

Letters to Sir William Aitken

Publication/Creation

1856-1876

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From
Whitby

Thursday. Nov. 28th -
1886.

My dear Sir

Would you take the
trouble to read the
enclosed Note from Mr.
Sutherland - & give me
your verdict upon it, or
if equally convenient - to
you, take it to me to
sign?

The first two
Paragraphs refer to a
Report upon quite a
different subject.

The "Medical School
Scheme" is the scheme
I submitted to you,
with notes written
almost verbatim from
what I put down in
pencil the night you
were kind enough to
come here - and the
Four Courses almost
as they stand in
yours, with the substitu-
tion of your two sketches

of the Operative Surgery
Course.

Believe me
Yours very faithfully
Th. Nightingale

Please return me Dr.
Sutherland's letter.

5471/2

67543
30 Old Burlington St.
W Oct 27/58

My dear Sir
Remembering how
much you have done
& how much you
may still do for
the Army, I cannot
but send you a
copy of my Report
to the War Office -
It is really
"Confidential" & in
no sense public
property. And I

am sure you will
keep it so, & not
do, as so many
people do, who,
finding some one
else knows a secret
they know, immediately
conclude it is no
secret & ~~it~~ make
it public.

You will see
much of your own
work in a paper
not strictly under
my instructions at

all - viz. the paper
about a Medical
School for the Army.

We have never
let that drop & hope
still to bring it
about - In fact, it is
at this moment
"under consideration"
by the Gov^t. Heaven
knows how long that
will be!

Yours sincerely
F. H. H. H.

D. A. H.

5471/3/1

would make the bed, back to back with him, almost uninhabitable - Noise which a Patient cannot see (!) always partakes with him of the character of suddenness & injures him - This is, believe me, the fruit of long experience with the sick.

Again, I think

30 Old Burlington St ⁶⁷⁵⁴
W June 8/59

My dear Sir

I was only able to open your kind note of June 3 yesterday -

I think the system of arranging the beds (in the Glasgow plan you send me) far better than that of arranging them against the dead wall, but far worse than that of arranging them

between the windows.

In the plan, the Patients cannot read in bed, without straining their eyes (and Scotch patients read much more than English ones)

If the windows are ^{along both sides the ward,} ~~opposite the foot of~~ the beds, as they ought to be, the light is ^{then} always just opposite the Patient's eyes - which, however

important light is to recovery, is by no means always desirable.

Again, the irritability peculiar to many diseases makes it distressing to the Patients to have any noise behind him which he cannot see - A Patient dying or coughing or who required much fidgetting attendance

In the mean while,
we have not been
idle about Army
Sanitary affairs -

And I inclose you
the Gazette of a
new Commission in
proof of the fact -
for India -

Will you allow me
to inclose a copy of
the "Notes" for your
friend, Dr. McGhie;
there is a misprint
at P. 30, which I

5471/3/2 2

67354

in cold weather, when
the doors are opened,
or when the doors &
windows being shut,
the fire is acting,
it will be found
that the cold air
will come right down
upon the heads of
the Patients ^{under} ~~from~~ the
Ventilator in a way
which is not at
all anticipated.

The Forms for the

eight heads mentioned
in the Note to P. 2
of my "Notes," are
under process of
preparation by ~~the~~
Dr. Farr - And
we hope to try them
quietly at our
London Hospitals
& to propose them
at the next European
Statistical Congress,
which will take
place in London -

The heart-breaking
delays which have
taken place about
our Army Med. School
are but too well
known to you - I have
however by no means
lost heart. At the
end of this week
we shall know how
Ministers stand
politically - And
whichever way it
goes, I think we
shall carry the School.

5471/3/3

67354

have corrected in
this copy - Please
to look at it.

