

## Letters to various correspondents 1879-1883

### Publication/Creation

1879-1883

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Jan 27/79

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Helmsdorff

I have had something like an  
attack of prostration with  
trifling Erysipelas which I  
am afraid must prevent my  
having the pleasure of seeing  
you again to-morrow.

I am so very sorry.  
Could I see you, shall you  
have time, the last  
opportunity before you leave  
England?

My whole heart is in your  
work. God bless it & you.  
Yrs ever

F. Nightingale

5483/20

64779

Packet from Miss Fere  
Returned to Mrs. Forster  
by Lady Kerney's desire  
with Florence Nightingale's very warmest  
thanks for these most interesting papers  
& very anxious sympathy for our terrible  
sorrows in S. Africa: God speed us all.

14/2/79

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.



5483/21

London June 4/79 <sup>67314</sup>

Dear Sir  
I rejoice you have not forgotten  
the engraving of Miss Thompson's  
picture of the Charge of the  
Light Brigade which I was  
anxious to send the 'Balaklava  
Commemoration Soc<sup>y</sup>'

I had already ordered it.  
And it will be delivered to me  
as soon as published. [I believe  
it is not published yet.]

Under press of business I must  
pray believe me  
your & their faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

Florence Nightingale

Mr. C. Aldous  
Sec<sup>y</sup> to  
Balaklava Commemoration Soc<sup>y</sup>



5483/22/1

"A Missionary Health Officer in India"

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

To the Editor  
of "Good Words"

17/6/79

Sir  
In reference to the 'Note' or 'P.S.'  
at the end of my paper with  
the above title to be  
published in your next No.,  
- in which 'note' it is stated  
that the Poona fire, form  
part & parcel of the present  
Aryanian Deccan riots,  
- you will have seen by the  
telegram in yesterday's 'Times'  
that the "incendiaries" have  
been tried & have "confessed"  
that they were defaulting  
clerks, who burned the  
palace to destroy the  
proofs of their guilt.

I had they had nothing to  
do with the Dacoits.

I believe those who are best  
informed consider that this  
"Confession" means nothing  
beyond the every day  
experience in India, viz. that  
any amount of false witness  
can be had, even at the  
cost of their own lives, (which  
will not be the case in the  
present affair) from witnesses  
for the sake of their 'caste'  
or their league, 'Aparian' or  
otherwise:

I had the Poona Intrigues &  
the Deccan Riots have to  
do with the same source.

viz. 'Aparian' 'videbtedneps' & 'Aparian'  
troubles.

~~do with each other.~~

But as the Judges on the  
trial have found otherwise,  
& as my 'Note' may possibly  
give rise to some disagreeable  
correspondence, <sup>for you,</sup> I write to  
ask whether you would  
with me to make some  
alteration. (a few words  
would do it) - before the  
type is broken up & the  
Number published:  
in order that there may be  
no statement in the paper  
which can be successfully  
challenged.

Truly believe me  
your faithful Servant  
Florence Nightingale

Immediate

Wait

63992<sup>A</sup>

5483/22/2

To the Editor  
of "Good Words"  
56 Ludgate Hill

Florence Nightingale }  
17/6/79



5483/23  
to give any account of a  
Sanitary Commissioner's Annual  
Work, (which was to have been  
the subject of the second Part)  
worthy of "Good Words", in  
1½ p.p. And the 'Note' on  
p. 8, with other parts, <sup>in the first</sup> will  
have to be entirely recast for  
the second.

Pray believe me

Sir

Your faithful servt.

Florence Nightingale

"A Missionary Health Officer in India"

June 26/79

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

To the Editor  
of "Good Words"

Sir  
In answer to your kind note, may  
I say that I am not "disappointed"  
at the curtailing of my Article  
by you, who are the only person  
to decide on these matters.  
But may I also say that I cannot  
but be "very much disappointed"  
at its having been thought right  
to curtail a paper without  
referring it back to the writer,  
who is the only person to say  
how it is to be curtailed?

Is it usual for an Editor to take  
any other course than, when  
he wishes a paper in any way  
recast, to return the proof  
to the writer, with his own  
remarks & wishes noted upon

the margin?

No instance recalls itself to my remembrance of a different course: I need not say that in every case the Editor's wishes were scrupulously obeyed.

To me this Article was not so much an Article as a means of calling popular attention to one of the most burning of India's burning questions. And this was the cause of its being published for July. Yet that very part is left out, rendering it useless for my purpose. And in August it will be too late: & the 'note' or P.S., ~~out of date~~ calling attention to the stoppage of public works, ~~out of date & out of~~

place.

