

[OSCOTT ARCHIVES ]

[copied from Photostat]

Whitecottage, Sep. 22. 1835

[Natchez]

[To her husband, Pierce Connelly]

Dear love my more than life what a baby I am. I can cry better than write. Your long and anxiously looked for letter I received about an hour since. O my love I have wished to be a Catholic in my acts of love but I am afraid in truth & spirit have been but a discontented protestant – but you have now taken me as far as Memphis and until I hear from or see you again I must rest satisfied with your dear letter and keep it as the good Catholic does his Agnus Dei. I sent you two letters of introduction from Dr Mercer the day after you left us and wrote you a few lines in the envelope but they were so gloomy that I tore it up and sent you a blank sheet: the truth was I wandered about the house & looked over your desk & in your drawers for three or four days until Ady got sick & I was obliged to give her a dose of Cal. She had scarcely recovered before dear little Mercer was taken with fever which continued nearly a week – I did not send for the Doctor until I had administered the second dose of calomel & discovered that he was salivated – the Dr assured me there was no cause for uneasiness & that the salivation was in consequence of the changes in the weather. He has not eaten anything for a week until to-day when he took some bread & milk – He looked very well

[continued below]

for the last two or three days & I trust that his health, ultimately, will be benefitted by it. Mrs Chotard has been several times to see us – Major C. & some of the

children were a little unwell yesterday but nothing more. She brought Mercer a pair of shoes – they shew the warmest feelings towards you. Dr Mercer stopped on his way up yesterday. I showed him one of the letters I received for you. It was from Mr Biddle & on church affairs “the house of Bishops nominated to the house of deputies the Rev. Dr Hawks as bishop of Florida, Louisiana & Arkansas with the expectation that he will be invited to take charge of Missi. & Ala. And the Rev. Dr. Kemper as bishop of Missouri & Indiana. Dr Hawkes in a short speech of deep feeling accepted &c.” “glorious result&c.” Dr H. adds a few lines to the letter in which he says “Will you have the goodness to have the request from your diocese made for my services, as soon as you can, provided always, dear Connelly that your diocese desires it.” It was in consequence of this request, dearest that I thought proper to shew the letter to the Dr. If I did wrong you must never allow me to open your letters again but I think & hope love that you will say it is all right. You have a letter from the Rev. C. Newell respecting the Woodville parish and one from Mother in answer to the one you wrote on ambition &c. She seems to have the true protestant idea of humility – that is she endeavours to clothe you with it forgetting she is

[continued below]

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naked herself, all the while. Speaking of your brothers she says “you put too much stress upon what you have done for them remember that the same father and mother that raised you raised them though your advantages was <sup>[sic]</sup> much greater than theirs. Your pleasures & pursuits were totally different you got your knowledge from books & the fashionable world Harry from men & manners &c. &c. John and George lost their father when they most needed him &c. &c.” men & manners !!!!! if she can be the mother of such a mind as yours I think we indulge strong hopes for Mercer. Her letter is, however, more affectionate than usual. She says at the end of the letter “dear P. write to me soon I was going to say I command you but I hope I need not”. She seems pushed for money I think “~~there is~~ <sup>[sic]</sup> your Aunt sent your shirts on by Rev. J. Rodney – 6 June there is a

balance due of 15\$ which she wishes to know how you wish appropriated. "As to the interest I leave that to yourself I have a good deal of difficulty in getting along for the last 18 mo. there is no mistake about its being 6 per cent." George & Mr. B. arrived last ~~month~~ Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. G. was very much pleased with our lands but does not think he will go there this winter. Oh my love you can turn him round you finger. I think he is ready to be a catholic (if some few were to back him). Since Mr. W. subscribed a hundred dollars to the C. & Dr Mercer & Chotard such warm friends – Dr. M. is your true friend – always moderate – but always true.-

[continued below]

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Mrs. C. told me that he told Major C. that though he had always had a high opinion of you that it was still higher now. Major C. was in the room when he first saw the books you sent him & he says he never saw him so much affected. I sent the Dr your printed Letter on the 15. I did not send him any message with it & not knowing that it was private i.e. confined to the 3 copies he had lent it to Dr Metcalf. There has been a Mr Keene out to see you; a warm catholic; is just from N.O. has travelled considerably – France & Spain – his wife is a Spanish lady – passing the winter in Havana. I was thinking the day before he came out that it would be the best place we could pass the winter in by a little management we could live as cheaply there as here – there is a village abt three miles off where we could rent rooms and find our own fare – take P. [hoebe] & S[ally] with us. From there Havana there is a line of packets to Cadiz we could take any point in the Med<sup>an</sup>. Would it not be an excellent thing to have a catholic establishment on our river lands, at the ferry or the town & send over a few hundred emigrants, Catholics. From all accounts the country must be worse than barbarous – wicked. You have a letter from R.H. Goldsborough. U.S.S. enclosing one from his son. Its object is to gain information respecting this country that he writes & his (W. Goldb!) probabilities [sic] of success in bringing out a body of negroes – the chances of obtaining some of the Gov. lands which are

to be sold next Dec. &c. Mr Bishop was at the warf when the Chester arrived – 11 o'clock at night - & we have heard of you above the mouth of the Ohio – My own dear life it seems almost as if you were with me again to send me your 'thoughts' dearest love I hope & trust that you will be with us by the time this reaches St Louis. & dearest do not distress yourself about the alienation of any of your family – if you should rise they will be ready enough to bow down to you – some specimen already – if you do not you have that within which they can neither give nor take. G. was never more kind & amiable & I do not think I ever saw him shew more pride in you than at the present moment & Mr B. (after I mentioned about the cup etc.) regretted deeply that he had not seen you. Mrs Bingaman has invited us all to pass the day with her /<sup>tomorrow</sup> (24<sup>th</sup>) [sic] I saw Catherine yesterday – she looked remarkably well. Give the warmest remembrances from me to our great & good friend Mr Nicollet whom I pray to God may be with you. Oh my love make haste back. It seems a year that you have been gone. Sep 23. I have this moment received a letter from Dr Merrill for you. He will not be able to get to the convention. Seems much disgusted with the little interest the clergy take in Southern affairs, speaks of their “want of humility”. “They too generally attempt to drive rather than lead.” His letter is dated Sep 1 – Pittsfield. “We expect to leave here in ten days for home, by way of Detroit [sic] & hope to be with you by 1 Nov.

A Roman Missal was sent to you the day you left us with an excellent letter from a pious Catholic Lady who had heard you preach on Sunday. I have no other letters than ~~shooks~~ those I have mentioned to you. Ada has two teeth through.

Mercer sends you love and kisses & expects you to bring him some candy. "Sext time me go with fartre in team boat". [sic] I would advise the Catholics to tear out that odious picture which they have put in Dr England's Missal. If they were to exchange it for the church of Calvary, for instance, how much better would 4t be the effect. I have written you too much – but not enough yet – my own life ever forever your devoted love C.C.

In margin: I feel quite anxious that we should pass the winter in Havana, it would be of great service to us all I think. Stanton says you authorised him to sell the house for ~~you~~ 7000 3 cash & 4 payable in 2 or 3 years.. you had better destroy this letter ~~before~~ [sic] when you have done with it.

[postmark] [Envelope addressed:-]

The Rev.

Pierce Connelly

[Postmark] ~~st louis~~ [sic]

Natchez

~~Misouri~~ [sic]

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Volume 1

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OSCOTT ARCHIVES

[copied from PhotostatJ]

[Cornelia Connelly to Pierce Connelly]

Rome. Sunday 22, 1836 [May]

Dearest life I received your sweet [?] letter from P. the day before yesterday - let me kiss you for it, but at the same time give you a good scolding for being so dull dear love I knew it would be so - you try very hard to persuade [sic] me you are happy but all the time I know your heart is with me – but this must not be so, give it all to the Church - all, all and then I shall have it to [sic] for am I not one of its children without a wish that is not connected with it – Oh petty don't [sic] think about want or any affliction that it may please the Almighty to punish us with - while we have the kingdom\_of heaven within us will we not be happy in spite of every earthly want and while we have the faith will we not be able to bear all even unto death? Oh love think not of me - if I still have too much pride I deserve to be punished for it and to suffer in the sight [?] of our relatives <sup>for</sup>[sic] this I believe is my most tender point and where the Almighty could punish me the most severely - but never think of this my love if your duty to God would be better fulfilled by going home - but I cannot conceive ~~it possible~~ [sic] that you could be more useful by going back to america <sup>than remaining in Europe</sup> [sic] for at least 4 or 5 years and can it be possible that a man of your abilities would not be useful to the catholics of england - I cannot think so - at all events we could but stay in Germany as I told you in my last and live there as I proposed to you - but at all events dont [sic] give way to depression - the Almighty will not forsake you ~ after having done so much for you - he will give [?] your faith and give you strength to go on <sup>in the good work</sup> [sic] and be useful in the world and have you not already [sic] increased the faith of some and [next word blank in Photostat] shaken others – did I tell you Mrs Forbes left you her blessing – dearest I have

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it in my head very often since you left me to beg you to write to John Rodney to place before him what america would be or will be if protestantism lasts when it will be <sup>as</sup> / [sic] thickly, populated as europe [sic], no morality out of it - & certainly no other religion has ever given the faith that will enable a people to support a church as it ought to be - do write to him, (with love & charity always) on this subject and advise him quietly and at his leisure to read Milner's end of Con. & the folly <sup>of labouring</sup> [sic] in a cause which however good its object is in the spirit of disobedience as its fruits plainly shew &c &c you know much better than I do I only wish to put these thoughts into your head ~~after he has~~[sic] advise him to make acquaintance with Mr Hughs and at least to examine if he is taking the words of our Saviour with the humility of a little child - & how wise it is in the Almighty to prove us by exacting this humility - miracles &c. I have a strong hope that such a [~~little word~~] letter would not be useless - and you know he would have but [next illegible] interests [sic] to interfere - if he was to change the whole Duval family would follow - let us begin a novena for him as soon as he will have had time to receive your letter it at least can do no harm and the almighty may be pleased to bless our efforts I have not received a line from May yet I wrote to them yesterday for the first time since the 28th March I suppose you saw Bph. [sic] Purcells notice of your abjuration as noticed in the churchman - have you written to Bph. Purcell? he has been very kind, this is the third letter I have written to you - I should like to know if you received my last as I sent it by Charles - thoughtlessly - I ~~shall~~ [sic] want to hear a great deal about Paris - I hope you stayed a week or ten days there or more - you see how cheerfully I write to you

[Though this letter seems to be unfinished, there is nothing more on the Photostat]



[ To her husband, Pierce Connelly]

[September 25, 1841 ?]

Dearest

Be sure to send Sally back at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 - we will be at the ascension and after going through the sorrows we wont give give [sic] up the right to the joys you know. I wish you all a merry diner as a preperation [sic] to your retreat Father said we might relax a little to-day though perhaps he did not mean quite so far as I am doing- but I am not yet a religious.

Yrs ever in J.C.  
C.C.

[Addressed] Mr. Connelly

A true copy. L.E. Whatmore, 17.3.1955

[Alleged letter an extract from which is printed in Case of the Rev. Pierce Connelly, Second Edition with Preface and Supplement. London, Hatchard and Bosworth, 1853, page 33.]

[To her husband,  
Pierce Connelly]

" 'Saturday Noon, Quarter-past One.'  
[September 1846 – before she went to  
Derby to found the Society of the  
Holy Child Jesus]

" 'I have waited until now, hoping, if you came in an early train, you might drive up to the door, to see and kiss little Franky, without getting out, and I have hesitated whether I should go to the train or not; but Emily is so very fearful of a word being said - so much about all the remarks that were made about your coming to England the same time that you knew I was to come,' &c.,&c. 'I think I have made up my mind to leave the decision about Frank to you and the father. Emily is much too anxious not to have him, but I think myself, if he could be with a motherly schoolmistress and little boys, that it will be better. Her proposition not to see you until I am professed is absurd; but you see things are to go on at a nice pace in England. I am disgusted with the clergy and the grossness of the people - that seems too coarse to understand spiritual things. I was so much disappointed in not hearing from you this morning! and I relieve myself during the time Powell is waiting for you at the train by just taking my paper to write what comes into my head.' \_

[In the margin of this page of the pamphlet is found the following notation written in pencil by Cornelia Connelly]:-

"If I wrote this letter it was a confidential expression of momentary feeling & certainly not founded on any facts

C.



