

Photocopy of a letter (1887) from Florence Nightingale to Mr. William Coates, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, re volunteer and professional district nurses

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I devote themselves to the work.
such experiences is valuable

There is no movement more
promising or more honourable
than that of the Volunteer
Medical Staff Corps. Good
speed to them!

Again, please to present
my many thanks, respects &
good wishes,

And believe me
ever yours & their faithful servant
Florence Nightingale

William Coates Esq
Non Lee

London November 26 1887

Sir
May I beg you to receive
& offer my heartiest thanks
to the Committee of the Bazaar
to be held in April in aid
of the Manchester Volunteer
Medical Staff Corps for the
honour & kindness they do me
in asking me to open the
Bazaar on one of the days
April 12, 13, or 14, 1888.

Accept my sincere regrets
that I am unwillingly compelled
to decline the pleasure you
offer me. Being a permanent
invalid, & almost entirely a

priories to my rooms by stress of work & illness, there is no likelihood, I am sorry, that I shall ever be able to take part in any ceremony.

But none the less do I wish your Colps & your Bazaar the highest success in so interesting an object. And perhaps I may hope when April comes I send some small token of that interest.

The proposed "Nursing Sisters" will, if really trained & with some experience, be a valuable addition, should we the

Volunteers have to take the field. Lately a body of ladies in the neighbourhood of London who had attended Ambulances. Claper, organized themselves to attend the sick poor at their own homes after the fashion of trained District Nurses. These ladies lived, each in her own home; they elected a Mistress who had the power of calling them out to attend any Medical or Surgical case under the "Doctor"; they gave no relief, tho' they knew where to get it for necessitous cases; they were simply Nurses, & they have done good. In the absence of ^{trained} District Nurses (who live in a common home