I enclose for your
own private eyes
a little Pamphlet
I wrote on Nursing,
(which is really
"Confidential," - perhaps
the article Noise
will illustrate what
I have said about
Patients -

5471/4

have had you do, of
seeing it actually
before on foot near
Lanuary - & the Report
appointed very soon -

Yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

I am only here for a
short time - And whatever
is sent to 30 Old
Buckington St will
find me as before

F.N.

Dr. King

Mountain Grove
Hampstead NW
Sept 21/59

67358

My dear Sir

I have to thank you
very much for a copy
of Dr. Lyons' Report on
the Yellow Fever of Lisbon.

It seems to me very
well done - But I had
wished the Gov. to
send out an Engineer
to that unfortunate City.
Now, all Dr. Lyons has

told us is (not how it
can be prevented but)
what it has done,
which he has told
very well.

I should like, if you
could send me his directions,
to thank him myself.

You have heard, I
dare say, from Sir Jas.
Clark that the scheme
of the Army Med. Sch.

has taken a further
extension & is to
embrace the Candidates
for the Indian Medical
Service as well as
ours -

The buildings (temporary)
are actually begun
at Chatham - And
we sent the proof of
the Scheme to press
last week. Mr. Herbert
is really engaged in
it. And I do not
despair, though I

5471/5

30 Old Burlington St.
London W

67362

Oct 21/39

My dear Sir

The only thing of importance
to tell you is that Mr.
Herbert told me last
Sunday that he meant
to speak to you this
week about the Army
Medical School - If
you have not heard ~~x~~
from him, it is because
they have been having

Cabinets nearly every
day this week: and
to-day Mr. Herbert
is gone to Hythe on
an inspection tour
till Sunday.

I informed Sir
Las: Clark of Mr.
Herbert's intention.
And you may have
heard from Sir Las:

I do not at all
recommend that

your Berlin visit be
put off. I only think
you ought to be informed
of what is going on.

Yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5471/6

67362

Monday O. 24
189

My dear Sir

Mr. Herbert was
speaking frankly to me
about the Medical
School last night—
so I asked him frankly
about the deferring
of your journey to
Berlin. He said that
he was obliged to
leave London to night*
I should not be

*he only came back to London
yesterday morning

back here till this
day week - that is
would answer all
purposes equally
well for him to see
you when you
returned - & he
thought it would
be a needless delay
for you to put off
your journey in order
to see him. ^{He said he}
^{was so busy today that he could do}
^{nothing but the current business.}
I consider the
whole thing as quite

safe now. Mr. Herbert
is pledged to it - And
the Ministers are in
no danger of being
turned out for
many months -

I should therefore,
if I were you, take
Mr. Herbert's advice
& consult my own
convenience about
going to Berlin

Yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5471/7/1

wanting, for which
duplicates might
be exchanged, on
the objects wanting
procured by the
different branches
of the Service.
But you will
remedy all this.
And it was quite
time that a
remedy should be
bought.

Imagine you
will be able to

67355

30 Old Burlington St
W. July 2/60

My dear Sir
I about the School.
Yesterday submitted
all your complaints
(which are not a
bit too much) to
Mr. Herbert.

1. He will look
after the requisitions
about the fittings,
which are sticking

somewhere in the
W. B. [They were
sent in on the first
days of April.]

2. he allowed me
to write to Capt.
Gallow about the
state of the building
- which I have done

3. he does not
think it probable
that the School
will be removed

from Chatham,
for some years at
least

4. he thinks it
will be easy to
enlarge the Museum
next year -

5. the state of
the Museum - No
one can be surprised
at what you say
of it. I believe
there is no Catalogue
no lists of objects

5471/7/2

about the Nursing
at the Samaritan
Hospital but I
had feared that
at Lohs & better.

The Superannuation
Fund I hope will
be added in time.

The Candidates
for Probationers have
already filled up
all the places at
St. Thomas's.

Sincerely yours
Th. Nightingale

67355 continued

pack the things now
needed for the
School into small
Compass, & to keep
out those which
are needed.