Alleged letter an extract from which is printed in  
Case of the Rev. Pierce Connelly, Second Edition with Preface and Supplement. London:  
 Hatchard and Bosworth, 1853, page 35]

[To her husband, Pierce Connelly]

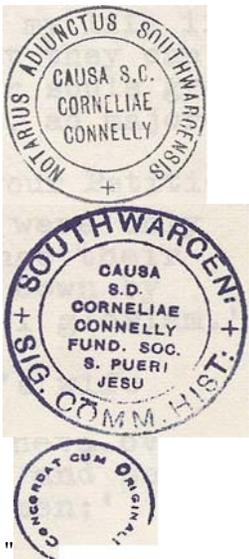
[St Leonards-on-Sea]  
 [December 1849]

(Extract.)

"I have already told you I would see you when you bring back to my care my little girl,  
 and I will never see you till then; unless God manifests his holy will through the command  
 of the bishop.'

[n the margin of this page of the pamphlet is found the following notation written in pencil by  
 Cornelia Connelly]

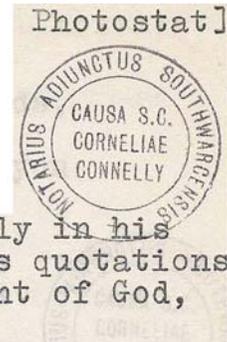
"Yes, this was my will because he had broken his promise."



BRITISH MUSEUM

[Copied from a Photostat]

[England – Parliament - House of Commons. Petitions etc.]



[The following passages are cited by Pierce Connelly in his Petition to the House of Commons (April 8, 1851) as quotations from letters written to him by his wife, the Servant of God, Cornelia Connelly, and still in his possession.]

"...That your Petitioner's wife did immediately communicate this decision to your Petitioner, in a letter in his hands, adding,

'the dear cardinal, in going away, said my duty was to take care of my children, and said he was molto contento, which made my heart palpitate with joy.'

.....

"...Your Petitioner's wife did at this time write to your Petitioner, requesting him

'to limit himself when he came to see her to two hours.'

That, in the same note, still in the hands of your Petitioner, his said wife, deploring the hard lot of nuns and other inmates of convents, whose sufferings had come to her knowledge, did declare to your Petitioner,

'I feel as I would give my life if it were only that poor women may know that they can change their confessor, and not have their souls ground down by fear as well as their bodies, ad majorem Dei gloriam.'

...That,...as is also stated by your Petitioner's wife in a letter saying,

'The Lord reigneth over every tyranny. I pray all the angels and saints in heaven to upset the despotism of women;'



[continued below]

and and again, in another letter, also still in his hands,

'You looked so ill yesterday that I am afraid you are. .worried about me. . . . It does indeed seem hard, after having sacrificed one's natural happiness for what is for the glory of God, to find nothing but vexation, disappointment, and opposition. If you are at home write me a few consoling lines, for I am at moments sick at heart. God have mercy on me, and make me thankful, but I shall sing Te Deum when I hear the sentence of my delivery. Pray, pray for me, in my moments of heartbreaking and trial.'

.....

"That your 'Petitioner's wife ... did write to your Petitioner, in a letter dated Dieppe, August 13, 1846,

'And do you really mean to say that you cannot meet me in the way, even in the presence of all the world? All as God wills, and when he wills, but I think this is going too far, and if I see the good bishop I will tell him so very respectfully.'

That, upon your Petitioner's naming a convent in Birmingham as a place of meeting, his said wife did write to him, saying,

'How delightful that you will meet us (herself and two children) in the convent of Mercy. I was going to propose this to you. As the bishop only said 'out of a convent;' there could not be the slightest impropriety in this. '

That...while yet at large in the world, your Petitioner's wife did write to him saying,

'The proposition not to see you till I am professed is absurd, but you see things are to go on at a nice pace in England. I am disgusted with the (Roman) clergy. '"

.....

[continued below]

.....as is seen by the following extract of a letter written by your Petitioner's said wife two days afterwards,

'I have been so looking and hoping for a letter from you this morning; your letter has just come, and makes me cry so that I can scarcely see what I write. Forget your visit to Derby. I never told you, nor meant to tell you, that I assumed that excitement to hide nature, as I must do sometimes. No! you have not the violent temptation that I have in thinking of the little Bethlehem room (their chamber of Gracemere, a former home) nor have you perhaps, gone through the struggles of a woman's heart. No! you never have. ' "

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"That, upon legal proceedings being about to be instituted your Petitioner's wife wrote to your Petitioner..., adding,

'I will never see you till then, unless God manifests his holy will through the command of the bishop. ' "



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



Small round cardboard, gilt-covered box, with glass or enamel top, writing on bottom

Ady Connelly [C.C.'s hand?]

containing scrap of paper

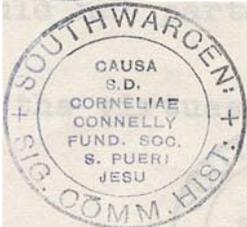
For Adeline from her Mother [C.C.'s hand ?]

and curl of fair hair in packet marked

Half of all I have of darling \*Merty's hair 1834 -

[In C.C.'s hand]

\*Cornelia Connelly's son Mercer.



SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

[Alleged letter an extract from which is printed in Case of the Rev. Pierce Connelly],  
Second Edition with Preface and Supplement. London: Hatchard and Bosworth, 1853,  
page 35]

[St Leonards-on-Sea]

[Nov. 29, 1852]

(Extract)

“ ‘My DEAR CHILD,- You seem to have misunderstood my letter as usual. However, I shall pass it over, and make no further remarks on your reply.

“ ‘ I told you to come as you did in Rome, and also I said your papa would bring or send you if he will; but I thought he would prefer coming for you, as he had refused my former invitations. I am quite convinced that letters seldom tell the real truth, and I look forward to your visit as a blessing from God for you and for me.

“ ‘I cannot see you quite alone, but I can do so with a religious in sight, though not within hearing. Almighty God is both within sight and hearing, and I fear Him only. For myself, I know too well the sincere and holy affection of our religious, even to wish for one second they should not partake of our happiness.

“ ‘May God bless you, my love, and give you the virtues of a strong woman.

'Always your own

“ ‘Mother. ‘

[In the margin of this page of the pamphlet is found the following notation written in pencil by Cornelia ConnellyJ .

“Since my daughter was invited to stop at the Convent in a former letter it is quite clear that I could see her frequently alone I used the word you in the plural number”:-

The Convent  
St Leonard on Sea  
Shrove Tuesday 1875

+

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.

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

[copied from manuscript copy of original]

Spetchley Park.

Tuesday. [Aug. or Sept] 1846.

My dear Merty,

I returned yesterday from Birmingham and hoped to hear from you this morning..... It pleased<sup>me</sup> so' much dear Merty that you should have begged pardon for that little fault & I think you have quite made up for it, so that you need not waste any thoughts about it for the future. You must write to me at once & let me know where you are in the school and how you have begun your studies - with all your heart I hope bidding good-bye to the castles in the air until next vacations. Your dear Papa tells me that he had a nice letter from you, and that you may learn music & drawing & whatever you have a talent for just as the good Fathers think you may deserve it and would profit by it. How very kind it is of dear Lord Shrewsbury & you must not forget to pray for him every day. I think we will not go to Derby next week but we do not know yet where Ady will go as we have heard nothing from your Papa or F. Lythgoe about it. ... I hope you are very cheerful & happy & will try to enjoy your studies as you would do I am quite sure if you would put your heart upon them as Henry does. Fredy is a nice little boy & I hope you will be a kind friend to him if he is at Stonyhurst this year & make up for any ill feeling that Henry may have about him with you - Henry is a nice boy & feels more for his brothers and sisters than for himself & has no vanity or flash about him. Some are too proud to be vain. Now this is a form of pride that if I dare like any sort of pride I should be tempted to like this. Ady & Frank send kisses - Ever in the Holy Child Jesus

Yr Affec.

C. Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME

[Copied from manuscript copy of Original]

Spetchley Park  
Wednesday [Aug. or Sept. 1846]

My dear Mertzy,

What a very nice letter you sent me today: my dear boy this is just the way r like you to write and it makes me so happy to know that you can laugh when you want to cry & so put off getting angry. You will see how much trouble this will keep you out of & how good humoured you will grow, and you will soon love everybody and make everybody love you. And then it is so very sweet to be always in the presence of God internally & externally; driving away very quickly all naughty or deceitful thoughts before they have taken possession of our mind or have made us waste our time, besides if we reject them before we have consented to them we are saved so much time & trouble in our weekly confession & can keep ourselves free from sin if we are very vigilant. The devil tempts all of us with bad thoughts, but then all we have to do is to reject them & purify our intention and love God - love God and then we can do all we want to do & say all we want to say - for we do not want anything then but just what He wants - I am so very glad you did not get angry about the pebbles. You might throw a few back another time as an act of charity to do the will of another rather than your own, to play with one who wants to play, this is what Our Lord teaches us and is giving up our own will. Then after you have played a little while with good humour you could call off his attention to something else and return to your book or whatever you are doing or good naturedly ask him to do you some little kindness. You will see how much of God's sweet charity we can gain by such little acts & how much more humble we become when we are in this disposition. Did you ask my love for a very little time for your meditation

Continued below

only ten minutes or a quarter of an hour that you may make a little prevision for the day & so watch and pray a little that you may not be led into temptation unprepared to meet it. You will soon see what a good thing it is to make ones resolutions for the day & offer them to God. He will then help us to govern ourselves & to do what we are doing.

Tell me when you write how you have begun your studies & if you drive off all useless thoughts. I hope you have written to your dear Papa & told him how much you thank him for all the anxiety he had about your passing your vacations pleasantly & beg him to thank dear Lord Shrewsbury for the pleasant time you had at Alton Towers & for the pony too - If you have not written, do so at once before you write again to me. I got the pretty little wafers & gave them to Ady as I only use wax.

Love from all

Yr affect<sup>ly</sup> in J.C.

C. Connelly.

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

[Copied from manuscript copy of original]

Brougham St. Aston.

Nr. Birmingham.

Tuesday. undated [Sept. or Oct.1846]

[My dear Mertý]

You will have been made happy by the wished-for "yes" (to learn music). You see How good our/ <sup>good, good</sup> God is, when we try to please him specially... you will soon rise in your class if you mortify your imagination by driving away the castles in the air - the soap bubbles - before study begins. Set your mind to what you have to do. This you know is absolutely necessary or you will never succeed in anything you undertake. I feel so happy that you think the Fathers like you & that you tell me your little faults & to know you make some efforts to overcome those little irritabilities you are so subject to - only remember St. Francis Xavier how much vanity he had & yet what a great Saint he became - our passions are of no consequence you know provided we only govern them & do not let them govern us - How very nicely you put them down the other day in not returning evil for evil - keep yourself in the presence of God & do not let yourself say, do, or think anything that you would not have us or your good masters to know & so my dear, dear Mertý you will please men and angels. I bless you my dear boy as you go to your bed as if I were close by you & you have only to whisper to your guardian

(2)

angel to put a little cross on your forehead for me. Pray for me my dear child for I have many crosses just now for which I must thank God as I ought to do. God bless you again and again & make you a little Saint.

Ever your devoted Mother in Christ,

C. Connelly.

S.H .C. J. ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from a manuscript copy of original]

St Mary's Convent

Derby

[between Oct. 13 & 20, 1846]

My dear Merty,

"We got here on Wednesday last quite safely and found everything nicely prepared for us and yet still more to do before we can make the house & ourselves ready for our boarders. The Revd Father ,Lythgoe S.J., has promised us a weekly Director from Spinkhill which puts us quite at rest about our souls which is the chief and only thing to aim at until we are able to help others in the way of perfection. You have not written for some time to me. Let me how the operations are going on with the castles in the air & how the studies come on. - I hope you do not read during recreation. Recollect this is positively forbidden, you must take all the exercise you can and exercise your charity during recreation time. God bless you my Darling Boy.

Ever your affectionate mother in Xt,

C. Connelly.

St Mary's Convent,

Derby.

Monday [1846]

My dear Merty,

I have your second letter & was very glad to know that you had not been in a passion but once but I feel sorry for that once. Try my dear boy to laugh at yourself as if it was another person. You would very likely have laughed if the same thing had happened to another so why not laugh at yourself. Try another time to laugh when you are disposed to grow angry. I was quite sure the castles were blowing up in your imagination to make you waste and worse than waste your time, this is the way the Devil hopes to make you useless and good for nothing. Put him down and shew your anger to him & not to your school fellows. What do you want with an eye-glass? not to play flash with I hope. There is one little thing in your letter that I do not like-Merty, Merty, be open and despise duplicity as belonging to the Father of lies, - keep yourself in the presence of our good good God who is all truth and gives the spirit of truth and simplicity to all who walk in His holy presence. Now my dear boy go to Mr Walmesley and explain with openness why you wished me to put the money in the cocoa. If you wish to hide it why ask for it? Explain this to me with courage & generosity & if there is anything to make you feel ashamed about it do the penance that will cure you of ever doing the

smallest action that will savour of deception. Oh Merty, Merty, nothing so wounds my heart as to suppose you capable of any duplicity - But if it is so, make up for it with courage & humble yourself to the Father Rector, and ask him to help you to purify your intentions and desires. There was no fault in asking for the 10 shillings and I shall be so glad to send them to you; but never to conceal it or put it in the cocoa like a rogue – Oh Merty God sees into the cocoa & into your hearts then why ever want to deceive about anything. Oh my dear child cast your soul to God and ask Him to give you that one simple remembrance of His presence that unwraps all the windings of the heart and makes us true and He is true - He delights in a single heart – write to me at once & tell me if you have forgotten all that I said to you during the vacations. Have you forgotten how I explained to you the deliciousness of a pure conscience of willing only what God wills - When our will is united to God we never have anything to conceal from those who love Him. All is open and bright as the sun. Write to me at once and tell me you have humbled yourself before God and man.

