

Volume 10

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S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Letter Book 1V – Page 5]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to the B. of Liverpool ( dated )

The Convent

St Leonards-on-Sea.

Feby 24. 1872

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J.M.J.

My Lord & dr Father in Xt. [ Bp Goss]

The decree forwarded by the Revd Fr Taylor must have my prompt acknowledgment & submission.

With all due veneration & respect will Y.L. allow me to explain that as I was not in England at the time the Rules, together with Cardinal Barnabo's letter were sent to each & all of the Houses of the Institute, all that passed on that subject was by letter. Happily I have copies of my letters, & I have also kept the answers received from Preston. They seem to me to be sufficient to prove that perfect freedom of action & expression was advised & intended by me & if any quotations of my letters have been made or used to show the contrary, I do not hesitate to say that either the meaning has been perverted or kept concealed, All out of P. certainly never doubted their liberty of action – It seems an easy matter my Lord for those who wish to cabal or to raise up dissensions and party spirit to attain their end. I say this my Lord without resentment or prejudice to anyone. May God himself make the " crooked ways straight".

No questions have been asked by me My Lord regarding the secret appeal to Rome – but I think I had a right to require an explanation of the false signatures sent to me & of the duplicity of wishing to lead me into the ignoble act of sending such signatures to Rome. But the good God Himself took care of me by sending me a private warning that I might not fall into the snare & they never were sent - I

have them by me at present.

Secondly My Lord with regard to change of " Superiors".

– Having been urged by the Sisters to remove the one in charge of St. W's Convent at my annual Visit, & at each annual Visit, and again by letter written before & after Xmas, having letters from the Manager of the School to the same effect, and a notice from the medical man that the Supr and her invalid Sister wd be benefited by being separated, I still took the precaution to advice with the Rector Fr. Johnson before making the change which took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

I enclose a copy of the first letter received from the Manager of the School on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, or rather of this date. I have never entertained the idea of making any of the branch Houses independent of the Mother House at St. Leonards. If it wd satisfy Y.L. to have further details, I shall be most happy to wait on your L. in L. and I have every confidence that our good God & His Most B. Mother will give Y.L. the light of truth & justice to guide me in the right way if I am wrong & help me to humble myself & to be ever ready to return good in exchange for evil received.

Begging Y.L.'s blessing I remain

My Lord and dear Father

Your obedient & faithful Servt in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly