad

Ralph, on being told that there were hopes that baby Kathleen would not “forget her English” - said - “what language will she speak? oh French” - in his dear little funny voice

You would never guess  
they were ill -

The rash on Gwendolen  
will be more 'out' tomorrow -  
Dr. Benson has seen them

**f44v**

We have put Miss Shalders  
to bed in the Wainscoted  
room - But I really hope  
there is nothing the matter  
but what she says she  
has often - tho' one is  
very much concerned to  
see her, so spirited, so sick.  
She is now going to sleep  
over Brandy & - no the  
last was Milk & Soda Water  
And we trust she will be  
up tomorrow - tho' I think  
we will not let her sleep  
with the children again

**f45**

-2-

Harriet sleeps with them  
to night. And Kate in  
the outer East Nursery

Miss Shalders says that  
you know that she has  
these attacks of sickness - &  
will not be frightened -

You know we are expecting  
Aunt Margt (& Uncle Edmund)  
tonight. And the Invalids  
will be delighted to see her -

My poor sister is very bad  
indeed - And we have  
telegraphed for Dr. Acland

**f45v**

Sir Harry is depressed  
& looks feeble. But I  
know I am always told &  
am glad to believe that I  
exaggerate his state -

He does suffer so very  
much *with* his poor wife -

The third Nurse from  
Oxford is a nice person -

Sir Harry has no cold  
now - And Mr. Calvert who  
is here is good company  
for him, (tho' one would not  
quite have selected him as

**f46**

a "jolly good fellow,") in the  
absence of everybody else  
upstairs

God bless you all -  
Bank Holiday has deprived  
me of Kathleen's news -  
God grant it may be good!

ever yours lovingly  
Aunt Florence

I *would* tell you if  
there were any cause  
for uneasiness - But  
there is not. We will  
telegraph tomorrow.

ff47-47v, June 14, re Kathleen's slight improvement

ff48-49v, June 15, re the conditions of the invalids

ff50-51v, June 16, re Kathleen and FWV's candidature at Bath

unsigned letter, ff52-53v, pencil [8:892]

**f52**

Claydon June 16/86

Dearest Maude

We have measles out very fully,  
not room for one more:

temperature 102.4

pulse 130

still no complication at all  
cough rather troublesome, but  
kept quiet by poultices -  
only an ordinary attack of  
measles, tho' rather heavy -

She is not at all unhappy -  
views with interest the  
removal of her bed to a more  
airy part of the room -  
has Dolly in bed with her -

**f52v**

With regard to the great  
question, Miss Shalders & I  
have meditated & consulted,  
(& admitted the Doctor to  
advise). And I really think  
that what you would wish,  
could we put all the  
circumstances before you, would  
be what we here submit:

Ralph, who would have been  
allowed to go out to-day,  
were there not a N.W. wind, cold -  
to remain at Claydon for the  
benefit of summer walks some  
little time longer - not to live  
in Gwendolen's nursery - but to

**f53**

remove to-day to Miss Shalders'  
room (the wainscoted room) -  
Miss Shalders to remain here -  
She does not seem to think she  
can go home - Kate to remain  
here, because she is wanted  
to wait on Harriet & Gwendolen -  
And the little maids here  
have not had measles -  
Miss Shalders seems pretty  
well now - She will only go  
into the Nursery on *visits*  
to Gwendolen - And I hope  
will not be overdone - She  
will go out every day -  
Dr. Benson, tho' he says Gwendolen's

**f53v**

attack is heavy, does not  
anticipate that it will be  
longer than Ralph's - The rash  
is well out. It is possible  
all may return together -  
or at least that Gwendolen  
may be convalescent before  
Ralph returns - Dr. Benson  
decidedly prefers Claydon to  
London for Ralph at present -

We are so thankful that  
Kathleen is "waving" a "hind  
"quarter of beef" - That is a  
flag of peace & farewell to  
fever, I hope. What a blessing  
the fluid in the lung departs

incomplete, unsigned letter, ff54-55v, pencil [8:893]

**f54**

Claydon June 17/86

Dearest Maude

Nothing but good news of  
Gwendolen:

Yesterday To-day

Pulse 130 104

Tempre 102.4 99.4

rash fading

cough much better - [It was  
not a whoop but only the  
cough of measles] - on the road  
to convalescence - the high road

It was only the bad weather  
prevented Ralph from going  
out to-day - He is bonny -

Miss Shalders well -

**f54v**

Would that you could  
say the same of Kathleen !-  
as we can of Gwendolen -

Parthe is very bad - I cannot  
speak to her at all of the  
coming-on elections so near  
my heart. Sir Harry is  
very dear & gentle but  
lachrymose, about them

What can I say about  
Mr. Fred? I believe it is  
as much the calling of God  
when Capt. Verney is/was appointed  
to the(?) Growler - do you remember  
Margt was upon her knees praying

**f55**

in the bed-room here when  
news was brought her?  
or when Mr. Fred stands for  
Bath - may he prosper? -  
as when an Apostle starts on  
a Missionary tour -  
the plan, the life-plan is in  
God's mind all the time -  
& has been from all eternity -  
When a Claydon rose  
delights you or me, or a violin-  
-tone speaks volumes to you,  
don't you think that it was  
in God's mind from all  
eternity when He made the  
laws that created that rose  
or that chord. the pleasure

**f55v**

that it would give to you or  
me? It would not give  
me half so much if I did  
not think God was thinking  
of it - Last night at midnight  
a Nightingale was singing  
his song, his prayers to God,  
out of pure joy & devotion  
singing by himself in the  
moonlight - But was not  
God thinking of it?  
Dearest Maude: I could  
not bear to think of the  
desperate anxiety & fatigue  
you & Margt will have,  
complicated as it is by so much

signed letter, f56 pencil **[8:893-94]**

**f56**

Claydon June 18/86

And oh! I shall miss your letters

I go to 10 South St. tomorrow -

Dearest Maude

God be thanked for the good

Telegram - May all Kathleen's

improvement continue! -

Nothing but good news from here

Gwendolen

Pulse 86

Temp: 98.8

rash fading rapidly - cough

much better - everything in a

state of improvement -

I am afraid this is the last

letter you will have from me

from here - And oh how sorry

I am to leave them - God bless them

ever yrs most lovingly F. Nightingale **[end 8:894]**

ff57-58v, June 18, re MV's concern about FN's added responsibility and Kathleen's fever

ff59-60, June 18, re Parthe's vexation at FWV and Kathleen's fever

initialled note, ff61-61v, pencil

**f61**

Nothing but good news June 19/86

{printed address:} 10, South Street,

Gwendolen -Pulse Tempe Park Lane. W.

80 Normal

cough better - is progressing

rapidly - will get up a little

tomorrow -

Ralph was to go out to-day -

Miss Shalders quite well -

Harriet says: " no chance of my

"being over -tired - Gwendolen sleeps



**f61v**

-2-

all night - we both have slept  
all night these last two nights -  
In short I have nothing but good  
- Excuse a scrawl - I am only this  
moment landed - How are you?  
So thankful Kathleen is better -  
Is Mr. Fred returned? What  
prospects? with very best love  
dearest Maude, ever yours F.N.  
Poor Parthe bad

ff62-62v, Sunday, {archivist: June 20, 1886}, re plans for the children

ff63-64v, Sunday evening, re Kathleen's improvement

ff65-66, Monday, re MV's plans to join FWV at Bath because of the election

ff67-67v, Monday evening, re MV's decision to go to Bath

signed letter, ff68-69v, pencil

**[8:894]**

**f68**

10 South St June 22/86

Dearest Maude

Thank you much for writing -  
I am so *very* glad that you are  
able to go to Mr. Fred -  
But *pray*, I *trust*, that, as the  
physical work will be lighter -  
no driving ~~home~~/14 miles after meetings  
in the winter nights in a cart  
or a tent - how thankful we  
are for that - so the desperate  
mental anxiety to exhausted  
bodies will be lighter - You  
said you would take "mental  
chloroform". Please do

**f68v**

My fervent 'God speed' is  
yours -

I shall send to enquire after  
Kathleen - Good speed to her -

Might I have your address  
at Bath?

Please tell Mr. Fred that  
Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has  
written to me to day or/ & yesterday  
about his having accepted the  
candidature for Holborn -  
wants me to "support" him,  
which I don't know how to do -  
but suppose he wants me to  
write him a letter - If Mr.

**f69**

Fred's hand is in, perhaps he  
would help me with a few hints  
of how one should write to Mr.  
Dadabhai - but don't let  
Mr. Fred trouble himself, he &  
you must be so busy.

Further, Mr. Dadabhai wants  
me to "attend" his "first  
Public meeting" (Holborn Town  
Hall) on Thursday which of  
course I can easily do -

capital news of Genl Ralph  
& Gwendolen from Claydon  
this morning

Good bye - All joy & peace  
throughout whatever clamour

**f69v**

ever yours lovingly  
Aunt Florence

ff70-71v, Tuesday, {archivist: June 22, 1886} re MV's departure for Bath and Kathleen's continued improvement

ff72-73v, 11 Russel St., Bath, June 25, re the election campaign in Bath

signed letter, ff74-77, pencil      **[8:895-96]**

**f74**

10 South St June 26/86

Dearest Maude

I have just received my  
answer from the little woman  
at Onslow Gns - the little woman  
whose "smile" is priceless - more  
precious than the Imperial  
smile which made & unmade  
nations - She says she is  
much "better" & went into the  
next room yesterday morning  
with great advantage - &  
is "much more like herself"  
for it -

I think it is a grand thing

**f74v**

to teach the multitudes  
great political "principles"  
apart from the "local gossip"  
& animosities - which animosities  
alas! reign in circles which  
think themselves higher than  
"local" - - - to speak of Ld  
Hartington & Chamberlain as  
they ought to be spoken of -  
& show the multitudes what  
they ought to think of them -  
And if it could but be without )  
the agitation & fatigue to you,  
I should say that this in

**f75**

itself is a great thing to  
accomplish - a great  
victory won -

It is not so everywhere - not  
even among the best men - I  
saw some one yesterday from  
Edinburgh, saying that Mr.  
Goschen had been speaking  
as men speak in public houses,  
saying what "men said" of  
him "in London", & how unfair  
it was &c &c &c instead  
of enlightening his audience  
on political principles

**f75v**

Please tell Mr. Fred I give  
him joy - & tho' I hope, oh  
how I hope for success, yet  
surely this is success already

The Press is getting an  
awful hold upon us. It  
is like the "Pieuvre"  
enveloping us in its  
fearful legs & arms - And  
only such speakers as  
you describe can stop the  
creature -

A thousand thanks for  
your most kind, too  
interesting letter -

**f76**

-2-

Good news of Ralph & Gwendn  
to-day

I am so ashamed of myself  
that I cannot write a  
proper letter

Tell Mr. Fred that Mr.  
Dadabhai Naoroji's  
meeting at Holborn was a  
very crowded & enthusiastic  
one - Mr. Naoroji spoke  
exceedingly well - in  
beautiful English - "it  
was a wise, great  
speech " This I hear from  
the people to whom I gave

**f76v**

my platform tickets -  
I am sorry he read a letter  
from me

À Dieu - À Dieu - À Dieu

God is in the train to  
which we are coupled  
if we are really going for  
truth & principle -  
This is a great crisis  
in our history - but  
the greater the crisis  
the more God is in it -  
It will be success

**f77**

whatever happens  
The train in which  
God is cannot be smashed  
or wrecked  
Great love -  
yours ever  
Aunt Florence

ff79-79v, June 28, 1886, from FWV, re a letter he wishes FN to write to the Liberal ladies of Bath  
signed letter, ff80-82v, pencil     **[8:895-96] [1:711-12]**

**f80**

10 South St June 28/86

Dearest Maude

I was very glad to see Mr.  
Fred, but afraid he had a  
slight cold, which however I  
hope will come to nothing - Or  
rather I think he is coming to  
great good; let what will  
happen.

We had so much to talk  
about that I did not mention  
to him that Surgeon Major Evatt  
is 'standing' on the Liberal side  
(Unionist Home Ruler) at Woolwich  
- Dr. Evatt is *the* reformer of

**f80v**

the Army Med: Dept - of Army  
Medical administration - a  
man of singular talent in the  
reforming administrative line  
- & in speaking - He asked  
me for "a line", of course -  
I know nothing of his chances,  
(but should have liked to talk  
him over with Fr. Fred) in  
unseating the present C. member  
Hughes (?)

I am all on the administrative  
"go" - for India - for Army  
Medical &c -

**f81**

Sir Harry comes to morrow  
till Thursday - when he attends  
the Conference on Imperial  
Federation - on Wednesday  
the Gordon Boy's Home Comme  
You saw the letter of the Pr of  
Wales to the D. of Buckingham,  
prompted by Mr. Fred, in the  
D. News - Sir Harry has  
about 8 meetings on Wednesday

I am greatly alarmed - Sir  
H. is a magistrate - and I  
think my sister will have me  
taken up. The Pall Mall Gazette  
has done worse than I hinted  
to Mr. Fred. It has put in my

**f81v**

letter to Dadabhai Naoroji,  
as-y with a heading 'Letter to the  
"Electors of Holborn" too bad, & side by side  
with its own expressions of  
"hatred to Chamberlain" &  
"detestation of Ld Salisbury" -  
Que diable allais-je faire [Molière]  
dans cette galère? Those  
"hatreds" are certainly not mine

I shall be imprisoned in a  
Claydon dungeon -

I cry Hurra! to you with all  
my might. Don't you hear me afar off?  
I think it is a grand thing to  
be making speeches on *principles*  
Thank you so much for you  
lovely views of Bath - I cry again  
Good speed! ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f82**

2 I have two pieces of  
good news for you:

one that a Home Mission clergyman,  
without a Church but only  
a ~~school~~ room, is making  
quite a Reformation among the  
very worst in the circle round  
our St. Marylebone Infirmary -  
he has something every day,  
not only on Sundays - among  
other things he is forming a  
Provident & Temperance Union,  
~~called~~, called the Sisters of the Phoenix  
Socy,

which admits the very poorest  
women, & which is begun to be  
managed by themselves with ~~by~~ a Committee, ~~of~~/elected by  
themselves - *He* is as poor as a  
rat - & has of course 3 children every year

**f82v**

The other is that our Nurses  
at St. Marylebone Infirmary  
are reviving the desire of  
a Provident Union among  
all trained Nurses - for  
granting pensions & for sick  
pay - *upon the principle  
of never drawing out their  
money* - but, whether they  
cease to subscribe, upon  
marriage, or giving up the  
profession, or not, leaving  
whatever they *have* subscribed  
in for the Common Fund -

You may perhaps remember  
that our Edinburgh Nurses  
said the same thing -

**[end 1:712]**



signed note, f83, pencil

**f83**

29/6/86

My dear Mr. Fred

O cruel man to ask me for  
a letter - I only write not  
because I have sense to give  
you but ~~only~~/ just the deepest  
warmest sympathy for  
such a canvass - the true  
success - Tear it up -

Your letter came just  
while I was preparing for  
Miss Crossland whom I  
expect every minute  
God save you & Maudie  
Aunt Flo

signed letter, ff84-87, pen **[5:350-51]**

**f84**

London June 29 1886

My dear Mr. Fred Verney

Accept a woman's warmest  
good wishes for your canvass,  
no less than for your return  
for a Liberal seat for Bath -  
- for your canvass conducted  
on such noble ~~principles~~/lines as  
to make it a good & no  
evil - a triumph in itself -  
(- I will not say 'whatever  
happens,' for a seat in  
Parliament must crown it)  
- for your canvass which,  
teaching principles & what  
Liberal principles mean

**f84v**

as it does - *is* a success,  
& not only a road to success.

Instead of criminating &  
recriminating, which alas!  
our greatest men have  
hardly avoided - instead  
of counting up how often  
G. or H. or I and J. have  
contradicted themselves  
& disinterring the corpses  
of their inconsistencies -  
instead of local squabbling  
& gossiping - & the whole  
art of abusive Politics  
- instead of floundering in  
this 'mucky' puddle, to sail

**f85**

(not with the 'filthy rags' of party  
politics but ) with the  
swelling sails & "bounding  
breeze" on/f the great principles  
of Liberal politics &  
statesmanship - on the  
Great principles of all  
administration & Government  
- leaving, at this solemn crisis,  
detail to the time when  
the representatives of this  
country will have to decide  
upon detail  
instead of despising  
"Dissentients" & calling names  
to show, as you do the  
difficulties where they may

**f85v**

help the practical truth  
with their opposition -  
Her Majesty's Opposition,  
so truly, so fondly called  
best understood here -  
H.M.'s 3 or 4 Oppositions  
we must say now -  
to dwell, we say, on the  
great principles of law  
& order & justice & love  
of justice -  
this, this is success -  
this is the noble canvass  
- this is your happy path,  
your fair voyage -

**f86**

-2-

If this be the 'new life'  
which the present Election  
is to inaugurate - which  
women as well as men  
may join to promote -  
then we say: 'God save  
the Election a good &  
not an evil - A Great &  
a noble Education in  
something higher than  
party Politics - in practical  
Politics for the good of  
mankind - (taking away  
from "party what was meant  
for mankind") in Government  
for the right.

**f87**

And each Election instead  
of being the sink of corruption  
& vicious gaiety we know  
it was will be a time  
of meeting of different  
classes for the highest  
purposes of instruction & of  
sympathy [when, in the  
language we love, 'the lion  
shall lie down with the lamb']

This is our beloved  
Queen's jubilee. Let this  
be the beginning of the  
reign of high politics  
which in their turn shall  
have *their* jubilee

**f87v**

God save the Queen  
God save the new era  
God save all those who  
wish to save the "Union"  
May success be yours in  
Parliament - The greater  
success of a pure canvass  
is yours already  
Florence Nightingale

ff88-88v, copy of ff84-87v, not in FN's hand, with some changes

ff89-90, June 30, 1886, from FWV, explaining the need for the changes made in ff84-87v

ff91-91v, June 30, from MV, re the campaigning in Bath

ff92-92v, July 3, 1886, from FWV, re his failure to be elected

signed letter, ff93-94v, pencil

**f93**

10 South St July 4/86

*{Babykins}*

Dearest Maude

I heard that you did  
not wish to bring the children  
back to little Kathleen yet,  
& that you wanted some air  
for them more bracing than  
Claydon & not so far as  
Scotland -

Pray remember I am not  
advising - I know how happy  
they at Claydon are to  
have them - And there is  
always a risk in sending  
them to a strange place -

**f93v**

But it occurred to me  
that, as our Miss Crossland  
had been on her holidays  
one year with a sick "Ward  
Sister" of ours" to a farm:  
house half a mile from the  
sea on a breezy common in  
Norfolk - yet undiscovered  
by watering place goers -  
with a sandy beach - ~~at~~/near  
her brother's - & both  
recovered health & spirits -  
you might like to hear  
about it.

I enclose the brother's letter

**f94**

& Miss Crossland's - [ Miss C.  
goes on her holiday to  
Ireland tomorrow morning]

The brother was a Missionary  
in Borneo & those parts for  
many years - lost his health  
- came home & ~~is~~/has now a  
small living in Norfolk - [see  
his date] - Ridlington N. Walsham -

He is an excellent Doctor,  
which I only mention,  
because the "farm=house", which  
you will see Miss Crossland  
recommends, is five miles  
from Doctors - "Bacton,"  
which she does not

**f94v**

recommend so much as  
the "farm-house", is a large  
village=town & close to  
the sea, much nearer  
than the "farm=house" -

If you would not think  
of this (Bacton) for a moment,  
I think I will write to  
the brother & tell him so -  
[You see he asks.] Otherwise  
there is no occasion for  
you to trouble yourself to  
take any notice. Forgive me if  
this bothers you -

Good speed to all three darlings  
- ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

incomplete, unsigned letter, ff95-95v, pencil [8:898]

**f95**

10 South St July 5/86

Dearest Maude

Thanks for your most kind  
note. We grieve together over  
your fatigues, anxieties,  
disappointments - They are  
mine - But they are God's too

**f95v**

the party I should not  
think Miss Crossland, an  
unmarried maid who has fought  
with savages, keenly alive  
to such risks for children  
And Miss Crossland, whose careful  
vigour is up to anything, has  
not been at the country place for

ff96-96v, Six Cedars [?], July 8, 1886, from [illeg Spencer?] FWV about his election defeat

signed letter, ff97-98, pencil [8:897]

**f97**

July 4/86

Dearest Maude

How I grieve over your  
fatigues; & of course I cannot  
help a little tear at the result

But good work is never  
wasted. A canvass, rightly  
& nobly carried on, tho' it ends  
with what is called defeat,  
really contributes more to the  
good cause than a dozen  
of so-called victories, impurely  
won -

I trust you are not much  
the worse. I was so grateful  
to you for your letters. F.N. I had

**f97v**

a letter from a candidate  
(on the right side) who  
is not yet beaten but expects  
to be on Tuesday saying  
"No one has learned more  
than I have from the  
whole campaign"

and  
"I think it (the battle) has  
been of an educating  
character to many people  
& questions have been  
discussed before great  
audiences which whether  
I fail or succeed will  
waken up thought."

That is what I feel so  
strongly - but,  
Aunt-like, I wish you had  
had the success too -  
a little success too -

But I won't be done  
out of my conviction that  
the victory has been  
yours -  
the Good speed has been yours  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence



unsigned letter, ff99-100v, pencil

[8:898]

**f99**

10 South St July 9/86

PRIVATE

Dearest Maude

I wish I could give you  
better news from Claydon,  
so will say nothing more  
than that it is kind & pacific.

Shake paws with Mervyn  
for me. What does he say  
about the Election?

I return Mrs. Gladstone's  
letter to Mr. Fred, because  
I am afraid of its being lost.

I send only love to Ralph  
& Gwendolen, because they

**f99v**

will have their mother -

1. If you have quite made  
up your minds about  
Norfolk, would you kindly  
let me know that I may  
write to Mr. Crossland,  
whose letter you have?

But don't let this bother  
you -

Might I trouble you  
with these 3 small parcels  
for Claydon? - 3 -

2.  
And might I trouble you  
to tell me of some book  
Mis Shalders would like?

**f100**

I fancy it would be  
German - But a generation  
ago closed my knowledge  
& repertory of German -  
Give my love to the  
morning thrushes at Claydon.

3 -

Also: might I ask you to  
kindly find out any book  
that Good Davidson,  
Parthe's maid, would  
like?

*O that it could be settled  
that Emma, the excellent  
little nurse, (housemaid), might*

**f100v**

*be the third attendant  
on my sister! Three*  
are quite essential - Or  
she will lose Davidson -  
& also every Nurse (one after the  
other) - broken down, just  
as she wants them most  
Please *destroy* -

ff101-02, 6 Onslow Gardens, S. W. Friday, {archivist: July 1886}, from MV re her decision not to go to Norfolk

signed letter, ff103-04v, pencil

[8:899]

**f103**

10 South St July 17/86

Dearest Maude

Thank you so much for  
your letter - I was so  
grateful to you for telling  
me the whole scene & so  
anxious about Margaret.  
When you hear of them from  
abroad, I am sure that you  
will kindly let me know.

I cannot yet think of it  
without tears; but they are  
tears of joy & admiration  
as much as of grief &  
astonished disappointment

**f103v**

We should wave our banners

& strew our flowers not  
for the winner: he *has* a  
(so-called) Success - but for  
those who have the something  
higher than Success -

There is an old Italian  
hymn which I dare say  
you know - not about a  
Saint, but about one  
persecuted unjustly:

*"Martirio in terra appella si,*

*"Gloria si appella in cielo" -*

**f104**

That which is sometimes  
called "defeat" or "failure"  
here we shall come to call  
the only real glorious success.

The crowning Victory of  
all in man's history was  
apparently the deepest  
defeat & destruction of all  
hope the world has ever  
seen - And *He* had  
palms strewed in His way  
to it

I keep all these things  
in my heart -

**f104v**

I send you a charming  
letter of good excellent  
sensible Mrs. Robertson  
which please return to  
me - I should like to  
send it to Sir Harry, but  
dare not, on her account.

Sir Harry & my sister  
are, I am sure, genuinely  
~~sorry~~/grieved - Sir H. dreadfully  
so -

How sorry I am Ralph &  
Gwendolen still look so delicate  
And how are you? And Kathleen  
still progressing? ever yours  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff105-06, pencil

**f105**

10 South St July 24/86

Dearest Maude

I have not liked to ask  
you or Mr. Fred to come &  
see me because I thought  
you were so much better both  
engaged in seeing the Thames!!  
(if possible) together; & were very busy  
besides

But Sir Harry tells me  
that you are both going to  
Claydon on Tuesday with  
Kathleen, & I hope going on  
to Rhoscolyn & perhaps Scotland.

I should be so very sorry

**f105v**

not to see you again for  
some months perhaps,  
when so much has been gone  
through in these last weeks.  
Could you or Mr. Fred come,  
one this afternoon, when I  
have an unexpected vacancy,  
& the other tomorrow (Sunday)  
afternoon, if you are so kind?

But you can't think how  
entirely I waive my claim  
if you are going somewhere  
*nice* together, to some Forest  
or River.

**f106**

I have heard from dear  
Margt, but she gives me  
no address to write -  
I hope Kathleen is almost  
off the Sick List  
God bless you  
ever yours  
Aunt Florence  
If you can come, would 5  
or 6 suit you?

signed letter, ff107-08, pencil

**f107**

*Private* 10 South St  
July 28/86  
Dearest Maude  
How good you are - Do not  
trouble yourself to "send here"  
I will send to you by "one  
o'clock".  
I feel so very anxious  
that you should not  
tire yourself by going to  
Mrs. Grey's, as you so  
kindly propose, on my  
account - But whether  
you are so good as to  
see her or write to her,

**f107v**

I think we must be  
careful not to tell her  
facts, but simply to  
ask her how she found  
those certain things -  
And if you only write  
as I hope you will  
perhaps you will let me  
suggest some things  
before you do -  
I cannot say how grateful  
I am to you -  
And I am afraid you are  
so tired

**f108**

At Claydon, besides  
the Nurses, could you  
let me know how the  
new *Sofa & Water*  
*Matrass* does?  
God bless you  
ever yours  
Aunt Florence  
Love to Kathleen  
& good journey

ff109-10, Claydon House, Bucks, August 4, re the state of affairs at Claydon

ff111-12v, Friday evening, {archivist: August 6, 1886} re the nursing situation at Claydon

ff113-14, 6, Onslow Gardens, August 12, 1886, from FWV re a letter from Prince Prisdang, Siam

ff115-16v, Plas Rhoscolyn, Holyhead, Sunday evening, {archivist: August 15, 1886} from MV re her  
stay at Rhoscolyn

initialled letter, ff117-18v, pencil

**f117**

10 South St Aug 18/86

My dear Mr. Fred

Miss Masson is at  
Edinburgh (at *the* Masson's  
there) I will send to Miss  
Crossland the first thing in the  
morning - & she Miss Masson shall be  
written to. but I hardly  
think they will let her go out  
on such a chance at such  
short notice. but - we shall  
see -

Miss Greenfield I have  
sent a word to tonight -  
But if the boy is a young man,

**f117v**

I am afraid she will  
hardly do - She injured  
herself slightly while lifting,  
in one of our Adult Wards -  
There must have been some  
weakness before - And her  
brother, Professor of something  
in Medicine at Edinburgh,  
has forbidden her, tho' she is  
quite well, having anything  
to do with adult Patients  
for 6 months - Yet she  
will not leave us -

It is so inconvenient having



**f118**

~~anything to do with~~

*Great* relations -

I will also find out in  
the morning from Miss  
Crossland what scale  
of payment they will  
consider sufficient.

And I will write  
to Miss Webber's Doctor  
But we are the true  
Doctors - And we must  
guard in both these two  
Nurses against any

**f118v**

risk of a

break-down in/on the  
voyage, which would be  
very awkward -

I have another in my  
head but she has no  
organizing power  
ever your affte

F.N.

signed letter, ff119-21v, pencil

**f119**

10 South St Aug18/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I have been busy about  
your Siamese student  
(please tell me his *age*)  
And I have found two  
ladies of our own with  
whom I have communicated  
- one of whom I think  
will do - She would  
nurse him at Watford  
& go out with him to  
Siam. but she so clings  
to the idea ~~the~~ of being

**f119v**

taken on at St. Thomas'

that she will make  
no promise to stay on  
at Siam in *any* case -  
I think she might be  
ready "in ten days or a  
fortnight" - *She is a Miss*  
Greenfield - has a sister,  
a Missionary, in India -  
But I doubt her having  
the organizing power to  
do anything in Siam,  
even would she stay -

**f120**

On the other hand, we  
have a Miss Masson,  
just gone for her holiday,  
(with whom I have *not*  
communicated) who,  
Miss Crossland & I think,  
*might possibly* do all  
3, Watford, Siam &  
stay there. She *has*  
organizing power. But  
how could she be ready  
“in 10 days or a fortnight”?  
[The second with whom I

**f120v**

*have* communicated, a  
Miss Webber, would  
accept it. But she is  
at this moment in bed,  
& tho' she thinks she will  
be ready “in a week”,  
I was just going to write  
to her Doctor who, I  
am sure, will *not*.]

I think it/ the Nurse must be a  
*lady*, unless you could get  
hold of a woman like  
Kathleen's Nurse, if she is

**f121**

-2-

to stay out in Siam  
especially

[No one can "go to Mrs.  
Wardroper" or "ask"  
her for anything - She is  
away & has been very  
ill]

I am very sorry you  
are not in Scotland,  
& also that Pleasley is  
not to be done -

**f121v**

ever your affecte  
F. Nightingale  
I will write to Miss  
Greenfield (who is  
at Croydon) tonight  
- shall I?

initialled letter, ff122-23v, pencil

**f122**

10 South St Aug 19/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I have two misfortunes  
to announce - One is: we  
can't have Miss Masson -  
I have been busy about it  
Since 8 am for we had  
first to get Hy Bonham  
Carter's consent [And he  
is now at Woodside] Of course  
we do not meddle with  
the 'Staff' without his & Mrs.  
Wardroper's consent. And  
he will not give it.

**f122v**

I have telegraphed to Miss  
Greenfield - Could you  
telegraph to me the *age*  
of the poor youth?  
I have asked the Doctor of  
Miss Webber, who belonged  
to St. Marylebone Infy,  
questions about her health.  
But I am almost afraid  
you will have to be advised  
to ask the Sister Superior  
of University Coll: Hosp or  
St. John's -  
whether she has a nurse  
who would do -  
I am so afraid the last part of

**f123**

the scheme (the organizing in  
Siam) will tumble through.

2. [*Your Gordon lecture*]  
Lady Ashburton has made  
for me a collection of 'slips'  
of all kinds on Gordon -  
But the new baby is in the  
Library! And I cannot  
have these 'slips' till  
Monday - too late for you.  
I have sent for them  
again & again. But I  
should be better pleased to  
know you in Scotland than at  
Aldershot

**f123v**

Mr. Potter, M.P. for Rochdale  
has written me an  
enthusiastic letter on my  
election to the Cobden Club  
Do you know him?  
ever your affte  
F.N.

unsigned letter, ff124-27, pencil

**f124**

Aug 20/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I have telegraphed to Miss  
Greenfield that the poor  
Siamese student's age is  
20 - & I expect that this  
will put an end to her -

I do *not* think that Miss  
Greenfield is a lady with  
organizing power. & I think  
in some things she would be  
likely to be rather to-ing  
& fro-ing, & *swayed by adventitious*  
*things*

I ~~am~~ do *not* think that  
she is more worth your taking  
(& paying more for), for the

**f124v**

*ultimate* object, (which is  
only a chance & a chance  
dependent on the organizing  
& initiatory power of the  
lady) than a Brompton Nurse

And if she goes to the East  
at all, to *stay*, she would  
wish to go to the Punjab,  
where her Sister is a Missionary

I am trying to judge quite  
dispassionately, as if my  
people were not concerned.

And I think between Miss  
Greenfield & a Brompton  
Nurse, I should choose the

**f125**

latter, tho' I am sorely sorry  
to give up the *ultimate*  
object for the present - But  
it is so likely to be 'intrigued'  
away, *any how* - is it not?

What will your Brompton  
Nurse go for?

It is ¼ to 12 now -

St. John's House is in

Norfolk St. Strand -

No: Hy B C has not the

"absorbent power" - But I  
always consult him on every  
important matter - We  
*must* have unity - or every

**f125v**

stick of us would be broken -

The others I mentioned  
to you, *not* Miss Masson, are  
not on the Staff - &  
therefore more independent -  
But, had Hy B.C. been  
at Hyde Park Sq, I should  
have written consulting  
him as to those - And as to Miss  
Masson I should not ~~have~~  
moved at all without him.

You see it is a very  
great (& wearing) consideration  
for me to consider who  
can be as it were set

**f126**

-2-

down in Siam & have  
to grow the rest herself.  
I consult Miss Crossland,  
Hy B C every body -  
*That* does not signify  
explaining - But it  
signifies very much  
choosing the female -

I should reluctantly give  
up the ~~Bro~~ ultimate object  
& take the Brompton Nurse,  
I think



**f127**

How long do you stay at  
Aldershot? - What is  
your address there?  
if in London on Sunday  
would you like me to get  
the Gordon slips I mentioned  
& go over the subject  
with you? Supposing you to  
give the Lecture on Monday  
Shall I see you before  
you go to Scotland?  
I wrote to Sir Harry on  
Monday, thinking he was  
going to Pleasley!!

initialled letter, ff128-29, pencil

**f128**

10 South St Aug 25/86  
My dear Mr. Fred  
You know when I preached  
fresh air & rest before going  
to Siam, (if you do go) - last night,  
I was preaching in Maudie's  
name - To her my thoughts  
flew at once - Shall you  
tell her before you know  
more that there is a prospect  
of your going to Siam?  
Could you go to Rhoscolyn  
next week till the  
"instructions" come?  
~~—~~send you General Gordon  
at Gravesend, which is the

**f128v**

book you wanted - ~~to see~~  
I believe  
I sent down to Moorfields  
this morning to claim my  
(several) hundreds of the  
penny Gordon, of which  
you took a copy. Unluckily  
the only partner who knew  
of the transaction was away  
in Scotland. And the wretches  
don't seem to know whether  
they have not sold them,  
but to offer to replace them  
at their own expence -  
That can't be done by Monday  
The partner is to be pursued

**f129**

At all events, you shall  
have all the copies I have  
by me at Aldershot on  
Monday  
I am all anxiety about your  
last night's Telegram from  
Siam -  
God bless you - Good speed  
ever yours  
F.N.

initialled note, f130, pencil

**f130**

Aug 30/86

Good speed - good speed  
to you - And thanks from all -  
Could you look over this  
letter, striking out any thing  
superfluous - especially  
any thing the Prince has said  
- IF it is printed, I had  
better look over it first, &  
add some things in Gordon's  
own words - had I not?  
Good cheer - & success  
to the movement - God  
be with you -

F.N.

initialled letter, ff131-39, pen {this does not appear to be in FN's handwriting} [5:505-09]

**f131**

London. Aug: 30th 1886

My dear Mr. Fred Verney,

Perhaps my tie with the troops,  
whose faithful servant I have been so proud  
to be, may excuse my sending a few words  
upon Genl. Gordon who so interests us all,  
whom I had the privilege to know.  
What made him what he was?  
*Courage* in so many senses. The courage  
of numbers is common. But his was the  
courage of utter loneliness, rising with  
loneliness. His very friends were enemies.  
English soldiers are rarely called upon  
to exercise courage in such positions.

**f132**

Gordon made his rough materials loyal to a higher self while he had his hold upon them. In China he reorganized a defeated mob against the troops of an able fanatic who had carried everything before them. He was Commander in Chief, Engineer, Banker, Head of the Commissariat & the Arsenal - in the Soudan also Civil Governor General. He was the bravest of men where God's cause & that of others was concerned - the meekest where only himself. He had no self. What made him what he was?  
*Sympathy* in so many senses: care

**f133**

for others, carelessness for self.

Gordon's work was a living work of continuous sympathy wherever he was, whatever he was doing: sympathy with the oppressed in China: sympathy with the oppressed & the slaves in the Soudan: sympathy with the miserable at Gravesend & everywhere.

It was enough to be miserable to be beloved of Gordon. Misery was the safe passport to his heart.. His very name was Victory against a hideously cruel rebellion in China & the weary slavery of the Soudan. Gordon's fighting was chivalry. As a leader, all his exploits were those of a

**f134**

Paladin. They say that fighting is a blood thirsty trade. With Gordon it was sympathy & benevolence in action. So may it be with every soldier.. Like him, every soldier may be, & many a soldier is, loyal to the highest feeling of Chivalry. The lives of those he took were infinitely fewer than the lives of those he gave. If he slaughtered thousands, to tens of thousands he gave the blessing of peace, & of a rest which he never claimed for himself. And from his hand spread broadcast the gifts of prosperity & wealth which he never would touch. In the Soudan he carried the "poor old bag of bones" & the babes into his

**f135**

camp & fed them up.

What was it made him what he was?

*Disinterestedness.* The Chinese found it “so convenient” to have an honest man who wanted nothing & who gave everything; who cared neither for money nor place. His generous use of money, & always his own when possible, was coupled with a persistent refusal of money as a present to himself, for his own services, at the risk of losing favour with the highest authorities in China. The Khedive assigned him 10,000 a year of which he would take only 2000. Here again was his sympathy, for he remembered from whom the money was wrung.

**f136**

His disinterestedness raised our character in the East, often alas! so pulled down, until to many millions of men, the word Gordon meant chivalry, honesty, sympathy, purity, faith. And as these men came to know him they came to trust him with a perfect trust. That kind of goodness, that wonderful combination, could not be narrow. No one knows to what class of faith he belonged, yet believers of every class have claimed him. Every act to him was a religious act. God was everything, Gordon was nothing to him. “I do nothing

**f137**

of this: I am a chisel which cuts  
wood: the Carpenter above directs" -  
"I have an enormous province to look after;  
but it is a great blessing to me to know that  
God has undertaken the administration of it.  
And it is his work & not mine."

If all Britain, all the world one may say,  
has proclaimed him the perfect hero, the  
whole Army has proclaimed him the ideal  
soldier - Were proof needed, is this not  
absolute proof that the highest qualities,  
& all of them, are, or may be, at any moment  
required for a soldier's life?

Gordon's battle field in time of peace

**f138**

was the Hospital, the Workhouse,  
Slums, the Street Arabs, the Ragged Schools.  
His love of the sick, his experience, made him  
of the same profession as I am. He  
carried the wounded soldiers in on his back.  
He carried the dying old women-slaves & the  
deserted children into his camp in his arms.  
When he went to Palestine he said to me that,  
if his country demanded no other service  
from him, he hoped to devote the remainder  
of his life to Hospitals.

But I know that the cause of the destitute  
boys is his cause, is carrying on his own  
living work. He who took the Waif & Stray  
boys at Gravesend into his house & lived with  
them on the commonest food, nursed them

**f139**

through fever, himself taught them  
 with the same cool ardour as he led the  
 "Forlorn Hope", called them his "Kings",  
 marked the voyages of those he got out in ships  
 with pins on his map, & prayed for them all  
 wherever they were, has left this work to us  
 to carry on for him.

Pray believe me,  
 the faithful servant of our troops - [end 5:509]  
 F.N.

initialled letter, ff140-43v, pencil [5:244-45]

**f140**

Claydon Sept 9/86  
 My dear Mr. Fred  
 Many thanks for your two  
 letters about Gordon Boys' Home,  
 which much engageth our  
 attention - But the Gordon  
 Boys' Home itself has been in  
 jeopardy.  
 "Field Marshal" Lord Napier  
 without ~~any~~ consultation with his  
 Committee wrote to the Home  
 Secretary accepting *on their*  
*behalf* the grant of the  
 "permanent use" of the "Woking  
 "Male *Prison*" for the Gordon Boys -  
 !!!



**f140v**

Had this been allowed to pass,  
most of the Committee would  
have resigned - And - a small  
matter - I could have done  
nothing to engage the Army to  
subscribe to what Gordon  
would so have disliked -

All the experience we have  
gained during the last 30  
years proves that health,  
morals, discipline, have to  
be obtained in huts or small  
buildings/Pavilions - not in a huge  
edifice containing 500 cells,  
however re-arranged

The gallant father went up  
to London yesterday by the first

**f141**

train without his sandwiches  
or telling any one but the  
pony - attended the Meeting  
where he was Chairman - &  
a copy of Ld Napier's letter  
was written/ read - & then on to  
Woking to see the Prison!!!

But I forestall - he told  
the Meeting roundly that  
Ld Napier had done what he  
had no right to do - the Tory [?]  
Colonel, I mean M. Genl,  
backed him. 'Hig' was not  
there, but a letter on the  
wrong side was read from  
him. However the Noes had  
it - And Hallam Tennyson  
offered to go off at once to

**f141v**

Ld Napier & ask him by  
word of mouth to with draw  
his letter - which offer was  
accepted - We have not  
of course heard the result -  
But the "Mutiny" was successful  
so far.

Arrived at Woking, the  
gallant Father called a cab,  
but perched himself on the  
box by the cabman, in order  
to "see better". The cabman  
turned out to be a soldier,  
a R.H.A. man, who was side  
by side with the Shannon  
brigade in all its work in  
India. 'They tossed their guns  
about as we could not do'  
says he.

**f142**

-2-

He also told Sir Harry a  
good deal about Woking  
Prison -

I am writing in haste just  
to account for my silence -  
I will return all the (most  
interesting) letters. I have  
not had time even to think  
of your stirring proposal to  
write a sketch of Gordon  
& an 'appeal' to "chivalry"  
(for the pamphlet) You would  
do it much better than I -  
Would we could do it together

Could you tell me from  
your leaflets what is the  
scheme - whether to give  
one or two years' training - or

**f142v**

what? - whether then  
the Committee intend to  
'place the boys out', as  
Gordon did, according to  
the bias of each?

I can never find a  
Committee man who can  
tell me

Don't suppose we are not  
intent on the subject  
which you have started so  
well

I am rather afraid of the  
22 per Regt - 20 would  
require 800 sixpences -

**f143**

I think the men would  
subscribe so much better  
if it were not asked in  
that way. However, that  
is ~~no~~/the A. A. G.'s business ~~of mine~~.

I trust it will be a  
grand movement, as you  
well deserve, embracing  
the whole Army -  
in great haste  
ever yours affly  
F.N.

I write gaily - but indeed  
am in great anxiety about the  
whole matter - & about what  
you asked me to do - (*not*

**f143v**

about Col Robinson  
who seems doing so well)  
& want you to tell us  
your mind  
I hope you are imbibing  
ozone - & not writing  
letters  
One man at the Meeting  
yesterday said we  
must succumb to the  
Pr. of Wales who was *for*  
the Prison - !!  
Gordon wd not have done  
this

unsigned letter, ff144-47, pencil **[5:510-11]**

**f144**

Claydon BURN Sept 19/86

[Gordon Boys' Home]

My dear Mr. Fred

All the leaflets have been  
sent me by your kindness  
regarding this G.B.[H. And Mrs -  
Hawthorn has also sent me a  
number]

Thanks for Genl Philip's  
two notes. N.B. You should  
not have told him that I was  
going to do a "pamphlet", seeing  
I am such a wretch.

100 of the "Allen" 'pamphlet'  
are gone to Col. Robinson

**f144v**

already, with a note from  
me, asking him to send  
on a post-card, 'if he would  
like to have more, what  
number?'

And I wrote to the Printers,  
telling them to keep the  
type up, for I might want  
more than my 700 -

And now for the "penny  
"pamphlets", soi-disant by me,  
to be "brought out under the  
Sanction of the G.B.H. Comee"  
if *I am to do it, it must be*

**f145**

*done by you* - Q.E.D.

[How busy you have been -

I hope the newspaper

has come out well - I

have seen a copy here]

Your view of the pamphlet

is this -

“to help to secure the general

good will of the Army for

the G.B.H.”

to contain

1. the “proceedings” of Aug 30

2. “a short sketch of Gordon’s  
life”

3. an “appeal” to the “sympathy”

**f145v**

of every soldier for Gordon’s

work - which “each one of

them might help to do”

4. for “love of Gordon’s memory”

“British Army” to “become

a school of chivalry”, in

“which every noble quality

that makes a man is in

full & constant use” -

This is your Programme:

& it is a glorious

Programme -

How is it to be carried out

**f146**

-2-

If you could do what you did  
for the letter at Aldershot  
on Aug 30, viz. *dictate* to  
me heads (but that can't  
be done now) or send me  
those kinds of heads,  
hints, & tails - all in fact  
- it might *get done* somehow

But I have had heavy &  
despairing, not hopeful ~~war~~/business  
sent me down by W.O. - &  
for India -  
*And* - the {the rest of the page is missing}

**f146v**

How soon will this  
pamphlet be wanted?

I am most anxious to do  
what you want, but fear it  
is impossible unless you  
could kindly do, as here  
proposed -

I send you an "Allen"  
pamphlet, in case you are  
so good as to put down  
hints for "2. the short sketch  
"of Gordon's life"

What I had *meant* to  
{corner of page is missing} (your)

**f147**

letter of Aug 30, with  
quotations of Gordon's own  
words -

for the pamphlet - But  
Your Programme is so  
magnificent that I wish  
there were some one to do  
it full justice -

**[end 5:511]**

signed letter, ff148-53, pencil

[8:899-901]

**f148**

10 South St Oct. 29 /86

Dearest Maude

How more than charming your  
Princess is - She is a *divine*  
woman: *God dwelling in* her,  
whether she calls it by that  
name or not. It is a lesson  
& a sermon to be with her  
even for an hour or two -  
Luckily for me, I was so  
be-cough-ed that I could  
not talk much - And *she*  
talked, O so beautifully -  
the gentle Reformer of Siam -

**f148v**

~~What~~ she told me that you  
had taken her to a Club -  
I suppose Miss Maude  
Stanley's - And "little books",  
what she calls the "arrangements",  
for this, & for a Lunatic x  
Asylum, & for a Board School,  
She means to translate for  
the benefit of Siam

x The Lunatic Asylum book  
told "how they were to be fedd,"  
&c she said.



**f149**

She asked me for similar  
 "little books", for a Hospital,  
 a High Class School, (Female) -  
 and - we talked about  
 Coffee-houses, because, she  
 says, the drink & the opium -  
 smoking in Siam is so  
 frightful - & makes them so "lazy"

Have you see her little books?  
 And could you give me an  
 idea what they are?

1. *What* is the "Board School"  
 book? [I think she said  
*you* took her there.]

What she wants of me is,

**f149v**

I imagine, a book of the  
 Regulations, Course of Study,  
 & "arrangements" of a High  
 School for girls - X  
~~I suppose that~~ *is* this, do *you think*, the needful thing?  
 (or- as she says a School  
 for high-class girls) -

I suppose that in England  
 where all is done by private  
 means or Societies, there  
 is no similarity between  
 these - ~~Girls~~ But I will  
 do my best to get her  
 something from Miss Buss -  
 X [*is* this, do you think, what she wants?

**f150**

2-

- unless you can kindly explain  
to me *what* she wants -  
better - Is it to comprise cooking & needle  
work?

[It is so touching her learning to  
cut out &c in order to teach -  
O what Christian so good  
as she?]

2. There is the same difficulty  
about Hospitals. These being  
all the result of private  
effort, there is no Manual  
common to all -  
[Were they *Manuals* what she  
has?]

**f150v**

And I don't think our  
*Army* Hospital Regulations  
at all good -  
Nor those of St. Thomas' for  
that matter -  
Perhaps the *Workhouse* (Poor Law)  
Infirmaries come nearer  
to what she wants -  
I will write to our St.  
Marylebone & elsewhere,  
& to our St. Thomas' Treasurer  
for what she wants.

**f151**

3. *Coffee-houses:*

the best introduction to them  
is the series of books of Lady  
Hope of Carriden - But these  
are so strongly impregnated  
with Bible teaching that -  
- would they do for Siam?

*Opium Smoking*

You know that 2 or 3 years  
ago, 6 vigorous young  
graduates of Cambridge  
went to China - o why  
did they not go to India?  
- as a sort of Lay Missionaries

And only last Sunday  
week an Australian lady,

**f151v**

now returned to Melbourne,  
told me of an *Opium Refuge*  
2 of them had set up

Your Princess seemed to  
think the drinking & opium  
smoking quite hopeless -

Our ~~under~~graduates don't  
think so - But perhaps  
it is not the business of  
the Gentle Princess -

I could easily get  
information about the  
Opium Refuge in China,  
(I have got down the name)  
if you thought well.

**f152**

-3-

Please don't trouble  
yourself about these things -  
Only I know that, if you  
could help me with hints  
of what she wants - to  
get her what she wants -  
most lovely being - You  
kindly will -

Perhaps it would give you  
least trouble to return me  
this letter with your kind  
reply.  
O pray excuse this rigmarole  
written under interruption [PTO

**f152v**

ever dearest Maude  
with love to childer 3,  
your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f153**

I had a touching letter to  
Parthe from Margaret  
last night - not much better.  
Do you suppose that Lettice  
is never moved at all?  
that the bed is made with  
her in it?  
that everything is done  
for her in bed?  
Or is she ever lifted off  
to an adjoining bed while  
her own is refreshed?  
Brave, brave Margaret -  
what a terrible illness it is.  
Have you ever heard what  
they call it? [Is there any danger of  
[ bed-sores?

Add Mss 41977D

365

ff154-55v, Wednesday evening, from MV re family news and a proposed visit by the Princess to FN

ff156-57v, Thursday, re Lettice's illness

ff158-59v, Friday evening, re the Princess and Lettice's illness

signed letter, ff160-62, pencil **[8:901]**

**f160**

10 South St Nov 4/86

Dearest Maude

The enclosed papers of the  
Wesleyan Girls' College at  
Milton Mount, near Gravesend,  
seem to me to denote a Girls'  
College so much more like  
your Princess' requirements,  
& to be so much fuller in detail  
than any I have seen, that  
I send them for her -

If she cannot see the  
College, they may be useful  
to her. If she is going to see it,

**f160v**

they may direct her attention  
as to what to look at -

[*P. 17* in the *Report*, which I  
have turned down, gives  
some idea of its objects  
- more at least than most  
Reports do.]

Four papers I send with  
it -x & a card

[I have been unsuccessful  
in getting anything from  
Hospitals worth her having.]

x

The 4 "Milton" papers embrace,  
besides the College,  
Day School for Girls & Kindergarten  
Technical College for Women  
High School for Girls & Kindergarten

**f161v**

I will write again about  
Hospitals - But they have nothing.  
I am writing to Calcutta for a  
Report about their Hospital,  
& to Poona for one about their  
High School -

I trust you are better

I am so sorry that I have  
not seen Capt. Verney before  
he went - I suppose he is  
*gone* (to Leipzig) - I wrote to  
him the day before yesterday,  
begging, if I might, to see him -  
& sent him a note by hand  
this morning - But I suppose

**f161v**

he went last night?  
They did not seem to know  
whether he was gone abroad

All good be with you -  
ever yours  
F. Nightingale  
If your dear Princess has  
been to Gravesend, &  
got papers of her own,  
might I have these papers  
back?  
F.N.

**f162**

-2-  
Thanks for Prss Narès  
most kind note -  
Would you tell her so  
with my very best  
wishes? I hope she is  
well again - May she prosper  
as she deserves!  
O dear Margt - how sad  
the account of Lettice -  
ever yours affly  
F.N.

ff163-64v, November 4, re the papers for the Princess, and news of Lettice's illness

ff165-66, November 10, re Lettice's illness and a visit to FN by Mr. Morant

initialled note, f167, pencil

**f167**

10 South St Nov 12/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I send you Mr. Jowett's budget. They testimonials seem to me (almost intentionally) colourless -

I received your two budgets

If Mr. Anson could come at 5.30, instead of 5,

this is one of my excessively busy (Indian) days -

But don't ask him if that will cut short my time

with him by half an hour - I will send at 3 to you's to know -

Oh how sad the account of Lettice. Dear Margaret

Thank Maude for letting me know very much -

F.N.

ff168-69, Friday morning, re Lettice's improvement

signed note, ff170-73v, pencil

**f170**

10 South St Nov 13/86

*Private*

My dear Mr. Fred & dearest Maude

Mr Anson was here yesterday

& was very interesting. I hope

to see you about it, Mr. Fred.

In answer to your last

two notes, & ~~as for your~~ in regard

to my "helping" to "choose" the

Tutor & Private Secretary for

an Eastern prince, it is not

of course to be thought of for

one moment. It might as

well be asked that I should

help to choose a Secretary for the

Pope, or a priest for the

Grand Llama - I have



**f170v**

never seen Prince Narès. I  
have only seen the Princess  
once - & these two  
Englishmen once each -  
I know absolutely nothing  
of Siam except from you -  
And to you then I must  
report. I undertook to  
see these two Eng gentlemen  
on that ground alone -  
Any other ground for  
me would have been my  
acting on false pretences -  
I do not know the duties of  
a Private Secy to an Eastern

**f171**

Prince - & scarcely those of a  
Tutor. And the combination  
seems the most difficult  
imaginable.

I regret that it was mentioned  
to the Princess at all that I  
was seeing these gentlemen;  
without its being expressly  
told me.

You will see all this as  
I do, I am sure.

~~I do not think~~ The same  
principle does not apply  
to Maude at all. She knows  
Prince Narès & all the family  
thoroughly - & has influenced

**f171v**

the Princess to be what she  
is. And she knows Mr.  
Morant & Mr. Anson at  
least as well as I do.  
She might help Pss Narès  
greatly in her decision.  
~~I could~~ It is an honour  
and a pleasure to see the  
Princess - But *I could not*  
even see her *without*  
seeing you, Mr. Fred, first.  
- & then only on the  
understanding that I could  
in no way "help in the choice"  
to a situation all but  
totally unknown to me -

**f172**

-2-

2 Mr Anson told me that  
you had said I was up  
in the literature about  
Siam - And he asked me  
to recommend books to him  
I do not know a single  
book about Siam, (except  
a very foolish one I saw  
upon Parthe's table, & did  
not read)

[It is not Bouddhist  
literature he wants, for I  
asked him.]

Would you kindly tell  
me yourself, & ask Consul

**f172v**

Genl Mason & the Chargé  
d’Affaires, & Interpreter  
or whoever it is you think  
well informed about books,  
& let me know what books  
Would you *telegraph* to  
Mr. Mason?

[You see tomorrow is  
Sunday -]

**f173**

⊕I could see you, Mr.  
Fred, at 5 “*to-day*”, if that  
would be possible to you -  
And to-morrow, “Sunday”,  
I would see the Princess,  
if you then think well,  
because it is an honourable  
delight - not because I  
could help her in her choice  
Would 5 be too late  
for her?  
I trust Maude is better  
& am so thankful about  
Lettice -

**f173v**

I do not confess to the  
“copper-colours” - My work  
& it is very pressing, is  
now of the white, whiter,  
whitest: the “Indian” -  
None but a white Finance  
Committee could threaten  
the work of 30 years -  
None but a whiter Ind. Off.  
could propose such minutes  
as I am now looking at.  
None but a whitest ViceReine  
could make such requests  
Besides, yesterday, was Indian  
mail day, you know - which  
always makes pressing work  
- ever your affecte F. Nightingale

initialled letter, ff174-75, pencil

**f174**

10 South St Nov 17/86

My dear Mr. Fred

I am very sorry, but [9:662]  
tomorrow (Thursday) I am  
entirely engaged in a most  
disagreeable affair - trying  
to save the Army San Commn

They are trying to abolish it  
& undo the work of 30 years -

Secies of State are worse  
than Leipzig Doctors - [end 9:662]

On Saturday at 5 I will  
try to keep open, & gladly  
see you, tho' I don't know that

**f174v**

I can do much/any good

Thanks very many for  
offering to get something for  
Mr. Morant, which I accept.  
To so young a man I should  
naturally send a 5 note  
- "from a friend" "for outfit" -  
Do you think he would  
run restive & tear it up?  
AS he is so poor -

If so, then please get  
him something, as you  
kindly propose

**f175**

Many thanks for Leipzig  
news -

So glad Maude is well  
in haste  
ever your affte  
F.N.

ff176-77v, November 17, 1886, from FWV re a Gordon lecture, Lettice's illness and a gift for Mr. Morant

ff178-78v, Brooks's, St. James Street, S. W., November 22, 1886, re a school map and family news

ff179-82, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S. W., December 4, 1886, re the Prince's political opinions

ff183-84v, Rhianva, Bangor, December 20, 1886, re family news

ff185-86v, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S. W., December 7, from MV re the state of Parthe's nurses at Claydon

ff187-88v, Washerton House, Warwick, December 13, re Miss Shalders' imminent departure

ff189-90, Rhianva, Bangor, Wednesday, re MV's arrival at Rhianva

ff191-92v, Saturday Evening, re Lettice's illness

ff193-94, December 23, re a great improvement in Lettice

ff195-96, December 30, re the death of Mervyn

ff197-98v, December 31, re good wishes for the New Year and family news

Add Mss 68885, microfilm, 190 folios, 114 pages, correspondence with Frederick and Maude Verney Part 4 1887-88, Adam Matthew reel 40

signed letter, ff1-4, pencil [8:902]

**f1**

10 South St Jan 4/87

Dearest Maude

Thank you for your  
gracious letter -

Indeed, indeed, I do so  
grieve for you & Mervyn -

But you had given him  
such a happy life. It is a  
great thing to look back &  
feel that he had never been  
unhappy - I sometimes think  
that the loss of a faithful  
animal is felt almost  
more than those of a  
human beings, except the  
very greatest, because we

**f1v**

are not sure of their

living again - But I  
can never believe, can you?,  
that those animals who  
are so much better than we  
are, their faithful love,  
their forgiveness, their self-sacrifice,  
in devotion to duty, will not  
live again -

"And thinks, admitted to an  
equal sky

"His faithful dog will bear  
him company."

When I see the Hansom cab -  
horses, the fineness of  
whose legs shows them

**f2**

to have been hunters or  
riding horses, running to  
the last their very best, in  
what ~~is~~ must be to them humiliation,  
for duty's sake, I think  
how much more fit for  
heaven they must be  
than the masters who  
sold them -  
And a faithful friend like  
Mervyn - - - !! he is  
without price.

The dog or the cat which  
will die rather than  
leave ~~a~~ the death-bed or the  
grave of a human friend,

**f2v**

"Greater love hath no man  
than this" -  
their patience in suffering  
- my dear Bismarck who  
nursed his mother when  
she was ill, tho' she did  
nothing but snarl at him,  
- which nursing I never saw any other  
do - whom I gave away,  
to a sick lady 7 ½ years  
ago - he is just dead,  
after much suffering - And  
she wrote to me that he  
preserved his courteous,  
kindly manners to the last,  
& was "so much more patient  
than" she ~~was~~

**f3**

-2-

I had a cat friend, who  
lived with me 17 years -  
the most faithful - I cannot  
speak of her even now - I had  
to have her laid to rest -  
But I found out afterwards  
that she had not been  
kindly treated while I was  
away - And she might have  
lived for years -

But your Mervyn was  
always happy - always  
kindly treated -

No cat can fill her place  
to me - no Mervyn to you

**f3v**

I am very glad you stay  
at Rhianva till you go  
to Claydon. What a  
comfort to Margaret to  
have you there - filling  
her place, if only for a  
time.

Does Ellin make at all  
something of a ~~mother~~/mama-kin  
to the children?

And what is Capt.  
Verney doing? Pray give  
him my love, if I may -  
Can you tempt him out,  
as you say?

**f4** God bless you  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff5-6v, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S. W., January 12, 1887 from MV re her sorrow at the death of Mervyn



incomplete, unsigned letter, ff7-7v, pencil [8:903]

**f7**

*Private* 10 South St  
(2 enclosures) Jan 14/87  
Dearest Maude

I do feel that you must  
not "force" yourself about  
dear Mervyn - It *is* true  
that, in real losses, every  
year only makes one feel  
the loss the more. But  
then one learns to think  
of those who are gone as  
happy now, as perhaps  
waiting for one. The pang  
is not so rending - one  
even thinks of them as

**f7v**

rejoicing in doing one  
some good - They are not  
under the soil, extinct for  
ever -  
Do Ralph & Gwendolen try  
to make up in some measure  
for Mervyn?

What ARE we to do with  
these letters? You are wise -  
~~in~~ You have seen my  
sister lately - I have not  
You are wise - What  
would you think best for  
Edmund to write? It would

ff8-9, January 15, 1887, re MV's feelings of loss regarding Mervyn

signed letter, ff10-11v, pencil

**f10**

10 South St Jan 24/87

My dear Mr. Fred

Your letter-kin appals me. Have you let your house? & are you going to live at Goldings Hertford?

I have not been able even to look at the Queen's River question yet; I am sorry to say. Since the shuffling of Ministers, & the Bombay Chief Secy being here, I have lived in a sort of whirlwind of work in bed - (not neglecting Miss Crossland.)

**f10v**

Chief Secy gone, I had Mrs. Hawthorn all Saturday afternoon (also in bed) on the most horrible of all subjects - which always makes one ill - It was a relief to turn to Gordon, the very Antipodes of that subject -

She will be delighted to have your Meeting [I told her she must not call it Lecture] She thinks the great hall, in New Brompton (the R.E. Barracks, but the best for the purpose)

**f11**

must ask Col Brine, the  
Commandg R.E. first  
She is extremely distressed  
that the R.E. officers have  
decided on the form of  
memorial, of all others  
most distasteful to Gordon,  
a statue in the Barrack  
Square. The men must  
of course subscribe to this -  
- which makes any subns  
to Gordon Boys' Home very  
precarious. But I told  
her that, however disappointing,  
Subns were not your first  
aim in having a Meeting

**f11v**

I think she is one of the  
very best & most energetic  
stuff: & very like him in  
some qualities - exceedingly  
witty too, like him -  
She hopes you will come  
& stay with them -

What a noble speech of  
Trevelyan's (in to-day's  
Times) even if we venture  
to differ in some things.  
ever yours  
Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

380

signed note, f12, pencil

**f12**

10 South St Jan 31/87

Dearest Maudie

Poor Ralph & poor you?

Please, just a verbal message  
to say how he is -

I hope Gwendolyn & Kathleen  
have not much amiss -

God bless you

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

signed note, ff13-13v, pencil

**f13**

10 South St. Feb 3/87

How good of you to write me  
news of the "dauntless Three" -

I am so grieved for this  
outbreak, but hope for good  
news to-day -

I send 3 "picture books",  
but am sadly afraid they are  
all old to them.

Please tell them with  
Aunt Florence's love I am  
making a collection of these  
books for the sick children  
in "Babies' Castle" - & there

**f13v**

are 60 little children in  
60 little cots - And  
some of them are very bad  
with whooping-cough.

And the Head Nurse who  
is very fond of them is one  
of the Nurses whom they  
have given cups of tea to  
on Claydon lawn -

God bless you all, my bairns  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, f15, pencil

**f15**

10 South St March 6/87  
Dearest Maude

Sir Harry has rather a bad  
cold, & has condescended to  
take Sir Andrew Clark's  
medicine - breakfast in bed  
As the medicine is a sudorific,  
if he gets up to day (he is  
not up yet, 11.30) the last  
state of that man will be  
worse than the first -

At present he keeps himself  
in a warm perspiration  
& me in a cold one -  
remembering the history of  
two neglected colds & two E.  
wind

Marches - ever yours Aunt Florence

initialled letter, ff16-17v, pencil

**f16**

March 25/87

My dear Mr. Fred

I am in very poor case:  
& to-day is India mail day -  
But if you kindly wish to  
come about 5.30 or 6, I would  
gladly see you - And won't  
you have tea?

I have not had a moment  
to explain that your poor  
old Aunt Florence is more  
matter of fact than you  
know - I did not mean  
anything of "doctrine" by  
"you must not stop there".  
I mean simply what I wrote

**f16v**

in Nos 2, 3, 4 - that Nos  
2, 3, 4 must follow No 1,  
the House of Call; Or it  
will be a poor thing -

Your foundresses, as all  
pioneers generally are, *always*  
among working-women, were  
heroines - But, that won't  
go on, alas! [See men  
in similar positions] And  
a Home & Club *under a*  
*really good Matron Manager*  
is in my opinion with other  
things, a sine qua non  
You don't know what  
experience we have had

**f17**

of a Nightingale Home under  
 a nobody & under a  
 woman who, *without one*  
*word of "doctrine"*, is really  
 a Xtian guide to them. Yet our  
 Probationers are as old as  
 your women. They vary from  
 25 to 40 years - are often  
 older than their guide the "Home Sister"

I don't think I could  
 "write" you "a letter" - Pray  
 forgive me. But any thing  
 that cd ~~do-w~~ be of the  
 least use to you in the  
 letter I wrote to "Purity"  
 is yours - And I hope you

**f17v**

will allow me to give my  
 mite -  
 Not to keep you  
 ever yours

F.N.

Best love to Maudie  
 & children

signed letter, ff18-19, pencil

**f18**

April 5/87

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

Dearest Maude

How are you & the children  
 three? And is Mr. Fred  
 gone to Edinburgh?

I think he said that Miss  
 Morant was coming to see you  
 to-day or Thursday. Would  
 you kindly give her a  
 message from me - & say  
 I did not write again to Thena,  
 because Mr. Fred meant  
 to call at Cambridge on  
 his way back from Edinburgh - was this not so?  
 had they been still at Newnham,

**f18v**

& the telegraph to Mr.

Morant at Bangkok  
if the account was good

I hope the account *is*  
*good* - I feel very anxious  
to know exactly how far the  
sister has recovered from  
the terrible accident, &  
what are likely to be the  
results. But I don't like  
to trouble her to write  
nor you either. I shall see  
you some day, dear Maude  
I understood that the sister was  
to stay a fortnight at the friend's home  
at Cambridge - & then go to Sevenoaks

**f19**

I feel just so anxious  
as ever to know how  
Margaret & Lettice are  
ever dearest Maude  
Your loving  
Aunt Florence



signed notes, ff20-21v, pencil

**f20**

May 15/87

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

My dear Mr. Fred

I am anxious to know  
that you are not having your  
throat cut on account of  
aggression against drinking  
by Yeomanry &c & public houses  
It is something not worth  
while to make a raid  
if there is not good hope  
of making an impression -  
It is worth while when there  
seems an up-rising of  
public feeling in the same

**f20v**

direction - That is why

I mentioned Ld Wolmer's  
Article in 'XIX Century', which  
is all in ~~that~~ your direction.  
viz. the immense harm done  
to the Militia by the  
abominable system of  
billeting on & paying in  
public-houses - & the  
detering thereby of just  
the steady young fellows you  
want in the Militia from  
remaining in it or entering  
it.

**f21**

*Women's Unions &c*

My dear Maude Thanks  
very many for the new Circular  
you were so kind as to send  
me - much to be preferred  
to the first - but I should  
have liked a little more about  
the Women's Club & - the place  
for meals & evenings -

Dear Mr. Fred

I think "Personal Rights"  
- may his grandmother's  
shadow perish from the earth !  
- was quite justified (by the  
first) in saying that "Miss N.

**f21v**

"had addressed a Circular to  
'the women of England' &c  
Dearest Maude I hope  
you have better news of  
Ellin & Lettice  
Poor Margaret  
ever your affecte  
Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

387

signed note, ff22-22v, pencil

**f22**

May 20/87

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

My dear Mr. Fred

I hope the poor knee is making  
progress.

Is not the Devil very busy this  
season?

I will return the Pigott's very  
excellent letter x [You shall tell me  
exactly who is is when we meet]  
I wish it could be followed up  
at once I am afraid, do you know?,  
that, if the things he speaks of  
"which will scarcely bear repeating,"  
taking place "in public houses  
(many of which are brothels),  
very many are going on even  
now - Why do the "Colonels object" ?/to  
x tomorrow

**f22v**

paying the men by P. O order?

Have they *brewers* to their  
brothers or wives' brothers? - -  
as the French judges say: 'who  
'is she'?

There is always a 'brewer' as  
there is always a 'she'.

I hear nothing from Genl  
Philip Smith - re Aldershot

Sir Harry had a bad fall  
as you now, mounting a  
new pony to try it, on Tuesday  
- But I have a telegram  
from Morey this morning

**f23**

"much better  
accident not a serious one  
out walking as usual"  
Have you better news from  
Rhianva?  
Best love to Maudie  
& children  
ever yours affly  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff24-25v, pencil

**f24**

June 16/87

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

My dear Mr. Fred

I did not know till I saw  
dear Maude that your next  
winter & her next winter were  
decided - you in Siam, she &  
the bairnies at Nairn. How  
brave she is - how calm.

It is a noble crusade you  
are going on - so full of  
usefulness. May all good  
attend you. I can scarcely  
conceive a more important  
mission with all its side  
issues -

That your Prince is a good  
one I am most thankful - It  
makes all the difference -

**f24v**

2. I give you joy with all my  
heart that ye Jubilee Fund  
undertakes you. *Now* the  
Jubilee Fund is something  
worth having.

[13:784]

One of the three which it  
patronizes I could not quite  
read. there is "Widows' Pensions"  
& "FREE" (this is the word I could  
not make out) "Nurses"

I do think, with Lady Fredk  
Cavendish, that if this Women's  
Provident Fund /Union &c &c & House  
of Call &c can be carried out, it  
will make a difference in  
working women's existence - They  
are now slaves to the competition

**f25**

for employment - [end]

But it will miss you in Japan  
& Siam.

Do you mean that you have a *third* of  
the Jubilee Fund?

3. And now a weighty question.

What would Maude, if she  
were I, allow her *maids* to do  
on Tuesday, as to seeing the  
Procession, or more particularly  
the *Illuminations*? [I have  
no man servant, & the Messenger  
I have had for 11 years, & who  
ought to be trust-able, is fond  
of the drink.] I expect that the  
Cook=Housekeeper - the one Mrs.  
Grey recommended - & who is of  
little or no use as an upper servant,

**f25v**

will ask to go out to see  
the illuminations, & take a  
maid with her. [the three  
are all young girls] & stay  
out, as she boasts, till 2 am  
The very idea of it sends a cold  
perspiration down my back  
*Ought I to permit it?*

If there is an accident, it  
will be my fault -

I can't control her; but I  
must govern the maids -

Yet I should like them to  
see something of the great day.

*What would you*, in my  
circumstances, permit?

God bless you all  
ever yours affly

Aunt Florence

copy of signed letter, ff26-27, pen {this appears to be in FV's writing}

**f26**

*Copy*

Private

& Confidential 10 South St: Park Lane

W.

July 11.87.

In this difficult and  
growing age, of all clergymen  
who have an understanding  
knowledge of the wants of  
the working classes, and  
the wish to open a good way  
to them - not because they are  
afraid of them and of ignorance  
getting the upper hand - but  
because they see how to enlighten

**f26v**

ignorance, and because they  
have a hearty sympathy with  
the men (including the women  
and children) and the age.  
and because they wish to  
turn inevitable change into  
progress, and progress of the  
best sort - Mr. Stubbs with  
his deep religious convictions  
and his keen and practical  
insight and interest (both for  
the high and the low) is perhaps

**f27**

one of the most remarkable  
in whom the strongest confidence  
can be place

(signed)

Florence Nightingale

signed letter, ff28-29v, pencil

**f28**

*Private* 10 South St.

July 13/87

Dearest Maude

I was so much obliged to you  
for coming yesterday but  
yet more so because ~~then~~ I  
did not know what your  
plans were - before -  
I think I gathered that you  
meant "only the difference  
"between Monday & Thursday"  
"to go to Claydon".  
& that your principal necessity  
at Claydon was the "functions"-  
I feel most impertinent in even  
suggesting to you about plans:

**f28v**

but I am sure that the *best*  
*rest* to you & also to  
*Margaret* would be for  
you to be with her at  
least 10 days *or more*.  
No one can grudge you that -  
You have only seen her one week in a year X  
And tho' I feel that you are  
heroic yet you will be very  
much tried just now -  
Won't I do at Claydon for  
a bit? not to replace you,  
that is impossible - but just  
X And Margaret said to me: 'When  
I got in at Onslow Gardens, I felt  
my burden rolled off my back'



**f29**

to be a stop-gap to allow  
 you to stay with Margaret.  
 I promise to telegraph to you,  
 (if I see a 'function' looming,)  
 at Rhoscolyn - IF you wish it -  
 I did not understand whether  
 the dear children three  
 were going to Rhoscolyn ~~or not~~  
 with you - I hope so But if they  
 are coming to Claydon before  
 you, I will do my best too  
 (to be a stop-gap)  
 Dearest Maude, pray  
 think of staying with  
 Margaret for her sake as  
 much as your own - a fortnight  
 or as nearly as possible - either after or before Claydon

**f29v**

My best love to Mr. Fred.  
 I hope he will not overtire  
 himself before he starts -  
 The going to Siam & Japan  
 is a heroic necessity - It  
 is the most interesting thing  
 in the world. It is the most  
 indispensable thing in the  
 world. To you & him a great  
 trial: but you say, like S. Paul,  
 'Rejoice & again I say unto you  
 Rejoice' - He is the creator  
 of the Siamese Mission.  
 I am so sorry not to see him  
 again before he starts -  
 God bless you both  
 ever, dearest Maude, your  
 I am in the agony                    affecte  
 of St. Thomas'                    Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff30-31v, pencil

**f30**

*Private*

Claydon

July 19/87

Dearest Maude

Thanks for your dear note.

- I offer to tell you what I  
could glean about the  
"functions": they only know  
at present of the Flower-show  
on August 1 & something  
(?Blue Ribbon) *same day*.

~~They~~/My sister says that the 'villages'  
have spent so much this year  
on their Jubilee that they  
don't expect many 'functions' -

Of course I know that  
'functions' crop up by Telegram

**f30v**

Still, tho' I have no right  
to say this, it does seem  
hard upon you to have  
only "from August 16 to 24"  
with Margaret - And if  
'functions' are the reason,  
'functions' be drowned -

Dearest Maude, I do  
think so much of you &  
Mr. Fred - now more than  
ever Great love -

I shall write my farewell  
to him - & my Au revoir -

**f31** Sir Harry is full of him  
& you -

Atmosphere pacific -  
with love to childer 3  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff32-34v, pencil [8:904]

**f32**

Claydon                July 20/87

My dear Mr. Fred

Success to your goings out  
& your comings in - Your going  
on this Great Expedition is a  
thing which is eminently  
right to do. So it must be  
successful in the highest sense.  
God bless you both all the  
day & all the night - And  
as somebody says, 'then you  
*must* be safe all the time'.

As for Maude going to  
Nairn, I think it is heroic -  
rejecting the lesser consolations  
~~in the Nairn Expedition~~

**f32v**

She is not obliged to stay  
if she does not find it  
agree with the childer quite  
so much as may be hoped.  
She is not going to build a  
Balmoral on the Dunes of sand,  
nor take a house on lease  
*That* too will be successful.

This is in answer to your kind  
of apology for the Nairn Expedition

**f33**

I enclose a note for Ld Dufferin  
as you desire - Maude will  
tell me where & when to  
address you in India - I suppose  
you will stay a few days in  
Bombay - Bombay is so much  
better worth knowing than  
Calcutta - it is the birth  
of a new nation - a new  
political system - despotism,  
like the lion lying down with  
the kid, shaking hands with  
the rising educated native  
nationality - You will not  
need an introduction to Lord  
Reay - I will ask Sir Wm  
Shall I?

**f33v**

Wedderburn for some others-introductions

Ask Grant Duff [I have  
seen Lady Grant Duff too  
this last week - she is worth  
22 of him] & ask Mr. Henry  
Cunningham for introductions  
at Madras -

Or shall I?

You have, of course, got  
introductions from Mr. Cunningham  
for Calcutta & Ld Dufferin -  
Ld Dufferin says: 'A Viceroy  
must have not female friends,  
but as Mrs. Cunningham was  
Ld Lawrence's daughter, I used to  
ask her for a cup of tea always  
once & sometimes twice a week.

**f34**

-2-

I will try & send you  
introductions "for the line  
"from Calcutta to Bombay",  
but am very much afraid  
I shall not be able  
Also: My friends at Madras are  
not now in high places -

But I have *native* friends  
at all the Presidency towns.

Please send any  
messages you may have  
for me by Maude - brave  
Maude - Don't trouble to write  
ever your loving

Aunt Florence

If you like it, & should like, as the

**f34v**

time for your being at Calcutta  
waxes nearer, to write another  
letter of introduction for you to Lord  
Dufferin, which will be  
later & fresher than this, the  
cream of which will 'turn'  
passing thro' Japan & Siam.

F.N.

signed letter, ff35-36, pencil [8:904]

**f35**

Claydon July 20/87

Dearest Maude Will you  
kindly use the enclosed to  
get Mr. Fred something useful for the  
Great Expedition. It was  
very stupid of me not to send  
it before. Or, if not too  
late perhaps he would get  
himself something odd &  
appropriate at/in Siam or  
Japan.

Pray do not take the  
trouble to answer this till  
we meet.

We think of you hourly. I

**f35v**

wish even poor I were in  
London next Sunday for  
you to see somebody  
besides packages -  
Kind Sir Harry says perpetually  
about your stay here, "we  
only want Maude to do  
what she likes best for herself."  
And in his morning talks with  
me it is always about Mr.  
Fred -

I have heard from Margaret  
- good accounts she & Ruth &  
Harry wading without shoes  
& stockings in bogs after flowers -  
That sounds delicious.

**f36**

Sir Harry says: 'how I should  
'like to be going Fred's expedition  
'- just what I should like  
'a sacrifice & a risk - & so much  
'important to do - so much  
'hanging upon it'

God bless you again & again  
ever with great love

Yours

Aunt Florence

signed note, f37, pencil [8:905]

**f37**

27/7/87

No, dearest Maude, the  
children's sweet lovely  
voices "in doors" & "out of doors"  
are delightful to me - to me  
who never hear any but the  
poor little bodies crying in  
Hyde Park on a Sunday  
Please let me enjoy them as  
I hope to tell you soon  
& hope soon to hear what  
Mr. Fred tells you. I am so  
glad you have a cheery letter -  
To-day he is two thirds on  
his way. Does he write  
- his post town, Queenstown?  
ever your loving Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff38-40v, pencil [8:905-06]

**f38**

Claydon

Aug 20/87

How can I thank you enough, dearest Maude  
for your letter some days since?

God bless you & the children & Mr. Fred

With you two I can feel more than I can say.  
because I have known what it is to have the  
War Minister & the India Office Minister removed  
every 4 months - to have the War Minister taken  
away just as he is carrying measures you have  
been hatching for years as e.g. W. H. Smith  
was taken away from doing what nobody else could

**f39**

do at the War Off: to do what *nobody* can  
do as Leader in this (wild beast sort of a)

Ho: of C -

But take courage - Or rather you have more  
courage than any one -

That Mr. Fred is not going on to Siam with  
this excellent Prince D with whom he has  
already done much good is grievous indeed.

But then it is impossible that this Minister  
who is like a man without ears or tongue  
could carry on the most important business in  
England *at all* without Mr. Fred that is  
obvious. How could they send such a  
man? [How could they put Ld Lytton in  
India]

I do trust Mr. Fred will yet go to Siam  
& make the King's acquaintance  
while Prince D. is prime minister, with whom  
he has begun so well

What is it that Gamaliel says: If it is  
of God, no one can overthrow it - If it is of



**f39v**

'man, it will come to naught.'

Mr. Fred's letter is courageous & gallant &  
true - Thank you for it 1000 times

[Am I to understand that I must not  
communicate it here or anywhere?]

As for Nairn I suppose that it is of the  
first importance that he/Ralph dear laddie  
should be set up in health, & ozone now -  
& Gwendolen too

But one must sympathize, alas! with  
you being rent in twain. But you throw

**f40**

-2-

your 'body' in the 'breach' so gallantly -

I am glad you are with Margaret now  
during this time of strain - But on  
Wednesday next you will be starting - God  
speed you!

Aunt Florence's love to all -  
I have written to London to send you a July  
Fortnightly. You do not mind? I have  
written all over Seeley's Article in the copy you  
left here - Fare you very, very well  
ever your loving Aunt Florence -che pensa a voi

ff41-42v, Elm Bank Cottage, Nairn, N.B, August 31, thanking FN for picture books sent to the children  
and about their life at Nairn

signed letter, ff43-46, pencil [8:906-07]

**f43**

Claydon            Sept 2/87  
                         6 a.m.

Dearest Maude        I come as  
welcome, I know as your  
Telegram & your account of  
the nice little house with  
sea & shells & common (&  
no Parade!) at Nairn was  
to us        For I bring in  
my hand a letter from Mr.  
Fred -

      Ah me how strange is the  
trial - He all strung &  
ready to go to Siam &  
achieve good there - (& you)  
- & yet the necessity of his

**f43v**

return, for Siam's good -

      Well - we shall see even  
here that it is for the best.  
But it is ~~very~~ grievous -  
'cast down but' still upright &  
lively -

      Sir Harry is at Manchester  
- Mr. Calvert gone - My sister  
& I alone here - I return  
to London on Tuesday,  
where St. Thomas' & India  
call -

      I have thought it best not  
to mention Mr. Fred's  
letter - Please return it to  
me -

**f44**

I was so grateful - we  
were so grateful for your  
delightful scraps on the  
journey - & for your safe &  
happy arrival.

Is Elm Bank Cottage the  
place you took while you  
were here?

God bless the dear children  
& their dear mother.

I sent two books on the  
Sea Shore for them to the  
P. O. not alas! the books  
I meant - not books for  
children at all - but the

**f44v**

best I could get with coloured  
plates - Coloured plates is  
the necessity - I remember  
when I was a child how I  
used to toil over the uncoloured  
wood-cuts (without proportion)  
in a Conchology book &  
never identify a single shell.

Catalogues are aggravating -  
I ordered the books I wanted  
at different ~~places~~/reprises for the  
children - answer always  
"out of print" - At last I  
found a Routledge Catalogue  
of *last* year - answer "out of print"

**f45**

-2-

I want particularly a book on  
Sea Weeds which thro'  
Margaret's kindness I hope  
to get in London - But it  
is not for children - & to  
send that, & one on British  
Butterflies - But there is no  
science *for children*, except  
in Margaret's head -

We have a tremendous storm  
here how thankful  
that you had it not at  
sea-  
I trust that you are able  
to do the Music - Music

**f45v**

without instrument - that is  
so wonderful.  
& that the sea=breezes are  
blowing ozone into  
darling Ralph & Gwendolen  
& Kathleen -  
& that the lessons do not  
worry you - I am sure  
they must be good for  
*them* -  
I cannot say what I fain  
would say, dearest  
Maude, how much I am  
ever your & their loving  
Aunt Florence

**f46**

The early post is leaving.

ff47-48v, September 11, re MV and the children at Nairn

signed letter, ff49-52v, pencil [8:907-08]

**f49**

10 South St Sept 18/87

Dearest Maude

Thank you so much, so very much  
for your letters & Mr. Fred's -

Indeed it is coming very near,

Sept. 24. But I hope the  
Equinoctials began so early this  
year & so unreasonable &  
violent that they have  
spent all their fury. & have  
not a breath left a piece -

We have actually had here a  
fog - that most provoking of  
all things, a fog with a high  
barometer. But it presages  
well for the sea - The air was  
perfectly still.

**f49v**

I delight in you & Ralph  
taking your bath on the Pier -

Still I may hope that a more  
'fashionable' way of bathing &  
promenading may succeed now.

Aunt Florence's best love to  
the 3 little robust=growing  
dear Ozone=seekers - & to their  
best beloved mother God speed -

Thanks too for the nest in  
the tree - the cedar at Claydon  
- the most delightful, I think,  
of the Photographs - of the Mother  
& the three -

**f50**

Thank you so very much for  
Mr. Fred's letter which I return  
[And Margaret was so good as  
to send me one on the  
"Rockies" which I sent on  
to Col? George Verney, as bidden -  
I think I have missed the one before that]  
I do not like to delay returning  
you *this* letter any longer. But  
I should so very much have  
liked with your leave to have  
printed a leaflet from it  
for private use as to Emigrants  
(as I have printed a leaflet  
from a letter of Margaret's  
for private use with her leave  
as to botany - which I enclose.)

**f50v**

Three men came over to me  
at Claydon from Whatstandwell.  
That was a little deputation  
about the Coffee-room - But I  
learnt from one of them a  
good deal about the emigration  
of young men/stone-masons (always the best go),  
& married men with their families,  
which is taking place from Whatstandwell (Lea Hurst) -  
To Canada? I asked -  
No, he said: to O-hi-o-  
Why, said I? Because,  
he said, the sort of work  
they want is not to be found  
in Canada - And they get work

**f51**

-2- Sept 18/87

work such as they are used to, -  
instantly in O-hě-o - generally  
before they arrive, friends,  
often relations who have gone  
before them, find it for them -  
And they settle down without  
a day's delay to high wages -

My mouth watered - And  
all these fine young fellows  
are lost to our country  
who might be saved to her  
in Canada - And the  
drunkards are left to us  
in Derbyshire -

Please bear in mind that  
in *this* letter of Mr. Fred's, Aug 17/87, is

**f51v**

the very valuable part about  
Emigrants to Canada - if at  
anytime you would let me  
print it as a private leaflet  
But *all* his letters are  
valuable & most interesting -

I think he has behaved  
like a man & a hero  
about this strange trial  
in the matter of not going to  
Siam - May he be blessed!  
& he *is* blessed -

**f52**

I have been breathlessly busy,  
 since I came back to London;  
 as I am sure you, dear soul,  
 know - for I have not sent  
 dear Ralph his Algae yet.  
 but they are coming. Only  
 I hope all the real Algae are not  
 lodged on your roofs, &  
 on your gardens by the storms -

For one thing, I have had  
 to do some Indian business  
 before *our* "ministers" separated  
 for holidays - all were off  
 yesterday - & much hangs  
 fire, & much is done all ~~illeg~~ awry, &  
~~necessitates~~ - such a deal of letter writing  
 as 'requested'

**f52v**

For another, our new Matron,  
 dear Miss Pringle, ~~whom~~/as you  
 kindly remember, has arrived  
 at St. Thomas' - an anxious job -

Dearest Maude, fare you  
 very well - I keep  
 wondering what your plans  
 will be - In the meantime,  
 good speed to Ozone,  
 & to music. And I am so  
 glad the lessons are all right.

God for ever bless you  
 ever your loving old

Aunt Florence

ff53-54v, September 30, re more news from Nairn



signed letter, ff55-55v, pencil

**f55**

10 South St Oct 4/87

Welcome back! welcome back!

altho' it is very bad that 'house'  
should be let, & 'wife & bairnies  
three' in Scotland.

Maude is in a loving tumult  
of expectation -

But you have done it like  
a man - You are doubtless  
essential here. And *you*  
will turn it to the best  
account.

I wish I could send you  
some food.

Many thanks, dear Mr. Fred,

**f55v**

for your most interesting letters.

I thought we were going  
to have you at No. 4 - where  
you could be fed from here -

Give me a post-card when  
you can kindly some & see me -  
I should not like you to  
find my head under water  
with appointments, which,  
unluckily for me, is my case  
at present.

God bless you & yours -  
ever your loving & sympathetic  
old Aunt Florence

ff56-57v, October 7, re MV's plans to join FV in Manchester

Add Mss 41977D

410

signed letter, ff58-58v, pencil

**f58**

Oct 7/87

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

My dear Mr. Fred

When you went away, Sir Harry  
said so tenderly: "I shall never  
see him again." Now he *will*  
see you again - I am glad you  
go there tomorrow - It is a  
compensation for much that  
is unfortunate in bringing you  
back

I did not tell you how  
much struck I was with  
your 'daughter' Gwendolen -  
"Struck" is the word, tho' she  
is but 6 years old - Last  
year she was in the philanthropic

**f58v**

line. She wanted a 'house'  
-ful of 'poor sick children'  
to 'nurse' - This year she is  
in the motherly: Kathleen  
is a great *care* to her, bodily  
& mentally, particularly the  
latter - She is the little  
Mother - She is the  
Dresden Raphael's Virgin  
Mother - What will she turn  
out?

Good speed

ever your affte

Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

411

signed letter, ff59-60, pencil **[8:908]**

**f59**

10 South St. Park Lane W

Oct 9/87

Dearest Maude

I have seen Mr. Fred  
& he looks even better than he did  
when he started: well & full  
of vigour. I think the  
seeing you again & the childer  
makes up to him for all  
the disagreeables - He does  
not even regret the letting of  
Onslow Gns

He was so pleased to hear  
what I was able to tell him  
from your letters, so kind,  
about Ralph's improvement

**f59v**

particularly.

I trust that all these  
worrying alterations in your  
plans will not tell upon  
either you or him too  
severely. His eagerness to  
be again with you overcomes  
all else with him.

My love to babies three -  
I am obliged to write shortly,  
tho' my thoughts are never  
short with you - I will  
tell you another time why -

**f60**

God bless you, dearest  
Maude - I hope Nairn  
has really done a good deal  
with/for the children  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
I return with many thanks  
the only letter I have now  
of Mr. Fred's

F.

ff61-62v, The Clarendon Hotel, Edinburgh, {archivist: October 17, 1887} from MV, re her departure  
from Nairn for Manchester

signed note, f63, pencil **[8:909]**

**f63**

Oct 18/87  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred  
So you are together at last!  
I give you joy, joy, joy - And  
old Aunt Florence gives herself  
joy & trusts to this compensation  
for what was indeed a strange  
trial.  
God bless you  
ever your loving old  
Aunt Florence  
How are the bairnies three?

Add Mss 41977D

413

signed letter, ff64-65v, pencil

**f64**

10 South St Dec 10/87

My dear Mr. Fred & Maude

How can I thank you  
for your magnificent offer  
of hospitality at Pine-Acres?

By thankfully accepting  
it for the time you are  
absent, i.e. from the 20th,  
& perhaps for a little after  
your return as you so  
kindly ask me? and so  
I shall see a little more of  
dear Maude & the chicks?

But I could not possible  
quarter myself on you for

**f64v**

"3 months"! and indeed  
I could not be absent  
from my work for any  
thing like that time -

Yes: I could bring a cook  
i.e. a kitchen maid, Nelly  
Owen from Rhoscolyn, whom  
we have taught - who has  
a true feudal feeling to  
all of you - but particularly  
to Lettice - & my own  
Lizzie - from Claydon -

Will there be any one  
left in the house besides

**f65**

the new house maid? &  
shall I be enough to defend  
the spoons? I will bring  
Messenger, tho' not of much  
use. But he can 'bark'  
about the house in the  
day time.

I am afraid it will  
give dear Maude some  
trouble to arrange about  
starting me, as there is  
no old servant in the house  
But I fear I could not  
leave an accumulation of

**f65v**

work here before Tuesday  
the 20th  
I could take down some  
cooked food, if she liked  
it. to start us with -  
& Coffee & apples & ink & the like.  
But I dare say the  
tradesmen call at the Pine Acre door  
quite natural - under  
Maude's excellent arrangements  
Again God bless you  
and a thousand thanks  
from your ever loving  
Aunt Florence

incomplete, signed letter, ff66-67v, pencil

**f66**

Pine acre  
overflowing with every thing  
that is pretty, useful,  
charming or eatable by  
dearest Maudie's generous  
care - How can I thank her  
for all the trouble she has  
taken! It is too much; & then  
the Larder!!  
"Faithful Nature" in her  
winter's garb is very beautiful  
I am so touched by Gwendolen's  
room, her bed & Kathleen's crib.  
I see my little mother =Gwendolen,

**f66v**

big with the responsibility  
of Kathleen's moral & physical  
welfare, doing the little  
mother's part - dear little  
Virgin-Mother!

I could not help going out  
to look *at the pines & bracken*  
- so long since I have seen  
Bracken -

I know, dear Maude, how  
worried & now poorly you  
have been - I trust you  
are better - & am so happy to  
think of you at Rhianva -

**f67**

Very many thanks for  
your most kind & helpful  
letter - about the good  
things of the world -

I have heard a bird  
chirp - I have not seen  
big Mr. Tomcat yet - but  
my kitten has - he would  
make three of her -first  
she kissed him & then  
she boxed his ears - But  
he did not give it back -  
only walked out of doors -

You will see Mr. Fred  
tonight. Please thank him



**f67v**

for his letter - tell him  
how I sympathize with him  
- & thank him for his  
kind Envoi -

My love to blessed Margaret  
& to all the seven -

I am writing in the dark,  
but at your table -

God bless you all -  
ever your loving & grateful

Dec 21/87 Aunt Florence

Mr. French has been most  
friendly - May I ask Mr. F  
to a Xmas dinner? I will  
certainly ask the Gardener -

signed letter, ff68-69v, pencil

**f68**

Pine acre Dec 31/87  
New Year's Eve/88

Dearest Maude

Poor Miss A. M. coming to day till  
Monday with maid -

We have done our best - now  
it is in the hands of God

My Nelly Owen will not do for  
you for a single day as cook -  
I ought to tell you *now*.

She plays the most excellent  
variations on rice & apples - She  
*can* roast & boil a chicken now - she  
can make a seed cake & sundry  
other good things

But she would get your  
breakfast quite & completely  
ready just as Mr. Fred was setting

**f68v**

off for the Station -  
Your children's dinner might be one hour,  
two hours late, because she  
would not reckon the time it  
took to do - She has been 10 days  
in conquering the Kitchener.

*You* would write the order for  
the butcher & *she* would tell  
him to bring it *when* she told  
him -

And then she would tell you  
there was nothing in the house  
for dinner -

And all this with the most  
perfect good faith & perfect  
temper, tho' cool in the world-

She is a good, religious  
girl - But slowness &  
unpunctuality & a little denseness  
are her bane - They must be

**f69**

conquered first before ~~you~~/any one  
~~have~~/has her as Cook -  
French & Rosa are now singing  
morning prayers with my two girls

I will send Mr. Fred's copies  
of letters to  
Siamese Legation  
Will not that be safest?

May all the blessings of the  
New Year be poured upon  
you & yours, upon Margaret  
& all hers, is one of the  
deepest thoughts of the heart  
of your loving, troublesome  
old Aunt Florence  
May 1888 be yours - in the highest sense

incomplete, signed letter, ff70-71, pencil

**f70**

-2-

It was deeply 'concern'ed/ing; at  
the defeat of Dadabhai  
Naoroji in Holborn, & of  
Surgeon -Major Evatt at  
Woolwich - Each had a  
part to play in the House  
which no one else could do

But please tell Mr.  
Fred that I have had such  
cheery, sensible letters from  
each of them Dadabhai  
says his position has  
been made such by this  
canvass, honourably carried  
on, that he can try again &c

**f70v**

&c[I will send Mr. Fred the  
letter by & bye]

Dr Evatt says that much  
has been done & said that  
wanted saying & doing -  
whether he failed or succeeded He  
† is coming to see me  
tomorrow - [as Mr. Fred  
says; men are falling  
around us, but the truth  
will stand]

Now, good hope to  
those who fight for the  
truth -

And oh please enjoy  
Claydon for Ralph's &

**f71**

Gwendolen's sakes.  
and remember me on  
Wednesday. I know you  
will - & let me hear -  
how is my God-daughter?  
remember me to "Genl"  
Murray, who generalled Kathleen  
fare well -fare well  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

incomplete, signed letter, ff72-74, pencil

**f72**

In India however the  
soldiers were kept in  
Barracks (eating & drinking)  
during the hot hours,  
which ruined all their lives  
And careful kind  
Comms Officers ~~used~~ give  
them a day's shooting,  
which, heat notwithstanding,  
keeps them going & well.

So everything has to be  
done judgmatically, of course.  
I had a nice note from Mr.

**f72v**

Morant - & wrote to ask  
him to come on Sunday - to  
which I have as yet no  
answer -  
I think I shall send the  
'fi pun note' by post -  
But I should like to give the  
money for the *flannel* besides,  
if he has not yet provided  
himself with it. I can  
hardly doubt about the  
*flannel belts* being necessary  
He strikes me as a youth  
who would be careless of himself  
tho' not of others -  
Don't laugh

**f73**

-3-

It is said the Woking Prison  
would hold 1000 boys -  
re-modelled -  
There are good houses for  
Matron, Chaplain, Doctor,  
&c - all round the Prison -  
all that is most contrary  
to Gordon's way of doing  
things -  
'You want a pony & they  
offer you a white elephant'  
as one man said  
have been so interrupted

**f74**

-3-

3 I hope Louis Shore Smith  
has been to you about  
where to *hire*  
& where & what to *buy*  
in the Tricycle line  
for his father (Shore)  
I know you would kindly  
direct him  
ever yrs affly  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff75-76v, pencil

**f75**

Pine acre Jan 5/88

Dearest Maude How can I  
thank you for your most  
kind letter?

If the dear childer stay at  
Claydon till Monday, as  
I earnestly hope they will  
for my sister's sake,  
let me arrange to stay her  
till Monday -

It will not be proper to  
leave Rosa alone with French  
in the house.

You are so good as to  
wish me to have a quiet

**f75v**

Sunday here -  
I think we can get the house  
decent for you & the  
children to come in to on  
Monday, even if we don't go till  
Monday  
Tell me if you object to  
Rosa being here for a few  
hours alone on Monday -  
with French -  
And forgive all short-comings.  
How can I thank you for all  
your kindness?  
This letter will be posted  
before the 2nd post comes in  
which may bring letters from  
you -

**f76**

But please consider *that*  
to be settled in my mind & body,  
if it is what give your least  
trouble  
that childer ~~she~~ &  
yourself come on Monday,  
that I & we stay till  
Monday which will  
leave them only a few  
hours alone.  
[I *could* leave my Nelly  
with her - but I don't think  
it would help much]  
I am sure you would think  
it very undesirable that your

**f76v**

cook should come before  
yourself - or that she  
should inhabit the inn -  
you who are so beautiful  
in all your arrangements  
[I wish mine were like  
yours. They would be  
better if I could be 'about'  
I hope. but I can't]  
I can only say God  
bless you -  
ever, dearest Maude,  
your loving & grateful  
troublesome old  
Aunt F.

signed letter, ff77-78v, pencil

**f77**

Pine acre Jan 6/88

Dearest Maude

I am so very, very sorry &  
grieved. I am afraid it is  
my arrant stupidity that has  
occasioned this change in ~~the~~/your  
plans for the children dear -  
When we heard this morning  
that they were coming tomorrow  
(Saturday), we were delighted  
And Rosa 'set to' 'with a will' -

I was very much hurried  
with the morning post 'out'  
And my Telegram ought to have  
begun: 'Delighted that the  
children are coming - But I  
thought that you know that -  
& that it seemed like inviting



**f77v**

your own children to your own  
house - So my stupidity  
began with my own movement  
- & your cook's sleeping *here* -  
O what an idiot I am -  
Then I am afraid you took my  
writing that you wished kindly  
me to have a "quiet Sunday " here  
- which was only a quotation  
from your own dear letter -  
that I wished not to have the  
darling little children -  
Alas! nothing could be farther  
from my thoughts  
I did not like to telegraph  
again - But I do hope  
that it was for my sister's sake  
& the children's that they stay  
till Monday at Claydon -

**f78**

I am so sorry for Mr. Fred  
being poorly - I am afraid  
it is partly harass -  
You would not both go to  
*10 South St. would you?*  
*till he can travel* - There  
are two servants there & will  
be three (3)  
We should be so proud &  
happy it made you "warm"  
both inwardly & outwardly,  
if we could. Please telegraph to  
Mrs Neild 10 South St. *if you will*  
Miss M. Morant writes to me  
that A. M. did go to  
"Virginia Water" on Tuesday.  
Thank God! thank God -  
But she gives but a poor

**f78v**

account of her prospect of cure  
[She evidently knows nothing  
of the long week of telegraphing  
between us & her - & nothing  
at all of her going to South St  
& having the 2.2.6 - I am  
afraid I must tell  
She supposes A.M. to be  
without "funds", because she, M. M.  
has not supplied her -]  
O me what a tragic story it is  
Alas! for the brother & the sister  
And oh how sorry I am  
for all *your* harass -  
God bless you again & again -  
your loving, penitent & grateful  
Aunt Florence  
I am cultivating the small birds  
for the children

unsigned letter, ff79-80v, pen

**f79**

Pine-acre                      Jan 8/88  
Dearest Maude

How can I thank you for  
all your goodness? And  
how can I beg your pardon  
for all our badness? &  
idiotcy?

[But *that* was a mistake  
about the dear children not  
coming on Saturday]

I had a cheerful note  
from Mr. Fred this morning  
but saying that he was in  
bed at Bridge St.

If, dearest Maude, you  
could make any use of 10  
South St., it would make

**f79v**

me so happy. The house has  
been kept thoroughly warmed  
if you would take him  
there; or if you do not  
like him to move for a  
day or two, if you would  
make any use of the  
house yourself that you could - -  
Please telegraph to Mrs.  
Neild, 10 South St.;  
if you will, as I hope. [She will  
have had a Telegram  
from me] -

My best love to the  
dear children -

I trust you are pretty  
well

**f80**

There is a blackbird who  
brings his wife when he  
finds anything nice. And  
plenty of robins & dear  
little Tomtits whose  
acquaintance I have been  
cultivating by articles of  
luxury, chopped lard & fat,  
potatoes, & brown bread &  
butter for the children.  
but your white pigeons  
are destroyers of my  
blackbirds. They come &  
snatch up the tit bits -  
And so does the black  
dog. Still the singing  
birds have been encouraged

**f80v**

And it is so delightful to  
hear them whisling &  
whispering in the pines.

Dear Maude, we have  
broken two bottles in  
your beautiful little cruet  
stand! your wedding present!  
You ought to stamp upon  
us! They will be replaced  
within 10 days - [And we  
have broken a plate]. But  
we ought to be in sackcloth  
& ashes, - & are.

signed letter, ff81-82v, pen

**f81**

Pine-acre Jan 8/88

My dear Mr. Fred

I am so grieved that you  
are "ill in bed" at Bridge St.  
I want you to come to 10  
South St where they have  
had fires all the time I have  
been away - & the house is  
warm with Maudie.  
Or if you do not wish to  
move that she should  
make all the use of 10  
South St she can. I write  
this to my housekeeper at  
10 S. St. And I have  
written it to Maude, but

**f81v**

fear she will only get my  
letter to day or tomorrow.  
She & the childer dear will  
be here as you know at  
2.33 tomorrow (Monday.)  
And I shall be at Claydon  
half an hour later.

Pray do let me be of  
some little use.

I have been so troublesome  
& such an idiot.

As to your "illness being  
"selfish", if I were giving  
an account of you to Dr.  
Townsend, I should say;  
my dear friend:

**f82**

"he has ~~being~~ /been doing a  
*great* deal too much for  
other people for months,  
which, with a very great  
deal of most responsible work, harass &  
anxiety, is enough to make  
him ill. he is besides  
habitually careless thro' business, of  
irregularity in feeding -  
& I am afraid breakfast  
is the only regular meal  
he has -

"I am very glad that  
this has happened here  
& not in America or  
at Paris or the Hague"

Them's my sentiments.

**f82v**

I wish you have let  
Mr. French stay with you,  
this past week - I am  
afraid I am the cause of this.

I shall be very anxious  
to hear of you further -  
& look upon it as quite a  
Godsend that before you  
crossed the Channel & not  
*after* you are put into  
a warm bed -

God bless you  
ever your loving but anxious  
old Aunt Florence  
Remember me  
to Nurse Murray

initialled note, f83, pencil

**f83**

Jan 9/88

Nelly Owen will take any  
message from you to  
Mrs. Neild, 10 South St.,  
this afternoon, dearest  
Maude, saying what  
~~message~~ use you will  
make of the house &  
what you will get ready  
for yourself, if you will be so good  
[I *have* written & telegraphed  
to her]

F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

431

signed letter, ff84-85, pencil

**f84**

Claydon Jan 9/88

My dear Mr. Fred

I was so thankful for  
your Telegram - & so anxious -

It was very good of you  
to send it.

At Oxford I found that  
the children had passed  
through on their way to  
Sunningdale but that  
"Mrs. F. Verney ~~was~~/had not  
joined them.

I hope & I fear that  
she has gone to you - I only  
stipulate that you will

**f84v**

make as much use of 10

South St as you can.

[I left two letters at Pine acre  
to Maudie to beg her to  
do her best for 10 S. S.,  
which is thoroughly warmed,  
& to telegraph to Mrs. Neild,  
the housekeeper, what she  
would have; & I wrote  
& telegraphed to Mrs. Neild the  
same]

Your children left Claydon  
this morning - & my sister,  
who has a very bad cold  
& is up-stairs, is full of  
their dear praises & of

**f85**

Maudie's - & anxious about  
you - Sir Harry looks well -  
What a gem of a place  
your little Pineacre is. &  
the pines were whispering  
as if there were 3000  
acres of them - & the birds  
whistling & almost carolling  
God speed -  
Nevertheless we are very  
anxious to hear of you  
again.  
May God bless you both -  
ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

incomplete, signed letter, ff86-86v, pen & pencil

**f86**

-2- Jan 9/88

French has been most  
attentive. But my  
conscience is disturbed  
because I think he  
ought to have been with  
Mr. Fred, & would have been  
but for me -  
I do like to hear Rosa talk  
about the children. She  
says it does her good to  
see them. "to see Miss Gwendolen  
"talking so gently with/to Miss Kathleen  
She told me about your Sunday  
evening hymns with the servants.  
I have left Nelly till this  
afternoon to prepare the children's  
dinners; when she will go quietly  
back to South St. where



**f86v**

I *hope* you may go, if it  
can be of the least use to you -

I want much to hear of Mr.  
Fred, but cannot ask you to  
write even a Post card -

All good attend you  
dearest Maude

And it *will* -  
ever your grateful old  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff87-88, pencil **[8:909]**

**f87**

Claydon Jan 10/88  
Dearest Maude Thank you  
so much for your letter &  
Telegram - It is the greatest  
possible relief.

He will get well twice as  
quick for your being there -  
But I fear it will be some  
little time yet -

Blow the "Minister"! he  
must wait.

Please order whatever is  
right for Mr. Fred from Mrs.  
Neild who will be delighted  
to make little dishes - She  
tells me she is making jelly -

I hope you are sleeping

**f87v**

& breakfasting & supping at  
South St.

I was very much flabbergasted  
by Temp. 104 - & am  
thankful that Temp is resuming  
its duty -

It does my old heart good  
to hear my sister talk of  
you & Margaret & your  
little 3 - as she does -

Now my sister has sent  
for me & I must go -

Sir H. is very anxious  
about Mr. Fred -

**f88**

Please let me pay that  
poor little sum for poor  
Miss Morant .

I fear her prospect is not  
very good -

O what a tragic thing  
this life is - & how comic -

But I must finish my  
lucubrations tomorrow -  
ever your loving

Aunt F.

Add Mss 41977D

435

signed letter, ff89-91, pencil

**f89**

Claydon Jan 12/88

Dearest Maude

Thank you very, very  
much for your letter & this  
morning's Telegram -

I hope that you will kindly  
order everything that is right or  
that you like from 10 South St.  
It makes me so happy that they  
can give you something -

Would you take something for  
yourself too?

I trust that Bridge St can  
give you a tidy room, if, as  
you so wish, you can stay there.

The fog has been most  
unlucky. Of course it is worst

**f89v**

in London, alas! alas! & near  
the river. But it seems all  
over the country - for 48 hours  
it has not lifted here - & scarcely  
since Monday -

My sister's cough is exceedingly  
bad; & she has been exceedingly  
worried by some passages of  
arms between the new Vicar  
of Grandboro' & poor Mrs.  
Newcombe. I was glad that  
Dean Fremantle was here  
as he was the man's Godfather  
And it does distress Sir Harry.

My sister is not by a long  
way so good a Patient as  
Mr. Fred, I am sure, is -

**f90**

Indeed she will do nothing  
that Sir H. Acland tells her -  
but, instead, does what Sir W.  
Gull told her 6 months ago -  
You know the worthy Lieutenant  
in command of a vessel who  
had different medicaments  
numbered 1 to 9 for specified  
diseases of the crew. No 9 being  
exhausted, he mixed together  
6 and 3 - and administered.  
So, says Dr. Acland is my  
sister's practice x Yesterday  
she was so bad that Sir Harry  
came to fetch me almost before  
I was dressed. And I could not

x She actually took Homoeopathic  
& Gull & not Acland

**f90v**

leave her before post time  
Hence, tho' I was writing to you,  
dearest Maude, in my heart,  
I could not accomplish it on  
paper - I was the more obliged  
for yours -

I hope you will take any  
books you like from Dining,  
Drawing or Bed rooms in South St. but  
it is a sorry collection.

When the time comes for you  
to go to South St, please choose  
the rooms you like best. I *think*  
the 'Green Room', 3rd story, will  
be the best for Mr. Fred, because  
my room, I am ashamed to say  
is so littered with parcels of papers  
- both sofas - [I was a tidy woman  
once]

**f91**

-2- Jan 12.

And your dear self in my littery  
bed- room - dressing in my  
dressing-room -

In either case, you will see there  
is a room on the same floor for  
Nurse Murray - But do *you* choose

Now, good cheer - And good  
escape from both fire & water - for  
fog is water - Thank God.

The birds are all silent here  
- not a twitter -

God bless you

ever yours

Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

438

signed letter, ff92-93v, pencil

**f92**

Claydon Jan 15/88

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

I shall be so thankful  
& grateful if you can  
accomplish the move to  
South St to-morrow, yet  
not resigned if it is put off  
till Tuesday - because for his  
good - May the heavens  
be propitious!

I am sure you will kindly  
give us a Telegram in the  
evening to say if move successful

Dear Maude, I hope you  
will fix the rooms which they  
will suit best

**f92v**

yourself - I have told Mrs  
Neild to have them all ready  
& to clear paperasses out of  
my bed room -

Dear Maude, please make  
me happy by considering  
the house as your own -

**f93**

There is some Brandy much  
appreciated by Doctors for  
Invalids in the house. Being  
of a *spirituous* turn of mind  
(as a little girl-friend of mine  
said to her Nurse) I please  
myself with putting it in  
Mr. Fred's egg.

How good you have been  
in writing & telegraphing.  
And how we have enjoyed  
your Elephant & Vaseline, &  
your Baron Surijis in the  
kitchen=drawing-room. But  
I don't approve of Mr. Fred  
seeing visitors

**f93v**

Perhaps you will give us  
just a little Telegram in  
the morning as we  
can't have Sunday letters -

God bless you both  
& thank Mr. Fred for his  
letter.

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

440

signed letter, ff94-95v, pencil [8:909-10]

**f94**

Claydon

Jan 16/88

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

That was a nice little visit  
to Pine acre - tho' well I know  
how tantalizing to the dear  
children & to you -

How rejoicing are Mr. Stubbs'  
prospects with his great Italian  
basilica (S Paolo fuor le mura  
at Rome) at Liverpool. And he  
has written a most affectionate  
& inspiring letter to my sister,  
which, like Gwendolyne's beauty,  
'ne nuit rien à l'affaire' -

Her (Parthe's) cough is, alas!,  
no better And a nurse has  
come from London, a nice woman,



**f94v**

for Davidson was quite worn out.

The trio are gone; Dean (& Mrs. Fremantle, Mr. Calvert, & Mr. Battersby - And Sir Harry is quite relieved, because the 'Imprimatur' of the great man is put on Mr. Battersby, his sermon, & all - And Sir Harry applauds (he too has a bad cold which he treats by an open Phaeton) Capt Verney's choice -

Mrs. Neild is only too glad to be your (qy) "victim" - And I feel like the stoker of a fire-engine: 'keep your fires alight keep your steam up' -

**f95**

Please, you must just let me have my own way - & let the things come from the Farmers' Assocn. [I have a small Deposit Acct there -] We found the larder stocked for gluttons - & we embezzled it all into our own stomachs, like gluttons -

It was I put off the order's execution by Telegram, when I found you had outwitted me (as I outwitted the black dog, in feeding the birds)  
Now it only awaits your order

**f95v**

I earnestly hope that you will  
be able to move Mr. Fred tomorrow  
(Tuesday) But I know you both  
are wise as serpents & will  
do nothing rashly - and  
qy harmless as doves?

Is the "Minister" gone to  
Holland? Sir Harry asks  
me daily - & I can scarcely  
prevent him making a descent  
on him at the Legation.

God speed you  
[I feel all pulse & am as blind  
as a beetle]  
Remember me to Nurse Murray  
yr loving old Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff96-97v, pencil [8:910-11]

**f96**

Claydon Jan 18/88  
My dearest Maude

Joy, joy & thanksgiving:  
how thankful I am that the  
move is made & successfully -  
May God give a good night  
For so He giveth His beloved  
sleep

How canny it was of you  
to move him so And now I do  
hope you yourself may take  
more rest.

Dear Maude - it is quite  
out of the question for you to  
make the Dressing-room your  
bedroom & sitting room. The  
room & the bed are alike  
impostors - The room looks

**f96v**

cosy, & is not. It is either hot or cold. The ventilator, if open, give a draught right on the bed - if shut, it is close - The bed looks comfortable & is not. The street is often *very noisy*. You would have no proper rest. It would make me miserable to think of you there - Besides, it is important to the Green Room to have a fire always in the room under it.

You could not write in the Dressing - room. Please, You must sleep in the Bed-room, write your letters there; [you may dress in the dressing-room, if you like -

**f97**

as Kathleen would say.] Please., You must receive your visitors & otherwise disport yourself in the Drawing-room.

Please have the large sofa there taken up into Mr. Fred's room -

Please, You must feed in the Dining-room. And mind, dear Maude, you do feed.

Now you would do me a great service if it does not bore you, to go down into the Kitchen & larder every day to order your foods. [I can never be there]. Mrs. Neild would take it from *your*

**f97v**

kindness very kindly -

And you would say a  
good word to "Nelly bagh",  
who was most anxious to  
serve her liege lady, poor  
child -

Now God speed & thank  
God -

~~If you~~ are in the Dressing room  
you might just as well be  
at a Hotel. But I know you  
won't grieve me - *Please*

I sing a Te Deum in my  
heart.

ever believe me  
your loving, rejoicing & grateful  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff98-99, pencil

**f98**

Claydon Jan 18/88

*Dictated*

My dearest children  
How rejoiced we are that  
the move is to be made  
to-morrow  
& that the fog has gone-  
I have a great belief  
in the mountain air of  
South. St. & am going  
immediately to calculate  
the exact number of inches  
it is above the region of the  
Thames.

I am very bad - "not  
"quite better"

To Fred & Maude

**f98v**

You must come into to  
No 4 whenever it is  
desirable

ever your loving  
(signed) F.P. Verney

**f99**

This was written before  
your welcome Telegram came -  
thrice welcome  
F.N.

signed letter, ff100-01, pencil

**f100**

Jan 19/88

Dearest Maude

So very thankful for your  
letters - So thankful for  
the move but very anxious  
how he passed the night.  
Hope to hear tomorrow morning  
Have been with my sister:  
She says: 'tell her how glad I  
am that the move is  
accomplished - & that she is  
relieved from the turmoil of  
the Railway Station' -

~~So sorry for the difficulties~~  
of your move - ~~Make~~ [Over  
May God bless you both  
ever & ever your F.N.

**f101**

Make No 10 your own  
- blessed No 10  
to have you  
F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

446

signed letter, ff102-03, pencil [8:912]

**f102**

Claydon Jan 20/88

Dearest Maude

Your good news is as  
welcome as flowers in May - I  
had taken it into my stupid  
head that he would have a  
bad night after his move. And  
as light to idiotic people, so  
are your letters to me.

Some little plants, I hope,  
came creeping to his your door  
this morning & humbly asked  
to be let in to his room, if suitable.  
There is a basket table in your  
bed room for their use.

The sun glinted at us this

**f102v**

morning for the first time since

Jan 10. I hope you have him.

And *that* brings me to this: it is  
contrary to my principles - and  
you would not pull down my  
principles - I haven't many -  
that you should seep in a  
north room. after all (God only  
knows how many your anxieties  
for the last 6 months & more)

Your bed room which is to  
the South will be cleared -  
ought to have been cleared last  
Monday - The fire must be  
kept in, because of the room  
overhead, to keep it warm.  
You must be in your bed- room  
*some* times. And then you will

Add Mss 41977D

447

**f103**

see whether you ~~do not~~ like  
to sleep in it.

My kind regards to Nurse

Murray who is a great  
friend of mine - I need not say  
to her that I hope she will  
be comfortable because you  
will make her comfortable  
in your own house -  
blessed house to have *you*!

Thank God -

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

initialled letter, f104, pencil

**f104**

20/1/88

"When am I coming to London?"

My dear friends, I consider  
that an impertinent question  
from a young fellow to his Aunt.  
In '60 - 61, which you can  
scarcely remember there was  
some famous thing which I forget,  
in which Baron Parke had to  
give judgment. And some other  
impertinent young fellow asked  
him at a dinner table what  
judgment he would give. "I shall  
give," he said, "the judgment that  
is right."

I shall come to London *when*  
*I come*. And I come when it is  
right. F.N.

ff105-10v, 10 South Street, January 22, 1888, from FV to FN, Maude supremely comfortable, comes  
to see me every morning

Add Mss 41977D

448

signed letter, ff111-11v, pencil

**f111**

Jan 23 88

{printed address:} Claydon House,  
Telegraph Winslow.

"Steeple" Claydon. Bucks Bucks.

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you so much for  
your delightful letters.

I agree so entirely with  
you about Lord Shaftesbury - I  
scarcely ever was so interested  
in any life. But that must  
wait till tomorrow.

Also: Lady Anne Blunt's [15:1017]  
letter which I will return I  
agree about the blunder of the  
Govt which is lamentable  
making him into a martyr -  
a very honest goose who did us  
a world of harm in Egypt.

[end]

I'm not trying either by fair

**f111v**

means or foul, to drive my  
blessed Maude out of her  
'little room" against her will -

May all divine blessings  
attend her every foot step

She blesses every house, cot or  
den she is in

ever your & her  
loving venerable Aunt

ff112-13v, January 23, 1888, from MV, re FV's progress



unsigned, incomplete letter, ff114-15, pencil

**f114** Jan 23/88

{printed address:} Claydon House,  
Telegraph Winslow.  
"Steeple" Claydon. Bucks Bucks.  
*Most Private*

Dearest Maude

So many thanks for your  
delightful letters.

I do hope he will not  
part with his Nurse too  
soon - he talks of it -  
As the Doctor says, it is  
impossible to overstate the  
care required in the recovery  
from this kind of illness. but  
then I know he will have it.

I am so glad the Berlin  
man has been to see him

**f114v**

Sir Harry is very restless  
to do *something* - He has,  
I am sure, given up writing  
to Minister or Legation here.  
But he talks of writing to  
Prince Narès at Bang-kok -  
Would this be unwise?  
He would give it up directly  
I believe -

He asks: is the mail  
to Siam the same as the  
mail to India - every Friday?

Alas! for poor Miss Morant -  
Could we but hear that Dr.  
Maudsley has given his  
certificate?

**f115**

Maude

ff116-117v, January 23, 1888 from FV to FN doctor said this is the most beautiful sick ward in London; sun streaming in, window wide open, flowers look lovely in the sun; on comfortable sofa, been reading Mazzini's essays to Maudie while the nurse has gone for a walk; re class of sorrow that oppresses me, all sponging on you, intention to housekeep on our own account, too good of you

unsigned letter, ff118-19, pencil

**f118**

Jan 24/88

{printed address:} Claydon House,  
Telegraph Winslow.  
"Steeple" Claydon. Bucks Bucks.

My dear Mr. Fred  
Your letters say to my heart -  
'Rejoice evermore'  
But - shall the sun of  
heaven turn micher &  
eat blackberries? a question  
not to be asked  
Shall you talk of eating?  
beef tea & paying for board  
in the house of your  
venerable Aunt? a  
question not to be asked

**f118v**

- the house you bless by  
being in it.

I do so agree with you  
about the Epistles -  
One is never tired of them  
- ever fresh ever new  
Fresh meanings dawn  
upon one every day -  
One gets a fanatical  
enthusiasm for that  
hero-saint - so manly  
& so passionate in his  
human attachments.

**f119**

- so divine in his mission

unsigned letter ff120-21v, pencil [8:912]

**f120**

Claydon Jan 24/88  
Fair lady, you drop manna in  
the way of starving people -  
Your letters, dearest Maude, are  
real Gospels to me - I do thank  
& bless God that He has blessed  
your Good Nursing so remarkably  
- I thank Him all the day long -  
The chart is the loveliest  
sight that Nurses' eyes can see -  
It is worth a National Gallery -  
I will return

I know how tantalizing it must be  
to see the dear chicks so  
But, please God, Gwendolen  
will be clinging round her

**f120v**

father's leg & looking up in  
his face with unspeakable  
love, before many weeks are  
over -  
It is such a thing for children  
to have a tender, joyful father -  
In after life they who have had it  
*not*, can hardly believe in the  
Heavenly Father's love & tenderness -  
And as for the mother what  
shall we say?

You will make little Nelly dance  
with joy by talking Welsh to  
her.

**f121**

About the bed:  
the position I thought best was  
with the head to the wardrobe,  
feet towards the fire - This  
gives the window light on the  
right side, & not in the eyes -  
- screen between bed & door.  
But Patient must choose -  
I am so thankful that he  
likes the room.  
Yes, the weather has been really like May  
- hot. But poor sister has  
made cough & pain worse  
with resuming carriage - And  
the house is so close with  
*hot air*. Even in these May days they  
ventilate ? the rooms when  
she not in them with *this*

**f121v**

Sir Harry rides to-day &  
yesterday again - almost rid  
of Cough - Still I fancy he  
looks older

Does Dr. Townsend think  
that any defect of drainage  
or the like in any of the  
places he Mr. Fred has been in has  
given the typhoid tinge to this  
illness?

I don't insist on lighting  
the fire in rooms underneath when the  
Green Room is 'too hot' - But  
who could have expected this  
celestial weather in January?

ff122-22v, January 25, 1888, from MV {incomplete} re FV's improvement

ff123-30v, Fred Verney letter to Aunt Florence from 10 South St. pencil, re Maudie and her Stradivarius, saw Stubbs yesterday, cheerful, well, hopeful, new and larger life before him, double the net income of Stokenham and high class working men

unsigned letter, ff131-32v, pencil

**f131**

Claydon Jan 26/88

*Gordon's Day*

My dear Mr. Fred & Maude

Thanks a thousand for  
the Asiatic Quarterly - I  
did not know it came from  
you - It is a most interesting  
number - Every article so -  
I clawed hold of it as soon  
as it came - And tho I have  
no eyes (or very few) I read  
first of course the "Representative"  
article which is by the  
Chairman of the Calcutta  
Municipality - the very one that  
has been so abused -

Then there is an Article on  
Agricultural Banks - alas! against  
them - unwise - but it is better  
for the subject to be discussed

**f131v**

than to be shelved - It will probably  
be answered -

Then there is an Article by my  
friend Mr. Pedder - the best  
Collector we ever had -  
on Village Communities in  
W. India -

one on Child-Widows by  
the Prime Minister of Indore  
- so temperately written -

It is full as a butcher's  
shop of "prime" joints &  
pieces

Thank you so much -  
I should most likely not  
have seen it but for you -

I have ~~been hearing~~ a good deal

[15:1017-18]

about Gordon's death from one of  
his Serjeants, now at Souakim,  
who was with him when he was killed  
at Khartoum

**f132**

2. This is a sad letter  
from poor lady Anne Blunt  
I cannot be called a  
sympathizer with Mr. Wilfrid  
Blunt: ~~whose~~/his blundering  
recklessness in upholding  
Arabi Bey whose only  
'Cause" (with a great C)  
was that of a needy condottiere  
against a penniless Govt,  
has helped to involve us  
in this Egyptian quicksand  
But I entirely sympathize  
in what you say that the  
way Mr. Blunt is treated is  
not a question between rich &  
poor as the "Times" puts it,  
but a question between

**f132v**

honourable fanaticism &  
crime in rich *or* poor.  
And surely the Govt have many  
poor men in prison now,  
have they not? - not for  
crime, like the maimers of  
cattle, the murderers of men,  
the boycotters &c &c but  
for what may be called  
their political opinions - **[end 15:1018]**

ff133-33v, January 26, 1888, from MV, re FV's sortie in a hansom cab

unsigned letter, ff134-35, pencil **[8:913]**

**f134**

Claydon Jan 27/88

Dearest Maude

A 'Te Deum' for the first  
day out -

I was only sorry he did not  
rest in the Drawing-room  
(which they call the 'merry  
room) till he went to bed -

Now that he is able to  
leave his room, you will,  
of course, use the Drawing-/merry room  
for him, please - Don't  
waste the room. It is  
made for him. I shall hate  
it if you don't use it. I have  
written to Mrs. Neild -

With unparalleled  
impudence, I wish you could

**f134v**

keep Nurse Murray a few  
days more - It will save  
you anxiety -

Nelly is in ecstasies at  
your talking Welsh to her -

I return the Chart (with  
my compliments to Dr. Townsend)

The last lines are so beautiful  
in their outline, so easy in  
their flow, M. Angelo never  
produced better -

The first are produced  
by his "spirits of hell"

I can't say my sister is any  
better -

God bless you all } Aunt Florence

**f135**

I with the utmost astuteness  
put off a letter half written  
to Prince Narès by Sir H.  
till next mail.

Give me my orders

ff136-37v, January 27, 1888, re a visit to Pine acre by MV and FV's progress

ff138-39, January 28, 1888 re the departure of the nurse, Mrs. Murray

unsigned letter, ff140-41v, pencil **[8:913-14]**

**f140**

Claydon                      Jan 29/88

Dearest Maude I earnestly hope that you  
will use the Drawing-room. You do not know  
how important in that illness, especially in  
convalescence, is light & sun & air *all* day -  
The walks are good; but they give light & air  
for half an hour. The Patient wants it for all  
day. Air & light & food are 3 of the first  
elements of Nursing. The Drawing-room  
is healthier, lighter, sunnier, airier *far* than  
the Dining-room. Indeed I think he had better



**f141**

be in his Bed-room than in the Dining-room  
He should always be in *sun=purified* air.

The proximity of the front door is also bad.  
Let him come in from out of doors & sit in  
the Dining-room, and if to have his luncheon there if  
you like it, & rest - then go up stairs to  
the Drawing-room & have the rest of his  
meals there - [There are little tables enough-]  
It will make all the difference; it will indeed -  
in his convalescence. The Dining-room is  
not a healthy room

[It is odd indeed if with a Messenger & a  
Charwoman in the house they cannot  
carry up these little meals to the Drawing-  
room door:] & Frances take them in]

He should never see a Visitor without being  
asked first - The Visitor should be shown into  
the Dining-room: then he Fred be asked in the  
Drawing-room whether the Visitor shall be  
brought up to him. [You say truly you were in  
an "agony" on Friday when the 4 Visitors came]  
It is so bad for a Convalescent, every time the  
door-bell rings, to think 'who is that?' - & for the  
'Who' to be marched straight in to him -

**f141v**

Please, dearest Maude, humour me in this;  
even if you think me a 'fool' - "Ye suffer fools  
gladly, seeing you yourselves are wise -

And do not hurry about fixing the day of the move  
If you do, I will *bite* you, as Mr. Quilp said to Mrs.  
Quilp - Convalescence & the weather will have their  
own way. But the Drawing-room will help the weather  
to be good.

I am glad Mr./the French is coming - He will of course  
have his meals at your house - I shall tell Mrs. Neild  
- I wish I could offer him a bed. But there is no difficulty  
at No 4, Sir H says I am sorry Nurse Murray is gone - &  
greatly disapprove of Mr. Fred's reason for jubilation.  
ever your loving Aunt Florence

ff142-43, 29 Jan 1888 FV to FN

ff144-45, January 30. 1888, re the Verney's use of the Drawing-room and FV's improvement

ff146-46v, Maude V to FN February 1, 1888 re the use of the Drawing-room

'Nature has responded enthusiastically to all the kind arrangements & highly sanitary surroundings of  
this dear convalescent home. I am sure he is now imbibing beef tea and sitting in the sun and writing  
to you.

This is a day full of strange effects, the snow storms in the night have given a great interest & detail  
to the bold perspective of Halford House and the blue gauze work of the air is lit up with sparking  
shiny points as the hansoms drive along Park Lane

ff147-50v, from FV to FN 1 Feb 1888, Life of Macaulay

Add Mss 41977D

459

signed letter, ff151-52, pencil

**f151**

Claydon                      Θ Feb 1/88

My dearest Maude

Tho' I did not mean to  
*compe!* His Highness the  
Convalescent, (the greatest  
potentate of all, I am so  
glad you are in the  
Drawing-room - so thankful  
for his letters & yours -

Pray don't fix the day  
for going - you must not  
convey the Convalescent even  
to Pine acre on such a day,  
e.g. as this -

And pray remember  
Waterloo Station is draughty  
& generally ill managed in

**f151v**

comparison with Euston -  
& the carriages are so cold -

You must not think of  
going this week - if the weather  
is so cold - And you must  
have an invalid Carriage  
well-warmed beforehand - when you do

If you would allow me to  
charter this for you, you  
would be doing me such a  
favour -

I am ashamed to think I  
was so hurried as not to write  
yesterday or the day before

But you know my heart was  
with you

ever your loving Aunt Florence

**f152**

I know the Miss~~es~~/rs. Murray  
is the most delightful woman  
- such a Xtian -

signed letter, ff153-56v, pencil [8:914-15]

**f153**

Claydon Feb 2/88

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

Thank you a thousand times  
for your delightful letters - all delightful  
excepting poor Miss Morant's sad tragedy

Pray take any of my books  
you like - they will be honoured  
by going with you - only leaving  
me a little Memo of what are  
gone. I am delighted with  
your 'reflection' on Macaulay &  
his father - It is so true -

But first I must beg to  
observe - *not* for the consideration  
but for the guidance of H. H.  
the Convalescent, that here there

**f153v**

are 20 of frost - that the  
snow is frozen on the trees -  
that it really is exceedingly cold  
- that the crows & sparrows are  
besieging this fortress for food -  
& that there is no reason to  
suppose the Pine acre is any  
warmer.

that Waterloo Station is  
exceedingly cold - & so are its  
carriages, tho' the latter may be  
warmed - but the former cannot  
- nor can the road from Pine acre.

Whenever you go - & I am  
much mistaken if Dr. Townsend,  
who is the proper person to ask,  
will let you move in this cold -

**f154**

whenever you go, you must have  
an Invalid Railway Carriage,  
which you will allow me & Gwendolen  
to provide, & a Brougham ~~from~~/to  
Pine acre - both well warmed

It is the proper frame of mind  
of a Convalescent to be  
extremely cross - to abuse his  
food & threaten to throw it  
out of window - to kick the  
fire-irons, & the cat & declare  
there is not a book in the  
world worth reading. I am  
afraid Mr. Fred is not in  
this proper frame of mind.

I think my sister is better

**f154v**

Poor Miss Morant. O how  
tragic this here world is - &  
how comic - how grave & how  
grotesque - what dreadful  
things people do, & what  
idiotic things - how our lives,  
our minds, our happiness  
seem to hang by a thread; &  
how awful this would be, did  
we not know that Infinite Love  
has spun this thread, irresistible  
as Love - what a common place  
trivial surface the world seems  
to have, & what unexpected  
tragedies crop up under one's  
feet all at once, which  
perhaps after all, are less

**f155**

-2-

tragic than the trivialities &  
 the indifferences of the world -  
 I remember when I entered  
 Hospital life, half the Nurses  
 were fallen women, & the other  
 half, deserted wives - Perhaps  
 every one of those wives had  
 her tragedy, tho' a sordid one -  
 The best wardmaster in Scutari  
 had 8 wives, I mean 8 wives  
 alive, at different Stations -  
 And he regularly sent home  
 thro' me 5/ a week out of a scanty pay to the  
 child of ~~one~~/a ninth who was not his  
 wife, a mere school-girl  
 out of Mrs. Bracebridge's School

**f155v**

He was tried when he came  
 home at Warwick Assizes  
 for what was euphoniously  
 called bigamy, but was octogamy.

He was a good fellow -  
 There have been wives more  
 maltreated than his -

*There* were 9 tragedies in  
 one opéra comique -

Every one perhaps has a  
 skeleton in the house - or in  
 the Lunatic Asylum - or somewhere.

The greatest sorrows are those  
 one can never speak of, as  
 somebody says -

I have known sorrows  
 unspeakable in many a Hospital,  
 many a house, many a Workhouse.

**f156**

I think madness is the worse  
I am so very sorry for that  
young Rathbone. I wish that  
dear good Mrs. Richmond every  
success -

I must not take to moralizing,  
except on snow - I assure you  
frozen snow particularly between  
London & Pine acre, is very cold.  
It's all the fault of that Eclipse,  
but the weather is impassable  
for a Convalescent on that  
road - The black birds are  
starving - And the crows &  
sparrows take the food I provide out  
of the mouths of thrushes &  
blackbirds - It is evident the  
animals think the cold is to last

**f156v**

God bless you both  
ever your loving tho'  
moralizing Aunt Florence  
What a sweet & capital  
soul that lady of Wasperton  
must be.

ff157-58, February 3, 1888 from MV, re the Verney's departure from South Street

ff159-60v, Pine- acre, Sunningdale, Berks. Fred V to FN from Pine Acre 3 Feb 1888

ff161-62v, Friday, from MV, re their return to Pine acre



signed letter, ff163-64, pencil

**f164**

Claydon Feb 5/88

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

Tho' justly indignant at your  
absconding, yet I do believe  
you seized the right moment,  
& I am pacified by Dr. Townsend's  
adhesion. And your Telegram  
& dear letters from Pine acre  
were so welcome to us; thank you,  
thank you a thousand times.  
And I know

"with what intense desire he  
*wants* his home."

that is, the children "want" you,  
their "home,

& you the children -  
But I hope you will not

**f163v**

quite desert us but give  
us a bulletin that you  
are going on all right.

The weather here is like  
April - Parthe is better -  
Sir Harry thinks himself  
much older. I never  
know exactly how far his  
feelings are a safe-guide  
He is, as usual, naughty.  
My best love to childer three  
God bless you all  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f164**

I hope Mr. Fred is not  
naughty but obeys a  
judicious rein

All are going to London  
this week

Please tell blessed Margaret  
when you write that I  
was so grateful for her  
dear letter - but have  
really been unable to write  
as I wished.

signed letter, ff165-65v, pencil

**f165**

Claydon Feb 8/88

Dearest Maude

I am so grieved about this  
Lumbago - It is a draw-back.

Have you thought of writing  
to Dr. Townsend? I think you  
have great confidence in him  
- & he knows best what the  
'case' *has been* during the last  
weeks. [I am sorry to say  
that it is not uncommon after  
Fever] & how to treat it.

A new man perhaps  
might not ~~know~~/guess the previous  
history of the case. [*Turn Over*

Sursum corda - God bless you  
both - ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f165v**

We shall be *very* anxious  
to hear again if you  
will be so good -

Add Mss 41977D

467

ff166-67v, February 6, 1888, re the details of FV's lumbago

signed letter, ff168-68v, pen

**f168**

Feb 7/88

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

All will be, please God,  
in South St. tomorrow  
by different trains

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

We feel a good deal anxious  
about you. Please be so good  
as to let me hear, as above.

Thank Mr. Fred for writing -  
But I want to hear more about  
the Lumbago -

**f168v**

Yes: Macaulay was a most disagreeable  
companion, to my fancy. His rude  
imperiousness to good men was  
intolerable. but the episode  
with Zachary is beautiful.

When I compared him with  
Sidney Herbert, I cd scarcely  
stomach him. His conversation  
was a Procession of one.

God bless you  
ever your faithful  
Aunt Florence

ff169-70, from FV to FN 7 Feb 1888 Pine Acre

signed letter, ff171-72v, pencil [8:916]

**f171**

10 South St Feb 9/88  
Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

How can I thank you for  
the noble rug which met my  
astonished eyes at the  
drawing -room hearth?

Indeed, indeed, I do not  
deserve it. And dear Maude's  
choice too. How can I thank  
you?

I trust the Lumbago is  
somewhat going off but it  
requires care.

My sister seems none the  
worse for her journey - tho' she  
is certainly worse than some  
months ago.

**f171v**

But Sir Harry's finger is  
worse & more swollen. he saw  
Mr. Savory for it yesterday who  
told him to eat & poultice.  
Eat he did here - & poultice he  
did. But it is no better and  
Mr. Savory has been sent for  
It is the right hand.

He is not aware of any prick  
to account for it.

He is now resting.  
I am so glad that Maude &  
Gwendolen go tricycling.

**f172**

I have had the most  
terribly insane letter from  
poor Miss Morant. She  
wants to come here & pour  
out all her wrongs.  
I don't think I can refuse  
to see her but this week it  
is impossible

On second thoughts I think  
I will enclose her letter - You  
will judge. Please return it  
with advice

God bless you  
ever your loving & grateful  
Aunt Florence  
She has sent me besides a

**f172v**

common-place rant  
(*printed*) in verse  
addressed to her "brothers"

initialled letter, ff173-74v, pencil red and blue pencil

**f173**

10 South St Feb 12/88  
Sir Harry going on quite well  
purely a *surgical* case-  
poisoned finger-no  
scratch or previous sore  
place treated  
admirably by Mr Savory  
who lanced it on  
Thursday. Still some  
inflammation & swelling  
but *not* extending up arm  
"Dr" Morey as usual  
first-rate. Savory not  
coming to-day. Sir H. Has  
been in here as usual

**f173v**

the morning reading  
but not to church  
looking remarkably well  
- likes (tender) meat &  
it is best for him, best  
of all foods.

Thank God, I believe  
he is quite past all  
risk. Lucky h  
was not at Claydon  
but within reach of Mr  
Savory. It is his  
right hand &u he cannot  
use it yet.

**f174**

My sister pretty well  
    Could you send my  
letter yesterday  
Hope lumbago  
disappeared.  
Pen & pencils at a  
premium-you see-  
Like Paradine, 'I take  
the potatoes, (Hubbard's)  
but boil them in a  
*red* pot' re pot =  
Verney  
i.e. votes for Verney

**f174v**

    Thanks about Miss Morant.  
I am afraid we have  
gone too far for me  
not to see her  
but not yet  
    God bless you  
        Love to children  
        F.N.  
Thanks for newspaper  
cutting.  
What do you think of  
Lord Dufferin

Add Mss 41977D

472

signed letter, ff175-78, pencil

**f175**

10 South St Feb 16/88  
Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred  
I am very glad you are  
able to think of resuming  
your sway over Siam "soon" -  
But I entirely forbid any  
vibrating back to Pine acre  
at night for the present, or  
any irregularity of meals. I  
wish I could ask you here,  
but Louis, of Corpus, Shore's  
2nd son, has a nomination  
to a Clerkship to the Ho. of C.  
with only 6 weeks to prepare  
for the Exam. *Their flat* is let  
& they have no pied à terre  
in London now. So I have



**f175v**

asked him & his father who means to help in coaching him to come here. I hope he will tricycle for at least 1 ½ hours a day. I shall build a stable for the tricycle.

But to reason: Sir Harry has told me how they wish to have you at No. 4 - And Mr. Calvert, I believe, wants you too. And remember you are not to go to Siam except thro' South or Grosvenor St. and you are to *lunch* at the Travellers' if South St is too far. That is the only way to Siam.

And God be with you!

**f176**

2. Thank you very much for Reece's Essence of Beef. Tho' I deal much in those articles, yet I never saw it before. But I am very sorry that Maudie requires that sort of sustenance: invaluable as it is in acute cases -

It does not set a-going the digestive arrangements. Fresh meat, tender, well-hung, well cooked, alone does that.

The bullock, stewed down to a lozenge, does not.

But I do trust Maudie is restoring, not her soul which does not need it, but her body

**f176v** [also 47766 f184]

3. Thanks for Burdett's  
pamphlet, Pension Fund -  
There is a great split: a  
Batrachyomachia - Burdett  
& 20 000 on the one hand,  
The Matrons & Princess Christian  
on the other. Both are going  
to set up Nurses' Registers.  
Both are bidding for popularity  
on all sides. Hy Bonham  
Carter has declined to be  
Vice President to one side -  
& I to t'other. We will talk about  
it when we meet.

It is a formidable movement  
which I regret. It will do  
the Nurses great harm.  
But I have great faith in  
Progression by Antagonism

**f177**

-2- {archivist: Feb 16/88} [also in 47766 f183]

Popes called forth Luther &  
Luther Loyola -  
Loyola Jansenism & Pascal  
Jansenism was destroyed by  
but destroyed Jesuitism  
& good I suppose came  
from it all  
They are trying to make  
a republic of nurses, with  
a Princess at its head  
perfectly incapable of governing  
themselves or of knowing  
how to raise their own  
standard

Yet doubtless will good  
come of it all.  
But meanwhile training will

**f177v**

be destroyed by registering.

A truce to moralizing: the  
symptom of age -

My love to childer three -  
Sir Harry is blooming - my  
sister better

I have returned her her

Edinburgh Review for  
you to behold the stars.

ever your loving

old Aunt Florence

**f178**

How does that 'brick'  
the Lady of Wasperton, do?

initialled note, f179, pencil

**f179**

{archivist: Feb 1888}

My dear Mr. Fred

I looked over my books last  
night for the children -

- could not find Miss Yonge's  
"Stories from English History" -  
but will order them -

Do you care to have  
Church's Stories from Virgil  
& from Homer (enclosed)  
for them/Ralph? God bless them  
in great haste

F.N.

23/2/88

Add Mss 41977D

476

initialled letter, ff180-81v, pencil

**f180**

10 South St March 28/88

My dear Mr. Fred

How is your Minister?

I mean how is his temper?

I had hoped, as you know,  
to see dearest Maude when  
she was in London & to  
thank her myself for her *most*  
kind invitation to our  
convalescent Sisters - but  
they have been provided for  
elsewhere. And I could not  
trouble *her*.

As for your & her *most*  
gracious invitation to me, I  
cannot thank her enough. But  
there is no earthly possibility  
of it for me, alas!

**f180v**

I have read as much as I  
could of delightful, wholesome  
cheerful Rogers - how wise  
about Education, how wise  
about Church Disestablishment,  
how wise about Sunday opening.

to read a little more of  
him when I can I should  
like                      But shall I send  
him to No 4 now?

Poor Morison: surely his  
view of Xtianity is almost  
inexplicably superficial  
But I will say my say  
about him another time.

Shall I send *that* in  
to No 4?

**f181** Poor Germany

it is like a Greek *tragedy*  
- a trilogy

Play 1              William Emperor  
2              Present “  
3              young William “  
                which you will live to see  
                - the tragedy but I  
                shall not. It will be a  
                bitter one - and their Empire  
                at an end

I am so sorry that I cannot  
do your Gordon - which I like -  
I am afraid my notes on poor  
Miss Morant were harsh -  
But indeed I am not harsh  
to her -              Has she the  
so-called maid the Nurse,

Add Mss 41977D

478

**f181v**

with her still? I hope so  
with dearest love to  
Maude & chicks  
ever yours  
F.N.

unsigned letter, ff182-84v, pencil [8:916-17]

**f182**

*re Matron: Gordon Boys' Home* April 26/88

Dearest Maude I am very much exercised in my  
old mind about the Gordon Boys *washing*  
& whether there is anything *to wash*

Sheets: yes, perhaps none  
But Blankets: must be washed at least once a century  
Ticks have they any bolsters?  
you say no mattresses?

Towels perhaps they have only one *round Towel*  
& Cloths to 20 boys but these must be washed  
*occasionally*

I suppose mugs & plates are sometimes washed  
Then they must have cloths to wipe them & themselves

**f183**

Table Cloths do they have any?  
Dusters I suppose they have some housemaid's  
work?

*Under-clothing*  
Shirts?

Yes, I am sure *Soldiers* wear shirts  
Because in all Wars, we, the women, have  
have had to supply shirts (for lost kits) & washing  
And the men could not lie naked in  
their beds when they had any -

Do the Gordon Boys lie naked in their  
beds? I am sure that is bad & immoral  
If they don't their shirts must be washed

Stockings I think certainly they must have -  
stockings (or socks)? Then these  
must be washed.

Linings? these must be washed? sometimes?  
to trousers  
to caps -

&c &c How can we find out?  
I can't ask Genl "Hig" -  
& Mrs. Hawthorne is in Jersey

Rags for the Hospital?

I think the boys *must* have under-  
clothing, because Mrs. H. said: Stand fast  
for Matron to teach the boys to mend their

**f183v**

underclothing. It brings them in contact  
with Matron.

Hospital Linen -        There must be *some*, I should  
think

**f184**

-2-

I am so glad we had that bit of conversation  
about the Gordon boys. But I am afraid I  
kept you too long - & you were very tired -  
I am sure, are not you?, that the Matron must  
be a woman of strong sense, character & kindness to hold  
her own, herself the only woman, among the  
Serjeants especially, who will probably hardly acknowledge  
her, or else make her one of themselves -  
N.B. My Nursing instincts are rather appalled by  
the broken leg being left alone in Barrack Ward .  
Had he an Electric bell to make himself heard?

**f184v**

One would have thought that unless  
the "slight" cases in "Hospital" were  
infectious, *they* should have ~~been~~/had the training  
of waiting upon him in Hospital -

Even in the worst Barracks, a  
broken-legged soldier would have had a  
comrade or orderly to wait upon him.

No better training could have been  
given to a "Gordon" boy - could there?

And could not Mrs. Tyndall have  
come in?



Add Mss 41977D

481

unsigned letter, ff185-88, pen & pencil

**f185**

May 8/88

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

My dear Mr. Fred

Unspeakable thanks for  
all your letters, & for  
dear Maudie's most  
generous invitation to  
one if not two 'convalescing'  
Nurses. I write at once  
for fear she should in  
her overwhelming kindness  
be making preparations  
for the same - because I  
do not think we shall  
have any worthy to avail  
themselves thereof. And I  
as so afraid she should be

**f185v**

taking trouble. It would  
indeed be delightful -  
I am afraid I could not see  
you, as I should wish,  
before "Friday". But try  
me when you come back -  
I hope, then.

I was so very much obliged  
for the letter about the  
creatures' bedding, under=  
clothing & washing at  
Gordon Boys' Home - It  
seems they are very  
amply supplied. And  
I do not know what I

**f186**

should have done without  
your letter. I am literally  
& not figuratively in such  
a 'fix' about the Matron.

I had found the very  
Matron of Matrons for you  
- one of our own people -  
devoted to soldiers - devoted  
to boys - a gentlewoman,  
a motherly woman, and  
a housewife. Happily  
she will not come x - I  
say *happily*, because it  
is *quite impossible* to bring  
the 'Hig' & Co thro' Sir Harry  
to state *duties & terms*.  
And no sensible woman, of

x she will not leave her post in a  
Military Hospl except to  
return to St. Thomas'.

**f186v**

course, will come without -

I have another, a cousin  
of Miss Crossland's, also in  
our work, but not half  
the woman the first is:  
who *would* come as Matron, but  
& she requires "details" -

details of what she is to  
do - details of what she is  
to receive. It seems  
most absurd, but tho' I see  
Sir Harry so constantly, I  
cannot get there.

They cannot decide between

30 & 50 a year, tho' I saw  
the latter 50 in Genl 'Hig's' hand  
writing to his Colleagues -

~~And~~/Another thing: they keep repeating:  
she is to have charge of the

**f187**

-2-

“Laundry” - “not washing with  
“her hands” -[ No: they could  
get a woman at 18 to do  
that.] apparently ignoring  
their “Mrs. Marshall” who  
teaches the boys. Is the  
Matron to be over Mrs.  
Marshall? &c &c

I am literally at my  
wits' end. And our lady  
sister is waiting for the  
information.

I am afraid, you know,  
that they will see quantities  
of women with such  
written Testimonials as they  
have shown me - And, tho'

**f187v**

I am not at all enthusiastic  
about my second woman  
she is an Archangel compared  
with what the others are  
likely to be.

But - we can get no  
information for her -  
And - I don't see how  
*you* can.

It is a miserable state of  
un-business-like-ness.

N.B. The only Obsn I have to  
make upon the under -clothing  
is: they, the boys, ought not  
to sleep in the same, tho'  
flannel shirts they wear by day -  
The day shirts should be aired at  
night - the night shirts by day -

**f188**

2. Is not my contribution,  
poor little thing, to Mrs.  
Paterson's memorial due  
& more than due?

And how is that affair  
going on?

I have a great deal more  
to say - but must put it off.

Rosalind is staying with me  
She is going next week as  
Delegate to the Co-operative  
Congress at Dewsbury

initialled letter, ff189-90v, pen

**f189**

*Gordon Boys' Home:*

June 6/88

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

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you very much for  
sending me the Hospital plan,  
which I have made great  
use of in my letters to Genl.  
Higginson - & for your  
letters.

I saw Sir Harry twice  
after his return from your  
haven of peace which he  
enjoyed with intense enjoyments.  
- Maudie, the children, all  
as well he might. I don't  
think I ever saw him enjoy  
anything so much.

He also gave me an account

**f189v**

of the Gordon Boys' Home:  
but I wished I could have  
gained more particulars  
from him, on account  
of this anxious Matron  
business - the serving of  
the boys' dinners seems nasty  
enough - & much to require  
a Matron.

You have not the merest  
scratch of the *disposition*  
of the buildings, have you?

Could you give me a  
rough ~~sketch~~ guess how  
many hundred yards from  
Hospital to *General* Kitchen,  
which she will have to  
overlook -

**f190**

from General Kitchen to

Boys' Dining Hall -  
to Dormitories - I hope  
the Dormitory of new arrivals  
will be under her -

from General Kitchen to Laundry.

I suppose there is no kind  
of covered way from one  
building to another -  
that the boys *must* get wet,  
if weather is bad: does  
this hurt them?

You know half naked or  
all=naked boys don't  
get ill from getting wet,  
but clothed boys do.  
And the Missionaries have  
materially damaged the  
healths of some native

**f190v**

tribes by introducing  
clothes, & consumption  
with clothes.

Now as the Matron will be  
clothed, what kind of  
distance will she have  
to encounter without cover  
from Hospital (which is,  
I suppose, quite outside  
yard or enclosure) to Kitchen  
&c &c

There are many other  
questions I should like  
to ask you.

ever your affectionate  
F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

488

Add Mss 68886, microfilm, 190 folios, 97 pages, correspondence with Frederick and Maude Verney  
Part 5 1888-90, Adam Matthew reel 41

ff1-1v, June 6, 1888, from FV, about a very tender chicken

signed letter, ff2-7, pen & pencil

**f2**

*Private Matron* June 10/88

*Gordon Boys' Home*

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

My dear Mr. Fred

I am afraid this taking S.  
Constable so kindly to Gordon  
Boys' Home is very inconvenient  
to you. But you will agree,  
I am sure, that it is entirely  
out of the question for the  
"formal offer" to be made to  
& accepted by her at  
Wednesday's Meeting, without  
her seeing the Gordon Boys'  
Home & also you & I say, being  
seen by Genl Higginson.

Genl Higginson appears to  
have forgotten that *he* properly  
stipulated & we properly stipulated  
that she should be taken over  
the Gordon Boys' Home before  
any decision was come to -



**f2v**

that further I stipulated "very  
 "properly" in accordance  
 with your advice that  
 he (& his Home Committee probably)  
 should see S. Constable  
 & should also take her character  
 from her employers  
 independently of us -

On Friday morning I received  
 a letter enclosing Genl Tyndall's answers to questions, - telling me  
 he was to have a "Home" Committee  
 on that day, asking me  
 to "send Miss Constable to see  
 "Gordon Boys' Home as soon  
 "as possible" - & that she should "report  
 "quietly to" me afterwards -  
 that he would "warn Genl Tyndall"  
 & that they wanted her to come  
 in to the Hospital "*at once*"!!

I immediately sent down a  
 letter to catch him at his "Home"

**f3**

Committee - saying that I would  
 do all he desired -  
 reminding him that she must  
 give from one to three months'  
 notice to her present employers  
 that he must see her & must  
 also take her character before  
 engaging her.

&c & &c  
 & saying that I would ask you  
 to take her ~~over~~/ very kindly over G. B. H.

Late on Friday night I received  
 a letter from him, apparently  
 forgetting all this, & merely  
 saying that she was approved  
 by the Home Committee &  
 would be approved, he ~~supposed~~/hoped  
 by the Wednesday's Genl Committee  
 But she was not to "give  
 notice" *till* Wednesday!!!

(yesterday)

On Saturday morning, I telegraphed,  
 as you know, to your kindness,

**f3v**

- to Genl Higginson at Marlow,  
 - to S. Constable & *her* Matron  
 at S. Marylebone Infirmary  
 It was impossible to get her off  
 to Gordon Boys' Home on  
 Saturday (yesterday) of course -

But this is not a satisfactory  
 way of doing business at all.  
 Unless you could put off the  
 proposing her at Genl Meeting  
 on Wednesday, how are all  
 the preliminaries to be  
 got thro'? on Tuesday?

I have now, according to your  
 kind Telegram, sent this (Sunday)  
 morning the following to  
 S. Constable & her Matron:

**f4**

-2-

- *Tuesday* morning                      a.m.  
 to be at Waterloo Station    7.35  
                  Sunningdale        8.37  
 where you "will kindly meet her" &  
 "take her in a fly to Gordon B. Home."  
 [of course you will let me pay all  
 expences]

                 Sunningdale            11.  
                  Waterloo                12 noon  
 then come here, to me & "report *quietly*"  
 to me "what she thinks" (see Genl. Hig)  
 I wish she could have had more time  
 at G.B. H. - & more leisure at the  
 Hospl, & to see nasty dinners  
 which I presume are at 12 or one o'cl

I have also told the Matron Miss Vincent that  
 there is an "epileptic" case - & some  
 "wretched lads"        I wish she Constable could  
 have time to take all this in -  
 I think her slow - & I think the  
 position with such masters as

**f4v**

Genls Tyndall & Higgn exceptionally difficult - tho' Genl H. has been kindness itself - but oh so unbusiness-like, forgetting all his own arrangements - Of the two, Genl Tyndall has been the most business - like. And his 'answers' which must be the correct ones differ widely from Genl. Higgn's

[I have my reasons, in connection with your letter, written from Travellers' Club, for telling you all this]

I think *Genl Tyndall* would make the best master of the two.

2. Also, what is eminently unsatisfactory, the Matron's duties, which were laid down by Genl Higgn himself, modified

**f5**

with some difficulty by me, accepted by Constable *with conditions*, have been presented ~~as my~~ by Genl Higgn, as he writes to me, not only to Genl Tyndall but to his "Home" Committee, as laid down *by me!!*

I am sure this is not done from any wrong motive but from forgetfulness & want of business habits -[It is not uncommon in a Military Officer of rank: because you see soldiers & young officers must not "remind" him of lapses or changes.

"Theirs not to reason why" - But it is a terrible man to have to do with. And on this occasion singularly unfortunate]

Yet he has been most efficient for Gordon Boys' Home.

**f5v**

3. Apparently he expected  
S. Constable to come in as  
Matron on Thursday -  
& lighted all the fires in  
the Hospl last week.  
You see he throws the whole  
responsibility of her  
on me -

I have sent G B H *Matron's* duties  
in writing, & a copy of  
Genl Tyndall's answers to our  
Questions, to S. Constable &  
*her* Matron Miss Vincent that there may be  
no mistake *at their end.*

4. I hope S. Constable, who struck  
me as being rather mentally slow, will  
have time to take in the distances  
between Hospl & Genl Kitchen,  
“ Boys' Dormitory,  
&c as you kindly said.

**f6**

-3-

This is the *only* point on which Miss Vincent  
her Matron, hesitated at all  
She says Constable *is* a “strong”  
woman. but the only illness  
she has had was a fortnight of ~~slight~~ Rheumatism  
(which however has not recurred)

She says, however, that she did  
not understand the “Buildings”  
were “detached”, till I  
reminded her of it by letter  
on Thursday.

Altogether, I feel I must  
insist distinctly, thro' your  
kindness, ~~of~~/on her having a good  
look at the place *before*  
Wednesday - inconvenient  
as I am afraid it is to you

**f6v**

4.5. Please do not (this is in reference to your letter to Genl Higginson, which you kindly sent me) write of a "Matron" to him as likely to work a great change or "avert a disaster" - silently & quietly she *will* make a change. But, as you said, ~~what~~/how can one Matron *influence* & "mother" 160 boys? And if they do, as I think they do, expect a kind of miraculous change in *discipline* from the presence of one trained woman, *that* in itself will bring difficulty to her, & disappointment to them - It *does* bring this change in Infirmary Wards. But then there are no such restrictions as Genl Higggn gives -

**f7**

I should so astonish & puzzle her, if I were to tell her, as Genl Higggn told me, that she "must not be too strict with the boys *for fear* they "should desert" that she must do everything "by tact" & with the soldier cook too - that I have not told her.

[No such caution is needed in Infirmary Wards - tho' of course N any Patient may "discharge" himself any day]

I think that Genl Higginson having *said this* must be taken into account if you think well to write to him, as in your letter sent here - It is indeed on that account that I write this long letter - I mean I don't think the state of things is all Genl Tyndall's fault - do you? ever yours  
F. Nightingale

signed letter, ff8-10, pen &amp; pencil

**[5:248-49]****f8***Private Your letter to Genl Higginson*

10, South Street, June 10/88 {printed address:}  
Grosvenor Square. W.

My dear Mr. Fred

I think your letter to Genl  
Higginson excellent especially  
where you say that the worst  
punishment to a boy ought  
to be to be dismissed from the  
Gordon Boys' Home -

But is Genl. Higginson the  
man to write such a letter to -  
or to write at all, on this subject,  
to, until he has been led by  
careful conversation from  
yourself to propose from  
himself what you propose?

Even then must you not  
be most careful to frame your  
letter so that he cannot by  
showing or reading it to others

**f8v**

bring about if something quite  
different from what you intend?

Will he not forget what y he  
has told you?

And is it not most probable  
that, whether you mark it  
"Private" or not, he will read  
~~or show~~ it to his "Home" Committee?

I have written, not without  
intention, a (too long) account  
of my very brief experience  
of him in my other letter  
to you because it is  
instructive, & because it  
has put us into such a fix?  
And will he not do the same  
to you? throwing upon you the  
responsibility, (if he does any  
thing,) of getting rid of Genl

**f9**

Tyndall & finding his successor?

Besides, is it quite certain  
that "economy" is the source of  
the mischief; or that "expenditure"  
would mend it?

They have two men already,  
1 General at how much a  
1 Staff Officer year?  
and ? Secretary  
where *one* would probably do better

And is it quite certain that  
expenditure would find such  
a Chaplain as you want?

And you do not, I believe,  
wish for a Chaplain of your  
own -

However that may be, please  
consider very well how you  
would put such a letter as  
this into Genl. Higginson's  
power. Will it work what

**f9v**

you wish? And is it not  
almost certain that Genl Tyndall  
will hear of it as an attack  
from you?

2

Please do not mention the  
Matron at all in *this* way  
(for reasons mentioned in ~~the~~  
my other letter) -

It might be very well to  
bring it/her up afterwards - in  
the sense of wanting more  
Assistant Matrons to *influence*  
the boys - At present, I  
believe we have carried the  
woman-servant & laundress -  
But I cannot be sure, because  
Genl Higginson's letters *ignore*  
each other - Therefore I am  
on tenterhooks about this  
Matron's business, as you see -  
I am

**f10**

-2-

writing to Genl Higginson to  
remind him of all he stipulated.

If *he does not do it* - and

*how can he now?* - he  
ought not to ask his Wednesday's

Meeting to confirm the  
appointment of S. Constable  
as Matron by ~~the~~/his Home  
Committee.

What an acre of writing  
he does impose upon one!

And yet I like him so much  
I have written to him your & S. Constable's  
houses on Tuesday that he may  
warn Genl Tyndall  
ever your affte  
F. Nightingale

ff11-12v, Fred V to FN from Travellers' Club, Pall Mall, S.W., June 18, 1888 re a meeting with  
General Tyndall and the death of "unser Fritz"

ff13-13v, Fred V to FN, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., July 7, 1888, re  
the Paterson Memorial Fund [presumably FN was one who "promised donations towards" f13



unsigned letter, ff14v-14, pencil, on FV letter of July 7

**f14v**

Dear Sir

I believe I may claim an old acquaintance with you - & that your father was a farmer of Lea ~~with-a~~ as I am a daughter of Mr. Nightingale of Lea Hurst.

We are now ~~looking for~~/assisting the School Board of Lea & Holloway to look for a School master And Mr. Arthur Clough of the Education Dept has kindly seen among others Mr. Burton of Linton School

x

Grandson of the present owner of L. H.

Might I ask you be so very kind confidentially, if you prefer it - as to give me your opinion of Mr. Burton of Linton School, both as a schoolmaster & as a man who

**f14**

would like to be friendly with the schoolchildren parents & would take his place in any plans for the improvement & pleasure of Lea & Holloway which you know so well For instance there is an Institute now in Holloway -

who would not only bring the children on for Examinations & grants but interest himself in their tone of mind & character in what they *will* be in this world & a future one

He would have girls as well as boys in his classes who would lead their games & care for their health & vigour

**f14v** pencil

Dear Sir

I believe I may claim an old acquaintance with you- & that your father was a farmer of Lea with as I am a daughter of Mr Nightingale of Lea Hurst.

We are now looking assisting the School Board of Lea & Holloway to look for a School master And Mr Arthur Clough of the Education Dept. X has kindly seen among others Mr Burton of Linton School x grandson of the present owner of L.H. Might I ask you to be so very kind-confidentially, if you prefer it--as to give me your opinion of Mr Burton of Linton School, both as a schoolmaster & a man who

signed letter, ff15-16, pen

**f15**

July 15/88

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

My dear Mr. Fred

I have paid in 17. 10 being the third part of 50 guineas, - a more easy sum for my faulty arithmetic to trisect than 50 - towards the "Paterson Memorial "Fund" to be paid, in 3 years How are your Women's Unions getting on?

Lately, I have been instructed that Trades' Unions divide classes still more & set capital against labour more - whereas Co-operative Societies bring together capital & labour, make the labourer a capitalist, & heal the divisions between classes.

**f15v**

you see my manners &  
 principles have been  
 corrupted by my youthful  
 cooperative prophet, Rosalind. And if  
 you observe aberration, lay  
 it to her door & not mine.  
 It is sad when youth corrupts  
 old age - She is entirely  
 given up to Co-operative Societies.

Now I want to ask *you*  
*how it is.*

And how about the Match  
 girls' strike? Poor Match girls!  
 Many thanks for your kind contribution  
 - troublesome to you, I am afraid, in your  
 business - to my letter for new proposed  
 Women's Hospital.

**f16**

I return Mr. Morant's letter  
 with thanks. He is a noble  
 fellow. If he is made Tutor  
 to the Crown Prince, he must  
 have full assurance that he *is*  
 to be Educator & not merely Professor  
 or Lesson - giver, like a Music  
 master - must not he?

A great deal is thrown  
 upon you. Success to all  
 your efforts.

I was going to rave against  
 the Siamese. But I really  
 think our Govt beats the  
 world in delays. & some  
 Departments ~~in want of~~ /or in want of integrity  
 ever your affte old  
 Aunt Florence

ff17-18v, Fred V to FN Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks. August 5, 1888, re Trades' Unions, here last night for tricycling from Tring roads abominably rough but Berkshire rds have spoilt me. The name of our League has been changed to "Women's Trades-union Provident League" because many know what trades unions mean, but not what protection in this context means. And we enc trades union, why not then say so.

Add Mss 41977D

500

signed note, ff19-20, pencil

**f19**

10 South St 8/8/88  
Thank you so much for your  
letters, my dear Mr. Fred -  
Poor Miss Morant: yet you said  
the right thing to her.  
I return two books you kindly  
lent me. I like your letter  
in the Fortnightly so much  
and I send you my sister's  
little book - I go to Claydon  
to morrow.  
You paid for S. Constable -  
I repaid her what she paid  
herself - & now please let me  
repay you what I can -  
I enclose 1.

**f20**

God bless you & Maudie  
& children 3 -  
to you all  
Aunt Florence's  
tender & loving love  
Calladine has written  
to me again for a Subn  
I think I shall write to  
him that I am *not*  
political  
F.N.

ff21-22, Fred V to FN, The Glen, Inverleithen, N.B. September 3, 1888, re some grouse being sent to FN

ff23-24v, Fred V to FN The Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, September 17, 1888, re a trip around Ireland  
FV and MV are to take

signed letter, ff25-25v, pencil

**f25**

October 1/88

Dearest Maudie

It is a great help to have  
seen you -

The two old brothers - the dear  
old noble head of the family -  
the tortured body of the struggling  
wife, with her unfailing courage -  
it is all so piteous - & so  
check-mating - as you said -  
I think Sir Harry altered -

it was a responsibility to lay  
the situation before you -  
tho' I should so have liked to  
hear of you tricycling thro'  
the Irish villages

And I had

**f25v**

so much to hear from Mr.  
Fred. & could not stay  
But do you know I found  
her better when I went  
down after 7 than I  
have seen her for some days -  
I am sure your visit did  
her good.

God bless you both  
your grateful  
Aunt F.

initialled letter, ff26-26v, pencil

**f26**

10 South St. Oct 25/88

My dear Mr. Fred

I have read thro' your Memo once, but only once. It seems very plain & clear a case to an outsider - But I could not, without reading it 2 or 3 times, say more -

There are a few little inverted commas, & such things wrong.

To morrow I shall not have a moment - having myself a heavy mail -

[Do you happen to know whether Ld Ripon is in London?]

I could perhaps look at your Memo a little later on, but

**f26v**

fear I should be of little use -  
You have got up the case energetically - Why don't we know what case that confounded F.O has?

*You* will give Mr. Morant the best advice - And please give him a warm message from me -

ever yours

F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

503

signed letter, ff27-28, pen

**f27**

Gordon Boys' Home 20/11/88  
Hospital 10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

My dear Mr. Fred

Sir Harry brought me  
the amended plan. The  
extension has been made  
in the only direction possible  
& that which Sir D. Galton  
pointed out. But it  
makes the Matron's duties  
nearly impossible - I sent  
him my criticism which  
he approved; but said  
nothing could be done -  
without remodelling the  
whole building, which is  
true.

**f27v 2**

I bought a clock yesterday  
for the Matron which  
she asked for - And  
the ~~people~~/clock maker kindly insists  
on sending down one  
of his own men with it to  
'start' it.

Could you kindly tell me  
*which station* he should  
land at nearest to  
Gordon Boys' Home - &  
*how reach it?*

[The clock master who  
insisted on bringing me  
a selection of clocks himself

**f28**

to choose amongst was  
very much interested in  
the Gordon Boys - I was  
quite touched]

Would you give me the  
*proper direction* of the  
Gordon Boys' Home for

Add Mss 41977D

504

myself?

ever yours

F. Nightingale



unsigned letter, ff29-29v, pen

**f29**

5/12/88

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

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you for your most  
interesting letter about Siamese  
girls -

I enclose Hy Bonham Carter,  
& do not think I have much  
~~anything~~ to add except  
what I have said before

The "London" has about  
100 Probationers - of whom  
about 20 I think but  
am not sure are these  
"Extra" Probrs - have  
had  
friends  
there

They live all in one  
great 'Home' [P.T.O.

There is no one at all  
corresponding to our Miss Crossland  
F.N.

**f29v**

These "Extra" Probrs do not  
give trouble  
& seldom take it.

ff30-31, Estimate for the cost of training as Nurses 4 Siamese girls, HV hand?

unsigned letter, ff32-33, pencil

**f32**

13/12

My dear Mr. Fred

I thank God that Margaret  
is here. I do think we shall  
soon see a better day now -

Will you tell your Father  
that I will certainly see  
the Nurse from Oxford  
tomorrow (he asks)  
& see her every day which  
will be much more to the  
purpose - & yet more to the  
purpose that Margt will  
see her -

But will you ask whether

**f32v**

*she* is intended to be the  
*Night Nurse* & the  
present Night Nurse to  
assist Julie in the day  
time - or how?

The *most* valuable Nurse  
should be the *Night Nurse*  
because then nobody is  
"about" to control her  
And Patients are always  
worse at night.

Or is she to be introduced  
first in the day time  
& then ~~at~~<sup>ni</sup> succeed to  
night work?

**f33**

Did the Doctors see  
or at least feel  
convinced of the painful  
*wanderings* of the Poor  
patient

Thank you all

Add Mss 41977D

507

signed letter, f34, pen

**f34**

Xmas Day 1888

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

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you, thank you  
more than I can say  
for your two last accounts of  
dear Sir Harry. I need  
not say how anxiously I  
shall look for the morning's  
post. But you are all  
on the alert. And Morey's  
nursing is so wonderfully  
excellent. Is Edmund there?  
It was so good of you to write.

ever with best love to  
Maudie & Margaret  
your loving Aunt Florence  
My poor sister's cough is so  
trying - And those little devils of  
byrsae on her back!

signed letter, f35, pencil

**f35**

26/12/88

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

How can I thank you enough  
my dear Mr. Fred, for your  
Telegram of this morning?  
I hang upon your words-  
ever your loving

Aunt Florence

What room is he in? I always  
regretted that he *would*, not only  
at South St., but also at Claydon,  
sleep in a N. room -  
I hope Sir H. Acland is not going  
to Genoa, not only for his/our sakes  
but for his own.

F.N.

signed letter, ff36-37, pen

**f36**

Dec 28/88

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

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

How good you have been  
to me. I did not have  
Sir H. Acland's promised  
letter this morning. But I had  
his Telegram yesterday *after*  
the visit, & your dear letter  
& Mr. Fred's last night -  
so I could have no later news  
till Margaret came.

Delightful news - Thank God  
But Sir H. A. impresses upon  
me as he does upon you  
that "(IF all goes *well*, it  
will be a long & tedious Nursing."  
And now I want to ask if

**f36v**

I *might* see you & also  
Margaret to morrow -  
[I do not propose putting off  
my long=made appointment  
with a District Matron  
to day because you will  
have your Great Tea,  
which all will enjoy-]  
But *any* time to morrow (Saturday) if  
Margaret *could* spare me  
¼ hour -  
~~or~~/*any* time on Saturday  
or Sunday if *you* could  
Thanks, thanks for all -  
ever your loving & grateful  
Aunt Florence

**f37**

I will send down this  
afternoon for Margaret's  
news.

signed letter, f38-39v, pencil

[8:918]

**f38**

15/1/89

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

Dearest Maude

Very many thanks for your  
letters. One cannot help  
feeling *very* anxious - There  
is no one to say: you *must*  
& you must *not*-

Do you hear *when* Sir H  
*Acland* is coming back? I  
think my sister must have  
heard from him - He is the  
only person who can -

Dr. Benson has no  
authority; tho' he is sensible  
& watchful & clever. Sir H.A.  
says.

**f38v**

How good you have been  
in writing.

My aunt at Embley is  
dying - she can hardly survive  
this week - And I cannot  
get rid of the thought that  
before the earth, as you say,  
has put off its solemn  
winter's sleep, these two  
homes may have been  
broken up -

We must trust them with  
God

**f39**

I return Princess Narès'  
lovely letter. It is the heavenly  
'possibility' of her life that  
she has you & Mr. Fred -  
[For her boys, what would  
she do without you?]

I send "Daisy Doll"  
(Mother Grumpy) sung & acted with  
triumphant success by the  
Board School children of S.  
Thomas', got up by themselves  
after school hours under  
their own Master & Mistress

**f39v**

God bless you, dearest  
Maude.

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

Love to Kathleen 1 p.m.

Thanks, thanks for this  
morning's note. One  
must feel very anxious - with  
these shivering fits, however  
slight, & temperature going up  
& cough, there must be some  
mischief going on - easier to  
lament than to stop, as you say  
What does Dr. Benson say?

signed letter, ff40-41, pen black-edged stationery

**f40**

10 South St Jan 26/89

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you so very much  
for your Telegram of victory  
yesterday - I was so very  
glad of it. I wish  
you & your constituents &  
Council joy & success  
with all my heart.

I was also very glad  
that 'our man' Perkins  
was returned.

Jan 27

Late last night I had  
a Telegram from good Morey  
"Decided improvement to-day"  
Thank God!

**f40v**

How are the children?  
Best love to Maudie.

Sir Harry has written  
to me continually & has  
mentioned often his close  
interest in your Siamese  
work.

Do you know anything  
yet of your Minute to  
Ld Salisbury - & that  
strange business? Tho' I laughed, I felt  
it deeply - & could have cried -  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f41**

Yesterday was the  
anniversary of (4 years ago)  
Khartoum & the death  
of that hero=saint.

What a state is all in  
now in East Africa -  
& indeed Central Africa -

Add Mss 41977D

512

signed letter, ff42-42v, pencil

[8:918]

**f42**

10 South St Feb 7/89

Dearest Maude

There really seems to be  
some ~~real~~ improvement to- day

She is so anxious lest you  
should all be hurt by her  
persisting in declining "the  
"dear ones" - " who all offer" -  
I have a letter from her by  
afternoon post. She says  
"Dr. Benson says: It is a  
most critical moment - a little  
thing may turn the balance  
the wrong way - Ask them to  
put it off 4 or 5 days" -

**f42v**

I have assured her that  
you only want to do what  
is decided as best -

Thank God if the  
improvement is real - And  
thank God ~~esp~~ too, whatever  
happens - For what He does is  
done in His love -

in great haste  
ever your affte

Aunt Florence

{written along the side }

She feels it like Niagara, she says  
standing on the brink  
And so do I

{f43 is blank}



initialled letter, ff44-45v, pencil [black-edged stationery

**f44**

{in the top margin}

I give 12/2/89

you joy 10, South Street,  
of Wol= Park Lane. W. {printed address:}  
=verton

My dear Mr. Fred

I return Mr. Morant's  
most interesting letter  
which I ought to have  
done before. May God  
prosper his pluck.

Also please to ask  
Maudie for her receipt  
& her promise of a butcher

I heard from my sister  
of her inviting you & of  
your putting off your visit  
which, she says, is better,  
because then Harry will  
be able to see you

**f44v**

Nothing can be better  
than the account - no  
fever since Friday - no  
excitement - but, he tells  
me himself, he must  
*not talk* - looks more  
like himself than he has  
done for 3 weeks -  
But the cold makes the  
greatest care necessary.  
They talk of letting him go  
into Parthe's bed-room to day.

he says himself (to me)  
Feb & March are bad  
months for me. So I hope  
no care will be relaxed  
Lung satisfactory

**f45**

I am afraid Edmund goes home to morrow. He read battles (in India) to Sir Harry yesterday - interesting without exciting him -

They want Margaret now. But I am afraid she is too anxious about Lettice.

I hope you two will be able to go.

I could see you for ½ hour to day. say at 5.30, if convenient. (you kindly ask) But I am afraid my "diplomatic" faculties are not in good

**f45v**

order. I think you are a great man, & have won a great position in Burmah by careful choice of persons & careful "home" influence as well as by other things.

Your account of Mr. Morice most interesting but oh the telling you (in a week) about Genl. T. & Major C -! And oh the dreadful mistake of talking in Commee about this man superseding Genl T.! Genl T. must be an angel, if he likes him -

ever yours, F.N.

signed letter, ff46-47v, pen

**f46**

10 South St. Feb 14/89  
Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred  
I am so glad you are going tomorrow to Claydon. I think Sir Harry is in a most unsatisfactory state. Every thing lung, tongue, temperature, &c, is improving *except* himself. No apparent reason exists; but he is more feeble than he was 3 weeks ago. He *was* most eager to go another room daily, but now, tho' authorized by the state of lung &c to do so, - to go into the next room - he feels quite unequal - & does not go. Morey says, he is certainly making progress, yet he is weaker than before -

**f46**

Do you know I sometimes think that certain difficulties filter into his room, & cause this in part?  
Parthe's state of mind, I assure you, is not what I'd/you think - This is what her letters have always conveyed to me: - *'Edmund so kind, so judicious; &c &c -*  
- reads to his father, without - exciting him (another day) &c &c  
'The dear ones all offer to come - It is so painful to have to refuse them. but Benson &c &c [She may have said, tho' not to me: - I am 'bothered' to have to refuse them - Some people, not Irish, always say that they are 'bothered', & that people are 'queer']

**f47**

What she said to me ~~was~~  
about your coming this week, was:  
that

1. she asked you on Monday,  
but 'not to see him.' X
2. ~~You~~ She was disappointed  
at your not coming
3. on second thoughts, it was  
better you should come a  
few days later (than Monday)  
because he would be able  
to see & enjoy you -

As to Edmund's visit *re* Claydon  
alas! we all knew his visit wd be  
distressing - seeing things in disorder  
- appealed to to set them right -  
- unable

X She also said that she had  
asked Margaret for this *next*  
Saturday - but was afraid she  
could not come because of Lettice.  
tho' Harry would be able to see & enjoy her

**f47v**

But how could that be helped?  
I hope you will go, forgetting  
all these things - or rather  
seeing the reality thro' them -  
the reality towards "the dear  
ones". She has always called both  
families so - during this illness of  
his - I don't know whether his  
life can be saved; but I am sure  
it will be lost if he has an  
inkling of things not being kindly  
& loving - And he is so quick to  
see - I don't say: Pray be  
careful - But please *feel* what  
will be love - [Much of her  
bitterness ~~she~~/was caused because she  
thought Maudie had ceased to  
love her - Such delusions are  
*not* unheard of -] ever your loving  
(pardon what I say) Aunt Florence

unsigned letter, ff48-49v, pencil

### f48

10 South St Feb 27/89

My dear Mr. Fred

I am a *very bad* Critic - But  
such as I am give I thee  
I think Col Yule: inscriptions so  
laboured - so far from Gordon's  
own sympathy - unsuccessful  
imitations of the Latin:  
inappropriate of the English -  
striving after antithesis when he  
ought to be straight forward -  
heaping up adjectives or epithets  
when none ~~work~~ would be better -  
regardless of the axiom: 'never  
put in two words where one  
will do' -

e.g. "vast & ancient -  
"pestilent" ? adjectives, I say -  
"weakness, treachery & perversity"

### f48v

[I know I am prejudiced: to  
which I will return ]  
e.g. *bathetic* & inappropriate  
"brave, just & upright ge'm'men"  
"I have done my best for H. of C.  
(they were not "his last written  
words") &, if they were, H. of C. looks  
"a-blaze &c &c like House of Commons  
["Shame" must of course come  
out.] It is wretched

Compare it with what he strives  
to imitate

si qua fata aspera rumpas

*Tu Marcellus eris*

Excuse my forgotten Latin.

[I did not like *that* "Stories from  
"Virgil" for Ralph - because Dean

**f49**

Church's paraphrase of that  
 splendid epitaph is so bad -  
 How well I remember my  
 father's rendering of those  
 lines where 3 words tell what  
 30 of Yule's do not

Please ask Maude however to keep  
 "Stories from Virgil & Homer" -  
 My studies are ended.]

~~Now~~ I think that many  
 especially foreigners, might  
 like Col Yule's Inscription -  
 My prejudice is this:  
 a delightful old gentleman  
 who has been for some 20 years  
 the Ind. Off. Member of our  
 Army Sanitary Comm; (20 years

**f49v**

which he has spent in elaborating this  
 sort of work & in neglecting  
 ours. At this moment this  
 neglect has been so outrageous,  
~~that~~ during 3 whole months,  
 in not starting a Despatch  
 ready written, ~~fr~~ to be from  
 Lord Cross to Lord Dufferin,  
 that, taking into account what  
 those two noblemen are I very  
 much believe he has ruined  
 our cause. Week after week I  
 have received the most wretched  
 excuses from him

I can see him night after  
 night, polishing, labouring,  
 niggling at that Inscription -

This is my prejudice -

Two Inscriptions: I quite agree with  
 the proposal

{written in the side margin} You will say I  
 am worse than  
 Col. Yule

initialled letter, ff50-51, pencil

**f50**

10 South St      March 22/89

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

How very very good of you to offer such an arrangement to enable Sir Harry to stay at Claydon - I fear they have declined it.

I am afraid it is impossible to urge it further - They have consulted Sir H. Acland who concurs with Dr. Benson, with whom he had a long talk, that Sir H. may come to South St.

Then, as you know, Mr. Calvert is there & has had the Builder there (at Claydon)

**f51**

My sister writes: "the drainage must be looked to & we must be out of the house for it      x    x    x

"We ought to come away on April 1 or there will be no time for the workmen."

I have heard also twice from Mr. Calvert He gives a good account of Sir H.

The risk of the weather & of Sir H.'s North rooms wil at South St with N. & E. winds pouring down Park St. & South St E. remains unchanged.

But what can we do? I am very very sorry. Parthe sends a delightful account of your two children & of their improvement in health

God guard us  
ever your affte & grateful  
F.N.

unsigned letter, ff52-52v, pen & pencil [5:252-53]

**f52**

10 South St April 7/89 *Private*

My dear Mr. Fred

I meant to have sent you this little sum long ago for a prize for Mr. Morice's games Or if you only give part of it for that, the rest towards anything else of Mr. Morice's conundrums for the Gordon Boys.

It is really appalling to think that on Wednesday his career & influence at the G. Boys' Home may be cut short & the boys fall back into their unfair, nasty, perilous ways under what is called military

**f52v**

discipline which means indiscipline -  
[O if you were to see a Military Hospital even at this day]

I don't know what to wish but that, if nothing can be done, the Gordon Boys' Home, as it is now, should cease to exist.

but if Mr. Morice could continue his life -  
- giving influence, & be so insensed as to behave himself, then may it live & prosper for ever -

initialled letter, ff53-54v, pencil

**f53**

10 South St. April 15/89

My dear Mr. Fred I have carefully read over your M.S. - which deserves to be studied by every body - it is most effective & convincing. And I only trust you will work it out as forcibly as you have begun it. & publish it in some accessible form -

Blind economy on the subject is dividing people more & more - And it is very good to show them that Ld Hartington & Mr. Parnell



**f53v**

are terms synonymous or convertible -  
also to pin down Mr. Parnell to what he  
has spoken Whether he is sincere or not would  
be a secondary consideration, were it not that  
sincere people have always more influence  
Go on & work it out, pray -

**f54**

Since I wrote this, I have your note. But  
I really have nothing to "criticize" - You  
can work it out - I can't -  
The smaller of the two small pieces - the  
one that does not begin with Mr. Chamberlain  
- you will work out well. On the first page  
there seems a little repetition of a sentence  
in the body of the Article - about Ireland  
being "on her trial before the whole civilized  
"world" &c - & on p. 3, "This is an addition in  
"substance" &c seems a little "obscure"?

**f54v**

But this is hypercriticism  
It is very important that you should finish it. - I  
return it in haste, because I promised.

Good news of Sir Harry this morning -  
I hope you will compass Venice & not travel  
too fast.

ever your & Maudie's  
F.N.

unsigned letter, ff55-56v, pen

**[8:919]****f55**

April 19/89

Good Friday

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

Indeed I do, I do feel with you & for  
you, dearest Maude, at Ralph  
going to School - his new life &  
his "new portmanteau" - and  
that little mother, Gwendolen,  
at his side, who is still  
cogitating her plans for being  
the 'mother of the world' - (&  
not *only* responsible for Kathleen's  
salvation). Those children are so  
interesting they would fill  
volumes, let alone hearts.

Still I hope, if you don't  
overfatigue yourself, that it  
will be good for you both, &  
even for Ralph, not to be overstrained, *as you say*,  
for you to go to Venice. Fifty  
years ago, we spent a month  
there. Then it was half in ruins

**[7:345-46]**

**f55v**

& wholly under the Austrian  
hoof. But it stands alone,  
alone in the world, its history -  
its churches - its pictures - S.S.  
Giovanni e Paolo - S. Marco -  
the old Palazzo Foscari - the  
Doge's Palace - the Bridge of Sighs  
the Rialto - Rome itself is not  
so absorbing. But you will  
know all this. But what  
there was when we were there -  
the Piombi - the slaughtered  
Italian Patriots, who poured out  
their life blood in the field, in  
carcere duro, in exile & in  
imprisonment in a life long  
slaughter - from the Piombi  
to Spielberg at Brünn, where  
they, Silvio Pellico, Maroncelli,  
Confalonieri & all the best of

**f56**

Italy left their bones or came  
out again after long years  
maimed & invalids for life.  
Most of these men we knew  
afterwards. These were  
the intensity of interest to us  
in Venice, then. I would  
gladly have laid down my  
life to have saved one of  
them a day's suffering.  
You know S. Pellico's 'le mie  
Prigione' - In our days any  
of these books had to be  
hidden in our, the foreigners',  
receptacles  
. Are the Italians worthy  
of these men now? Is  
Italy 'united & independent'  
worthy of the lives that have  
been ruined for her? Ruin?  
Martirio in terra appellati  
Gloria si appella in cielo

**f56v**

And Manin - & the siege of  
Venice. If Manin could only  
have lived to see what we see  
now!

But I ask that question - &  
I never get an answer: - has  
Italy free made the progress  
Italy enslaved expected?

You will say I ought not  
to say to *you* what made the  
intensity of our devotion to  
Venice enslaved. No one can  
fancy it now - And I pray  
God you may really enjoy  
Venice & not tire yourself.

Aunt Florence's love & best  
wishes to you both. Forgive me:

God bless you both - & the  
childer three. All success to you.

Make my compliments to the  
Canal Grande - When we were there,  
there were no rail roads. **[end 7:346]**

initialled letter, ff57-58, pencil **[8:919-20]**

**f57**

{bottom half}

10 South St May 23/89

Dearest Maude & Mr. Fred

Welcome home again. And I do trust that  
you have had a refreshing as well as most  
interesting time among the never-to-be-forgotten  
splendours of Venice & Genoa - & have not  
committed suicide at Monaco -

It was so kind of you to write - And I shared  
my joy, of course, with No 4, as they did with me

And how is, Italy? in good health? the  
patriots, now in heaven, ask.

**f57v**

Thank you for sending Mr. Morant's noble, most interesting letter, which I return - I have read it most carefully. I sympathize most deeply with him & with you - But such work, springing from such a spirit, such minds, cannot fail to bear fruit a hundred fold, even if the harvest be sometimes delayed, sometimes blighted

I never liked fashion. Humiliation is more fruitful than fashion -

God will grant His highest success to what you & Mr. Morant are doing for poor Siam.

But I was not going to moralize - ~~Miss~~ Miss Amy Morant paid me an unexpected visit while you were away -

And a great deal came out quite naturally in our long conversation, such as she would say to a person who greatly sympathised with her & did not think she was going to be mad, of which there was not a trace - But that 'great deal all told one way, that

**f57**

{top half of the page}

she is perfectly unfit to go to her brother, that she could not be a week in Siam without getting him into some scrape -

There is a certain silliness about here, (not incompatible with genius,) a certain credulity, a want of that uncommon quality, common sense, a total want of knowledge of the common motives of common humanity - And all this without the slightest excitement - as if she were telling you that black was black, white was white.

**f58**

-2- {archivist: May 23 89}

By her own account, her companion who came  
with her is just the same (to *her* satisfaction)  
She talked about going to her brother, but  
not as if she longed for or expected it much.  
[I did not of course say anything against it,  
nor anything for it.]

I ought to have returned his letter sooner, but  
I have been engaged in anxious (& humiliating)  
work  
God bless you - And He *will* bless you -  
How are the children three? in haste F.N.

signed letter, ff59-59v, pen

**f59**

~~Private~~ June 12/89

10.30 a.m.

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

My dear Mr. Fred

I sent to Sir Robert Rawlinson  
quite early this morning. And he  
answers: "You may certainly  
"say that you have consulted  
"me" -

I also sent him Dimensions  
of Dormitories *as given me by you*  
He says: "You may also say from me  
"that Boys require as much  
"cubic space as men."

He continues: "The Wards are  
too small for the number of beds  
to be put in."

& that no Dormitory should  
be "less than 18 ft wide, and 13

**f59v**

"feet in height" -

This is past praying for -  
but the light of natural reason  
might tell us that 18 feet  
should be the minimum of width.

"The Sherringham & Tobin  
"Ventilators should be put in,  
"plus the windows. These,  
"the Ventilators, do not cost  
"much & are easily managed"

[I hope you read what he  
said about Sherringham, p. 2  
of the two sheets pinned together]

Pray believe me

ever yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale

F. Verney Esq.

signed letter, f60-61, pencil

**f60**

G.B.H. & June 16/89

My dear Mr. Fred

I think your letter to Genl 'Hig' excellent.  
I am afraid you will think I have not 'fired'  
'shot' enough at/into Sir D. Galton. But one is  
obliged to ask of rather than 'fire at' so great  
an authority!! I send what I extracted from  
him. *More open windows, more outlets,*  
*abolition* of bed-rolling - in another Envelope

Now, isn't it the oddest thing that these men  
whose business & profession it is to house men  
& boys should have left all this to your sheer

**f60v**

benevolence to do?

He asks: Do the boys "roll themselves up" in the  
2 blankets *with the sheets* inside the blankets?  
However, this makes matters worse if they do. For  
blankets let their perspiration *thro'*, better than  
such sheets as theirs do.

Success to you always

**f61**

2. I send Mr. Morant's letter for your kind hints. I do think his is a sacrifice something like Father Damian's -

3. I send Sir Wm. Wedderburn's printed Memo for an India Reform Socy.  
ever yours  
F. Nightingale

initialled letter, ff62-62v, pencil

**f62**

10 South St June 17/89

My dear Mr. Fred  
I hope you had my two letters yesterday -  
Douglas Galton now adds:  
"If these boys stink so badly, it is clear that they require more floor space" -  
He recommends: " In any case the clean boys  
"should be sorted & put apart - & the  
"dirty boys all put together with more  
"space" - Sir D. Galton is coming

**f62v**

here to morrow (Tuesday) afternoon on other business - Do you want me to pitch in to him more, & ask him more questions about the ventilation of Gordon Boys' Home?  
& if so *what?* F.N.



unsigned letter, ff63-63v, pencil

**f63**

10 South St.                  June 30/89

My dear Mr. Fred      Many thanks I have always been anxious that your M.S. (recast) on Home Rule *should* be *published*, but am no judge of the *publishing* question. If you can trust F Harrison, by all means publish it.

The fury & the ignorance at once of woman Unionist & Woman Home Ruler is disheartening - Neither knows what she or the other wants, or knows what she is really asking for - what is feasible - what has been done - what has failed. - what is historically true or false - what is possible      Is there any training in politics, administration, contemporary political history - for women? There is fury - *not* discussion - on both sides - Such articles as yours will do much good -

Where & when was "*Balfour's speech*" - I have no eyes for the "Times" -

Alas! I have no prospect of "seeing" you "to day" I have a War Office official - And, before that, my sister. And I must keep myself in my senses.

**f63v**

==

-2-

I want very much to hear what you alone can tell me about G.B.H.

but am immersed among many other things in a dreadful schism in the Nursing 'interest' - two rival Assocns, touting, canvassing, furiously abusing each other - ~~all~~/mainly for want of the simplest knowledge of admn, (management).

*Private*

*G.B.H.* - I don't think it would do to [16:486]  
have in a Civilian Sanitarian - None of them know half as much as Douglas Galton -  
When I saw him last, some two weeks ago, he said - & almost told me to tell you: "It is no use doing anything now. All the things are *made* for this new block - It would save no expence to alter it now - But Butterfield says he will do nothing *after* this block - And then will be our time to alter, renew, reform, modify" - Valeat quantum - [end 16:486]

signed letter, f64, pencil

**f64**

July 21/89

Dear Mr. Fred & Maudie

I give you both joy of your & Mr. Morant's pupil.

Prince Cheroon Thank God!

You two & Mr. M. have formed him to all this

& formed him to what is best of all,

manliness - I hope his finger is

getting well - [It is always said that

the Hindoo will lie down & die for an injury

which would not take an Englishman off a

day from activity] Now you see you have

made a man out of good little Cheroon -

I return with thanks a number of your &  
Maudie's papers -

Have I returned a letter of dear Ralph's  
to his mother? If not, I shall be sure  
to find it.

Have I any more papers of yours to  
return?

Hurra for Ralph & Cheroon!

I want to hear about Gordon B. H. - & ABOUT *your Home Rule Paper*

Excuse great haste but not of heart

or thought ever yours Aunt Florence

initialled letter fragment, f65, pencil

**f65**

-3-

I will return all your letters

& Ralph's

I return F. Harrison very

good

Please thank Maudie - &

say I could not take

a whole Secy now - She

would take up all my

time & strength -

I must begin some time

with a half -

ever yours & hers

F.N.

How is Gwendolen?

signed letter, ff66-69, pen {most of this letter is not in FN's hand, but there are some insertions written by her, and the closing is in her hand}

**f66**

*Private* No 2 Miss Nightingale  
 Gordon Boys' Home  
 Matron: {printed address:} ~~10 South Street,~~  
 G.B.H. ~~Park Lane W.~~  
 Matron Aug 25.89

My dear Mr. Fred  
 You ask for the conversation as  
 far as I can remember with  
 General Higginson about what  
 the Matron for the Gordon Boys'  
 Home was to do over & above Hospital proper. It was, I believe,  
 I. briefly as follows. 1. That she was  
 to be called to any boy taken  
 ill at night in his dormitory.  
 that she was to have the power  
 of inspecting the dormitories  
 occasionally at night. (I can

**f66v**

hardly believe that what *you first*  
 discovered of abominations, for which  
 may your shades never be less!) could  
 not have been, had a trained woman  
 had this power of inspection ) - That  
 any boy on first arrival where it  
 was judged necessary, should spend  
 a few days in the Hospital under  
 inspection; that she should be brought  
 into contact with the boys in  
 every way. She would of course be  
 so with those who do 'fatigue work'  
 in the Hospital. That the boys with  
 cut fingers, colds, sore heads & stomach  
 aches should go at once to her in  
 the Hospital without being admitted,  
 if unnecessary, as patients.  
 2. that she should inspect the general  
 kitchen - make varieties in the diets,

**f67**

(on this General Higginson laid particular stress) according to the time of year, and in the modes of cooking, and making the most of things, for example, using up fat instead of letting it go in to the boys' dinners &c &c. See to the serving of the meals, that it should be nice, clean, hot & palatable etc etc

I especially remember General Higginson dwelling on all this con amore -

3. That she should have an eye upon the boys' work in the general Laundry.

4. That the Matron should exercise some supervision over the boys' underclothing and its mending etc.

(I am glad to hear that she is to be autocrat if only over the socks)

This with a view to bringing her into contact with  
the boys.

**f67v**

II.

But I am bound to say that General Higginson made so many qualifications & "oh! ahs!", that *at the time* I felt certain that little or nothing would be carried out. E.g. as to 1. he said that if she were given any power in the dormitories that was infringing on and lessening the responsibility of the N. C. Officers in charge of dormitories, to which I responded that we found in Military Hospitals that it increased their responsibility. I little thought then, what you discovered, that the N. C. Officers exercise no responsibility at all in the most important matters. I rather think now that what you said about *inspection* from WITHOUT will be necessary in the dormitories too - and by night.

As to 2. which General Higginson

**f68**

was most strenuous about, I heard afterwards that Gordon Boys' Home had changed its cook for the better & that the cook did not need or like a woman's supervision. Indeed I think you told me so yourself.

Anyhow, you remember what I mentioned confidentially about the difference of opinion between the two heads.

As to 3 - about the same objection was made as to her supervising the work in the General Laundry. (You know what I fancy about the supreme offices giving the order and the second offices silently preventing its being carried out.)

As to 4. We were told you know by General Higginson afterwards that he thought all the mending was done either in the tailor's shop or the laundry, and he

**f68v**

astonished my economical weaknesses by telling me that socks *were not mended* but *new ones got*. I do not pursue this subject because 'tears inhibit my tongue', because I have so preached on this, both to the women in Derbyshire & in the Army. I am happy to think that the "socks" have escaped from this rule.

You see, I feel rather diffident & rather despondent about this matter, but I would, if you choose, talk it over with the *Matron's* former *Matron*, (only she is now on her holiday) I feel, I have not helped you at all.

And I must remind you of the great difficulty of making rules *now* instead of at the beginning, And yet more of preventing their becoming a dead letter with the second officer in command, and with

**f69**

the sub-officers.

Tell me what I can do -  
If I can do it.

& believe me  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
with dear love to Gwendolen  
Good news from Claydon

signed letter, ff70-71v, pen {most of this letter is not in FN's hand, but there are some insertions written by her, and the closing is in her hand}

**f70**

Gordon Boys' Home Miss Nightingale  
*Private* Gordon Boys' Home  
{printed address:} ~~10 South Street,~~  
~~Park Lane W./~~Matron:  
July 25.89

My dear Mr. Fred  
Your messenger & letter arrived quite  
in time yesterday, and I pitched  
into Sir Douglas Galton, tho' I had  
a great deal of worriting business  
with him, with all my might, like  
a man. First of all, he will  
certainly come to the *annual inspection*  
at the Gordon Boys' Home, on August  
the first, as you desire - and he  
will talk to *Revd Mr. Pine*, &  
Mr. Trevarthen of Redhill as you  
order. He went in to a most unusual  
rhapsody for him, as he is (the greatest  
frondeur I know, about you & your

**f70v**

work at Gordon Boys' Home, (and how they were indebted to you ) really, - seriously.

2. He was really & properly excited about the "NO= alteration" proposed in *opening the windows in the dormitories*. I do hope his just rage will not 'fade 'as a leaf,' but that he will do something. He seems quite disposed to do so. He approves the Sherringham Ventilators. He does not approve the Ventilation over the doors, which, he says, will only let in the staircase foul air. He says the staircase foul air can only be carried off by a tube going out at the roof. F And that perhaps they will not do.

3. He is rather despairing about the Ventilation of the Workshops, especially of the shoemaker's shop. Are the windows the same as those of the dormitories? He thinks not. He thinks that they can't open them because of the draft,



**f71**

and he says how uncommonly  
difficult it is to ventilate tailors'  
& shoemakers' workshops. But perhaps  
he will look into this.

4. With regard to your question about  
dimensions of dormitories, windows,  
etc. for young men & boys, in buildings  
erected during the last ten years, he  
says: (like the man who wrote a chapter  
on snakes in Iceland: "There are no  
"snakes in Iceland.") "There are no buildings  
erected during the last 10 years." but  
the dimensions etc which he did give  
me, I do not quote; because they are  
against us. They are in fact worse  
than those of the Gordon Boys' Home.

5. He did write a tremendous letter  
to Colonel Beaty - Pounall about the  
abomination which you discovered. †  
I think he is a great deal more aware,  
thanks to you, to the Butterfieldian  
evils, & Gordon Boys' Home backslidings,

**f71v**

than he was. A good deal may be  
gained by pitching into him from  
time to time.

ever with love to Maudie  
& childer  
yours  
Aunt Florence

I hear with joy  
from Parthe  
that you are going  
to Claydon "on your way  
to Scotland"

F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

538

signed letter, ff72-73, pencil

**f72**

10 South St Aug 13/89

My dear Mr. Fred

I am so very glad that you  
are to take your Princes to  
Mr. Jowett & Oxford tomorrow.

& that you are going North  
on Thursday with Maudie &  
the childer - my love to them  
all.

& so very sorry that I shall  
not see you before you go -  
& hear about them all (& Ralph)  
- & about the Gordon Boys' Home  
& many other things.

I am afraid that to-day I  
am more than full - & I might

**f72v**

even have had to put you off  
tomorrow -

~~All~~ The harassing things the  
W.O. puts off to the last.

And we are too glad to get  
them done at all, IF we  
get them done -

Thanks many for your account  
of Claydon - I feel with  
you about the coming winter.

I shall go there, I believe,  
on ~~22~~ or 24th or 26th.

I don't like their being alone  
They have greatly enjoyed  
your party -

**f73**

Ralph is a brave boy -  
I am sorry that I know no  
one at Chatham now -  
Mrs. Hawthorn is travelling  
with her husband in  
Switzd I believe, now - &  
I don't know her address -  
But when she comes back,  
I will gladly ask her  
to introduce your Siamese to  
some one she knows there -  
I think I know whom she  
will say.