Would you be so good as to inform me what space is available for Part II., as you wish to have it?

I could not write as paper, (especially under the severe strain of overwork & illness under which I always am), without knowing what I may expect to be inserted.

And I am sure that you will not only pardon but agree with me in saying this.

Would you be so good as to send me the <sup>Revised</sup> ~~Proof~~ of the whole "8½ p.p." from which the present Article was abridged?

I need hardly remark to your experience that it is impossible



Any changes or cuttings  
made before they go in.  
- As my papers I write  
are merely an offset from  
my other work: & I can  
ill spare the time; - but I  
cannot spare it at all  
except for a practical object.

Hoping that you will  
excuse this explanation &  
hoping that I have met  
your wishes & the wishes  
of your 'space',

5483/24  
"A Missionary Health Officer in India"  
63992<sup>A</sup>

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

June 30/99  
6 a.m.

Dear Sir

I am obliged to you for  
your kind note. I am sorry  
for your troubles with "publishers"  
& "contributors".

I beg to return the parts -  
not inverted, - recast & enlarged,  
(for your August No., if you wish)  
~~please~~

It is impossible, as you will  
see, to hook on to this 'note'  
Part II, - which is a narrative  
of some years' sanitary labours  
previous to the famine, - those  
to only unity of which with Part  
I is that they are labours  
of the same man & in the same  
country - but they have



absolutely nothing to do  
with the Deccan famine  
or the Deccan riots.

I will give. In fact, the only  
reason for putting Part I,  
(which is Part 2 in point  
of time) first, was  
because it seemed important  
to have that about the Deccan  
riots now in the July Number.  
When people are startled  
by them.

[See Part I, - & Part II, when  
you see it; - might as well,  
as you will observe, appear next  
month or next year.]

I will give you Part II for  
subsequent number, if you  
wish.

Would you be so good as to  
let me have a Review (or Proof)  
as soon as possible of this?

And, if you would be so good  
as to let me see any alterations  
that you propose making, I  
shall be truly obliged.

I very much regret that,  
entirely a prisoner of my own  
room from illness, & unable  
to see any but with long standing  
claims of business upon me,  
whose name is "Deccan", it  
is impossible to me to make  
any arrangements.

"My Father, While I stray"  
The Lord's Prayer,  
with a clear voice, (which  
she did repeatedly).

Then when she could  
neither speak nor swallow,  
Mrs. Shore repeated the  
Lord's Prayer. And she  
stretched out her arm,  
& beckoned, & waved  
it over her head in a  
gentle triumph, as if  
she would say: "I'm dying,  
it's all right." Then she

saw some one we could  
not see, & a smile  
like a bright light  
overspread her face.

With kind regards to  
Rebecca & your family  
Sincerely yours Florence Nightingale

5483/25

10 South St. <sup>67966</sup>  
Park Lane W.

Feb 10/80

Dear Mr Buxton

I send you a cheque  
for my acct, which I am  
sorry did not come before.

I thank you very much  
for the Oak Table which  
is a very precious  
recollection to me.

You know that my  
dear Mother is gone  
home. She rests by  
my Father at Imbley.

All the people followed  
her to the grave: I could  
have wished that you &  
some other from Lea Hurst



which she loved so well  
could have been there.

The coffin was quite  
covered with beautiful  
white flowers, wreaths  
& crosses & a crown.

Our trained Nurses sent  
a beautiful cross & wreath.

You & I can remember  
Dea Hurst almost from  
the first: & go over our  
recollections together.

My dear Mother came  
to me on January 5, the  
6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my  
Father's death. She took  
a long last look which  
I never can forget as

the picture of his monument  
murmuring I knew his  
name afterwards - as  
tho' she would say: 'till  
we meet together in the  
Heavenly Kingdom I  
shall not see this again'.

A fortnight after she  
went out for the last time.  
She then had a bad cough,  
but that passed away:  
but she could take nothing  
& on Sunday night, just  
after midnight, Feb 1-2,  
she closed her own eyes,  
her own mouth, folded  
her hands, & passed away  
like a tired child.  
She had repeated her  
favourite hymn: "My God,



2. My account of Alfred  
Boach is still worse:  
he has drunk 10/ out of  
20/ sometimes. And his  
wife has left him! &  
gone with her baby &  
lives with her mother: still  
working at the mill.  
He was found by Mr.  
Rendell, the preacher,  
dead drunk in the road  
at night: & had to be  
dragg'd out of the road  
by Mr. R.

His mother too is quite  
broken down: I believe he  
does not pay her. [His wife  
earns as much as himself]  
domie is so much better that  
Mr Dunn is able to pay her to  
go on Women's Club, but she  
is still on meat & milk. Or she  
would starve

5483/26/1

10 South Co.  
Park Lane W.  
Xmas Day  
1880  
67931

My dear Miss Mochler  
As soon as I received  
your welcome letter, I  
answered it: but alas! my  
answer was never destined  
to be sent. Our troubles  
were so great: Choro's illness  
- he was at Lea Hurst  
unable to move. When  
his father died at Imbrey  
- poor Mrs Shore's sick  
afflictions: & many others,  
too sad to tell.

I will therefore try &  
recapitulate now. (I have  
only been back 3 days from  
Lea Hurst, where I had

I crowd weeks of parish  
business into the last  
fortnight) -

about  
No people you care meet  
I hear of I have been  
so kind to.

I have no good news  
I tell you of Adam Prince  
tho' I beseech you I go on  
writing to him. He drank  
for a whole week at  
Crick Hakes. At Nolloway  
Hakes Mr. Wildgoose or I  
gave an entertainment  
every night but one. And  
much drinking was  
prevented. But Adam  
Prince was too sick to come.  
What his mother calls  
"labourer's wages" are 19/  
or 20/ a week: but he rarely

makes up the whole week  
- he is either <sup>too</sup> ill or <sup>too</sup> drunk,  
or pretends that he does  
not go <sup>to work</sup> in order not to pay  
his mother. She looks  
broken down. I saw her <sup>of late</sup>  
Mr. Dunn has been attending  
her again.

I am afraid Adam is  
getting radically unsteady  
& of broken health, tho' he  
drinks. He will not  
now belong to the Institute.  
He might easily earn 28/  
or 30/ as quarryman  
during this open weather.  
But he does not.

I fear he black guards his  
mother sometimes. He will  
not pay her rent.

I know not what to do.



<sup>My</sup>  
Henstock is gone to live with  
her son, Charles, at Mattock  
- a very good move:

daughter remains at Holloway

The "nice little rascal" at  
Derby I am enquiring about.

Emily (Mrs. Shore's) was  
married ~~end of last month~~  
Barbara her bridesmaid.  
Risher is come out strong.

Charles has not yet  
become a Coffee room Manager.

Arthur Collins is steady  
& permanent. as a footman

2 5483/26/2  
3  
I don't know what you will  
say to me: but instead  
of taking any off the milk,  
~~dist~~ as I fully intended, I have  
actually <sup>had to</sup> put more on.

It is a misery & humiliation  
to me: but while the  
men are drinking, ~~the~~  
& smoking - (smoking is  
immensely increased) - the  
mothers & sisters are  
starving & working to the  
bone.

No food comes of the  
high wages.

[Christmas Day 1880  
to Miss Modles]



4. The two poor little Platts with their father & step mother had Scarlet Fever. And Beatrice, the youngest, after everything had been done to save her, & we thought she would pull thro', died. [I wrote this to you at the time, but never sent my letter.]

Jane Allison remained at Lea Hurst till the day I came away: <sup>21<sup>st</sup></sup> & looks quite another woman. But she is terribly on my mind. She is quite unfit to live alone. She has

consented to give up her father's house: (lodgers will not stay with her.) & I have tried to get the Manchester nephew & the Sheffield brother to take her: hitherto in vain.

This is how pending. She is no more fit than a child & takes care of money: I have <sup>commended</sup> left her to the care of Mr. Dunn, who however thinks her well, & Mr. Vernon:

Her only idea is: that she will be taken back again to Lea Hurst when we come back. So she does nothing

beck & clean her.

8. We are trying to establish a Coffee room at Whatstandwell for the Quarry men, & these Messrs. Cowlishaw & Sims, the two Quarry Masters, will pay their men.

9. Lizzie Holmes has been very ailing for months. Dear Mrs. Holmes, as good as ever, paid me a visit of course. I fear Lizzie will never go to work again.

5.

3

5483/26/3

Would you kindly answer this question at once? I have taken Ellen Foot on trial & as my cook. I fear it

will not succeed: (not cooking - by - she may improve - but) morally

Would you tell me what it was you saw in her you so disapproved?

[I meant to have asked you this long ago: but had no time].

And what you do tell me must I not tell to her?



24.

{to Miss Mochler}

6. Mrs. Broomhead is  
sinking: but not fast.

I saw her: of course.

