

## Letters and notes to and from Nightingale and others

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Private

30 Old Burlington St  
London W

RAMC

271/20

Oct 19/58

My dear friend / I wish I had  
some better means than words  
for saying what I do earnestly  
wish to say - they will so  
imperfectly express what I feel  
on reading your letter - but  
they shall do what they can  
for me -

1. Of the paper read at  
Liverpool - so many friends  
had urged me to write & had  
offered to read it, whom I  
was unwilling to refuse, that  
my only resource for avoiding  
offence seemed to be to ask

an official

~~the~~ Secretary to read it. Those who knew me comparatively little might even thus be offended with me. But surely not one of the most intimate friends I ever had who I thought could not but understand my difficulty. From the time that I was called upon to struggle through life with difficulties, very various in kind, but all cutting at my heart, you\* &

\* I always refer back the origin of all the good I have ever done, which I will not affect to call small, because that would be depreciating God's ways, to the morning.

Miss Bracebridge stood by me, cheered me, helped me. I thought you understood me. I am sure she did. I hoped both knew my heart was with you, though this poor linking body left me powerless to write or to speak. refused to do more than just bear me through my work which could not be put off - day by day illness & pain warning myself & the few necessarily near me that each day was not unlikely to be my

When I met you & Mrs. Bracebridge at Sir R. Inglis' - Not accidentally, we will not say. It is curious how everything has flowed out of that. Without it I should never have known S. Herbert, and so with all the rest.

law.

My dear & valued friend -  
you were with me in those  
terrible days which our soldiers  
passed through - you saw  
their enduring patience under  
suffering, so much more touching  
than courage in battle where  
no one dares to be without it.  
You knew as I did, that the  
greater part of this suffering  
arose from causes which  
never need have existed.

I would have hoped that  
your heart in this cause had  
been one with mine - that,  
though I was never able to see  
you, we were one in spirit  
in the desire to prevent a

repetition of such sorrows &  
sufferings.

RANC 27125  
I wrote to you from the  
Crimea when what was called  
"peace" was made - there was  
nothing like peace in my heart  
which had grieved over such  
horrors, knowing as I did that  
they must return unless their  
causes were removed. I wrote  
to you that, after what I had  
seen, I never could return into  
"society". That I had not where  
to lay my head - & only wished  
to hide myself in some far-off  
hospital. When I came back  
to England, however, opportunity  
(& again this opportunity arose  
in your house) opened before me.  
(2)

giving hope that something might be done to meet those girls. Was not I called upon to seize it? I had not the ties most others have. You know that those of my home, dear as they were to me, knew me no more than if they had never seen me. There was no real thing I could be or do with them or for them. It was a delusion altogether.

You & your most dear wife helped me to live & work among realities. Having no home, having seen such sorrows, such sins from which they resulted, was I not called upon to

give up all for this work?

The friend who knew me as you did, more intimately than any other living man, I did not conceive would think I was giving him up. I hoped, while other ties & sympathies & labors called you to a more varied field, you would still be one in spirit with me in this work - for which no one so well as you could feel & know the necessity. As to those with whom I have been at work, had I a choice? There was but one man to whom it could be proposed to be Chairman - the knowledge necessary for the subject I am compelled to obtain from those who, having been professionally engaged, have

that of which I am ignorant.  
No personal friendships or  
inclination could I be permitted  
to consult in this course. And  
it was a work which once  
entered upon, admitted of no  
pause. Even if I could have  
looked to a longer span of life  
than that which I have any  
reason to expect, in this work,  
if opportunity is not seized  
to day, to morrow it is gone.  
I hate to urge my own  
ill health. But, because I  
would not have those who are,  
as they have been, my dearest  
& most valued friends,  
misunderstand me, when  
5 I am unable to see them, I

RAMC R71/80

enclose a letter which Dr. Johnson  
who knows the state of my health  
better than any one else, sent  
to my Aunt, & warn her that  
I must not attempt more  
than the day's work, must  
give up the pleasure it  
would be to me to see friends,  
if it were possible to me to  
do it without cutting off every  
hope of living to carry through  
this work. I have not been  
able to write a letter, not  
absolutely necessary on business,  
since I saw you at Combe.  
Since that time I have been  
incessantly & necessarily occupied.  
— To your kind thoughts  
then, my very dear friend,  
(3)