God speed -  
ever your loving Aunt Florence

f74, Letter returned - 2 note sheets & cheque 18/9/89

signed letter, ff75-78, pencil

**f75**

Claydon Ho.                Sept 17/89

My dear Mr. Fred

I return with thanks Mr.  
Morant's most interesting letter -  
It is certainly hopeful - The man  
is a sort of hero - and out of  
him you have made Cheroon  
& are making the Crown Pr.,  
please God, by rendering Mr.  
Morant's position possible with  
a great deal of trouble on your  
past.

I hope you will allow me  
to make my poor little  
contribution of a 'fi pun note'  
towards the things he mentions in

**f75v**

his P.S., or books or anything  
you like for him. It is indifferent  
to me whether he knows it is  
from me or not, but not  
indifferent that *you* should  
*not* add anything out of your  
own monies -

I see no chance of my being  
able to write to him. Would  
you be so kind when you  
write to him as to make up a  
message from me which you  
will do so much better than  
I can - of great sympathy  
in his most difficult & lonely  
life (but I am so thankful his

**f76**

sister is not going out to him)  
but God is dwelling in him, the  
real Friend & Inspirer. (I wish  
I could be as confident that  
He is dwelling in me) - And  
while it is His work, *of course*  
it will have the highest success,  
of which he is allowed to see  
a part, but there will be  
more - WE are part of His  
"Evolution" - let us never forget  
that - *if* we are fellow-workers  
with Him - If not, we are *still* part,  
against our wills -

I should feel very much  
interest (but this is not for him)

**f76v**

in his idea of conquering  
 "hard prejudices" & "violent  
 "superstitions" by a book on the  
 'Evolution Theory', of on the  
 'Childhood of the World' - but  
 that I do not believe that that  
 is the way to conquer 'prejudice' -  
 - *he* is conquering 'prejudice' by *living* -

For 50 years almost I have  
 had the idea of always asking  
 questions - which nobody answers -  
 what *is* God's moral Gov. of  
 His world? seeing the divine?!  
 eternal damnation - moral Govt  
 theory is quite exploded - & of  
 writing 'a book' upon it. But it  
 is not even begun - And perhaps  
 we must find out what His

**f77**

-2-

moral Govt is by observing  
*individual* lives & the  
 results on *masses* of lives  
 of political & social conditions  
 à la Quetelet for a  
 long time first - & above all  
 by *practising*.

I venture to send 6, if  
 you or Maudie will get  
 something you like for brave  
 little Ralph (out of the 1)  
 on his return to school -

It is so good to hear that he  
 goes on with his lessons, (including

**f77v**

no doubt the religious one)  
with his father - & gets  
up to prepare his lessons  
before the Expeditions

But I feel a little for  
my dear Gwendolen left  
out - But I suppose she  
mothers Kathleen -

Aunt Florence's best love  
to Maudie & Gwendolen  
& all -

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f78**

Sept 18

The Nurses from St. Thomas'  
are coming here to-day -  
Edmund & Margt & their 4  
for the day.

Pray God it may go off  
well

ff79-80, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., September 20, 1889, from MV thanking FN for her gift to Ralph

signed letter, ff81-82v, pencil

**f81**

Claydon Sept 26/89

My dear Mr. Fred & Maudie

Thanks for your "Washington" letter in the  
excellency of which Wisdom (like mine!)  
entirely agrees. but Feeling plays her part  
And I am rather aghast to find from Maude's  
letter to my sister that you are to be away  
till "January" - However you are unquestionably  
right to be going. And there remains the  
children. You must feel a good deal at

**f82**

sending them/two away "to Normandy" with "Mlle  
"du Perrut" whom you know so little as yet -  
My sister is cordially anxious that dear Gwendolen  
& Kathleen & Mlle should come here for at  
least 6 weeks - But she cannot receive them  
till after Oct 11, when the Episcopal party ends.

If you are going to let or shut up Onslow Gns,  
there is 10 South St with servants & fires  
& open arms to receive them till Oct 11.  
I should need but an hour's notice only  
there are workmen in the house. As it is,  
give me a few days' notice. The house  
will sing for joy so loud that you will hear at  
O.G or in Americay -

My sister will also be so glad to have  
dear Ralph when his Xmas holidays come,  
with his sisters, be it understood.

Of course she is writing to you herself -  
And you must not mind if she 'cuts up  
'rough' in the *form*: in spirit she is cordially  
anxious to say: please remember that whenever

**f82v**

the dear 3 are in London, going or coming  
or any how, they & Mlle, or any fraction  
of the 3 & suite, must come to 10 South St.'s  
welcoming arms - And I shall hope to be  
there - Aunt Florence

I write no more - because you must be overdone  
with arrangements & reading & writing - but to  
send best love & best blessings on your  
expeditionary force which is strong, consisting as it does of *you two* - but  
I can't conceive what the Siamese will do without  
you in London, or we - ever your loving F. Nightingale

signed letter, ff83-84, pencil

**f83**

Claydon Sept 29/89 S. Michael's Day

My dear Mr. Fred & Maudie

Success to Dinard. I am sure you  
know best what is best for the dear things -  
And I hope they will come back wonders of  
wisdom & of health. Only I rather grudge  
Mlle de Perrut being the only 'family' that will  
see them during their delightful ~~year's~~ months -

Success to the great doings at Washington  
Your valuable Form anent "Dimensions" &

**f84**

Gordon Boys' Home safe for Sir F. Goldsmid

I wanted to keep a copy for D. Galton &  
engaged an Ager boy - But the excellent Morey  
*would* do it himself -

Success too to Gordon Boys' Home & your  
activity.

May the winds & waves be propitious -  
And may all the best blessing be upon  
you two

Weather here rather less stormy -  
& gunpowder is so explosive -  
Grandpapa quite anxious for Edmund's success  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

It behooves us to be strong on S. Michael's Day

If Mlle de Perrut would send me their address  
at Dinard I could insense Grandpapa -  
who otherwise I fear might lose it

I am glad you go on Tuesday - not to have the  
hurry of embarking same day.

ff85-86v, Rhianva, Bangor, January 2, 1890, from FV re his return from Washington and MV's rough crossing



Add Mss 41977D

545

signed letter, ff87-88, pencil

[8:920]

**f87**

29 Jan/90

Dearest love to Maude

So sorry that my dear Gwendolen wants an  
Oculist -

The man that the medical faculty employ for  
salves & families is

Henry Power  
37a Great Cumberland Place  
W

(I don't know that it is specially for what  
you say: but I am rather afraid of  
specialt-ies                      Many cling to

**f87v**

'old' Sir Wm Bowman, as they do to 'old'

Sir James Paget for an opinion merely - And with reason  
I know Power personally & think highly of  
his care & keenness

"Collyrium" is only their name for  
~~certain sorts~~/a whole class of preparations

Please let me know when they the little girls arrive  
how they are. I thought they were  
coming to day

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

To-day is our day of Crucifixion

May it be a day of salvation

signed note, f88, pen

**f89**

10 S. St

Jan 25/90

Dearest Maude

Might I see you to-day  
before you go to realms  
unknown?

Anytime you would fix  
after 4.

just for a little  
So many thanks

Aunt Florence

ff90-91, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W. February 20, 1890, from FV re the  
return of the Verney girls

Add Mss 41977D

546

signed letter, f92-93, pen

**f92**

24/2/90

{printed address:} 10, South Street,  
Grosvenor Square. W.

My dear Mr. Fred

I hope you noted first Reading of Lord Cross'  
Bill on Friday night in the Lords  
on Legislative Council Reform

Have the two Bills, on same subject, by Sir W.  
Plowden & Mr. Bradlaugh been  
moved in the Ho of C. yet? I  
am unable to read the papers

I think we are getting on

Lord Reay is to be entertained  
on his return from Bombay  
next month: Lord Kimberley,  
I believe in the chair. as  
some answer to the malignant  
attacks made upon him.

**f92v**

Sir W. Wedderburn will  
have "much pleasure" in  
calling upon you at Ashburn Pl.

As regards your question,  
the full report of the I. Nat:  
Congress has not yet been  
received from India; but  
the first No. of "India"  
which I will send you  
contains a summary which  
gives Sir W. Wedderburn's  
speech in full - & also all  
the Resolutions passed.

A copy of this No of India  
is being sent to each M. P.

**f93**

A thousand thanks for your proposed introduction of Mr. Bryce. which I shall be so glad to accept. But please wait a few days till I am a little better.

~~==~~Many thanks too for the Protocol

~~==~~Have you heard from Rhianva?

I must finish this note later

ever yours

Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff94-95, pen

**f94**

March 31/90

10, South Street, {printed address:}

My dear Maude Park Lane. W.

I trust my Gwendolyn is getting strong. & Kathleen as witty & robust. Great love to both. And I hope your dear eyes are coming all right.

Now I am writing about a selfish business. Blessed Margaret gave me a dear little girl as kitchenmaid, Nelly Owen from Rhoscolyn. After having been with me 4 years, on the score that she does not learn enough, she has given me notice. And I am sadly sure she is right - the fault of Mrs. Neild, whose sin has been, I feel morally certain, gaining upon her.

**f94v**

And I have taken this  
opportunity of giving *her*  
notice. I ought to  
have done this long ago .  
But her only son was dying  
whom she supported And  
partly because I could hardly  
cast her off at such a time  
partly because I thought  
he would have cured her of  
it, I waited for 4 years  
The son died 6 months ago

You will have Ralph in a  
day or two & Mr. Fred, I  
hope, before long.

**f95**

Now, don't think, dear Maude,  
that I am pursuing you  
You are *not*, unless you know  
of somebody, to take any trouble  
or notice.

My wants are:

1. a cook=housekeeper for my  
very small place, instead of Mrs.  
Neild.
2. another Nelly Owen as  
kitchen maid
3. a place for Nelly Owen  
in the kitchen of a great house.

I cannot say much for my poor  
sister. Her cough is so bad  
Sir Harry has rubbed his knee  
& is confined to the ~~house~~/Dining room  
for a day or two. He has  
been all over London for  
weeks without cold  
ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence  
I have written to Margaret

Add Mss 41977D

549

signed letter, ff96-97, pencil

**f96**

April 11/90

10, South Street, {printed address:}

My dear Mr. Fred Park Lane. W.

I am grieved that you  
cannot all together live in  
London. It is a great  
split.

Harriet shall be  
recommended. But I sent  
five places or servants  
for *this* household-ettins.  
Yes, I should dearly like  
"to see Ralph before he  
"goes back to School" Is  
he going to stay at No 4  
- & when?

**f96v-97**

They are in rather bad  
case - both are having  
Sir Andrew Clark - But  
*he* is better (Sir Harry) - Both will rejoice in Ralph

I am going to send  
Gwendolen a Book of  
Fashions !! in dress!!

New Matron (St. Thomas)  
not yet installed  
Farewell agonizing

Great love to Maudie  
& all chicks  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff98-99v, pencil & pen

**f98**

18/4/90

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

Dearest Maude

Mr. Fred whom I had the  
pleasure of seeing last night  
says that you are coming  
up on the 26 with Ralph,  
& that No 4 is to have the  
joy of housing you partly  
[I don't suppose that means  
Solomon's famous verdict  
to be cut in half]

I have not even the country inn "stabling" "Stabling  
"& Clean Beds" But I have Mr.  
Fred's room here with 2 beds  
which should be "clean," much  
at your service

**f98v**

They at No. 4 will quarrel  
with me if you do not feed  
with *them*.

But tho' we shall be  
"changing horses in a ford"  
just at that time, there  
shall be some food here -

[I have no cook yet  
Dear Margt has given me  
a kitchen maid -]

The Drawing - room will  
be at your service as  
well as the "Green Bed-  
room -

**f99**

I sent a book which  
if not improper - will it  
do for the little girls?

I was charged with the  
new version of Snow-drop -  
the little boy Snow drops  
charging with their scimitar-  
leaves at the Frost  
"en avant - Allons, enfans  
de la patrie"

& the glorified Q. Elizth  
under Chrysanthemum -

But I think there is a  
mistake in the title  
I send another title

**f99v**

I hope to see Gwendolen  
quite rude & ruddy  
by & bye but still, but  
still, thinking of the "old  
"women" & the "blind children"

She is going to house  
& mothering Kathleen

Sir H. wonderfully well  
Poor Parthe very bad -  
And I in a dilapidated  
condition, forbidden by Drs  
to get up just now -

St Thomas has lost its  
Pringle & is motherless  
ever with great love

Aunt Florence

ff100-101, 23 Ashburn Place, London, S.W., April 28, 1890, from FV re Prince Caroon's success at Harrow and Ralph's visits before returning to school

initialled letter, ff102-02v, pencil

**f102**

May 10

My dear You were alas too right. The journey to Claydon seems to have taken away the little strength she had - Telegram from Morey 8 p.m. "No change we are very uneasy" But good clever little Lettice telegraphed my request to Margt. And blessed Margt goes in from Marsh Gibbon to Claydon to night. [I have just had a Telegram from Marsh Gibbon] I tell Sir H. as little as possible. My sister does not wish him to

**f102v**

come down - I did not know what to do - But Margt will tell us

Best love          Parthe will have Sir  
F.N.          A. [?] Clark

Parthe does not know that the servants (good Morey) write to me And Morey says she would be very angry.

initialled note, f103, pencil

**f103**

May 11/90

My dear Fred & Maude  
Telegram this morning from Morey  
"No improvement: have sent to Sir Harry:  
Dr. Benson is here. Sir Henry Acland comes at two - Mrs. Verney is here."  
I think it would be such a comfort to Sir Harry if you could see him directly (at Mr. Calvert's) & perhaps go down with him to Claydon to take care of him even if you came back at night. What a comfort that Margt is there  
ever your affecte F.N.



initialled letter, ff104-05v, pen

**f104**

10 South St May 13/90

Dearest Fred & Maude

I send by your kind leave to Claydon  
my white wreath & cross in a box by you  
And I shall send tomorrow  
early some red Rhododendrons  
from Embley which *she*  
was particularly fond of  
And if you could kindly  
see that on the grave  
the white wreath & cross  
were mixed up with  
the red rhododendrons,  
because that is the colour  
of love, I think that is  
what she would have  
liked.

**f104v**

The Embley flowers with  
white Azaleas come with  
Shore's love & his wife's

Louis Shore Smith sleeps  
here to night on purpose to  
carry down by 9 *a.m. train*  
tomorrow these flowers, & the  
wreaths of natural flowers  
wh. the tenants & servants of  
Claydon have ordered  
thro' me.

~~As He~~/Louis is a little shy  
at going instead of his  
father & is deeply  
distressed about "Aunt  
Parthe". Might I ask  
you to be kind to him,

**f105**

as you always have been,  
& take a little notice of him,  
tho' I know how busy  
you will be.

Remind Sir Harry that  
tomorrow is Ascension  
Day

But indeed he needs no  
reminder. He writes to  
me as if his grief were  
swallowed up in her joy.

I shall have much to  
hear from you.

God bless you  
ever yours  
F.N.

You see Louis goes down to Claydon

**f105v**

tomorrow *before* the others,  
because Morey particularly  
stipulates to me that the  
tenants' & servants' wreaths  
are to arrive at Claydon  
Station at 10.48 a.m.  
Please give my kindest thanks to  
Sir Henry Acland.

Please remember me to the  
servants, but particularly  
to Mrs. Davidson & Morey.

Sir Harry says, in his  
every letter, what a "comfort  
his "sons" are to him.

F.N.

Let the dear room be **[12:18]**  
cleansed & disinfected  
as if after an infectious  
disease, please, as soon  
as the funeral is over.

Sir Henry Acland will say. (F.N. **[end 12:18]**)

initialled letter, ff106-07, pen

**f106**

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

My dear Mr. Fred (& Maude)

I can never thank you enough  
for writing to me yesterday  
morning - I had only had  
then Sir H's Telegram - & for  
coming yesterday evening  
I am afraid you are very  
tired.

It is so very kind to think  
of asking the Nurses. They would  
be so deeply touched - they  
were always so touched  
at being asked to Claydon  
especially after she became so  
ill. But I have been  
thinking it all over. It  
would be difficult to choose

**f106v**

two or three or four Nurses  
among the rest. The only  
thing would be to ask  
Miss Crossland as their representative whose  
affection for Parthe was  
great indeed. But then  
you see, would she not  
be rather in the way?  
Would not Sir Harry's  
overflowing kindness think  
he must take care of her?  
She must lunch with you;  
& perhaps if she came  
you would think you  
must ask ladies of your  
own surroundings - I know

**f107**

nothing would touch Miss  
Crossland so much as  
being asked. And she  
has been with us for 15  
years.

But I would not do it  
without asking you more -  
particularly - what  
would be best for Sir Harry

A good letter from Sir  
H. this morning

I will write again  
ever yours

F.N.

Lady Ashburton has written  
to me - her mind full of  
Parthe's rest now - but she

**f107v**

Ly A

was in the act of writing  
to Parthe that she would  
come down to Claydon  
this week.

F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

557

signed letter, f108, pen

**f108**

June 30/90  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
My dear Mr. Fred  
Pray let my dear  
Gwendolen & Mademoiselle  
come here. [And we  
will give them a little  
refection.] after Mr. Power's  
interview. And may God  
grant her health & eyes  
& every other blessing -  
She has the elements of  
a great woman.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
I am so happy  
about Mr. Croft & Sir H.

ff109-10v, Fred V to FN 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. July 20, 1890, re news of the family

ff111-11v, Fred V to FN Norwich, July 23, 1890, re FV's candidature at Norwich

ff112-13v, Fred V to FN Pleasley, September 9, 1890, re the reclamation of a dam there

signed letter, ff114-17, pen

**f114**

Claydon                      Sept 14/90

My dear Mr. Fred

Thank you very much  
for your letter about  
Pleasley - My feelings are  
much aggravated about  
the Mill - dam. Sir Harry  
is quite anxious to have  
it cleared out: (by a  
Contractor - bad animals)  
And I have only to say  
that I will willingly contribute  
10 to such an indispensable  
work - and - that the  
most terrible catastrophes  
have happened from  
doing such indispensable work  
(in taking away what never ought to  
have been there.)

**f114v**

work - and some Sanitary  
authority - absolutely  
trustworthy - *not* "the best a man"  
who has been appointed  
by the inhabitants as  
Officer of Health (? to save  
their rates) must  
overlook a "contractor".  
Is this a thing which  
the Local Govt Board  
would send down a  
man about - *not* to tell  
you to do it but to  
tell you when the time  
comes how to do it  
without injury/catastrophe. [Good Sir  
R. Rawlinson R.E. at past 80  
writing to me: "O for 10 years more  
life to do my work"]

**f115**

2. The idea of the "fountain"  
 of "good water" in memory of  
 my father & sister, smiles  
 to me much. [Sir Harry "won't  
 "hear of it" - this is just what  
 happened.] I should be  
 good for 50, or even  
 100 - if you would be  
 good enough to start it.  
 [I have no doubt Sir H.  
 would come round &  
 give something, seeing whose  
 Pleasley was.] But I can't ask him]

The sooner it is done  
 the better, if it *is* done:  
 don't you think so? It is  
 very good of you to  
 start it well. I conclude it  
 is both Sanitary *and* practicable  
 and convenient for the inhabitants.

**f115v**

Margaret is come & looks  
 better than I expected.

Mr. Devine from  
 Manchester was quite  
 a success - tho' exhausting.

Blessings on Maudie &  
 the three - And perhaps  
 Maudie will send me a  
 word-picture of Gwendolen.

My love to Mazelli, as  
 Kathleen call Mlle. what  
 a pretty name! - & I hope  
 Mlle is well -

Ruth & a white dog are  
 here -

Success to your candidature!

Sir Harry is well.

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

**f116**

-2-

Anent the Mill-dam: What is the Sanitary Authority over Pleasley under which the Abomination has arisen?

Is it not the case that at the instance of even a single inhabitant a Local Govt Board man might have been down upon you? - I believe, however, that there may have been a fortunate case of Typhoid, where this *this has been done* - And I am afraid you have had no such case at Pleasley -

2ndly Do not let

**f117**

2. Do not let Maudie be restive about that poor little bit of paper of mine, (now hers) - Even if Gwendolen does not have to go to the sea again it may be wanted where you are May your stay be prosperous.

F.N.

Margt goes to London on Thursday to meet those two chevaliers errans (preux chevaliers) Ralph & Harry

ff118-19v, Fred V to FN Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks., October 14, 1890, re family news



signed letter, ff120-22, pen

**f120**

Claydon Oct 15/90

My dear Mr. Fred

I was very sorry not  
to see you this morning.  
Thank you very, very much  
for Lord Ripon's Article (&  
the new R. Cath. Review) -  
also for past favours.

2. Well done, Norfolk, for its  
Officers of Health Report  
for 1889. It is excellent.

[I do not suppose, however,  
that they allowed their  
opinions to leak out to  
any unprincipled reformer like you,  
member of the C.C., before  
the C. C. saw them in a  
body.]

3. You ask for "hints" before

**f120v**

"Novber 7" (for your own C.C. Do see Douglas  
Galton again, whenever he  
is in town. He is the  
best authority (except for  
suavity) on the subject  
And he has now experience  
of his own C.C. And  
they *have* a Sany Comm:  
have not they? He will give  
you "hints" how  
to work on the C. C.'s fears, & show reform as  
the best policy & economy

We think calling together  
"a Special Comm:" & getting an  
"expert" ~~for~~ to refer any  
"particular "complaints", a very  
feeble proceeding. We have  
always resisted it at  
the W.O. In the first  
place, it is never done -  
Unless you have a standing

**f121**

Commee, to which you are  
 obliged to refer *all*  
 "particular" "complaints" cases, they never  
 so get referred.

4

To return to the Norfolk [6:571-72]  
 Report, it is admirable.

I do not know whether  
 what I am going to ask  
 for is at all practicable.

It is this: that the Medical  
 Officers of Health should  
 have to report upon  
 Dietary, especially of  
 children, especially of in/examining  
 Infant throats & in Schools - The  
 absence of milk in their  
 Dietary gives rise to all  
 sorts of complaints - the food

**f121v**

is perhaps worse than in  
 Ireland - People are  
 beginning to turn their  
 attention to this - Mortality  
 may be small, & feebleness  
 great. Throats & teeth  
 suffer. Ill cooked potatoes  
 &c &c cause Diarrhaea -

May Officers of Health  
 meddle with Personal  
 Hygiene?

But Infant Mortality is  
 always taken & justly so (& in  
 this Report as in others) as a  
 test of the state of the country/people.  
 - & I cannot see how the  
 "infants'" Dietary can be  
 excluded.

The Deaths from Diarrhaea in  
 the towns in Norfolk were of under 5 to over 5  
 as 21 to 3 - but splendidly low altogether  
 was the mortality

**f122**

-2-

Norfolk deserves the V.C. for  
sanitation &c. In 1889

Death rate per 1000

Rural Districts	Urban	Whole country
14.9	16	15.3
1878- 87		
10 years		

Norfolk 19.0

All England 19.8

But it does not say what  
"all England" was in 1889

At all events Gwendolen's  
arms & legs in 1890  
were a proof of Norfolk's  
health, thank God!

I am afraid this letter is  
illegible - I have no time  
to re write or to finish it.

Sir Harry rather so- so -  
Margaret just come back  
from Anglesea School Board  
ever your loving Aunt Florence

ff123-24, Fred V to FN, The Lodge, Old Lakenham, October 23, 1890, re Gwendolen's throat  
problem and difficulties with the Siamese

signed letter, ff125-26, pen & pencil

**f125**

Claydon Oct 26/90

Dearest Maude

Margt & Ellin go alas  
to morrow to Lpool. All  
success attend them.

Lettice who was so happy  
with you is in such distress.  
As a small diversion, I want  
to give her what she wants,  
viz. The Martyr of Antioch  
arranged for all the Choir,  
by Sullivan

and

The Scotch Symphony by  
Mendelssohn -

I throw myself on your  
kindness, because you will  
know the very best Editions  
of both - And I want LARGE  
good Editns, not trying to the eyes.

**f125v**

Margt says it may be  
really less trouble to you  
to get them at Norwich  
than in the 'mart of fashion',  
the 'Metropolis.'

I tell Margt I am like  
a sucking pig for ignorance.  
But she thinks the simile  
dirty, tho' correct.

If your kindness can get  
them, will you ship them  
off at once to me here?

Aunt Florence's best love  
to the two dear sweets  
G. & R. I am writing  
to Mr. Fred about G.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f126** {written in faint pencil across the sheet}

*Maudie's* editions tho' beautiful are  
such very small print for Lettice's  
eyes

letter fragment, f127, pen

**f127**

But it is God who holds the balance  
not we - It is Infinite Love who makes  
the plan of the battle, who is Commander  
in Chief, not we. And He, the Almighty,  
will carry us through.

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

We earnestly hope to see you & Maude  
on Saturday

ff128-129v, Fred V to FN, 6 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., November 1, 1890 re the necessity for  
tonsillectomy for Gwendolen & Kathleen

ff130-31v, Fred V to FN re another opinion of the girls' throats

ff132-35v, Fred V to FN The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., November 6,  
1890, re arrangements to be made for the family and FV's own work

ff136-39v, Maude V to FN 10 South Street, London, November 7, 1890, re Ellin's illness and MV's  
installation in South Street

ff140-40v, 6 Onslow Gardens, November 8, 1890, from FV re MV's comfort in South Street

ff141-42, Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks. November 9, 1890, from Sir HV to MV, FN glad you are at  
her home, her visit this time has been a happy one to me, she has enjoyed much fine weather and  
many glorious sunsets in her elevated abode, the blue room. Re children. The Miss Spring Rices go  
away on Wed but will return, have done the good work on Parthe's papers that no one else cd do.  
They have so sorted and arranged them that if Margaret wishes that anything shd be done with them,  
the first stage, the least amusing and interesting has been done with them.

unsigned letter, ff143-45, pen

**f143**

Telegraph G. & K. Nov 9/90  
Steeple Claydon. Bucks. the two dears Claydon House,  
Winslow, {printed address:}  
Bucks.

My dear Mr. Fred

Dr. Ord answered by  
return of post. He says: "8 Nov/90

"In reply to your letter I  
"have to say:

"1st that I have the highest  
"opinion of Dr. Semon's diagnosis,  
and skill in operating; and  
that I should trust to him  
for help in any case, similar  
to those mentioned, occurring  
in my own family. "implicit"  
"is a strong word, but it  
"would be hardly too strong.

"2nd Dr. Semon's opinion is  
"better than mine. I was  
"clearly of opinion, when I

**f143v**

"saw the children, that both  
"required the operation  
"for the adenoid vegetations,  
"and one at least for the  
"tonsils. In my experience  
"removal of the tonsils  
"is not followed by  
"disappearance of the  
vegetations. The diagnosis  
was founded on certain  
obvious symptoms. It is  
confirmed by technical  
observation. I believe  
that the full & complete  
operation is necessary, and  
will tend to improve the  
"health of the children, the  
"elder of whom is certainly very  
"delicate"

signed "W. H. Ord"

**f144**

Dr. Ord returns Dr. Semon's  
'picture' which I enclose.

[I should like some day to have  
again your lucid explanation of  
it: but this is, of course, only for  
my own information]

What can I say?

I was very much impressed

by what Dr. Semon said,  
as you told me:

backed as it is by the  
opinion of a man of such  
careful insight as Dr. Ord:  
one of the last men to be  
carried away by a fashion  
(if Dr. Semon is 'the fashion.')

'Find out who it is that  
Doctors employ/consult for themselves  
& their families' is I believe  
a pretty safe rule, where no 'rule'  
*can* be quite safe.

**f144v**

I feel for your & Maudie's  
anxiety more than I can  
say. Indeed I feel just as  
anxious myself. I have been  
going over all you told me  
to myself-

[Can I write to any body else?

I would write to another man  
I know very well as St.  
Thomas', if you like. But  
I do not see any use in  
multiplying opinions more  
than these -

One thing, only for my own  
information, & at any time:

Did Dr. Townsend tell you  
of these adenoid vegetations  
(in the two childer)? I never  
heard anything about them  
or about aught but Tonsils:  
or about any operation but  
on Tonsils, till you told me on Friday]

**f145**

-2-

Tho' I by no means adore

Semon, I think perhaps his  
charge is not so extravagant as  
it seems. Margt paid 17,  
you say. But, as far as I  
understood, Pritchard's operation  
was a much smaller affair  
than Semon's intended one -

You *will* allow me, if it  
is done, to bear a/my small share  
in the expence - we all wish  
we could take the whole  
affair into *our* throats.

ff146-47v, 10 South Street, November 10, from MV, re the children's throats

ff148-53v, Fred V. The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., November 16, 1890,  
from FV re the children's throats, whether to remove both tonsils and adenoids or simply tonsils, and  
Prince Cheroon's progress at Harrow

signed letter, ff154-55, pen & pencil

**f154**

Telegraph *Private* Nov 11/90

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

Dearest Maude

You ask my plans.  
It is quite impossible  
for me to leave Gdpapa  
He is so piteous: he says:  
You *can't* leave me  
till Margt returns at  
least. No: I can't.  
And I have this day  
written to put off  
business. If you  
were here, you would  
see I could not leave him.



**f155**

without Margaret or you - tho' that is  
I believe an Irish bull.  
Make yourself 'asy, my darling -  
as 'asy as you can at South St.  
ever your most loving  
Aunt Florence  
Is the Commr coming to do his work?

initialled letter, ff156-57, pencil

**f156**

{printed address:} Telegraph, Nov 11/90  
Steeple Claydon, Bucks Claydon House,  
Winslow,  
Bucks.  
Dearest Maude  
I do owe you money  
(don't say I don't)  
but thanks more -  
Poor dear Lettice! she  
was so pleased with  
the "Martyr" - "Mendn's  
Scotch Symphony" which  
you so kindly got her.  
But I *won't* say "poor":  
I say "rich Lettice &  
richer Ellin & richest  
Margaret: tho' indeed I do

**f156v**

~~think~~/fear the Lpool Telegrams mean  
bad. Margt is so  
kind in telegraphing -  
Margt always says:  
how your visit cheered  
Ellin -

Margt is the richest  
woman I ever knew  
Her cruse of oil never fails,  
nor her handful of meal,  
tho' she is torn in pieces,  
for all the pieces -

The miracle of the loaves  
& fishes is fulfilled in  
her- & she has baskets

**[8:920]**

**f157**

of fragments over for  
all of us - No one is left  
out unfed by her.

And so is it with you,  
my darling -

Better Telegram much  
better from a post  
since I began this,  
thank God!

F.N.

unsigned letter, ff158-59v, pencil

**f158**

{printed address:} Telegraph, Nov 11/90  
Steeple Claydon, Bucks Claydon House,  
Winslow,  
Bucks.

My dear Mr. Fred

In this most difficult, anxious yet  
dear & ~~deserving all thought~~/loving business I can  
only try to set before you for you to judge the  
considerations which I have thought over & over  
before writing my tiresome Telegram

May God decide:

Maudie is like her sister - so valiant -

God favours the brave -

in haste ever your loving

Aunt Florence

Much better Telegram from Lpool to day, thank God

f159

[12:436-37]

As I understand  
 Dr. Beverley suspects recommends urges "imperative necessity"  
 Ad. Vegetations (growth) Dr. Semon of having growth removed  
 at once, as well equally  
 important" with "reducing tonsils"

Dr. Ord "clearly of opinion" recommends in his experience removal of  
 that both required operation Dr. Semon Tonsils followed by  
 for "ad. vegns" disappearance of vegetations  
 & one at least for Tonsils - "both operations"  
 "necessary"  
 - "elder child very delicate"

Dr. Semon discovers recommends you can fill  
 unmistakable Ad. Vegns immediate & this up  
 as well as enlarged Tonsils complete operation better than I  
 in both cases on both

Mr. Townsend "*never mentioned*" X when informed *leaving* Ad vegns to  
 "Ad Vegetations" at all - strongly recommends *Nature*  
 only enlarged Tonsils removing Tonsils  
 condemns Semon, will not work after him  
 will but does not believe he will do "actual harm"

X If the two last opinions were shown to any "first rate Surgeon, as Mr. T. wishes,  
 can it be doubted what his opinion would be?  
 Would he not say: it is a totally different question dealing with  
 Tonsils & with  
 Tonsils *and* "growths"

**f159v**

As far as I understand: the 3 first  
 authorities have considered the  
 “growths” as of equal or greater  
 importance than the Tonsils  
 - operation ditto.

As collateral evidence

*Dr. Pritchard* (whose position in  
 Medical world we took particular  
 pains to discover) a man of a  
 different School - an authority of King's  
 College Hospl spoke of “Ad. Vegns”  
 in Harry's deafness case (~~i.e. as I understood~~  
~~of obstruction in passage between~~  
~~nose & throat~~) as imperatively  
necessary to remove - And he did.  
 Mr. Townsend says: ask Sir W. Savory  
 It is perhaps **ow**dacious in me to  
 say: I would not ask Sir W. Savory or  
 take his opinion.

I would have asked “Nestor”, my dear  
 Sir James Paget, but he has lost touch  
 with the present state of knowledge

ff160-61, 6 Onslow Gardens, S.W, November 11, 1890, from FV, re the operation on the girls' throats

ff162-62v, Fred V. To FN November 11, 1890, re the decision to go ahead with the operations

ff163-64v, 10 South Street, Park Lane, November 12, from MV, re the arrangements for the  
 operations

ff165-66v, Maude V. To FN November 12, re the successful result of the operations

ff167-68v, November 12, 1890, from FV, re the successful result of the operations

ff169-70, Fred V to FN The Siamese Legation, November 13, 1890, 23, Ashburn Place, London,  
 S.W., re the successful result of the operations

signed letter, ff171-72v, pen

**f171**

Telegraph, Nov 13/90 Steeple Claydon, Bucks Claydon House, {printed address:}  
Winslow,  
Bucks.

Dearest Maude &

Mr. Fred

Your Telegrams & letters  
are so delightful  
that I am singing a  
Te Deum in my heart  
as loud as I can -

Now you are full of  
music. Do write  
us a Te Deum on this  
joyful & timely  
occasion. And your

**f171v**

children shall learn  
it. And the violins  
shall celebrate it -

I shall tell Sir Harry  
to night, I think,  
(without laying stress  
on the Operation) -  
especially as I have  
a sad Telegram from  
Liverpool to read him  
Hitherto I have told no one.

Please give my  
love, after that to the  
darling children, to

**f172**

Moizelli, with whom  
I got intimate here  
(when you left us),  
& my kindest regards  
to Nurse Murray. It  
was such a relief to  
know that she could  
be had.

O be joyful: sing &  
give thanks unto the  
Lord.

**f172v**

Edmund writes not  
happily from the  
deluges at Pau

Lettice is bright.  
Probably you hear all.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff173-73v, Fred V to FN November 14, 1890, re the excellent progress of the children and their projected reunion with MV

signed letter, ff174-75v, pen

**f174**

Claydon Nov 14/90

My dear Mr. Fred

A million thanks for  
letters & Telegrams. But tho'  
well I know that even 'when  
'the burden falls off, the back  
'is sore', I am afraid you are  
not quite satisfied.

Still it seems such a  
lovely success -

And what a relief, the much  
better Telegram from Liverpool  
to day.

~~Do~~ you think a tea dinner  
a wholesome thing? It  
always seems as if tea  
& animal food did not

**f174v**

live upon amicable terms  
when swallowed together.  
I am afraid too Mrs.  
Burge's *meat* dishes  
may not be good. [They  
were diabolical food  
before she went to Travellers']  
And that is why you don't have meat.

Don't you think too  
the Drawing - room much  
healthier than the  
Dining - room?

Do behave yourselves -  
The Messenger is to be at  
Maude's disposal all day.  
If he has another engagement  
at 7.30 p.m., he can find  
another man to do it.

**f175**

My love to Mazelle.  
I know how anxious she  
must have been.

How anxious all have been  
while the darling little  
children have gone free.  
How true it is that  
nothing good is done, but  
"the Lord" ~~"hath"~~ lays on others  
the burden of it all.

Post card from  
Lettice - Weather looking up at  
Pau - in a better temper  
N.B. If Maudie is impervious  
to reason you will hear that  
hideous roar I told you of  
across the fields of space. It

**f175v**

approaches. It draws nearer  
& never stops till it stands  
on the door - step of 10 South  
St. And then woe to  
Maudie  
    in haste  
    ever your loving  
    Aunt Florence

ff176-77, 6 Onslow Gardens, S.W., November 15, 1890, from FV, re the progress of the children and three men chosen for Siam

unsigned letter, ff178-79, pen

**f178**

Claydon            Nov 17/90

**[12:437]**

Dearest Maude

Blessed news. But  
pray don't *settle* to go  
till you distinctly hear  
that the two dears'  
throats are "entirely  
"healed" That will  
hardly be before Wednesday  
or Thursday

I think the rapid progress  
is due to the quiet & warmth  
Little Harry with a much  
less operation suffered a  
good deal & longer - The  
poor little lad could not  
bear the "noise" at Bridge  
St, & so came down here - &  
    ran about the garden &c



**f179**

-2-

I think your patience is  
equally wonderful. Do you  
remember telling me that  
we *must* make our minds  
perspire an hour daily?  
to be healthy. I hope  
the counterpoint has made  
this a healthy perspiration.

signed letter, ff180-81, pen & pencil

**f180**

*PRIVATE*

Claydon Nov 26/90

[12:437]

My dear Mr. Fred

Accept my share of the  
expenche of successfully cutting  
the two dear little throats.  
I can't think why I did not  
send it before, except that  
we always live in a crowd  
(figuratively) and in a  
drive (literally) Forgive -

[I admire Pr. Swasti's excuse:

"I didn't do it. Don't ask why."]

The second operation is over:

Maudie knows what I feel.

And I know what she feels

about blessed Margt. So I

say nothing. I have had a

long letter & Telegrams twice

a day - just like her blessed

self.

Good Telegram this afternoon.

[end]

**f181**

-2-

Thank you so much for Mr. Morant's admirable  
 letter. How much I have learnt from that man.  
 Sidney Herbert used to say: 'we went about fishing  
 in the German States for a Queen's husband -  
 And we fished up an Albert' - So I say: 'Siam  
 has fished up, thanks to you, a Morant. [He  
 must not think of leaving] But I do not  
 see my way to "showing it" to Sir Harry. There  
 are parts which would do such injury/harm if he  
 repeated them to Englishmen in office for  
 the sake of doing good. And certainly all these  
 young ladies, including Ruth, would hear them

It would be different if you were there to  
 May blessings attend all your work. read it  
 for Siam to him.

**f180v**

-3-

Sir H. is well,  
 thank God,  
 but always doing  
 "giddy" things -  
 Maudie taught me that  
 word, (as Adam said) - It wasn't  
 my fault!

He is dreadfully worried  
 about his affairs to which Mr.  
 Calvert greatly contributes.

I have a deep sympathy for Mr. C.,  
 who seems to me grievously  
 altered - & unreasonable  
 ever with love to all  
 including Mazelle  
 your loving & penitent  
 Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff182-83v, pencil & pen

**f182**

{printed address:} Telegraph, Nov 30/90  
Steeple Claydon, Bucks St. Andrew's Day  
Claydon House, Winslow,  
Bucks.

Dearest Maude

Thank you oh so much  
for your letter.

I had two Telegrams last  
evening from blessed Margaret  
- not quite so good the knee  
had had a painful little wrench  
- only a little one

I am apprised that  
Wednesday is Margt's birth day  
- & I want to send her  
something - you who know her  
best will know best what it  
should be if you will kindly think

Shall I send her some roses  
from London? But then you see

**f182v**

I have sent these every week

There must be something  
more.

Do you recommend "Lecky  
"on the 18th century"? She was  
reading it here, *and attending*  
the Univ. Extens: Lectures! at  
Winslow!!! because as you know  
she has so much time on her  
hands & so little on her mind.  
But she has not a copy of  
her own, I believe?

Or what should you recommend?  
I do not like to trouble you  
to order it, unless you think  
of something better than Lecky,  
& will kindly send it down  
straight to ~~illeg~~ Liverpool to

**f183**

arrive there on Wednesday  
morning. Perhaps you will  
think something for her  
rooms better - to serve *here*  
afterwards. I want something  
to cheer her now & occupy her  
mind as it is so idle & dull.  
O how can people call life  
dull? It is too full, too full.  
Yesterday & every yesterday  
seems to me a year ago.  
I enclose a line to send  
with the present, which  
indeed would not do to write  
in a book.

I think Lecky's 6 Vols costs 5 4/or 4. 5  
& that would be about the 'figure'

**f183v**

for my offering, whatever it is,  
according to your kind opinion.  
I enclose a note to my faithful  
bookseller, if you think *that*  
the best thing, & will kindly  
post it at once.

How much you do for  
Siam -

I can find no words for  
Parnell's Manifesto, so able  
& so diabolical, but Chief  
Justice Erle's on the Bench to  
an attorney: "Sir, you do not  
"know the strength of the  
"expressions I am keeping back."

I must break off  
Best love to G. & K. & Mazelle,  
3 loves which I hope you will  
remember from the rarity of the  
times I have sent them from  
Aunt Florence

**[8:921]**

signed letter, ff184-85v, pen

**f184**

Claydon Dec 5/90

My dear Mr. Fred

Welcome back again!

I have read the letter you  
entrusted me with.

I am interested & delighted  
with it beyond measure,  
because I know so many  
instances of what those  
"Indianized Englishmen"  
do & are -

The only thing I have  
to say is: do you think  
your *facts* are such as  
will impress some  
"Indianized English" official  
to whom Ld Lansdowne  
*must* refer your letter.

But one thing is certain:  
the 3 last Indian *Viceroy*s,

**f184v**

including the present, are  
of a far more progressive  
& liberal & *human* stamp  
than anything in the  
Indian Council at home.

2. Did you not mean to  
put in something more  
from *Pr. Swasti*, after  
the Extract from your other  
Prince?

3. Is Ld Lansdowne a  
K.G.?

I think nothing could be  
better expressed than your  
letter, if only it rests on a  
solid foundation enough -  
You yourself believe that  
your authorities are entirely

**f185**

to be depended on. And  
that is a great thing -  
O *that* Parnell! if he is  
the devil, the Times is the  
arch-devil.

What will be the end  
of it?

[I will return your two letters]  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

initialled letter fragment, ff186-87, pen

**f186**

-2-

I should be so glad if you  
could tell me of Margaret  
& Morfy, & if Fred  
caught Col. George -  
But I must not give you  
writing to do.

Sir Harry's letter this  
morning is sad; he says"  
"I am really fit for nothing  
but to remain here." And  
one would almost urge  
him not to come, if it  
were not that he ought to  
come & execute that Will  
(with Mr. Weston, as you said.)

**f187**

He speaks of the great  
& "efficient" help, "comfort  
& advantage" of having  
Edmund - & of the "precious  
presence" of Margaret & Edmund.  
God bless you  
ever yours  
F.N.

unsigned letter fragment, f188, pen

**f188** 10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

Think of Sidney Herbert's  
splendid Royal Commissions  
which struck the key  
note of progress in the  
British Army both at  
home and in India.

- think of the unwearied  
toil of the Sanitarians

- & they ask for the  
photograph of a rat.

- And this is not even  
the moment - when there  
is the plague at Bombay.

O these enthusiasms  
without facts!

unsigned letter fragment, ff189-90, pencil

**f189**

I am sorry that Lady

Wantage who has some  
of the elements of greatness  
of blessed Margaret  
is at me about the  
same thing. And I  
have to see her this  
week. And I write  
in haste to you because,  
I want to take a firm  
footing in you.

I am so sorry about  
Kathleen - but I hope  
she will soon be well  
Pray say. (best love from  
"Aunt Florence")

**f190**

-2-

My love to Margaret &  
Ellin & Lettice & Miss 'Uth,  
& baby. & my kind  
regards to Capt. Verney -  
please

And my best blessings  
on you all is all that  
Aunt Florence  
can say

You must have thought me a  
brute not to send you  
sandwiches yesterday. But  
Young set off at an unearthly  
matutinal hour before my boy  
aroused

I hope there was not a fire 'to roast an ox' in  
your bedroom  
last night.



Add Mss 41977D

585

Add Mss 68887, microfilm, 199 folios, 140 pages, correspondence with Frederick and Maude Verney Part 7 1891-94, Adam Matthew reel 41

ff1-2v, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S. W., January 3, 1991 from MV with thanks for flowers sent by FN for Ellin's return

unsigned letter, ff3-4, pen

**f3**

Claydon: Jan 4/91

Dearest, dear Maude

No words to say how  
thankful we were for your  
Telegram last night: And  
your dear kind letter this  
morning! & Fred's Telegram,  
Thank God.

Margaret, blessed Margaret  
will know that she has  
our dearest love - ( & thanks  
for her last Telegram from  
Liverpool 2 min before 11  
yesterday morning - it seems  
years already since that)  
And we follow her every  
step of her way to Hyères -  
& every day after - & we  
augur all that is blessed

**f3v**

for all three -

And as for Ellin you see  
she was borne on the wings  
of God's wind - *He* rides  
on the wings of the train  
& the ambulance. What  
divine things they are. *These*  
are *our* miracles worked  
by God. It is Elijah's Chariot  
of fire. *These* are Thy glorious  
works Father of light!

Grandpapa & Ralph & I  
spent the evening till dinner  
together. Ralph was interested  
in all - did not talk unless  
he was asked - then always  
gave a brisk & thoughtful  
answer - He is grown quite manly.

Gdpapa & Gw. & I the evening  
before.

**f4**

They have skated twice (every  
day since you went. I was  
going to say forgetting you  
only went on Friday) - I have  
seen Kathleen perfect in  
every limb. No one has been  
in - We had a dense fog  
and rain yesterday, celebrated of course  
by Gdpapa by going out, then to Mr.  
Ager's, sitting there in his  
wet clothes, being late for  
luncheon, coming in wet,  
& having a heavy cold in the  
evening - but all right this  
morning - Do you know the  
taste of your heart in your  
mouth?

But that taste now ought to  
be a sweet & thankful taste.

You are very full tomorrow  
morning - So I stop Aunt Florence's  
chatter.

signed letter, ff5, pencil

**f5**

Jan 11/91 {printed address: sideways} Telegraph,

Dearest Maude

Temple Claydon, Bucks.

Thanks for your letters many, many,  
I am appalled at Margt's plans -

Will you forward enclosed if you don't  
think it injudicious? {printed address: sideways: Claydon House,  
Probably you know more than we.

Winslow,  
Bucks.

---

I have told Sir Harry that I ~~will~~ write  
to you that he cannot come to dine on Tuesday  
[It is madness] ~~es~~ and you not at home!

ever yours Aunt Florence

{in the top margin}

Rosa Sear died yesterday: sent messages to  
the "Miss Verneys" - Please tell Margt & Ellin.

It was quite peaceful - & sensible to  
the last.

initialled letter, ff6-7, pen

**f6**

My dear Mr. Fred

*Gordon Boys' Home*

I entirely concur with your letter,

I had no time to write.

I think if you have a Chaplain, you  
will have parted with the last

remnant of likeness to Gordon. {printed addr sideways} 10, South Street,

1. Gordon was his own Chaplain Park Lane. W.

2. Gordon had *no military* discipline

G.B.H. has no other discipline  
than military -

**f7**

3. Gordon never, I believe, put one boy into the Army. He put, I think, a few into the R Navy - many into Merchant Marine, & into Thames Marine - & into Civil places.

G.B.H. has just twice as many boys in the Army as in all other places put together - And then it says

- - -

4. Gordon *lived with* his boys  
- took *their* meals with them

**f6v**

-3-

G.B.H. has 1 General Officer,  
1 Major, & 5 drunken  
N. C. officers (or HAD)  
& wants a Chaplain.

I have no time for  
more.

Good speed to day  
& every day -  
ever yours  
F.N.

ff8-9, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W. February 20, 1891, from FV, re FV's wish to have a country cottage, and his willingness to remain as candidate in Norwich

signed letter, ff10-11v, pencil

**f10**

April 9/91

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

Dearest Maude

I was so much obliged to  
you for your letters - I have  
heard or seen nothing of Mr.  
Fred: And you will guess  
how anxious I am to see him -

Now I am writing merely  
to torment you. My dear  
little Under housemaid, who  
has been with me 3 years,  
Elizabeth Hubbard, of Barford,  
age 18, wants to leave me  
to better herself - She has  
looked after many places to  
worsen herself - & got none -  
But still she wishes to go -  
I fear she was spoilt by

**f10v**

Claydon independence -

Could you kindly tell me of  
any nice girl of 15 or 16,  
like your Nelly Owen, who  
would come as my under  
housemaid? E. Hubbard was  
so innocent of evil, gay,  
nice & obstinate (wilful) I should  
like no London girl - one of  
Rhoscelyn, or Claydon, or Barford  
- If she had been in a place  
before, I should like it to  
have been a poor place.

E. Hubbard was like a  
savage when she came to me

Now dressed in clothes

She walks with beaux

In England

I would write to Mrs. Broadhurst,  
if you wished it, about a  
girl from Barford, or elsewhere -  
she got me E. Hubbard

**f11**

Forgive me for troubling you.

I had an unexpected visitor [5:543]  
last week: the Empress Frederic -  
- a broken hearted widow - not  
otherwise altered - but like one  
who could never know a gleam  
of sunshine again - She is  
simple & natural as ever;  
spoke without the least  
agitation in the same broken  
hearted way of her great  
griefs - She asked particularly  
about my sister & after Sir  
Harry - said if she had been  
'going to stay longer she would  
'have asked to see him. When  
'she came again in the summer,  
'she would do so' - [I am [end 5:543]  
going to write to Sir Harry as

**f11v**

soon as I can -  
Aunt Florence's love  
to the dear 3 -  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
Please give my love to the Miss  
Spring Rices to morrow -  
tell them I am so glad to  
think of them at Claydon -  
- will write as soon as I can.

unsigned letter, f12, pencil

**f12**

July 11 8 p.m.

My dear Mr. Fred I have had a driving  
day all day - did not get your letter &  
Maude's lovely note & roses till between  
4 and 5, have been driving ever

since without stopping - & cannot think  
that anything I could say oh so gladly {archivist: 11 July 1891}  
for Mr. Stubbs would have "weight" with  
Mr. W. H. Smith - rather, tho' I am so fond  
of Mr. Smith, the other way - Such as it  
is give I it thee. Best love, dearest love to Maude.

signed letter, ff13-14v, pen & pencil [8:921]

**f13**

*Private* July 19/91

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

My dear, dear Maudie  
and Fred

Thank you, Maudie, for all  
your dear letters from Claydon.

Your care has saved Sir  
Harry's life & health.

Thank you, Fred, for your  
letter about Godfrey Lushington  
&c. You have done all that  
man can do, & more. [I

thought I never saw blessed  
Margt so distressed as  
when she went to Westgate]

But, as you told me Mrs.  
Daniell said the worst  
[several lines cut out]

**f13v**

2. Thank you, Fred, for  
your letter about the  
Will business. Of course  
I agree with every word, & /except  
I think you very moderate.

Something may be done, I  
think.

I commit our way unto the  
"Lord" in both these dreadful  
things./entanglements. *He* knows.

3. Thank you very much,  
Fred, for your note about  
Toynbee &c -

4. I have seen your Mr.  
H. Smyth, & like him ~~so~~/oh!  
{part removed} He asked

**f14**

But oh what a boy he  
looks.

There seems so much to talk  
about -

Of course the thing most  
to be anxious about just  
now is: {the next two lines? have been removed}

I don't like to hint at  
either of you coming,  
because you have been  
so little together lately -  
But if you were coming  
this way this afternoon  
& could give me ten minutes,  
I should be thankful



**f14v**

If not, could you write?  
 I hope to see G. & K.  
     before they go. But I  
     have been so driven.  
 Dear Fred, your notes  
 {lines removed} lay up  
     question of  
 Nurses pro..  
 valuable  
 The last of  
 My wonderful old Crimean Sanitary  
     comrades, Dr. Sutherland, is  
     dead.  
         ever your loving  
         Aunt Florence  
 When are you going to have  
     *your* holiday?

ff15-16v, Claydon, August 21, 1891, from FV, re the loss of Embley

signed letter, ff17-17v, pencil

**f17**

Oct 5/91  
 Claydon House, {printed address:}  
 Winslow,  
     Bucks.  
 My dear Mr. Fred  
     Here are the two pamphlets  
 you wished to have -  
     No 3 is only the original which  
 you & I amended into the "paper"  
 read (with Sir B. Frere in  
 the chair)  
     Unhappily the 2nd part  
 of No 3 on Agriculture ~~is~~/was  
~~not~~/never finished - & only a few  
 pages in type - Still I may  
 perhaps send it/that to you?  
~~I~~ought to write to *Sir Jas*  
*Caird* to thank him - *Shall*  
*I* say anything about *you*,  
 Mr Morant or *Prince Damrong*

**f17v**

*seeing him in London* - I have to him explained about them.

Pr. Damrong cares much more about Agriculture than Mr. Morant - It was *the Prince* who asked me to find out what *is* being done in India in Agriculture.

And I thought of Dr. ~~ileg~~ Voelcker -

I will write you a few words more before you go, please.

F.N.

initialled letter, ff18-19, pencil

**f18** {archivist: Oct 9/91}

I am going to send you, dear Fred, unless I hear you have these books:

1 Hunter's "IMPERIAL GAZETEER OF INDIA"  
14 Vols

2 his ~~little~~ "*History of the Indian people*" quite a small book -one Vol {printed address: sideways} Claydon House,

3 I will send, if you like, his Winslow, "*Statistical Account* of BENGAL" Bucks.

20 Vols - said to be the most complete thing of the kind ever done in any country

**f19**

but you scarcely wish to make such a study of *Bengal*, do you?

4. Hunter's little Vol. of *Lord Dalhousie's Life*

O poor Parnell! is this the end?

Sir W. Hunter is coming here to dine & sleep on the 15th.

I hope you will be able to meet him -

Mr. Jowett is dangerously ill.

ever your loving

Oct 9/91 8Aunt Florence

7 a.m

Initialed letter fragment, ff20-21, pen

**f20**

-2-

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

Sir W. Hunter writes that  
he has written to Mr. Godley  
to send a copy of his  
Education Commission Report  
to 6 Onslow Gardens.

If it "does not come in the  
course of a week," you are  
to let me know, please.

Please take all Sir W.  
Hunter's books that you  
can find at 10 South St.

drawing room - in tray,  
top of long book-case, I  
think there are several -  
ONLY LEAVING ME A LIST.

Please order & send me

**f21**

Sir W. Hunter's LITTLE life  
of Lord Dalhousie or  
Lord Mayo - the latter  
issued this year by the  
Clarendon Press - (not  
the larger of 16 years ago)

I want it for the List  
of Sir W. Hunter's books  
at the end.

F.N.

{written at the bottom, the other way}

Sir W. Hunter  
writes most  
kindly, wishing  
to serve you.

signed letter, ff22-27v, pen & pencil, also printed in 1911 Bucks [6:587-89]

**f22**

Oct 17/91

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

My dear Mr. Frederick Verney

It is scarcely needful to  
say to intelligent people  
that *Health at the Home*  
is one of the most important  
questions for any one  
charged with the duties  
of Local Government  
But while Sanitation  
has actually become  
fashionable, while we  
are choked with the  
flood of Sanitary books,  
pamphlets, publications  
& Lectures of all sorts,  
good, bad & indifferent,

**f22v**

we have remained a book  
and a pen. We have not  
become a voice and a  
hand. What is read in  
a book stays in the book.  
*Health in the Home*  
has not been carried *home*  
to the hundreds of thousands  
of rural mothers & girls,  
upon whom so largely  
depends the health of  
the rural population -  
In fact, they do not believe  
in Sanitation as affecting  
health, as preventing disease.  
There has been a melancholy  
instance near here.

**f23**

At your special request,  
I have been making  
assiduous enquiries for  
educated women trained  
in such a way that they  
could personally bring  
their knowledge home  
to the cottagers' wives on  
a mission of health for  
rural districts. For this  
they must be *in touch* & in  
love, so to speak, with the  
rural poor mothers & girls -  
& know how to show them  
better things without giving  
offence.

We have, tho' they are  
but a sprinkling in our  
great towns & in London,

**f23v**

excellent Town District  
Nurses, but for many  
obvious reasons, they  
would not be quite suitable  
for your proposed work.

We can find no one  
woman for this ready made.  
She must be created for  
a rural Health Missioner.

Knowing how deeply  
interested you were in the/is  
subject & in its practical side,  
we have consulted a number  
of the most experienced  
people. And we have  
arrived at the conclusion  
that, to make [your] the movement  
a success, we must find  
some gentleman apt to  
teach, & educated women

**f24**

-2-

apt to learn - in other  
words we must train  
them for the purpose.  
And we must not mix  
up Nursing the sick with Health  
in the Home -

It does not appear in  
the least necessary to go  
outside ~~your~~/this County. It  
~~is~~/seems far better to utilize the  
ability at hand for teaching  
& the capacity for being  
taught.

With this object I have  
made enquiry as to who  
there may be in North  
Bucks who would be  
willing to give time &  
trouble to teach, & who is

**f24v**

qualified by knowledge &  
experience & caring for  
this problem as it deserves.

I had already been  
much struck by a report  
of one of the North Bucks  
Medical Officers of Health:  
Dr. De'ath. I made  
enquiries from independent  
sources. I have seen him,  
and, as far as is possible  
under the circumstances,  
have a good hope that he is  
competent, as he certainly  
is willing, to undertake this  
work - the work, that is, of  
training those who are to  
teach *practical* domestic

**f25**

sanitation to the mothers & girls, and who will  
be qualified by a course  
of work theoretical - that is  
to give them the 'reason  
'why', and practical, to  
show them *how* to do it,  
under Dr. De'Ath.-

I know of no such School  
of health now in existence  
for teaching of this kind,  
as would be started at  
Buckingham, if this ~~your~~  
project is carried out.

And if carried out  
successfully, Buckingham  
may become a centre of  
supply of trained Health  
Missionaries - not for its  
own immediate neighbourhood

**f25v**

only, but for many  
parts of England where  
such work is sorely needed

It seems hardly necessary  
to contrast Sick Nursing  
with this - [Sick Nursing  
requires ~~too~~ at least a year's  
Hospital training.] The needs  
of Home

Health bringing are quite different - require  
different but not lower,  
~~[the 'apparently humbler]~~  
qualifications, - and are more  
varied. They require tact  
& judgment unlimited to  
prevent the work being  
regarded as interference  
& becoming unpopular.

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

**f26**

-3-

They require an intense & real belief in Sanitation, & that Life or/& Death may lie in a grain of dust or a drop of water, or other such *minutiae* which are not minutiae but Goliaths. And the health Missioner must be a David to slay them & have his sweet voice and must be trained, as he was, to fight the giants with the simple weapons of every day use. She must create a new work & a new profession for women. And she must make her work acceptable to women of the labouring class.

I trust that your County Council will not think me one of your interfering Health Missioners. I know

**f26v**

~~your wise & high interest~~  
in inaugurating a vital work among the rural poor women. And I have therefore done your behest with alacrity.

May North Bucks distinguish itself by its wisdom & success in giving such an education to rural mothers & in waging the war against national deterioration of health & vigour! ~~Infant Schools do show such a~~  
~~illeg of mothers' ignorance~~  
~~in its pristine ugliness.~~

**f27** Pray believe me  
dear Mr. F. Verney  
yours & the mothers'  
anxious & attached friend  
Florence Nightingale  
Frederick W. Verney Esq.



initialled letter, ff28-31, pen

**f28**

Nov 8/91

My dear Mr. Fred

Should some one write TODAY to DR.  
DE'ATH (*before* your Bletchley Meeting)  
& ask him whether he can recommend any  
women - out of his Ambulance class or  
otherwise - not I should say Schoolmistresses  
- for the Health at Home Missioners -

We have not one female ready - while  
the machinery & the money, thanks to you,  
is almost or quite ready. But it is like a  
Steam-Engine without coal or fire - but  
with a driver -

**f29**

Also: should not *Proof of Syllabus*  
be sent to DR. DE'ATH to see if he has  
anything to say - TO-DAY - before printing?  
~~==~~You spoke of Miss Beale of Cheltenham  
- an admirable woman, who might help  
about the "agnostic" lady for Bang-kok -  
(I am afraid that is what she will be  
called) - but not about the rural Health Missioners.

She probably knows nothing about the  
subject.

When such women as Miss Calder & Miss

**f30**

-2-

Wright of Manchester do not, how should she?

I attach much less value to the women/Missioners [6:590]

"lecturing", tho' if they are gay & lively,  
the mothers may like to go to them,  
than to their visiting in cottages -

Lectures are only for those who *know*.

~~I think~~, having paid so much attention  
to the machinery, we should now set to  
to FIND THE MACHINES - I do not think *Londoners*  
much use in rural parts - (witness the Devonshire

**f31**

failure)

I do hope & trust that the *M.D. diploma*  
will not be held sufficient for the teachers  
of the females. These men know nothing,  
care nothing for what we want. Else  
why do they not do it themselves in  
houses & cottages?

~~I think~~ you said that *Miss Brooke Hunt*  
had been consulted (as well as Mrs. Plaj?na)  
*upon what subject?* - by Glostersh: Co. Co:

*What time shall I see her?* F.N.

signed letter, ff32-33v, pencil

**f32**

Claydon Dec 1/91

My dear Fred

I remember now Nurse Franklin. We sent her from St. Thomas' to our Matron in Paddington Infy. I don't think she was more than an ordinary good Nurse with ordinary education. But I will not say more till I hear from St. Thomas' -  
2 - I have a perfect nosegay of introductions from Sir W. Hunter - (two you have already - Lee Warner - who is now Political Secy i.e. Foreign Secy but is unfortunately coming home on leave end of Dec - 2 - Sir Raymond West)

**f32v**

The others are: 1. Director of Education 2. R. C. ditto - ~~the~~ an improving Raja with Schools & Munics on his own land - All, Bengal - Campbell, Collector of Bombay - the most useful man going Sir W. H. says

Sir W. Hunter has really taken a great deal of pains -

I am so very anxious that you should have a good introduction to Sir Evelyn Bering - I don't know that I dare write to Ld Northbrook, tho' he has been kind to me.

**f33**

I wish Sir Louis Mallet  
were not dead -

I am thinking of Lord Dufferin  
You know he was in Egypt,  
tho' his famous Despatch  
turned out a great mistake -  
Shall I write to him? He  
will see you both at Rome -  
& ask *him* for an introduction

It is so important, because  
you know what the Indian  
reformers, Dadabhai Naoroji &c  
say is: we want you to  
govern in India as you do  
in Egypt.

Or I think Lord Dufferin  
would give me an introduction  
~~from for you~~, unless you  
would ask him for one your=

**f33v**

=self, or unless you could  
think of some one else to  
give one whom I know -

So me & Mr. Marshall  
are to be a consultative  
Committee - But I am going  
away -

I have written to Lord  
Rosebery - & dipped into  
"Pitt" which looks splendid  
Many thanks.

Best love to Maudie  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

~~Dr-D~~ Scullery maids are to  
have Diplomas now, you  
know - & will cut your Nelly's  
tail off.

Add Mss 41977D

605

signed note, f34, pencil

**f34**

Claydon      Dec 14/91  
Fare you very well, dear Fred.  
You are going on a noble mission  
God bless you - He does bless you,  
by enabling you to do so much good.  
This will be Maudie's joy.  
ever yours loving  
Aunt Florence  
{archivist: 14 Dec 1891}

{f35 is blank}

ff36-37, Hôtel Quirinale, Rome, December 17, 1891, from FV, re Lord Dufferin's reception of Prince Damrong

signed letter, f38-39, pen

**f38**

Claydon    New Year's Eve  
                 of 1892  
My dear Fred  
I wish you all the  
highest blessing for the  
New Year which we  
may hope for, nay *expect*  
from God's love.  
Gwendolen & Kathleen  
are making a famous  
noise on the lawn. Maudie  
looked very tired when  
she came on Monday, but  
I hope is somewhat rested  
now. Ralph too is quite  
another boy since he came.  
Our pilot, Margt & her crew,  
left for Rhianva unwillingly  
yesterday. Ellin looks very  
much better - Sir Harry has  
been flirting with Miss Lückes,  
the London Hospl matron,

**f39**

-2-

persecuted of "Lords" & Princess Christians -  
'persecuted but not forsaken' - a very  
admirable woman And he went out  
with her in the Brougham to day.

Dr. De'Ath and I continue as bosom  
friends - I pushing the book line & the  
Diagrams & Models. But Dr. Ord says the best  
models are the "internal organs", "freshly  
"taken" of a sheep. And I am  
communicating this to Dr. De'Ath, who  
begins on Monday; Gwendolen's birth day.

**f38v**

-3-

{written across the corner}

I send you  
a copy of my  
letter to Poona -  
because Sir W. Wedderburn  
wants you to press it  
on "Vishnu", & make him  
ask questions of you  
But we must be humble  
with these Orientals  
I write in haste  
God bless you  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

607

unsigned letter, ff40-45v, pen & pencil

**f40**

*Private* 10 South St. Feb 4/5/92

My dear Fred

God bless the solid  
enterprise -

The great split about **[10:863]**  
whether the natives do or  
will ever care for local self-  
government is flanked by  
another, more prosaic but  
even more important which  
has only struck any one of  
late years & then very few.  
It is this: some few have  
perceived that as it is  
quite impossible for the  
sub-administration of India to be  
done by Europeans - & as  
we could neither pay them  
nor high-class natives to  
do it without impossible

**f40v**

-2-

taxation; - WHO really  
administers India? who  
really represents the  
British raj to the popular  
Indian mind, the raiyat  
mind, the working - day  
mind, which perhaps  
may see the European  
District Officer once in  
their lives - possibly never?  
Is it not the low-paid,  
corrupt, bribe-taking petty  
native official, who  
supplements his low pay  
out of the people's bones?  
I believe the ideal in the  
soul of the great man who  
shall be nameless (for  
fear of setting up the  
hue & cry: Great is Diana  
of the Ephesians)



**f41**

-3-

was to substitute for the  
said low-paid corrupt  
petty official the decent  
villager (habituated to  
*Village* Self-government  
when we were painted  
savages)

However these are the  
things which do touch  
the native mind - whether  
Local Self- Government does  
or not.

