

The Convent
St Leonard on Sea

Shrove Tuesday 1875

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JMJ

My darling Adie [Connelly]

It was a comfort to me to see your hand writing again after so long a silence. Of course you have many objects of interest to take up your time and attention, and I must not complain; still you know it is good for you to have a little daily writing, if even you were obliged to transcribe from any good Author, as it is a necessity of the day of penny posts to be ever ready with your pen, and daily familiarity alone can give you this readiness. You write such a very pretty, nice clear hand my darling that it is a credit to you.

I know that you do not like prosy letters and the "sermonizing" too is distasteful and you know darling the tenour of my life would naturally lead me to the latter and in this sense you will not always think I mean more personally than I intend for your pleasure. If I had not been so very poorly during the last six months you should have heard from me long ago, and I am sorry to say that I am still an invalid with Bronchitis and general debility, but

my dear precious Sisters take so much care of my health that I do not run the same risks as persons in the world with the same disease, and our dear Lord is pleased to leave me in this valley of tears a little longer.

What a pleasure it would be to me to have a copy of your diary if you keep one. It would be the best sort of letter without any trouble to you that you could send me.

I know nothing of Frank but what you tell me. He does not take to his pen, though he write a beautiful hand also, and has mind enough to fill sheets, and independence enough to ruin himself if he ever got "off the line"! which may God in His mercy avert. His love of his Art is his great safety. I was so glad my darling to get the piece from the Gazette which you sent me. Do you think you could persuade him to bring you to England this summer to stop with me a little while? Surely your dear Father could spare you while he is at the Baths for a time and the change would be of service to your health. I wonder what is to become of poor Italy now that Garibaldi appears again in public ! What a world of war we live in -- England and America are the only peaceful spots. I wonder you do not go there (to America) and both Frank and yourself marry -- you will never settle where you are and you will very soon be too old. What a pity it is to lose and waste life without any object for the future either in this world or in the next. Now I must not sermonize!

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Have you seen dear Mrs Sconce lately? She has such dear daughters and she wants her son to marry, at least she did wish it very much about two years ago, but perhaps by this time he may have settled himself. Poor darling Frank might so easily find a good devoted wife if he would only turn his heart that way. No good can ever come of his remaining un-married, and unfaithful to his Baptism. Darling boy give him his mother's sweetest love and say for me all that can touch his heart. May God bless you all and look on you in his tenderest mercy.

Your loving Mother - C.C.

Sup. Gl.