Still patient & cheerful  
& cheers up when  
she talks of her good  
son Sam

but I thought her much  
altered not only in  
body but in mind

7. Mrs. Limb: still  
the same: like a saint.

I saw the daughter in  
law: & did not much  
like her. She keeps

Mrs. Limb so dully.

I have appointed

Mrs. Lwann to go once a

I saw Dr. Webb. he said  
your attack so Lea Hurst  
was rheumatic & feverish

Mr. Haywood, the Schoolmaster, is  
staying here till next week.

I think I shall send you  
a list of the Milk &  
for you to criticize:  
but cannot do day.

All Christmas & New Year's  
Greetings be yours: the  
best & highest:

About Ireland I can only pray:  
God send you off!

Christina

Hughes, they say, will turn out in  
April of the Hollisay Institute!!  
And Mrs. Wigton will have it.

5483/26/4

L

[to Miss Macleod]

10. Sister Allen much  
better & bravely - came & Lea  
would not lay down their  
carpet till now.  
Have books from the Institute

11. Mrs Thompson has been  
our constant chatwoman  
& latterly housemaid at  
Lea Hurst: foolish but  
good: how on Milk,  
Doctor's attendance, &  
other things: but 2 girls  
& pay into Women's Club,  
& boy & slave, one & double  
Does she cant? I don't  
know.

Poor little Harry Lee is gone back  
to Ascot Convalescence Home. He does  
not get materially weaker: but  
he lies now depe in bed entirely



12. Martha Sheldon  
accused Mrs. Yeomans of  
adulterating the milk,  
(1 qu.) she had there.  
Yeomans will have  
nothing more to do with  
her.

put on milk as Mrs. Holmes,  
on blankets, 4 or a week for 13  
weeks, & on condition  
she will save.  
Mrs. Boath's manager is.

13. Boath has had a  
bad fit of the gout.  
She, poor woman, is much  
aged: but so fond of  
Roy, who really made  
a part of her life.

Roy stayed with me  
all the while I was at  
Sea Hurst till a week  
or so.

Shore is come back from  
Gimbley: now <sup>very</sup> well.  
~~He does not regain his strength.~~  
All the children at home:  
- bonny. Louis has done  
very well at Rugby.  
Mrs. Shore very tired:  
one can scarcely expect  
otherwise: she has been  
so tired. Sam went to  
his grandfather's funeral  
at Gimbley: his father  
could not.

5483/27/1

56115 10 South St.  
Park Lane W  
1/1/81

Dear Mrs. Swan

I am hoping to hear  
that you are going to  
Mr. Simb, & how she is

And I should like to  
know how my poor  
Independent, the cat, is,  
& whether he is quite  
happy.

If Thule, the cat, at  
Mr. Booth's, is not  
happy, now Mrs. Booth  
is dead; or if they do  
not want to keep her,  
I can very well find



her another home.

I don't want them  
I have her if they don't  
want her.

Mr. Dunn may  
perhaps tell you of  
another Patient, Mr.  
Boatsy, you may be  
wanted to nurse for  
me.

I trust your daughter  
is pretty well again.

God grant you all  
the blessings of the New

Year & many New Years  
I believe me  
Sincerely yours  
Nightingale

5483/27/2

56115

Brick  
June 30<sup>th</sup> 1881

Miss Nightingale

To Mary Swann W.

1880  
From  
20 Dec: To  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 1881

15 days in attendance on F. S. D  
Mrs Limb at Holloway

Froth 3 May 1881  
To 30<sup>th</sup> June 1881

8 Weeks and 1 Day  
or 57 days at 3/-

8. 11. 0  
£ 8. 11. 0



5483/27/3

Crick  
Oct 13/81

Miss Nightingale

To Mary Swann Dr

1881

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>  
16<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>  
+ 30<sup>th</sup> August 6<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>  
17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> + 20

Being 22 days in attendance

on Mrs Limb Holloway

at 3/- per day £3.6.0

56115  
Miss Nightingale. Jan 16  
1882

Corsets 1/11

Stockings 1/4

7 yds. Wincey 3-2/11

2 1/2 yds. Calico 10

3 1/4 flannel 10 2/6

Shirt 2/11 Braid 1/6 3/11

Lining 3-

Settled 13-10

E. Kirk

Mrs. Swanwick.

To. J. Boden. 1882

Jan. 13. Pair of Boots 5-9

Paid Jan. 13. 1882 by Mrs. Swanwick



Under the severe pressure  
of constant illness & ever  
increasing over-work,  
I must ask you to excuse  
a short note

Believe me  
Ever your faithful servant

Florence Nightingale

Miss M. De Motte Bell

5483/28 London May 26 1881  
68098

Madam

I bid 'God speed' to  
every one who wishes to  
devote herself to the  
noble art of Nursing.  
But there is no 'Royal  
Road' to it. A year's  
training is the very  
"shortest" time in which  
anything worthy of the  
name of Nursing can be  
acquired.

We do not admit any  
Probationer for a "shorter"  
time at our Training

school for Nurses at  
St. Thomas' Hospital.  
And we find Hospital  
& Dispensary situations,  
mostly "well paid", for  
our trained ladies &  
Nurses afterwards, for  
whom we have always  
a greater demand than  
we can supply.

I enclose our Regulations.  
You might be admitted  
to a free vacancy under  
these, should you wish  
it. The proper course  
would then be for you  
to fill up the questions

at the back of the Form  
& send it to  
Mrs. Wardroper,  
St. Thomas' Hospital  
Westminster Bridge  
London S. E.  
Subject to whose selection  
Candidates are admitted.  
She will inform you  
when there will be a  
vacancy.

A personal interview  
with her would be  
desirable.

You have, I assure you,  
my best wishes that  
you should succeed.





Messrs. Sparkes Hall  
308 Regent St.  
W.

23/7/81

5483/29

10 South St. <sup>64775</sup>  
Park Lane W.  
July 23/81

Mrs. Sparkes Hall

Sir  
I am very sorry that I  
have two engagements on  
Monday, I therefore  
cannot try on the boots,  
as intended.

I must put off the  
appointment till  
Tues Wednesday at  
1.30, if that will suit  
you.

Your obedt servt  
P. Hightingale

new St. Marylebone Infirmary  
for which we had the honour  
of supplying the Trained  
Nurses & part of the  
Trained Nursing Staff.

At the International  
Medical Congress of August  
last many American  
Gentlemen attended. Amongst  
others some who, being  
Trustees of a very large sum  
left for building a Hospital  
in the United States, had  
travelled over all Europe  
& America, indeed all the  
Civilized World - inspecting  
every Institution for the  
sick, in order to find

5483/30/1

67580

January 10 1882

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

Sir

How can I thank you enough  
for your great kindness in  
sending me your  
magnificent volume on  
"Charitable & Parochial  
"Establishments"  
I call it a glorious volume,  
because - when I remember  
how we may say as lately  
as 14 years ago the sick  
of our fellow creatures whom  
we call paupers were  
laid in workhouse bare  
wards - where order was  
V. Laxon Snell Esq



THAMES RIVER CO.  
WHEELS SHED  
Here sometimes by having  
in the Police, as in the  
Swisspool Workhouse Refinery  
<sup>but which had the glory of first introducing nursing</sup>  
- where the pauper sick  
were nursed not by trained  
Nurses but by drunken  
brutal paupers. whose pay  
was perhaps a glass of beer.  
- I feel as though, if  
Annual Festivals or occasional  
Jubilees were the way to  
commemorate & perpetuate  
the blessed change, which  
is however but just  
beginning, we should

have the highest & best  
Festivals to strengthen  
that reform, in which you  
have had so conspicuous,  
long & day illustrations &  
part.

Much, very much, however  
remains to be done.  
The Workhouse Infirmary,  
Models in construction,  
administration, & trained  
Nursing - are still few  
& far between.

Of your noble volume,  
the part which interests  
me most is of course the

Pardon me that, amidst  
the severe pressure of business  
sickness, I have not  
thanked you for so great  
a gift before. And pardon  
me that I have run on  
so discursively now.

In the great & essential  
reform which has, in  
Hospital construction, made  
of Hospitals no longer places  
to do the Patients harm but  
places to cure them in,  
you have a large & honoured  
share.

PARK LANE, W.  
10, SOUTH STREET.

Yours faithful Servant

F.N.

5483/30/2

2.

67500

models for their purpose.  
Their model was, they  
told me, St. Marylebone  
Infirmary. It was the  
best Hospital in their  
opinion taking it as a  
whole of all in the civilized  
World that they had seen.

Yet America has done  
much for the sick poor in  
construction.

I give you joy -

Florence Nightingale

It is not rather a pity that the  
soot doors, or whatever you  
call them, of the flues or  
'chimneys' of the Ward fireplaces



open inwardly into the  
Wards, as I understand;  
instead of outwardly on the  
~~outside~~ Walls?

If I am not misinformed,  
Whenever these are opened  
to sweep the floor, the  
Wards Patients are delayed  
with cost.

It is the year next month  
since we lost our Trained  
Matron, Agnes Jones, the  
pioneer of Trained Workhouse  
Nursing, at her post in  
the immense Workhouse  
Infirmary (1700 beds <sup>now</sup> in Winter)  
at Liverpool. When she came

to the place, 3 years before,  
with our Staff of Trained Nurses,  
the Police had frequently to  
keep order in the Wards.

Now, instead of this, the  
Workhouse Infirmary  
where Trained Nursing has  
been introduced - a Liverpool  
was the first - are themselves  
Training Schools for others.

And I trust that you  
will be called upon to  
build a "Home" in order  
that St. Marylebone Infirmary  
with its generous, reforming  
Board, - may become a  
nuclear <sup>of order & reform</sup> centre, <sup>even</sup> ~~sustaining~~  
School for itself & other  
Infirmaries.

Men can never train  
women to be Nurses, can they?  
They might make Doctors  
of them but certainly not  
Nurses.

Where the Nurses receive  
all their training from the  
Medical Officers & students,  
it speaks badly for the  
Hospital Nursing, & would  
have a very bad effect  
on the women.

Our Ward Sisters (Head Nurses)  
are all practical good Nurses  
& are not "rough" with the  
patients, but ought to do  
as I do do, as a rule, the things  
quite as nicely & carefully  
as they would do them  
in a private house.  
There need to be some good Nurses at Belfast

*Private*

5483/31/1

67337

Feb 2 1882

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Madam  
I trust that you will excuse  
my not answering yours of  
Dec 29 before - for not  
only am I always under  
the severe pressure of over  
work & illness - but also I  
wished to see some of our  
trained Matrons of  
important Hospitals - come  
out of London - who train  
*Private* Nurses (which we  
do not at St. Thomas!)  
in order to be able to give  
answers somewhat more  
worth having to your questions.  
I am sorry to say that



We can none of us  
recommend a "Handbook"  
for "private Nurses."

Nor do we any of us  
believe in teaching Nursing  
from a book.

All the successful 'Cases'  
that I know given by our  
Trained Matrons & "Home"  
Lectors (Misses of Probationers)  
are given from notes of  
their own - notes from  
"Handbooks" & Lectures,  
particularly from Clinical  
Lectures - but chiefly from  
actual bed-side Nurses'  
experiences: notes roughly

put together & gathered up  
partly from own practical  
experience during years  
of Hospital life, & partly  
~~from~~ out of books.

Going in & out of the Wards  
& constantly talking to the  
Head Nurses & Nurses about  
their cases helps one to  
remember about things  
& prevents one from  
getting rusty.

2. Surely the first thing  
is to reform the Hospital.  
Nursing, if the Probationers  
trained <sup>by</sup> are taught by "Doctors"  
& "Students" & not by the  
Ward Head Nurses.

This is a must, not may:  
is it not?

in my time, & especially  
during the last 3 or 6 years,  
"Methods of Nursing" are  
"advancing" & so rapidly.

e.g. the Antiseptic treatment,  
the requiring from Nurses  
by the Doctors Urine-testing,  
temperature-taking &c &c.  
all these compel more  
"advanced" Nursing by the  
Nurses.

The Training-Schools, & indeed  
which the Doctors used  
to be so jealous of, have  
indirectly & insensibly  
had a large share in  
inducing this.

Nothing to me is so  
remarkable as  
the change of tone:  
[some excellent old 'Lectors']

5483/31/2

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67337

3. I have often thought  
of printing, not publishing,  
a Monthly Sheet for all  
our trained Nurses,  
wherever placed: telling  
them of their comrades  
far away - of the Nursing  
Methods, of which the  
Standard rises now so  
rapidly year by year,

in use at each of their  
Hospitals: giving them  
little friendly exhortations  
which they so welcome.

But I have never had  
time to 'get up' such a  
monthly sheet, which  
requires the greatest care  
& accuracy.



As for a "Monthly Serial,"  
my experience is all  
against publishing such  
a thing. It is done  
at least one great  
<sup>Foreign</sup> "Nursing" Institution abroad,  
(to which I have made  
long stays) & the effect,  
tho' very much attenuated  
by German simplicity, is  
what our English notions  
would not approve.

As to "Stories of good done,"  
they would have a tendency  
to make people wish to be  
the subject rather than to  
do the good. Does it  
not take the bloom off  
the peach & put people's  
good deeds into prison?

Then, as to new Nursing  
Methods, these Nurse, after  
all, he prescribed by the  
Doctors, & 'put up' by the  
Hard Nurse, Lady Sup.  
& Clap Mistress.

To publish any such &  
send them to other Hospitals.  
Would it not be just  
to set the Doctors against  
them?

[It would be different in  
a private sheet, because it  
is entrusted to the discretion  
& care of the Supts. But  
even this is risky.]

It is certainly not for us  
even to appear to teach  
the Doctors "more advanced  
methods of Nursing": tho'

How I have answered  
your questions.

God speed your work.

I ~~very~~ believe me  
your faithful servant

Florence Nightingale

~~There used to be some good Nurses at  
Belfast~~

I had forgotten to say with  
regard to the monthly serials.  
As to Advertising, it is now  
much better done by the  
"Lancet" & "Standard"?

Also: publicity is not only a protection but  
sometimes a failure - Two can play at that game.  
Nurses, if not allowed to go to an entertainment when  
the Sisters go, ~~will~~ threaten to "write to the leading  
periodicals" that they are "not treated" with "Christian  
charity". So the ladies would not have it.  
all their own way in writing in  
magazines &  
or "Stories of Good Deeds"  
F.N.

Miss Townson  
Lady Sup<sup>o</sup>

5483/31/3

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of 17 years' standing  
we hear of now resigning,  
because they are not  
'Scientifically' trained as  
Doctors now expect them  
to be.]

Nothing should put us  
more on our guard  
against asserting ourselves  
than this change of tone  
in the Doctors.  
Let them not see that we  
perceive it.

4. From others of our  
trained Matrons I have  
learnt:

Private Nurses cannot  
be trained in Hospitals  
as to do



Without special watching -

9 months in Hospital Wards  
then 3 months upon Special  
Hospital cases - & learning  
special things - such as  
internal feeding & the like

Niceties of Private Nursing  
Cooking, Tray & Napkin, &c.  
cannot be learnt, as you  
say, in a Hospital Ward,  
where only the feeding cup  
is wanted: but may be  
taught in the Special Wards.<sup>x</sup>  
Taking Notes of Case

is wanted in a private Nurse.

But this we do teach our  
Hospital Probationers, &  
they require <sup>case-taking</sup> to most carefully  
from our District Nurses  
at the poor bed side.

<sup>x</sup> In St. Thomas' we have now a paying  
block for private Patients, where all the  
niceties must be learnt.

All our trained Matrons  
who have Private Nurses  
see them <sup>at great length</sup> ~~most~~ carefully before  
going to the Private Patient  
- always, when they report  
themselves on their return,  
have a long talk with them  
- if the case is in the close  
neighbourhood the Private  
Nurse just runs out to see  
her (the Matron or Lady Supr)  
during the progress of the  
case, & she always corresponds  
with the Nurse during the  
case.

5483/31/4



Private  
from H. H. H. H.  
Hence H. H. H. H.

Lot 22

67337



67337

Miss Townson  
Lady Supr  
Nutter Home & Training School  
Frederick St.  
Belfast

5/2/82



Do you think it likely  
that it might be of some  
use to India if inserted  
in your XIX Century?  
Also, should you be likely  
to have room for it?  
Also, would you like to  
look at it. When ready?

May do not trouble  
yourself to write more  
than 'No' on a post-card  
if you do not wish for it.

Yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

Sam. Knowles {

Private

5483/32

67934

May 4/83

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Sir

Your beneficent activity is  
still, I am sure, directed  
India-ward, tho' we do not see  
so much of it in your XIX  
Century.

Thank God, the times in India  
now are tremendous. I mean,  
the dumb 'dear' & make  
themselves heard: but also the  
gapping efforts are tremendous.

I have long been asked  
by the East India Association  
for a paper on the condition  
of the Ryot, I have seen





The Officers of the Indian Contingent <sup>who were in Egypt</sup>  
 came too to see me. In the  
 truest sense of the word,  
 they too were Volunteers. In  
 the time of the great Sir  
 John Lawrence & the Indian  
 Mutiny, one of these raised  
 & disciplined a numerous  
 band from the lands of his  
 own family, & himself  
 commanded & led it on  
 our side. Another Garrison,  
 as it may be truly called,  
 the Akyber, the great  
 Indian frontier pass, for us  
 And scarcely one of these  
 grave, modest men but  
 could tell, if he chose, a  
 noble tale of what he has

volunteered to do & done  
for our National honour &  
Crown.