Ever your devoted mother in Christ,

C. Connelly.

St Mary'.s Convent,  
Derby.  
December [1846J

My dear Merty,

I have hoped to hear that you got your box of cakes and pies in time to make merry on Xmas Day. I sent it three days before on purpose to make sure of it for that day - if it has not reached you I suppose it is at the Crown Inn Preston, where you said it was to be left. Perhaps you would like to know something about us at the Convent, though I must take this for granted ,as you do not express the wish in any of your letters. Then I must tell you we have three such nice presepios such as we had at Rome and described to you last year – and besides we have a little Altar for the Holy Child Jesus with a little wax figure that I brought from dear Rome. You would so like to see it. Our chapel is not yet finished but we do very well with the room we use for that purpose when we have our dear Lord on the Altar. I am anxious to know what prizes you got and how you are coming on. You must wish Fr. Walmesley and all the good Fathers a very merry Christmas for us and ask their good prayers for our community. .

I send you a letter from dear little Ady,  
God bless you my dear boy,  
Ever your affec Mother in Xt,  
Cornelia Connelly. H.C.J.

—

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME. [Copied from manuscript copy of original]

[1846] Undated

My dear Merty,

.....How much I like Henry B. he seems so frank and open.

I asked him what there was between you & he assured me there was nothing at all - so you see my dear Boy it is your own imagination & not his - you will profit by this my dear Merty I hope & get over all such useless thoughts, rather I should say dangerous thoughts since it is quite impossible for you ever to do your duty and be in the love of God, and of your neighbour while you give way to them. I am persuaded that such preoccupation of mind will prevent your success in anything you may have to do. Since to do anything well we must do it with our heart, with our mind and with our strength for the love of God, of ourselves and of our neighbour & if we do not do the common duties of the day as we ought to do them we will not have many proofs of our love of God. The truth is dear Merty as I told you, while Henry Berkeley & the other good boys are labouring hard at the foundations of their buildings like persons of good sense you are building your Castles in the air that will never be realised in any other way than to bring you upon a few more ferules before the end of the week. This will make you laugh perhaps but if you will only think of the ferules that are

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in store it will give you the strength to overcome your imagination. Don't forget your promise to hold up your head and when you find it moping down raise it up quickly like a little bird that is going to sing & say in your heart, My God I love Thee - He who fears Thee my God knows no other fear - O my God help me to know Thee, to love Thee & to serve Thee - may God bless you my dear Boy and give you the noble ambition of becoming a saint - aim at an everlasting glory & you will not be disappointed. I hope dear Merty that you will have the permission necessary for you to give a quarter of an hour to Meditation every morning. There are some nice little meditations in the "Spirit of Liguori"...

Ever your devoted Mother in J.C.

C.C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

(Copied from manuscript copy  
of original)

St. Mary's Convent,  
Derby.

Undated (1846 -1847]

My dear Merty,

I am very glad you have time at last to write for I began to think you must certainly be building your airy castles since I have been so long without any demonstration of your reality. I think I told you something about the nice school at Hampstead where I have put our darling little Frank, such nice little boys of his own age and some still younger and he is so happy. Mrs Nicholson says he has only cried once since I left him. It was dear F Brownbill (the brother of the saint) who recommended the school to me. And dear little Ady is so happy too, so very happy, you know I told you our good God would be sure to arrange all these things without our thinking so deeply and mistrustfully. You have written me such a nice letter and said so much that pleases me, but you have not said anything about your faults that you promised to mention to me you know. Can it be possible that you have not been in a passion since you last wrote, how delightful that would be, -be sure and tell me when you write again if this is so, vigilance and mortification will be sure to make you finally a saint. Gloria Patri &c. I think I must make a little note of the words you spell wrong so that you may correct yourself a little more than you do for you have been spelling the same words wrong for

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Now you make me laugh about the regiment but you know in order to know how to command you must learn how to obey first and then you propose the scapular & Paters & Aves as life preservers I suppose but then to be generous they should at the same time be ready to throw away their lives for a good cause. You may be quite sure of getting a Christmas Box if I can find a way to send it which I shall enquire about. I thought you were allowed 10 shillings pocket money. Would you want 10 s. more do you mean? And would it be necessary for you to make merry to your hearts content? God bless you my dear boy and help you to put away flash and vanity with courage and generosity. I press you to my heart and put the little cross on your forehead.

Ever your affectionate and devoted mother in Xt,  
C. Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME [copied from manuscript copy of original]

St. Mary's Convent,  
Derby.  
May [1847]

My dear Merty,

I am very glad to know that you are going on better. May our sweet Lady help you. I wish you would keep to your meditation every morning my dear boy were it only for ten minutes. If you really do try hard to get these ten minutes to use the three powers of your soul on any divine truth you would find how nicely things would go on – what nourishment and strength you would receive. And this is the reason why you get on so badly because you do not take the proper means to learn how to use the three powers of your soul. Indeed I can tell you that some of our little girls would put you to shame not that they are any more clever than you are on the contrary but they are docile and ready to learn how to reason and how to act. I send you a letter from dear Ady. Tomorrow we shall have 14 First Communions. They will all be in white dresses and white veils with a wreath of white flowers and I hope will all have very pure and white consciences.

God bless you my dear boy,

Ever your affectionate mother,

C.C.

Continued below

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I will address your letter for you. I forgot to say your name is Edward not Edmond. Time enough to think about the wars. We are making the sweet month of Mary and have her Altar covered with flowers that the factory girls bring us.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME

[copied from manuscript copy of original]

St. Mary's Convent,

Derby.

Saturday. [1847]

My dear Merty,

I did the best I could to induce your dear Papa to go to the Acadamy, but it seems that you have been disappointed. I am sorry my dear boy that you should take every little thing to heart as you do and talk about borrowing a piece of paper as if anyone might not borrow paper and return it and you know that you are allowed to buy all that is necessary for you and let it go into your account. Oh Merty how you will grieve over the education you have wasted - five years time and expense, purely wasted! I do not ask you if you distinguished yourself or if you had any prizes. Your letter gives me no hope. What is to become of you? Even our little girls who have been with us three months (coming to us quite ignorant) write at the end of that time better than you do. You know that you will have to depend upon your own efforts for an honourable livelihood and that what we have will neither go to you nor to Frank but to Ady; and that is but just as she could not do what a boy could do. Ah Merty will you yet give me some hope that you may be fitted for something? I fully impressed upon you that

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you would have to depend upon your own efforts after leaving college. If you would but try to study. If you would but do what you are doing there may yet be time and we might still hope . Oh if this were the case what efforts would we not be willing to make for you and what sacrifice could we refuse you? Will you make us bless the day <sup>that</sup> you were born? for you have the power to make us <sup>either</sup> deplore it or bless it. Ah Merty your Papa will not try you beyond a certain point and this may decide your destiny for this life. If you have anything to tell him about the examination & prizes that will be in any way favourable I trust you will communicate it to him at once. May God have pity upon you and upon us. Oh if I could tell you what I suffer on your account you would pity me my child and pray for me.

Ever your affectionate mother.

[C. Connelly]

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S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME [copied from original]

[To: Lewis Duval, Esq., for Mrs Duval, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.]

Whitecottage, September 1, 1835.

Private

Dearest Addie,

I have put off writing to you for several days past from my unwillingness to tell you what I know will give you great trouble. Pierce has resigned his parish - he has laid aside the active duties of his ministry to examine at leisure and with care the distinctive doctrines of the Roman Catholic religion. The attacks upon the Catholics have led him into a laborious study of the controversy and he begins to doubt whether they are not more near the truth than we. His health is considerably injured by his late labours and he is now suffering with a constant pain in his breast - but I trust in God that rest, care and exercise will in a little time restore him. His parish show great regret, at his resignation and give him stronger proofs than ever of their confidence and affection - are very anxious for him to continue to live amongst them at any rate. They are going to have a gold cup made to be presented to him. I need scarcely point out to you, dear Addie, the importance of the step he takes - the immense thought and labour he has undergone or the great sacrifice of feeling as well as interest that he makes - his salary is \$1500 - fees within the last eight months \$580 and presents to the family, during that time, I have estimated at upwards of \$700.

But, dear Addie, what are these things? He must do his duty and I do not fear, under any circumstances, that God in his Kind Providence will find a way for him to support

Continued below

His family without going back into the world again. He intends preaching his farewell sermon next Sunday and then taking the first boat for St. Louis to see Bishop Rosati. Of course he will not take any further step without long and careful deliberation. As our future movements are uncertain we determined it was better he should leave us here - he will return as soon as possible. Our property will probably be sold in five or six weeks - we may possibly go to Europe but everything is at present uncertain - 2 or 3000 dollars spent there will give him the opportunity and leisure to pursue the studies he desires - will be of great service to his health and will still leave us about 8000 dollars from the sale of our little property, every single investment of which God seems most mercifully to have blessed.

Do not be unhappy about us, dear Addie, and do not be too anxious, I have perfect confidence in the piety, integrity and learning of my dear husband, and if you mistrust my judgment recollect that he has the increased confidence and esteem of the best and first men of this parish. I will write soon again. May God bless you, dear Addie, and lead us all into the truth, for His dear Son's sake. Mary and Pierce send you all a great deal of love. The children are well. Pierce thinks little Addie is like you. Mercer talks about you and sends kisses to you. I cannot answer for his distinctive ideas of you. Goodbye again, my own dear Sissy. How much I wish you could pay us a visit this fall - for let our movements be what they may, it is out of the question for Pierce to think of encountering a northern winter. Keep perfectly quiet about all I have told you. You will before long hear it from other quarters - but at all events the least said about it the better, at present. We are looking anxiously for letters from you. Dear Addie, I have so much to say to you that I can scarcely stop writing but have no more time to spare.

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Believe me ever

Your affectionate Sister,

**C. Connelly.**

P.S. There is no cause for uneasiness respecting the disturbances in the South. We had not even heard the particulars until we read them in the Northern papers. The slaves are quiet and submissive; and as to the Vicksburg business I do not think it half as bad as the Charlestown business in principle tho' more atrocious in fact.

OSCOTT ARCHIVES

[Copied from photostat, obviously only a rough draft]

Whitecottage Oct. 17. 1835.