Please keep me
au courant of the
way there repairs &
fittings progress.
It is all I am
fit for now. And
I hope by Sept 1.
you will be in
working order.

We do not at all intend to confine ourselves
to one Hospital. This is only a tentative experiment.

II. About the "N. fund" affairs, I will write more at length.

I think your suggestions very good. But, at present, whatever Nurses would learn at the Children's Hospital, would have to be unlearned — the Nursing is so bad. 200 cases

are the annual average of admissions at St. Thomas's of Children under 10. And I believe the variety, especially of surgical cases, among children, which Nurses would see at St. Thomas's, actually larger than at the Children's.

I know nothing

1. Titmouse
 2. Enlarging Museum
next year
made a note of
 3. Assistant in
Museum
- N.B. In place
of enlarging
Museum
let it be
properly ventilated

5471/8

30 Old Burlington St W
July 12/60

My dear Sir
I only write this
line to tell you that
I am not doing
nothing, in answer
to your letter.

I have sent
down to the W.O.
several times -

Your fittings,
your repairs are

proposing.

Mr. Herbert has
taken a note about
enlarging the
Museum ~~they~~ ^{in the mean} ~~you~~
^{next year} ~~are~~ ^{time, you} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~proposing~~ ^{proposition} ~~about~~ ^{about} ~~a~~ ^{with} ~~casemate~~ ^{regard} to
the more important
thing, the procuring
your assistance,
which every one
will perceive to
be necessary, what

I believe will be
advised will be
for you to make
the application
through the Senate.

Now, about all
this, I will write
more at length
tomorrow - when
I have shall
have got more
information as
to the best way
to proceed.
Sincerely yours J. H. Thompson.

be the fit person.

2. It has occurred
to me to suggest
that perhaps the
best way to meet
the present case
of the Museum
would be to get
one of the lightest
of the long Cases
at Lat Pitt, & to
shelve it along
the walls which
would not cost
much.

5471/9/1

67356

30 Old Bushington St.

W

July 13/60
Assistant in the Museum

My dear Sir

I have been making
every inquiry as to the
proper means of
forwarding what we
both have so much
at heart.

1. With regard to
Your Assistant, his
appointment involves
the financial question,

and all such
questions must go
through the Senate
to the Secretary of State
for War.

I will do my
best to back any
proposal, after it
is thus made,
feeling, as I do,
the essential
importance of a good
Legislature. But the only
legitimate way
is for it to go

thru' the Senate, now
the Senate is once
constituted - altho'
it would be also
legitimate for me
then to press it, if
it remained
sticking in the
H.O., as in the case
of the requisition
for fitments.

The selection,
I presume, will
rest with you -
& the man whom
you think fit will

P.S. To make your
case the stronger
about the Assistant,
would it not be
well to state who
is in charge of the
Museum now? I
presume there is
some one beside
a soldier.

May still keep me
an Assistant &
believe me ever
Sincerely yours
Florence Nightingale

5471/9/2

67356 continued(2)

You might then put
into it the duplicates,
the preparations not
in good order, those
not immediately
required, labelled
& arranged (according
to the 5th Division
you mention) so
that they could be
taken for reference
& replaced at any
time.

This would have

the additional advantage
of keeping up the
Museum as a
whole & avoiding
packing away.

The case for removal
to better quarters
would also grow
in strength year
by year.

The requisition
for the casemate
fittings would
have to go through

The Senate to the
Sec. of St. for War
- The same as that
for the appointment
of your Assistant.

3. The Herbert made
a note for the
enlargement
(temporary) of the
Museum next
year - This will not
at all interfere
with your ultimate
removal to better
locality.

5471/9/3

67356 (3)

P.S. Capt. Fulton is
coming down & you
next week & hurry
your repairs. Probably
Sir J. Clark & Dr.
Lutherland will go too.

As there is urgency
for the appointment
of your Assistant
would it not be
as well for you to
ask the Director-
Genl & call a
Meeting of the
Senate directly?

I will prep ^{the}
immediately

Minutely the
the Matter of Casenote
fittings. But this
will not at all
prevent the
necessity of ^{their} requisition for
being also made,
by the Senate.

assistent. temp^y
sanctioned by
Mr. Herbert - the
question is
whether before the
West Hill Museum
is reported on

engaged at present
rate means skill
not a high
rate.

5471/9/4.

67356 (4)

Private

I asked Mr.
Herbert yesterday
to sanction the
immediate temporary
app^t employment
of an Assistant
by you (upon his
own authority) at
a rate of salary
you mention -
He consented &
made a note of it.

I asked him
& sanctioned the
immediate shelving
of a Cassmate
for the Museum.
(upon his own
Authority). He
consented & made
a note of it.

I told him that
he would receive
formal application

from the Senate
for these two
things - in time.
Th.

He told me of the
note he had
written & given -

sanction of the S. of S.
for War be obtained
for a skilled
workman to do the
Modelling, putting
up preparations &c
at a salary of —
& that, until the
necessary forms are
gone through, sanction
for a two months'
employment of such
a workman be
obtained

Yours sincerely
J. Nightingale

5471/10

67362

30 Old Rushington Ch
W
July 18/60

My dear Sir
I like your paper
exceedingly. I would
only make a few
additions.

Would you not
state, e.g. in addition,
1. that the whole
arrangement can only
be considered as
temporary in character;

that, at the best, the provision afforded by the Casemate would be inadequate for the purpose; but that it is absolutely necessary, if the Museum is to exist at all in any other way than merely as a heap of objects, without order or arrangement, that the incalculable

course suggested should be taken, in the hope that a proper School, Museum & Library may be provided before long.

Then propose that application be made to the S. of S. for War to sanction the appropriation of the Casemate & the cost of shelving.

Would you not
2. propose that the

I am sure that the W.O.
had been dilatory
in paying your
salary. [I am never
surprised at any
thing the W.O. does]
I whispered this to
Mr. H. And he
seemed very much
surprised. He
made a note of
it & put it right
in my part. I
don't see that our
management (of which
I have now seen a good
deal) is a bit better than
the ~~British~~ management

5471/11

67362

30 Old Kensington L.
W. Aug 5/60

My dear Sir
I had the
opportunity of
speaking to (or
rather "poking")
Mr. Herbert & day
about the points
of your letter.

He wrote on the
spot about the

Instruments &
fittings - and 2.
the Estimate for
the Casemate
fittings shall be
prepared immediately.

[It seems absurd
for an Engineer
& talk of two
months being necessary]

I shall see
Capt. Patton & Morrow

I will also give
him a "poke" -

Dr. Parker's plan
will apparently
answer. But in
a matter so new,
trials will be
necessary -

Ever yours sincerely
F. H. H. H.
Sir James Clark
Whisperer

5471/12

67362

36 Old Burlington St.
W

Aug 17/60

My dear Sir
I ~~went~~ sent to Mr.
Herbert as soon as
I had your missive.
And I have just
this moment had
a communication
from him, headed
"There! at last!"
S.H.
and enclosing me

from Lieut John Burge
stating "The work
of the Med^l School
at Chatham has
been ordered for
execution, the
authority of the
Treasury having
been received" &
dated "17 August".

How shame for
them that it was
not "17 April".

Capt. Patton is
absent in the
Channel Islands.

Yours sincerely
Thriftinjal

and taken to Mr.
Dewey, (in the
absence of Sir B.
Hauser,) who is a
somewhat quicker
operator.

And on ~~Tuesday~~
Saturday I was
assured that the
money should be
granted that day.
~~that the authorities~~
one of the "Sanitary
vote", without
more ado with

5471/13/1

30 Old Rushington
WI Aug 28/60

My dear Sir
I saw Mr. Herbert
on Sunday week,
and one of the H.B.
officials on Friday
& Saturday about
your misfortunes.

With regard to
the first & lesser
one, the fittings
for the practical
rooms, I do really
hope that they

will be ready by
October 1.

Capt. Patton will
do all in his power
to urge them
forward.

2. About the
estimate for the
instruments &
apparatus.

I have not time
to tell you all the
places it has been
to. To the Tower,

where the answer
was, of course, that
they did not keep
instruments in
store - I found
other places equally
ridiculous where
the same answer
was of course
made - Then it
went to Dr. Gibson
where it remained
"sticking" for some
months.

On Friday, it
was hunted up,
(but not by him.)

I was assured there
was no occasion.
Nevertheless I
think it wiser to
do it.

[I understand
that Dr. Lutherland
saw you yesterday.
But he did not
know of this
arrangement with
Mr. Drewry. For
he has not seen
any of us since
his return. Therefore

5471/13/2

if he discouraged
you, - do not mind

But, unless you
have already
received the
authority I saw
the money ^{for the instrument} apply
for it without
delay, I presume
of Mr. Milton.
And please let
me know -

People talk of
my "terrible" &

unprecedented
experience" in the
China - I say
my "terrible &
extraordinary
experience" in
the W.O. News
could I have
believed what
I have seen of
mismanagement
in the last 4 years,
of inefficiency,
slowness, extravagance
in administration,
I want of write

above all - No one knows
what any one else is doing
your sincerely friend

the Treasury - &
that the Authority
should be forwarded
to you for expending
the money on
Monday (Yesterday)

I asked if
I should write to
you & inform you
of this - in order
that you might
apply for the
Authority, if there
were delay. And

5471/13/3

67357¹

W. Atken Esq M^d
36 Manchester do
Manchester Esq.



5471/14

67352

30 Old Kensington Ch.
London W.

Sept 3/60

My dear Sir
I hope that by this time
you have your authority for the
instrument money.
I have made another
poke at the W.O.

It is too much. This
story of the School is the very
type & climax of the working
of the whole Office. It is well
it has happened - for I do
believe this & other glaring
mistakes will bring about
a change.

The first impression

upon the student's being a
bad one is most unfortunate.
It may damage the School
essentially in public opinion.

Capt. Gaston however
hopes to have the fittings
done by Oct 1. And the
Instrument money I trust
you have by this time.

Please keep me informed.

I shall be most glad
to give my proxy for Mr.
Copes, if you will tell me
how it is a matter upon
which I can have no opinion.
I can only choose my
advisers. Perhaps you will
tell me some Governor voting

for Mr. Cooper, who will take
the money.

Very sincerely
Thightingale

Fitments.

5471/15

67362
30 Old Burlington St
W
Sept 12/60

My dear Sir
I venture to trouble
you with my proxy
for Mr. Cooper.
Perhaps you know
some governor of the
London Hospital
willing for him,
who would take it.
Dr. R. D. Thomson

send me the
enclosed card -
Perhaps he is a
Governor - Mr. Cooper
would probably be
able to indicate
me -

I am assured
by Capt. Fulton
that the fittings
will positively
be all ready by

October 1.

I hope that
you have had no
further hitch
And believe me
very truly yours
Florence Nightingale

the usual routine.
I agree with you
however that it
would be a good
opportunity if Mr.
Herbert would
either refuse his
sanction to their
entering without
passing the school
course - or if Dr.
Gibson made a
good case for the
exception he should
be made & under-
stand that it
must not happen
again. Lightnings

5471/16

30 Old Rusling Ln. 67362

W

Sept 28/60

My dear Sir,
Thank you for
sending me your
Programme, which
I like very much,
as far as I am
capable of having
a judgment. The
numbers too make
it very useful.

I only opened
it last night -
for I had been

unusually ill & busy
And the people I
had kept from me
my private letters.
Otherwise I should
have thanked
you before.

