

Letters to Miss Louisa Gordon, Matron at St Thomas' Hospital

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5476/41

Oct 21/93

Dear Miss Gordon

Should you feel inclined to send the
Candidate-papers to this Miss Riddell thro'
Lady Caird. Whose address you will find on
her letters?

Please return me Lady Caird's two letters.
Believe me Sincerely yours

F. Nightingale

5476/42

20/12/93

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Jordan
I hope to see you
& Miss Crossland both -
before the Old Year is
out. But I know how
busy you are -

Could you spare Miss
Crossland, if but for an
hour, some afternoon this
week?

Your Surgeons will
come, I hope, on Friday -
& plants on Saturday -

Is there any money you
want for the Hospital Xmas
festivities? ever yours truly
F. Nightingale

5476/43

22/12/93

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Gordon
I shall hope to have
the pleasure of seeing
you after the New Year.
I know how busy
you are now

May accept this
little contribution
to your Christmas
presents for the Hospital
I believe me
Yours sincerely
J. Nightingale

5476/44

March 11/94

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE.W.

My dear Miss Gordon

I hear that you are
returned, and I trust in all
the good health that your
friends would wish you -

Miss Secrest, I find, is
going to leave you for
Cheltenham. I should be
very sorry not to see her
again. I could see her
on Monday next at 5.30.
Would that suit you &
her?

I shall hope to see
you some day next week
that is convenient to you

I am engaged on Tuesday
& perhaps Wednesday.

Nurses Moore & MacArthur,
Dundee, have
completed their first year's
Rotation as Staff Nurses.
Would you like me to see
them? I should be
very glad - Some time.

And you ^{will} have several
new Sisters whom I could see.

Miss Herbert will be
leaving this week, I suppose.
I am sorry you have to
seek a new Assistant.

I hope this lovely weather
does you good. I trust
you enjoyed it during your
holiday.

Ever sincerely yours
F. Nightingale

5476/45

April 9/94

My dear Miss Gordon
10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.
I hope you are pretty
well again.
When may I have the
pleasure of seeing you?
Please fix an early day -
and I will take it if I can

I send 7 books for
the Probationers, please -
and I shall have more
to send next week.

Ever yours sincerely
F. H.

5476/46

June 18/94

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Miss Gordon
Might I hope to see
you to morrow (Tuesday)
about 6 o'clock or
Wednesday. But I
believe you are
always occupied on
Wednesday.

I shall hope to
see Miss Crookland
if convenient this week

*I trust you are
pretty well
ever yours Sincerely
F. Nightingale*

5476/47

Sept 1/91

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE.W.

Dear Miss Gordon

Thank you much for
your note.

No one can feel any
thing but the utmost
thankfulness to God
that poor Nurse Pease's
(poor no longer) trial
is over. When there
might, I suppose, have
been otherwise months
of terrible suffering
before her.

I wish I had known
before that the mother

was starting - for I might
have been able perhaps
to contribute to her
comfort - Are they
poor? Might I
ask you to be so very
kind as to forward
this £1 to her in a
Registered Envelope
with my warm sympathy,
for I do not know her
address.

You will have heard
perhaps how sadly
we are occupied by
the almost sudden

death of my Cousin
Shore, on the 23rd
tho' he had been ill two
years. He was my
father's successor. He
leaves a widow & 2
sons & daughters. I will
tell you more when
we meet - There is a
great deal of business
to do.

Very yours sincerely,
F. Nightingale

5476/48

16/9/94

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Gordon
I trust to see you
this week, but you will
guess how worn out I
am.

Could you be so very
kind as to lend me
at once if you have
them the new Regulations
of St. Bartholomew's?
Perhaps you could kindly
get me a copy for
myself. later.

Sincerely yours

F. Nightingale

5476/49

Claydon Ho; Winslow; Bucke - Dec 10/94

My dear Miss Gordon

I was so extremely obliged to you for sending me that little memoir of the "Council of Matrons". It is such a curious little episode - to which was added, as I learnt later, that they had already been able to lower the age of admission, owing to the Physiology teaching. & that, owing to the lack of Matrons, Miss Hogg had had to propose & second the Resolution

I trust that you are pretty well -
I will ask you to allow me to send
you the enclosed Cheque for your
Christmas festivities, which I am sure
will be happy ones to the Hospital.