Dearest Addie

We have received this morning 7 letters, 4 from Lewis, two from your own dear self & one from mother-There is not the least cause for all the trouble and distress you have suffered - Pierce is not a catholic nor could he be a catholic Priest if he desired it while I live - he has neither publicly [sic] nor privately renounced his faith but you may rest assured that whatever he believes to be his duty by God's help he will do without a reference to his temporal interests one way or another - his mind I thank God is as sound as ever and as capable as ever to support his family. You ask dear Addie why he meddled with controversy. To find out the truth - the blessed truth and as one who professes to teach nothing but the truth he is bound to cease preaching the moment he doubts-That faith which cannot stand the test of controversy cannot be a true one-Neither can I at all agree with you in thinking it would have been better do it privately. The course which he has taken honestly & openly before God & man at the expense of his worldly interests cannot but be respected by all who

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are blessed with strict [two words crossed out] honesty & I am proud to say that against all my prejudices [sic] and the horrors which I have nurtured for the catholic faith I am ready at once to submit to what ever my loved husband believes to be the path of duty -

That you

should suffer mortification on our account dearest Addie has been the cause of much trouble to me but as regards my loved husband our blessed little ones & myself I never was happier in my life. P's health has been almost entirely restored by his trip to at Louis & as to our pecuniary prospects are they not much better now than when we married? P. - at this moment could realise from 15 to 17000 \$. And Oh dear Addie why you do not act upon your own upright principles & in faith & charity & trust upon

One who looks into the hearts of all men & governs all things. Was it to his own honour & glory that Pierce vowed to devote his life or was it to the church of Christ? You say that "all denominations compose the church of Christ" -& that you think forms indifferent" - let me tell you my own dear Sissy that you are not an orthodox episcopalian while you hold these opinions. Pierce is out and does not know of my writing to you but ask Mr Rodney and he tell you I am correct. - Indeed independant of the authority of the church I cannot see how all these

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denominations compose the church of Christ with Christ at the head and yet opposed to each other as they are, can that be one church which does not hold the unity of the faith in the bond of peace: Can that be one army whose branches fight against each other rather than the world - look at the attacks upon the catholics the oldest & most numerous which is now preaching Christ crucified - & whose faithful followers are now suffering\_martyrdom in Asia as the early Christians did. - The only church which our blessed Lord left upon earth & the only one which he sustained & made use of to propagate gospel truth unto salvation and how our Saviour should have allowed his church to remain the hands of the devil 1800 years and to be spread in the miraculous manner it was while under diabolical influence & that too from the time of his ascension until the days of Martin Luther, a degraded Priest who secretly allowed bigamy & was notoriously immoral don't pretend to explain - you must remember Addie I once thought all Catholic Priests instruments of the devil, if not the devil himself & believed all falsehoods about monastic ignorance & superstition &c &c and entertained a thousand other

predudices [sic] - We have seen Miss Reeds six months in a convent & De Ricci secrets &c &c &c Sunday periodicals, so you see we cannot be much in the dark respecting all that can be urged against Catholicism Pierce has not seen a line of what I have written so you must not charge him with any thing that I say But dear addie how is it that you have so little

confidence in my dear husband you seem really to think he has lost his mind what do you mean by "renouncing his faith" & "committing himself," refer to my letter & You will see that told you he would examine the subject long & carefully before he makes any decision & I must confess I think it speaks badly for our religion if it will not stand investigation - & as to disgrace I cannot disagree [sic] understand what it has to do with it - if he embraces the catholic faith it certainly will be a heavy blow to the episcopal church in the south but then it will work greatly for the catholic church & you say all denominations are equally the Church of Christ - But if you are uneasy lest the Clergy could bring any charge against I will relieve you instantly on that point - ~~Let us~~ [sic] They cannot if they try to do so, & dear Addie, how

( little you know him but when you understand  
degrade / ( his character better you will know him to be  
( all that is estimable

([Each page has been crossed thus: (a crossed square has been drawn)

OSCOTT ARCHIVES

[Copied from a Photostat]

[1836]

2 Fev. Arrived at Marseilles. hung about the port two or three hours before we could get a pilot after having already sailed half mile beyond it. The appearance of the sourrounding [sic] hills & lighthouse beautiful – Oh with what greatful [sic] hearts did we look upon them - with what prayers & thanksgiving to the good & merciful God who had saved us from the perils of the deep & from all dangers of so isolated a condition. But no pilot is on bridge. [last two words have been written over another word] our signal had been up some time.

how can we lie here all night. Oh the anxiety that was felt by all on board during that hour - at last they call out "a boat" ~~in sight~~ [sic] which after making up to we discovered to be a fishing boat - our dissapointment [sic] however was soon relieved by the sight of an other at the east which was struggling ~~hard to reach us~~ [sic] against a head wind to reach us - now there one [sic] at the west close up to us - What a beautiful little vessel, how it cuts, through the waves - it seems to have no stern - One little sail with the pilot number on it - with what skill they shift it - 5 or 6 in them [sic] in the boat. What queer looking fellows with their brown knit caps hanging down over one ear as if it was intended to be thrown on which ever side was to windward.

Now for the ropes - presently the pilot is on board gabbing french - what shoes! How can he walk in them! They look like wooden boats - pork pork they call out from the boat Steward throw them some with [this last word is written over another word] this the steward threw them some half dozen pieces which they went off highly pleased with - Our first inquiry was if it was healthy at M – “ 0 oui. [the next word is blurred] It is six months since the cholera left us. Pierce was the only one on board that could speak french

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Will we escape the quarantine "Oh yes you will only be kept five days" five days oh terrible cant we in any way escape five days more in that little cabin? Oh bien! we must make up our minds to endure it cheerfully - Oh those beautiful hills - they seem to be covered with country ~~house~~ {sic] seats - large & small - this one the pilot points out as having as many windows as there are days in the year - we see nothing of the harbour, or indeed I may say of the city, - I ought to have described the light-house - the fort that beautiful rock off the point at the east - the singular appearance [sic] of the two islands in front of the harbour - How glad we were to get into the harbour I could not imagine for the entrance appeared no wider than the ship - but we were hauled in without any difficulty - The nearest Idea you can have of this noble harbour is to imagine an oval basin large enough to hold six hundred vessels in the heart of a city - the houses are built close to the water 5 & 6 stories high the warf [sic] I believe is built of stone the vessels are all placed at right angles with the warf [sic] and unload with lighters -

OSCOTT ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

My darling dear sweet Addie, [Adeline (Peacock) Duval]

I thank you for ever for your sweet letter it was like an ice cream on a summer day excepting that it lasted longer I read and reread it and now I cannot tell where in the world I have put it I am afraid Pierce has taken it with him Oh Addie you dear little pet how I could hug you up I knew you could not be angry with your dear Pierce or little Ne long but just at this moment I expect you are a little dubious it not being very long since you heard of his abjuration added to the abuse and disgust so plentifully poured out in the Churchman but I must take care on this subject or this letter will have the same fate as the two others written to you since I received yours but while I just touch up on it let me ask you Mary to oblige me by taking the catholic Herald do not think of the expense it is only 3 dolls a year and I dispense with a little luxury/that cost me a cent a day on purpose to have the pleasure of devoting it to that particular object so you must let me know immediately that you have it. I pray for you all every night and all ways in my thoughts - and I am sure we all have your prayers - but for you dear Molly I began a novena last-night - oh you naughty girl not to have the strength of mind to act according to your conscience yes yes dont pretend to me that you don't know that you are doing wrong not to go that pretty church in thirteenth street and humbly make your confession and declare your belief In the words of your saviour rather than in the construction that Luther or Cranmer choose to put in them - if you still have any doubts about Luthers true character you had

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better get his own works and read them come come my dear act like a woman with a head  
[?] and a heart and dont flatter your conscience that you really believe you are really [sic]  
telling the truth when you say that creed every day and you know perfectly well that you will  
never die an episcopalian - but then it is so hard to give up a church that is so fashionable  
and so easy - dear dear Mary take care of pride it is the worst of all the seven deadly sins -  
act with a spirit of humility to be led by it, not to find out a cunning reply to it - depend upon  
it the kingdom of Heaven ~~cannot dwell~~ [sic] in any one who is not willing to be led like a  
little child in a firm belief of the words of our saviour rather than the meaning that the  
cunning and worldly have put upon them - Oh Mary act with single heartedness and the  
almighty will bless you with a faith and a peace that will enable you to go through with  
happiness all the misery that troubles of [sic)) this life. - May he guide you - forgive me my  
dear sisters - I did not intend to have said all this - if I could only open your eyes - but not a  
word more positively. Now I began to write to you in such a merry mood and here find  
myself - well then to turn the subject what I have been doing and what have you been doing  
well (I) have been busy from morning till night

OSCOTT ARCHIVES

[Copied from photostat]

Dear Addie, [Adeline (Peacock) Duval]

I wrote to you last week and would not send my letter after I had written it - you can guess why - I should have written immediately after the receipt of your dear kind letter but the children have had the whooping cough and though I go out very seldom, excepting to Church, I still am very much occupied - yes dear Addie ~~there are not~~ [sic] I seem not to have thought of you - believe me when I say there is not a single day that I do not offer up a prayer for you and Mary and the dear children. O Addie do not take the awful responsibility upon yourself of influencing our dear Mary even Pierce would not do it - leave her to herself - I feel it my duty to tell you this - she knows too much to remain a protestant with single heartedness and purity of motive - she knows which is the truth and that the Almighty has never failed in his promises to his church - prejudices will take time of course to be overcome but I have no fear that if she seeks the knowledge with humility and single heartedness the mist will soon be dispelled - dear Addie it gives me pain to speak on a subject on which we differ but something whispers to me to warn you let her alone - do not think for a moment that I do not believe in sincerity of purpose as firmly as you - yet I trust I remember with humility that the Almighty God rejected Cain's offering tho it was as sincere as Abel's but it was not in humble obe[dience] to his commands - and he knew that it was not - And so does she know ~~which is true which is the true and God like system and which is the wordly and fashionable~~(sic) one I am done on this subject. May the Almighty God guide you. I have one thing more to ask and that is that Mary will take the Catholi'c Herald at my expense I am sure it will be

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a source of happiness to her and to me also to know that she reads it - do not think of the expense it is only 3 dolls and I dispense with a little luxury that costs me a cent a day on purpose to have the pleasure of devoting it to that particular object - so ~~she~~ [sic] you will let me know immediately that you (get?) it

I cannot find your last letter I think Pierce must have carried it with him. Dearest Addie I thank you a thousand times for all your kind feelings towards my dear husband. but how much more would you love him ~~better~~ [sic] did you know him better if you did but know him as I do [sic]. Oh how often do I think if only had a heart as full of love and charity I would be too happy - nature has not been so bountiful to me - but I try and hope to obtain these graces through the means the Almighty has given me the light to see and the humility to make use of

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD, [copied from Typescript of Original]

Alton Towers  
September 28, 1843

Dear Ady, [Peacock Duval]

Here we are for the last week at magnificent Alton which you will think I ought to give you a perfect description of. Yet how can I do it when I have so often heard Pierce talk of it and describe its grandeur and beautie - yet when I came it burst upon me as something I had had no idea of, so you may be sure there is but little to encourage me in undertaking such a task - the royal splendor and richness of the whole establishment overpowers any attempt that I am disposed to make. I suppose from six to twenty families come to see it in a day and are Shown through while the family are here, but the drawing room is so large that while we may all be at one end of it, strangers will pass through the other without seeing who we are. But now this is only a beginning and I have just got a note from Mrs. Berkeley telling us that Frank has taken a bad cold and she was so uneasy that she sent for her medical man who says he doing very well but we must be off at six tomorrow and trust in our good God that we shall find him well. We are too late for the rail train or we should set off at once. I am comparatively easy as I am quite sure that he is taken every care of. She is a most kind, affectionate person and very watchful in the least sickness as I saw when Addie had her cold. I am indeed more afraid of the Doctor than of the sickness as he is not homeopathic and I dread his taking calomel.

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Dear Ady: Nelie's letter has from necessity been put off from day to day, we are at Spetchley Park (October 2nd) so that if the letters do not go tomorrow they will leave the Boston steamer. I can give you no idea of the way our time is taken up in this delightful country home, but Nelie's has been more than taken up in consequence of Frank's bad, croupy cold. He is doing very well but is still kept in his room and then today, she has gone in shopping in Worcester; tomorrow she drives over to Lord Southwell's so I have taken pity on her and will finish her letter while she is having her dinner. I have nothing new to tell you that Mercer has grown a hearty little Englishman, and Nelie herself is already looking much better, but Ady and Frank are in statu quo. It will take time to brace them up. You will see from an extract from the Morning Post which I have sent to the Catholic Herald that there is considerable alarm about the Tractarian since Mr. Lockhart's conversion but I wish you could all see the regularity and piety of an English Catholic family from the head of the family down to the lowest servant in the kitchen or stable. But I must not pretend to write you a long letter - it is only to give you an account of our movements. If you want to see an account of Alton Towers you must get an English Work called the Gem of ..... but I think it must be the second edition.

Our departure for the continent is not yet fixed. I suppose it will be in about ten days.

Goodbye dear sister Ady. Remember us affectionately to the Lewis', Mrs. Bowen, Mr & Mrs Montgomery and kiss the little ones for us.

Ever faithfully and affectionately,  
Your devoted brother  
Pierce Connelly.

+A M D G

Rome November 12th 1845.  
Trinita dei Monte

My dearest Ady [Adeline Peacock Duval]

I have just been reading over your two dear letters written so long ago and the last still unanswered! however you have not been without news from us, since you must have heard through the R.Rev the bishop who thank God arrived home safely. I saw his reverence but a few minutes on his last visit to me much to my regret for I had hoped to talk with him upon several subjects as I prize so much his opinion and judgment. At all events you must have had good news and great joy at seeing his reverence once more surrounded by his dear children in Xt. and you may be sure our joy was equally great in getting such news of you.