Ever yours sincerely
Thiptunja

I really hope you
are getting on well
now - But I
shall always be
anxious to hear
of your progress.

Private. Your letter about
the students shows
the receipt of some
communication from
Dr. Herbert & the
D.C. about the
School. But at
the same time I believe
that the ten students
were taken into the
service under the idea
that they would very
probably not pass
through the School.
It was, I believe,
considered that the
service required them
before they could pass

Examinations will
work well now -

I agree with the
young men that it
would be cruelly to
alter their places,
won at the first -
by the second, if they
were not entirely
made aware of the
plan - beforehand.

Yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5471/17

30 Burlington St. 67360
W Feb 1/61

My dear Sir
The Glasgow Med. Course
was sent me.
Dr. McShie's article
betrays either wilful
misrepresentation - or
helpless hopeless ignorance
of his own subject.
It is impossible to
answer.

Many of his
principal facts are
wrong. I would instance

those above the
Caribouiere Hospital.

It is nothing but
a defence of an
indefensible mistake
— & not very ably
pleaded —

The best thing that
could happen to the
Glasgow Infirmary (&
what would save
much human life)
is that it should
be burnt down. There
will be no other
safety for it. Almost

all its air reaches it
over burial-ground.

Now the mistake
has been tripled.

But, depend
upon it, Mr. McShie
knows all this just
as well as you or I.

Norman Cheever's
four Numbers have
been sent me — if
they were condensed,
as you say, they would
be very useful.

I trust that the

agent, the D. J.
Now the D. J. has
not the least idea
of administrative
unity. He would
not hesitate to make
amendations on the
Senate's Reports - he
being its Chairman.
He is also vacillating
- without intelligent
principles - & always
throws off his own
responsibility upon
his own Chief.
Ever yours sincerely
F. H. H. H.

5471/18

67359

30 Old Bushington St.
W March 8/61
Private

My dear Sir
I hope that the
present difficulty
has been got over -
But, if you have
reason to think that
any undue course is
taken with your
Minutes, you ought,
of course, to represent
it.

Also, the School

is so nearly connected
with the Administrative
part of the War Office
that all your future
proceedings, whether
by Minutes or
otherwise, should
be concise and
practical - pointing
out a definite
administrative
course which can
be taken. And
this without entering

much into detail.

You will excuse
my giving these hints
- which are founded
upon my knowledge of
the character of the
present S. of S. and
D. G.

The S. of S. can
hardly be expected
to look much into
the Minutes himself.
He must take the
interpretation given
him by his accredited

about the "orders for increased accommodⁿ."
I should be most thankful, if you could
tell me that these were preparations
beginning. [I suppose you did not
touch this part of the subject in seeing
the D. G.]

We may consider the continuance of the
School secured: & we must work on
& obtain the necessary conditions of
ever increasing success.

Dr. Atken

May believe me ever, sincerely,
Florence Nightingale

Private &
Confidential

5471/19

35 South St.
Park Lane W
July 20/76

My dear Sir

Mr. Hardy writes that he has not the least
intention of transferring the Chair of Hygiene
from Netley: & that Dr. de Chaumont
is appointed.

I am very much disappointed & have no
special answer about "orders having been
given for increased accommodation". Mr.
Hardy certainly did give such orders.

I am afraid it is no use pressing about
having Monthly Senate Meetings: or about
Epistants' Bay arrangements:

till we can get our Committee of Inquiry:
I wrote to its proposed Chairman: he is
leaving home "for a few weeks". Another
of its members is not yet returned: another
is going away.

I am afraid it is no use pressing & harrassing
the Committee while every one is either away
or thinking of nothing but getting away:
or too busy to breathe.

I will keep the copies of letters you kindly
sent me, unless you want them back
at once, till something can be done
with them.

We will not lose sight of our Committee
of Inquiry:
In the meanwhile, I will, if possible, find out