I commend myself - God bless  
you. I will hope that you  
will understand me now,  
as it has been my help &  
comfort in times past that  
you understood me. We  
shall meet, in whatever  
part of God's universe, in  
whatever portion of God's  
eternity shall be His good  
pleasure - whenever that  
may be, meet me as your  
grateful child, your ever  
affectionate friend

Florence Nightingale

Thank you for lending the  
Diagrams to Dr. Acland - to

was I sent you three six-  
And I have some more  
left, if you could usefully  
row them - It cost me £200  
getting them up - not a  
farthing of which the Gov<sup>t</sup>  
has repaid - But I did not  
ask them - And S. Herbert  
does not know it - Nor do  
I wish any one to tell him.  
My father is very liberal  
to me about Money - matters  
now. It is he pays my bill  
at this house, over & above  
what he allows me - And  
he would take a house  
for me, were it worth  
while, which it is not -

F.W.

Private.

303, Old Burlington Street,

LONDON W.

October 19/58.

My dear Friend,

I wish I had some better means than words for saying what I do earnestly wish to say - they will so imperfectly express what I feel on reading your letter - but they shall do what they can for me.

1. Of the papers read at Liverpool. So many friends had urged me to write and had offered to read it, whom I was unwilling to refuse, that my only resource for avoiding offence seemed to be to ask an official secretary to read it. Those whom knew me comparatively little might even thus be offended with me. But surely not one of the most intimate friends I ever have who I thought could not but understand my difficulty.

From the time that I was called upon to struggle through life with difficulties, very various unkind, but all cutting my heart, you<sup>X</sup> and Mrs. Bracebridge stood by me, cheered me, helped me. I thought you understood me. I am sure she did. I hoped both knew my heart was with you, though this poor sinking body left me powerless to write or to speak - refused to do more than just bear me through my work which could not be put off, day by day illness and pain warning myself and the few necessarily near me that each day was not unlikely to be my last.

---

X I always refer back to the origin of all the good I have ever done, which was not effect to call small because that would be depreciating God's ways, to the morning when I met you and Mrs. Bracebridge at Sir Inglis's - not accidentally, we will not say. It is curious how everything has flowed out of that. Without it I should never have known S. Herbert. And so with or the rest.

---

My dear and valued friend - You were with me in those terrible days which our soldiers went through - you saw their enduring patient under suffering, so much more touching than courage in battle where no one dares to be without it. You knew as well as I did that the greater part of this suffering arose from causes which never need have existed.

continued...



-2-

I would have hoped that your heart in this cause had been one with mine - that though I was never able to see you, we were one in spirit and in the desire to prevent repetition of such sorrows and sufferings.

I wrote you from the Crimea when what was called "peace" was made - there was nothing like peace in my heart which had grieved over such horrors, knowing as I did that they must return unless their causes were removed. I wrote to you that, after what I had seen I could never return into "Society" - that I had not where to lay my head and only wished to hide myself in some far off Hospital. When I came back to England, however, opportunity (and again this opportunity arose in your house) opened before me giving hope that something might be done to meet those evils. Was not I called upon to seize it? I had not the ties most of us. You know that those of my home, dear as they were to me, knew me no more than if they had never seen me. There was no real thing I could be or do with them or for them. It was disillusion altogether.

You and your most dear wife helped to live and work among realities. Having no home, having seen such sorrows, such sins from which they resulted, was not I called upon to give up all for this work?

The friends who knew me as you did, more intimately than any other living man, I did not conceive would think I was giving him up. I hoped, while other ties and sympathies and labour called you to a more varied field, you would still be one in spirit with me in this world - for which none so well as you could feel and know the necessities.

As to those with whom I have been at work, had I a choice? There was but one man to whom it could be proposed to be Chairman. The knowledge necessary for the subject I am compelled to attain from those who, having been proficiently engaged, have that of which I am ignorant.

No personal friendships or inclination could I be permitted to consult in this cause. And it was the work which, once entered upon admitted of no pause - - even if I could have looked to a larger span of life than that of which I have any reason to expect - in this work, if opportunity is not seized today, tomorrow it is gone.

continued...

-3-

I hate to urge my own ill health. But, because I would not have those who are, as they have been, my dearest and most valued friends misunderstand me, when I am unable to see them. I enclose a letter which Dr. Johnson who knows my state of health better than anyone else, sent to my aunt, to warn her that I must not attempt more than the day's work, must give up the pleasure it would be to me to see friends, if it were possible for me to do it without cutting off every hope of living to carry through this work. I have not been able to write a letter, not absolutely necessary on business since I saw you at Coombe. Since that time I have been incessantly and necessarily occupied.