And now my dear Ady to explain at once why I did not answer your letter immediately the truth is it would then have passed through the hands of the Superioress here and would probably not have been such as would have pleased her for I considered myself obliged to announce to her nine months ago that I doubted very much that I should ever enter the order of the S. Heart tho I had no doubts about my vocation to a religious life. oh no this is the thrice blessed road that our dear Lord has been pleased to place me in and I am but too happy and grateful for so blessed a vocation. Praise and bless the Lord oh my soul - How good God is - how good - and I am so happy so happy doing his most holy will and ready for whatever my dear and holy confessor shall direct me to do - The nuns here are very good and kind and there is nothing whatever with respect to ourselves that I would wish different

from what it is and I bless our dear Lord again and again that I have been prevented so wonderfully from taking any promise or any obligation upon me with respect to this

french order for 't [sic] is not the one for our country. our own dear country women must be led to a perfect life by meekness and sweetness and not by fear. [two words crossed out] I shall ask your dear brother Pierce to tell you a great secret which you must keep as [sic] your heart or you will never be trusted again. And now for your dear husband and your little ones I must have some chat about them at once especially as Julia wants some good advice she says - and then she truly finds herself naughty? that is an excellent sign; tell her I have great hopes of her being one day very good; but this must come little by little, day by day. Suppose she makes 3 acts in the morning and 3 in the afternoon that she can mark down in a little book [that Nelia will make out of a ½ sheet of paper for me ] with a pin and let these acts be 1st on obedience for this is the first and most necessary of virtues and then the week after some other virtue that her dear Mamma will choose for her, and she will soon find how sweet & profitable it is to practice virtue for it is by practice[ing] virtue and not by words that we gain the possession of it. Now I must tell you all our dear little Frank's practice. It has been the greatest of his mortifications, to keep still and this during 10 minutes of study of spelling and 10 minutes of bible story, this makes his two acts and the third is during the repetition out of book to keep his toes out, heels together and hands clasped, which is the great help in keeping his attention fixed - now I am sure if our dear little Julia tries this ~~she~~ she will find out what a blessed thing it is to be able

to control [sic] our will and govern our passions which we shall never be able to do unless we study it in little daily acts of virtue - and you dear Ady must explain

to her for me that the word virtue comes from a latin word which m[ean]s] strength, power - so virtue is the strength the power to do what we ought to do, and to resist what we ought not to do – and you know we can only obtain strength by exercise and so we have got back to the little practice which will obtain the virtue and then when we return we shall hope to see her dear little face shining with the joy of all the virtues obedience meekness, charity, humility, simplicity, and peace and so it is dear Ady we must all become as little children in the practice till the reality exists, for it is only such who are fitted for the kingdom of heaven and who shall enter it, to see love and enjoy God, the blessed three in one, forever!

I have not written to our dear Molly for more than a year I think, nor can I do so until my movements are more decided and above all let me beg of you not to think I have anything like a difficulty with the good nuns here or that I would advise [sic] you not to put the children at M<sup>c</sup> Sherry's, on the contrary I am extremely sorry that they are not there, and

hope before this that you have been able to send them back I think you do well to keep Mary with you since she can go on with her studies at home especially as she is delicate and requires nourishing food at her age, just now. I bless God again and again for her pious dispositions and trust she may keep them until she will be old enough to judge and understand what she is destined to by the most blessed will of God and what will be most for his Glory and her own happiness, - I trust to something better. [5 or 6 words crossed

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Out & not readable] blessed be god for all than [sic] He has done for us and for all that he will do while we continue to serve him with humility and charity and submission to all that he designs for us.

Ady is so busy that I cannot make her write, but her little heart is with you all and the tear in her eye when she talks of you all - I hope dear Ralpho is with you and happy tho I am sure he will never be quite happy till he finds the little child Jesus with his holy mother\_- this is the key to happiness and he may just as well trust to my experience and not be trying those others on his big bunch that will only unlock boxes of the vipers of pride self complacency false humility and disobedience tell him just to examine my pretty key and see if he does not find engraved on it so beautifully obedience, and all the other virtues to the consum(m)ation of Charity and "going into the house they found the-Child with Mary his mother" oh thrice blessed key to the palaces of eternal bliss. Gloria Patri at Filio &c &c.

Now then this will probably reach you just about Christmas or the Epiphany so you must pray a great deal for my intention and particularly for dear Ralph and your and our children – how happy and blessed a thing it would be if our Lord would call them all to the blessed, the thrice blessed life of religion! to this heaven on earth - I shall write soon to sister martha. How very sorry I was about the mistake of your giving her those beads and relics I sealed them in George's package on purpose for I was not at all certain that his intended's name was Martha tho' it was in my head that it was so: I thought at all events they would go right and

then I would explain by letter: how sorry I am that she has been so unkind to you but you know the sufferings of the heart purify our love for God\_and so we learn how to feel all the sufferings that he endured in the unfaithfulness of his followers during his Passion and death and all that he endures from those who profess to follow him while they blindly follow their pride and their passions - let us watch any [sic] pray and look to ourselves returning good for evil without intermission -

My dear Sister I wish I could be of any aid to you in your present uncomfortable position for with the most christian dispositions on all sides there must be many crosses under which you must fall this is the blessedness of a religious life - there are crosses certainly but such as raise you to a purer love of God. Give my love to all who remember me, especially your good Mama and all of dear Lewis' family. When I hear that Ralph is at home I shall write to him tho' I wrote by Bp Odin to Texas about a month since God bless you again and all dear to you.

Ever in the meek and lowly heart of J.,  
Your aff sister,  
C. Connelly

Kiss all your dear ones for me and tell Mary to wait till she will have further advice from me before she takes so important a step.

[Addressed] - Lewis Duval Esq\_  
For / Mrs Lewis Duval  
Philadelphia  
Pa.  
U. States.

[McSherrystown - Hanover - Academy of the Sacred Heart, now conducted by Sisters of St Joseph.]

GAENSLER FAMILY ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat, Mayfield March, 1959.]

Convent H.C..J.

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea  
Sept 15, 1851.

“Dieu Seul”

"Fiat, Fiat Voluntas tua"

My dear Sister

I am much concerned for you in all your troubles yet you must feel very thankful to God that your poor husband desired to see a Priest before his death - You have now your dear little boy to bring up in a good life with the holy Jesuits - And how thankful you must be for dear Kate's decision. I wish very much I could be near you - How would you like to begin a Catholic School in Texas or with some of the Western Bishops who would like to establish a house of our order in the Diocese? - In a year or two I could send out or go myself with three or four of our Sisters who are most eager to go to America - Mary & Kate are quite capable, with a few hints as to the Method of teaching which I can readily send them - You never tell me any thing about Mr Montgomery & our Sister - Are they still indifferent on religious

points? & where are they living? Dear Ralph has never written to me once since my troubles began and I do not know why. I know nothing about him nor had I ever heard that he had lost his first wife - When and how was it? And how many children has he - please tell <sup>him</sup> to write for I do not know where to send a letter to him – or I would rather you should enclose this letter to him -

I suppose you know that I know nothing about my dear children I have several times sent letters to them & to Pierce which have been returned unopened - But an anonymous letter was sent saying he was advised to take a wife - If it could be without sin by his vows being dissolved I should be very glad, but could he ever be happy again? Do pray for him dear Adie and my poor little ones-

I am your own in Xt

C. Connelly

[On the remaining blank space is the following which has been written the other way of the page]:

Should you see Bph Odin on your visit to Ralph please re-member me to him and beg his prayers Tell him how much I want to go to America if it is God' s holy will - and if so He will provide for the Community here during my absence. Did I send you a view of our beautiful Convents?

Laus Deo -

[In a space between the words 'here' and 'during' above is written] :

Mrs Lewis Duval

SHCJ            ARCHIVES - ROME [copied from Original]  
(written in pencil) *To her sister-in-law*

Rome "66 Via Ara Coeli"  
March 30<sup>th</sup> 1854

My dear Sister

Though I have not the pleasure of having seen you the name of Sister brings you very near and dear to me; the more so from the circumstances of past years, united to those of the present. I regret not having yet seen the likeness of little Mary which my brother tells me he has sent, but as I hope to return to England towards the last of May it will not be sent here. It was very kind of him to send it and I should like to have one of the whole family circle, as there is little chance of my seeing you in this world. You perhaps know but little of Convents or of our life in general; but as I am interested in hearing from you all that you can tell me, so I have no doubt you are interested in the same way in hearing all that I can tell you about ourselves. As an individual my brother can tell you more than I can relate, but that you may tell me how you pass your time and what you do all the day long I shall first tell you what we do. We get up at 5½ in the morning and make the Sign of the Cross and give our whole hearts to the God who created us and loved us from all eternity, and we tell Him as it were leaning on His Heart that we wish to love Him for all Eternity, and then we love, while we dress ourselves in the presence of the Angels and with them offer our acts of love, and our desires to make all love Him with pure hearts & especially to lead little children to His love. When we are dressed

[Continued below]

we go to our Meditation & then we say the Office of our Blessed Mother which consists chiefly of the Psalms of David, the Antiphons & Hymns to honour her as the chosen Creature of God, chosen from among all others to be His Mother – that is the Mother of His son, - the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity! After the Office we follow the Holy Mass and go to Holy Communion as often as we have leave to go, then we make our thanksgiving and at 9 go to breakfast then to our Schools or other occupations in the house until 12½ then Office, Examen of Conscience and at 1 o'clock Dinner – At 1½ Recreation, either walking or sewing etc etc At 2½ we say our Rosary and to the Schools: at 6 Spiritual Reading 6½ Office of our Lady - 7½ Supper ¼8 Recreation ¼9 Litanies of the Saints Night Prayers and Repose –

I have given you all our day – I shall not be able to enter into the course of our Schools but I can explain our method. We teach our children in each branch vocally before giving them the books and this makes them understand without getting into a puzzle. In Grammar we begin by explaining everything, letters, parts of speech, and making sentences, with writing on a black board and they are very much amused by this & learn how to parse before learning a single lesson in the Grammar. When they can do this we give them the first Grammar & make them parse daily – In the same way we teach Arithmetic with the black board & slates – al by explaining a very little with the books. All our children go through the Arithmetic gradually in this way quite understanding fractions & cube root which is generally thought too difficult for girls. We teach Latin French & Italian in the same easy way and it succeeds so well that we had one of Racines Plays, “Esther”, and one of Metastasio's Sacred Dramas for the Xmas

[continued below]

holidays. We had also a pretty little Theatre with 8 side scenes and three black curtains which I painted with water colours and honey. We are not painting in oils, while we[re] stopping here for the Rules – Tell Ralph that I remember his priming [pinning?] the canvas for me to try oil colors when I was about thirteen years old. I wonder if her recollects it! God bless you and your little ones & I hope you pray for me in my heavy troubles while I am your affectionate Sister in J.C.

Cornelia

P.S. I hope to return to England very soon. Write to me there as usual  
“All Souls  
St Leonards  
Sussex

I must not forget to say that tho' you laugh at my note paper for letters, it is the usual paper in England for ladies letters, and I had not observed using it to you because I use it daily in writing to everybody. I have taken letter paper this time without and envelope to please you – but it is according to common sense to conform to the customs of the Country we live in.

March 6. 1836.

Dear Mary

You will have reproached me, long before you receive this, I know, with not having kept my promise but you ought not you must not – I will not make any excuses for if you reflect a moment on the constant occupation I have with the children and the kind attention of many friends you will no longer for a moment doubt my total inability to fulfil it – I may say I have seen nothing of Rome yet though I have been our every day – but seeing it wont do – it must be studied and it will take a [sic] least a year to study it with any kind of advantage – At every step you see the most precious works of art. the beautiful obelisks columns statues and fountains in every piazza (open space) [sic] the magnificent churches & palaces, shops, streets, all is a mass of confusion to me at present. We will talk of these things by & bye [sic] perhaps dearest dear Molly you will go over them with us But to ease your mind I will tell you at once we are all well excepting colds which I cannot say we have ever been without since we arrived at Marseilles. Your dear little son will not forget you – he asked me the other day if you did not used to whip him in bed? his eyes continue as defective as ever the physician of Marseilles ordered a pair of spectacles with a little hole in the centre to be worn an hour every day but I find great difficulty in keeping them on ten minutes at a time – he plays the master as much as ever & Nanetter cannot understand a word of English – I find her everything I could desire her to be. Grillé [sic] we have parted with having found him more expensive than useful. We are in delightful

[continued below]

Rooms 3 chambers a dining room sitting room anteroom & our expenses including the table (which is excellent 3 courses allways [sic] with clean napkins every day and every article of furniture in both chambers and parlour that we could desire, 7 bureaus & lovely wide sofa surrounded with pillows) are but 70\$ per month We hire a piano which costs 5 or 6\$ per mo [next word is blurred] about 20cts pr day – We hope however during the summer to fix ourselves somewhere in the neighbourhood for about 50\$ per mo. Little Ady is sweeter than ever but she is very delicate & week [sic] she can just get up by a chair alone. What is the reason dear Mary that you tell me nothing about the dear children nothing about any of the family – the very thing that you used to complain of your self. Do you expect either of the boys this spring? Tell them to take the same love for themselves that I send to you. talk about religion now, and tell me too all your own feelings for who should you tell them to if not to your little Sissy ♠ [sic] who loves even more than ever and who is blessed with a dear husband who cannot speak of you without tears of affection – Mercer asked today when we went to ride if we were not going to see you.

We dined two or three days ago at Lord Shrewsbury's the countess is a most fascinating woman great dignity of manner rather tall; & very handsome face, and her faith, her piety! Oh it would charm you and she does so much good among the poor – She has two daughters one unmarried the Princess Talbot [word crossed out] The other has made a very splendid marriage with the Prince Borghese of immense wealth and ~~of qualities which would~~ [sic] rich qualities of heart & mind – The Princess his wife,

[continued below]

is beautiful, amiable & clever (English) she speaks four languages and is a splendid musician. – Dear Mary you may imagine poor little american me seated at a table surrounded by Princesses Earls and Countesses! We dined at half past seven – all ~~dressed~~ [sic] in full dress –

March 28. I have kept this letter in order to get as much in it as possible. Addie is better – I have been over ruins churches convents etc etc oh! I have not told you anything yet but I am afraid to open half my heart to you about religion – You may imagine my joy Pierce is satisfied about Miracles has made his abjuration and writes to dear Bishop Otey today whom I trust through the mercy of God may be brought to a knowledge of the truth. Oh my sisters what is all that this world can give or take away compared to the joy of feeling yourself in the true way. ~~My heart is too full~~ [sic]

OSCOTT ARCHIVES  
[1836]

[Copied from a Photostat]

[Copied from after C.C.'s signature, half way down the page.]

I would not send my letter for a few days as I knew I would have something more to tell you but now I feel that I have so much to say so much more than I could put in a half dozen letters that I am almost unwilling to make the attempt but for the churches ruins and all the attractions for the stranger I have only to refer you to a guide book or some of the late tourists that have burdened the world with their new publications but I ought to warn you to avoid the protestant falsehoods. Oh Mary, how often do we wish for you and daily am I with you in my prayers. – Oh this is a holy spot and the piety to be seen among all classes high as well as low is indeed truly edifying. – My faith, my hope, my happiness increases every day – Protestants may sneer at such things as the infidel sneers at all things connected with religion but there is an Almighty God who will protect his Glory and the truth even to the end of the world when all nations shall see and rejoice in it.

Tell me, dearest, in your next letter if you like to me [below this line there are scribbled notes...fire. marry .. Mr....m....I never....M.M. ?] consider my letters to you as addressed equally to them & if they are not at home you must send my letters on or else copy off all that could interest them. I have been presented to Cardinal Weld & Odescalchi both the most prepossessing men and the latter looks like, and everybody says he is, a perfect saint upon earth – but you must not think we

[continued below]

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are prepossessed with every thing & though I am so happy never, never before was so happy in my religion still we are neither of us blind to the many abuses which belong not to the church but to the superstitions of the ignorant. – I have a thousand things to say to you, but we go at six o'clock to dine with Lady Arundell and it is now five – it seems like affectation to mention this so slightly but have patience I will try to tell you more tomorrow.

7<sup>th</sup>. I have scarcely a moment to spare to day & indeed I steal it from the time appropriated to my music to give to you my dear Sissy. I have taken three lessons from an excellent Master Socci, he taught the Princess Victoria & I have not practised as I ought to have done – I am delighted with his method and hope to acquire under him a full knowledge of the science. Today we commence with one Italian master & though I have gone through the french grammar to the end of the verbs since we parted I still find so much difficulty in holding a conversation that I have determined if possible to write a short exercise every day, - so you see that I am not without occupation & now I must tell you something of our dinner of yesterday. – Lady A, - is a large fat woman with blue eyes & rosy cheeks rather a masculine woman – in mourning – a white collar worn under a thin black one was the only white article to be seen about her. She wore a black lace cap trimmed with black ribbon, the ribbon being high in the centre. – Her appearance reminded me exactly of the widows we have seen on the stage. – She is a warm catholic Pierce was introduced to her by Lord Clifford ~~the in law to Cardinal Weld~~ [sic] a very pious thorough catholic

[continued below]

a fine scholar and man of general information – ~~He dined~~ [sic] we met him at dinner yesterday & the two American Bishops, who are here at present. Bishop Brutté [ sic ] of Vincennes Il<sup>in</sup> is a most holy man and of conversation & reasoning that would persuade any one with any goodness in them to be a Christian.

~~Lady A. sees company every Sunday evening and she has given us the present invitation [sic] you dear A – will undoubtedly think this speaks badly for her religion but I would not require of you more than a few days of unprejudiced study to convince you that it is a puritanical idea unfounded in scripture but we must nor argue upon religion we will only talk a little occasionally and stop as soon as it grows into argument. [The above paragraph was crossed out]~~

As it will I know be a great while before I write again I must not forget to tell you all I can think of at present. I have become very sociable with Mrs. Harper of [space] [sic]. Miss H. & Miss Seaton daughter of the celebrated Mrs S. founder of the Sisters of Charity, they of course know many Philadelphians. Miss S. has passed many winters at P. with her Aunt Mrs Scott, the Scott's mother. She mentioned she had met Anne K. travelling with her Sister Mrs Latimer. – Give our love and remembrances to all our good friends and tell Minnie she was not forgotten among those we thought & talked of with affection and in the eternal City at the foot of Trinita dei Monti we pronounced her to be a girl of uncommon talent. The viscountess Ranelagh (pronounced Rennel) and her daughter Miss Jones called on us several days ago. She is very pretty and all that is lovely. When we returned the visit we met Lady Shrewsbury there

[continued below]

who called with Lord S. the next day – Lord S. is an author and has taken great interest in P.'s letters which [ sic ] do not say anything about these things to anybody. We find no difference between the polished society of P - & the society of the English Nobility excepting that they carry more humility in their politeness. Lord Clifford has six children he lost his wife 4 years ago and is still mourning, he has made education a great study – he told me he thought there was no amusement for a young child equal to reading stories to them and that from the New Testament afforded an inexhaustible resource – That God may bless and lead you into all truth my dear Sissy is the warm prayer of yr affect. C.C.

July 13, Steam boat Wm Quack [1843?]

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St. A.

Dear George

I send a letter to tell you that we are off and hope to meet you at Natchez or Vicksburg if you are not gone. I send one to Port Gibson at the same time to make more sure of you and one to John at Vicksburg – We go to N. Orleans to arrange our affairs and will leave there if there is a good boat immediately so make a grand effort to meet us.

Ever your affectionate Sister  
C. Connelly

[Addressed]

George S. Peacock, Esq.,

Mill Grove near Cincinnati,

Ohio,

U. States of America.

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S.H.J.M.

St. A.

Rome, Trinita di Monte, July 16, 1844

Dear George

You may be sure that I was delighted as well as Pierce with the news that you had finally determined to settle yourself in the married state and still more to know that you look to your eternal happiness first, for without this all is flat stale and unprofitable. And what a blessed life it is, in the sweet hope of a blissful eternity! – A hope, that becomes certainty – Oh, what a happiness it is to be a true catholic even were it only for this life, yes, I would say again and again, yes were it only for this life for where else do we see that calm and Sweet peace that God's Saints have enjoyed and that he gives to all who seek him in simplicity of intention, and purity of heart; and ah how easy it is to obtain that simplicity of intention; prayer, and practice will do all for us – When we acknowledge to God our selfishness our crookedness and all our miseries, in humility, and ask Him to change our selfishness into charity, our crookedness into straight-forwardness, our miseries into his perfections, this is what he delights in and it is the first step to this purity of hear and intention – as I told you

(continued below)

dear George about this time a year ago the only way to obtain purity of heart is to reject what is impure and the same in our intentions, reject what is double, I mean what is not from a pure motive, what is from human respect or any human motive – How else would any human creature be sure of the purity of their motives? Many think their motives pure because they do not know themselves – God teaches us to know ourselves and when we doubt our motives and wish to purify them it is a sign that we begin to know ourselves, our sinful nature, and then alone we learn to act for God alone and to do all for his greater glory, as the apostle says “whether we eat or drink”, How, how can anyone eat or drink for the glory of God unless they purify their motives and make the reason govern the sensual appetite – You did not tell me if you had got over your scruple about your motives when I saw you that sweet little moment at McSherry’s town – Why have you not written to me before this? – not a line since then from you. I do not know what any of the family will say about Pierce and me since we have let them know our decision to devote ourselves to God in religious life but though we would wish them to be quite easy upon any such affairs as concern us in this one particular circumstance we do not expect any protestant to look upon such a step but with the greatest disapprobation. We could not tell you or Molly when you were at Grand Coteau because it was a step that was yet to [be] proved before it became known to any but our holy confessors – God arranged all very sweetly and quietly and dear Pierce is devoted to Study and the Theological classes

(continued below)

every morning; he comes to see us as often as is consistent, until now once a week.

I am here as Postulant you know, though eating and sleeping in the house where the retreats are given which is a large comfortable house, cool & quiet. Powell the English nurse I brought from [word illegible here] takes care of Frank. She is a convert and a treasure of patience – My time is fully employed dear Georgy or I should have written to you before this; you may be sure I have thought of [you] very often and hoped to hear how all was decided and what your prospects were – Before long no doubt there will be a convent of our Order established in that part of the country and perhaps I may be sent there and then Martha will come to make a retreat with us and should you be blessed with children, then Mary or I will have the educating of them. Our little Ady has grown so much that you would scarcely know her I think. She speaks Italian quite as well as French and her English is not neglected. On St. Peter's day (dear Papa's feast), she played a little duet on the piano with me and sang some pretty verses that were suitable for the occasion and little Pierce Frank he had three little verses that he half sang and half repeated for dear Papa who had brought him a little guitar for the occasion – In the evening papa sent us a treat of ices for all the house and at ten o'clock (to finish the feast) burst forth the Girandola, the fire works that you know are the most famous in the world –

I have not told you yet what a sweet letter we had from Merty the other day, he had been rewarded and advance in the

(continued below)

school – the little darling says he “had lately felt a burning love within” and speaks with so much feeling that [it] is delightful for us to think of. He is with the Jesuits now you know. Pierce was not satisfied with Oscot[t]. We have here a most sweet superior She is by birth a Marchioness; the house is for the nobility and all the children are noble. There is another house of this order here which is for the second-class of people. But all that does not interest you

Do you hear from Ralph often? I have not had a line: dear fellow, I would give a great deal if he were out of that wretched place. Poor dear sister Martha wrote to me the other day – I am shocked at the state of things with respect to sister – and at the state of her health too – I am truly sorry she takes so [sic] it to heart – If I could influence her she would not care the toss up of a straw for it all. I hope you & Ralph and Mary write often to her and that at least she has some consolation in Ady

I shall wait with impatience to hear from you and to know all your arrangements and if you have made your first communion. Oh, what a happy day for you! - when freed from the load of sin, you will be verily and indeed united to God and on flesh with him.

Goodbye dear George kiss for me your bride if she is already so, and tell her, we love her for your sake and wish you both all earthly joys and blessings  
The children send you kisses,

Ever your devoted Sister in the Heart of Jesus,

C.C.

[Written in the margin] P.S. I hope you will have received by this time the little souvenirs we sent you and Martha.

The Convent H.C.Jesus

St Leonards on Sea

Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, 1866.

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J.M.J.

My darling Mary,

It seems very strange that I should feel that I know you so well and love you so much & yet never to have seen you! Does it not? Yet I have a photograph of you when you were a little wee trot, kneeling down with your rosary in your hand looking very pious. And I have had a nice letter of yours also sent, in one from your dear father – So dear Molly we are already quite well acquainted with you – Does Papa call you Polly or Molly? Pray write me a nice chatty letter & tell me all that you wld. like to say if I were with you – Tell me something of your first Communion & of your employments at San Anthonio. [sic]

Mr Draper gave me a very flourishing account of you, and his sister came up to see me the other day – He seems very much attached to your dear father and often comes to St. Leonards where his aunt resides & his Sisters [sic] lives with her Aunt-

They seem to be very nice kind good people and it was a great pleasure to me to hear any one speak of all with so much affection.

If ever you should think of devoting your life to our Lord in a particular way I hope it will be that you are to be blessed with a call to the Society of the

(continued below)

Holy Child Jesus – It would be the greatest grace that our most blessed Lord could give you in this world, and He alone has the power to give it to whom He pleases – May he bless you in His own way my darling child –

Ever yr. affectly in J.C.

Aunty Cornelia

Relig.H.C. Jesus

[Addressed] Miss Bowen

The Convent- St Leonard's- on- Sea  
May 17, 1866.

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J.M.J.

My darling Mary, [ Bowen]

It has given me great pleasure to hear from you, but your letters are very scarce, and very long in coming. I want very much to hear from you often, so you see what an unreasonable aunty you have! You will never find me to say you write too often – not if you wrote six letters to my one. I am always so, so busy with oceans of letters more than I can answer myself, so I have to get two of my sweet Sisters to help me. One is my secretary and the other the Bursar, and so between three pens going they are answered daily a few. When my darling Mary remembers this she will not mind giving me six to one! –

How are you making the sweet month of Mary? We have procession every Sunday through the gardens and around the beautiful statue of Our Lady which you can see in the Photograph of the convent – and I also can imagine you at Sharon as I have all the pretty Photographs the dear Sisters sent me last Xmas.

The thought of your being with them is an inexpressible consolation to me [my] dear child and I love you as my own dear one and pray for you as such! My our sweet Lord in His Infinite love look upon you darling child, and fill your heart with a love which will sanctify you and give you true happiness – the only true happiness. Kiss your dear Sisters for me and tell them also to let me know how they are going on in all respects – Let me know what letters

(continued below)

you get – Which Sodalities you are in – and who you talk to among the Sisters,  
etc. etc. etc. I hope the games reached you safely.

Ever your affectionate Aunty,

C.C. Supr.

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

Sep 20<sup>th</sup> /66

+

J.M.J.

My dearest Mary

I hope you have not been disappointed at not hearing from me sooner – And still more hope you may not leave Sharon again, but that your dear father may make the journey north to see you & all his darlings next summer. Try to persuade him to do so and to allow you to follow your own desires & convictions. He is too good to wish to cross you against your happiness, and you are now eighteen years of age, and able to judge for yourself in such matters if only he will allow you – I wish I could persuade him to leave you free & at the same time not to think you love him or your dear Mother any the less because you love our Lord the more – I hope, & very strongly, to be able to go to see you next Spring, but if not why should you not come to England and finish your education with me? It would be very easy to get Papa's leave for this as the journey is only ten days & the cost only \$119 to London. I should be intensely glad to have you here my dearest Mary and to have your sisters also if they could be spared so far off.

May our dear Lord bless you darling

Ever yr. affectionate Aunt

C.C.

[Gaenslen]

[Addressed] Miss Bowen

1135 Spring Garden St.

Phil.

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – St. Ciceia [1867]

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J.M.J.

My darling Mary <sup>[Bowen]</sup>

I recd. your dear letter from New York. Thanks my darling for writing – I had begun to feel very anxious abt you – and indeed until we hear that you are safe with your dear parents we shall still feel uncertain. We have had frost enough to destroy the remains of yellow fever so on this point our anxiety is over. Write very soon & on thin paper that Mth Lucy Ignatia may enclose in hers for England. Are you not surprised to know that your darling Sisters are soon to start for England? Their Berths are taken on the Scotia & we are to sail on the 27<sup>th</sup>. You must pray for us that the “Ship on fire” may not recount our story. We shall have many prayers & much confidence in God’s Providence. Devote yourself to your dear parents & prefer their will to your own.

Ever your loving Aunt C.C.

Love to <sup>dr</sup> Mamma.

Villa de Sémainville

Hyères Vas France

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>/69

+

J.M.J.

My darling Mary

I am sure you will be glad that Cornelia & Bella are coming to the South of France for the winter where they will go on with studies & see something of the world. You may be sure I shall make them profit by their stay in pushing them on in French & painting and in making them see all that is to be seen.

I hope dear Mary that you are well & your sweet baby all thriving. You ought not to nurse it more than the six months at most. I hope dear that you teach your brothers & help them to understand their lessons out of School hours – So much depends you know on explanation of Grammar and on boys being helped in Euclid & Latin and in mental Arithmetic as you were at Sharon.

I need not say that I have confidence in your keeping up to your duties dear Mary as a true *Enfant de Marie*, but I hope you will pray very hard for your husband and bring blessings on him also – Give you [sic] dr Baby a kiss for me & make the sign of the cross on his little forehead for me

Ever your loving

Aunty

[Addressed:]

For dear Mary –

Mrs Gaenslen.

GAENSLEN FAMILY ARCHIVES

[Copied from original]

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

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May 27<sup>th</sup> 1875

J.M.J.

My dearest Mary

I am sure you do not need ink & paper to assure you of my love & interest in you, the next to my own darlings are your little ones, and your dear husband. If I do not write often to you never attribute the absence of a letter to any want of love, or of the thought of you – The older I grow the more intensely I love you all, & hope for an unending meeting in heaven – Dear Aunt Mary has gone before us, but her prayers are still with us all & she will never forget you & your darlings. Oh how I wish your dear husband had the light of the true faith & that you could have this happiness to console you.

I cannot make out where you are going to live as Bella tells me they are going into their old home. Oh! How your dear Father would grieve over the unfortunate state of your dear Mother's affairs – I am also grieved that John has not taken to some profession either of lawyer or Doctor. He will get some knowledge as a Clerk, but if he were in the Bank it would give him some general information of financial transactions which he could never get as a clerk in any office. If any influential friend could recommend John there would be no difficulty in getting him into a Bank, I should think & this would help your dear Mother.

I hope you thanked the Doctor for his Photograph for me. I was so pleased to have it – When can you send one of the little ones in a group?

Is it true that Cornelia is to be married or is married? I shall not write to her till I hear from her. Give my love to all –

Ever yr loving Aunt      C.C.

GAENSLEN FAMILY ARCHIVES

[Copied from a Photostat]

The Convent

S<sup>t</sup> L. on Sea

Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> 1872

+

J.M.J.

My dearest Bella

I had promised myself the pleasure of writing to you during the holidays, but day after day went and we were so busy with one thing & another and getting out some sketches for the children to copy that I really had not a moment. My darling Bella. I never had your Photograph, but last week dear Eugenie Ryan came with her little Sisters and brought the one you send to her, for me to see – I do not like it dear – It looks sad & old, you might be thirty years of age, so worn & long faced! I could almost cry to see you so changed as you must be. Ah where has all your joy gone my darling? Surely the thought of Paradise is enough to give you joy under all the pains & sorrows of this life –This is only a little dream of sorrow & we must never forget the happiness that is in store for all those who walk on with faith & courage in the Pilgrimage of life. We are on our way home my darling and the trials & thorns must just be gently brushed aside so as not to interrupt us on our way – Ah how often have I wished that you & dr Corry had not returned so soon! A year longer would have made you stronger and Dr Corry would not have had to battle her way so far from you & her dr Mother. But I suppose we ought not to regret your going as it was your dear Mother's wish –

[continued below]

- 2 -

Ah what is life! To marry & die and leave children for others to be unkind to or something like this. Mr. Dobson married a tall pretty widow with two children – and of course Sabina & Clara are secondaries. Sabina is going to Toul this winter with Mth M. Theophila to get the habit of speaking French. I hope you keep it up – You must come and be a nun my darling & bring Lizzie over & do not give yourself to be any man's slave to die & leave a family. You are not strong enough to bear such a sad lot – And I do hope your dr Mother sees this; My darling Bella, you must be very lonely being without Corry, but it is something to have Lizzie to teach & your Brothers too, to instruct in many ways – No doubt you teach them map drawing and etching and the figures of practical geometry –

You have never sent me the drawings of your island & the various pretty views in your neighbourhood – If you will do those for me I will do an equal number of the views of Mayfield & St Leonards for you & Corry.

Is the law suit coming to an end? I heard that Mary<sup>[sic]</sup> husband is very wealthy in his practice – So she will have no anxiety on the score of money & perhaps she will send you & Lizzie over to us or to Philadelphia next year – where I hope to make a visit D.V. one of these days.

Write my darling & if you have anything quite private to say to your loving Aunt you only have to write private at the head of your letter & no one will see it but myself. Ah! My dear Bella I can only say that I love you as your own Mother & am ever your in J.C.

C.C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME

[Copied from Original]

The Convent Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 1875

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea.

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J.M.J

My darlings Bella & Lizzie [Bowen]-

I shall just be in time I hope for the Xmas greetings tho' it is rather long across the Sea from this date! –

Why are you so long this time without writing? I have not heard from you since midsummer – You know my darling Bella how much I love you all & desire everything for your happiness & welfare. Not a line from Cornelia though I wrote to the address she gave me in New York. Do let me know that she is happy and really well married.

There is almost a rush for California & all the splendid Country between the Mississippi, the Pacific, in England.- I wonder if our dear boys have the American spirit & energy to stir up for the new countries? If I were with you I should rouse up from Texas & not get swamped there. Knowledge is power & there is no use in going to sleep when active energy would make us all the more useful & happy.

A merry Xmas to each & all and the blessings of the Holy Child be with you forever.

Your loving Aunt

C.C.

+

J.M.J.

My dearest Bella,

I am sure you will be sorry to hear of dear Mother Helen's death – She came to England with M<sup>th</sup> M. Walburga in 1874 and tho' she recovered her strength very rapidly she soon fell back when the cold weather of this severe winter set in – You will pray for [her] I am sure –

The death of M<sup>th</sup> Gertrude was very sudden and I hardly remember whether she saw much of you when she came down from Blackpool where she was Superior when were here.

I am on my way to Mayfield for dear M<sup>th</sup> Gertrude's funeral or I should write to Lizzie & the boys –

I send an old book on Texas to George because I think it will suit his quiet way of looking into matters – I fancy he is something of his Uncle George's character, and I feel a great interest in him.

In haste & with love to Cornelia Mary and all the dear ones

Yrs lovingly in J.C.

C.C.

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1876

The Convent S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on Sea

Sussex.

The Convent Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – 77

St Leonards on Sea.

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J.M.J.

My dearest Bella,

I send you my Christmas greetings to give those around, and hope they may be in time to assure you of my thought & love for you. –I hope you are well my dear little Bella & that you are not wasting your time & talents, but that you are devoted to your duties & to poor little Lizzie, who has not the same advantages you & Cornelia had! – Do not let yourself fancy that you have not the ability to teach Lizzie – You certainly need attention to what you are doing and application of your mind, but you have the ability if only you determine to conquer the natural frivolity of your character. It is a great shame that there should be any doubt abt Lizzie's education between you and Cornelia! And when too late you will bitterly reproach yourselves for neglecting her, if such shld, be the case which I implied from Johnny's letter.

Do not take this as a scolding for you know my darling I have only your good in view and my letter is to wish you all a very joyful Christmas & New Year with every blessing and grace from our dear Lord – I have written the names on the back of the greetings & you will let me know of their safe arrival – and give me good news of yourselves – Let me know what your three brothers are employed in & whether they are all a real help to your Mother which they ought to be. Much love to each & all.

Ever your loving

Aunt Cornelia.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

The Convent,  
St Leonards on Sea  
Jan 27<sup>th</sup> [1861?]

J MJ

My dear little Nelie [nee Duval?]

I am sitting by Kate who is crying over you in thinking of your troubles – and you may be sure that her little tongue runs and gingles like a bell clapper when she begins fairly to talk of you and your little darlings, whom she loves as if she were their own Mother – She reminds me in this of your dear Aunt Mary who always loved her Sisters children as her own. Though none can quite equal a Mothers love.

This morning she sent to know if any letter had come for her of course she will be in great anxiety till she hears of your safety, therefore my dearest Nelie I hope you make Edward or some of your friends write immediately to let us know how you have got through all etc etc etc.

Kate is unceasing in all she tells me of your darling children but Ellie seems to be the pet – We want you to call the next Frank after St Francis Xavier – and we are going to pray to all the St Francises to protect him or her whichever our dear Lord may send you – though we hope you may have a son this time, if it is Gods sweet will, and if not then it will be that he knows what is best for you and you will thank Him just as much for a daughter. Will you not?

[continued below]

(2)

What shall I tell you about Kate that you will best like to hear? That she has quite given up Mr Hughes which is a very good thing as she ought never to have thought of marrying a protestant – What a mercy that she had not already tied herself to him months before!

This is a very blotted letter to send you my dear child, but it must be this or none, as I have only a few moments to give, having my time always more than fully occupied – I look forward to your dear little ones being educated by our dear Sisters, and, if the country is not in the tumult of war, I shall be delighted to send some of our Sisters as soon as your venerated Archbishop says he would like to see us in Baltimore, which <sup>probably</sup> Kate has already told you. There is no doubt that it would be an excellent work begun & then we should hope to form a training school out in the West which is a work most dear to us – embracing a much larger good than any ordinary Boarding School. I should not wish this spoken of to your Aunt Mary, nor to your Aunt Montgomery. When it is done, it will be time enough to talk of it. You must make a little cross on the forehead of each one of your darlings for me with an affectionate kiss from their <sup>Aunt</sup> Nelie –

May God ever bless you my dearest child – and give you all that is best for you.