And what a beneficent  
revolution this would be!  
the greatest of all! But  
we have destroyed the  
Village Community as much  
as we could -

~~And~~ then we must  
remember the difference  
in different parts of India. [end 10:863]

**f41v**

-3-

III (*Gordon Boys' Home*)

Douglas Galton did his best.  
He tried at the Meeting to  
move a Resolution to say  
that any Commandant should  
have had previous experience  
with boys. But tho' "Ryan"  
was of same opinion, he wd  
not second: So it was not  
put or recorded. They urged  
that his motion ought to have  
been an instruction to the  
Committee - *before* reporting.  
& that he was too late. He  
merely said: 'Les absents ont  
toujours tort' -

Col. Walker R.A. (the one  
elected) of Aldershot, has  
only the experience of boys

**f42v**

that all Regimental Commandg

Officers have - 2. he founded  
the Ch. of E. Institute at  
Aldershot - just what one  
does not want - 3. he was  
elected because he can  
recommend Instructors &c from  
Aldershot, who are all to  
be Military!!

The most aggravating thing  
was that two letters of  
excellent sense I wrote to  
Genl. Hig he told Sir Harry  
were "*delightful* letters" - &  
*did not*.

So much for Military sense  
& business-power - like, as  
Ld Clarendon said 200 years  
ago, of the clergy.

---

I am delighted you met Sir [10:863]  
Roper Lethbridge - You are to tell me all  
about Bengal Tenancy Act & Bombay Village [end 10:863]

**f43**

2. -4-2

You will remember the Parsi Mr. [10:779]

Behramji Malabari,  
the Editor of the Indian Spectator,  
as the life-long champion  
against child-marriages  
& the oppression of child  
widows - by no means always  
judicious but untiring.

I wrote a Preface at his  
earnest request at Claydon  
which was published as  
an Introduction to his "life  
& work" (by Mr. Dayaram/a Hindoo)  
He is a terrible bore but  
certainly a prophet. [end 10:779]

**f43v**

-5-

3. Dr. Hayes who you will remember was recommended by Philip Smith, the Director Genl, & Sir T. Crawford for the Court Doctorship at Bangkok but declined on account of his wife's health, now writes to P. S., who writes to the D. G., who writes to Sir T. C., who writes to me, that he can patch up his wife's health by the autumn & go to Bangkok if you can wait till then. I should think you cannot wait till then, if Dr. Gowan is going. I think there is no doubt that Dr. Hayes is a gentleman, of pleasant manners, & accomplished, has been in India, a good Doctor & a good Sanitarian, but of that firmness of character which makes a man *actively* moral I hear nothing. He may be or he may not. His wife is a lady,

**f45**

-6-

But tho' Sir T. Crawford is  
in favour of Dr. Hayes, he  
said to me: "Even if Hayes  
"is available, telegraph to Mr.  
"Verney," *AS I did*. "He will  
"have a much better choice  
"from the Govt of India".

4. Mr. Robertson writes to me  
after having been to Pleasley  
that the cleaning of the dam  
is going on spiritedly "There  
"was a solid deposit of matter  
"5 feet deep" &c &c &c. He  
denies there being any smell,  
But my biography of the  
dam is this: it was smelling  
when you were there, it has  
been smelling vigorously ever since,  
it is now, & will be till the  
work is completed, that is soon

**f45v**

-7-

Mr. Robertson conferred  
with Allsop, the Sanitary  
Inspector, who only complained  
"that the drainage from Mr.  
"T. Crooks Homestead x x  
"passes direct into the stream".  
It is now to make a tour  
underground *before doing so*.

The water supply to the  
Park Farm is a great success.  
"The Ram throws up 1400  
gallons of water per day of  
the finest & purest quality."

Sir Harry "has given his  
"consent to the new Railway"  
& the Colliery Manager is  
in ecstasies at the Coal going  
straight to market.

**f44**

-8-

5. I have got into a scrape  
with Sir Lintorn Simmons  
about the Gordon Boys' Home  
which is to be remedied  
by our Meeting!!!

They seem in blissful  
ignorance of the opinions  
of their own Committee. One  
of the Committee OF SELECTION  
told me himself that  
Colonel Walker knew nothing  
more of boys than every  
Regimental Officer. He  
said moreover that there  
*were* two *Naval* Officers  
who had commanded  
Training Ships among the  
candidates, & several *Army*  
Officers better than Walker.

What always strikes me  
is that the constant subserviency

**f44v**

-9-

rightfully demanded for men - seniority or  
superiority in Army rank  
dwarfs all independence of  
mind in Military & Army  
Medical Officers -

I am going to knock under  
to Sir L. Simmons, because  
I am only Brigadier,  
(my rank in the Crimea)  
But "E pur si muove" I  
shall mutter to myself  
like Galileo -

I have however made  
some enquiries - And the  
Training-ships are not so  
successful as we think,  
I am sorry to say.

Add Mss 41977D

614

signed letter, ff46-49, pen & pencil

**f46**

10 South St      Feb 12/92  
Peace & the highest success  
to you, my dear Fred  
I am sorry you could not  
take more than a week  
at pushing Bombay. But  
it was very necessary to  
see Oriental Hyderabad  
It is continually said -  
and I am afraid with  
too much truth - that the  
people on the Hyderabad  
side of the Deccan are  
much better off than on  
the English side of the  
Deccan - I hope you  
will have been able at  
least to touch this question  
- and whether the English  
Deccan ryots do not try

**[10:863-64]**

**f46v**

to abscond to the native  
    ꣳ Nizam's Deccan  
I am afraid your principles  
    - your Municipal & Village  
principles - are getting  
corrupted by the Siren of  
well=bred Toryism.  
I see there is coming out a  
    fresh report on Deccan  
raiyyat indebtedness - that  
is, on *the way* the Relief Act  
*works*. I shall expect  
to hear from you a complete  
account not only of the  
Bombay Village Sanitation  
Act, but also of the Deccan  
Indebtedness Relief Act.  
If not, I shall be obliged to  
cut your acquaintance,  
when you come home -

**f47**

I wonder whether any  
remains exist in Hyder=  
=abad or other native state  
of the old Money-lending  
system where the money  
lender was the benefactor,  
not the oppressor, (whom  
we have to legislate against)  
of the raiyat. Was it not  
in old native times that  
the money lender was  
appointed to a village -  
if when the native authorityies  
went round, his raiyats  
were found to be FAT, he  
was appointed to ten  
cities (hence the parable)  
- if his raiyats were *lean*  
& poor, he was struck down  
without mercy. What a  
good plan! But we come in

**f47v**

with out "Stamps" & our  
Contracts & our Law Courts  
& the poor raiyats are choused  
& perplexed on every side.

**[end 10:864]**

I suppose you are now  
touring North -

Your trio of ladies for Siam  
is complete:

- I. Miss Blanche Smith
- II. Miss Shakespeare
- III. Miss Cole, daughter of an  
Indian colonel, age 21 - no  
training - learning the Kinder  
garten now. liked by *both* ladies.

I have seen Nos II and I.

No I has decidedly good  
qualities - Miss Shakespeare

I am quite in love with -

Maudie is made so happy by  
your letters. Sir Harry rides  
& is well. Violent threats had  
to be used to prevent him coming  
to London last week but succeeded.

{from f46, written in the left side margin}  
God bless you ever your loving F.N.



**f48**

-2-

We have been writing up to  
Feb 12 and including Feb  
12's mail to Bombay, (P.R.)  
having no idea that you  
were leaving Bombay so soon.  
I trust that my Telegram  
of Jan 26, & subsequent letters  
if they reached you were  
of some use. They were all  
to the effect, after great  
consultation with others,  
that the man Ld R. recom=  
=mended for Court Doctor  
at Bang-kok was not  
suitable, that Dr. Hayes  
could not come till autumn,  
& that *even if he were*  
*available* you had much  
better apply to the Government  
of India to *lend you one*.  
You would have a much

**f48v**

better choice. They would  
lend you one without  
striking him off the strength.  
He would have had native  
experience. And they would  
for their own credit's sake  
recommend a good one -  
My Telegram which was  
concocted in conclave raw:

"Would Government of India

"lend a Medical Officer

"experienced in Civil &

"Political employ and liked

"by natives"?

Sir Harry well

**f49**

Maude & Lettice had  
 two field days here yesterday  
 & the day before - & looked  
 I thought remarkably well &  
 Maude remarkably pretty.  
 She in morning to Gompertz'  
 Violin Lesson - then to see  
 Cheroon at Harrow - then  
 both to Henry VIII - yesterday  
 to both to see Ralph & Harry,  
 then to Gompertz' Concert.

Weather detestable - hard  
 frost, snow & blizzard  
 but warm & sunny in their  
 hearts. Maude revelling in  
 your letters.

God bless you  
 ever yours  
 very stupid Florence Nightingale

unsigned letter, ff50-51v, pen

**f50**

10 South St Feb 19/92

[10:632-33]

My dear Fred Thank you  
 a thousand times for your  
 two most important letters  
 which are a corroboration  
 from native *and* European  
 sources of what we learn  
 from men like Sir W. Wedderburn  
 who have gone behind the  
 curtain in sympathy and  
 experience & from all really  
 cultivated natives.

[end]

And thank you for your  
 beautiful little Roman scarf.

You know, I dare say, that  
 the commission for enquiring  
 into Deccan indebtedness  
 under the new Act reports,  
 among other things, that it  
 was just as bad under  
 native rule & that when we  
 took over the native Deccan

[10:632]

**f50v**

in 1818, I think, & put it  
under Mount Stuart Elphinstone,  
he said just as much  
about the distressed Districts  
as we do now. One would  
like to know more about  
this - not that it alters  
what we have to do.

**[end 10:632]**

Europeans doubt, you  
say, whether the Village  
Communities ever were the  
efficient self-governing bodies supposed -  
But, you say, that in Baroda  
& other neighbouring native  
states Village Communities  
which have never lost their  
nati self-governing powers  
are far better governed than  
many in British India.  
This tells much historically.

**[10:864]****f51**

We who have much evidence  
at our disposal which also  
exists in the I.O. are so  
convinced of the truth that  
to restore the Village unit  
& rather than the creation  
of large Local Boards is the  
key to the situation that  
we are trying to get them  
back their Village cesses.  
But of this when you come  
back. We are painfully  
aware that our letters are  
always 6 weeks after date.

~~When~~ When you receive this, you  
will be at Calcutta; and I  
trust you will get much  
out of *Mr. Manmohan Ghose*,  
and much about the  
working of the

*Bengal Tenancy Act -*

**[end 10:864]****f51v**

~~We have been~~

Add Mss 41977D

620

signed letter, ff52-55, pen

**f52**

10 South St March 4/92

My dear Fred - All blessings  
attend you -

Very many thanks for your  
letter from Mount Abu of Feb 5

It is most important. And  
I was delighted with our  
old friend, (whose religion, to  
which he is devotedly attached,  
must I think be a good  
one, for it brings forth fruits),  
Mr. Runchoralal Chotalal,  
& his success in Ahmehabad -

Alas! your valuable account  
of Baroda Village Self-Government  
or *non* Self Govt, throws rather  
a gloom over our ideas of  
possibilities in future. But  
I admire so much what  
your friend Major Macpherson  
says.

**f52v**

We are petitioning Lord Cross (by desire) that the Cesses paid by villages should be charged in the first place with the minimum of sanitation required by the village that pays - I have got the figures of the amount of village cesses *paid* & the amount of expenditure *in* the village on cleansing, water-supply &c. The proportion is very like Falstaff's of 'sack' to 'bread' -

Sir W. Wedderburn read me a letter from Miss Hurford of Poona. She was quite delighted & comforted by your visit & Prince Damrong's whose appreciation supports her soul, which is more than the Govt of Bombay's does.

**f53**

Miss Hurford's work at Poona in female education give us more weight with the natives & makes us more popular than all the Departments put together. We are trying whether the India Office could not be addressed in her favour, obtaining the interest of the heads of the Ladies' Colleges at Cambridge & Oxford also of some great Educational Society, with the names of great ladies, such as the Duchess of Connaught, upon it.

But The death of Miss Clough, the Principal of Newnham, (containing Clough Hall, Sidgwick Hall & Old Hall) at Cambridge, is a severe loss. The influence she exercised, & the consternation (I can call it nothing less) ~~of~~/at her loss are immense - I have often thought of here in relation

**[8:783-84]**

**f53v**

to Oriental countries, like Siam. She was not a woman of commanding abilities; she was the very reverse of a learned woman: her manners were not attractive. But her intense sympathy with ~~& interest in~~ all young women - not only those under her charge - her absorbing interest in Education *for its own sake*, like Lord Lawrence's (who took the London School Board after saving India), made her a power - Like him, life was nothing compared with her work. She had an insight as to what every woman who had been under her charge was fit for. Her last word, a few minutes before her death, was to go on about some building she was doing for the girl-students - & the day before about a ring she was ordering in London for the lady she has recommended to Mr. Moran for Siam. [I have seen both the ladies, the first, & the second for Siam].

**f54**

=====

-2-

Mr. Jowett has been here,  
looking better than he has  
done for months & months,  
the result of enforced rest.  
He talked about your  
Prince Kitiyakara, & gave  
a good account of him &  
his industry, & said he was  
getting over his reserve -  
He said he must have ability,  
or he could not have passed  
the Classical Examn, as he  
had not had the usual  
instruction beforehand - [But  
I suppose he Mr. Jowett meant the Public  
School or other English education,  
as Pr. Kitiyakara had had  
a Tutor, had he not?]

I hope if you see Pss Narès  
you will remember me to her  
most devotedly.

And you will make a proper



**f54v**

message for me to Prince  
Damrong.

Mr. Morant has told me a  
good deal about Siamese  
Land Tenure - And you  
will tell me more -

And I hope you have been  
able to get a great deal  
out of Mr. ManMohan Ghose  
at Calcutta about Bengal  
Tenancy Act &c. I trust you have  
my kindest regards to both Mr. & Mrs. Ghose.

Yesterday March 3 I telegraphed to you  
at Siamese Consulate, Calcutta,  
a repetition of my message  
about applying to Govt of India  
to lend a Medl Officer for  
Court Doctor at Bangkok,  
which I telegraphed to you  
at Poste Restante, Bombay,  
on January 26, & which I  
heard on February 29 only - was  
“undelivered” because “unknown”

**f55**

I wrote to the P. O. for  
explanation, & the answer  
was that it had not been  
“called for” (at Poste Restante,  
Bombay): & that they only  
let ~~the~~ Telegrams “remain  
“a month” “before being  
“advised as undelivered”

I am afraid this must have  
been inconvenient to you;  
but I hope you received 3  
(I think) letters from me  
telling the contents of the  
Telegram & explaining the  
state of the case -

I am afraid yesterday's  
repetition of the Telegram will  
be too late to do any good -  
But I am so glad you were  
going to Darjeeling - I presume ~~you~~  
to see the Viceroy.

God bless you -  
Maudie & Sir Harry well -  
ever your affectionate  
Florence Nightingale

Add Mss 41977D

627

signed letter, ff56-59, pen & pencil

**f56**

10 South St March 11/92

*Private*

My dear Fred Good speed  
in Siam - as we may rejoice  
in your past good speed  
in India, we will rejoice  
in your present at Bangkok.  
But be cautious about the  
heat - prudent about times  
& seasons of exertions, tho' I  
know well you will not  
relax exertion.

Maudie goes to night to  
Mr. Morant's farewell dinner  
to his three ladies - put off  
from last Friday on account  
of the funeral of Miss Clough  
who recommended Miss  
Blanche Smith.

But she will tell you all  
about that.

**f56v**

I was rather appalled by [10:227]  
 your last note, dated Delhi  
 Feb. 10, in answer to my [end 10:227]  
 letter of Jan 22, (4 days  
 before my Telegram of Jan  
 26, which it appears never  
 reached you.) - your note  
 saying that you mean to [10:227]  
 put off all action about  
 appointing the Bangkok doctor till  
 you return to England.

The unqualified opinion of  
 the experts I consulted, including  
 Sir T. Crawford & Sir W. Wedderburn,  
 (tho' clearly against some  
 natural prepossessions) was:  
 "don't choose in England:  
 "choose in India: consult the  
 "Govt. of India" ask *them*  
 to recommend & lend you  
 "one." And this was embodied

**f57**

in my Telegram of Jan 26 -

Sir T. Crawford adding to me  
 "EVEN IF Hayes is available" -  
 & both of them saying: "why,  
 "Mr. F. Verney is on the  
 very spot in India to have  
 a choice of experienced  
 good men".

["Hayes" will not be "available"  
 till autumn]

On March 2 I telegraphed  
 again the same words to  
 c/o Siamese Consulate, *Calcutta* -  
 "Would Government India lend  
 "Medical Officer experienced Civil  
 "Political employ liked by natives"?

Then I heard that you would  
 be gone to Darjeeling - which  
 I was very glad to/of - But [end 10:227]  
 still I hope you got my  
 Telegram.

**f57v**

The mystery is solved  
of your non-reception of my  
Telegram of Jan 26 - I wrote  
to the P.O. The answer was  
that a Telegram addressed  
*Poste Restante* is kept only  
one month - & then, if not  
called for is reported  
“undelivered”, because “unknown”  
- and that ~~the~~/my Telegram to  
Poste Restante, Bombay,  
tho' delivered there, could  
not have been called for.

Yet you received Maude's  
Telegram about Wolverton &  
Co. Co., sent Jan 28 or 29, &  
answered it.

You see, at the date of  
your letter of Delhi, Feb. 10,  
you had only received  
mine of Jan. 22, in which

**f58**

-2-

I suppose we had not come  
to our decision viz -  
'apply to Govt of India;  
'*not* to home':

I have written two, I think  
three letters, expounding to  
you *that*, my Telegram, of  
Jan. 26 - & one since my  
second to Calcutta, addressed  
to Bangkok, expounding *that*.  
And I still hope some may  
have reached you in time,  
if you wish to apply to the  
Govt of India.

~~I~~ am afraid you will have  
been hurried at Calcutta -  
& not perhaps have been  
able to see the ManMohun  
Ghose's -

**[10:227]**Strictly*Private* We are making an effort**f58v**

to bring the case of that  
splendid woman, Miss  
Hurford of Poona, before Lord  
Cross, so that he may get  
support for her from the  
Govt. of Bombay. She has  
written to Sir W. W.

**[end 10:227]**

So no more to-day except  
another God speed you  
from your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

Sir Harry well - very naughty  
at times - *will* go out at  
6 p.m. in the fog - say  
before yesterday applauded  
his own virtue very much  
because, snowing and blizzarding  
all day, tho' not so much  
as in London, he did *not*  
go out but played battledore  
with Maudie -

**f59**

Coals is riz.

Coal porters' strike

Great love to Princess Narès

if I may

signed incomplete letter, ff60-60v, pen

**f60**

all these tiresome questions  
[I have lately lived almost  
entirely upon biscuits - not  
being able to *digest* my cook.]  
If it would be less troublesome  
to you to see me than to  
write, I could, if quite  
convenient to you, see you  
at 1.30, or at 5 or at 6  
today, or at 4 -

With love to the children  
twain, & to Mr. Fred,  
ever your affecte  
Aunt Florence

P. Turn Over

**f60v** 2. Would you be so good

as to tell Mr. Fred, with  
my best thanks, how  
much I was interested in  
his paper on the Irish Land  
Bill? But is it so that  
*improving* landlords will not  
come at all under the Act?  
They think the "*Court*" will  
have to decided that, & don't like  
it.

3. Would you also tell him  
that, according to his request,  
I would gladly, if I could,  
write some day in his  
Women's Unions papers?

There is scarcely any movement  
that is of so much importance.

{printed address: 10, South Street, for women as *his*  
upside down:} Park Lane. W.

{tho' I don't believe in 'strikes'  
being necessary to raise wages)

- see Hospitals & domestic servants. F.N.

signed letter, ff61-61v, pen

**f61**

May 10/92

Dearest Maude

I thank you so much  
for your letters, tho' they  
are sad enough in some  
things - But I do so  
rejoice that Fred is  
coming home - not only  
for you but for every body  
& every thing.

Yes, poor Mr. Morant -  
I have not been so long  
the Govt's jackass,  
without knowing such  
a thing as Pr. D's  
translation - aggravating  
thing - happen many a

**f61v**

time here - as when  
Mr. W. H. Smith was  
taken away from the  
War Office which no  
one but he could do,  
to be Leader of the Ho: of  
C. which no one could  
do & which killed him.

But I never found it  
the less aggravating for  
that -

However, we will rejoice  
at Fred's return -

I am so grateful to  
you for all you tell me.  
And you are so good  
about writing to me of Sir  
Harry ever your loving  
Aunt Florence



incomplete letter, ff62-63v, pencil [8:922-23]

**f62**

10 South St May 16/92

Dearest Maude

I have had a letter  
from Fred: Bangkok Ap 9,  
chiefly about Court Doctor  
for Bangkok - I am very  
sorry to think that Dr. G.  
is actually "re-instated"  
(tho' perhaps "only partially") -  
Them Easterns are somewhat  
aggravating.

I suppose we may  
actually think of Fred  
in Europe on Thursday.

are *you* going to put up  
at the Siamese Embassy /Legation  
or where?

**f62v**

How many God speed s  
have been said for him -  
And thank God who *has*  
sped him.

[As the last man I should  
have expected to make that  
sort of remark, Mr. Knowles of  
the XIX Century, once said to me:  
"Thank God there *is* a God"]

Mr. Fred made a nonsensical  
observation to me in one of his  
letters, for which you must  
chastise him. He said, he hoped  
I would not destroy his letters  
till after he came back, he  
wanted to look at them. Tell  
him I have kept all his letters  
in a portfolio to themselves: but

**f63**

I don't know that I *shall*  
let him see them after  
that absurd remark.

I hope you will kindly  
telegraph to us when you  
have seen him again.

Excuse me if I don't send  
back the Sonapundit & the  
Devawongsee nice letters to-night  
- They shall come without fail  
tomorrow.

Thanks, dearest Maude, for  
your letters & post-cards - very great  
thanks - I do think he is going on  
well - And Fred's return will  
be an immense delight to him -  
But I feel what you say about  
the silent solemn figure of Death  
coming up the big stair case -

**f63v**

But I hope he may be  
spared a little longer yet -  
And I do want him too to  
do the cottages at Steeple  
Claydon before he dies - &c &c

Dr. De'Ath has sent me  
Dr. Wilson's certificate of  
the 5/6 young-lady teachers  
of Health - It is very  
satisfactory - And this too  
will please Fred & I hope  
Margt.

I feel as you once said  
that we are entering a fog  
& don't know when or where  
we shall come out: But  
Margt is a light in herself  
- a burning & a shining light.

Add Mss 41977D

635

incomplete, signed letter, f64, pencil

**f64**

-2-

Very many thanks for "Rogers"  
& "The Service of Man".

I will transmit them  
presently to No. 4.

Did you not want "Sidereal  
Photography"? It  
is here -

Many thanks about poor  
Miss Morant - I think you  
& Maudie are of opinion  
that I had better let her  
alone for the present. Shall  
I take any notice of her  
letter or not?  
God bless you & Maudie & childer 3  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff65-66, pen

**f65**

10 South St May 7/92  
Dearest Maude

Many, many thanks for  
your letter of this morning.  
"The mind shrinks appalled"  
from the "18 butlers" & no  
less from "the Drawing room.

Isn't it worse than  
Bangkok?

Pray keep yourself alive.  
Have you something to eat?

I was just going to return  
you these two nice letters  
from the Bangkok 'big man'  
*by rail* -

There would be a letter  
from me for you by this  
morning's post at Claydon -  
not at all interesting for  
your eyes but quite unfit

**f66**

for ~~your~~/Margaret's - Perhaps  
however the post reached  
you before you left, & you  
pocketed it.

Might I hope to see you  
for even twenty minutes before  
you leave for - Jerusalem/Zion?  
no, Paris.

But I know how busy  
you must be -

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff67-69v, pencil

**f67**

10 South St June 4/92

*(Sir Harry's 8000 a year)*

My dear Fred I am very  
penitent for having talked  
business to you last night  
when you were tired -

But I thought you might  
not be seeing Margt again,  
blessed Margt, before they go  
abroad. We must not do  
anything without her of this  
kind, for she has spoken,  
I believe, both to Sir Harry  
& to Mr. Robertson about it  
& is not very sanguine of  
making "his affairs straighter"  
Mr. Western, I believe, receives  
the Dividends, which come in

**f67v**

at all different times - &  
pays them into Smith & Paynes  
- & *perhaps* 'advises' Sir Harry  
of them. *But this is of no*  
use. The thing is that  
Mr. Robertson or some one  
at Claydon should keep  
an account of what does  
come in - & apprise Sir  
Harry of what he has  
every quarter or oftener -

[It was supposed that  
Sir Harry had authorized  
Mr. Western to do this with  
Mr. Robertson, but it does  
not appear to have been so]

**f68**

To suppose that Sir Harry  
will send in his Banking  
Book to be made up (without  
Margt) is quite futile.

II. May I tell Sir Thomas  
Crawford that Dr. Gowan  
is reinstated for a time  
(he probably knows it)  
& that you are come  
back - (wh. he probably  
knows too)

Good speed in all your  
acts - & take care of  
yourself - or rather let

**f68v**

Maudie take care of you  
My love to all at  
Claydon  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f69** **[5:531-32]**

3 -2-

Lord Shaftesbury's Life is  
admirable, delightful - I  
am so glad of your critique  
upon it - critique in the true  
sense of extracting the  
spirit, the highest meaning  
- not of exposing the surface  
faults.

'Genius is the power of taking  
trouble' -

His was 'genius' in the  
immeasurable pains & labour  
to gain the ~~illeg~~/most exact  
information, tested by  
himself - to prepare himself  
in the most complete manner  
for pressing it on Authorities  
And the other part of him

**f69v**

was as remarkable - his  
absolute dependence on God -  
It was like Christ's "I speak  
nothing of myself" -

His morbid self-distrust  
only quickened his labour -

He would have been in  
a Lunatic Asylum if he  
had not devoted himself  
to reforming Lunatic Asylums. **[end 5:532]**

signed letter, ff70-71, pencil

**f70**

June 13/92

My dear Fred

I do beseech you, I implore  
you, I command you, I  
instruct you to keep quiet.

Pray do *nothing*. It will  
only ~~you~~ throw you back -  
It will indeed. Go to the  
sea to-morrow, & behave  
like a wise man, one of  
the Magi. And come  
back well -

I am sure you were the  
worse for seeing of me  
last time: we talk about  
exciting things - Now let us

**f70v**

both be good. I see  
Margaret tomorrow, and  
Lady Wedderburn - So you  
& I have no chance to  
see one another -

And to-day I am  
sure you ought to be  
quiet & be good - I  
should like to stand over  
you like a roaring lion -  
I am sure Maudie prays  
you to be good

So no more at present  
from your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f71**

When you come back  
from the sea we will  
both roar -

Add Mss 41977D

640

initialled letter, ff72-75, pen & pencil

**f72**

10 South St July 29/92

Dr. De'Ath

2 letters returned

No 1

My dear Fred

I have never had time to answer - and it is most interesting & most difficult to answer, & most important.

1. "How many lectures"?

Dr. De'Ath & you will be best able to settle this -

2. How to start the work?

Ditto ditto - I suppose he means *how to give notice*.

Also: it would immensely facilitate things, if a *lady* of knowledge, sympathy & enthusiasm, & *not* brusque, not patronising or pedantic, could *go round in each village* & explain to



**f72v**

the cottagers' wives what  
is coming.

3. most important of all  
"Systematizing" & "supplementing"  
the "course" by "personal  
Home instruction"

a. I saw a M. S. book of  
Lectures by Miss Bartlett  
which I thought quite  
admirable - lively, dramatic,  
PRACTICAL [I don't think  
say these were the *best*, for  
I think I did not see  
the 'books' of the two first  
ladies on the successful List]  
~~They~~/These were conversations  
between two poor women/mothers,  
a Mrs. Brown and a Mrs. Smith,  
about the sort of clothing  
to buy, & about Sanitary

**f73**

things in the *house* &c &c  
one all ignorant, the other all practical

This is the sort of style  
to attract the attention  
of uneducated people.

[A Sanitary catechism  
which has just been sent  
me from India, asking  
me to get it used in Indian  
Elementary Schools, is the  
exact reverse. It is in  
this Style: Q."How do you  
get rid of foul air?"

A. "By ventilation".

& in an adjoining page:

Q."What is ventilation?"

A. "The getting rid of foul air".

Such books ought to be  
carefully improved off the  
face of the earth]

**f73v**

b. ~~To supplement by~~  
*"personal Home instruction"*  
 is the essence of the whole  
 thing - just as training  
*Nurses by the bed-side*  
 in *actual* Nursing is  
 the essence, & lectures  
 only the supplement.

In Dr. De'Ath's letter,  
 No 2, I rejoice to see  
 that he speaks of *"taking the*  
*"pupils in groups of two*  
*"or three to go over some*  
*"cottages with the teacher"*.

This I should call the  
 essence.

[Do you remember a story  
 which some eminent Master,  
 I think it was the great  
 Dr. Arnold of Rugby himself,

**f74**

-2-

used to tell  
 (& which is now in print)

He was teaching his Class,  
 & he saw a boy absolutely  
 in attentive. He immediately  
 changed his teaching to  
~~str~~ drawing on a slate  
 Caesar's bridge, or  
 something of the kind -  
 Afterwards he spoke to the  
 boy about his inattention,  
 who said, without meaning  
 to be in the least impertinent,  
 "O I thought you were *only*  
*"talking, Sir."* With  
 ignorant cooks & under  
 servants & Nurses, & with  
 the *uneducated* generally,  
 they think we are "*only*  
*talking*" - & at church

**f74v**

they think the clergyman  
is "only burrowing away  
"over my head"

But you will say *I am*  
"only talking" - The fact  
is without talking it  
over with Dr. De'Ath  
& you it is difficult  
to do otherwise.

[I have just had to look  
over the Exam: papers  
of Nurses, splendidly  
taught CLINICALLY - but  
I think the papers are  
just "only talking" hard  
words -]

**f75**

I am keenly anxious that  
the "Health at Home" ladies  
should do *real* work -  
& that Dr. De'Ath should  
continue the Teacher.

As he says: "Now is the  
"plan of campaign". Now  
the lady=soldiers are on  
their trial. The way must  
be shown them, & then  
the responsibility thrown  
upon *them* of making  
themselves interesting &  
efficient, *after* Dr. De'Ath  
& you have discussed it  
with them. But for any sake,  
don't let there be 'certificates'  
*at present*, or 'honours' from  
the Local Govt. Board or from London  
F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

644

inscription, f76, pen

**f76**

Offered to my  
    dear boy  
    Ralph Verney  
with Aunt Florence's  
    dearest love  
    God bless him  
        Sept 16  
        1892

ff77-78v, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. {archi: ?September 1892} from MV re thanks for a present to Ralph and Ralph's return to Harrow

signed letter, ff79-80, pencil

**f79** {archivist: 25 Oct 1892}

Claydon Oct 25/92

Dearest Maude We trust that dear Fred  
    is not the worse for Oxford. Sir Harry  
had a little cold & breakfasted in bed;  
but rode this afternoon!! & has just left  
me!! Margt is decidedly better -  
but saw Dr. De'Ath to-day & yesterday  
- & will see him tomorrow. She is not  
to go down-stairs & *not* to *speak* - She  
is according to her own account, in  
"robust health & in rampant spirits"

**f80**

& doing her book -

Miss B. Smith has chosen a book.  
- a "Tropical Flora" - but does not tell me the price or send  
me the Acct. Miss Shakspear has not  
written - As the ladies are going to  
tea with you tomorrow - happy ladies -  
I ask you as a favour to pay their  
Accts & enclose 5 - but please  
advance the money for me, if *more*  
is needed.

in greatest haste  
ever yours

Aunt Florence

How is your cold?

Please say everything that is warm  
& earnest for me to the ladies -  
if I do not write, which I hope to  
do by early post under cover to you.  
I wish I might send my love to the  
youngest whom I do not know

signed letter, ff81-82, pencil

**f81**

Claydon Oct 26/92

Dearest Maude I know not what to say  
about your coming on Friday - It would  
be such a displeasure to every body if  
you did not.

If she talks, she barks - & throws  
herself back - There is one person  
she takes no care of - you know who  
that is - She is constantly extolling her  
own goodness, well=ness, good spirits -  
All fibs except the last - When I hear  
{archivist: 26 Oct 1892}

**f82**

her raising her voice, I run howling along  
the long passage to find Lettice - If I  
can't find her, I catch Edmund - And  
we turn out the offender -

In my distress I asked Dr. De'Ath  
who sees her every day - She has been  
below par - & the congestion has settled  
at the top of her throat - But all the  
rest is better - He says:

every time she coughs, she delays  
her recovery - every time she speaks  
she coughs - But it would be a great  
pleasure to her to see Mr. & Mrs. F.V.

What can I say?  
She is so happy doing the old Verneys'  
who have been eaten by worms  
200 or 300 years ago - What a thing  
it is to be interested in these who  
give no one care, no responsibility,  
no anxiety - Bless the worms -  
ever your loving Aunt Florence

unsigned letter fragment, f83, pen

**f83**

The lady from whom I had  
her, Mrs. Shore Smith, was  
here last night - talking to  
her. And it was to her this  
~~she seemed~~/instance of her being so slippery

Mrs. S. S. thinks that  
I ought to give you this  
warning ~~that~~ she repents

Add Mss 41977D

647

signed letter, ff84-87, pen [6:593-94]

**f84**

Claydon Nov 7/92

*PRIVATE*

My dear Fred

I am exceedingly obliged to you for sending me these valuable & most interesting letters.

The necessity, absolute NECESSITY, of a Sanitary Committee to the County Council presses upon us here with a ferocious power -

The Local Govt Board refuses, as far as we understand, to inspect or to enquire about Steeple Claydon -

And as far as we understand an interview between the Local Guardian & Sir Harry

**f84v**

is all the step at present contemplated about Steeple Claydon

But more about this anon -

I send you the ~~Minute~~/sheet Edmund kindly drew up - on the Sanitary powers & duties of a Co. Co.

& in another packet the "Sanitary Record" Vol - which is *Dr. De'Ath's* - where at p 430 are summarized the duties of a County Medl Officer of Health (as mentioned by Edmund)

**f85**

I was told by another  
person to tell you  
(privately) that the  
appointment of a County  
Medl Off. of H. by the Co. Co.  
is a ticklish matter,  
because the Co. Co.  
is but too much inclined  
to appoint ANY man who  
has a Diploma.

That however will not  
come on directly -

**f85v** {in FV's hand Miss N on San: Comee Nov 92}

P.S.

When Cholera is on the  
tramp, Steeple Claydon  
will catch it.

But you will save us.  
I return your letters  
but should like very  
much to see them again.  
your affectionate  
F. Nightingale



**f86**

-2-

*Private*

Dr. De'Ath has asked  
me to say

A Sanitary Commee should  
ask some one to report  
upon the condition  
- of the county  
- of the districts of N. Bucks

Some one for each division  
of the County

But as you ask him to  
guard you against the  
Bd of Guardians, he says -  
the reports of the M.O.s of  
Health are like a  
Queen's speech - "She is  
"on terms of friendship  
"with all the powers"

**f86v**

- get the M.O.s *not*  
to write "*friendly*" reports

Their Reports are too  
glossy - they hide, they  
do not expose, defeats

"We M. O. s don't tell  
the truth," he says -

And then the Bds of  
Guardians crow & say:  
look, that is *all* the  
Health Officer has to  
complain of.

[You desired Dr. D not  
to allow you to say what  
could be refuted: about  
Bd of Gns having received  
reports & done nothing -

**f87**

you cannot unfortunately  
prove a negative]  
The Reports don't ask them to do  
anything]  
P.S. [Dr. De'Ath evidently  
thinks there is no  
necessity for a *County*  
M. O. of Health]  
P.P.P.S. Dr. De'Ath has  
given me the particulars  
for you how to dry earth  
- you asked - in a cemented  
shed

signed letter, ff88-90v, pen, printed in Bucks, where titled Health at Home Visitors

**f88**

London Novber 21/92 [13:885-86]

***Health at Home Missioners***

My dear Mr. Frederick Verney

Tho' I have recently left  
Claydon, it was not till  
after I had had the  
advantage of much  
information thro' Dr. De'Ath  
of strict independent  
enquiries, & of personal  
communication with the three  
ladies at present at work -  
as regards the Health=at=  
Home Mission

The result for the short  
time is more satisfactory  
than you could have dared  
to hope - The Technical Education

**f88v**

Commee may be quite  
confident that good work  
is being done -

But an extension of  
time, your Committee will  
readily see, is most desirable  
The term of ~~8 weeks~~ {in FV's hand: their present employment} is  
already drawing to a close  
And this, just as the Health  
Missioners are beginning  
to gain the confidence of  
the Cottage Mothers & girls -

If we consider how many  
sceptics there still are among  
those even who are called  
educated as to the vital

**f89**

necessity of Sanitation & the  
almost immediate saving  
effect of some Sanitary  
measures, we must not  
be surprised that those less  
educated whom we have to  
deal with do not understand  
or assimilate these new  
ideas at once - It requires  
the continued work of a  
friend, not a *mere* Lecturer.

The friendly visiting of the  
Lecturer Missioner at the  
Cottage Homes by invitation  
has been a marked success.

It has also been found by  
experience that ~~the~~ all the  
practical teaching which

**f89v**

it was intended that these ladies should give could not be compressed into the number of Lectures so as to receive the illustrations & definitions by anecdote absolutely necessary - an additional reason why lectures which have been in most places well attended should receive an extension which it is hoped the County Council under whose auspices this experiment has been so happily begun would willingly approve. For Your Technical Education Commee would in their intelligence

**f90**

-2-

see that RURAL training must be given in rural health to rural Cottage women - & that London physiological Lectures without any training at all in Cottage Health=at=Home visiting are worth little or nothing for rural life. Its conditions, it need hardly be said, are so different from those of large towns.

I trust that I shall be forgiven by your Technical Commee if I appear intrusive -forgiven on account of my deep interest in the

**f90v**

instruction to rural poor  
women, for whom so little  
has yet been done - so  
wisely set on foot by the  
Bucks County Council -  
'May their shadow never  
be less!'

Pray believe me  
the humble & anxious friend,  
dear Mr. Frederick Verney,  
of yourselves & your Bucks  
Cottage Mothers -

Florence Nightingale

**[end 13:886]**

{f91 is blank}

signed letter, ff92-95v, pen **[6:594-96]**

**f92** {in FV's hand, Miss N. on San: Comee for Bucks}

London November 23/92  
My dear Mr. Frederick Verney

Every man & woman now  
must be a Sanitary Officer.

We must create a public  
opinion which must drive  
the Government instead  
of the Government having  
to drive us - an *enlightened*  
public opinion, wise in  
principles, wise in details.

There was a man in  
India once - only lately dead  
- first the Health Officer  
of one of her Presidency cities  
- then Sanitary Commissioner  
of the Presidency - I had the  
privilege of knowing him well  
When he first began, there

**f92v**

might be at times 200  
or 300 Cholera deaths a  
day. The people remained  
passive: they only said  
"It is the Goddess of Cholera",  
or "the Goddess of Small=pox"  
(if there was a Small pox  
epidemic) "who has been  
"offended - Let us go to her  
"shrine with votive offerings -  
"to propitiate her" -

But latterly after seeing  
& knowing him, if there were  
two or three Cholera deaths,  
they would cry out: " Sahib,  
"bestir yourself. Don't you  
"see we are all dead? What  
"is the Government about?"

We hail the County Council

**f93**

is being or becoming  
one of the strongest engines  
in our favour - at once  
fathering & obeying the great  
impulse for national health  
against national & *local*  
disease -

For we have learnt that  
we have national health  
pretty nearly in our own  
hands: *local* Sanitation,  
national health. But we  
have to contend against  
centuries of superstition,  
& generations of indifference.

If however the immoveable  
Hindoo - with his centuries  
of civilization when we  
were painted savages -  
made a Sanitary stride  
so unusual to him - shall

**f93v**

we who call ourselves the  
 most wisely progressive  
 of all nations lag behind  
 in our *rural* life - we  
 who have such opportunities  
 now of learning our  
 Sanitary business - certainly  
 the most important of all,  
 for we must *live* & be well in  
 order to work.

The Technical Education  
 Committee has shown its  
 practical skill in  
 starting Health=at=Home village  
~~rural~~ Missioners - But we  
 the villagers need Sanitary  
 works too -  
 Let the County Council  
 take the lead as that  
 Health Officer in India

**f94**

-2-

~~did~~ - Let it represent  
 us, command us, instruct  
 us by a Sanitary Committee  
 in our struggle for health  
 We do not ask at present  
 for County Council *executive*  
 power. But what a *moving*  
 power would such a  
 Sanitary Committee, if wisely  
 conducted, be. gathering  
 experience every day,  
 encouraging the true reports of  
 able Medical Officers of  
 Health, instead of quashing  
 them - saying: 'we will *not*  
 have Cholera, we will *not*  
 have Fever - nor infantile  
 complaints, the true test  
 of what is sanitary or  
 insanitary - sickly children

**f94v**

'growing into sickly parents.

We *will* have good  
water-supply, good drainage,  
no overcrowding - pure  
air, pure water, pure earth  
For disease is more expensive  
than Sanitation.

We *will* be able to say  
to Cholera, if it comes:  
"there is no room for you  
here - there is no place for  
you to plant your foot-  
Scarlet Fever, Typhoid,  
cannot come here"

'Bucks shall be a county  
of healthy villages, ~~instead~~  
~~of must we say? the reverse~~ {strike out by FV?}

**f95**

God has put it perfectly  
within our power to  
learn how to govern thus  
the march of disease -  
thus to lay our commands  
on the Spirits of the Air -  
Then let us do it. Let  
Buckinghamshire say:  
'there shall no village  
of Bucks be left a  
prey to disease. We  
*will* learn; we *will* speak  
-we *will* do'"

We are waiting for the  
manifestation of the Bucks  
County Council.

Make the first step.

Give us our Sanitary  
Committee



**f95v**

The Sanitary reform  
must be a work of years  
- not of a day.

Other Counties have  
undertaken it.

But there must not  
be a day lost in  
beginning it.

Cholera may be upon  
us next summer -

Disease is always with  
us -

Give us our Sanitary  
Committee - Good speed  
to you - God speed you  
Florence Nightingale

signed letter, ff96-99v, pen

**f96** {in FV's hand: Miss N. on expansion of H.M. Dec 3}

Dec 3/92 8 a.m.

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

My dear Fred

In answer to your letter,  
it is most important to form  
a plan for "the extension of  
"the Health at Home work  
"within & without the county"

And it is practically  
even yet more important to  
send "without the county"  
only Missioners fully  
trained & competent to  
address & *visit* the poor  
mothers & girls.

We have two powerful  
old established organizations  
against us in London if  
not more - & others are

**f96v**

rising all over the country

Only on Thursday last, I  
was appalled at finding  
in one of my own (old)  
Counties the following scheme  
actually started with approval:

one or two Lectures are  
given by a London lady -  
& part of the audience are  
Lady District Visitors -  
These then in the course  
of their visits go & "*find  
fault*"(sic) with anything  
they think wrong in the  
Cottages - This was told me  
as a thing they thought I  
should rapturously second.

It would be fatal if N.  
Bucks sent out any ladies  
of this sort &

**f97**

imperfectly trained

Unquestionably the "best plan  
"would be to retain all four  
"Health Missioners in the County,  
"say for " I am afraid I *must*  
say for *more than* "another  
"term of 80 days" - tho' that  
will be a little more than 5  
months which is much better  
than half that time  
"that two or three out of  
"the four should take  
"Probationers who have  
"attended a course of Lectures"  
(& Classes & Cottage Visiting)  
by *Dr. De'Ath* at Bletchley.  
tho' how is he to manage the  
Cottage Visiting? - he must  
take them to at least one

**f97v**

Village he knows" & have passed an  
 "Examination as did the others"  
 'Passe pour' the Examn but  
 it is not that which makes  
 a Missioner -  
 "non-residents should give  
 "a fee payable to our  
 "Commee" Yes.  
 But could there not be  
 some further fee for Dr.  
 De'Ath?  
 "When second set of Health  
 "Missioners ready" for "the  
 "County" "spare one or two  
 "of the original ones to go  
 "out of the County. x x  
 "They will have had experience  
 "not only in the practice,  
 "but also in the *teaching*" - very  
 little I am afraid - "of their work"

**f98**

x x x -2-  
 "more likely to succeed than by  
 "sending out our half-fledged  
 "Missioners too soon"?  
 Unquestionably: but it is  
 just what I am afraid of  
 that "half fledged Missioners"  
*will* be sent out  
*Dr. De'Ath's letter*  
 2 I think Miss Deyns would be  
 a "half-fledged Missioner"  
 She struck me as having  
 more *knowledge* than either  
 of the two others - but less  
 flexibility to adapt herself  
 to the poor mothers - tho' as  
 much devotion - & she is a  
 very charming person.  
 But I would rather trust  
 Dr. De'Ath's judgment than  
 mine - tho' I *scarcely* think

**f98v**

- his reasons are more *for*  
 sending *Miss Deyns* than  
 for sending a competent Health Missioner
- 3 Unquestionably if any one goes  
 she must "return to Dr. De'Ath  
 "her form" that he may have  
 "an eye on the work"
- 4 "Can you grow Health Missioners  
 "for other places out of  
 "your County funds"?  
 I suppose not. but your  
 plan of "fees" must come in
5. I trust Dr. De'Ath may  
 be authorized to do as he  
 says & "supplemented by  
 "visits here when necessary"
- 6 Make N. Bucks a "centre" -  
 & let it be a "centre" for  
*thorough* work.

**f99**

I had hoped that you  
 would *anchor* a certain  
 number of Health Missioners -  
 - teachers in N. Bucks to  
 hand down the good  
 traditions [The temptation  
 or the fault of all Training  
 Schools is: not to keep a  
 nucleus but to hurry out  
 half fledged women to  
 frantic friends - is it not?]

2As for *Miss Negus* she is of  
 course entirely untried,  
 tho' Dr. De'Ath will fashion  
 her - And Miss Rowland  
 had only had 2 ½ villages  
 when I left Claydon, tho'  
 her visiting had been  
 wonderfully successful.

**f99v**

Miss Calder wants a  
Health Missioner for  
Wiltshire in January -  
wife of Marlboro' College {in FV's hand: ask}  
I will send you particulars  
she told me to Claydon, tho' I feel  
as if I were the Tempter.

Success attend you -  
God speed you -  
ever your affecte  
Aunt Florence  
{printed address: upside down} 10, South Street,  
Park Lane. W.  
I hope you will be able to  
consult Margt.

unsigned letter, ff100-01v, pen & pencil [6:596]

**f100**

6/12/92  
10, South Street, {printed address:} [6:596]  
This is what Miss Calder Park Lane. W.  
said:  
Mrs. Bell  
The Lodge  
Marlborough  
wants a *teacher of Cottage*  
*Hygiene* very much  
for 3 months from January  
I understood Miss Calder  
to say that  
Mrs. Bell ~~was~~/is the head of  
the Ladies Commee of the  
Wiltshire Co. Co.  
(of which ~~the~~ Commee the  
Bishop's wife is President)  
[Miss C. reminded us of the  
Technical College at Trowbridge.]  
She says Mrs. Bell is a woman  
of great activity, success &  
wisdom - & worth serving - &  
would be of use to us -

**f101**

I think if you have made  
 up your minds that you  
 ought not to give her one, (Health Missioner),  
 it would be well to ~~do~~/ask as  
 you say: 'would Wiltshire  
 pay for the making of one,  
 either a Wiltshire lady to  
 be sent into Bucks, or a Bucks  
 lady to be trained for Wiltshire?  
 But, as you say too, it is  
 terrible if they send you a  
 "lout"-a or *idea* ("feminine of  
 "idiot", see Dr. Johnson)  
 [Most Training Schools now  
 won't take a Probr without  
 seeing & trying the Candidate] But I shd think Dr. DeAth might try *her*.  
 fees: fees (yours)

---

I have sent 7 Health pamphlets to Miss Calder by Margt's desire

**f101v** [c1892]

"Silvanus Trevail" has [hosp]  
 sent me his papers (7)  
 which I thought admirable - I  
 answered by asking him to  
 send them to you & by sending  
 him a Health pamphlet - I must  
 write to-day, under cover of  
 sending him Dr. DeAth's pamphlet  
 "Organization of Village Sanitation",  
 to say I know you have his papers.

[Dr. DeAth has not sent  
 me copies of his "Cholera"  
 pamphlet for which chastise  
 him.]

You will observe, on Sylvanus'  
 papers, that their Co: Co: pays  
 £50 of the M. O. of Health's  
 salary £100 -

You *must* tell Mr. French  
 of Winslow to send me his *whole* Bill  
 for the 600 pamphlets - Or I shall strike work.

signed letter, ff102-05v, pencil [6:596-97]

**f102**

Health Missioners 30/12/92

10, South Street, {printed address:}

My dear Fred Park Lane. W.

I wanted to say in as  
impressive a voice as I  
could - Aim at forming  
centres of Health Missioners  
rather than at covering  
Bucks with H. M.'s -

With terror I see  
increasing even among  
clever people the idea that  
they can learn how to practise  
arts, agriculture, & various  
trades & professions by  
attending lectures - They  
little know: This view is  
spoiling all the good work

**f102v**

They are covering the  
earth with amateurs &  
professors - What a good  
word that is "professions"  
- people who *profess* -

It occurred to me to  
say this - but you  
cannot tell the quantity  
of it that I see -

Have 3 or 4 good  
Health Missioners planted  
Don't scramble over the  
whole County

But I know how  
difficult the Co. Co. is

Add Mss 41977D

664

**f103**

Please let me see  
Miss *Deyns*' letter again You only  
read it to me

Also Mr. Fosbroke's  
letter.

I sent 25 copies  
of pamphlet to Dr. De'Ath

**f103v**

I hear a very bad account  
of the Sanitary meeting at  
Steeple Claydon. They have  
only appointed a Sanitary  
Committee - have they?  
to "look into things"!!!

I am interrupted  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f104**

-2-

*Miss Deyns*

I sent your letter to  
Miss Lückes - It was a  
difficult one to write - &  
I don't know that it  
could have been better -

I send you her  
answer which please  
return -

1 You see every thing  
has been at 6s & 7s  
from the beginning -

I *believe* the *belief*  
in N. Bucks that she x was  
to be made capable of  
x Miss Deyns



**f104v**

Nursing Epidemics

continued to the last -

& off & on in her own mind

2. Miss Lückes named  
“next week” for her coming -  
Months afterwards no word  
had been sent to Miss L  
that she was not coming.

When she came, or soon  
after, Miss L. was just  
going for her holiday -  
& then came October -  
[You see Miss Lückes  
speaks of the “detail”  
she & I went into anent

**f105**

Miss Deyns’ training]

Now Miss Deyns & even  
able, impetuous Dr. De’Ath  
have not the least idea  
of what an overworked  
Matron’s life is  
Miss L. has 300 Nurses  
minus 4! under her!  
She has 700 beds- !!  
And Miss Deyns wanted  
to wait till October,  
because there wd be 50  
or 70 Patients more (in  
700)!! Strange imbecillity.

**f105v**

3. You see Miss Lückes is  
not at all discouraged:

And I think there is  
truth in her remark -  
that perseverance will  
win tho' progress is slow.  
I wish I could see her,  
but that is impossible  
at present - I hardly  
know how to answer her.

[She has so much  
against her] In answer to your remark

34 I have been abused  
by my own people which I think I deserve - "You always  
"stood out for a year's training  
"at the very least - And now you  
"are satisfied with 6 months"!

unsigned letter, ff106-07v, pencil

**f106**

Jan 22

{archivist: [1893]}

My dear Mr. Fred

I really cannot make  
up my mind to sign  
my letter *with my name*,  
if that is what Mr. Escott  
means -

You know it is 'nuts'  
to a Newspaper Editor  
to get ~~you~~/one into a scrape  
And this would be a scrape.

Lord Ripon is conscious  
himself that he will  
require knowledge - able  
advocacy when he returns

**f106v**

even with Mr. Gladstone

Such advocacy from  
me would be quite  
useless if I were committed  
to a newspaper by name -  
- do not you think so?

Nor do I think the  
risk worth running for  
a paper like the Standard -  
- nor indeed for any  
paper -

I shall have to give  
facts to Mr. Gladstone,  
the India Office &c

**f107**

If these facts have  
been previously torn to  
pieces by newspapers,  
they will be worthless -  
And this (the one enclosed)  
is the best of two  
not good papers -

I am so thankful &  
so sorry for the kind  
trouble you are taking,  
which I hope will yet  
be successful -

But I cannot see it

**f107v**

right to give my name

I am so sorry

signed letter, ff108-09v, pen & pencil

**f108**

10 South St

Feb 3/93

Dearest Maude

I feel so much with you  
about the disagreeable &  
"intensely interesting" business  
you have been on.

*Health pamphlets*

1. In accordance with Fred's  
wish, I send

12 Health pamphlets

6 " " paper  
stiff

But tell him that *if he*  
*will send me word by*  
*Messenger* I can send  
him *almost any number*  
*he will name of "paper" ps*  
& of "stiff" ps - but especially of  
the former (they are of more  
importance in his hands than  
mine) & still have enough  
for myself.

**f108v**

*Dr. Whitelegge's letter*

2. I return him with thanks

Dr Whitelegge's which is  
so important that I should  
have a type-written copy  
made of it if I were he -

I am glad Dr. W. includes  
*Derbyshire* in the industrious  
Co. Co.s -

I also return Miss Hubbard  
*Miss Brooke Hunt's paper*

3 I send Miss Brooke Hunt's  
Club paper for Chicago,  
if you & Fred could be so very kind as to look  
it over. Her work is so  
very good that it is a  
pity her paper is not  
better. [N.B. I asked her

**f109**

in accordance with Fred  
 not to lay so much stress  
 on a *lady* being at the  
 head of affairs. But she  
*would* do it. And you  
 know I do so entirely agree  
 with her that there must  
 be a lady for Clubs - &  
 for Reading & Coffee rooms  
 a Manager & a lady  
 over him or they  
 degenerate into places of  
 selfish comfort. x [There are  
 so few gentlemen even curates who have  
 time for these things]

I must *send in her paper*.  
 for Chicago *as soon as*  
*possible* to Lady Burdett Coutts  
 x The great thing is: not to give a  
 boy or man up because he has  
 been expelled the club.

**f109v**

*Mr. Buckmaster*

4. I did not know that  
 the Bucks Co. Co. had  
 got Mr. Buckmaster  
 for Agricultural teacher  
 I see with some uneasiness  
 Sir Harry's letter in the  
 Times.

I have more business  
 but will not worry now.  
 ever your loving

Aunt Florence  
 With all the force of my  
 heart I wish Fred his  
 deserved success about the  
 Sanitary Committee Co. Co -  
 F.N.

initialled letter, ff110-11, pen

**f110**

G.B.H. Feb 7/93

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

My dear Fred

Mr. Jowett was here last  
night And I asked him  
all your Questions & wrote  
down his answers from his  
lips.

1. He answered at first that  
he could not answer, because  
he did not know the state  
of your "general funds".  
But when I told him, he  
said: to the "special fund"  
yes: certainly

2. He said at first:

The General Committee  
of the Home should appoint  
some one to be approved in  
each case by the Ch. of E.  
or the R. C. Bishop of the Diocese

**f110v**

But, after a little conversation  
he said: The Committee  
should appoint some one  
to be approved in the  
Ch. of E. case by the Bishop  
of the Diocese [is he, he asked  
the Bishop of *Winchester*?]  
in the R. C. Case by the R. C.  
Bishop of the Diocese (or the  
R. C. Archbishop) should appoint some one *to be approved  
by the Committee*

3. He said at first Yes:  
but afterwards he said: If  
they have not anything  
in the Charter (or whatever  
they call it) of the G.B.H.  
or any understanding with

**f111**

Mr. Saml Morley or other  
Nonconformists that it  
should be undenominational  
I do not see that there  
is any breath of faith.  
F.N.  
God speed you

f112, proposal to appoint chaplains for the Gordon Boys' Home, in FV's hand

unsigned note, f112v, pencil

**f112v** {written on the bottom of FV's proposal}

Yes

Committee shd appoint some  
one to be approved in each case  
by the Bishop of the Diocese  
or by the R. C. Bishop of the Diocese  
with the approval of the Committee  
{the following is written the other way round}  
If they have not anything in  
the Charter, or any understanding  
with Sam Morley that it should  
be undenominational, I do not  
see that there is any breach of faith.

signed letter, ff113-14, pencil

**f113**

*Your meeting tomorrow 8/5/93*

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

My dear Fred

I began a few notes  
for you which I enclose -  
But it occurred to me  
that it might be of some  
use to you to see the  
Proof, as you asked, of  
my paper for Chicago -

But tho', "s'il y a de  
l'esprit, c'est vous qui  
l'y auriez mis" -

But you must not  
quote it, please -

By an inexplicable  
mistake, which I will  
tell you afterwards, of

**f113v**

the English Commission,

~~it is~~ the English papers  
are all ~~to be~~ bound up  
in one book of hundreds  
of pages! And the  
copyright has been sold  
to Sampson Low -!! [I am very sorry]

Even the Review was  
not sent to me to correct!

Success to your  
Meeting - tomorrow -  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f114**

Could you return  
me my Proof  
tomorrow (Tuesday)  
night? It only reached  
me ~~yesterday~~/today F.N.



Add Mss 41977D

673

signed letter, ff115-16v, pen & pencil

**f115** {in FV's hand, Miss Nightingale:}

May 19/93

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

My dear Fred

Thank you so much for the  
Sanitary Committee's questions.  
I think the getting these  
filled up pretty fully is  
already a great step in advance.

[N.B. I hope that Qs 6 & 8  
include cess-pool privies,  
of which 109 of Sir H.'s cottages  
still rejoice in - ~~and in these~~  
little or no progress with  
dry earth closets]

I shall be so much  
interested in seeing the  
Tabulation.

Some kind person sent me  
the Fenny *Stratford*  
Technical Education Secretary's  
Report

**f115v**

I wish I might see all those  
of North Bucks-  
This is valuable - but how  
much more valuable it would  
be if all were  
to stated the reasons as some have done  
e.g. *Cookery Classes*  
Revd — Field. Woughton on the Green  
“It is the universal opinion that  
“‘Demonstrations’ are *almost*  
“‘*useless*’ (underlined) & that the  
“pupils only retain the knowledge  
“which they gain from the  
“practical lessons, *when they*  
“*themselves prepare & cook*  
“*the dishes x x*”  
[This I am sure is true  
with regard to every thing  
technical - Health=at=Home  
included -  
I am appalled by a

**f116**

voluminous report just  
received from the “Ladies  
“Sanitary Assocr”, in which  
15 “courses of *Lectures*”  
here & there - & many hundreds  
altogether are mentioned  
with sickening self-applause.  
Tho’ they mention Dr.  
De’Ath with praise, not  
*one has* seized his point]  
I am afraid of  
missing you - so will  
only mention that there  
are equally instructive  
remarks (& failures in  
remarks) in your  
“Secretary’s Report” as  
I have mentioned.

**f116v**

Letter from Margt this  
morning. The plan of  
Dr. De'Ath meeting the  
Parish Doctor for poor  
Jennings of Botolph Claydon  
has fallen thro' - I am  
afraid she is much worried  
But she always succeeds at last -  
Success to you all  
along the line.  
Alas! for poor Siam  
But still hope  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff117-18v, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. June 9, 1893, from FV, re improvements at Pleasley  
and problems in Siam discussed with Lord Salisbury

signed letter, ff119-20v, pen & pencil [6:602]

**f119**

*Inspection of Health Missioner's*  
*work* June 23/93

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

My dear Fred

You asked me to consider  
& enquire about this most  
important subject - which is  
absolutely in its infancy as  
regards all the C. C. Technical  
Education work - altho' the  
most important of all, as we  
have on the highest authority-  
viz. whether a tree bears  
*fruit* or only *leaves* -

I return you with  
thanks all your letters (6)

I scarcely think that  
it will be of any service to  
send a lady round, even  
without the Missioner - far  
less to give notice that  
she is coming to question the

**f119v**

Cottage Mothers - No such  
formal questioning is of any  
use - is it?

Rural Mothers are like Hindoos  
- they say nothing but what  
they think we shall like to hear.  
- & *that* they don't know how  
to express. They think we have  
a right to apply the screw -  
& *they* have a right to conceal.  
It is no use sending a lady  
from the great house or the  
Rectory - however kind -  
Nothing but a long, & intimate  
& confidential friendship,  
accompanied by a personal,  
informal eye & help, will  
unlock their lips -

In their Domestic habits  
you have centuries of ignorance,

**f120**

generations of superstition  
to get over -  
In their habits with us, you  
have centuries of an unnatural  
respect for what was by no  
means always their "betters",  
- a respect for mere position -  
to get over. And I do think  
this is in some respects  
worse than it was. The  
respect for rank, mere rank,  
& the defiance of rank, mere  
rank are increasing in all  
classes.

But I am prosing -  
Of the 3 letters you sent  
me, Mr. Dale's is the best.  
Mrs. Battersby's is far from  
worthless. ~~She~~ It is a kind  
good letter. But she does  
not know her business.

**f120v**

I send you a letter from Miss  
Hubbard: ~~but~~ she has  
always struck me as a person  
with very peculiar insight  
into the poor mothers' &  
children's feelings & ways -  
(tho' I have never seen her)  
She wrote to me about H. M.'s  
And I answered at  
considerable length about  
Tech: Educ: lack of fruit,  
(as far as their Reports go.)  
And then I wrote for her advice -  
And I send you her answer.  
What a miserable thing that  
"bad, heady beer" is - as a proof  
of Mothers' ignorance -

Can we not glean something  
from her letter?

I have been so interrupted  
ever your loving Aunt Florence  
So glad Sir D. Galton is going to your  
conference

ff121-21v, Fred V to FN June 29, 1893, re condolences on Lothian Nicholson's death

ff122-25v, Fred V to FN, from Lawers, Killin, Perthshire, August 27, 1893, re the family holiday, the cultivation of allotments, and the French dealings with Siam

ff126-27v, Fred V to FN 6 Onslow Gardens, September 7, 1893, re FV's return to London to support the Siamese against the French, and the family holiday

ff128-29v, Fred V to FN from OG, September 28, 1893, re a request for FN to write a paper on Rural Health Missions which MV would read at Leeds

Add Mss 41977D

678

signed letter, ff132-35, pen

**f132**

*Private* 10 South St 7.30 a.m. Oct 20/93

*Lectures on Sick Nursing*

My dear Fred

On To me reflecting on  
what you read to me & said  
to me & asked me last night,  
it occurs that I ought to  
explain more - to you I  
hope it will occur how  
difficult it is for a tired  
person to give advice  
on what is only read TO  
her - & on what you  
yourself consider only a  
makeshift, dragged in  
in order to enable the  
Tech: Edu: to contribute -  
I. then - I think I caught  
that Mr. Battersby's letter  
was written in '90 - And  
I think I heard the words  
Middle Claydon & another Claydon

**f130v**

~~Beware~~ Mrs. Davidson was not then appointed, I believe.

*Beware of meddling with Mrs. Davidson* - you will never get so good a woman. Part of Claydon is I believe in Winston Parish?? I should extremely deprecate having one part under the new fangled methods, & another under the good old Common Sense.

II. I mentioned to you the great benefit that the instructed (Lady) District Vis Nurses of Bloomsbury &c &c have been of to the poor bed-side in instructing the relatives or neighbours how to take care of the poor Patient - [~~Other uses have been:~~

**f131**

~~the check of drunkenness - NOT by direct preaching, a thousand times No - but because the man & still more the woman are ashamed to be drunk before the Nurse who is as their friend.].~~

*The Nurse does gives the instruction* quite informally AT EACH BED-SIDE IN THE COURSE OF HER OWN *Nursing work* X *She does NOT LECTURE. God save us FROM THE LECTURING NURSE.* X It would be all lost if done formally

[I think I mentioned to you one notable instance where a Nurse was sent straight from St. Thomas' to undertake

**f131v**

a District in Yorkshire -

"O there was such a  
good Ladies' Commee! It was  
quite safe"

The Ladies' Comm: employed  
her in lecturing all round  
the place. There was  
nothing left of her but  
a spoilt Nurse - a woman  
who had missed her  
calling - a conceited  
self indulgent itinerant.

"O she had an Assistant".  
*And what was the Assistant  
doing?]*

III. The Lecturing on Sick Nursing mania  
is spreading like a leprosy  
all over Great Britain -  
perfectly regardless of  
"results" Or rather we

**f132**

-2-

are already reaping the "results" in a very sensible  
deterioration of/in the

candidates who present  
themselves as Probationers  
for Hospitals & District Nursing

IV. Please remember that  
Nursing differs as much  
from say Agriculture &c &c  
as human body & *soul* differs  
from vegetables, grain &  
manure - & Human life differs  
∀ from every other life.  
does it not?

V. I think I caught in  
Mr. Battersby's letter or I had heard before such  
words as these: that the  
poor should be taught *by*  
*Lecture* (illustrated, of course)  
Such things as changing a



**f132v**

Patient's sheets with him in bed -  
& he enumerated other such  
things. most necessary

Believe a woman of 40 &  
more years' experience, such  
things can only be taught in  
Hospital upon the human Patient's body  
& by the Hospital trained Nurse  
upon the same in ~~the~~ each Patient's  
own home.

I think the *fatuous* 'lay'  
reached its climax last  
year when sham Nurses  
operated upon Sham Patients  
in a sham Hospital in  
Windsor Park before the  
Sovereign & the Princess her daughter!

[When I remember that the  
greatest Operator we ever  
had said that he never

**f133**

operated upon the LIVING

human body without the  
shudder coming over him  
that he did not know  
what he was about, I do  
feel that these fatuous people  
do not know "what they  
"are about" when they  
talk so glibly about  
teaching the poor Sick  
Nursing by Lectures.

*Every case differs from  
every other - as you  
have well said - And what  
do we mean by a "trained  
Village Nurse except one who is  
to attend such cases ?herself?*  
VI. We do not think two or  
even three years' Hospital  
training enough without a

**f133v**

6 ~~or~~ months', (which we  
should like to make  
12 months') training by  
the poor bedside at home.

VII. Without proper *trained*  
*supervision* the ordinary  
nurse degenerates easily  
to the level of the poor she  
nurses - the gentlemen  
less easily. But no  
gentleman's or lady's  
Committee can find it out or keep them  
up - nothing but the  
supervision (even periodical)  
of one who herself knows  
the difficulties, what is  
to be done or what is *not*  
to be done .

**f134**

-3-

I do not want to deter  
you - far from it.  
But people should know  
that it is very easy to  
set up a Village *Lecturer* -  
England now swarms with such.  
& *very easy* for her to do  
more harm than good  
And that it ~~is~~/means nothing to  
say: oh the people  
"appreciate " her Lectures!

**f135**

A thousand thanks for your letter - & its contents received before I wrote this.  
But we cannot call Mrs. Battersby's letter, interesting as it is, a test or criterion of "results" You remember we remarked this at the time - And she thinks herself a Nurse?