To your kind thoughts then, my very dear friend, I commend myself. God bless you. I will hope that you will understand me now, as it has been my help and comfort in times past that you understood me. We shall meet, in whatever part of God's universe, in whatever portion of God's eternity shall be His good pleasure - whenever that may be, meet me as your grateful child, your ever affectionate friend.

(Signed) Florence Nightingale.

Thank you for sending the diagrams to Dr. Acland. It was I sent you those six and I have some more left if you could usefully show them. It cost me £200 getting them up - not a farthing which the Govt. has repaid - but I did not ask them - and S. Herbert does not know it - nor do I wish anyone to tell him. My father is very liberal to me about money matters now. It is he pays my bill at this house over and above what he allows me - and he would take a house for me, were it worth while, which it is not.

(Sgd) F.N.

General Hospital  
Balaklava  
May 5/36

RANC 271/20

My dear Sir

May I request your permission  
to have Private Horsefield, 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment,  
here as orderly in the kitchen & to  
Kitchin? He has been my orderly  
in the same capacity for eight months  
at Scutari, where we have taught him  
every thing, & he would be most  
valuable to me here as a person  
in whom I can trust.

I have already obtained  
the permission of the Lt. Colonel Comm<sup>d</sup>  
50<sup>th</sup> Regt, & of the Commander of the Forces  
for his transference from Scutari here.  
And I would now ask you to authorize  
me to retain him here.

I will remind you that both  
the Soldier Orderlies in the <sup>Ex. Regt.</sup> kitchen & the  
Sister Orderly have been removed.  
I remain dear Sir, yours truly,  
Florence Nightingale

General Hospital,

Balaclava,

May 5th, 56.

My dear Sir,

May I require your permission to have Private Horsefield 50th Regiment, here as Orderly in the Extra Diet Kitchen? He has been my Orderly in the same capacity for eight-months at Scutari, where we have taught him everything, and he would be more valuable to me here as a person in whom I can trust.

I have already obtained the permission of the Lt. Colonel Commanding 50th Regiment and of the Commander of the Forces for his transference from Scutari here and I would now ask you to authorize me to retain him here.

I will remind you that both the Soldiers Orderlies in the Extras Kitchen and the Sisters' Orderly have been removed.

I remain dear Sir, your truly,

(Signed) Florence Nightingale.

Scutari

Barrack Hospital

Jan 31/56

My dear Mr. Procterbridge

In reply to your letter, requesting me "to give some sign" as to what I wish to have done with the money about to be raised under the name of the "Nightingale Fund," & as to what purpose it is to be devoted to, I can only say

1. the people of England say to me by this subscription - "We trust you - we wish you to do us a service." No

love & confidence can be  
shown by a human being  
greater than this - &  
as such I accept it  
gratefully & hopefully.  
I hope I shall never  
decline any work which  
God & the people of  
England offer me.

But I have no fears  
at all. I am not new  
to these things - I am  
not without experience.  
And no fear presents  
itself more strongly to my  
mind, no certainty of  
failure more complete  
than accompany the idea

of requiring any thing of  
the nature proposed & me  
with a great demonstration,  
a bath preparation, a  
great man, perhaps,  
coming down to the  
Hospital to give the first  
"cup of cold water".

People's expectations are  
highly wrought, they think  
some great thing will  
be accomplished in six  
months, altho' experience  
shows that it is  
essentially the labor of  
centuries. They will be  
disappointed to see no  
apparent great change

at the end of a twelve months  
~~and~~ will feel as "glad"  
about it as they do on  
a wedding day at three  
o'clock after the wedding  
breakfast is over.

But, worse than this,  
the fellow-workers who  
would join me in a work  
which began with  
excitement, demonstration,  
public popularity, would  
be those whom vanity,  
frivolity or the love of  
excitement, would bring  
& then would, leave of  
all, bring about the  
wonderful results which  
the public would be

RANC 271 | 20 2

expecting - or rather the  
results would be very  
"wonderful" the other way.

These are not theories  
but experience.

And, if I have a  
plan in me which is  
not battered out by  
the perpetual "wear &  
tear" of mind & body  
which I am now  
undergoing, it would  
be simply this.

To take the poorest  
& least organized  
Hospital in London.  
And, settling myself  
down there, see what

I could do. Not touching  
the "Fund" perhaps for  
years. until experience  
had shown how best  
it might be made  
available, so ~~that~~ <sup>it shall</sup> not be  
wasted in grand  
experiments which  
lead to nothing.

This is not detracting  
from the value and  
importance of the "Fund"  
to the work. It will be  
invaluable as occasion  
arises.

I have hardly time  
to write this letter.

much less to give the  
experience which would  
prove its deductions  
to be true.

But I would appeal  
only to two recent  
instances.

1. My thoughts here  
lay in coming to  
Hospitals thoroughly  
disorganized - or rather  
~~unorganized~~ unorganized  
& in organizing them.  
Had I come to a  
ready-made Institution,  
I could have done  
hardly anything to  
alter it.



2. the greater proportion  
of valuable fellow-workers  
here came out with the  
first party, notwithstanding  
the hurry of selection, when  
the work was obscure &  
laborious & laughed at,  
& the hardship considerable.  
Now, with a few princely  
exceptions, with the  
subsequent parties, when  
the excitement & popularity  
were great, & love of glory,  
of gain, as well as  
curiosity, all on the alert.

I have no objection  
to what I thus say to  
you in private, being  
repeated on the "house-top",

i.e. of those who have  
so kindly interested  
themselves in the  
"Nightingale Fund" &  
sympathized in her  
work.

The first fruits of a  
long series (as I expect)  
of the brick-&-mortar  
plans of needy or  
philanthropic adven-  
turers, who wish to  
get hold of the  
"Nightingale Fund", have  
already come upon me.  
But I hope our  
merciful Commonsense  
will not be taken in

One more instance - &  
I have done -

Compare the gradual  
but complete success of  
Friedman's Institution at  
Haineworth with that  
of the magnificent &  
pompous "Bethanien"  
at Berlin - whose  
excellent & simple mind  
founder was appalled  
at the "greatness thrust  
upon her" & which  
marred her work -

I therefore must  
beg to decline making  
any plan whatever,  
even were I not

overwhelmed at present  
not with plans but work.

At the same time,  
would I could say  
(which I cannot) how  
much I feel the love  
& confidence of the  
people of England, in  
whose service, as I  
have lived, so I shall  
die -

I am,  
Dear Mr. Kerabridge,  
Most truly yours  
Frederic Dighton

C. H. Kerabridge Esq

J. No. answer  
to request for some  
negative proposals..

Copy.Letter from Florence Nightingale to Mr. Bracebridge.Scutari,  
Barrack Hospital.

Jan 31/56.

My dear Mr. Bracebridge,

In reply to your letter requesting me "to give some sign" as to what I wish to have done with the money about to be raised under the name of the "Nightingale Fund", and as to what purpose it is to be devoted to, I can only say

1. the people of England say to me by this subscription "We trust you - we wish you to do us a service". No love and confidence can be shewn to a human being greater than this. - and as such I accept it gratefully and hopefully. I hope I shall never decline any work which God and the people of England offer me.

But 2. I have no plan at all. I am not new to these things - I am not without experience and no fear presents itself more thoughtfully (thoroughly) to my mind, no certainty of failure more complete than accompany the idea of beginning any thing of the nature proposed to me with a great demonstration, a vast preparation, a great man, perhaps, coming down to the Hospital to give the first "cup of coldwater".

People's expectations are highly wrought, they think some great thing will be accomplished in six months, altho' experience shews that it is essentially the labor of centuries...they will be disappointed to see no apparent great change at the end of a twelvemonth, will feel as "flat" about it as they do on a wedding day at three o'clock after the wedding breakfast is over.

But worse than this, the fellow-workers who would join me in a work which began with excitement, demonstration, public popularity, would be those whom vanity, frivolity or the love of excitement, would bring there, would, least of all, bring about the wonderful results which the public would be expecting, - or rather the results would be very "wonderful" the other way.

These are not theories but experience.

And, if I have a plan in me which is not battered out by the perpetual "wear and tear" of mind and body which I am now undergoing, it would be simply this -

to take the poorest and least organized Hospital in London and, settling myself down there, see what I could do - not touching the "Fund" perhaps for years. Until experience had shewn how best it might be made available, so (that) it shall not be wasted in grand experiments which lead to nothing.

This is not detracting from the value and importance of the "Fund" to the work - It will be invaluable as occasion arises.

I have hardly time to write this letter - much less to give (find) the experience which would prove its deductions to be true.

But I would appeal only to two recent instances.

Continued...

1. My strength here lay in coming to Hospitals thoroughly disorganized or rather unorganized and in organizing these. Had I come to a ready-made Institution, I could have done hardly anything to alter it.

2. The greater proportion of valuable fellow-workers here came out with the first party, notwithstanding the hurry of selection, when the work was obscure and laborious and laughed at, and the hardship considerable, not, with a few priceless exceptions, with the subsequent parties, when the excitement and popularity were great, and love of glory, of gain, as well as curiosity all on the alert.

I have no objection to what I thus say to you in private being repeated on the "housetops", i.e. to those who have so kindly interested themselves in the "Nightingale Fund" and sympathized in her work.

The first fruits of a long series (as I expect) of the brick-and-mortar plans of needly or philanthropic adventurers who wish to get hold of the "Nightingale Fund" have already come upon me. But I hope our inexorable Common Sense will not be taken in.

One more instance and I have done.

Compare the gradual but complete success of Fliedner's Institution at Kaiserswerth with that of the magnificent and pompous "Bethania" at Berlin - whose excellent and single-minded foundress was appalled at the "greatness thrust upon her" and which marred her work.

I therefore must beg to decline making any plan whatever, even were I not overwhelmed at present not with plans but work.

At the same time, would I could say (which I cannot) how much I feel the love and confidence of the people of England, in whose service, as I have lived, so I shall die.

I am, -

dear Mr. Bracebridge,

Most truly yours

(Signed) Florence Nightingale.

C.H. Bracebridge, Esq.

RAMC 271/23

30 Old Burlington St  
London W

Oct 23/58

You say you "don't  
want to argue" & to  
me it is impossible.  
Now there is one thing  
in your note of this  
morning perplexing  
& me beyond anything.  
How can "the Queen's  
conversation with"  
you "at Stoneleigh"  
be in any way

(23)

deferable to me? to  
me who am the  
greatest sufferer  
from the Queen's  
neglect? whose life  
would, in fact, have  
been saved, had  
she spoken the one  
word - she could &  
ought to have spoken.  
F. Nightingale

RAME 271/23

30 Old Burlington St

London W

Oct 23/58.

You say you "Don't want to argue" and to me it is impossible. But there is one thing in your note of this morning perplexing to me beyond anything. How "can the Queen's conversation with you at Stoneleigh" be in any way referable to me? to me who am the greatest sufferer from the Queen's neglect? Whose life would in fact have been saved, had she spoken the one word she could and ought to have spoken.

(Signed) F. Nightingale.



RAMC 271/23

I grieve to feel that  
I have not made  
myself understood  
in the case by you.  
I feel utterly pow-  
erless to remove  
such a misunder-  
standing. I can only  
hope that, in the  
day when all  
hearts shall be open,

You will see clearly  
what I would like  
could but feel I  
cannot explain  
how - yours as ever

Wright

1/11/58

RAMC 271/23

???

I grieve to feel that I have not made myself understood in the least by you. I feel utterly powerless to remove such a misunderstanding I can only hope that, in the days when all hearts shall be open, you will see clearly what I would I could but feel I cannot explain now.

Yours as ever

(Signed) Florence Nightingale.

1/11/58.

Copy

RMC 271/21

No 2

27. Portfolk Street.  
Park Lane. W.

War Office.

April 1. 1865.

Much difficulty was experienced in inducing the Treasury to give Col<sup>l</sup> Lyne a salary of £240, and it would be useless to make any fresh appeal - at all events, without further information than is at present possessed.

By the sum which

has been given, is (as  
is ascertained in the  
enclosed extract)  
quite inadequate to  
allow of the Cemeteries  
being kept up in a  
decent state, it is  
suggested that Major  
Gordon, on his arrival,  
should furnish the  
Foreign Office with  
a report showing  
the extent & situation

of the several burial  
grounds, the number  
of graves contained  
in them & the expenses  
which Serjt. Dyne  
will have to incur  
in order to maintain  
them in a proper  
state.

S. Major Phipps

4 inches high  
10 long  
10 wide -

RANC 271/21 No 2

27. Norfolk Street.  
Park Lane. W.

April 2/65.

To No. 2, I answered  
that I hoped they,  
the Van office, would  
lay their hands on  
Gajah Pordon on his  
arrival, & make  
him do, as suggested  
in No. 2.

P.W.

RAMC 271/22

27. Norfolk Street.  
Park Lane. W.

April 18/65

Dearest friend

Last night, after  
I wrote to you, Major  
Gordon, of Constantinople,  
left his card on me.

17 Lower Berkeley Street  
Portman Square.

It is impossible for  
me to enter into any  
communication with  
him. But I thought  
Mr. Racebridge might  
like to know he was here  
P.W.

RAMC 271/22

27 Norfolk Street,

Park Lane. W.

April 18/65.

Dearest Friend,

Last night, after you wrote to me, Major Gordon of Constantinople left his card on me.

17 Lower Berkeley Street,

Portman Square

It is impossible for me to enter into any communication with him. But I thought Mr. Bracebridge might like to know he was here.

(Sgd) F.N.



RAMC 271/22

27. Norfolk Street.  
Park Lane. W.

April 20/65

Dearest friend  
I understand that  
Major Gordon has been  
to the Foreign Office -  
& has recommended  
that Sir J. Agnew shall  
be written to (which  
has been done) to  
tell him to acknowledge  
the £250 a year, as  
for himself & travelling  
expences only &  
that the Council should

State pay (x Charge  
in the Contingent Acct<sup>s</sup>)  
tho 50 a year for  
Coats &c for the burial  
grounds - as before -  
that Major Gordon  
considers this would  
quite answer  
& that he thinks  
nothing more should  
be tried at present.  
I do not vouch  
for this, as I never

vouch for anything  
I don't hear first  
hand.

Perhaps Mr. Proce-  
dure would try to  
hear it from Major  
Gordon first hand.  
But I understand  
that I am recommended  
to do nothing more  
at present.

I wish I could  
communicate with  
Major Gordon myself.  
But it is quite impossible  
even for me.

RAMC 27/22

27 Norfolk Street,  
Park Lane, W.

April 20th 68.

Dearest friend

I understand that Major Gordon has been to the Foreign Office and has recommended that Sergt Lyne shall be written to (which has been done) to tell him to acknowledge the £240 a year, as for himself & travelling expenses only &c - that the Consul should still pay (& charge in the Consular Acts) the 70£ a year for Croats &c for the burial grounds - as before - that Major Gordon considers this would quite answer - & that he thinks nothing more should be tried at present.

I do not vouch for this, as I never vouch for anything I don't hear first hand. But I understand that I am recommended to do nothing more at present.

I wish I could communicate with Major Gordon myself, but it is quite impossible.

ever yours

(sgd) F.N.

RAMC 271/22

Dearest friend

I have just now heard from Mr.  
Dewett that he will be in London on  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> & will give me

27. 5/

I cannot make out about  
Ley's Lyne. I hope it is all right.  
But it is all so out of conformity

with his own letter to you.

I send you copies of the  
Correspondence. [Please return  
me the Chasse's d'affaires, & your  
form Ley's Lyne, for the sake of  
Mr. Bracebridge's Mem<sup>o</sup> on the back]

I think the Chasse's cuts both  
ways. & I admitted this to the  
H.C. For surely the British Embassy  
can look after Ley's Lyne to see  
that he does not let the grave yards

go to ruin - & surely they can discover  
what will be the sum necessary  
to cover all this. It was I that  
suggested that Major Gordon should  
be applied to by the H.O. & not by  
me, on his arrival in England. For  
I have no strength to renew my  
acquaintance with him.

God bless you  
ever & ever yours  
Dante Monday

Dearest Friend,

I have just now heard from Mr. Jowett that he will be in London on ..... and will give me .....

I cannot make out about Sergt. Lyne. I hope it is all right. But it is all so out of conformity with his letter to you.

I send you copies of the correspondence (Please return to me the Charge d'Affaires', and yours from Sergt. Lyne, for the sake of Mr. Bracebridge's Memo. on the back).

I think the Charge's cuts both ways and I admitted this to the W.O. For surely the British Embassy can look after Sergt. Lyne to see that he does not let the grave yards go to ruin and surely they can discover what will be the sum necessary to cover all this. It was I suggested that Major Gordon should be applied to by the W.O., and not by me, on his arrival in England. For I have no strength to renew my acquaintance with him.