Once they fought against us.  
- Sir John Lawrence won  
them round, trained them;  
Now they are faithfully  
for us.

So may all we volunteers  
& Nurses, tho' of different  
in many things, be fellows  
in duty. So may we raise  
the standard, higher & higher,  
of thoroughness - (with  
thoroughness always goes  
humility) - of steady, patient,  
<sup>So may we</sup> cheerful work - <sup>Silence</sup> All be on  
the alert - always on our

Pretite - Let us be always  
in the van of wise & noiseful  
high training & progress.  
God bless you all.

Florence Nightingale

May 23/83  
the anniversary of the  
battle of Plassey  
in India.



5483/34

POST CARD



THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



Mrs. Greig  
Estate Office  
Claydon House  
Bucks

25/5/83

68946  
So very glad of the dear little  
New. Comer, & yourself being  
so well. but rather afraid at  
seeing your hand. Writing. Pray  
do not over exert yourself -  
I should as soon have expected  
a letter from the little mite.  
God bless you both.

May 25/83

Thightinial



by Mr Thomas? & say how each  
thing has been done.  
And also as far as you  
can what was put off  
& be done till I

should have returned &  
gone away a second time?

Till I know this, I  
cannot say what ought  
to be done now.

2. But I think you had  
better have Mr. Russell  
directly to renew the  
Distilling Apparatus, if  
he thinks it necessary  
& finds it wearing out.

3. Also. I think Mr. Vase  
had better have the blinds.

5483/35/1 Claydon House  
Bucks

67511  
6 a.m.  
Sept 15/83  
10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Mrs. Dowding

Lady Verney is a little better  
in herself since I came. But  
as to the disease itself I fear  
it is only making progress.  
Her sufferings are truly pitiable.  
And she scarcely ever has an  
hour's sleep. May God bless  
her & grant her patience!

As for me, I wish I could  
have written to you all  
regularly. But for I think  
of you all. But the strain  
upon me <sup>here</sup> is greater than I  
have had these 25 years.  
And now, anxious that you  
should have this before Sunday,

I am putting off other important letters & write to you at six in the morning.

My kindest regards to Polly.

I hear of her from Fanny.

As for Fanny, she looks much better since she has been here. But I hear

from her here for the first time that she has been spitting blood "all the

"summers"; & I have of course had to put her under medical advice. If you or Polly

knew anything of this, would it not have been better for Fanny's sake I have told me?

About my return home or my going to Sea Hurst. Where Mr. & Mrs. Shore Smith are with their four children, it is of course impossible for me, in Lady Kersey's State, to say anything I might be able to come back any day. Or, while neither of the Mrs. Kersys is able to come, it might be impossible. It is impossible to leave her & Lin Harry alone.

1. Would you be so good as to tell me exactly what has been done in the house & Kitchen premises - both by Mr. Vase



May mention particularly  
how the Drawing room floors  
& Dressing room floor have  
been done.

I am sorry for poor Cous  
& Old woman, who I have  
their country run. I hope  
they go up stairs every day.  
I am still sorry I think  
of all the starving cats  
in the neighbourhood.

May God bless you all  
there is the fervent prayer  
of yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale

PARK LANE, W.  
10, SOUTH STREET, 101

Daddy is here in the house

5483/35/2 2

67511

at least the Drawing room  
blind which is in a  
dreadful state, & the  
Dressing room blind; &  
such others as want doing,  
but not to put them up  
till I come back.

4. May then tell me all  
the things which we  
agreed should be done  
& which have not yet  
been done by Mr. Vase.  
as soon as possible.

I hope that you have  
been comfortable. It has  
been very unsatisfactory  
to me, as you may suppose,  
& leave you all in this

uncertain state. There is  
nothing certain except  
that it cannot be God's will  
that Lady Kerney should  
be left. Mrs. Kerney is  
coming here to-day (Till  
Monday) to see her &  
think about it with me.

~~But~~ Capt. & Mrs. Douglas Galton  
are in dreadful affliction.  
Their son-in-law, Signor Luigi,  
at Florence, has been shot  
dead by an accident. Capt.  
Galton took his poor  
daughter who was here  
out directly. But she  
arrived too late even to  
see her husband's face in

the coffin. Her two  
children were sent out  
after her. He was a  
most admirable man,  
useful in all reforms in  
his own country, & not  
yet 30.

May give my kind  
regards to Mrs. Rumley.  
I should like to hear  
from you of her husband.  
I was very much pleased  
to know that he had  
been able to go to his work.  
I dare say Mrs. Rumley  
has some message to  
send me.