I should like the Report you mentioned when convenient  
I am ashamed to ask you to give me this letter back again, when done with  
ever your loving Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff136-37, pen & pencil

**f136**

10 South St Oct 28/93  
Saturday

Dearest Maude & Fred

I am quite scandalized at myself at what I am imposing on you & Fred -

I think the best test would be: *what you Maude like to read & what you don't - & to leave out what you don't*  
And if that is *all*, then to leave out *all* -

What I send now is the part left out after p. 14 -  
It is of course immensely too long. I took it chiefly from our pamphlet -  
And as to what the mothers want, it is perhaps the most important part -

These Lady Lecturers seem

**f136v**

not to know in the least  
what the mothers are  
without, tho' they do not  
want it.

I have no time or strength  
to shorten or to correct.  
*You* must be: 'Hew Agag in  
piece before the Lord.'

Don't bother yourselves  
about 'Agag' - above all,  
not to do it by to night -

*You can, at any time,  
put it into a Hansom  
cabman's hands & tell  
him he will be paid  
here -*

Only 'hew' enough -

**f137**

& make a wind - up -  
*plus* "how are we to  
*test results*"

ever your & Fred's  
loving but troublesome

Aunt Florence (Agag)

I can't work by candle light -

I have no eyes - But I begin  
when I can as soon as it is  
light in the morning -

I never said how delighted  
I was with Ralph's 'remove' -

Add Mss 41977D

685

signed letter, ff138-39, pen

**f138**

10 South St                      Nov 3/93

Dearest Maude & Fred

You say "The new returns send back early" -

I do so              I wish I could have thought  
more columns for the Health at H. ( for the sake  
of *results*) possible

*Leeds*: I don't know what you will say to me

I did send the Telegram to Miss Janes -

And she answered: Two: yes - & send to  
me at Leeds.

I then sent the M. S. to Spottiswoode's

**f139**

And he actually returned it printed - it  
was only sent late in the afternoon - the  
next day at night.

I purpose sending you these later  
TO-DAY - you to choose which you like -  
I to send one to Miss Janes - which  
ought by rights to go to-day - I to  
keep the third -

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

I do feel like a wretch to have  
accepted your kind offer to go to Leeds  
I hope you won't be very tired.

unsigned notes, ff140-43v, pen & pencil

### f140

*Cookery: New form:* Excellent  
on the whole  
particularly Remarks

1. Were these "Artisans" men?  
Or does it only signify *wives*  
& *daughters* of "artisans"?
2. Does each "lesson"} include  
"Demonstrations" *and*  
"practice classes"?

It is curious & characteristic  
of the age that "the girls  
"would not attend" the  
"practice classes" but only  
the "demonstrations", which  
are amusing -

And yet there are many  
good folk in the North  
who think the "demonstrations"  
'most useful' & 'all that is  
'wanted'

*Suggested other columns*

over

### f140v

*Suggested Columns*

1. Could there be another  
column indicating what  
*class of cookery*?

You know you have  
Cottage Cookery  
Higher Class Cookery  
&c &c

And you will remember  
that we were told a  
year or two ago that  
the farmer's daughters &  
the cottagers would not  
attend the same class,  
because of this distinction,  
& they thought that one  
sort was *infra dig.* {beneath their dignity -GW}

2.

**f141**

2. Should there be a Column indicating what the *Cooking* MATERIALS are? We have received repeated warnings that some were too expensive for the people to get -

This is repeated in the other papers you have kindly sent me.

3. *How afterwards?*

Does the *Cottage* & Farmers' *Cookery* improve?

This is a most difficult matter to ascertain. Because if I understand right you do not ask your Cookery teacher to *visit* - And there is nothing Cottage mothers are

**f141v**

I believe so offend=able in as our 'prying' 'about' into their meal arrangements.

I believe there is no cooking in the world so bad as in England - And in Derbyshire & Yorkshire where the food is *extravagantly good*, it is the more deplorable.

[E.g. I asked our family Doctor at Lea Hurst to visit a family (at my expence) of whom I had received a miserable account from their daughter who was then in my service. And he did so & told me they were sitting down to a better joint than he "ever saw at his table".

**f142**

-2-

I cannot find the other  
    *"New Form filled up"*  
of which you speak  
    unless it be this (enclosed)  
But is there anything *new* in  
this?

From the other papers I glean  
    as to HEALTH AT HOME  
that the people would pay  
    more attention if the  
teachers were of greater  
"age" & "experience"  
    I think this applied  
chiefly to Miss Rowlands & to Miss Deyns  
& the "EXTRA" Lectures.

1. Home Treatment  
    What to do till the  
Doctor comes
2. Infants & Children

**f142v**

I think this is not unnatural  
    because in Miss Rowlands & I believe Miss Deyns these  
things *can* only be *book*  
learning. How *can* they have  
experience? tho' I much admire Miss Rowlands  
& Miss Deyns.

But in accordance with  
your kind wish I asked  
separately & saw two of our most experienced Supts  
of Bloomsbury/Queen's Jubilee Lady District  
Nurses, - who now do a  
good deal of *Maternity*  
(*not* Midwifery) *Nursing*  
among the poor at home, -  
whether the Lying - in women  
objected to *unmarried*  
& in some cases *young*  
Maternity (Lady) Nurses -  
And each said: "Nor in  
"the least. They know the  
"good the Nurses do them;



**f143**

"& it never occurs to them"

But I don't think the  
two cases similar - You see  
our Maternity Nurses  
*never* LECTURE, tho' they *teach*  
*in the sick - room* - And  
the poor feel directly  
that they the Nurses are fully trained  
by their doing for them  
what *no man = doctor nor*  
*Midwife* ever does.

I do not feel as if any new  
columns could be added to  
the "Health at Home" - tho'  
it would be most desirable  
to have the *results* of the *Visits*  
But it would be morally  
impossible to submit these  
to any "Secretary" - But

**f143v**

your H. Missioners do keep  
*Private Diaries* - don't  
they?

unsigned summary, ff144-44v, pencil

**f144**

Summary

*Summary (P.1)*

is excellent - cannot be softened down as far as I can see - On the

contrary - The only thing that struck me as skull=staving=in

was p. 1 *Buckingham - Sewage Disposal* 1891

But p.2 " *Water Supply* 1891 [3 wells cleaned out!

is scathing as a comment!

You can't soften a creditor -

p. 3 *Aylesbury Sewage Disposal* 1891-2 *Quainton*

" *Water supply* 1891-2 "

This is very shocking, if as I suppose "Similar report to last year"

p. 3 *Buckingham Sewage Disposal* 1891-2 *Steeple Claydon*

" *Water Supply* 1891-2 " "

Do you know I think this is letting off Steeple Claydon very

easy? for Sir Harry's sake?

How many "Pail closets" were "substituted" for Privies in 1891?

how few I am afraid to say - "Entire district defective" 1892

What does he mean by a "complete system for St. C. begun" 1892?

There was a carrying away by pipes of liquid stuff, including

pigs' liquid manure, to the "strong resentment" of the people, was it not?

What was done in "substituting" *earth closets* for *cesspool privies*

was a mere nothing - Was it not at the end of 1892 that we

counted ~~409~~ 109 privies/cesspools to 120 cottages in the Claydons- not quite all in St. C.-

P.T.O. I think -

f144v

-2-

Pray don't take this former page on my authority alone - about *Steeple Claydon*  
*Water-supply*: They are "grateful" for "small mercies", if they call it an "improvement" " "

p. 5 *Winslow Sewage Disposal* 1891 X 1892

This is severe enough - but it is milk & water {printed address:} 10, South Street, compared to the  
 L.G.B. Inspector in [JANUARY ?] 1893 Park Lane.W.

in the Report you gave me & which I abstracted

*Winslow Water Supply* 1892

This is milk & water too compared with L.B.G. Inspector

January 1893

(January) '93 not better but worse than '92 in Water Supply & Sewage Disposal

e.g. Is a good Report sometimes due to a bad M. O. of Health?

p. 3 *Henley. Sewage Disposal* 1892 "In Himbledon no complaints" !!

[I have a very vivid recollection in my Military life of  
 seeing the men sitting at a dinner not fit for pigs.

& the Officer for the day going round & calling out "Any  
 "complaints?" No good soldier will make "complaints"

The bad ones do over everything -

*Aylesbury*

*Urban* cows drinking sewage - I suppose this does not  
 come in for '92. What a pity!

X Was it not currently believed that there was scarcely a pure  
 well in Steeple Claydon, even in 1893?

Add Mss 41977D

692

signed letter, ff145-46, pencil

**f145**

10 South St Nov 3/93

*Leeds*

Dearest Maude

You were so good as to say  
that you wished to read from  
my M.S. If you still do so,  
I could re-write by tomorrow  
forenoon (when you begin  
reading from the "*roof*"!  
& I shall come to hear)  
some of the scrappy bits -

But now, honour bright!,  
which do you think really  
best?

*which for you?*

which for Miss Janes, ? which  
I ought to send by to-night's  
post to her at Leeds -

& the third I should wish  
to keep for myself - [I have  
already applications for a

**f145**

copy, but I don't expect

I ought to give one till  
*their Vol: is published?*]

I enclose a sheet of notes  
which I want your & Fred's  
judgment on - I am  
particularly afraid - (almost  
as afraid as that the journey  
to Leeds is a very long one  
for you) - of getting the  
Local Govt Board & its  
~~ins~~ excellent Inspector, into  
a scrape by directing  
attention to them -

ever your loving

Aunt Florence (Agag)

**f146**

Agag will send at 6 o'cl or so  
for the one for Miss Janes -  
But don't bother yourselves, please  
- I could send it, I suppose,  
tomorrow morning to get to Leeds  
? by Saturday night -  
F.N.

unsigned proof, ff147-48, pencil

**f147**

p.6 [Proof - "For Leeds Conference"]

p.7 &c

do you think it wise to quote  
a "Local Govt Officer"?  
It would be easy for any  
enemy to trace the narrative  
to *Bucks* - I have been  
told by more than one that  
the L. G. Board *must* be  
careful - because it has  
been 'cast' in so many  
suits. Suppose an  
action is brought ~~about~~  
against it, by my  
quotations - & suppose  
the excellent "Officer" is  
injured! It is so easy  
to pick holes - It is  
none so easy to mend  
them.

**f147v**

p. 22 (9) I have made  
only a botch here - I wish  
we could say something a little  
more precise & to the point

p.3 The purist Spottiswoode  
thinks that *fag* end is better  
than *tag* end  
What do *you* think?

p. 8 Is it wise to put the  
exact price of hiring a ~~cart~~? Sewage  
cart?

Add Mss 41977D

694

**f148**

Last Para. p.27

Do you approve of this?

p.1 Shall I omit:

"O wonder of wonders!"

signed letter, ff149-52, pen & pencil

**f149**

10 South St Nov 4/93

Dearest Maude

I hope your Dentistry  
expedition with G. & K.  
was successful -

And I trust Fred &  
Mr. Curzon were, last night.

Many thanks for your  
note.

When people ask me  
~~after~~/how Sir Harry is, 9 times  
out of 10 I have to answer  
'Incredibly naughty'.  
Now isn't it 'incredibly  
naughty' of you to go  
to Leeds & arrive just  
an hour or two before  
Agag comes off - And I  
dare say you mean to

**f149v**

come back next day.

Or rather it is 'incredibly  
'naughty' of Agag to have  
allowed you to go -

~~Now about Agag's paper:~~

I sent the other Proof to  
Miss Janes at Leeds by last  
~~the~~ night's post - (& told  
her you had the other one  
to read)

1. And, referring to my former  
notes to you - *p.p.* 6 & 7

I thought it too risky to  
leave in *about the Local  
Govt Official*, for the reasons  
I gave you, & I scratched  
out both allusions -

Please do the same  
unless Fred thinks "strongly"  
to the contrary.

**f150**

As for "Dr. De'Ath", there  
is scarcely a word supplied  
by him in the whole paper.

And the descriptions do  
not refer to his Division  
at all - *I shall not tell*  
you to what Division or  
County they refer, in  
order that you may be  
able to say that *you*  
*do not know*. for people  
will be sure to ask you.  
I know people who  
would give their ears  
to hunt me up, which  
would be very easy &  
signifies little to me -  
but probably signifies  
a great deal to *officials*.

**f150v**

2. I put in an extremely  
awkward fresh botch ~~to~~  
(for I was tired) to IV. 9.

*I wish very much we  
could improve that,*  
because you see I have  
been questioned about it.

I forget what else I  
altered - I was so interrupted

But I would gladly  
IF YOU & FRED WERE SO  
GOOD AS TO SUGGEST,  
put in your suggestions  
*into your Proof* - if you like.

3. O one other thing I put into  
Miss Janes' copy - After  
the story of the poor woman  
who took the medicine for

**f151**

-2-

her husband's 'bad leg'  
because she thought she  
had fever, & it made her  
feel so **peart** - a Derbyshire  
word - I put in

'The **peartness** *ended in*  
*'fever'* - **Peart** means lively.

The people in Derbyshire  
are so interesting, tho' I  
can't at all say they are  
good - And the betting  
& the drink among the  
Miners certainly increase:  
And the dressing among  
the girls

I'm not at all a  
'high=wage'r -

**f151v**

But I won't bother  
any more now -  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
(& hateful Agag)



**f152**

It is 39 years to-day  
Nov 4 since we  
arrived at Scutari -  
& it is 39 years  
tomorrow Nov 5  
since the "Soldiers'  
battle" (Inkerman)  
when a handful of  
men saved the  
Army & perhaps Europe  
It was greater than  
Thermopylae -  
How A few, standing to  
their duty, can change  
the course of history

signed letter, ff153-54, pencil

**f153**

10 South St Nov 6/93  
*Leeds*

Dearest Maude & Fred

I have had an exceedingly  
nice acknowledgment of  
our paper (from Miss Janes,  
the Secretary), & of your  
coming.

I hope you will cut it as  
short as you can: (tho' Miss  
Janes does not so much  
as allude to its length:)  
compatibly with its being  
for "*Women Workers*".

[The original M. S. was only  
27 pages - the one the Proof  
was printed from, 43 pages]  
tho' I should not have thought,  
if the former were only "20 mins"

**f153v**

the latter would be "50 min"  
But I think a paper longer  
than 20 min. should not be  
read.

I accept all Fred's emendations  
with a loud purr of  
gratitude, such as the best  
fish elicits in the cat -  
but Agag still feel "hewn in  
pieces" about *IV 9 p.22*  
because, you see, Miss Hubbard  
& others, have asked so many  
questions about *this* -the  
"independent test of the  
"RESULTS in cottage homes."  
And even with Fred's constant

**f154**

help, we have not come to  
a distinct conclusion.

Now I shall pray God  
that you have a fair  
journey, and, worldly woman!  
a good luncheon *on the*  
*road* - & a place to  
sit down in between Arrival  
& Agag  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
Love to chicks

ff155-55v, November 7, 1893 from FV, re Gwendolen's excellent results at half-term  
signed letter, ff 156-56v, pencil

**f156**

Nov 12/93

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

Dearest Maude

If you will be so good as to  
give Messenger the proof you  
read - were so good as to read  
- at Leeds -

& if you would kindly say  
whether you & Fred think the  
additions & alterations he so  
kindly made should all be  
put in into a paper *not* to  
be *spoken* but read -

I should be deeply obliged  
I hope the parts you so wisely  
left out are marked on the  
proof -

You know, if you could  
kindly spare me a visit - *not*  
only about Leeds - how glad I

**f156v**

should be - But I *have* a  
conscience, tho' you do not  
know it, & I know  
that Sunday afternoon ought  
to be Fred's & the children's  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff157-58, Fred V to FN November 13, 1893, re the death of Vortigern Verney

ff159-60v, Fred V to FN November 14, 1893, re Maude's third class train trip to Leeds and FV's last sight of Vortigern

signed letter, ff161-64v, pen & pencil

**f161**

Nov 14/93

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

I do indeed feel with  
you & for you, dear Fred,  
in the fearful shock for  
yourselves almost as  
much as for his immediate  
family - of dear Vortigern's  
so sudden death.

You had made a  
second home for him -  
you had been a main  
element in his happiness  
& his goodness this last  
year. And it is a  
touching thing that the  
last token of his love  
not 12 hours before his

**f161v**

fatal illness should  
have been to bring  
a musical toy for  
Kathleen. "O insupportable  
"& touching loss" seems to  
sound in my ears.

Afflictions & comforts  
are so mingled together -  
or rather all the "Blesseds"  
given us spring out of ills.  
It is a comfort as well  
as a trial to look back  
& see how large a share  
yourselves had in his life -  
temporal & eternal - For  
we can never speak of a  
life ended. It is only begun

**f162**

What can the "crown of  
"life" mean - such a favourite  
expression. It can't mean  
rest or absorption - Life  
is life. He was the 'life'  
of us all, we say. The  
'crown' of life must be  
a larger, nobler, freer,  
more earnest activity  
in the cause of God,  
the Almighty Friend -

"*Therefore*" "my beloved  
"brethren", as St. Paul  
always ends his exhortations  
after death with, in some  
words or other, "be ye  
stedfast, unmoveable,  
always *abounding* in the

**f162v**

work of the Lord,  
forasmuch as ye know  
that your labour is not  
in vain in the Lord."

[I read that with the  
servants this morning.  
They were very much moved  
by Vorty's death}

O that dear James  
would take a lesson of  
activity from the  
"wholesome" life of Vorty -

But - Mrs. T. H. Green  
(who nursed Mr. Jowett  
in both his illnesses) said  
to me: "I did not speak  
"to him much in his last  
"days. What were my thoughts

**f163**

-2-

"to his? He had his own  
thoughts. And I did not  
interrupt them".

so I feel now with you

You have your own  
thoughts about this  
terrible blow. What  
are my thoughts to yours?  
Forgive me.

Maude, when she was  
so good as to come on  
Sunday, was asking me  
about Mrs. T. H. Green;  
& I was going to tell her,  
when something interrupted;

After her husband's death,  
she was quite prostrate for  
a while (she is still quite  
a young woman) - then she  
picked herself up, & went

**f163v**

to the London Hospital!

as a Probationer Nurse -  
& finally as a Ward Sister

She was recalled to Oxford  
by the necessity of taking  
charge of an Invalid old  
Aunt- & so was stopped  
short in her Nursing career  
to my infinite disgust.

But see, how wrong I  
was!

~~I~~ think we must not let

Maude go to Leeds at  
her own expence. She went  
for our good, for the public  
good. Still I feel as if  
she had given me a

**f164**

splendid present, & I  
were to give her sixpence  
for it.

But I enclose it to you

Ought she to go in  
Omnibuses?

~~I~~ do so feel for G. & K.

dear souls -

If any body is going to  
the Funeral from London, I should  
like to send an immortelle  
for our Vortigern -

I have been so grateful  
for Maudie's letters -

Do you know whether  
Margt *is* going to Morfy?  
poor Morfy - how *will* she  
bear it?

**f164v**

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
Thank you very much  
for the Sanitary Reports  
F.N.

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

ff165-67v, November 14, 1893, from MV re Vortigern's death

signed letter, ff168-69, pen [8:923-24]

**f168**

Nov 15/93

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

Dearest Maude

How good of you to  
take my Cross. The  
inscription, too long, is  
within - Dear Vortigern -  
*Please thank his brother  
Harry for his most touching  
note to me* - How I pray  
that the brothers may  
be lifted by God's own  
hands over this  
terrible time to  
Vortigern's joy in life.

It seems years since  
I saw you on Sunday -  
You know perhaps that

**f168v**

Mr. Jowett's successors  
are appointed -  
Caird of Glasgow elected  
by the Fellows as Master  
Bywater appointed by the  
Crown as Greek Professor  
- both such different men  
& types from Mr. Jowett.  
But there was *no one* -  
I pray for you all.  
Vortigern remembers you  
all.

God bless you  
Don't tire yourself too  
much  
I hope you saw blessed



**f169**

Margt in some peace  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
with love to all at  
Clockfaen

{f170 is blank except for printed address: 10, South Street, Park Lane. W., and date: 19 Nov 1893}

signed note, ff170v-71, pencil

**f170v**

Thanks, thanks, everlasting  
thanks -

There is a black bird  
singing here - no doubt  
in honour of the flowers.  
I have never heard him  
here before.

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
The flowers will be  
company to me for a

**f171**

long while - as long as  
they live. And they  
shall live long.

Love to all  
ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

envelope, f172, pen

**f172**

*by Hansom Cab*  
Mrs. Frederick Verney  
6 Onslow Gardens  
19/11/93

unsigned letter, ff173-74, pencil

**f173**

10 South St Nov 19/93  
Dearest Maude You must  
have had a sad, sad time  
at Clockfaen, except for the  
thought of dear Vortigern -  
How are you all? And  
will good James be more  
serious about *life*? I don't  
mean about death.

I was going to send  
yesterday to enquire after  
you, but could not.

In answer to your question,  
I have never known a  
case ~~where~~ of fatal apoplexy  
in one so young- But I asked  
Dr. Ord, (who is attending me)  
who had seen the death  
in the Newspaper, & who said

**f173v**

that *if* it happened it was  
generally the result of  
valvular disease of the heart  
& a 'clot' finding its way  
~~out~~/ wrong. But when I told him  
the few particulars I knew  
about the dear boy, he  
said it could not be that -  
it must be "hæmorrhage" -  
He asked anxiously if  
there had been a *Post Mortem*?

I have not seen blessed  
Margaret. She came on  
Friday about 2.15 - in a  
great hurry to get off by the  
2.45 - but offering to stay till  
a later train - I had no

**f174**

alternative however, for I had  
an early afternoon appointmt,  
impossible to put off. [I did  
not get your kind Telegram  
till later.] She *must* be  
tired - I fear you are, too -

ff175-76v, December 9, 1893, from FV, re a letter from Mr. David Dale, an labour employer and re  
FV's Radicalism

initialled letter, ff177-78, pen & pencil

**f177**

*Health at Home*

&c &c *Missioners* 16/12/93  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

My Dear Fred

Thank you very, very  
much for your account of  
Claydon Conference - I was  
very anxious to hear. I wish  
I could know what Mr. Herbert  
Dale said about "*Organization*"  
It might be very useful to  
us. "Lady *Lecturers*" on  
"Health" are more rife than  
Influenza. It is a perfect  
pest. They send their  
Programmes to me! at Claydon!  
which is adding insult to  
injury, as they Parrot said  
when they brought him from  
his native shores to the  
British Isles, & then made  
him learn English.

**f177v**

The Lady *Lecturers* pursue  
me as fleas do in Italy -  
One of our St. Thomas' training,  
a quite common-place woman  
but good Nurse has left her  
Nursing to lecture! at for  
a country *County Council!*  
as 2.10 a week for 3  
months - & all travelling  
expences paid - & promise of  
another 3 months i.e. 65 for 6  
months

Our Oxford Matron  
lectures to a Class of  
250!! in the country on  
Cottage Sick Nursing! but  
then she does it very  
practically - & is shy about it -  
not triumphant.

&c      &c      &c

*Moral*

to do what you propose  
as soon as possible - & get

**f178**

out a pamphlet - & a Fund, if  
possible - for Health *Missioners*

I believe our Leeds Conference  
paper is to be published as a  
Pamphlet very soon.

I am overdone with work  
of other sorts - And so are  
you -

I have Douglas Galton  
tomorrow (Sunday)  
F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

709

signed letter, ff179-79v, pencil

**f179**

16/12/93

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

My dear Fred

I have carefully read  
& with mingled fury  
& pleasure your  
excellent Summary -  
And you will see  
that for the places  
that I know, I think  
it is rather understated  
than overstated.

Having adorned it  
with some remarks  
about Steeple Claydon cess-pools, &  
not having much

**f179v**

time, "I deliver the  
"Staff to you, Sir" -  
ever yours & Maudie's  
loving Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

710

signed letter, ff180-81, pencil

**f180**

*Mr. Morant* 23/12/93

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

My dear Fred

Here is Mr. Morant's  
most touching letter - I  
could not lay my hand  
upon it last night.

I ought to have returned  
it before

I have not yet written  
the letter to you for Lord  
Rosebery - but will.

Mr. Morant is a  
gallant fellow, thro' all -  
& will yet work out his  
life -

He owes you great  
thanks

**f180v**

Do you think he is right  
about M. Jacquemyns  
being so ignorant of the  
real state of things?

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

Your magnificent offer  
that I should come to  
your dear house in a  
fortnight Yes - but alas!  
I cannot accept: millions  
of thanks

**f181**

We have been excessively  
pressed lately tho' I  
dare say not so much  
as you -

Love to every body at  
Claydon -

I understand Lettice  
will be back this morning  
& Margt waiting for  
them at Euston Hotel -  
How I should like to  
know how they are &  
what they do -

We have paint in the house  
-cannot ask them

ff182-83v, Claydon House, Bucks., February 11, 1894, from FV, re the illness & impending death of Sir Harry

ff184-84v, February 12, 1894, re Sir Harry's death

signed letter, ff185-86v, pen & pencil

**f185**

Feb 14/94

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

My very dear Fred

Thank you, thank you  
for your two dear letters,  
- grateful to you for 'ever  
for the one written the night  
before his death or rather  
as you say of the beginning  
of life to him.

It is true, it is true:  
his character was almost  
unique in some things -  
He had I will not say  
the art, nor even the gift,  
but the *grace* of attaching  
people to himself. It was  
the grace of God. Every  
one loved him who knew him.  
The world is poorer without him.

**f185v**

He was ever young, ever fresh.

Please tell Morey how I feel  
for him - how we thank him  
for his ever ready care of him  
keeping him alive & vigorous -  
- & how sorry we are for his  
anxiety about Edith -

And please give a message  
for me to Mrs. Davidson  
& to Mr. Robertson.

You know what a loss  
he is to me, but when I  
think of the loss, the  
break up to his family,  
I cannot feel my own.

Words are so poor -

**f186**

Either Sam or Louis Shore  
Nightingale wishes to come  
to the funeral, and I know  
that you all will not  
forbid but take their  
true feeling as it is felt,  
as their father cannot come -  
I will telegraph who comes -

How many true mourners  
there will be -

I cannot write much now.  
I do not like to think of  
tomorrow. The funeral will  
be the least trying part -

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

Thank you very much for  
remembering at such a time



**f186v**

to send me Miss Rowlands'  
most satisfactory letter to  
Dr. De'Ath - I will  
send Dr. De'Ath our Leeds  
paper -

Pray thank dearest Maude  
for her dear, dear letter - I  
am writing to her - I do  
feel what she says so very  
much -

I enclose 2/3 letters for you  
to deliver, please, to  
Margt & Ellin & Maudie.

ff187-88v, April, 1894, re political meetings at Norwich

signed letter, ff189-90v, pen

**f189**

August 27/94

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

Dearest Maude & Fred

Thanks for your most kind  
invitation & for his so  
interesting printed papers.

You perhaps may have **[8:924]**  
seen Shore's death in  
London on Thursday night last, so  
that I could not write.

Just at last it was very  
sudden - only 24 hours' illness  
but very suffering. Only he  
was simple & good & kind  
& gentle to the last just like himself.  
It was Pneumonia & heart.  
Only his wife & Louis (&  
two Nurses) were with him.  
Unluckily Sam, the eldest  
& Barbara were in Cornwall

**f189v**

for a much needed short  
holiday. They came back  
as fast as they could, but  
it was too late to see him  
alive. Their mother went  
up herself to Hampstead  
to tell it to Rosalind  
(the married one) who  
came back with her -  
All the burden of the day  
fell upon dear Louis,  
who was everything to  
his dying father, & afterwards  
did all the sad, sad  
business in the most  
efficient way, & joyfully,  
tho' he came here to cry -  
And he kept his mother  
calm -

**f190**

The funeral is to-day at  
Wellow (Embley). They  
persuaded their mother  
not to go - And I hope  
she will go up to Hampstead  
& stay there with the  
baby and a lady friend -

I am in Fred's debt for  
several letters. But I will  
only say now that, about  
the Bucks Council, a great  
authority said that, instead  
of being discouraged, he  
ought to feel very much  
encouraged & to think it a  
great victory, if 13 men  
voted with him, only one  
less than the other side,

**f190v**

knowing what people  
County Councillors are -  
& that soon, soon he  
will have a complete  
victory - only he MUST  
stay as Chairman of  
the Committee -

Aunt Florence's love  
to the three dear chicks  
No more at present  
from your ever loving  
Aunt Florence

unsigned letter, ff191-92, pen & pencil

**f191**

Dr. De'Ath's  
big scheme Sept 29/94  
*Private* 10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

My dear Fred

I am very sorry I cannot  
agree with you quite about  
Dr. De'Ath's scheme - I have  
consulted experienced people,  
who say (in which I entirely  
agree:)

1. the only upshot of it will  
be: free country *Lectures*  
by trained *Nurses* !
2. the first question will  
be: "what have they done  
"in Bucks?" *and what*  
*have we to show?* that  
they will not pronounce  
a failure ?

On no one that we know of  
has the plan of real

**f191v**

Health Missioners *laid*

*any hold* - Lectures, lectures,  
lectures is the only thing in  
any one's head - There have  
been 3 reviews of our  
Rural Hygiene since it  
became a pamphlet -  
One (Lady Henry Somerset's)  
says 'Miss N's scheme is free  
*public Lectures*, (sic) to  
country women - !!!  
but the *practical* consequence,  
& the only one I know has  
been - that I have had  
letters from National Health  
Soc'y ladies saying -  
'Here is my Programme  
'here are my terms - I  
'understand you want  
'lady -lecturers for the country'

**f192**

You say "The wider  
"the base, the greater  
"the certainty" - Certainty  
of what? There is no  
kernel, ~~no~~/little seed to begin  
with - *no* "base". That is just  
what we want -  
"A dozen County Councils  
"in union could do  
"wonders in this direction"  
In what direction? The  
Bucks Co: Co: has not  
supported us - tho' I  
am sure you have  
worked "hard & well  
enough  
{written sideways in the bottom margin}  
I cannot  
write more  
and I have  
just received  
your note  
about  
"Opening  
"Address" at  
"Aylesbury",  
which I  
answer on  
another sheet.

initialled letter, ff193-94v, pen & pencil

**f193**

Claydon ) 29/9/94

"All the descriptions of the  
"Closets from Cesspool to  
"dry earth ones have been  
"altered." (in the Acland Form  
which I gave)

This is good news.

"As regards the condition  
"in which they are kept,  
"the whole of them have  
"been inspected, Philip  
"Tomes being present".  
and a most creditable  
report given of their  
condition. They were  
found without a single  
exception in a perfectly  
sanitary state - & no  
unpleasant smell to be  
This is better news still

**f193v**

"detected in any case -  
"very different from the  
"old cesspools".  
It is not known who can  
take the credit of this,  
"whether the Sanitary  
"Inspector exercises any  
"great influence" - but it  
was more likely to rest  
"in great measure with  
"the people themselves -  
"They did not know "that  
they were to be inspected  
"so they were found just  
"in their normal state".

**f194**

[F.N. thinks that when  
the people do otherwise,  
it is more the fault of  
some other than their  
own.

But your question is the  
great one of this age - how soon  
~~are~~/can the people be  
sufficiently informed for  
responsibility to improve  
them?

You know in "Rural  
"Hygiene" we have put  
that out of 120 cottages  
(those were Sir Harry's -  
chiefly in Steeple Claydon)  
are counted 109 cesspit  
privies

**f194v**

It was in Sir Harry's time,  
as I understand, that these  
were altered into *dry earth*  
closets.

I think we ought to  
record this somehow. It is  
not recorded in your  
"Summary".

Dr. De'Ath writes a  
kind note, acknowledging  
my warning about his  
proposed great scheme,  
of which I wrote to you -

F.N.

Thanks for Mr. Morant's letter. I  
cannot lay my hand on it just now.

&, worse, I cannot see him just now.

Will you tell him how it grieves me?

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

but I hope to see him  
some time

I am so very glad the Bangkok people  
propose to give you your money -  
why, you ought to have 1000 a year. F.N.

signed letter, ff195-96, pencil

**f195**

Claydon {archivist: Nov 1894}

My dearest Fred

Thank you so much  
for your dear letter.

And thank you so  
much for telling me  
about Philip. He & I  
had so much in common  
when he was at Aldershot  
& commanding the London  
District. He was the  
greatest loss to us -  
Alas that his precious  
public life was ended then!  
But I know what he  
was to you. And your  
character of him is  
so just & loving.

**f195v**

They did not know  
of his death here. But  
Ellin came yesterday  
& told us a little more  
which she had heard  
from George.

I assure you there  
are a great many  
besides "Maudie" who  
don't 'boycott" you!  
& none less than  
your ever loving  
Aunt Florence  
Death follows death



**f196**

Nov 4/94

40 years ago to-day  
we landed at  
Scutari Hospitals -  
How God has guided us!  
I hope Siam is not  
very bad -

O if Philip had but  
been the next  
Adjutant Genl!

signed letter, ff197-98v, pencil

**f197**

Claydon

Nov 11/94

My very dear Fred  
Thank you very  
much for your Report,  
which blessed Margt  
has also enjoyed - I  
think we should  
like a few more  
copies, please - as  
you kindly offer them.

Pray rejoice in your  
magnificent conquest  
of the "devil": that is,  
as some philosopher  
explained, not a

**f197v**

personality, but a  
principle of evil  
which, alas! finds  
itself room in many  
personalities -  
I have had a long  
conversation with  
Dr. De'Ath, who is  
very keen about the  
Health=at=Home vs -  
& who with Margaret  
wants several things  
which you will hear  
when you come -

**f198**

Also: I am to see to-day  
Miss Janes, the Secretary  
to the Leeds Conference,  
who was much  
impressed with the  
paper which Maudie  
read, & who has  
"thoughts" - She is  
staying here till  
tomorrow - [I suppose  
the fact was she was  
"much impressed" with  
*Maudie* -]

I was very glad to  
hear about dear Genl  
Philip - O that he could

**f198v**

have recovered to be  
 Adjutant Genl. What  
 a 'find' for us would  
*that* have been !

I fear Margt is far  
 from well - Maudie's  
 letters cheer her very  
 much - Also, she, Margt,  
 condescends to take  
 some *little* care now.

Ever, with love & thanks,  
 to you & Maudie  
 & to the childer love,  
 your loving  
 Aunt Florence

initialled letter, ff199-99v, pen & pencil [8:924-25]

**f199**

Dec 22/94

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

Dearest Maude

You ask me to write something  
 in Gwendolen's Testament. I  
 have no words about Gwendolen.  
 I have not seen her lately - but  
 when I saw her last, she had  
 got back that wonderful look  
 in her eyes like the Infant Jesus  
 in the Drn. Raphael which  
 embraces the whole world -

[I remember her in the days  
 when in that low solemn inward  
 voice as if she were singing  
 to God she used to talk  
 about having blind people in  
 her house & poor people - not  
 that I want her to be only  
 that] What *can* I say to her  
 but 'God bless thee'? That takes  
 in all - But on the birth-day  
 of the child Jesus, I would wish  
 her His

**f199v**

simplicity - not multiplicity  
innocence - thinking no evil  
purity - or seeing God, not self.

"I must be about my Father's  
business"

& all this to lead to a love &  
devotion which takes in the  
whole world - (or the world  
around Him)

I did so hope that she  
might have remained under  
your *wing* (at least till past  
her teens) that she might  
have preserved that wonderful  
mixture of genius & simplicity  
(like yours) which all the  
world cannot give but *can*  
take away.

Do what you like with  
the inscription - I am afraid  
it is wanting in that very  
simplicity

F.N.

Add Mss 41977D

725

Add Mss 68888, microfilm, 203 folios, 93 pages, correspondence with Frederick and Maude Verney  
Part 6 1895-96, Adam Matthew reel 42

ff1-2v, 6, Onslow Gardens, January 5, 1895, from FV, re changes at Pleasley, and a secret about Lettice. I enclose Dr Bulstrode's letter on his Isolation Hospmemo. Kindly send it onto Dr Death; re farmers rent dinner

ff3-3v January 14, 1895, re a letter from a little Crown Prince

signed letter, ff4-7v, pen & pencil

[13:210-11]

**f4**

*Bucks Lunatic Asylum*

My dear Fred

I am somewhat excited by this  
Report - I hope & believe we could not show a  
similar one in Derbyshire -

You ask for hints:

1. If they have Nurses, how could  
one fourth AT LEAST (see Report)  
of the deaths show "Bedsore"?  
This recalls our worst Military  
times -

**f5**

2. What were the Medical  
Officers about ?

3. Where is the Matron?

It is however but fair to say  
that Margt reports most favourably  
of two cases & their treatment  
which went from here -

& suggests that Maude should  
see Mrs. Davidson (whose address she  
knows, I believe - close by you/O.G.)  
who accompanied to the Asylum  
one of these (Mrs. Hogg, I think)  
& was impressed with the kindness  
& care.

4. The "wet beds" tell a sad tale.  
Workho: Infirmaries tell a sadder.  
But then they have such a large  
proportion of old infirm cases -  
But even then this can be prevented  
by care & sympathy.

But what Margt and I feel  
most strongly is that you should

**f5v**

send a small Committee, say  
three, with a Doctor among them  
or even two, - a small Committee  
out of your own Committee to  
enquire in a FRIENDLY manner  
& into such questions as these,  
among others:

No. of trained Nurses?

Where trained?

Who is the Matron - & what  
her duties - & what amount of  
supervision?

**f6**

-2-

Where there are considerably over  
200 women Patients, this is  
very important.

But it is scarcely less important  
among the men - Patients -  
or at least among the men  
Infirmary cases, & where the  
Total Deaths are one in ten -

Note: It occurs to one that perhaps

"Mrs. Hogg" was a "*Private*" Patient -

Her Nurse appears to have been a cultivated woman

**f7**

N.B. The great advantage of a Committee visit over the written Report you will receive is 1. that it tells *so much more* than a written Report.

2. that a written Report so often makes *bad blood*, whereas a friendly visit from some of your own Committee need not - any more than if you went yourself.

Good speed to this as well as to all your other undertakings, my dear Fred

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

We have long recommended a Training School for Nurses for Lunatics, to begin at some place like Hanwell - I have heard that a beginning has been made but I do not know about Hanwell

**f7v**

Will you tell dearest Maude that I was going to write to her to say that I could not give your too, too generous contribution to St. Thomas' till we know that something sufficient will be raised for their necessities - but I will tell the Treasurer that ~~you~~ it is here - Claydon

Feb 10/95 F.N.

report, ff8-9, pen & pencil

[13:211]

**f8**

*Report: Bucks Lunatic Asylum - 1*

apparently constructed & opened  
in 1853. In upwards of 40 years,  
while our knowledge of requisites for  
Asylums & Infirmaries has so vastly  
increased, have these requisites here  
been brought up to date?

It is necessary to know this to answer

*Nos 1, 10 &c*

*No 2.* Is the County Surveyor to decide  
upon the no &c of W.C. s? see also *No. 10*  
has this an indirect connection with the  
“wet beds”? No 10

*No 12.* [reminds one of a criticism  
made on a Military Medical Report:  
“Ventilation sufficient, because it is *not*.”]

*Attendance* sufficient, because it is *not*

Also: are Patients’ ears to be “bitten”,  
even “slightly”, because there is not  
attendance ~~suffi~~ to prevent it?

The “epileptic” & “actively suicidal”  
cases make this a truly alarming  
question -

go on to 2



f9

-2-

No 13. "expencc is not absolutely  
an answer to the "need".

An "Infirmary" is usually now  
considered "absolutely necessary" -

No 14 "Notes too meagre"

The reply reminds one of the child:

"We always burn our mouths in the  
"nursery".

No 16 is a curious commentary on  
the reply to 14:

7 Post Mortems without any  
"notes" at all

Nos 18, 19. "Bed-sores" & "wet beds"  
were ordered not to come; but  
did come.

"Ventilation"

*Attendance* sufficient because it  
is not. [Are there any *trained Nurses* here?

[N.B. We have this difficulty continuously  
confronting us in Poor- Law Infirmarys  
but successfully combated in some  
by the attendants (trained Nurses)

**[end]**

ff10-11v, Fred V to FN February 12, 1895, re miscellaneous news of the family

ff12-13v, Fred V to FN re the election contest in Norwich

ff14-15v, Fred V to FN February 17, 1895, re a Lunatic Asylum Report and a small sum sent to St.  
Thomas' Hospital Fund, and the election in Norwich

ff16-17v Fred V to February 22, 1895, re the Lunatic Asylum Report and money spent

unsigned letter, ff18-19v, pencil

**f18**

*Lunatic Asylum Report*

Feb 23/95

Dearest Fred

I had a long talk with  
Dr. De'Ath yesterday  
He says: Mr. Humphrey,  
the Rest Medl Supt, is a  
very "rum" customer indeed.  
He advises that one lady,  
at least, if not two,  
should be on the small  
Sanitary Commee, if you  
send one to inspect the  
place - He says Dr. Osborn  
(the only Dr on the large  
Sany Commee) is not a  
'persona grata' - He

**f18v**

anticipates 'bad blood'  
any how, but not a  
'scrimmage', if there is a  
lady.

He says the small Commee  
should be

- 1 yourself
- 2 "Taylor"
3. Lady Verney
4. another lady outsiders

I told him 1. and 3. were  
impossible

he wants very much to see  
the Report of the  
Commissioners in Lunacy

- I told him I had  
returned it to you -  
Could you send him one?

**f19**

On other subjects in our  
talk another time

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

I have seen Margt since

I wrote this - & she  
says she would go to

the Lunatic Asylum  
with you, if you went.

But she rather  
recommends Lady  
Addington, if you  
asked her yourself,  
& if you went yourself  
She would not go

**f19v**

with Alderman Taylor.

or Mrs. Horwood  
(is that the name ? /  
of Aylesbury, wife  
of Major Horwood.

She Margt thinks a lady  
who is quite out of it  
would be better than  
herself

I don't think  
Margt is very well.  
writing in the dark

Add Mss 41977D

732

signed letter, ff20-21v, pen

**f20**

Claydon Feb 25/95

(in FV's hand: FN. on my birthday)

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

My dearest Fred

I sing O be joyful  
for the day which has  
given you to us And  
I wish you God speed  
in all your undertakings  
for our good.

We shall miss you  
sadly at C. C. Committees  
here. But the work  
you have done can  
never die.

Sir H. Acland writes  
to me to ask you to  
"strike off a large  
"number of copies in

**f20v**

"small octavo" of the

Introduction - it is  
chiefly yours - to your  
"Bucks Sanitary Conference"

Sir H. Acland "would

"like 100" - & as he  
has put it into my  
head - & I find such  
"pessimistic" views  
of Parish & District  
Councils, I should  
like 100. I wish

I could save you the  
trouble of doing this.

**f21**

You will let me of  
course pay the expence.  
I am trying by such  
small books as  
Fowler's Poor Law  
Chalmers' Local Self  
Govt, which is being  
reprinted with an  
additional Chap. on  
"Parish Councils"  
&c &c &c  
& by sending them to  
country Libraries that  
I know, to insense  
the people as to the  
"duties & responsibilities"

**f21v**

of Parish & District  
Councils - Could you  
kindly tell me of any  
other such books you can  
recommend?

It is not a little alarming  
your view of James  
Verney's situation &  
his own.  
I hope you were pleased  
at the Govt victory on  
Indian import duties.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff22-23v, Fred V to FN March 10, 1895, re the death of the Dean, died in harness

Add Mss 41977D

734

signed letter, ff24-25, pencil

**f24**

*Bucks County March 21/95*

*Asylum*

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

My dear Fred

According to your desire,  
I send a few notes on  
the extraordinary replies -  
But I could have summed  
them up in 3 aphorisms:

1. (Ventilation) sufficient,  
*because* it is *not* =(my own  
on some Military Medical  
Reports sent me to review)
2. the child's "We always  
burn our mouths in the  
nursery"
3. "There were much  
uglier in the shop"

**f24v**

2. Thank you very  
much for your Address  
to Wolverton -

**f25**

3. After your giving  
me your kind message  
to Sam Shore Nightingale  
on Sunday, I addressed  
a little heap of Telegrams  
to him, but failed to  
see him till yesterday  
(Wednesday) He then  
went off to see you  
at Onslow Gardens -  
He wished to try for it  
your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff26-29v, Fred V to FN March 31, 1895, re a cancelled visit of Prince Swasti to FN, news of the health of Gwendolen and Kathleen and a search for a man of general and special education

Add Mss 41977D

735

signed letter, ff30-31, pencil

**f30**

April 9/95

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

Dearest Maudie

I have seen Morfy, &  
she looks quite cheered  
up, George being better  
to-day. And there  
seems to be no undue  
excitement in seeing  
James, which is a great  
comfort - He had 3 three  
hours' good sleep this  
morning from 10 to one.  
He keeps his room.  
I hope dear Ralph  
will be in the same  
"shell" or "remove" (or  
whatever that my {illeg eterious?})

**f30v**

thing is called) as Harry  
at Harrow - I did not  
express my 'sentiments'  
on this point.

I send a bit of paper  
which is to be used as  
the law directs - And if it  
is not I shall prosecute  
with the utmost rigour  
of the law. Don't pinch.

I have not used  
your beautiful cheque  
for St. Thomas' yet -  
But I have told the  
Treasurer that when  
his Subn shall have

**f31**

reached a serviceable  
sum, then these will  
come in - I have it  
quite safe -  
How sorry I am - I think  
it was Edmund told me - that  
an unlucky investment  
has been made with  
Sir R. Western in Essex  
How touching was the  
speaker's farewell  
~~where is "Gully"?~~  
Fine weather for Lowestoft  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff32-33v, pen [5:533-34]

**f32** {in FV's hand: On Peel's retirement [Apr 14]

Easter Day/95  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W  
I turn from all this  
farrago to echo your  
feeling about that  
great man's farewell  
speech, the Speaker's.  
It is the Ho: of C.'s  
farewell to its past  
great life too -  
An inferior man  
would have scolded  
the Ho; well, tho'  
majestically, for all  
it had made him go  
thro', during the past  
11 years - for its school-boy



**f32v**

tricks instead of being  
an earnest House of  
gentlemen, seeking with  
the solemnity/dignity which  
marks the deepest  
earnestness, the nation's  
weal, the weal of an  
Empire which counts  
a fifth of the world's  
population.

But this Peel, the last  
of its great men, points  
them to the grand &  
splendid traditions of  
their past - & appeals  
to a future of "centuries"  
when they must be ~~the~~  
as they were the

**f33v**

first, the model of  
the representative  
Institutions of the world.

Then, farewell Gladstone,  
farewell Peel

Who is this Gully? They  
say that Peel had no  
more "experience" when  
*he* began. That's not  
true. But if it were  
Peel had the most  
magnificent Parliamentary  
antecedents, while  
Gully's father whom I  
knew well was a  
charlatan, a Hydropathic  
very clever quack -

[end 5:534]

**f33v**

Best Easter love to Maudie  
& childer three, &  
particularly to Kathleen

I wish to know who  
are the crew of your  
Yacht - Are you the  
'Master'? & Ralph  
the 'Mid'? I hope  
there are *ABs* of  
skill besides Kathleen  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff34-35v, Fred V to FN April 10, 1895, re Peel's retirement

ff36-36v, Fred V to FN Brookes, St. James Street, April 28, 1895, re Ralph's return to Harrow

ff37-38v, Fred V to FN The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., re training for Miss Deyns

unsigned notation, f37v, pencil

**f37v**

Miss Lückes

? 1. 1 a week

Mrs. Cheadle

ask about "Expansion"

Miss Deyns Hospl training

unsigned letter, ff39-40, pencil

**f39**

Mrs. Cheadle - ing May 13/95

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

My dear Fred

*Mrs. Cheadle* accepts  
all our additions & suggestions  
& comes here this evening  
to discuss "Expansion"

If you could give me  
some hints, I should be  
grateful

*Miss Lückes*: Matron  
of the "London" - sent an  
ecstatic account of Miss  
Deyns on Saturday night  
as a "Paying (temporary)  
"Probationer" - & this morning

**f39v**

sends a whole sheaf of  
papers - [I only send  
you two - but I can send  
you more if you wish to  
forward them to the "Soames"  
- I shall take out a  
Certificate for reading  
papers - which is the devil]

*Miss Lückes* comes on  
*Thursday* .

If Miss Deyns is required  
to enter on the "Preliminary  
"Training" x & waste 6  
weeks out of her 3 months here, I do not  
think I can go forward  

---

x which I shall know on Thursday

**f40**

with this sacrifice of Miss  
Deyns - Miss Lückes has  
raised the "London" de  
profundis - but is  
apparently carried away  
by the wave of the day  
[I go into a Lunatic  
Asylum on Friday -]  
I would recommend  
that you do not bewilder  
the "Soames" with the  
"Preliminary Training"  
paper - He might think  
it all so beautiful.  
Nursing is to be taught by  
Physiology !!!

unsigned letter, ff41-47v, pencil

**f41**

*Cheadle-ing* May 14/95  
*Her own training* 6 a.m.  
*Private* 10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W  
Mrs. Cheadle reminded  
me that she WAS TRAINED  
AT ST. THOMAS' *for the purpose*  
[You wished to put this in  
your speech] then came  
her 15 years in superintends  
& inspecting District Nurses  
[She spoke in the highest  
terms of St. Thomas' training,  
adding, I am sorry to say it,  
that there was nothing like  
it in the other Hospitals I  
know

**f41v**

*Expansion*

II I asked her (by your desire)  
about the *Expansion, proposed*  
*the School of Health at*  
*Buckingham* - a small house, a  
- *resident Supt* for teaching cleaning &c  
giving all her time  
with a small salary  
- 5 *lady Probrs* to begin with  
*paying fees*  
- *enthusiasm*

She approved it warmly -  
I pressed her to think it over  
& give us the *disadvantages* -  
she will do so:

She thought ladies *would*  
come, paying fees  
but that it must be *made*  
*known*  
it might be the beginning all over the  
country

**f42**

Cheadl - ing

III

Miss Deyns to have Hospital  
training for a few months.  
Mrs. Cheadle told me, greatly  
to my surprise, that Miss Deyns  
had said to her: "O if I could  
"have even a month or two  
"at even a Workho: Infy  
" - because the women *will*  
"ask me Sick Nursing  
"questions - & I cannot answer."

[F.N. "Well, you see," Battersby  
& Co, Soames & *his* Doctors,  
& Co., (all of whom know no  
more about it than my cat,  
or rather less,) have dragged  
our necks into this noose,  
& all we can do is to make  
it fit as cleverly as possible.]  
I told Mrs. Cheadle what I had  
done about Miss Lückes whom she

**f42v**

knows - & asked her whether  
 she would prefer sending  
 Miss Deyns to *Miss Lückes* -  
 or to *Miss Vincent*, for whom  
 she, Mrs. Cheadle, has had  
 some "excellent" District Nurses  
 for Bloomsbury.

After some consideration, she  
 said: " If the County Council  
 "would give her (Miss Deyns)  
 "6 mo: at the *London*, I  
 "think that would be the  
 "best on the whole because for such a  
 "short time she would see  
 "more variety of cases."

I asked her what would be  
 the *disadvantages*: she said  
 at once, of course: "*She will*  
 "*be called a trained Nurse*" I

**f43**

*Cheadle-ing* 2-  
 {printed address:}10, South Street,  
 Park Lane. W

I said "Miss Lückes  
 "won't grant her any kind of  
 "certificate". She, Mrs. Cheadle,  
 said: "that is well: & Miss  
 "Deyns is too honest to call  
 "herself one" -

[F.N. to herself - Yes, but  
 Soames & Co: will call her  
 one - & Battersby & Co:  
 will call her one - And so  
 we have got our heads  
 into the noose, & cannot  
 get ~~them~~/it out.]

Mrs. Cheadle was quite strong  
 on the point that, if Miss  
 Deyns has to waste "6 weeks"  
 in the "Preliminary Training"  
 at the London, she would  
 not let her go at all -

**f43v**

IV. *Report*

Mrs. Cheadle has inserted in  
her Report all our points,  
& has sent it to be typed -  
She will look it over to-day  
& send me two typed copies  
this evening - which I shall  
transmit at once to you -  
[I asked for 4 or 5 copies]

**f44**

V. I return you two letters  
- Prince Devawongse's  
- the ex-Speaker's  
because I am so afraid of  
their getting mislaid  
But I have many more  
to return you

**f45** -2-

15/5/95

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

Would you kindly  
suggest points, if any,  
that you wish *attended*  
to in Miss Deyns'  
training ? Miss Lückes  
is coming for this  
among other things  
to morrow Thursday,  
when you will be at  
your Meeting ~~then~~  
The gentlemen's views are  
so very peculiar that  
I thought you might  
help me

**f46**

-3-

*Miss Bartlett's letter*

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

I think she always told  
us that she could not  
"live away from home" -

It would be the  
strangest mistake, I am  
sure, of the Tech: Educ: Com:  
to remove her from  
Buckingham or to get  
rid of her.

So far from what Mr.  
Soames says, there are  
"many villages" which  
want the Health Missioner

**f46v**

Will you tell Miss Bartlett  
(see her letter) to send her  
little bills to you? And I  
will tackle Miss Deyns.

With regard to Miss  
Bartlett's last question  
of course I do not know:

but I always understood  
that that was Co. Co. work,  
in which Mrs. Cheadle  
was allowed to join.



**f47**

I was so thankful  
for Maudie's letter

With regard to

*Professional Lectures* for  
Probationers please  
understand that they  
are deluged at St. Thomas'  
(as at all great Hospitals)  
with Physiology )  
Anatomy ) Lectures  
Hygiene )  
3 Courses a year from  
3 Professors - besides  
Miss Crossland's Classes  
which are worth them all

**f47v**

But to give them these  
*before* they enter the Wards  
~~is ver~~ as "Preliminary Training"  
is very much like as if  
you taught a baby to  
walk by giving it  
"preliminary" instruction  
on the bones of its legs  
or as if you taught a  
soldier the structure of  
his gun before you  
taught him to shoot  
is it not?

Good speed to you &  
M. Rolin Jacquemyns

ff48-49, Fred V to FN 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. June 4, 1895, re George's health and  
~~Margaret at Claydon~~

ff50-50v, Fred V to FN June 8, 1895, thanking FN for her love and sympathy

signed congratulations, f51, pen [8:925]

To Frederick and Maude Verney

June 8/95

Oh blessed Silver Wedding  
Oh happy pair of pilgrims  
to whom the hard trials of life are  
without thorns  
always intent on good work  
never hindered by self  
who passing over the stony highway  
of existence make it a well of living  
water - to yourselves & to all you reach  
May your Golden Wedding be the  
complement of this -  
the genius of marriage  
to yourselves, your children and  
the world  
is Aunt Florence's fervent prayer  
{printed address:} 10, South Street,  
{printed sideways} Park Lane. W

ff52-53v Fred V to FN Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks., June 9, 1895, re MV's piano playing and FV's journeys to Greenwich and Norwich

ff54-55 Maude V to FN 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., {archivist:June 9, 1895} from MV, thanking FN for anniversary flowers and greetings

ff56-57v Fred V to FN The Siamese Legation, London, June 12, 1895, from FV, re the appointment of a new Siamese Crown Prince, presently in England

ff58-59 Fred V to FN 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., June 27, 1895, expressing FV's gratefulness for the blessings he has received

ff60-61, Fred V to FN The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., June 29, 1895, re the possibility of a clerkship for Lewis S. N. at the Siamese Legation

Add Mss 41977D

747

signed letter, ff62-63, pencil [1:713-14]

**f62**

June 29/95

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

My dearest Fred

You left your coat here  
last night which I send

I hope you got some  
dinner some time -

You "is to take your  
"beer reg'lar"

I do "pray" & "thank"  
for you, my dearest Fred

I have been so much  
struck by these Mahometans'  
call to prayer - It is not  
"Listen God, I'm going to  
'pray' Still less; 'I'm

**f62v**

'putting on a new hat to  
go to Church'

It is imploring God to  
take the whole thing into  
His own hands -

like S. John of the Cross, a  
Spaniard of the 16th Century,  
who said: Prayer is not to  
ask God ~~what~~ to do what  
we want, but to ask  
Him what He wants us  
to do -

All success attend you  
ever your loving Aunt  
Florence

**f63**

What a curious selection

Lord Lansdown for the  
W.O., & Ld George Hamilton  
for the I.O.

ff64-66 going to Sunny Hill, Thorpe, Norwich, July, from MV, re FV's campaign in Norwich

Add Mss 41977D

748

unsigned letter, ff67-72, pen & pencil

**f67**

Miss Deyns

"Health Missioner ) July 12/95

Hospital Training ) 10, South Street, {printed address:}

"London" Hospital ) Park Lane. W

My dear Mr. Verney

As you will suppose, I am

a little startled at the

want of knowledge betrayed

as to Hospital *Nurse-training*

& as to the immense pains

taken by Miss Lückes to

try a *new* experiment for

Miss Deyns' sake in forming

her for a HEALTH MISSIONER

It is now two months

since

Miss Lückes

Matron

The London Hospital

Whitechapel E.

(you ask name

& address)

**f67v**

met me here at my request

& made out a clear and

well-digested scheme for

giving Miss Deyns a quite

*exceptional* course of

preparation as "*Health*

*"Missioner"* for 6 months

to begin immediately, -

because she was told that

immediate action was

necessary to save Miss

Deyns' calling.

She kindly said that

there was no occasion

for Miss Deyns to do more

than fill up the Form

she gave me - & that she

might then be admitted

at once - (on payment,

(But Miss Lückes made no difficulty about that.)

**f68**

At your suggestion I wrote  
all this to Miss Deyns  
& sent her the Form to be  
filled up - & received  
from her a satisfactory  
letter.

I cannot of course say  
whether Miss Lückes  
would take her now, Miss D  
having heard I believe  
nothing in the meanwhile.  
And as for 'October,' there  
is a total misunderstanding  
on Miss Deyns' part. It  
would all have to be done  
over again. It is not at  
all the question whether  
there are more "cases" to  
be seen on October or in  
May, but whether

**f68v**

the quite exceptional  
course of instruction  
will or can be given now.

One thing is certain  
that there is no Matron  
but Miss Lückes who  
will take the trouble Miss  
Lückes would & has done.

[True, Hospitals are now  
so poor that there is  
perhaps not one except  
St. Thomas', who would  
not take for money a  
person for — months  
~~for pay~~ - to be made  
- anything? - a Doctor  
for India? or to take  
a Voyage to the Moon?

But what arrangement is made for their instruction?

- None *can* be made &  
none *is* made - They are  
just left to "pick up"]

**f69**

-2-

My dear Fred

The questions now {printed address:} 10, South Street,  
asked me are Park Lane. W  
'if I think there is sufficient  
'in Miss Deyns' suggestion  
'to make "delay advisable".

Somebody has probably  
put into her head that  
she can be taken in any  
October like a Medical  
student - completely  
ignoring the fact that  
this is an entirely *new*  
experiment & a carefully  
planned one, for a  
HEALTH Missioner & no  
one else.

It is a very narrow  
pinch whether delay  
has not already made

**f69v**

made her entrance impossible.

It will be obvious that  
Miss Lückes would not  
have taken the trouble  
she has as a mere matter  
of business *with any*  
*stranger for any stranger.*

'Begin her course at once,  
if even that be yet possible

Miss Deyns' remark  
(on the yellow scrawl)  
that it is due to the  
Council" &c &c - only  
shows that they all  
together misunderstand  
the question - what is  
"due to the Council", is  
to accept the exceptionally  
favourable opportunity.

**f70**

I am asked  
2. "how the arrangement  
"should be actually made?  
"Is the Matron now ready  
"to hear from Mr.  
"Williams our Secretary?"  
The "arrangement" was made -  
I must answer it by  
another question:  
Has Miss Deyns sent in  
her Form duly filled up?  
accompanied by an  
explanation of delay?  
It is most difficult to  
advise: The most  
business-like thing would  
be probably to send it in  
(accompanied by a note from *Mr. Williams*)  
through me - but I

**f70v**

1. I have not a moment  
to spare  
2. I have ~~excessively~~  
distressed my "party"  
by giving way in the  
matter of 6 months, when  
they hold out for a year's  
training. I answered like  
an idiot; 'but this is only  
'for a Health Missioner -  
'not for a trained Nurse',  
And they party justly replied  
'but THEY will call her  
'a trained Nurse.'  
And if I back out of it  
now, the 'party' will say  
that I am 'well out of it'

**f71**

-3-

My dear Fred {printed address:} 10, South Street,

I would gladly have Park Lane. W

written you a letter which you  
could have sent on to these  
untoward people, without trouble

[perhaps p. 1 would do]

& another to yourself,  
explaining what a 'fix'  
they have got themselves  
& me into.

[perhaps p. 2 would do -]

But I am so driven -

And today is Indian  
Mail day - I have no time to  
make it any shorter

And *you* are so driven -

Good luck to you

P.T.O.

**f71v**

If it is *étiquette*, as it

undoubtedly may be,

for Mr. Williams to write

still it must not be

done quite coolly

like a customer

And it is very unlikely

that a lady so supremely

busy as Miss Lückes

with some 200 Nurses

should remember exactly

an offer made so long ago

I have pointed out the

difficulties - but none

would be more disappointed

than I - if it were entirely



**f72**

to slip thro' - none knew  
so well as I what an  
unique offer Miss Lückes  
has made - And none  
seem less to understand  
the position than Miss D.  
herself - so much so  
that I almost hesitate  
to inflict such a  
person on Miss Lückes  
to whom I had given  
such a good account  
of Miss D.

initialled letter, ff73-74, pencil

**f73**

Miss Deyns ) July 13/95

Mr. Williams) 6 a.m.

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

My dearest Fred

Please be careful of me  
with these misunderstanding  
people -

The *last sentence* on  
*sheet 1* of my letter of  
yesterday where I said  
'that they would take any  
b"lady who paid for  
*anything*, pretending to teach  
her & leaving her to "pick up",  
would be ruin to me in  
their hands. hey n

I wanted so much to  
write something that you  
could forward to them without

**f73v**

trouble. But I was so  
hurried & interrupted -  
Please do not send anything  
to Mr. Williams or  
Miss Deyns  
with which they could work  
harm  
As for Miss Deyns, to whom it  
was so fully explained two  
months ago that she was  
admitted by Miss Lückes  
on a proposal entirely  
appropriate to herself alone,  
as a Health Missioner,  
she is unintelligible & her  
yellow scrawl -  
[Of course the delay occasioned  
by the uncertainty of whether  
the payment would be

**f74**

sanctioned is no fault of  
hers - But]  
I could not allow her to go  
forward with Miss Lückes  
*in or out of my name* with this  
scheme as shown by the  
October proposal. Now,  
could I?  
Probably Miss Lückes has  
forgotten all about her as  
*Miss Deyns* - I do not think  
she took any note of her  
name - *because* she, as  
she expressly said, *expected*  
*Miss Deyns* to send in  
the Form filled up - And she  
has 200 Nurses to think of  
I am so sorry for all this  
imbroglio to you at this time.  
F.N.

ff75-76v Fred V to FN July 28, 1895, re FV's unsuccessful efforts to obtain a seat in the House of Commons

ff77-78, Fred V to FN August 12, 1895, re George's health

Add Mss 41977D

755

ff79-80, Fred V to FN The Auld Hame, North Berwick, August 19 1895 from FV with holiday news

Add Mss 41977D

756

ff81-82, 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., July 22, from MV, re George's illness

ff83-84v, Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks., July 26, 1895, from FV, re the Liberal defeat at Norwich due to running two candidates

signed letter, ff85-86v, pencil [5:359-60]

**f85**

28 July/95

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

My dear Fred

Hurra for the Norwich  
Meeting to morrow, I say -  
tho' you find it oppressive,  
I am afraid. It is rather  
trying & touching than  
oppressive, I think. You  
meet your friends, you who  
have fought the good fight  
so well & meet them who have also  
fought it so cheerily - & you  
encourage yourselves for  
another time. I should  
like to be the man of the Beer  
meeting *his* friends, the Publicans.

If the old noble of past  
times could say: I had rather

**f86**

'have my dead son than your  
 'living ones - how much more  
 should you whose son Norwich  
 is *not* dead rejoice over your  
 possession tho' lost for a time  
only a time.

One great lesson this General

Election has or should have  
 taught us viz: that the  
 working man knows nothing  
 of Politics - in the higher sense  
 that Dr. Arnold of Rugby  
 put to them: Religion & Politics,  
 he used to say, make up all the world,  
 Religion to teach us God: Politics  
 to teach us our fellow - creatures.

I always think of you &  
 your saying: when does the  
 working - man know enough to  
 make him know more by giving him responsibility?

**f87v**

This is the question of the Age  
 When † /you hear the "Labour" party  
 contending for more wages, fewer  
 hours, to take the freedom from  
 every body of taking their work  
 as they please & domineer over  
 every body to do as the "Labour"  
 party please, you see they  
 know nothing at all about  
 it. If they had really studied  
 the subject, whatever conclusion  
 they came to, one would have  
 no more right to interfere than  
 to quarrel with a Russian for  
 talking Russian. But it is  
 vain to think that the Elementary  
 Schools can teach politics. *We*  
 have to teach them - to teach  
 the village young men - And truly  
 the sooner it is begun, the better.  
 Village Clubs won't teach them -  
 all success be yours - your loving Aunt Florence

ff90-91v Fred V to FN from 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., July 18, re the defeat at Norwich  
signed letter, ff92-92v, pencil [8:926]

**f92**

July 22/95  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
Dearest Maude  
My heart is with  
you & Fred - But still,  
as you I know feel,  
there are the greatest  
of consolations in the  
way you conducted  
the contest. But I  
should like to drown  
B. in Beer & am  
constructing an apparatus  
similar to that of the  
Prince who was

**f92v**

drowned in Malmsey.  
Thank my Fred for his  
letter -  
Could you tell me how  
you thought poor George  
- & how you thought  
Margt? Just a  
word, please - if you  
will be so kind.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

759

signed letter, ff93-94, pencil

**f93**

*Private* Augt 24/95

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

My dear Fred

I have not yet had  
time to write my letter to you  
But could you do me a  
favour? They want me  
to write a letter of  
condolence & appreciation  
*to the D. of Cambridge* -  
His was so colourless of  
a life that it is extremely  
difficult to do -

Every body will admit that

- he was no jobber
- he stood up for  
everything for the men's  
comfort

- he was a first rate  
man of business - never

**f93v**

spared himself the most  
tiresome detail -  
he was a good man - a  
moral man.

but he had no power of  
conceiving or exceeding  
any reform

& if any is to be made, *he*  
must go -

he was exceedingly popular  
among the soldiers - (as  
popular as his successor  
is unpopular - deservedly  
unpopular, I believe)

the Duke was most feeling  
& kind - but he had not an

**f94**

atom of a/the soldier in him  
- he failed at Inkermann  
  where he commanded -  
  (a Division, I think) -  
because he could not bear  
  to have his horse tread  
in the blood of the  
  fallen men  
Could you give me a sentence  
  or two?  
    ever your loving  
    Aunt Florence

unsigned letter, ff95-97, pencil

**f95**

-2-

*Private Letter 27/8/95*

to D. of 10, South Street, {printed address:}  
*Cambridge* Park Lane. W.  
O no! the "Nurses" have  
nothing to do with it. I don't  
suppose they know who the D.  
of Cambridge is. [When he held  
a Meeting on their behalf,  
there *were not* Nurses] It is  
simply a private letter of  
my own to the C. in C. And  
if you want to know who  
suggested it, it was a man  
who, having been many years  
in a ~~superior~~'greater' appointment in  
the W.O. knows more of the  
way the mouse runs than  
any body - D. Galton - And,  
when he asked me the second  
time whether I had written



**f95v**

& I said 'No' - I ~~asked~~/consulted a  
 man who is one of my few  
 surviving advisers - & he said  
 'Write; - & at all events it can do no  
 harm' -

But I only "speak" in *my own*  
 "name" - [I suppose the D. of  
 C. knows that I have been  
 employed for 40 years  
 more or less in the W.O. -  
 because he is a sort of  
 master of detail. But ] it is  
 none the less "difficult to  
 "concoct" - That's the reason  
 why I come to you -  
*that*, & because when I see  
 the two men the "Times" is  
 writing up now, I think the D.  
 of C. deserves a better pen than  
 mine.