I have staid here longer than I
expected - I am still keeping my room.

The family here are splendid
people for working in the parish -
There is something almost every
evening - To-day, & morrow &

Wednesday, there are Dairy Lectures
in the house by a Miss Maidment,
with Magic Lantern.

God bless you

Ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/50

April 6/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

Thank you very much
my dear Miss Gordon,
for your letter.

I shall be delighted to
see Miss Easton (Rhigatt)
on Wednesday at
5.30, if that is
convenient to her.

& Miss Allardice
(Clayton) on Thursday
at the same hour.

as you kindly suggest.

I am sorry not
to see Miss Roberts

(George) on Monday -
but shall hope
that it will only be
postponed to another
week.

Ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5476/51

Good Friday
April 12/90

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
How good of you to
write; & send me the
Medical Referee's paper.

I have had very
great pleasure in seeing
Sister Eliza & Sister Chapman.

And I should like
very much to see two
Sisters next week, as
you kindly propose.

At present I have
no engagement ^{next} ~~this~~
week except on Friday.

If Sister George could
be one of the two, I should
be glad, because I think
she has been put off
before -

But of course I only
want to consult your
convenience & their
& my possibilities

I hope there is every
prospect of fine weather
for your much needed
holiday. & that it
will bring you back
much stronger.

God bless you
Ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5476/52

May 22/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Miss Gordon
Welcome home! I must
that you are come back
as well as we could
wish you. I did not
know till a day or two
ago that you were come
home. I shall hope to
see you soon, but can
readily understand that
you will not wish to pay
me a visit directly.

I hope the Treasurer is
pretty well again.
Yours sincerely F. Nightingale

5476/53

June 19/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
Thank you for your note.
I trouble you with my
parcels of books to-day
for Sisters Elizabeth
Clayton
George
Charity
Victoria
Ophthalma's
because I think they will
like to have them before
your grand gathering
tomorrow.

As for Miss McNaister
(Sister Leopold)
I am afraid I am now
filled up this week -
Would next Monday suit
you & her? If not, I
will find another day.

I am glad the Chambers
suit.

It must be will be a
fine day & tomorrow for
what gives so much
pleasure to so many people.

Yours ever sincerely

F. Nightingale

I shall
be very much
anxious to know
about Miss Carpenter
& Radcliffe Hospital

5476/54

July 13/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon

Will it be quite
convenient if Miss Croftland
comes to me on Monday?
She is taking her holiday
soon, I suppose.

I shall hope to see Sister
Lespold soon on some Friday
which you tell me is her
convenient day. But I cannot
quite yet make an
appointment.

And above all I shall
hope to find some day
convenient to you.

// You have received no doubt
a copy from the "Matron's
"Council" (which was supposed
to be a Regiment discharged
from the Service) of "Questions"
to answer. So have I

received one - So is rife
with Preliminary Courses

Examinations

Theoretical Education

Certificates

State Registration

&c &c &c.

I was glad to receive the
Sensible paper of the
Baldwin Sup^t in
the "Hospital" which
does not go into all this
farrago.

// ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/55

July 24/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon

I have been very sorry
that I have been quite
unable to ask you if
you could be so good
as to come & see me -
& also to fix a Friday
for Sister Leopold.

And now I understand
that this next Friday
is a grand function for
the Prince of Wales to
receive the Pension Fund
people - & that you have

been so very good
as to ask Miss Anderson
of the Special Northern
Hosp! to St. Thomas -
Would you be so kind
as to give her this
little note from me
when she arrives?
I am always sorry to
trouble you

God bless you

Ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/56

10 South St. Aug. 17/95

My dear Miss Gordon

Thank you very much
for sending me your
Record book which I read
with great interest

But it is so recent
that I fail to see any
of my friends therein
except Miss Roberts.

I have been intending
to ask you every Friday
whether I might see
Miss McMaster (Leopold)
I above all whether
you could kindly come

Some day that was
convenient. But I have
been so hindered. I hope
however soon to see you.