God bless you.

ever and ever yours

(Sgd) F.

Easter Monday.

Rmc 27/24

COPY.

Letter to Mr. Bracebridge from George Finlay.

Athens 21st March, 1868.

My dear Bracebridge,

I write you rather to congratulate you on your return to England and the improvement of Mrs. Bracebridge's health, which we all learned with much pleasure from your last letter, than because I have anything to communicate from this that can particularly interest you. You know my opinions on the politics and policy of the Greeks from The Times and the Saturday Review. Everything confirms me in the opinion that the part the Greek Kingdom has taken in the Cretan insurrection was illjudged and will prove injurious to the prosperity of the island and to the influence of the greeks as a nation on the results of an opening of the eastern question at present. I admit in the fullest manner the right of the Cretan christians to take up arms against the Ottoman government but the case is complicated by the existence of nearly 70,000 greek mussulmans in the island who cannot speak a word of anything but greek and who cannot be put out of the way nowadays as the 60,000 native mussulmans were in Greece at the outbreak of the revolution.

I believe that the greek government by guarding a neutrality of a favourable kind to the insurgents, might, if it had not directly or openly taken part in the war, have used its influence with the powers who favoured Cretan semi-independence, to obtain the pacification of the island on terms that would have saved it from the ruin that is devastating it, and ensured annexation as soon as Greece can organise a just and progressive gov<sup>t</sup> even of no very high merit. As it is, the war has lowered the prestige of the greeks by showing the christians in the east that they have learned nothing in the art of war. Some people call the hostilities that are now going on in Crete a guerilla warfare, but this is a misnomer, warfare can only be carried on when the chiefs of bands can enforce obedience, execute movements and arrange supplies. Nothing of this kind is the case. The chiefs can make no fixed arrangements - their followers come and go when they think fit - no supplies of provisions are collected and transported and for months more men with arms have been living by extorting provisions from the villages than have fired a single shot at the Turks. Thus it is that hellenism is becoming unpopular among the christians in Turkey and Russia is every day gaining ground as the only real power that can both overthrow Turkey and maintain order after the overthrow. I think however, that Russian agents, if not the Russian gov<sup>t</sup>, have acted very selfishly and hardly to their friends the greeks. In July and August last year, an arrangement might have been effected had the insurrection not received direct encouragement by Russian authorities, and the greek government was pushed on to persist in hostilities that would have produced war had Turkey dared to act ag<sup>t</sup> the advice of France and England. The greeks are now so deeply involved and so ignorant of the altered state of the

Continued/.....



of the/.....

international system of Europe that they will not listen to reason. It is said that negotiations are going on at C/ple and you will know their result in England sooner than we shall in Greece.

I had a letter by the post on Thursday from Skinner who was at Washington and he writes me that he expected to return to Crete in May with the means of establishing a field hospital in Crete. I suppose that there will not be much fighting during the summer but the hospital will not be the less wasted in Crete and will do much good.

Here, even the Cretans are at the moment excite (ing) less attention than usual, for party passions are roused by the coming elections.

Mr. Hill appears to have persuaded you that his necessities were caused by the loss on remittances during the civil war, but if a court of enquiry be established I fear, many cases of dishonesty will be found to date before the commencement of the civil war. I suspect that his conduct has been brought so pointedly before the British mission that it must be reported home and his dismissal from the chaplainship must follow. The greeks admire his peculiar talent greatly, but the British government is disgraced by having such a chaplain. I hear every day fresh accounts of conduct(s) that is dishonest and approaches fraud if it be not legally fraudulent, but I have never listened to any details except in the case of Gaspany, of which, though he is my lawyer, I was not informed until it became known to many. I hope he will be replaced by some young scholar of merit from one of our universities who will restore the character of England and the Church of England for truth honour and honesty. The chaplainship might be held by each university in turn for three years. I speak only as a spectator as I am a presbyterian and by no means inclined to advance in the direction of your established church.

I am happy to say, that if my inquiries are correct, Mrs. Hill is well off during Mr. Hill's absence. She receives 600 drs monthly I am told, as rent and good will for the house and school besides lodging, from M<sup>me</sup> Christomanos.

Mrs. Finlay sends her kind regards and joins me in congratulations to Mrs. Bracebridge and warmest wishes for her continued good health.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) GEORGE FINLAY.