**f96**

There is something great  
 in a man who has never  
 jobbed in his life. When all  
 the R. Family are jobbers.

---

*Gwendolen*

What you say about  
 Gwendolen is true ever since  
 she was 2 years old - And  
 a very few years later she  
 had all sorts of philanthropies  
 in her head of which she  
 rarely spoke - I am not  
 alluding to all that gabbling  
 & acting about *Dolls'*  
*Hosppls.* Besides, her  
 philanthropies were not on  
 those lines. They were about  
 the blind & old - & about  
 Kathleen whom she used to  
 teach - And even now, tho'

**f96v**

I see her so seldom, I can  
see the wonderful look  
return of the Infant Jesus  
(in the Dresden Raphael)  
whom she was so like -  
the look of saving the  
*world*, but not by talk.  
Never let a child of that  
sort have dolls - *Live* pets  
but not in confinement, should  
be her play - & taming them.  
And a few *good* poor people  
if such are within reach, &  
teaching their children.

People thought she did not  
mourn her grand ~~mother~~/mama - She  
used to retire between the  
double doors, of which there are  
enough at Claydon, & cry,  
& say nothing to nobody.  
{written in the left side margin}  
Margt always said G. was the gem of the whole lot.

**f95**

{written in the left side margin}  
Best love to Maudie & the children

**f97**

-1a-

I find in the 'other papers' X  
"Agriculture" "Mere book knowledge  
of no use in such a case as  
this. Examinations by Science  
& Art Dept considered too  
difficult for agricultural  
students.  
"Cookery" - "Demonstration lessons  
in country places useless -  
"For classes for poor  
people useless to deal  
with food & materials  
beyond their reach".  
X (in Maudie's dear hand)  
These remarks are *most*  
pregnant. Could we have  
more of them for Health at Home?

signed letter, ff98-99, pencil

**f98**

10 S. St.            Sept 21/95

My dear Fred

I hope you are not  
the worse for coming to me.  
I think I ought to have  
shut my window.

Private

Let me say about  
'Master Ralph'. He has a  
great quality which is  
magnanimity - He is like  
a father to a boy who  
has outstripped him

"I don't think much  
"of a boy who is clever"  
said to me one of the  
wisest people I have  
ever known - "I always

**f98v**

"ask: has he attention?

"And attention is a

"moral as well as an

"intellectual quality - Boys

"with attention never go

"far wrong."

Now I think Ralph  
has attention.

Boys of 16 are often  
very slow & succeed  
well & make remarkable  
men in after life -  
whereas it is very rare  
for a precocious boy  
to make a great man -

**f99**

I back Ralph -

& want to send him 10/

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

ff100-01v en route to Pleasley, Mansfield, September 22, 1895, from FV, re Sir Harry Verney's debts to be paid, Miss Bartlett's dismissal at Buckingham and a visit to Ralph at Harrow

Add Mss 41977D

765

signed letter, f102-03, pencil

**f102**

Sept 23/95

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

My dear Fred

Thank you very much  
for your letters.

I am aghast at Miss  
Bartlett's dismissal. The  
worst of it is that one  
does not know what to do.

- I thought she did good,  
& what was much more,  
Mrs. Cheadle did. Dr. De'Ath  
said she taught "Bartlett"  
& not Health Mr. Soames;  
I think if you were to  
examine her centres, you  
would, as the Anti-Jacobin  
did, find that

"There was a hole for his tail to  
come through".

**f103**

2 *Nationalization* [5:198]

Mrs. Rosalind is at this  
moment at Beauvais (in  
France). She will not  
return from a little tour in  
France with her mother & sister  
till quite the end of the  
month. So meanwhile I  
asked the best educated I  
know of the Radical M.P.s  
He says: "By nationalization  
"of minerals they mean  
"that individual land owners  
"should not monopolize  
"them but that they  
"should be made  
"available for the enterprize  
"of the whole nation under

**f103v**

"proper regulations.  
"Practically they are  
"nationalized in all  
"European countries &  
"the owner of the surface  
"is not allowed to claim  
"exclusive right to all  
"below the surface. The  
"result would probably  
"be to cheapen coal."

[I think I ought to  
receive a small pension  
for translating for Radicals.]

Best love to all  
ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

initialled letter, ff104-05v, pencil

**f104**

Oct 4/95

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

My dear Fred

I am so very sorry to  
hear (half an hour ago) from  
Miss Lückes that Miss Deyns  
has an attack of Scarlet  
Fever - &, tho' very mild,  
they have been obliged to  
send her, as they do all their  
Nurses, to the London Fever Hospital,  
Liverpool Road, Islington. I am afraid it  
is a great disappointment  
to Miss Deyns - She had  
just completed her month -  
& very well, in the Children's  
Ward - And Miss Lückes  
says that they always

**f104v**

reckon 3 months f before  
a Nurse can resume work -  
Miss Lückes asks me to  
    *"let the Chairman know*  
    *"what has occurred"*  
And I am afraid I must  
    ask *you* to do this.  
They *have* communicated  
with Miss Deyns' relations  
    *"in the routine way"*  
They say they do not  
    know how she caught it  
But that is all the old  
fashioned idea of Infection.  
They say there was no  
Scarlet Fever in the Ward.

**f105**

But there is always  
S. Fever when the first  
rains come after the heat.  
We have one case at  
least, among the Probrs  
at St. Thomas. But  
then we have the  
advantage of a separate  
block for it.  
    I hear a rumour that  
you are going to the  
S. of France - That is  
not true, is it?

**f105v**

    writing to save the post  
with great haste  
    F.N.  
Miss Irby is in England  
    Miss Lückes hopes that  
they will give Miss Deyns  
another 2 months to  
make up all for this  
lost 3 months.

incomplete letter, ff106-07v, pencil

**f106**

-2-

10, South Street, {printed address:}  
so many in England Park Lane. W.  
with no (or little) knowledge  
of the facts are hounding  
us on to War - the great  
Sunday "Demonstration"  
in Hyde Park - but not only  
that - but popular ladies  
of authority &c &c &c -  
One gentleman of authority  
told me that we could  
have no idea of what an  
European War would be  
now with our long range  
guns, our frightful instruments  
for blowing up by the thousand,  
our Ironclads - no hand  
to hand fighting

**[15:571]**

**f106v**

I cannot get the D. News  
And I could not read it  
if I had it. You say  
that is "solid" -  
Other people say: "Every  
"body" says so & so -  
"Every body" is always wrong  
which is by no means  
saying that those who go  
to make up "every body"  
are wrong - But there  
is such a great deal  
in enthusiasm without  
facts - like the cry:  
'Great is Diana of the  
Ephesians'.



**f107**

**How is Ralph?**

With love to all  
your affecte  
Aunt Florence

I have read your Chester  
McNaughton book with  
the utmost admiration  
That is the true Missionary  
I have ordered more - Sir  
W. Wedderburn knew him  
very well, & was instrumental  
in getting him the post  
over the College of the Young

**f107v**

Rajahs whom he so  
nobly instructed  
Thanks too for Sir W. Hunter's  
"Thackerays in India"  
What a condition of things  
(the "private trade" &c) it  
reveals among our officials  
in early British rule -  
Do you know I can  
remember Ly Ashburton's  
mother accepting a bribe  
or present, call it which  
you will! But what splen=  
=did individual heroes  
among it all.  
Have you heard anything more  
of Ly Ashburton's affair?  

---

Thanks also for "The Old  
Missionary" - a book I have  
long thought the best thing ever  
done of the kind - so pathetic.

signed letter, ff108-09v, pencil

**f108**

Oct 19/95

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

My dear Fred

I return 6 letters of  
the Norwich time which  
you & Maude were so good  
as to send me to see. ~~me~~

It is impossible to express  
one's admiration of Mr.  
Hoare's letter. It reminds  
one of the good old times  
of 30-40 years ago - would  
that that chivalrous  
time would come again  
in the Ho: of C., which  
was due entirely to the

**f108v**

Peel school & to Sidney

Herbert, when they  
did not care for place,  
but worked as hard  
when they were 'out'  
for the measures of  
those who were 'in' -

The Ho: of C. now  
is like an *unreformed*  
Workhouse Infirmary.

I hope you are all  
'reformed' in *health*  
now - Aunt Florence's  
best love to all.

**f109**

Don't go to the London  
Fever Hospl, even to see  
Miss Deyns - the French  
call our Fever Hospitals  
"foyers d'infection" - And  
they are right

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

We have been & are  
~~very~~ uneasy about  
Shore's Louisa, tho' she  
is better. She was  
stopped by the sudden  
cold "with one of her  
larynx attacks - at  
Bretagne - on her way  
back from France.

**f109v**

Rosalind Nash is with  
her, of course - But they  
want Sam who is  
worth 20 Nurses - who  
is in Scotland - And  
they won't let us  
telegraph for him  
but I should catch  
hold of him in a day  
or two. Don't say  
anything about it, for  
we don't want Louis  
to know, who is away  
for his holiday, of his  
mother's illness. She *is*  
better. F.N.

signed letter, ff110-11, pencil

**f110**

Oct. 19/95

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

My dear Fred

Thank you for your  
letter -

If you are *quite* sure  
that your lady, Mrs. [Mary T. Leiter]  
Curzon's mother, *wants*  
to see me, I would see  
her either tomorrow  
(Sunday) or Monday at  
5, if I knew beforehand.

But I have broken  
thro' my rule lately,  
& have seen American  
Doctors They are

**f110v**

delightful people, so  
full of enthusiasm.  
But they have not even  
a glimmer of an idea  
what Nurse training means -  
It is all Lectures,  
no Matron, no beds,  
no Homes on any  
principle - And they  
expect me to teach  
them in an hour  
how to train - the  
Lecture system again

**f111**

I will tell you more  
when we meet -  
One man says "Hygiene  
depends "entirely" on  
a knowledge of organic  
Chemistry (sic) & of  
Bacteriology (sic)  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff112-13v, pencil

**f112**

*Private* 10 South St

Oct 24/95

My dear Fred

Thank you very much  
for your letter about  
dear Ralph, which I  
will act upon gladly.

~~Yes~~: I liked Mrs Leiter  
very much: we will  
speak about that further -

But the one thing that  
I find about Americans  
is that they are beginning  
before the Flood; that is  
*before* what we conquered  
with great difficulty,

**f112v**

beginning 40 years ago

This brings us in any  
conversation upon  
our haunches just as if  
we were horses pulled  
up suddenly by a sharp  
curb upon their haunches.

They have not learnt  
their A B C - but  
are full of enthusiasm  
to read *without* it -

Mrs. Leiter asked  
me to *give* her copies  
of the two pamphlets  
you lent her - Bucks Sany Conf  
- Health at Home which

**f113**

I am doing - adding  
to them what she has  
not seen "Rural Hygiene"  
& "Mrs. Cheadle's Report".

She asked me very  
earnestly whether she  
{the next 5 lines have vertical lines beside them in both margins}  
might *quote* what  
you send her as being  
my doctrine - or at  
least quote it *in her*  
*own words* - as such.  
I did not know what  
to say: so I said I  
would ask you.  
Please answer at once.

**f113v**

Sir T. Crawford's  
death is a great  
loss to us - we have  
no one to replace him  
with his great Sanitary  
knowledge *and* his  
charming temper -  
which sets up no  
one's back against it.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff114-15 Fred V to FN, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S.W., October 31, 1895,  
from FV re a letter to Prince Devawongee, and a thank you for FN's kindness to the Verney children,  
and notes on Lunatic Asylums

signed letter, ff116-17v, pencil

**f116**

Nov. 1/95

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

My dear Fred

Thank you very much  
for the copy of your letter  
to *Pr. Devawongee*, which  
I will speedily return.

2. I send you to read  
the *D. of Cambridge's* letter  
- very pathetic - which I  
have not shown to any one.

[I put it by in such a  
safe place to show you  
that I could not find it  
till this morning] Please  
return it to me as soon  
as you can - for I suppose  
I must send it to one or  
two.

**f116v**

3

I have received from the  
good man at Birmingham  
(of the Balaclava Feast)  
a copy of my letter, as  
by request, for you. It is  
copied by himself & the  
hand - writing is so bad that  
I must have it typed;  
when done, I will send it  
you

I cannot read it myself  
as it is

**f117****[5:475]**

4. Have you read Mr. Gladstone's letter to Mme Novikoff in last Sunday's "Observer" - To find Mr. Gladstone spurring on to War, 'shaming' England, - & at the instigation of an exceedingly clever, exceedingly unprincipled woman, - is something so dreadful that one could almost wish it had pleased God to take him first before he had forgotten all the principles of an ex- Premier - & the Greatest leader of the Ho: of C **[end 5:475]**

**f117v**

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff118-18v Fred V to FN 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., November 1, 1895, re FN's letter to the Duke of Cambridge

signed letter, ff119-20, pencil **[8:926]**

**f119**

*Private* Nov 1/95

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

Dearest Maude

G. is more beautiful  
than ever - *that* is with  
being with her mother -

But I wish I could  
help you to find a lady-  
-governess - how I wish!

She has, I should  
think, quite as much  
power of reflection, making  
progress now every year.

I hope I did not  
excite her.

She would not have



**f119v**

any tea - And I am afraid  
there was nothing to tempt  
her appetite - But there  
was a horrid fog all night  
here -

It is difficult not to  
talk to her, because she  
asks such searching  
Economic questions -

There are Graham Wallas'  
Economic Lectures going  
on now at the Socy of Arts  
I do not think the Nash

**f120**

baby attends them yet.  
But its father & mother  
& grandmother do - I  
hope they are not too  
radical.

Fine weather to you  
ever your loving

Aunt Florence  
Thank you so much for  
your List of books - How  
good of you to think of it.

Aunt Florence's love to  
K. & kindest regards  
to Mrs. Davidson, please  
I hope you will not be too tired

**[end 8:926**

Add Mss 41977D

778

signed letter, ff121-25v, pencil

**f121**

10 South St

Nov 12/95

My dear Fred

Thank you very much  
for your letter about Miss  
Bartlett & the Buckingham  
Vicar - How glad I am  
I wrote to you - And you  
will kindly write to Dr.  
De'Ath

But I shan't let  
you "guarantee" the 10.  
You have given too much  
already

2. I send you the typed  
letter for the Veterans (I wrote the M. S. of) by

**f121v**

your kind desire - It has  
been a long time typing,  
because the *copy* was do  
infamously written I  
could not read it myself x

There are also two or  
three bits left out by the copier which  
I can't remember: but  
as the Paris hair-dresser  
said: 'The less of your  
face you do see, the  
better you do look'-

x I have never seen my own  
written letter again

**f122**

3. Please tell Maudie  
that her book about  
the "briar = bush" which  
she lent me is beyond  
all price.

And I send her a  
book "The Old Missionary"  
which I think is also  
beyond all price - I  
could not have conceived  
Sir W. Hunter writing  
such a book: so full of  
sympathy, insight, & real  
tender understanding.

But 4

**f122v**

4. is of most importance  
You & she have been at  
Claydon. Please consult

*her*

*there*

*I am afraid I could  
not possibly leave  
London before some  
time in December -*

If Margt is going to  
have any kind of Xmas  
party, I assure you then  
I am only an encumbrance  
- not because of rooms  
or vittles but - because  
Margt has to entertain the  
people, of course - & it is

**f123**

-2-

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

only when she is alone  
that I can be of a  
little use by talking  
about interesting  
things to her &c

Maudie! Maudie!!  
Now do speak the  
truth - Is *she*  
*going to have a*  
*Xmas party?*  
You are a bad lot  
not to have written

**f123v**

to me -

And how is she?  
ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

**f124**

5. Have you seen  
Mr. or Mrs. Man Mohun  
Ghose at  
the Alexander Hotel?  
They enquired after you.  
You know their worth -  
I have seen them each  
separately  
F.N.

**f125**

6. -3- 12/11/95

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

I was very glad  
to read your letter to  
Pr. Devawongee which  
I return

I would just call you  
attention to Mr. Gladstone's x  
letter to Mme Novikoff  
in the Observer - Perhaps  
you don't attach much  
importance to it - but  
many people do.  
I felt quite frostbitten.

x you mention "Gladstone" in  
p. 2 of your letter

**f125v**

in my heart that the  
gallant old ex-Premier  
could appear in such  
a coat - cursing  
the ~~Turks~~ Sultan -  
crying *shame* upon us  
- & calling down God's  
vengeance -  
& that he should  
show himself the tool  
of such a woman.

ff126-27 Alenho, Ridgeway, Wimbledon, November 12, from MV, re MV's thanks for a book, and news of Claydon

ff128-28v November 12, 1895, from FV, re the absence of a Christmas party at Claydon

ff129-30 Fred V to FN November 28, 1895, re some pens FV is sending FN, and a proposed trip to Paris to see Rolin Jacquemyns before his departure for Siam

ff131-32v, November 28, from MV, re the Verneys' trip to Paris and the happiness of Gwendolen and Kathleen with Miss Douglas

ff133-34 Maude V to FN December 5, re a suitable book on Confirmation, Nurse Murray's serious illness, and news of the Verney's visit to Paris

incomplete letter, ff135-36, pencil [8:926-27]

**f135**

10 S. St Dec 6/95

Dearest Maude

Many, many thanks  
for your note.

I do so want to send  
you something you will  
like (for the children's  
Confirmation) *for daily  
duties*, as you say.

I have looked thro'  
several of the S.P.C.K.'s  
books - In all is something  
good - In all is something  
Ecclesiastical - Also,  
they are too much for

**f135v**

*poor* children -

Nevertheless I think I  
will send you two or three.

But what I have found  
the best for poor and  
rich is:

"Jesus the Carpenter of  
Nazareth"

which gives the idea of  
the busy life of daily  
hard work for God &  
man -

I dare say you have  
it. Nevertheless I send  
it. Also the *2nd* Edit. of

**f136**

Jowett's Sermons - The  
first & indeed the second  
sermons are, I think, worth your  
reading for the children.

But I do think *your*  
talk with your children  
better than all the books  
in the world.

I send Jowett. A  
friend of mine said to me,  
'It's not like preaching  
It's not a Sermon -  
It's like an undergraduate  
talking - especially "Eating

**f136v**

"& drinking". [He shows  
them the Act; he shows  
them the Life & *not* the dogma. He does  
not say: Do this & do  
that - But he says:  
Here it is - What do you  
think?

I have written expressly  
for books for the  
Confn of educated boys  
of 16 - & girls of 15 - not  
the poor - books which  
will tell what the  
daily duties are & inspire  
how to do them - But I

**[end 8:927]**

signed letter, ff137-38v, pencil [8:927-28]

**f137**

Dec 10/95

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

Dearest Maude

One does feel so  
very sorry for the  
terrible disaster to  
dear Mrs. Davidson;  
but her stedfast  
mind is much in  
her favour - & for you  
for I fear you have  
no one but Mrs.  
Davidson to place  
over Mrs. Davidson's

**f137v**

sick-room with  
unbounded trust -  
My best love &  
prayer for her -  
I send you 4 books  
But I wish I could  
send you books  
that were *all* good  
I think "The Laying  
"on of Hands" has  
good things, because

**f138**

the writer was a  
layman before he  
was a clergyman  
- there are not so many  
stock phrases -  
The habit of giving  
"addresses" takes away  
a good deal of the  
individuality, the  
main instrument of  
good in 3 & 4



**f138v**

I wish I had an  
American book which  
converted me in 1836  
- Alas! that I should  
so little have lived up  
to my conversion.  
"The Cornerstone" -  
There was such a striking  
chapter. Pharisees,  
Peter, & Judas even, all  
live now - And, then it  
gave them as they appear  
in these days -  
    ever your loving  
    Aunt Florence

ff139-40 December 18, from MV, re family news including a visit to "The Mikado" by the Verney children and 4 Siamese boys

ff141-42 December 20, from FV, re a talk between Prince Svasti and Lord Wolseley, and a request for Ralph to see FN

ff143-44v Kerris Vean, Falmouth, Cornwall, Christmas Day, from MV, re news of George and thanks for the children's presents

ff145-47v Christmas Day, from FV, re George and the presents, and problems with Harrow's regimen for Ralph

signed letter, ff148-52v, pencil

**f148**

Dec 28/95

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

My dear Fred

I feel most deeply for  
the difficulty about dear  
Ralph's health. And  
Dr. K. Barker's is a  
most sensible letter -  
one which cannot be  
neglected. But it is so  
hard to advise when  
one does not know the  
people. 1. I do not see  
how you can avoid  
writing to Dr./Mr Davidson,  
tho' I doubt, as you do,  
whether it will do any

**f148v**

good - *Can* he (I speak  
as a fool) alter the hours  
of foot - ball & dinner  
for one boy, unless  
indeed a fortunate  
conciliabule of parents  
had written all at once?  
And if the other boys  
with ostriches' stomachs  
did not for some reason  
like the change, could  
the one boy stay?  
The season of short days  
makes the difficulty  
greater -  
If I wrote, I would make

**f149**

the letter less that of an  
instructor God speed -  
2. Dr. K. Barker's letter -  
You would not send  
this telle quelle, would  
you? even with Dr. K.B.'s  
leave - Probably he is  
one of those men who say:  
Fiat justitia, ruat caelum.  
But this would not carry  
his point (I speak as a  
fool) while, as he goes  
slap-dash, & very wisely,  
at the whole of Harrow  
School, it might ruin his  
practice [Valour succeeds,

**f149v**

but prudent poltroonery succeeds too]  
~~better~~] I would copy the  
verdict about Ralph  
- it is *you* not his name who answer for  
Dr. K. B. - but not the  
signature  

---

I return Dr. K.B.'s  
excellent letter -  
& the "Draft" ( of which I  
cannot find the 2nd part)  

---

You cannot think how  
London servants suffer  
from something of the same causes as  
Harrow school boys . But  
doctors know - tho' they do  
not say for fear of being  
sent away -  
I fear dear Ralph will have to leave Harrow

**f150**

-2-

1. *Army Class*: will he have *Gymnastics* there?
2. *Home & McGuire*  
You know that Crammers give *no discipline* - indeed they are the very reverse of discipline.

But it would be extremely difficult, I am quite aware, to get Ralph at 17 into a School - They would not take him at Clifton, because that would be cramming

illeg

**f150v**

3& 4

*Sandhurst & Militia*  
Ralph says, & he does not generally speak without knowledge, that *Military Surveying* is now taught everywhere -

Is it taught in the *Militia Classes*? Except at Sandhurst, where it is taught & practiced to perfection, it is not supposed that it *is* really taught  
The Militia is generally credited with words &

**f151**

theory, but not with  
real practical knowledge/doing

It is true that it is  
now

Sandhurst  
or Militia  
to get into the Army  
& that half the men  
in the Army have  
got in thro' the Militia,  
but Sandhurst, thorough  
Sandhurst, looks down  
upon them - And is  
there discipline in the  
Militia?

**f151v**

At Sandhurst they go  
out on Military Surveying  
~~2~~ and 3 times a week,  
they have plenty of space  
& ground for real  
surveying - But in  
scarcely any other place  
have they this last?  
The discipline at Sandhurst  
is splendid - It makes  
a man of you.

**f152**

*Private* -4-

5. Rifle Brigade

You know these are  
almost all London men.

Did you ever think  
of a Line Regiment?

The 19th Line Infantry  
Yorkshire - Col: Bruce  
is an excellent Regiment

So is the West Kent  
2nd Batt: Line Infantry

In both these Regiments  
all are country men

A Yorkshireman is  
always good - remember  
that I'm a Yorkshireman

**f152v**

For the Rifle Brigade  
you must send in your  
name early "on the Duke's  
"List" as you know -  
But Regiments &

Schools  
change so much according  
as their *present* Officers  
or Masters *are* - One  
*can* only speak for the  
present year

ff153-54 Fred V to FN December 31, 1895, re FV's & MV's concern at FN's ill health, and family plans

Add Mss 41977D

791

signed letter, ff155-56, pencil

**f155**

Jan 8/96

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

My dear Fred

Thank you very much  
for your note. I should  
particularly have liked  
to have seen you today  
not only to talk about  
family but about  
this extraordinary mixture  
of heroism & blue funk  
as you say which  
nobody seems as yet  
to understand & which  
nobody delights in but  
the newspapers, who

**f155v**

have the pleasure of  
contradicting themselves.

But Doctors are  
inexorable, 'be quiet &  
'silent & don't even write'  
they say.

My love to all yours -

And tell me, please,  
about dear Ralph's  
fate, when decided

In my last letter to  
Maudie, I was just  
going to send a message

**f156**

of regard & surprise,  
delightful surprise,  
to Mrs. Davidson at her  
being able to go to  
Falmouth, when I  
was interrupted. I hope  
she is now well. Please  
give her my message.

Is your address

Debdale

Mansfield?

Good speed to all

ever your & their

loving Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff157-57v, pencil

**f157**

*Private* Jan 19/96

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

My dear Fred

Thank you for telegraphing  
to me about Harry & Vienna  
It will be the making of him,  
if he can keep straight  
Vienna has not a good  
character.

When does he go?

==  
You know that poor Miss Deyns  
has "Modified Small Pox"

- only a few days after  
returning to the London -

& is gone to the Small pox  
Hospl. She is unlucky

indeed

Miss Lückes of the London



**f157v**

wishes to know if you  
would like her to  
take some one else  
during poor Miss Deyns  
seclusion.

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

I hope you really think  
that the Mekong  
business is settling  
better than you expected

signed letter, ff159-60v, pencil

**f159**

Jan 30/96

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

My dear Fred

Good cheer for Siam  
if you are even tolerably  
satisfied with the Mekong  
business

Poor Margt - I am  
afraid it is a great  
wrench for her, parting  
with the 4 children for  
2 months - But she is  
blessed Margt all the  
same - I hope it will  
do him good

Ralph I enclose a

**f159v**

sordid little bit of gold for

I think there is some  
comfort in a bit of gold  
even in affliction - I  
was so sorry not to be  
able to see him -

He is not in the same  
'House', is he? with

Harry - When does his

Confirmation take place?  
When is the bigger Harry  
going to Vienna?

**f160**

Sir Harry did something  
for Pleasley Water-supply  
did he not?

You know we were  
thinking of putting up a  
drinking water-fountain - But  
I had much rather you  
applied the enclosed to  
anything you ~~illeg~~/ think best,  
only I always remember  
that Workmen's Clubs often  
entail much harm &  
little good, except there  
be a gentleman or

**f160v**

better still a lady,  
~~like Lady illeg~~  
always & responsibly  
there  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff161-61v incomplete, undated, from MV, re Parish Council, and the death of the Crown Prince of Siam

unsigned letter, ff162-63, pencil

**f162**

10 S. Street Jan 31/96

My dear Fred Please understand that that  
little sum is for *your* Pleasley purposes & name  
not for mine. It is of no consequence that  
they should remember me - besides all I  
knew are dead - it is of great *consequence*  
they should remember you - And it could only be  
a little mite in what *you* do

Yes: about Harry (medicine sized) & Vienna,  
I am sorry - whatever of back bone is in him  
is of your putting & Maudie's - If he is in London,  
{archivist: 31 Jan 1896}

**f163**

before he goes, I should like to see him,  
just for one ¼ hour - And could you think  
of some present, not cumbrous to travel, & little,  
which I could give him?  
ever your & Maudie's

signed letter, ff164-65, pencil

**f164**

Robert Robinson Feb 9/96  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

My dear Fred

The last person I saw  
before I was shut up  
i.e. before Xmas was  
R. Robinson.

And he asked me to write  
a letter from him to Lord  
Spencer whose place as  
Land Agent he wants.

The present Lord Kinnaird  
will speak for him who ~~was~~/served  
with his brother till his  
death. And the present

**f164v**

Lord North - his last place

But I can speak for  
R. R., as one can speak-  
for few - tho' not professionally I have known  
him for 41 years - beginning  
in the Crimea where I  
could trust him to buy  
things for the Patients on  
board the ships at Bala-  
clava (& never drink) as  
I could trust no man  
He was then 16 -

I bought him out of  
the Army, educated him -

**f165**

And Sir Harry was so  
kind - R.R. married a  
Claydon girl - getting him  
Ld Kinnaird's place - He  
has never made a faux  
pas -

When I saw him the  
other day, he was still  
the same upright, open,  
little fellow he was 41  
years ago - There is some-  
thing that a good young  
soldier never loses -

But I do not know

**f165v**

Lord Spencer, except by  
name - And I did not  
know what to do, till I  
recollected that you  
were intimate with him,  
at least at the Norwich  
election -

Could you kindly help  
me?

Ld Spencer was, perhaps  
still is, abroad. But I  
was told that my letter  
wd be forwarded to him  
wherever he was -

Help me, please -  
ever your loving Aunt F.

initialled letter, ff166-68, pencil

**f166**

Feb 28/96

My dear Fred

1 I am afraid I am not  
able to see any one to-day.  
2. Poor Nurse Murray - I will  
do my very best to help  
her. But few have any idea  
how difficult it is -  
Miss Pringle, the pink &  
pearl of all our Matrons,  
is now the Nurse &  
housemaid of two or three  
old idiots, supposed to  
be R. C. s - She has been  
thrown over board by her  
own co-religionists

**f166v**

3. I was quite aware  
that the whole pit was  
in love with Maudie.  
But do not be alarmed -  
Ask Phillimore  
- I do not find in my legal  
books or my Prayer book that a pit can  
marry a lady - Besides,  
"I could not do with  
"all" - in the words of  
the immortal Shakspeare  
I am much more  
alarmed at the idea  
of a "Parish Room",

**f167**

without Maudie to  
conduct the doings -  
A Parish Room or Club  
*with* a lady - & there  
you are - *without* a  
lady, where are you?  
4. I have done nothing  
about Miss Deyns with  
Dr. De'Ath - What can  
I say? It is not ~~my~~  
for me - far less for you  
- to manage this Doctors'  
quarrel - Her brother or

**f167v**

some other Doctor ought  
to have gone up to London  
& ascertained the facts.  
Either the Small-Pox  
Doctors ought to have  
communicated with  
the Doctors who sent  
them a case of non-  
- Small Pox Small Pox  
ought not they? Or  
the London Hospl Doctors  
who sent the case  
ought to have communicated  
with the Small-Pox Drs -  
who rejected it -  
Is it not so?

**f168**

-2- {archivist: Feb 28 '96}  
so sorry not to be able  
to see you  
Love to Maudie &  
chicks  
N.B. Ireland would be  
the place for Nurse  
Murray -  
ever your loving  
F.N.  
/s Mr. Stow going to  
leave Claydon?

{f169 is blank}

signed letter, f170, pencil

**f170**

*Pr Svasti* March 15/96  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
My dear Fred  
I re-inclose *Pr*  
*Svasti's* letters - I think  
I would keep them if  
I ~~were~~ were you - They  
seem sincere, & have  
a touch of Oriental  
grace about them.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
Poor Siam, as you say!  
But you have done much  
good to the Princelets & to  
many more there -

ff171-73 Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks., April 3, 1896 from FV, re the debt FV owes to Parthe, an offer for FN to name some one to be invited to Claydon, visitors to Claydon, a request for the name of a specialist in deafness, and concern for FN's health

Add Mss 41977D

800

signed letter, ff174-75v, pencil

**f174**

April 15/96

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

My dearest Fred

Thank you from the  
very bottom of my heart  
for your beautiful letter -  
It does the old woman  
so much good -

I took your advice &  
sent for Mr. Gardiner - He  
came at once - 'me' & the  
4 maids took the Sacrament  
I thought I never heard  
the impressive Service  
more impressive - he  
was so kind coming on

**f174v**

Good Friday - We had a [April 3]      [6:576]  
little, very little conversation

A.     He says there is now a  
*Tenement Act* - what is it?  
and he wants a Health  
Missioner to go into the  
tenements & work it - I  
said: I suppose she must  
be of the District - And  
he said: Yes - And asked  
me to find one - But you  
see I don't know his  
District at all. he  
dates now from St.  
George the Martyr, Southwark -  
He *has* a trained Nurse.

B.  
But I am more & more  
puzzled about the



**f175**

training of *H. Missioners*,  
anent Mis Deyns. I have  
asked several experienced  
people - And one recommends  
A Cottage Hospital -  
but insists upon a  
"grounded 3 years'  
"training as a *Nurse*",  
which she repeated at  
least 50 times -  
Another & the most  
sensible, as I thought:  
said: ask advice at *Manchester*  
& gave me an address  
- "they know much more  
"about Health Missioners  
"there than we do in London "  
[You understand; I only told

**f175v**

you about Mr. Gardiner's  
wish, because I think  
that some people are  
awakening to the difference  
between Health & Sickness]  
C. Two things are cropping  
up which will be attended  
with great difficulty:  
1. "Female Lodges"  
2. the law about *publishing*  
private letters.  
I am very glad your great  
party was so prosperous  
Margt is delighted at  
your being there  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
Love to Maudie & all

ff176-77 Fred V to FN May 3, 1896, re a Technical Education meeting and news of people at Claydon

ff178-79 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., June 19, from MV, re George's death

signed letter, ff180-80v, pencil

**f180**

June 26/96

My dear Fred

I had Harry Lloyd  
Verney's letter last night,  
written in the train.

I think we cannot mourn for  
George, but for poor Morfy  
very, very much.

"Grief must fill the room up  
of her absent child."  
for she had attended on him  
like a child -

I hope this great change  
will also make a great  
change in dear Harry

**f180v**

Will

*Clarens*

Lake of Geneva  
find them, if I write?  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

initialled letter, f181, pencil

**f181**

June 28/96 What nice boys your Siamese boys are!

My dear Fed I am sorry to say my "coast  
"is not clear this afternoon" -

Harry Bonham Carter is going abroad for a  
much needed holiday - & he & I have  
business to do.

We are also very "thrang" as we say in  
Derbyshire. Sisters taking the opportunity  
{printed address:} 10, South Street,  
of being in London to see me 300 Nurses {sideways} Park Lane. W.  
are going to Windsor by the queen's invitation  
on Thursday - not that I think Nursing a Royal thing  
F.N.

initialled letter, ff182-83, pencil

**f182**

Dr. De'Ath  
& *Nat: Health Socy* July 2/96  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
My dear Fred  
Would you read these 3  
letters & tell me your  
mind?  
A few weeks ago, Lady  
Priestley wrote to me  
about the same, enclosing the  
Programme by Dr. Schofield  
(not Thorne Thorne) It was  
perfectly incredible - all these  
London young women,  
taught in London by Lectures,  
were to be hired out by  
the Nat. Health Socy to  
reform the country Hygiene  
- in villages or by County Councils

**f182v**

"in uniform" - **sic**  
in great ladies' country  
houses "out of uniform"  
**sic**  
[I don't think it is profane to  
say  
From such  
"Good Lord deliver us"]

Lady Priestley wrote to me  
"should she join?"  
"She was in a minority of  
"one in not joining" -  
"would I send her our "Rural  
"Hygiene"? "to compare the two"?  
I did - but gave her no  
other answer -

**f183**

What shall I say to  
Dr. De'Ath?  
I dare say I could find  
Lady Priestley's letter  
& even the Programme  
if you wished.  
ever yours  
F.N.

signed letter, f184, pencil [8:90]

**f184**

Mr. Morant ) July 2/96  
~~enclosed~~) 10, South Street, {printed address:}  
shall be returned) Park Lane. W.  
My dear Fred  
Thank you for sending  
me Mr. Morant's letter - so  
characteristic of the man  
I do feel very glad, & should  
feel gladder if I knew who  
was "she" - There was a "she"  
when he went out to Siam -  
of whom he told me-I wonder  
whether it is the same "she"  
Please tell him how I  
give him joy  
I should like to send  
the "she" a wedding nosegay  
on her wedding day, if I  
knew who  
& where "she" is  
ever your loving Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff185-87, pencil

**f185**

Lady V.C. July 5/96

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

My dear Fred

I am aghast - Sir John  
McNeill said that the sense  
of honour was degenerating  
in England - And he was  
himself a fatal illustration  
of it!! I who thought him the  
soul of honour! [I will  
write no more confl. letters  
in this world]

*But to business*

Lady V. C. & Ld Ste !!!  
I have had no time to do  
*my* letters to Sir J. McNeill  
I too have been ill - much  
worse than usual  
But if you knew how much

**f185v**

must be wholly torn out -  
no "scratching" will do -  
tho' it is a comfort to see,  
as you point out, that I am  
~~may~~/to "scratch out *whatever*  
"I like" -

{the following paragraph has a bracket in the left margin}

In July & August it is  
always impossible that  
I should undertake any  
private business. We are  
overburthened with work -  
I especially, because of  
the great change at St. T.'s

{the next paragraph has a bracket in the left margin}

But I may have some  
time in September - to use  
as she desires - & I cannot leave London

{bracket ends}

tho' the letters are so  
repulsive to me that when  
I just look at them, I shut

**f186**

them up like some unclean  
animal -

She does not seem to know  
the law - The law is, I believe,  
clear enough - viz - that ~~the~~  
letters are the writer's  
Copy-right - that is, that  
they cannot be published  
without the writer's  
permission -

I remember saying - [was  
it to you? - was it in the  
case of Lord Stanmore  
who *has my* letters] - & who  
wants *Sidney Herbert's*  
letters in my possession -  
that I was in his, Lord  
S's, power - You said:

**f186v**

"Not at all - You have  
"but to get an *injunction*  
"and &c &c - [I forget  
what the last words were]

I am sorry I prevented you  
from sending your excellent  
letter to Lady V.C. I believe  
I did it/so, because I could  
not swear to every word  
in it

But you must now  
write her an 'excellent'  
letter, please - not exactly  
threatening her with the  
law - that would be rude  
- but letting her know that  
there *is* a law & quoting

**f187**

-2-

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

whatever you please in  
this my letter as [ [ [  
It is curious that people  
who lead the ordinary Socy  
& recreation life have  
not the least idea of the  
{bracket in the left margin}  
life of one who has not  
had a moment's leisure  
or a holiday for more  
than 40 years - & who cannot  
{bracket ends}  
leave her work for them  
Amen my preserver  
your loving  
Aunt Florence

{f188 is blank}

signed letter, ff189-90v, pencil

**f189**

July 23/96

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

My dear Fred

All success to your  
holiday & tour. I am  
sure you all of you  
wanted it.

I have 2 or 3 remarks  
& answers to make:

1. If you mean to ~~answer~~/ acknowledge  
Lady V. C. - I would certainly  
"roar", if you mean to "roar"  
"like a *sucking* dove".  
They can't understand - I am  
so glad I did not see  
her - I should have spent  
all the time in trying  
not to laugh, or trying

**f189v**

not to cry - for I think  
Sir John McNeill's doctrines  
the most inconceivable -  
I think those Argylls  
must have corrupted  
him

2. Did you see Dr. Thorne  
Thorne after all? Don't  
answer if you didn't

3. Maudie is the very *old* woman  
of the good, *old* times

3. You villain base - you  
know I don't think  
Maudie a "*new* woman" -  
Cycling is a splendid  
thing for ladies unattached - But  
what would you have  
thought if you had seen

**f190**

Miss Crossland cycling  
or our Sisters? The next  
thing is of course to  
cycle with Doctors or  
students, as actually  
happened with *boating*  
at Oxford till we sent  
down a Matron who  
didn't cycle?

Would you have us called  
The "Matrimonial Market"  
as St. B's is?

4. I should like to see  
you so much on Sunday  
But I am double engaged

1 - to the Bishop of Ripon  
who preaches at St. Thomas



**f190v**

on Sunday (we have  
one of his daughters a  
Ward Sister at St. Thomas')  
& who has several times  
asked to see me - But  
if he shouldn't come that  
day, I have 2. another  
engagement of some one  
going out of town.

5. Don't travel at  
night more than you can  
help.

6. Could Maudie kindly  
send me a post card  
saying how *Edmund* &  
*Margt* are?

Best love to R., G., & K., &  
blessing on all - I hope to  
see you all when you come back  
{in the right margin}  
your loving Aunt Florence

signed letter, f191, pencil **[8:928]**

**f191**

July 26/96

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

Dearest Gwendolen

I send a few roses for  
you to give to Mother -  
When you have affectionately  
to smell your train for 24  
hours, you are glad of roses  
to smell - I am afraid  
they will be rather shaggy  
for I was obliged to get  
them last night or not  
at all.

And now I wish you one  
& all a delightful run in  
Switzerland & Mother not  
too much fatigue  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

Add Mss 41977D

810

signed letter, ff192-93v, pencil [8:928]

**f192**

Oct 17/96

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

No, dearest Maude I did  
not know that you were  
all absconding on  
"Nov 6" - And I don't  
even know whether the  
place you are going to  
is at the North or the  
South Pole- It is very  
good for the Cr. Prince  
& very bad for us.

But I forgive you  
& wish you all well  
& glorious. Good speed

**f192v**

I do pity & sympathize  
with you in your making  
of households

I wish I could see  
you all before you go

Have you a post -  
- town where you are  
absconding to?

Love to all  
your ever affectionate  
Aunt Florence

**f193**

Thank you very much  
for a brace of partridges -

I did not forget my  
thanks - but my head  
was scrambling

F.N.

You must not think of  
“paying” anything for poor

Mrs. Callander - She  
has no kind of claim  
upon you. I am only  
afraid of troubling

**f193v**

you much too much as  
it is -

What kind of “books”  
does she like?

~~You are not going to~~

let your present  
house, are you?

I shall hate the people  
who take it “with a  
“mortal undying hatred  
“& would pursue them  
“to the confines of  
“eternity if I had but  
“the time.”

Add Mss 41977D

812

signed letter, ff194-96v, pencil

**f194**

Lady V. Campbell

*Private* Oct 29/96

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

My dear Fred

Many thanks for your  
note . I shall be very  
glad to see you - only *not*  
tomorrow (Friday)

I am told that as you  
are so very good as to  
act as my Agent, Lady  
V.C., had no business to  
forbid my seeing the letter  
she wrote you, & which was  
followed up by your most  
kind letter from the  
mountains, which was

**f194v**

not to the point & showed  
that they were under an  
error

Till I have seen that letter,  
I hardly know what to  
say -

Of course the easiest ~~thing~~  
& honourablest thing would  
be what you suggest -  
viz "that Lady V. should  
"leave them the letters with" me  
"altogether" -

I have even now only looked  
over the letters *cursorily*  
There are two long ones of  
mine about Sidney Herbert

**f195**

which it is impossible to  
conceive how a man of  
honour could have kept.  
And nothing should induce  
me it I could not destroy  
them *not* to take out  
an injunction against  
the Publisher for printing  
them. which I am told  
would be the right course -

There is a mass of trivial  
corresponde from my relations

There is a long letter from  
S. Herbert himself, showing  
how much Sir J. McNeill  
had helped with making

**f195v**

regulations for the Genl Hospls  
& for the expende of my  
fund which I should  
not see any particular objection to  
being published - But they are  
so wholly uninteresting to the Public

And there are some  
confl letters from Parthe,  
showing how much I had  
been persecuted in the Crimea  
which it is no use  
reviving now. Indeed, I  
myself had forgotten it

The whole leads to such  
a mistaken idea of Sidney  
Herbert, that if they are  
to be published, I should

**f196**

-2-

insist,  
on writing a kind of  
Epilogue showing what  
Sidney Herbert really  
did do & having it  
published with the  
life. But I suppose  
there is nothing they  
would like better -  
The whole is out of  
date & partakes of  
the nature of a libel.  
-and oh what a waste  
of time for me

**f196v**

but even this is  
plain sailing compared  
with the other:  
Ld. Stanmore's Life  
of Sidney Herbert  
which is a difficulty indeed  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff198-201, pencil

**f198**

Nov 26/96  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

Dearest Maude

Thank you, thank you  
for your dear, dear letter.  
The Pine Wood is sweet,  
the sun is sweeter, but  
Maudie is sweetest ~~illeg~~ /of  
all.

This tells you how I  
should like to come.  
But indeed, dearest I  
fear for myself it is  
impossible.

And you *must* NOT  
make any difference

**f198v**

in your arrangements  
for the excellent Siamese  
boys for me - Think  
what importance it is  
for them to see such  
an English home as  
yours. You *do*,  
happy boys!

If you do make any  
difference, I will have  
you up before the Police  
Magistrate, & he will  
inflict the severest  
punishment the law

**f199**

directs - for abandoning  
children -

Sir John Bridge.  
will you come here,  
please?

~~I am so very sorry~~

not to be able to see  
you on Saturday -

I have an engagement  
of some *months* with  
an American lady,  
head of a Training School  
for Nurses, who is now

**f199v**

on tour in Gt. Britain  
to see our Training Schools.

But she has blundered  
her Itinerary & our  
engagement does not  
come off till this very  
Saturday unluckily -  
I shall hope for another  
day when you are  
in town for furnishing  
Siamese Legation

I want to thank you  
for all you have done  
for poor Mrs. Callender  
& to ask how long she

**f200**

-2- {archivist: Nov 25/96}

how long she is likely  
to stay at the Cancer  
Hospital - & what  
I could do for her when  
you are gone to the Pine Wood  
I could keep *Monday* or  
*Tuesday* afternoon  
open for you, if you  
are in London *naturally*  
Great love to G. & K.  
& kindest remembrances  
to Mrs. Davidson  
ever your loving

Aunt Florence

I telegraphed to you an hour ago P.T.O.

**f201**

"Blessed be Drudgery"  
for such as you -  
I must try to get that  
little book again.



Add Mss 41977D

817

signed letter, ff202-03v, pencil

**f202**

Dec 10/96

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

Dearest Fred

I was very glad to  
hear you were alive,  
I know how much you  
have to do, but was  
rather frightened at your  
not coming on Monday  
Thank you very much  
about Hatchard's - He  
has sent me what he  
calls an "Approval Parcel"  
(but without an Invoice)  
I shall keep them all,

**f202v**

many of them are standard  
books - one a Life of  
Gordon, in two Vols -  
but there are only 19 Vols  
in all (including two  
little ones) And we  
have 15 Wards, *plus*  
two blocks, to supply -  
And some of them books are  
what irritate Hospl  
Patients most of all,  
viz - short fairy tales  
or stories in small print bound up  
in one thick Vol.

**f203**

These books are for  
gentle folks.  
not for between 200 &  
300 men, women &  
children in bed -

But I am glad all  
the same - I opened  
one of them, 'The  
Palace on the Moor,'  
which seemed to me  
one of the best stories  
I had ever seen -

But I have no eyes  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence P.T.O.

**f203v**

I hope Maudie has  
found a governess. It  
is so tiring looking for  
governesses - or even  
for cooks.

Add Mss 68889, microfilm, correspondence with Frederick and Maude Verney Part 1897-1901, Adam Matthew reel 42

signed letter, ff1-1v, pencil [8:929]

**f1**

28/1/97

Dearest Maude  
Here is £1 I owe Fred  
for books for the children,  
tho' I don't know what  
they were, except Gwendolen's  
I have to write to you  
about dear Ralph, who  
is much more manly,  
quite as thoughtful, but  
I think wants Gymnastics  
& dinner - I cannot  
write now -

**f1v**

Please thank Fred for  
McNaghten's capital  
book of Kathiawar -  
Ralph always interests  
me so very much -  
but he is not like a  
boy  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

unsigned note, f3, pencil

**f3**

I always remember of Ralph  
that he was "preferring one another  
"in honour" - see Harry minimus  
That is a noble character

signed note, ff4-5, pencil

**f4**

10 S. St        Feb 4/97

My dear Fred

I do not know what  
to do for this poor man  
whom yet I would so  
gladly help. I do not  
think it would do for  
me to write to a man  
whom I never heard of -?  
nor yet to write a  
formal certificate for him?  
But I have told him,  
I believe, & I would now

**f4v**

tell him again that  
he may quote me as  
his reference - & I will  
write for him what I  
saw at Claydon in  
Sir Harry's time if I  
am written to as *his reference*

Will that do?

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

Tho' I know nothing about  
it, I should not be much  
surprised if we saw him  
at Melchet 6 months hence. But you probably know more than I.

**f5**

What a beautiful  
book that is of Mac  
Naghten's which you  
kindly sent me - I  
think that it gave a  
copy to Board  
Schoolmasters here  
But you probably know  
more than I

unsigned letter, ff6-7v, pen

**[8:929-30]****f6**

Feb 23/97

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

Thank you, thank you,  
dearest Maude, for  
defending me about the  
“relics” of me & the Crimean War  
What *are* the “relics” of the  
“Crimean War”?

The tremendous lessons we  
have had to learn from  
its tremendous blunders &  
unavoidable ignorances.

1. [I do not here enter into  
the blundering at home - the  
green coffee &c &c &c]

But:

Lord Raglan with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe  
all the qualities our Ambassador  
& the défauts at Constantinople  
de ses  
qualités of a great  
noble  
want of resource, initiative  
& combination

**f6v**

our men said at Constantinople  
 they had rather everybody eats rice  
 have lost their every day  
 rum than their rice

also drinks coffee  
 salt meat & biscuit shores of Euxine  
 dying of scurvy crowded with cattle  
 which could have  
 walked themselves  
 up to camp

sleeping on the ground } mattresses  
 &c &c &c

All this requires explanation

- no use going into it now

2nd Lesson - *Untrained Nurses*

useless, often worse than

useless, no characters

The TRAINING of Nurses

our second Lesson

3. *Hygiene: Sanitation* -

The total ignorance of this  
 cost Lord Raglan himself  
 & thousands of our gallant  
 soldiers their lives.

**f7**

What filled our Hospitals  
at Scutari?

Fevers                      Scurvy (miscalled  
Diarrhaea                      Frost bite  
Dysentery                      Cholera

We took in 4000 from  
these diseases in 17 days.  
We had 4 miles of beds in  
one Hospital alone at Scutari

Ld Palmerston sent out  
the Sanitary Commission  
(& the Commissariat do.)  
in March/'55 And with  
their help we learnt the  
terrible lesson of the  
Crimean War on Hygiene

[N.B. But even now, I  
have not seen one book  
on the Crimean War which  
gives it]

**f7v**

*These are the tremendous  
"relics" of the Crimean War*

And I will not give my  
foolish "Portrait" (which  
I have not got) or any  
thing, as "relics" of the  
Crimea. It is too ridiculous  
You don't judge even of  
a public house & the  
victuals inside by the  
sign outside

I won't be hung up  
as a *sign*.

Please tell the kind  
ladies politely,

initialled letter, ff8-9v, pencil

**f8**

*Private* March 11/97

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

My dear Fred

I am so sorry about  
Gwendolyn: for tho' I hope  
it is a very light sort, it is  
so inconvenient & so bad for  
Maude, tho' she makes every  
thing good

My Bust

I had a letter from Edmund  
saying that you had sent  
him a "Form" to fill up &  
sign about sending the Bust  
to the Earl's Court Exhibition  
but that he would wait  
"2 or 3 days" till he heard  
from me - I wrote immediately

**f8v**

saying that I *had*

promised it (to *lend*  
it) to Lady Wantage, as he  
said, &, not knowing what  
the Form was, accepting that  
he should fill it up & send  
the bust, which I told him  
was the Soldiers' bust - &  
the Soldiers' property.

But I am told that  
I did quite wrong about  
the "Form", & that I ought  
'to tell you that I do not  
'wish any "Form" to be  
'filled up - & that I should  
'prefer the Bust to be  
'sent *here* & that I will arrange



**f9**

for its delivery at the  
'Exhibition - that there  
'will be no difficulty as  
'to the Form which the  
'Exhibition people require  
'to be filled up: *they* will  
'take whatever I choose  
'to send' -  
I am afraid it is too late  
to stop it/ the Form - & above all  
do not embroil me with  
[illeg] which always  
recoils upon Margt  
[You see all Parthe wished  
was that it should be  
considered her property  
(which it never was)

**f9v**

& they consider all *hers*  
to be *theirs*, because she  
left every thing to Sir Harry  
in great haste  
yours rather anxiously  
F.N.  
God bless Margaret  
& you all  
March 11  
My dear Fred  
I sent this early this morning to  
all your haunts in London. But  
you were gone - So I can only  
send to Camberley -  
I do agree with you that  
the D. Chronicle has rather  
lost its head - But I am quite  
appalled at the way in which

signed letter, ff10-11v, pencil

**f10**

April 13/97

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

My dearest Fred

Thank you for your very  
kind letter. It is indeed  
a great piece of news  
that you have bought  
a house. May it  
be all you desire!

You are going you  
say to Venice on  
the 29th? I trust  
to see both you &  
Maudie before you

**f10v**

go -

I have been & am  
so pressed - the Hindoos  
of note who have

been summoned here  
for the "Indian Expenditure"

Comm: & whom they  
wish me to see -

They are very instructive  
but not hopeful

And we have painful

Indian business too -

[Yesterday Mr. Morant  
came without an

**f11**

appointment - He was  
very full of meat & I  
was pleased to see  
him - but it is hard  
work.]

And now I have to  
confess - I have been  
so driven that I  
never sent your letter  
to ? Mr. Lister Kaye  
about poor Mr. Robertson  
And I could not find  
it. But I have  
never written to Mrs.

**f11v**

Robertson in answer  
to the letter I showed  
you. *I don't know  
what to write.* If Lady  
A. means to tell this  
story - !?  
Miss Violet Brooke Hunt  
is going to be married !!  
to a Mr. Bathurst  
of Sydney Park near Gloucester  
I have had a nice  
letter from dear Ralph  
ever your loving  
in haste Aunt Florence

signed letter, ff12-13, pencil

**f12**

April 16/97

Good Friday

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

My dearest Fred

I am so very sorry here  
is your letter to Mr. Lister Kaye  
which I did not send - ( not  
because I neglected it but  
because people *would* come  
on business, just when I had  
received an hour for my letters)  
on behalf of poor Mr. Robertson  
I have not written to *her*.

I see you are going away  
on the 27<sup>th</sup> that is Tuesday  
week. I hope very much  
to see you & Maudie before  
~~that~~ you go.

So the Prince is gone or going

**f12v**

to Berlin for his Military  
education - I am sorry - Is  
not the English as good?  
And the German is all  
spoiled by making Germany  
a standing camp - And they  
*hate* us.

Miss Violet B. Hunt has sent  
me her little reprinted  
Article. It is very good And  
I observe she says what I  
entirely concur with that  
people are proud of founding  
Workmen's Clubs, Public houses  
without profit, & leaving them  
entirely to Workmen's management  
which is the best of principles,

**f13**

*if* with a sympathetic central  
influence, better perhaps  
wielded by a woman than a  
man - with ~~whom~~/him they argue -

Best love to Maudie  
and hoping to see you both  
ever your loving

Aunt Florence  
O King of England!  
opposite Windsor Castle!!  
[written on a slant]

"Violet  
wants to know  
Lady Ashburton  
Do you know where  
she is now?

signed notes, ff14-17v, pencil

**f14**

May 27/97  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

1) F.V.M.'s to be  
*Preface to 2nd Edition*  
dated April 1897  
with an addition

2) see 2] separate paper

3) M. V.'s alterations  
to her specimen lecture  
p.p. 32, 33, 34, 35.

4) Mrs. Cheadle's Report  
to take the place of  
F.N.'s letter p. 49  
passages from that  
letter being inserted in  
the addition to the Preface

2)

**f14v**

2) separate paper

Hy Bonham Carter has  
been so good as to write  
this - partly from my  
letter at the end p. 49 -  
partly from what I told  
him of

*the great increase of  
questions asked by the  
poor mothers of Miss Deyns  
at her lectures*

such a hopeful sign!  
It should be dated April/97  
You know that Fred:  
addressed about 350 of the  
Technical Educationists of

**f15**

N. Bucks at Claydon Ho  
with great success - even  
the old farmers waking up  
You know that Miss Deyns  
spoke for a few minutes  
& said how *much more  
interested than formerly  
the mothers seemed* - &  
how they *asked her questions  
eager & intelligent* when  
she was lecturing to them.  
This was what I told

Hy B. C. & he wrote that  
"addition" 2) *separate paper* -  
He said it should go  
in at the end of Fred's  
Preface to 2nd Edition

**f15v**

or Insert the addition

as a note to Mrs. Cheadle's  
Report.

Please look at 2)

I do not know whether  
the "Health Missioners" have  
~~"mentioned it/~~ "pointed it out" "in recent  
"reports" - I only know that  
Miss Deyns did ~~"mention it/~~"point it out"  
at Fred's Meeting in a  
few words he made her  
say -

How sorry I am to give you  
so much trouble

dearest Margaret

**f16**

-2-

I cannot tell  
you how 10, South Street, {printed address:}  
overcrowded with work Park Lane. W.  
& serious anxieties I  
have been & am - I  
have not known ¼ hour's  
leisure. And I only  
mention it /this as my excuse

I saw Fred a day or  
two before he started  
with Maude to meet  
the King of Siam -

And he repeated  
his desire that I should  
look it over & send it  
to you, dearest Margaret,  
for you to put ~~under~~ it  
into form for Press

**f16v**

[I am sorry to lose a  
single line of your  
"specimen lecture" which  
is by far the best thing  
in the book - But I  
shall stick to it in an  
old copy - I must  
bow to what you say  
in this.]

I enclose Fred's first  
note to me           1

**f17**

Dearest blessed Margaret

**f17v**

*see within*

signed letter, ff18-21v, pen

**f18**

*Private*   August 30/97

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

My dear Fred

I had a long interview  
with Sir Douglas Galton  
last evening - And we  
talked carefully over  
your (3) printed papers  
& your own letter to me -  
He is very much interested  
He says that it is an  
unprecedented/outrageous thing to  
rule "referred back" as  
"rejected" - but that it  
is very difficult to over  
rule a Chairman's ruling.  
[I am very glad that you  
have such an ally as  
Lord Buckinghamshire  
if he is a man of sense  
& of *cautious* energy/vigour]



**f18v**

Lord B's letter of course  
did not come to me till after  
D. G.'s visit - but I hope  
will facilitate some of the  
things he ~~said~~ D. G. proposed  
He, D. Galton, first asked:  
'what do their *Standing Orders*' say'?  
& said 'these sort of things  
'ought to be provided for  
'by the Standing Orders'  
(in the Worcestershire  
case, they *are*)  
Perhaps they are in yours)  
But, he said, 'move for a  
'Committee to get complete  
'Standing Orders', if you  
are not satisfied with your  
Standing Orders.  
You should, he said, "by

**f19**

"a side wind get your  
"Standing Orders" - not *run*  
*at* this particular Chairman's misdemeanour  
to get the necessary Standing  
Order.  
He was pleased to hear that  
~~your~~ majority against you  
was only one - 13 to 14 -  
which inspired him with  
hope - He thinks it so  
certain that you will win.  
If the worst comes to  
the worst, he says: there  
will be a new Council  
next March - get a new  
Chairman - (they elect their  
new Chairman each time)  
- *have an alternative*  
*Chairman ready* -

**f19v**

He suggests that you  
should get the Clerk of  
the Co. Co to write round  
for the *Standing Orders*  
of the other Co. Co.s

He says they have never  
had any difficulty with  
*their* Co. Co & in tracing  
the causes of this in order  
to make up his mind  
as to your cruel difficulties,  
he said:

their (Worcestershire)  
*magistrates* all offered  
themselves as candidates  
for the Co. Co. *Did yours?* Of course  
a good many of these  
are gone - but the high

**f20**

*Private* -2- {in FV's hand Miss N. Co Co business}  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

*tone remains.* They have  
had two excellent Chairmen  
And they have had  
such a pull in their  
County Medl Off of Health  
- the other M. O. H. consult  
him - He has 800 a year -  
& must take *no* private  
practice - he therefore  
does not tread on their  
toes - It is Fosbroke, as  
you know; *not* the one  
that D. Galton voted for,  
but, he says, has done  
admirably.

He, D.G. says; 'they exercise  
'great care not to seem

**f20v**

'too interfering -

'*They would not*, e.g.

'*preach at them* WHAT THE

'LAW WAS - they would not

put *the whole thing* bodily

into a paper but do it

more gradually - taking one

thing at a time?

The consequence is that

their Sanitary Commee is

authorized to take action

*in the name of* the Co. Co -

- they have now, or rather

are going to have, a JOINT

Isolation Hospl: a great

advantage.

**f21**

I am afraid all this is not

of much use to you at

this moment. But it is

always well to know - at least

I have found it so - what

others have attained; &

how?

I return Ld Buckinghamshire's

good letter with thanks

God speed you

I am sure you will win

ever your loving

Aunt Florence

I will return your May

paper. but be cautious

please

I was very sorry not to see

you on "Tuesday at 6.30," as

**f21v**

you kindly said - I had

cleared the house for you

Very glad you have Maurice

Bunsen for Siam - Is he

a son of George?

signed letter, ff22-23, pencil

**f22**

Sept 2/97

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

Dearest Maude

I am so thankful for  
your letter about Margaret  
& Ellin - How good of you  
to write -

But I am like one  
dumb-founded; I cannot  
write a word of what I  
feel to them -

I do so agree with  
Gwendolen - What was it  
that funny Kathleen said?  
~~==You~~ have of course heard  
from Fred - I have, but

**f22v**

not a word about his

King, which is the real  
anxiety - he merely writes  
about Doctors for his  
Siamese - & says he will  
be for a week (from 30th)  
at Hotel du Vieux Doelen

La Haye

~~==I~~ am quite shocked at  
your reading Trooper Halket  
*in the train*. But as I can't  
undo it, I will tell you  
something that is

[15:1022] [8:930]

*Confidential*

The Govt here was so struck

**f23**

with it that they would  
 not believe it. And  
 they despatched a man  
 (whose name was told me)  
 to Mashona land to report to them - IF he  
 has reported, they keep it  
 dark - but whatever  
 has transpired, tends to  
~~prove~~ show that the  
 book *is* true - This *is* sad [end 15:1022]  
~~send~~ a half sovereign  
 for each of the two dear  
 girls - But you must  
 tell me what K. said about Ellin,  
 please ever your affte [end 8:930]  
 Aunt Florence

unsigned, incomplete note, f24, pencil

**f24**

II

And she must know, in a poor place,  
 where to apply for a 'confinement bag'  
 Oct 7/97

signed note, ff25-26v, pencil

**f25**

Oct 10/97

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

My dear "hardened and  
 "abandoned" Maude

Thanks for your note  
 I am sorry you took my  
 poor note for a preachment  
 You will see if you care  
 that it was not, and  
 that I am not so guilty  
 as I seem.

I wrote mine when you  
 or Fred had told me  
 you were *not* going &  
 I had not the wit to

**f25v**

to suppress it, the "offending  
"member" when somebody  
else told me you were -

Forgive me: I won't do  
it again.

May your journey be:  
prosperous in all ways!

I am always glad to  
know that Pr. Sw. is  
behaving himself. When  
he was under Mr. Jowett

**f26**

he was so nice. He spoke  
to me more than once about him

Thank you very, very  
much for your most  
kind invitation to Burnham  
But I am afraid I m  
past moving.

ever your affecte  
Aunt Florence

I sent Fred the  
instructions about what  
a Nur District Nurse  
for Pleasley should be,  
as he asked.

**f26v**

but I do not know the  
present state of  
Pleasley, & am afraid  
this negatives their  
usefulness.

God bless your journey  
F.N.

signed letter, ff27-28v, pencil

[8:930-31]

**f27**

Oct 11/97

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

Thanks more than I can say  
but less than I feel, my  
very dear Fred & Maude,  
for your most kind offer  
of lovely Burnham Lodge  
while you are away -  
But I am told that it  
is impossible for me to  
move; and so I must  
decline (unwillingly) - but  
never shall I feel less  
grateful

The "cats" also offer

**f27v**

their purring thanks.

It makes me young  
again to think of  
the ecstasy of a voyage  
from "Marseilles" to Alexandria  
& my first sight of the  
rising of the Sun from  
an eastern sea not  
rising rather pale, as he  
does here & shivery shivery - but  
leaping like a bridegroom  
out of the sea with  
a flood of light & warmth -

**f28**

And beautiful Cairo -  
but first the little group  
of solemn dignified Easterns  
of 2 & 3 years,  
sitting on the ground  
eating their breakfasts  
All blessings on your  
journey -

Are Gwendolen & Kathleen  
to be bridesmaids at  
the wedding on the 20th?  
Please tell some one  
kindly to tell me this

**f28v**

ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence  
Do you remember  
the Persian's answer  
to some Englishman's  
stupid remark about  
the Sun: "But that's  
"because you have  
"never seen it"

signed note, f29, pencil

[8:931]

**f29**

Feb 7/98  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
Offered to our  
dearly beloved  
Maude Verney  
on her birth-day  
And may each petal of  
these flowers bring to her  
a token of our love  
& of our firmest wishes  
& prayers for her, & hers  
who are dearer to her  
than herself  
Florence Nightingale



initialled note, f30, pen

**f30**

March 3/98

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

My dear Fred

Our best wishes  
are yours to-day  
not only for your sake  
but for ourselves own  
your ever loving  
F.N.

ff31-31v 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. March 4, 1898, from Fred Verney to FN, thanking FN for her congratulations on his success

ff32-33v Fred V to FN Burnham Lodge, Slough, April 8, 1898, asking FN to come to Burnham Lodge

ff34-35 Fred V to FN April 24, 1898, telling about the Verneys' stay at the Nag's Head, Pleasley

signed note, f36, pencil

**[8:931]**

**f36**

June 30/98

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

Dearest Maude

Thank you so much  
for the beautiful present  
of strawberries you were  
so kind as to bring me  
ever your affecte  
Aunt Florence

ff37-38v, Burnham Lodge, Slough, August 18, 1898, from Maude Verney, inviting FN to stay at the Lodge while the Verneys are in Holland

signed note, f39-40, pencil

[8:931]

**f39**

August 25/98

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

Dearest Maude

How kind, how very  
kind it is of you to think  
of me & of the pleasant  
"wind among the leaves"  
& all other delights of  
Burnham Lodge for me

But I am afraid  
they are not for me.  
*Rest* I am afraid is all  
that I can take - & here  
You cannot tell how deeply

**f39v**

I feel your care for me -

Love to Fred & to the  
dear Gwendolen & all

Your "180 villagers"  
must have been delightful

I have a nice view  
here - quite unlike London

Good angels speed  
you in Holland - And  
they *will* speed you

**f40**

ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

signed note, ff41-42, pencil

**f41**

Sept 3/98

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

My dear Fred

Thank you for your  
welcome letter & for the  
lovely photograph of  
the "little Queen" - I am  
so glad that you &  
Maudie & Gwendolen  
are there - And may  
the Queen be all that  
our Queen has been to  
us - Lord Melbourne  
educated *her* - And well

**f41v**

she has responded -  
It is hard to praise  
her enough.  
I have not found the  
"cheque for the interest"  
but this, I am sure, is  
my own stupid blunder=  
=ing. I *will* find it,  
this afternoon or tomorrow  
& let you know, perhaps  
telegraph, to  
Hotel du Vieux ~~G~~/ Doelen  
La Haye

**f42**

So please leave word to  
have your letters  
forwarded

[I keep your address  
in your hand]

Love to both M. & G.  
in haste

ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

Don't you bother yourself  
about the "cheque" - I am  
sure it is 'all right.

F.N.

signed note, f43, pencil

**f43**

5/10/98

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

Dear Fred & Maude

Your visits are like  
angels' visits to dear old  
Pleasley

If you could make  
use of a little Cheque  
~~towards~~/ towards anything you like  
there, please do -

ever your affectionate

F. Nightingale

My love to Pleasley

Please have lunch here whenever

you come into London & tell me

beforehand F.N.

ff44-45v, Nag's Head, Pleasley, October 6, from MV, thanking FN for a cheque and giving news of Pleasley

signed letter, ff46-47, pencil

**f46**

Dec 20/98

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

Dearest Maude

How can I thank you  
for your kind thought of me  
& your Calves foot Jelly  
& most of all for your  
dear little note.

I love them all -  
What a splendid day  
for December -

May you have a  
splendid time at Claydon

My love to all -  
The maids say: "What a

**f46v**

"lovely jelly! And isn't  
"it good of Mr. Fred?"  
Indeed it is!

And may all blessings  
attend her & hers -

I trust dear Gwendolyne  
is pretty well now.  
How they will enjoy  
you all at Claydon  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

**f47**

Did you not have a  
(professional) *Nurse* once  
whom you valued very  
much?

And could you kindly  
tell me *her name* &  
*address*?

Not that I want her  
at once - But as you  
are going away for a  
bit, would you kindly  
just *give me these*?

f48 March 9 1899, from FV, expressing sympathy on the death of "your dear and loyal friend" of FN [Galton]

ff49-50, May 17, 1899, explaining the difficulty in Ralph's joining a regiment and asking FN to write a letter in support of him

signed letter, ff51-52, pencil

[8:932]

**f51**

May 25/99

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

Dearest Maude

Would you be so  
very good as to get me  
a Revolving Book-case  
small or bigger - [I believe  
the small ones are about  
5 & the bigger ones 6 -  
I would go as high as 10,  
but I hope I shall not  
'have to' - I send you a  
Cheque for 6]

It is for  
Harry Lloyd Verney

**f51v**

or Lady Joan Cuffe -  
~~do you know when they are~~  
~~to be married?~~ They have  
been asked 3 times in  
Church]

Collinson & Locke  
Oxford St  
is said to be a good place  
But I dare say you know  
best -

sorry to give you  
the trouble

**f52**

ever yours  
F. Nightingale  
They are to be married  
June 6 2.30 p.m.  
at All Saints'  
Ennismore Gardens  
are they not?  
& afterwards there is  
to be a luncheon

ff53-54 Fred V to FN The Nag's Head, Pleasley, Mansfield, May 27, 1899 re FV's decision to put Ralph's name in for a regiment and giving news of Pleasley

ff55-56 Fred V to FN October 3, 1899, with news that Ralph has passed his competitive exam for the Army and that all the family is well

ff57-58v Fred V to FN, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S. W., October 5, 1899 re Ralph's excellent exam results, his learning to ride and his projected enrollment in the Rifle Brigade

signed letter, ff59-60, pencil

**[8:932]**

**f59**

Dec 7/99  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
Dearest Maude  
So many thanks for the  
lovely lilies of the valley  
How good of you to send  
them - They look beautiful  
in water & will last  
long with the care they  
will thankfully receive  
We are here almost  
as dark as Erebus &  
I have no eyes. I was



**f59v**

obliged to send the  
"type papers" yesterday  
without looking at them  
But when Fred was  
reading them to me, I  
heard a mistake - It  
was that "he" was an  
"old friend of my father's"  
It was rather the  
contrary

**f60**

Please give my love  
to Harry Lloyd. I hope  
he will soon be quite  
right again.

Dear Ellin  
& dear Dorothea I  
am sure it was a  
lovely christening.  
May all blessings attend  
her - & you too  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff61-61v Fred V to FN 6 Onslow Gardens, S.W., January 8, 1900, re a projected trip abroad and a comment about the strange state of affairs

signed letter, ff62-64, pencil

**f62**

~~Sunday~~ Feb 6 [1900]  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

My dear Fred

Thank you for showing  
me Kathleen's dear  
delightful letter. It  
would be a thousand  
pities that she should  
leave off her music or  
her German - tho' I am  
sorry to see the tide  
leaving Italian for  
German. There are as

**f62v**

many divine things in  
one page of Dante as  
in the whole of Goethe -  
Faust I can't abide  
& Margaret "tumbles  
"down bump", as Bab  
would say, much too  
soon to be respectable -  
Still it is no use as  
Canute says, to kick  
against the tide -

**f63**

So I enclose something  
which I know with the riding won't  
go far - but there is  
more where that  
comes from -

If you have any  
difficulty in changing it,  
please return it to me  
& I will change it  
{in a different hand}

As for "riding", no "hockey"  
no games will equal it

**f63v**

{previous hand}  
for improving the  
circulation all over &  
exercising the muscles &  
animal courage. A live  
horse & the sympathy  
of the 'horse & its rider'  
is worth all the bats  
& (deaf & dumb) balls  
put together. So '*drat*'  
hockey & long live the  
horse.

Them's my sentiments' -  
And I back them by  
silver, which I know

**f64**

-2-

{printed address:} 10, South Street,  
will go a very Park Lane. W.  
little way. But there's  
more where that comes  
from.

My dear Fred, my  
mind is so dog's eared  
by interruptions &  
botherations that I  
can't write & must let  
this go as it is  
ever your affectionate  
F. Nightingale  
{f65 is blank}

ff66-67v Fred V to FN February 20, 1900, re Ralph's learning the brain requirements to be a soldier

f68 Fred V to FN 6 Onslow Gardens, February 23, 1900, thanking FN for seeing Ralph

ff69-70 February 26, 1900, from MV, asking FN for additions to a list of London Medical Officers who  
are to discuss Lady Sanitary Inspectors

f71 March 1 1900, from FV, sending FN a Major Yarr's letter and promising to visit her

ff72-72v Fred V to FN Imperial Hotel, Malvern, March 10, 1900, expressing his inability to have visited  
FN and announcing his appointment to the Water Committee of the London County Council

signed note, f73, pencil

**f73**

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

My dear Fred

I will see you for  
a *short* time at 5  
(*not*"earlier") to-day -  
I have old friends  
staying in the house -  
one of 3 years but still  
an 'old friend' - she  
was born in the house  
And they go to-morrow  
ever yours  
Aunt Florence

signed note, ff74-75, pen

**f74**

*Private* II March 20 1900

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

My dear Fred

You have a great  
& noble plan before  
you to carry out.  
But pray be cautious  
"Rome was not built  
"in a day".

You are young in  
the work - a great  
advantage in some  
respects. Who was it  
who said that he  
would give all his

**f74v**

acquirements to be  
young? But we must  
not teach our  
"grandmothers to suck  
"eggs". Our own  
dear & noble Queen  
was young at her  
accession to the throne.  
- but she made Lord  
Melbourne her tutor -  
yet gave him up,  
tho' with tears, when  
he ceased to command  
a majority. It was  
perhaps the noblest act

**f75**

in her noble life. And  
he retired [Don't say,  
'that's all an old story -  
'isn't it']

The Radicals originate -  
but the Conservatives  
carry out & confirm

You must have money,  
And it must come  
from private sources.

And I hope to contribute,  
tho' my contribution  
must be very small.

ever your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

ff76-77 Fred V to FN March 22, 1900, thanking FN for her letter, and announcing Ralph's departure with his Regiment

f78 Fred V to FN April 7 1900, reasons against FN having anything to do with that wild scheme, just off to Venice; keep your MS about the Queen Victoria River for me

ff79-80v Fred V to FN in Venice, April 28, 1900, giving news of their successful holiday and the death of Lady Monteagle's son

ff81-82 Fred V to FN Brooks' Club, May 7, 1900, telling FN how grateful Lady Monteagle was to see FN and announcing the family's return

signed note, f83-83v, pencil

**f83**

May 14/1900

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

My dearest Maud

I am so very sorry  
that it is impossible  
for me to see you  
to-day - I had quite  
forgotten than I have  
an appointment to-day  
which I cannot well  
put off. And it is  
alas! for me, the same  
every day this week

**f83v**

But any afternoon  
next week at 5 o'clock  
that you will kindly  
appoint, I shall be  
delighted to see you.  
your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

ff85-86v June 24, 1900, from MV telling of FV's injuries after a fall from his bicycle

ff87-88 June 24, 1900, from FV telling of his fall and asking to set up an appointment to see FN

ff89-89v June 25, 1900, accepting Gwendolen's appointment with FN for that day and his own for Wednesday

f90 Fred V to FN, The Siamese Legation, June 25, 1900, with an enclosure from Sir William Acland, Bart and offering to write to the latter for FN

ff91-91v Fred V to FN June 27 1900, saying that he must rest his leg and that Gwen enjoyed her visit with FN

{f92 is blank}

ff93-93v, July 6, 1900, from MV, enclosing letters from Ralph for FN to read and return

signed note, ff94-94v, pencil

**f94**

July 7/1900  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
Dearest Maude  
Many thanks for  
Ralph's letters - which  
I return - They are  
very interesting - it is  
very good of *me* to  
return them.  
I have sent on  
Margaret's as you  
wished -  
I am very glad

**f94v**

that Ralph is getting  
on so well & writes  
so cheerfully

Very glad that Fred  
is feeling so much better -  
Hoping that Gwendolen  
& Kathleen are quite  
well.

with love to all  
your loving  
Aunt Florence

{f95 is blank}

ff96-97 Fred V to FN July 7, 1900, regretting that FV has been unable to see FN and promising a goblet from Venice that Gwen will bring to FN's house

signed note, ff98-99, pencil

**[8:932-33]**

**f98**

July 11 1900  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.

Dearest Gwendolen

Will you present my  
ardent thanks to your dear  
Father & Mother for the  
lovely little glass from  
Venice & yet more for  
their kindness in thinking  
of me -

The adorable little  
serpent crawling up the  
stem is an invention of  
genius & dignifies &

**f98v**

sweetens the whole race  
of serpents which has  
been most unwarrantedly  
cried down. What can  
be more amiable &  
inspiring than this little  
fellow? he  
"lends enchantment to the view".  
I am so glad that your

Add Mss 72832A

856

Father is so much  
better



**f99**

The "Lord Chamberlain"  
has absconded for three  
weeks to a place called  
Hastings - and  
"has left me mourning"  
no, not exactly  
"mourning" - but rather  
blind & impatient.

Pray excuse any  
failures on my part  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff100-00v July 25 1900, from FV, explaining that he must visit a Sewage works with the Siamese minister and will not be able to see FN

ff101-02 Fred V to FN August 12 1900, expressing regret that FN has not been well, hoping to see her on Tuesday and enclosing a memorandum about the Health Visitor question

f103 Fred V to FN, The Siamese Legation, 23, Ashburn Place, London, S. W., September 24, 1900 promising to see FN and announcing his intention to run in the forthcoming election

ff104-05v Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks., September 24, from MV, sending partridges to FN, explaining how much their Siamese guests enjoyed Claydon and reporting that FV has been too busy to find a seat to contest

ff106-07 Maude Ve to FN from Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, September 27, announcing that FV is standing for the Exchange Division at Liverpool and MV's own agitation

f108 North Western Hotel, Liverpool, September 28, 1900, from FV, announcing his candidature

ff109-10 October 28, from MV, explaining that Gwendolen's visit to FN must be postponed because of GV's ill health and describing Roughwood

ff111-12 Fred V to FN November 27, regretting the trouble FN has had with Mary (a maid) and accepting for GV a visit to FN on Thursday

signed note, ff113-13v, pencil

**f113** June 19 1901

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

Dearest Maude

How good of you to  
bring me these lovely  
flowers & fresh eggs from  
Gwendolen & her hen -  
Also it is very kind of you  
to speak about the Nurses  
resting at Roughwood - I  
only wish I could be that  
Nurse - At present I do  
not know of any Nurse  
that I could send. But  
when I do I will hasten  
to write. I should

**f113v**

so like to see you. But  
I am full up till after  
this day week  
Should you be out of town  
after this, would you kindly  
let me know when you  
return?

With love & many  
thanks for all, always  
your loving

Aunt Florence

signed note, f114, pencil

**f114**

June 21 1801 {should be 1901}

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Park Lane. W.

Dearest Maude

I shall be delighted  
to see you next Friday  
June 28 at 5 o'clock  
With much love to Gwendolen  
yours  
Aunt Florence

signed note, ff115-16, pencil

**f115**

June 26 1901

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

Dear Fred

Many thanks for your  
letter of this morning  
I shall be glad if you  
will kindly write a letter  
for me to (Admiral) Sir  
Wm Acland -  
I am quite willing that he  
should have what letters  
I have, could I but promise  
to find them

I know I have some,  
but being in this one

**f115v**

room, I don't now  
where always to find them -  
We have been hunting  
this morning, but have  
only come across two.  
~~But~~ As I find them, I  
will forward them on to  
you. And perhaps you  
will be so good as to see  
if they are of any value  
& if so forward them on  
to Sir William.

**f116**

I think we are gradually  
coming across them [Ellen  
is invaluable in this search]  
We have now four.

It would be impossible  
for me now to read all  
letters through. And I do  
not feel that I could  
see anybody, as I am  
so 'full up'.

As you are so busy, I  
hesitate to ask you to do

Add Mss 72832A

860

them for me -  
your loving Aunt Florence

signed note, ff117-17v, pencil

**f117**

July 6/1901

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

Dearest Fred

I am sending you a  
few of Sir Henry Acland's  
letters - also one belonging  
to him from the Empress  
Frederick -

It is all that I shall  
be able to let you have  
for over a fortnight -

I am also returning  
to you Ralph's letter  
which Maude was so kind  
as to send me - It is so

**f117v**

nice to know that  
Ralph is getting on &  
well. And his letters  
are most interesting

Hoping all is well  
with much love to everybody

Your affectionate  
Aunt Florence

{f118 is blank}

ff119-20 51 Drayton Gardens, S.W. July 21 1901 from FV, informing FN that Dr Collins will come to see her, Kathleen in middle of her Oxford local exam, takes it quietly; has taken Buchanness, house on Aberdeenshire for August

f121 Fred V to FN, The Siamese Legation, S.W., July 31 1901, telling FN how pleased Dr Collins was with his visit.

signed note, ff122-23, pencil

**f122**

August 9/1900

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

Dearest Fred

I have not felt up to  
looking thro' the late  
Empress Frederick's letter  
yet, but will do so

It is a pity that so  
good a letter should be  
wasted - but, as you say,  
one does not like the  
thoughts of publishing it  
without some of the Royal  
Family's consent.

I have not found any

**f122v**

more letters ~~yet~~ of Sir  
Henry's yet, altho' we  
have done a great deal  
of hunting - I don't think  
I have a great many of  
his letters - But what I  
have they shall have as  
soon as they can be found.

[Was is Mr. Gladstone  
who said that all  
this "adds a new terror  
"to death"]

**f123**

You have my unwilling  
permission to get the  
three photographs -  
provided the "American  
"lady" does not worry  
~~me~~ me -

Hoping all are well  
your ever loving  
Aunt Florence

signed note, f124, pencil

[8:933]

**f124**

Oct 10/1901

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

Dearest Maude

How good of you to call!  
I am rejoiced to hear that  
you are back in London.

W I should like to see  
one of you, either you or Fred,  
on Tuesday week (I have  
no earlier day) at 5, if  
quite convenient to you  
or him -

Please say how the children -  
(I mean the little angels)  
are - Could you not  
put off the winter? Your loving  
Flo

signed note, ff125-25v, pencil

**f125**

April 8 1901

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

Dearest Fred

I shall be delighted  
to see you on Friday  
afternoon at 4.30 -

I am glad that you  
are laying the foundation=  
=stone for the  
Claydon Public Library -  
I do with all my heart  
wish them success -  
as I think a Public  
Library is good for  
body & soul. And

**f125v**

may God's blessing  
rest upon it  
is the fervent wish  
of your loving  
Aunt Florence

ff126-27, 51 Drayton Gardens, S. W., July 2, from MV, enclosing a letter from Ralph and telling of Ellin's arrival

ff128-29, undated, from FV about his lack of knowledge of Aristotle's Ethics

ff130-30v, undated {archivist: ?1887} from MV, re the children's illness

ff131-32v Maude V to FN, from Hinde House, 14, Hinde Street, London, W., March 4, announcing Fred's success in an election and mentioning that Kathleen is still ill

ff133-33v Maude V to FN 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., June 18, remarking on FN's sadness at leaving Claydon and her mother and that Kathleen is somewhat better

ff134-34v Maude V to FN January 26, expressing the Verneys' concern over Harry's worn out appearance

ff135-37v Maude V to FN, Debdale Hall, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, February 28, with details about MV's visits with the colliers

ff138-40v Fred V to FN 6, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W., Tuesday evening, thanking FN for flowers and books for the children and praising the colliers



unsigned notes, ff141-44, pen & pencil

**f141**

*Proposed* "Provident Trained Nurses' League

TO REMIND: 15/3/80

In *July & August 1879*

Mr. F. Verney had the goodness to supply suggestions, information &c, with very kind letters from Mrs. Paterson &c, upon Women's Societies, Leagues, & Savings, (with a view to promoting the savings of Trained Nurses by societies or otherwise) to F. Nightingale.

F.N.'s notes upon which she has, since that time, been working, with Hy Bonham Carter, Secy to the N. Fund, & others, were as follows -

" A Subn of from 6d. to 1/0 a week would provide members of a Trained Nurses' Union with everything F.N. mentions - a sick allowance, a Central Home, or Lodging House & an Old Age Allowance

"(A Savings Bank might be in connection)

"would a sufficient number of Nurses join paying such a Subn ? Mrs. Paterson

F.N. has asked Matron & Home Sister {of St. Thomas'

Matron London St. Mary's

Matron St. Bartholomew's

(being all trained "N." Matrons) &c &c &c

Edinburgh, Lincoln

to enquire among their Nurses trained & in training

f142

-2-

*"Working Women's Societies*

"weekly subn of 2d. enough to allow 5/a week/for 4 years

to be paid for 8 weeks in the year

in case of sickness or want of work

safely done with as few as 50 members {We have only  
{Do you provide a Doctor? (Medical attendance?) 78 members in

F.N. the Lea Female

(6 a week to such an Union {Friendly Socy

she would be entitled during 20 years (that she would

be saving under 40)

to allowance of say 10/a week for 12 weeks in year

if needed Mrs. Paterson

F.N. observes: Trained Nurses seem to differ from

all other working women in these two respects:

1. they are never "out of work": on the contrary, we cannot  
supply one tenth of the  
applications made to us for  
trained Nurses2. they are always provided for in temporary *sickness*  
in the Hospital where they work

F.N.

Say 300 Nurses at £2 a year £600

100 Sisters £4 £400

400

£1000

Would any Provident Insurance Socy if we were to  
come to them with a promised Subn of 1000 a year  
affiliate us? And what would they do for us?

F.N.

"Self supporting Union

"tens can do something

hundreds a great deal

thousands anything"

"Bonuses if Subn increase" Mrs. Paterson

**f143**

Mrs. Paterson:

"To support home or lodging house, would have to be  
6 or 8 always using the rooms:

momentarily unemployed or in need of rest

If every Nurse in Socy were to use the home for  
one week in the years 300 or 400 members  
could keep a house of their own:

If not so many, connected Savings bank might  
provide funds - depositors of bank by  
becoming Societies' landlord would both secure  
5 p. c. on their own savings,  
& hasten the day when they themselves & the other  
members could have the use of their own Home" -

Mrs. Paterson

F.N. A "Central Home" for Trained Nurses  
when they want rest must be invaluable -  
- & for those who have no homes for their Annual  
holidays -

*Between* one situation & another, our trained  
Nurses are always received into the "N". Home at  
St. Thomas' *while their "Agreement with us lasts.*  
But this cannot of course go on for years & years  
There are now between 300 & 400 trained "N." Nurses  
It would be impossible to receive any considerable  
proportion of these in changing from one post to another  
A "Central Home" would therefore be very desirable.

F.N.

**f144**

-4-

How soon ought superannuation allowance to begin?  
? at 65 the most usual?

I don't think *Nurses* are fit for much F.N.  
work after 60.

F.N.

Derbyshire Girls

Lea Female Friendly Socy

ff145-47 list of questions pertaining to Nurses' Societies, not in FN's hand

signed list, f148, pencil

**f148**

List of things ordered (& paid for)  
at Farmers' Association  
(to come whenever Mrs. Verney  
is ready for them)

A Sirloin Beef  
Neck Mutton  
2 Chickens  
Tongue  
6 lbs Breakfast Bacon  
½ bushel Apples  
8/1/88 F. Nightingale

*Mr. French*

Please pay Laundress' Acct  
for week ending Jan 9 -  
& any others we may leave  
F.N.

initialled notes, ff149-51, pencil

**[5:255-56]**

**f149**

Sir Douglas Galton (to F.N.) June 14/89 X  
Recommends [*Gordon Boys' Home*]  
Cubic space for 20 boys of 16, each 400 to 500  
Window space: 1 ft to 60 cubic feet  
2 ft x 3 ft to each boy: sash top & bottom  
- or to open entirely,  
inwards from bottom  
the whole of the window-space to be available  
to open. At G.B.H. quite insufficient  
He thinks the two iron gratings open into SHAFTS??  
but says the shafts must be *much too small* -  
He thinks there are *two?* fire-places to each Dormitory  
He discourages Tobins -  
but would put *Sherringhams* - in the middle, as  
gratings are at corners.  
Sup- space per bed: recommends 40 to 50 sq. feet  
Bed space " 5 ft. 6  
Space between beds " 3 ft  
" " foot of beds " 4 ft 6  
In Hospital beds are placed in twos, giving on  
one side each bed much larger space between -  
Width of ~~Ward~~ Dormitory: recommends 17 ft  
Height " " 10 "  
When new block built, boys will be spread out

at least for a time

~~X He had only just returned from Paris - but came~~  
here the same day.

f150

-2-

D. Galton

perfectly aghast at the rolling up the bedding (but I thought showed an unholy joy at thus accounting for the 'appalling smell')

He says: the boys are "quite certain" - "as sure as fate" to have an *outbreak of Typhus* from this cause sooner or later - that this has been known, to all but the G.B. authorities, for 100 years - that the worst epidemic of Typhus ever known in the Army was from this cause & *this cause alone* - in the Horse Artillery between 1800 and 1810 -

that in Barracks we roll up the bedding, because the room is a living & ~~eating~~ as well as sleeping-room - but that the bedding is *always* exposed to the air first for 1-2 hours -

that the Gordon Boys' Bedding ought never to be rolled up at all - why should it? - it should be exposed out of doors - hung up in Dormitory with all the windows open - [But all the windows can't be always open]

They, the Building Committee, *with D. Galton present*, had a meeting last week - in which all but your important evidence came out!! Mr. Butterfield had disregarded all their injunctions & his own promises -

**f151**

-3-

& made the Contractor go right against them - And there is no resource except to cashier B., which Co. Hamilton won't.

Galton will not say that the space given above is not enough, but admits that window-space, *open window-space, outlets, ventilation, are nothing like enough* -

At their Meeting they ordered a Zinc frame for the window=spaces to fit inside & *open entirely* - And he agrees that there must be more outlet & bed-rolling abominations utterly revolutionized. **[end 5:255]**

They have also order {gap in the paper} another well; aware of the failure of water - su{gap pp?}ly.

He insists on the boy {gap s?} having a both every **[5:255-56]** week, of course - *Do they?* (besides the green swimming-bath) - He wants to know what amount of *daily personal ablution* they do?

I fear I shall not see him again before next Thursday at earliest. But any *questions* or answers or commentaries that *you will* make I will pitch into him *before your* next "Wednesday & Thursday" at G.B.H., if you like.

[He is returning to Paris - some time this next week]

F.N. 14/6/89

signed letter, ff152-53, printed letter

**f152**

*Confidential*

Claydon House,  
Winslow,  
Bucks,  
October 17, 1891

My dear Mr. Frederick Verney

It is scarcely needful to say to intelligent people that Health at the Home is one of the most important questions for any one charged with the duties of Local Government. But, while Sanitation has actually become fashionable, while we are choked with the flood of Sanitary books, pamphlets, publications, and lectures of all sorts, good, bad, and indifferent, we have remained a book and a pen.

We have not become a voice and a hand.

What is read in a book stays in the book.

Health in the Home has not been carried home to the hundreds of

thousands of rural mothers and girls, upon whom so largely depends the health of the rural population.

In fact, they do not believe in Sanitation as affecting health, as preventing disease.

There has been a melancholy instance near here.

At your special request I have been making assiduous enquiries for educated women trained in such a way that they could personally bring their knowledge home to the cottagers' wives on a mission of health for rural districts. For this they must be in touch and in love, so to speak, with the rural poor mothers and girls, and know how to show them better things without giving offence.

We have, though they are but a sprinkling in our great towns and in London, excellent Town District Nurses, but for many obvious reasons they



**f152v****-2-**

would not be quite suitable for your proposed work. We can find no one woman for this ready made. She must be created for a rural Health Missioner.

Knowing how deeply interested you were in this subject on its practical side, we have consulted a number of the most experienced people. And we have arrived at the conclusion that to make the movement a success, we must find some gentleman apt to teach, and educated women apt to learn - in other words, we must train them for the purpose. And we must not mix up Nursing the sick with Health in the Home.

It does not appear in the least necessary to go outside this county. It seems far better to utilize the ability at hand for teaching and the capacity for being taught.

With this object, I have made enquiry as to who there may be in North Bucks who would be willing to give time and trouble to teach, and who is qualified by knowledge and experience, and caring for this problem as it deserves.

I had already been much struck by a report of one of the North Bucks Medical Officers of Health - Dr. D'Ath. I made enquiries from independent sources. I have seen him, and have a good hope that he will prove himself to be as competent, as he certainly is willing, from a high sense of duty, to undertake this work - the work, that is of training those who are to teach practical domestic sanitation to the mothers and girls, and who will be qualified by a course of work, theoretical -- that is, to give them the "reason why" and practical, to show them how to do it, under Dr. De Ath.

I know of no such School of health now in existence for teaching of this kind as would be started at Buckingham, if this project is carried out. And if carried out successfully, Buckingham may become a centre of supply of trained Health Missionaries - not for its own immediate neighbourhood only, but for many parts of England where such work is sorely needed.

It seems hardly necessary to contrast Sick Nursing with this. The needs of Home Health-bringing require different but not lower qualifications, and are more varied. They require tact and judgment unlimited to prevent the work being regarded as interference and becoming unpopular.

**f153****-3-**

They require an intense and real belief in Sanitation, and that Life or Death may lie in a grain of dust or a drop of water, or other such minutiae which are not minutiae but Goliaths - and the Health Missioner must be a David to slay them, and have his sweet voice, and must be trained as he was to fight the giants with the simple weapons of every day use.

She must create a new work and a new profession for women. And she must make her work acceptable to women of the labouring class.

I trust that your County Council will not think me one of your interfering Health Missioners. I know your interest in inaugurating a vital work among the rural poor women.

And I have, therefore, done your behest with alacrity. May North Bucks distinguish itself by its wisdom and success in giving such an education to rural mothers, and in waging the war against national deterioration of health and vigor.

Pray believe me,

Dear Mr. Frederick Verney

Your and the Mothers'

Anxious and attached Friend,

(Signed) FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Frederick William Verney, Esq.

{ff154-55 copy of ff152-53, also printed

ff156-57, undated, syllabus of lectures for Health at Home

incomplete notes, ff158-59v, pencil & pen

[6:604]

**f158**

-2-

3. Another caution - no "germs"

please [begins]

A Commission of eminent men  
has just reported that Leprosy  
is a direct consequence of  
a - - - - Bacillus!

Why if it wished to be popularly/practically  
useful could it not have  
said:

direct consequence of  
uncleanliness, specially of  
person

putrid or bad food

or - what you gentlemen know  
better than I

God forbid that the time should  
~~have~~ come when Nurses  
or Health Missioners  
are instructed that

**f158v**

typhoid fever is the "direct  
"consequence " of  
a Bacillus!

instead of being a direct  
consequence of bad drains  
or - what you gentlemen  
know better than I

[end 6:604]

**f159**

4. The teaching *by the Health Missioners* would be given by familiar lectures to poor mothers & girls, followed by personal instruction by way of conversation with the mothers in their own homes & would be directed to

- (1) sanitary conditions of homes themselves
- (2) the essential principles of keeping the body in health with reference to skin, circulation, digestion
- (3) instruction with reference to management of infants & children - & what to do in emergency or accident till Doctor comes.

But, through all, the Health Missioner must be *in touch* with the poor mothers. They must not be spies; or standing on a platform above the mothers

**f159v**

5. There is no time to be lost -  
 - Now that Elementary Schools hold the girls for 8 years, some for 10, every year they will come more & more to think that every thing is to be taught *literarily* by the *Book* - You must get in your practical teaching now or never.

I see every year that the opportunity is passing  
 {the following paragraph has a diagonal line drawn though it}

e.g. Confirmation Classes are not the Spirited practical things they used to be - they are the book, catechism, copying of texts - the grammar of conduct - not the conduct itself.

unsigned notes, ff160-61v, pen & pencil

**f160**

Notes M.O.s of Health's Meeting

8/5/93 on Tuesday

*In answer to your request: 9/5*

? begin by alluding, which you  
will do much better than I,  
to the great organizations, the  
immense works, drainage,  
water-supply &c, done for the  
national health, for the poor  
- but nothing or hardly anything  
done to teach the poor *at home*  
(which can only be done *in*  
*the home for the home*)

how to keep their *home-health*  
Health - Missioners: absolute  
necessity

not to be District Visitors or  
Almsgivers

not to be District Nurses  
(tho' District Nurses must have  
the knowledge)

Then drive in, dig in the  
*practical* truths, which are  
attended to less & less every

**f160v**

day of this furiously literary  
& educational/examinational time:  
such as

1. Impossible to teach 'Health  
at Home' by literary lectures  
- that would be like the way  
we teach languages - Grammar  
first which no mortal boy  
understands or can understand  
instead of ending with it.  
We teach the Grammar of Health  
Nursing & Sick Nursing - and  
too often we get no further.  
[This reaches to the summit of the  
farce - in Ambulance Lectures  
& Exhibitions where mock patients are  
attended by mock Nurses  
in a mock Hospital]

We then have Examinations -  
we say that the audience is  
"interested" - And we think  
our work is done -

**f161**

In the *home only care* be  
taught how to preserve the  
health of the home -

Teach the absolute practical  
necessities for health=at=home  
in a graphic plain Course  
of Lectures if you will -  
then take your future  
*Missioners to the Home*  
but with great tact &  
prudence -

**f161v**

2. You believe in the *Word*  
[*That is to do every thing!*]

You don't believe in the *Work*  
[which is all the *Word* is for]

~~The nation is/seems gone made~~  
~~upon this~~

This appears to be the  
great danger of the age

unsigned notes, ff162-62v, pencil

## f162

*by request*] A District Nurse [*Pleasley*  
should have been trained -

The first duty of a Nurse is to nurse -

She must do the Nursing Work under  
Doctor's orders - & be able to report  
fully & accurately to the Doctor when he  
comes -

But next to this she must "nurse the  
"room" - i.e. put it into Nursing order,  
so that it should not hinder the  
Patient's recovery - or be a cause of

## f162v

disease (& not of health) to the family.

She should be able to instruct the  
family (or a helpful neighbour) how to  
carry on the Nursing when she is not there.

She should be the friend & not the  
law-giver of the family - ~~And~~ / so that the  
family=face as well as the Patient's face  
should light up when she comes.

For this purpose she must e.g. never say:  
'I hope when I come again all this rubbish  
'will be cleared out from under the bed' (where  
(probably there may be old boots, dirty  
linen, potatoes &c) If she does, they will  
wish her *never* to 'come again'.

But she must do many things herself  
such as clean a disorderly grate, dirty  
windows &c, & so show them how to do it.

She must also know - about nuisances  
which she cannot remedy herself - what  
is in the province of the Sanitary authori=  
ties & give notice at their Office

She must know if meat or brandy &c

## f162 {top}

~~are~~/is required where to apply for it  
(whether Poor Law or Charity)

also, in a very poor place, ~~about~~/for blankets

She must look before confinements  
whether the feather bed or mattress has  
been lately cleaned - If not since the  
last confinement this is a fruitful source

Add Mss 72832A

880

of puerperal mischief or even of fatal  
Pyæmia - & often of injury to the infant



unsigned notes, ff163-70, pen

**f163***Training Schools in Bombay Presidency*

## 4 Government Training Schools for Masters

Poona

Ahmedabad

Dharwar

Hyderabad (Sind)

## 2 ----- for Female Teachers

Poona

Ahmedabad

Details would be shown in Report of Director Public Instruction

General Results - - - - - Bombay Administration Report

P. Turn over

**f163v**

## 2. Victoria Technical College

being organized in Bombay in 1885

probably it has a Normal branch

Lord Reay who took the greatest personal

interest in these subjects could give

all recent information -

**f164**

## 3. Most excellent College for young Chiefs

at Rajkote in Kathiawar

Rajkumar College

Mr. Bhaunagari could give all particulars

Also one at Ajmere, called the Mayo College,

Sir W. Wedderburn believes -

Both these Colleges were started & are

maintained by the Chiefs

**f164v**

4. *Female Education* V  
*Poona High School* x

Prince Damrong should certainly visit this School  
 started by Sir W. Wedderburn

Lady Supt: Miss Hurford: perfection

She has now been placed by Govt in charge  
 of the *Female Normal School* at *Poona*.

This Pr. Damrong should visit. It is under the  
 supervision of a Committee of leading *Indian*  
 gentlemen -

x Note, I think I gave Mr. Morant the "Proceedings" at  
 starting the Poona High School, showing the lines of dealing  
 with a somewhat delicate subject -

**f165**

*Madras*

Be sure you see the Victoria Hospital for High Caste  
 Hindoo women & Mahometan Purdah women -  
 - the only one, I believe, in India - [It was Mrs.  
 Scherlieb's]

Also: see the Agricultural (Govt) College at  
 Saidapet near Madras - the only one, I believe,  
 in India. [We rave at the English educated Hindoos  
 for not putting their education into their  
 agriculture & give them no education to put in  
 But Bombay has, I believe, begun -]

~~(1)~~ Letter to John Murdoch Esq L.L.D Agent of the  
 Christian Vernacular Education Socy  
 This insignificant looking little man knows real

**f165v**

India better than any one - He has spent 40 years at his own expence in making tours of India, each taking two years. He is all enthusiasm without any fanaticism: cares neither for life not death. His little Sanitary books, "Way of Health" &c &c are better than anything we in India have done. Lady Dufferin knew his worth, had his "Way of Health" adopted by Govt & placed him by herself at dinner at Govt House.

I have written to him fully about you & the Prince. He is now in England till the 3rd(to-day) ~~And Mr. Morant ought to see him - Tho' there is no time, this is his address.~~ go to p. 2

**f166**

*Bombay Presy* POONA

*Rao Bahadur Vishnu Moreswar Bhidé*  
Chairman of the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha at Poona. They are, I believe, the old Mahrattas- They do an immense amount of public work with very little money. They know the people well who have the greatest confidence in them, They are now consulted by Govt  
[Mr. L. W. will tell you just the contrary - But your principles are sound]

AHMEDABAD

*Rao Bahadur Runchorelal Chotalal*  
Chairman of Municipality - a most active and

**f166v**

enlightened man - has encountered a great deal of opposition, even from his own people - a truly religious man of the highest type - a Jain - an excellent Sanitarian - an authority, of course, in Municipal administration

I shall hope for an account of the *Bombay Village Sanitation Act - how it works* - when you come back - through *Sir Raymond West*, (to whom pray give *my kind remembrances*) & others -

**f167**

-2-

Mr. Murdoch reaches *Madras* about Jan 8,

1892 & remains there till the *end of January*.  
In February he goes to *Calcutta*: thence to  
*North India* & back to *Madras via Bombay*

**f168**

-3-

*Calcutta*

Man Mohum Ghose (brother of Lal) & his most excellent wife  
- both most enlightened people - I should like  
to send my love to Mrs. Manmohun Ghose -  
He is said to be making £10 000 a year at  
the "Bar". [Strong opponents say that he &  
other natives are far before any English at  
the "Bar" or Judges we have out there -  
And so are called 'Mutinous dogs' -]

Mr. M. Ghose begins at the beginning - he is a  
thorough going reformer - he sends out lecturers  
to teach the rural people the first elements  
of English administration

**f168v**

They are, I believe, of the ~~Brahma-Somaj~~? in  
religion

They had a daughter of 17 at School near  
London - who, if in India, would have been  
a Grandmother - Her father fetched her back home  
to Calcutta last year -

Mrs. M. Ghose is interested in the  
Medical Education of women

I shall hope when you come home  
to hear from you thro' Mr. Ghose of  
the working of the

BENGAL TENANCY ACT

**f169**

I have written to all these people  
something of what each could tell you  
of interest to you & the Prince

30/11/91

**f170**

*6 letter of introduction from Sir W.W. Hunter*  
*Bombay*

- 1 to Mr. Lee Warner (the Political or "Foreign"  
Secretary to the Bombay Govt) "who unfortunately  
"takes leave at the end of the year"
- 1 to Mr. James Campbell, the Collector of Bombay,  
"who will probably be the most useful man  
"to Mr. Verney in that part of India "
- 1 to Sir Raymond West, "a member of the  
"Bombay Governor's Council, & very earnest in  
"educational & municipal measures"

3 —

*Calcutta*

- 1 to the Director or Chief of the Department  
of Public Instruction
- 1 to the Head of the Roman Catholic  
teaching body
- 1 to the leader of the progressive Conservative  
party among the Brahman landholders of  
Bengal      Dec 3/91

Add Mss 68890, microfilm, 114 folios, 9 pages, correspondence with children of Frederick and Maude Verney, and other relatives 1874-1902, Adam Matthew reel 42

- f1 Gwendolen Verney letter to FN from Claydon July 2 1890
- f2 Gwendolen letter to FN from 39 Marine Parade 1890 re regatta
- f4 Gwendolen letter 190-
- f6 Gwendolen letter from Rhianva
- f8 undated
- f10 Gwendolen letter Claydon Jan 4 1891
- f12 Gwendolen letter Claydon Jan 11
- f13 Gwendolen letter Onslow Gdns Feb 9 1891
- f15 Gwendolen letter Plas Rhoscolyn Apr 20
- f19 Gwendolen letter Dec 26 1895
- f21 Gwendolen letter Jan 15 1895
- f23 Gwendolen letter March 7 1898
- f25 Gwendolen letter March 12 1898
- f27 Gwendolen letter June 26 1900 saw her yesterday
- f29 Gwendolen letter July 9 1902

- f31 letter of Frere, India Office that Rev F Verney peculiarly fitted to discharge efficiently duties of office of clerk of School Board at Oxford Feb 21 187
- f32 Gwendolen letter Oct 17 1900
- f33 Gwendolen Verney to Aunt Florence Oct 29 1900, May I come and see you soon?
- F35 Gwendolen letter Nov 30 1900
- f39 from Boston, Charles Warren to Fred Verney 3 March 1871, re clerical life, his leaving Sheffield, nothing re FN

ff41-44 letter, pencil, black-edged paper to HV re Pleasley

35 South St. [16:801-03]

Park Lane W.

May 13/74 6 a.m.

*Pleasley School*

My dear Sir Harry

You did not remember to give me notice,  
as you promised, that you stayed Tuesday in  
London: &, when you came on Tuesday afternoon,  
you could not stop.

So I can only put on paper the results  
of my labours:

I have done what you wished:  
I have consulted several School & Sanitary  
authorities: & they all agree with me in this:

**f41v**

1. that it is quite out of the question to build  
an *Infant School* with so little sun light  
or indeed window-space at all.

An Infant School ought to have its *two long*  
sides & one of its short ones quite *open*  
to the *sun & air*, so that the children may have  
the sun from the moment they come into  
school till the moment they leave:

*S.E. S.W. N.W.*, (closing it to the *N.E.*).

It is well known that both health & power of  
learning depend on this - in Infants especially-  
this School has only *one S.E.* & one *N.W.* window-

**f42**

The beautiful *S.W.* exposure is entirely blocked  
up by *Gravel Yard & Large School Room*: and,  
worst of all, made pestiferous by '*Offices*' into which  
it looks. *Pray do not so much* as listen to such a plan.  
the only proposition we can make is to slew  
round the *long* side of *Infants' Room* to the  
*S.E.* (putting the master's house somewhere  
else.) see *Plan A*.

This plan will be of course objected to because of  
the length of front: (*96 feet*: without the  
thicknesses of walls.)

And, without knowing the ground, it is impossible

**f42v**

to say whether the *Master's house* can be



detached, or must be added to the length.  
 [This would be an advantage under some circumstances to the appearance; but if the slope is so great as to place the roof of the Master's house nearly on the same level as the floor of the School, the advantage we suppose would be lost.]  
 If the *Infants School* is under a separate *Mistress* & carried on altogether separate from the *Mixed School* as we should imagine from the

**f43**

2

numbers being so large: - would it be possible to detach the *Infants' School*, & make *one block* of the *Infants' School* & *Master's House*? & *another* of the *large School Room* & *Class Room*?

The only way to give a proper (S.E.) aspect to the *Infants' room* is either to *detach* the *Infants' room* & *Master's House*: it would appear: or to submit to the ugliness of the *immensely long* front.

If it were one's own affair, one would cast

**f43v**

about for a *site* that would admit of the former plan: and if it is necessary to have communication between the 2 Schools, this could be managed by means of a Corridor or Lean-to-2. The *Offices* & *Walls* & *Gravel yards* blocking in the whole corner of the building & completing - not even a square but - a *parallelogram* will be pestiferous.

[And people wonder that *Country Schools* have measles & Scarlet Fever!!!]

The *Offices* must be projected far out behind

**f44**

3. The *Large School-Room* has a good S.E. & S.W. exposure:  
 but the *Porch* *must* be moved up to the part of the wall adjoining *Class=Room*. Else it intercepts sun on winter afternoons.  
 4. The *Class-Room* will have *no sun* all the year round. S.W. & N.E. windows!!!  
 except *summer* the worst sun: viz afternoon sun.  
 but I know not how to improve it: [& it is of far less importance than *Infants' Room*.]

I would however block up *N.E.* window & give one large *S.W.* (*or two*) and one *N.W.* window.

**f44v**

Pray assure Mr Stewart, if he will accept it, of my very great interest in these Schools: (which must excuse my very strong convictions against parts of the plan (*as it is*:) and of my desire to subscribe: if he will allow me.

You know how overworked (& underhelped) & suffering I am: so that I am hardly able even to undertake this small extra correspondence.

*God speed the Schools:* ever yrs affectly  
I am writing this *before* my day's work. Florence Nightingale

**[end]**

ff45-46 pencil letter

10 South St.

18/12/83

Dearest Margaret May I  
put this matter as regards  
my sister into your kind  
hands?

Our Aunt Julia (Smith) has  
been sinking for many days-  
She is 83. She is most  
attentively watched by her  
two nieces, Alice Bonham Carter  
& Beatrice Lushington, alternately  
-by a young lady, Miss Burnett,  
who was to have trained  
in hospital, who is as a  
niece to her- & by her  
excellent maid. She is

**f45v**

sinking quite peacefully &  
painlessly - And the only  
thing is to be regretted is that  
she is not in one of her homes.  
she is at Hastings.

I did not know whether  
it would be better for Parthe  
to hear of her illness before  
her death - or whether 'no  
change', perhaps for many

days yet- might wear her  
 more- I expected to  
 hear every hour this morning  
 'It is all over'- What do I  
 say? then the blessed day

**f46**

would have begun-  
 but I have just had a  
 message to say; that the  
 unusually high temperature  
 is the only very bad sign-  
 & she may last for some days.  
 She is without pain or  
 uneasiness.

I enclose 2 letters for  
 Parthe to read, if she lies.  
 Will you please have them  
 returned to me?

good speed, & good cheer,  
 dearest Margaret.  
 I would we could hear better

**f46v**

of my Sister's nights.  
 My dearest love to her.

---

Would you be very kind  
 as to give the enclosed  
 note to Mrs. Ellis & read it.  
 O! could you advise me on  
 the knotty question of beer?  
 So very sorry to trouble you.

I hear the dear little voices  
 - & the robins, wrens &  
 fly-catchers chirping at  
 your Balcony window  
 How did the little girls like Kathleen  
 & Westminster Abbey?

Dearest Margaret, adieu  
 yrs ever  
 F. Nightingale

f47 Saturday Maude to Mama

f49 HV to Fred July 3 1886. Alas my dear F I confess that I anticipated the defeat so that I opened the telegram with the anticipation of its contents, but you made a capital fight and did your work as well as it could be done, and for that I rejoice most truly. We cannot command success in illeg of our world

struggles, but if God gives us strength and courage and perseverance to work to the best of our power we may thank Him. .... shd do Siamese work, plunge into that and read books on Oriental politics and made acquaintance with the Easterns who are come to the exhibition and bring some to show.

F51 John Ricketts to F.W. Verney re £200 cheque re election expenses

f51 election expenses for Fred Verney note

f52 letter to Mrs Verney on loss of Mervyn

f53 another, from embossed House of Commons!

f55 HV to F, prob Fred re Pleasley dam

f62 to FN from Louisa Hubbard. printed Beedinglee, Horsham, June 20/93, much FN underlining  
FN in top corner: Please return to F.N.

Ff68-75 typed dictated copy to Sir Henry [Acland] from Empress Frederick re FN, Mrs Craven, Sep 8 1893, from Homburg v.d. Hohe

Let me thank you most sincerely for your letter of August 9th, which I found here on my return from Greece and have also [alas] been unable to answer till now.

I have pondered over your letter and thought the matter over again, which indeed I do every day as I think it one of such very great importance. The ends and objects of nursing and providing the public with the best nurses in every sense I think are viewed by you and by me exactly in the same manner, and I do not think our opinions differ materially from those of Miss Nightingale and my friend Mrs Craven.

Indeed I think with you that something ought to be done, to save the nursing cause, viz., the standard of excellence of nurses from being lowered.

F69 Possibly the Prince of Wales mt be inclined to call a committee, which shd try to combine all that is good in the efforts made with such energy, benevolence and generosity by our sister Princess Christian, that have assumed a form which does not seem completely to satisfy a great portion of the best friends of the nursing cause, tho no doubt the many able people who support her with their experiences and their advice fail to see the danger which I am in conscience and honesty bound to admit is clear to myself. I am only too glad and ready to admit that I am wrong, if it can satisfactorily be proved to me, and perhaps the dangers I apprehend can be got over.

If I may reiterate the opinions I expressed to you at Buckingham Palace, which are based on a little experience and a very profound interest in the nursing profession, I can only repeat that its is to my deep regret that I see the movement taking the upper hand which is to determine the value of a nurse by examination. If this really gains the day, it will I think lead the nursing in England altogether into a wrong direction, and on a path which will lead to deterioration.

F70 English nurses are I think acknowledged by everyone in Europe to be the best. Though the development of nursing is far ahead of other countries in England, yet even there, there is room for improvement. I cannot forget Miss Nightingale's excellent saying 'the best woman will make the best nurse' and the longer and the more one comes in contact with nurses and nursing the more one sees how true it is, that the moral qualities of a nurse outweigh the theoretical knowledge.

How can an examination decide whether a nurse be thoroughly conscientious, truthful, patient, kind, unselfish, full of tact, intelligence and self-sacrificing and womanly dignity--the essence of all womanly qualities--which are such a blessing and boon to the sick, and of such importance for their recovery, and do not depend on the theoretical knowledge f71 they have gained from books and learnt by art?

Far be it from me to underrate the value of knowledge. I think a nurse cannot be thoroughly trained and educated enough - The more she knows of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, chemistry, bacteriology

if you like, besides the technical dressing of wounds, bandaging, etc., the better for her - the more useful and valuable she is. Still how often have nurses, who will blunder at examinations, and have received inferior testimonials, show themselves wonderful in practice and with their sound common sense and correct instinct and excellent qualities of heart, show that they were real born nurses, and saved many a life by their unflinching courage and excessive devoted care, have cheered many a death bed.

I again repeat that no one can doubt the necessity of a certain sum of knowledge being indispensable, also practical experience under clever men, who are willing to take the trouble to teach and train them.

F72 The value of their theoretical knowledge depends on their ability and aptness to make use of what they know and have learnt, in the right way, and it is this character of the woman which is the guarantee of how she will carry out what has been taught her as - *to know* and *to do* are two very different things.

How will a board of examiners - to whom the noses are perfect strangers - be able to decide by the theoretical knowledge of these women alone, whether they are practically qualified for their profession?

Mo one can judge of a nurse except those who have an opp of seeing her in the discharge of her duty, and who are able to discern the qualifications and such persons ought to have the right to give the testimonials and *not* a board of examiners who can only judge of what she has learnt, but not of what she can do.

F73 The movement professes to determine that nursing in England is to form a profession, and nobody is to belong to it except those who have passed an examination.

The examining body must therefor consist of all the gratest and most eminent medical men, who have the practical experience of what shd be demanded of a nurse. And above all, only such nurses shd be admitted to the examinations that have already received certificates of efficiency from the hospital in which they have been trained. If therefore the board which conducts the exams receives a ...

F74 As alas! Examinations seem to be the fashion of the day, I dread theoretical knowledge being brought too much to the fore, at the expense of experience and of the best part of a nurse's art, so that the nurses will become very one-sided.

It is from this danger that I would wish to see the British nurses of the future preserved.

I am just as anxious as you to end the division between the different views and endeavours to further a truly benevolent object. Nothing could be more painful to me than f75 in any way to appear at variance with anything undertaken by my sister whom it is my gratest wish to second in everything, besides knowing the truth of the saying 'l'union fait la force.' Nothing could give me more pleasure than the hearty combined action of the several bodies of institutions you speak of, who are anxious to organise once and for all, in the best manner, the profession of nurses in Great Britain - a truly gigantic undertaking, which therefore requires slow and cautious development, and not being worked in too vrhement or hasty a way.

Once more thanking you for your kind letter, and begging you to excuse my long delay in acknowledging it, also my *dictating* my answer.

f76 funeral of Sir Harry Verney programme Feb 15 1894

f88 July 19 1893 Bracondale Norwich, re election disappointment

f90 G White to Mrs Verney??

ff92-96 typed copy of FN letter to T.G. Clarke, Birmingham Oct 21 1895, Balaclava Anniversary celebration

ff97-98 pencil letter

Oct 31/95

10, South Street [printed address]

Park Lane, W.

Dearest Ralph

Aunt Florence was very  
glad to hear that you had  
worked hard enough to be  
first but one in your  
Mathematics Class.

And it is a great thing  
to *care* for what you have  
to learn, for its own sake  
- a greater thing than to  
win all the Removes &  
places in the world, tho'  
that is a good sign too.

And it is a worse thing  
to lose the love of your  
work than to lose your

**f97v**

Remove or your place.

so let us win them  
both - place & love of the work.

At Claydon when dear  
Grandpapa talked to you  
in my room you always  
seemed to enter into your  
work.

I saw dear Mother  
yesterday & shall see  
Gwendolen to day. You  
know they are going  
to-morrow to Wimbledon.  
Mother as she always does  
seems careless of any

**f98**

trouble to herself.

provided it is the  
right thing to do-

The Hindoos have a phrase  
that Europeans are  
"dipped in ink". Don't  
dip yourself in ink, yet.  
reading & writing teach  
one a good many things  
one, likes to think about  
for one's future life.

God bless you, my dear soul.  
ever your loving  
Aunt Florence  
there is a sordid little bit in  
another cover.

f99 Louisa SN to Mrs Verney 17 Feb 1896 Louis just here

f101 Ralph to FN Jan 21 [1890?] thanks for 10s, just before going back to school, useful, last time shall  
go back w/o Harry

F102 Ralph to FN Dec 25 [97] thanks for delightful owl, looks wise, Xmas present, he chose an  
umbrella, I like being asked what I want

F104 HV to Maude Oct 14 1892

f107 Ruth Verney to FN Dec 22 1901 re christening of dear little Christopher, white day, charming  
service, used white prayer book you gave me for my confirmation nearly 6 years ago

f109 FPV to child

f111 HV to Maude

f112 Ralph Verney to FN June 16 [1891?] thanks for arm chair you gave me, you gave mother £1 to  
spend on my room and mother bought me a chair

f114 Jan 9 Ralph to FN thanks for travelling bag just arrived

Add Mss 72832A 140 folios, 8 pages, miscellaneous family correspondence, unbound; Adam Matthew microfilm reel 49, 2 sections; Section A has 1 FN original letter

letter to Miss Nightingale, Embley April 1846

f7 inv to M.F. Smith 1846/ Principessa Torlonia

Journey to France 28 August 1826 left Uncle Sam and Aunt Julia

Erskine Hay Speakers' Court, Palace at Westminster 1 Feb 1871

1860 going to Sardinia

letters to Mrs Nightingale

Sept 1, Thames House, from Mary Gaskell, shocked has not answered her, children in France.

f54 to Mrs Nightingale from Hope Richardson, Jedburgh June 26. thanking her late, press of business,

f61 Keswick

f65 P Nightingale, some kind of deed. September thirtieth. 1815.

Miss M.F. Smith, report on trip set off 28 August 1828 to France, corr with S Smith, to Mrs Nightingale, Thornton, Mary Gaskell to Mrs Nightingale, Hope Richardson to Mrs Nightingale,

M.F. Smith entries

has letters to Mrs Nightingale

arch: May Smith and looks like "A few bits as your father used to send to Mr Empson", includes ref to Jowett

Hudson the railway king, J.P.

letter with sketch

letter from Firenze 2 April 1848, I wrote to Flo....

28 Aug 1826 Uncle Sam and Aunt Julia set off from Milford for France, looks like, sketches

letters to Sam Smith at House

to Mrs N., lots, Mary Gaskell, Hope Richardson June 26

f52 Thames House Sept 1, Mary Gaskell

f63 Julia Howe to My dear lady, to Mrs N

I have but just arrived in Coventry and had had your kind note but a few minutes. I thank you sincerely for it, and so do my sisters. I am sorry however to say that the fates and Dr Howe do not will that I should dine with you tomorrow. The Bracebridges, who are our fates just at present, will decidedly that we should dine at Atherstone then, and for a day or so to come, thus postponing until Tuesday or Wednesday the pleasure of being with you. Upon the strength of this my husband has whisked off to Devon and heaven only knows when I shall catch him again. I hope you will pardon my want of punctuality--what would you have of a poor woman who is tied to the tail of a comet? You must



understand, I do not mean by this one of those wild things with horrid hair that fly about doing mischief and setting the world on fire. Mine is a remarkably peaceful and philanthropic comet, yet like all his brethren irregular, eccentric, unwilling to be bound to the dull orbit of appointments. However he is most anxious to see you and yours again, and will, if you permit, bring us a few days later. I say, if you permit, but do not trouble yourself to write unless is be to tell us not to come. Otherwise I shall think that your silence gives consent. I think that we shall hardly arrive before Wednesday and not then, unless inconvenient to you.

In the hope of our seeing you, believe me, dear Madam,  
 very faithfully yours  
 Julia Howe

[Mrs N comment:]

What a happy creature and how proud of her Comet! and justly I doubt not.

F66 SH to WEN 5 Carlton Gardens April 12 1880 (other Sidney Herbert? To whom? But looks like SH had but the date!) My dear Sir, Even had there been no date to your note as there was no signature I shd have known by the

f68 ALS with envelope, engraved 49 Belgrave Square

March 27 1855  
 Dear Mr Nightingale

I will be glad to see you at any time most convenient to you.  
 Whatever I can do to promote the comfort and assist the endeavours of your daughter I will do with all my heart & soul.

Would tomorrow between ½ past 10 and 12 suit you. I shall be at home then.  
 believe me.... Sidney Herbert

f71 bill to W.E. Nightingale, Job Smedley, grocer and tea dealer. Cromford. bread items.

f75 letter From Mr B, Robt Lowe 8 May Balaklava

ff77-80 draft/letter, pencil [arch: ? was this sent? probably not]

Oct 3/71

*Private*

Dearest Ju [Julia Smith]

I am sorry to say it is true that during the *latter* years of Burton's cook= life she, poor woman, did sell the dripping, i.e. *after* I left home (tho' I did not know it till lately, years after her death).

During the first 8 or 10 years of her service, & till I left home, I am *certain* that not one penny= worth did she ever sell out of the house, that *all* the dripping was given to the poor people, other kitchen stuff made up for them- & that she had no "perquisites" -

according to my mother's excellent rules, made ever since I can

**f78**

remember *any* thing, & impressed upon Burton as upon all the others.

I passed naturally thro' Kitchen & offices 2 or 3 times a day (till I left home) - consulted with Burton about dripping, broth & other things she made for the poor people-- lists were kept- I took out a good many things myself & my mother hardly if ever went out in the carriage without taking dripping= parcels &[. [I can see them now]- I am certain that none of my mother's rules ere relaxed till after I left home.

The whole thing unrolls itself like a map before me. [Gradually even before that time & much more afterwards, I understood that my mother & Parthe were falling into Invalid habits of self-indulgence - And

**f79**

**2**

when I was with them for some months after my return from the Crimea, my mother & Parthe did *nothing* but lie on 2 sofas in the drawing- room, calling to each other: "don't tire yourself," not even by "putting flowers into water." [My mother said to me several times: 'I never go into the kitchen now- because I know I should see something I don't like,' - words of which I did not understand the import till long afterwards-

Parthe, as you know, took no part whatever in the household - and I believe does not now in her own household (of which I try to know as little as possible.) i.e. not what you & I should call a part. My father's sluggishness of character

& impatience of mind - which you

**f80**

see, (& which poor fellow! no one influence of his life has ever counteracted) - prevented him from taking any active part, either as to wife or daughter (or butler or farm - which certainly were his business & not my mother's ]

Though the excessive affection which he had for Parthe up to the time she was 25, & and which dignified his subservience? to her & my mother - whom she then governed absolutely- had long since departed. Alas! Alas!

Indeed, at that time he was with them as little as he could help - never in London, except for a few days - And even before I left home he would always be at the home where they were *not* - if he could.

**f81**

3

Bref, for the last 18 or 20 years, the household has had no head whatever.

[And when I went to Embley in '66, for the first time for 10 years, I was appalled at the dilapidation & extravagance, visible even from my bed, tho' I suspected *nothing* else.]

It is one of those things which make one weep 'tears of blood,'-

For my mother was a most excellent manager of a household (till habits of self-indulgence crept on). order & beauty sprung up under her steps, not only in creating these two places, but in managing her household - And I still think that she & poor Mrs. Watson have brought up more

**f82**

good girls for places than any  
body I know.

Oh dearest Ju -when I see the awful  
consequences brought on (by such  
very little faults, to begin with)  
in households, in families, in  
Empires, in political life, in  
administration of great public  
offices, in the fall of the French  
Empire, in the War Office, at Embley,  
I say (by myself) every night of my  
life & almost every hour of the night,  
'Father, forgive them, for they knew  
not what they did- Father, forgive  
me, for I knew not what I did.'

**f83**

4

To return.

A few years (1 or 2) before I left  
home, I was made housekeeper -  
(by Parthe's influence over my mother).

A few months afterwards I was  
destituée (by the same influence)-  
I had written a burlesque on Hermia  
& Helen's scene in M.N.'s Dream, -  
in which m housekeeping & the "  
preserves" figured. - This was  
the reason, Parthe told me-

I have never understood Parthe's  
conduct on that occasion (tho' I think  
I did on most others, even on the  
occasion of her stopping my Egypt  
lectures in Holloway) - Nor do I now.

But I have long since seen how  
every thing was made to 'trend' to my  
going to Crimea & War Office &  
am more than content in the midst

**f84**

of tribulation-

if only this dreadful thing had not  
happened.

For I do think it is a *dreadful*  
thing.

I am so sorry for *all* concerned-  
even ~~for~~ for Watson

As you say, "butlers" (& as I say,  
much higher people) do these things  
if not overlooked-

And to me the really bad part  
of Watson is (not the frauds, tho' these  
are past doubt) but the breaking of  
even the "Thieves' Code" in his  
dishonourable aspersions against  
the '2 Sisters' & his conduct to  
Peter - together with his favouritism  
in the house.

[These are against even Servants' honour.]  
Also: *he knew* my mother's rules.

Ff91-93 L.H. Shore Nightingale typed report dated 20 February 1914, reports meeting 9 February at Cambridge Club between Sir Herbert Stephen, Sir HV and LHSN with a view to defining the executors' position as pub of FN's letters by the Verneys. HV seems not to of his mother with Nash, Dorothea Stephen, executors and E. Cook, amicable, but executors aware of their rights and prepared if nec to maintain them, made clear "that a pub relating to FN by the Verneys wd not be welcome to FN's relations" Lady Verney's letter 13 Feb 1914 admits cannot publish any letters by FN w/o consent of executors, her letters notable in showing that Parthe and late HV fully grasped FN's strong objection to publicity and were determined to ignore it; "The object of the pub of the 'life' of FN by Sir E Cook was to present a faithful picture of FN and her work, avoiding as far as possible the revelation of such private matters as she wd have wished not to show to the world. Margaret apparently wishes to publish these very matters." Fair to assume that FN considered question of pub, left materials to HBC, shd cd have given directions to enable MMV to publish a memoir; "In short Margaret is supporting Parthe's view against FN and it would appear that the executors can best carry out FM's wishes by opposing this. A possible way out of the difficulty wd be to consent to Margaret's printing a short book as she proposed *for private circulation only*."

f94 typed copy of letter of MMV Plas Rhoscolyn Holyhead to LHSN, re papers, how got into her possession Feb 13 1914,

Many of them were written to "Parthe" others to Mrs Nightingale by her sisters and friends, some to "W.E.N." chiefly from 1820 onwards.

These letters belonged to Lady Verney and she was most anxious they should never be mixed up with her sister's papers, or be given to her; perhaps she thought her sister would destroy them unread. Lady Verney's effects were all left to Sir Harry. He wished me to have and to read these papers; but ....too busy editing her Mss... re Cook, "I need not say that if I can write a book it could not in any way come into competition with the great Biography, which no one appreciates more than I do. What I chiefly want now is a *pedigree* to explain all the cousinships...." anxious to put the letters in order.

f110 letter to Miss Smith from M. Howitt

to thank her father for sending £2 for Frederick Douglass's fund. Lady Byron has sent us £ and will ...

Anna Mary Howitt, aunt of Barbara Leigh Smith

to Barbara to 1867, many letters

f96 17 May 1929 Mrs Oliver Strachey, re O'Malley, asks for her to have access to the papers herself. re play, Evans.

f97 note. When she was going to Harley St. it was said she was going agst her parent's wish. Ly Cranworth was a lading member on the comtee and a very good woman but the last to illeg. ... daughter FN wrote her mother to see Ly Cranworth and F behaved beautifully and.... how sorry they were to lose Florence .... The great thing about FN really was her power of capturing or possessing people....

f85 FPV, letter, pen FPV to FN

My dear

I think you will like to see this account of Garibaldi. Alas E. found out afterwards that the woman he is living with now is not his wife.

Mde Schwabe who lives near him and is going out to look after the education of women at Naples (& has got the crown princess to speak to the Princess Margherita about being the chief patroness of the Society) desires me to tell you she is making up the accounts of money disbursed for widows and orphans in the war. The French Committee comprised Protestants and Catholics, Mme de Stael and an abbé! She believes that much good was done by the money.

Lady Sarah & Margaret sleep in South St. for a couple of night about the 9th and then go out by Marseilles to Edmund at Malta. I think it is just possible that Harry may go out to join them for a little time. He will not say anything at present, but if he plays this this winter I am sure I hope that he will. He has so enjoyed this place and the dear people in it, it is charming...

Did you ever have a "Good Words Young" the "Nightingales' heir. I went to .... It was at Combe but... illegs....

wreck of the illeg a troop ship carrying 1000 troops to the Crimea discipline of the men so beautiful that they were found drowned in their ranks as they stood. The ship went ... in daylight....

Edmund asked for a nosegay to take away with him to the ship. the only flowers on the auslander little...Elba. Napoleon 1

Margaret saw officer who told how illeg Garibaldi was with being illeg. An Armenian took all sorts of letters but he would not see him. The man has done .... last... General's window. Garibaldi came with ... the man put him into his illeg and went home and told how he had 'interviewed' the General.

I hope you can read it. I wrote it in great haste from dictation.

f89 letter....

Hampstead

Tuesday

My dear illeg

Both the dear children are quite well and it was very rainy yesterday afternoon and again this evening. They were very much amused to go down in the drown of ... Emily illeg

f91 more to Miss Smith. Barbara. MH

f136 typed Barbara Leigh Smith to her father Sorrento May 12 1855

12 05 1855 typed statement of Barbara Leigh Smith to her father, from Sorrento, all re travels 73832 A

f136

f138 Barbara to aunt March 21 1867 Avignon, re the Fawcett Society, going to Algiers, Bernie, loves Avignon, Bernie doing antiquities

f140 BL Bodichon to Bertha, from Scalands Gate, Robertsbridge Hawkhurst [1874] re Dr Bodichon