I was very sorry to hear
about the throat illness
of that poor student
in Clayton Small Wood
that you kindly told me
of. I think we
have had such devoted
House Surgeons & House
Physicians sometimes
who have suffered
from this cause -
I hope he is better.

I believe you are
expecting Miss Crossland
back soon now. I have
no doubt in renewed
health, as I trust you
are - or at least not suffering.

Ever believe me
Sincerely yours
F. Nightingale

5476/57

Aug 26/95

My dear Miss Gordon

The Matron of the
Romney Union & Infirmary
a married woman, is a
Mrs. Normington. She has
certainly done a great
deal of good there.

She says she served
under you at Leeds.

Do you remember her?

I could gladly see you
tomorrow (Tuesday)
afternoon or Thursday,
if quite convenient to you

03.5 01

And Miss McMaster
(Sister Leopold) on
Friday, if suitable for
her. I am so afraid
of letting you slip -
I hope Miss Crossland
is well -

Dear yours Sincerely
J. Nightingale

5476/58

Sept 3/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE.W.

My dear Miss Gordon

I shall be very glad
to see Miss Pepper

on Thursday at 5.45

as you kindly propose.

Good speed to you
on your little holiday

And may you enjoy
it richly

Yours ever Sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/59

Nov 6/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
Thank you for your
too short (not "too long")
letter.

I send back the
present Record Book
& am so ashamed of
myself for having kept
it so long -

Within this week I
will send back the one
which you have so
kindly sent me now.

I am so glad that Miss
Mitchell & Miss Allardice
are not going yet. But
Don't miss want to say
that neither have ever
said or written a word
to me about going -
What I had heard
was only from yourself
- Miss Mitchell only
wrote to me that she
was going to be married
and that was all.

I am sorry that
Miss Miller is going.
I leave St. Thomas -
I should like to see her
before she goes - but
can quite fill up this week
in haste
Ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5476/60

Nov 20/95

10, SOUTH STREET.
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
All these sorts of letters
from America are always
left at my door.

Could you kindly tell
me whether this letter
is for your

Miss Russell?

If not, please return it to
me, to return to the
Postman -

2. Miss Mills - Could
you kindly tell me
who she saw at the
India Office? I forgive

to ask her -

She told me how kind
you have been to her -

I think she would
like a little Instrument
^{case} ~~box~~ to take with her -

Would it be asking
you too much to order
one for me, Slissors,

forceps, &c. &c. not
too elaborate, for fear

of offending the Doctors

out there - & to have her
& my name put inside, thus:

Christian name Mills
from Florence Nightingale 1895

3. I think I understood
that Nurse Frances?
Cameron was on leave
in London from India
I should like very
much to see her, if
not troubling you too
much, by appointment.

Ever yours sincerely

FR

5476/61

Nov 30/95

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Gordon
Many thanks for your
kindness in ordering for
me a little Instrument
case for Miss Mills
Please let it be sent
here with the Acct.

I want very much to
see Miss Mills again
before she leaves England
I have written to tell
her so. And you too
some day before she
goes, if possible & you

I have got a book
of Indian Hygiene
for her. But it is
far too difficult for
any but a Medical
Officer of Health -

Could you kindly
suggest any thing
which would help
her in the Hospital.
They must work in
India more even than

in England strictly
under the Med^l Officers

Ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5476/62

10 S. St.

Dec 16/95

My dear Miss Gordon
Could you spare
Miss Crossland to me
on Wednesday? or if
that is inconvenient to
you or her on Friday?
Thank you very much
for all you have done
for Miss Mills -

I have paid the Bill.
I should like to hear
^{again} how Miss Wainwright is.
Very yours sincerely
F.M.

5476/63

10 S. St.

Jan 2/96

My dear Miss Gorton

I send the Cheque
for the Poor Home, (by
your kind desire,) which
ought to have gone at
Christmas

You were so good as
to send the flowers & Jelly
to poor Nurse Clemence -
And I believe she enjoyed
them - But I suppose,
poor thing, it is a hopeless
case - ever yours faithfully
F. Nightingale

5476/64

Jan 20/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Matron

I am shocked & ashamed
- It was I who had your
"Annual Report for 1894"
all the time. It was
only found this morning
in the Drawing-room
by my good little
maid. Forgive me.
I have been kept still
& silent in bed ever
since Dec 23. & have
seen no one but Miss
Crossland. What a

misfortune her resignation?

I am still kept
Silent in bed, but hope
to be able soon to ask
you to make an
appointment to see me.

Would you kindly
tell me who is to be
Miss Ferguson's successor
at Liverpool when
it is decided -

Yours sincerely
F.M.

5476/65

10 S St

Feb 11/96

My dear Miss Gordon

I don't know whether
you would like to go to
this Meeting at Grosvenor
House - You & Miss
Crossland and any other
friends - I was asked to
go (as I understood) it
is not to preach Temperance
to Nurses, but to show
them what immense
power they have over
those they nurse. This
refers practically more to

District Nurses & to
Private Nurses than to
Hospital Nurses. This
power, I think, District
Nurses feel (or felt)
& exercise (or exercised)
with the greatest benefit.
The question of Private
Nurses grows more
formidable every day.

2 I understand your
great day of opening the
two new Wards is on the
21st. Would you like
some flowering plants,
flowers & greenery, such
as I can muster for that
day? Or do you prefer
showing the new Wards
naked as they were born?

All success be yours -
Your affectionate

F. Nightingale

5476/60

Feb 13/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Miss Gordon

I have ordered some
plants & flowers for
Friday to decorate
the two Wards. They
offered me some large
pots to hire. But
I wish to buy.

because the main
pleasure of the
Patients & Nurses
is after the Royalties

are gone, & they
have their plants
& flowers - & not
the great palms.
What day & what time
will you wish plant
a flower to come in?
Will the Patents be
in the two Bards when
the Royalties go
round?

Thank you for
your letter - & for
telling me the Sisters'

names, so interesting
to me.

I suppose you don't
care for greenhouses.
for this event. You
will have some small palms
ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5476/67

Feb 22/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon

I am so glad that the
function of yesterday
passed off so well in spite
of the gloomy day -

And I hope it will
bear fruits.

Every body seems to
have been pleased - And
it is so good to dedicate
Wards & Patients to God

// I have been asked to see
a Hospital Sister, Miss
Eckblom from Helsingfors

in Finland, to whom you
have been so kind in
St. Thomas', next week.
Is she going so soon?

I should be glad to
put off seeing her till
the latter afternoon it
is convenient to her to see
me - for again yesterday
I was warned to keep
quiet as long as I
possibly could -

But I would see her.
I had rather have seen
you first.

They tell me that you
think very well of her.

I am so glad the
flowers were acceptable
& wish you well in the
highest sense of the
word.

Will you commend me
to the Treasurer, & say I
shall hope to see him
soon?

Yours ever
F. H.

5476/68

March 24/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
I have been long
without seeing you - I am
so forbidden to see people.
But I trust that you
can fix a day to see
me before Easter. Any
afternoon except Friday
& Monday - I can at present
dispose of Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

I shall hope to see the
Treasure too another
day

5476/69

April 2/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon

Would it be troubling
you too much to ask
you to tell me the results
of your interview with Miss
Crossland last night?

I suppose she left
this morning for a fortnight
- I regret that it should
have been just now,
for I suppose that on the
14th at their Meeting
they will accept her
resignation, if we have
been able to prevail
nothing. Yrs sincerely F.N.

5476/70

10 South St. April 25/96

My dear Miss Gordon
I take for granted
that you have a ticket
for the May 2 Concert
But if not & you wish
to go, would you
accept one from me
& one for Sister
Victoria (Miss Pitt) who
I believe practices the
violin. And I have
written to Miss Cropland
ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

5476/71

May 18/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
I hope you are kindly
receiving an afternoon
for me this week -
any day after Wednesday

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/72

May 31/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Gordon
I am so stupid I have
forgotten the name of the
Wesleyan S. Albion &
of her Uncle, with whom
she was to live, & who is
I believe a M.P.

Could you kindly tell
me his name?

It is for a Parsi from
Bombay.

// You will like me to
see Miss Goodhugh
(Sister Clayton)
is it Male Surgical?

May I give you a
choice of days a little
further on?

I was delighted with
S. George & S. Elizabeth

I am afraid I committed
a breach of Rule by
sending some small
victuals for a poor
little girl in Elizth
Who can't eat to the
Sister -

But you will forgive me
Yours ever sincerely
F. Nightingale

5476/73

June 26/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
I congratulate you
on the success of yesterday
- every body pleased, as
far as I heard - And I
hope nobody very tired -
A fine afternoon for all.

You mentioned to me that
Miss Mitchell (Sister
Charity) was resigning her post
yesterday - If she is still
with you, I should like
very much to see her. &
say Good bye. I could

See her this afternoon
say at 5.30 if
it is my only chance -
tho' I had rather not
have hurried you or myself,
having much to do.

I hope to see you soon

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

Please telegraph if you
cannot give an
immediate answer.

5476/74

June 27/96
10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
Sister Charity gave me
great pleasure in seeing
her.

Is Miss Hampson with you?
Miss H. of the Rotunda?

And would she like to see
me? I could see her
this afternoon at say
5.30 or Sunday afternoon,
rather than miss her
altogether.

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/75

Aug. 22/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
Welcome back! I
am sure you enjoyed
your holiday. I hope
it has quite restored you.

I did not like to
trouble you at first.
But I hope now you
will give me an
afternoon as soon as
you can; any day except
Wednesday, on which
you and I are both
equally occupied.

Is Miss Haig Brown
come?

Would you like me
to see her soon?

Sincerely yours
F. Nightingale

Is Miss Mitchell, lately
Sister Charity - now
your Casualty Sister -
pro tem: because I had
something to send her?

FN

5476/76

10 South St 19/9/96

My dear Miss Gordon

I have been entirely
laid up with a feverish
attack for a fortnight.
I am still not allowed
to see any one or to
talk at all. - Else you
should have heard from me
May I ask how Miss
Litt (Sister Victoria) is?

May remember me
to Miss Haig Brown
ever yours sincerely
F.H.

5476/77

10 South St. Oct 21/96

My dear Miss Gordon
Could you tell me
Who is the best Surgeon
Who attends Out Patients
at St. Thomas?
& What hour she, a girl,
should go as an Out
Patient?

It is for a working girl,
the forefinger of whose
right hand has been
injured & badly treated.
And to-day she was

told it must be
amputated. Another
Surgeon who told me
said there was no
need for amputation
I told her that if
she would come back
to him ~~at~~ tomorrow
morning, he would
tell her where to go
And he asked me
the best Out Patient
Surgeon at St. Thomas'

If you would kindly
tell me, I would let
~~you~~ know this Surgeon
the first thing in the
morning.

You see for a working
girl the forefinger of
the right hand is
most important

Yours Sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/78

Oct. 28/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon
I shall be very
glad indeed to see you
on Friday afternoon as
you kindly propose.

Thank you for your
kindness about the little
servant-mail. I hope
there is no further danger.

I am very sorry
Miss Easton is going -
Very sorry for the

Scarlet Fever Case. I
hope it is not Severe

Yours ever Sincerely
F.N.

5476/79

10 South St. Oct 26/96

My dear Miss Gordon

How can I thank you
enough for your great
kindness to that little
"maid"? I hope she
is doing well

And thank you very
much for the Table of
Operations - And please
thank Miss Pepper - It
interests me very much.

And please thank
Miss Mary Brown for
her list of Probationers.

I hope to be able to
see you & her this
next week if you can
find a day convenient.

God bless you & her.

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

5476/80/1

Oct 31/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Gordon

The wreath for
Nurse Harvey would
reach you in time, I hope,
for the poor mother, who
I think you said would take
the body home to-day.
It is a sad story.

I ventured to enclose an
inscription to you for
the wreath.

Does Dr. Sharkey
think it an unusual thing

5476/80/2

2
that a Workho: Nurse
training might be
better than a Hospital
Nurse's

God bless & maintain
you
Love you Sincerely
F.N.