With kind remembrances to Edward

I am yr affectionate Aunt

C.C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME

[copied from the original]

The Convent,  
St Leonards on Sea  
Sussex England  
March 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

+  
J.M.J

My dearest Nelie [nee Duval]

I have only a few minutes before post & I only just remembered that I could put a few lines in for you in my letter to Mr Ward of Towanda to save the postage as every penny counts up to poor people like ourselves.

I have so long been expecting to hear from you dear Nelie & to know something about Kate – And also to know how the war is likely to affect you, & your movements.

Also dr Nelie I asked Edward to send me the record of the certificate from the Office – Did you receive my letter dear? And will you let me know whether I am in Edwards debt or not? & to what amount as I do not like to ask kindness without securing the costs of it.

I hoped before this to hear of peace & to be able to say that some of us are preparing for our voyage if not quite en route, but alas I see only a prospect of a 30 years war if the North really intends to stand out until they gain their point God grant that the whole country may not be totally ruined.

Let me know dr Nee how you are & the little ones - & something of Kate.

Yours most affectionately with love to Edward and all the little trots hoping they pray sometimes for their Aunt –

Cornelia Connelly.

GAENSLEN FAMILY ARCHIVES

[copied from a Photostat, March, 1959]

+  
J.M.JThe Convent of the Holy Child Jesus  
Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1866

My sweetest Neelie

I have heard a great deal about you and would like very much to see you more than I can say, and I should like very much to have a Photograph of the three Sisters standing together – Will you ask to have one taken – I should then feel more distinctly who I am talking to on paper while now I can only love you as my dear little nieces, and think of your father in my imagination of you – You must be very much changed since the photos were taken in the little medallions your dr. father sent some years ago. My darling little Neelie you must miss your dr. father's loving ways – When I was your age I could not bear to be away from him, he used to tease me unceasingly & particularly on one of my finger nails and I used to call him "teazing Rapho" while I loved him all the more for his teasing – Well my sweet little Nelie [sic] I hope I shall see you some day and in the meanwhile I ask our Lord to bless my little name-sake and her two darling Sisters and to make them daily more & more good & docile – devoted to their duties and particularly devoted to the Holy Child Jesus – When you write to your dear father tell him that he is as fresh in my memory as the last day that I saw him, and tell him the greatest consolation I could have wld. be to know that he is a true Catholic before he dies – and we are all growing old, so death will soon come to us all, and

[continued below]

- 2 -

we want to meet in heaven. May God bless my darling Neelie – tell Isabel I will write to her next week –  
Ever your affectionate

Aunt Cornelia Rel. H.C.J.

[Addressed] Miss Cornelia Bowen

[Inscribed in another hand on the back]

Keep this for me until I return home.

Volume 1

Pages 121-122

SHCJ          ARCHIVES - ROME    [copied from the Original]

The Convent  
St Leonards on Sea  
Jan 30<sup>th</sup> /73

+  
J.M.J.

My dear Cornelia & Julia

I need not tell you how much I feel for the loss of our darling Aunt Mary – as I am sure you loved her almost as your own Mother – but now we must go with her dear Spirit before the throne of God and take our consolation in her gain! – Still pray for her my dear ones, for your prayers will not be lost even though she may not need them for herself she can apply them to others more in need for she had made the Heroic Act for the Holy Souls. It was very kind and sweet of Ady to send me so promptly the particulars of her saintly end – Her letter was the first consolation I had had, and the sad news struck deeply on my heart, though her life was full of assurance of a joyful death – dear Saintly Sister! She will pray much for us all now and you must confide in her help in all you're your troubles. I hear my dear Cornelia that you have grieved so much over your own loss, but still what a gain to your beloved Babe - & how sweet for you in Spirit to go with it in adoration before the throne of God & give your heart to Him in adoration of His Divine Will and in acceptance of the Cross He has laid upon you! Let me hear from you both sometimes & abt your dear children. I wonder so much that you do not take your large family out to the west not to Cincinnati;

[continued below]

(2)

But much further west, to California even where the success has been beyond belief to many Irish & English families, who have amassed immense fortunes & delivered their families from want and a life of anxiety. You ought to read the accts. of California & of the settlements of the States between the Mississippi & the Pacific – also of Minnesota & the whole of that immense Country. There is no comparison in such a life for a large family & that of dragging on in the Eastern States. \*Pray sometimes for Frank & Ady. They are very gay & Frank is a great man in his art – O<sup>h</sup> that they were true Catholics –

Ever your loving Aunt  
Cornelia

(\* From here to the end of the letter has been written in the margin)

SHCJ ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[Copied from Typescript copy of original]

The Convent July 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1878  
Mayfield  
Hawkhurst,  
Sussex

+  
J.M.J

My dear John (Bowen)

I received your letter and its enclosure yesterday and have taken a copy of the plan of the Bowen Estate to send to Mr. Bravo. He has large Estates himself in Jamaica and his family have lived there for many years going backwards & forwards at the right season, and avoiding all danger of infection of yellow fever – Unfortunately my poor brother and his only son went when the seeds of the disease were just ripe. – but with common care I think the climate as healthy as Italy especially in the mountains. I can remember hearing my dear Mother speak of it as being most delightful if only you protect yourself against the insects. If I were George I wld (sic) offer to go as Agent for the property & take all proper precautions to get the necessary information as to the sugar land and their productions and culture. Now that the slaves are emancipated of course there are plenty of negroes to hire. I do not advise you to go for no doubt your Mother needs your help, but the Estate ought not to go out of the family. If Tarita Milmo's father knew that there was a family estate like that in Jamaica he would not be quite in such a hurry as to say you sh<sup>ld</sup> not correspond.

She is a charming girl & if you are really attached to her why not ask her Father for her hand, & send him a copy of

Continued below

the Estate which used to bring from \$10,000 to 20,000 annually. How much better would it be for both you and George for you to take an interest in the Jamaica sugar lands than to potter on with cattle on the ranche for Mexicans to steal!! Your father used to sell the Hides I understood by shipping them and I suppose the meat was sold to the Butchers or by other means turned to profit – The quantity of meat, cooked & hermetically sealed, in tin cans, used throughout England is amazing – it comes from South America and from Australia chiefly, When you or George intend to become wealthy gentlemen & settle in the beautiful mountains on your own Estates you must let me know & I will get you letters of recommendation or introductions to those who are thoroughly up in experience & in knowledge, but I sincerely hope you may let nothing induce you to sell your patrimony.

If Louis Duval spoke of you as a wealthy family no doubt he meant that you had the means to become so by the Texas and the Jamaica Estates. I will write again when I hear from Mr. Bravo.

Ever your loving aunt,  
C.C.

I have written to Bella. I am better T. God.

[The last part of this letter is written around the margin]

SHCJ ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[copied from the Typescript of Original]

The Convent, Sep 30<sup>th</sup> 78  
St Leonards on sea

+  
J.M.J

My dear John (Bowen)

I have just received a letter from my friend Mr Bravo in which he says he will obtain such information as he can regarding the Bowen Hall Estate in Jamaica. He says also "I should be pleased to see your Brother's Widow &c.&c.-"

He says also "Who is the agent in possession of the property?" With this information "Might be better able to judge of the actual state of things."

"What is the rent now rec<sup>d</sup> and what is the am<sup>t</sup> offered for the freehold".

If my dear John you will answer these points we may hope to do something towards the sale or the rent of the property.

I cannot tell you how grieved & surprised I am to know that y<sup>r</sup> dear Mother has lent such sums of money to Louise Duval & others! No loans that are not given on mortgage or equally good security can ever be counted upon as safe! – When any one lends money having only scrip for security they ought to count it as a gift.

I am most thankful that d<sup>r</sup> Bella has given up her unfortunate lover!

Give my love to Cornelia & to Mary and to all at home.

Ever your loving

Aunt C.C.

Much love to dear Tarita Milmo. I wish she were yours.

(Written across the top of the last last page: "Aunt Corni" (?) )

GAENSLEN FAMILY ARCHIVES (copied from a Photostat)

(The following has been written on a single sheet of letter paper; the first portion of the letter is missing.)

know that she is happy and really well married.

There is almost a rush for California & all the splendid Country between the Mississippi & the Pacific, in England.- I wonder if our dear boys have the American spirit & energy to stir up for the new countries? If I were with you I should rouse up from Texas & not get swamped there. Knowledge is power & there is no use in going to sleep when active energy would make us all the more useful & happy. A merry Xtnas to each & all and the blessings of the Holy Child be with you forever.

Your loving Aunt  
C.C.

ORIGINAL – NOONAN FAMILY ARCHIVES [copied from original]  
PHOTOSTAT – GAENSLEN FAMILY ARCHIVES

+ J.M.J.

Sep<sup>l</sup> 12. 1845 Spetchley Park  
Worcestershire

My dearest brother

I received your letter a few days ago with one you sent to Pierce – My poor dear mistaken brother dear to me as ever why will you not let every one follow their vocation in peace – It is very little consequence to me what any one says about me; time & eternity will prove if I have abandoned my duty to God & my dear children – Yes dear Ralph be persuaded [sic] the more we love God the more we love our natural duties and the more deeply we penetrate into the divine mysteries the more capable we become of fulfilling them perfectly – I mean fulfilling our natural duties – There is no faith where there is no mystery Oh my dear brother in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Ghost for the love of your soul mistrust yourself – How can you have more confidence in your own opinion & your own judgement or that of any one man, than in the learned and holy councils of ages, the combined wisdom of the wisest of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church? Thank God the time is fast coming for the spirit of persecution to be put down and as the veil falls from the eyes of those willing to become little children that they may enter the kingdom God [sic] even on earth, we must go on hoping and praying in great charity that the Spirit of our good God will remove it from those most dear to us – Oh my dear Brother you do not believe in the blessed and undivided Trinity! And you speak of the voice of God & my conscience while you reject the words of our blessed Lord & Saviour You tell me not to be so cruel to the world, & the flesh! while you & I and every one who is baptised have vowed to renounce the world the flesh & the devil, which vow I take care to renew every morning of my life – to turn away from

(continued below)

- 2 -

a subject which necessarily [sic] must be disagreeable let me congratulate you on approaching marriage which you do not tell me of 'tho from Pierces letter I know of it – I regret not having known Miss Distku [?] myself tho I recollect often having heard you speak of her – Why do you not tell me something more She is of the Society of Friends I think – it is very hard to me to know nothing from any one of my own family – I have not heard from dear Ady for more than a year tho I wrote to her last; from Sister Martha for nearly three years tho' I wrote to her last; from yourself just now – I wrote to you last August or September by the Bp. Of Texas sending a little painting of mine – I do not know what kind friend had interfered between me & dear Sis. Patty but I left her good friends and am so still as far as I am concerned I wish you would say to her that the relics & rosary were not for her they were for George's wife but I then thought her name was Martha – I heard she was offended by this and said I knew she did not like such things – I saw Mrs T. Wagner (Miss Rhodes) several times two winters ago – I am very sorry that Sister M. does not seek her consolation among her family - If she only knew the hearts of some & could know the selfishness of flatteries I think she would prefer family candour to interested fawning but you need not repeat this as I have no wish to form my judgement upon one side or the other – I should be glad to know if she & Sister have made friends and to know something about Ady & herself - Have any of the family been to see dear Molly? My own history is very brief, I believe you know from all sides that our dear brother Pierce is a priest and had accts of us up to last August – At that time I wrote to Ady I think that I had determined not to enter the Order of the Sacred Heart as I had many serious objection[s] to the government of its being entirely independent of the authority of the the [sic] Right Rev<sup>d</sup> Bishop's [sic] of the Diocese [sic] &c &c After remaining then for nearly a year longer and reflecting over the wants of the day and

(continued below)

the means of spiritual Mercy to be exercised my Rev<sup>d</sup> Father Director decided upon my coming to England to form an order upon the rule of S<sup>t</sup> F. de Sales Since coming I have united myself with a very distinguished writer of the day Miss Emily Bowles to put our work into operation. The great & good D<sup>r</sup> Wiseman whose learned and interesting works you may have seen has entered warmly into our designs and we have nearly concluded upon accepting the beautiful building at Derby. [The next two words obscured by crossing out] – which has been offered to us by the Parish Priest and his Lordship – Oh I forgot to mention that our rules were at first drawn up for the United States as I had no intention nor have I now for deserting my own dear Country but the immense number of converts in England offered so large a field for Spiritual Mercy that it seems more in the designs of God to begin here - As you will go to Texas as soon as you are married I will write to you and dear Gregory together & send you the heads of our rules which will please you I am sure since we enter so into the active duties of the world and will not be cloistered. – Kiss your dear Mary for me if this finds her my sister and tell her I hope to see & know her one of these days if we live long enough and if not here I trust to do so in the eternal world – The children are all well – Merty has been with us during his vacations and has grown quite out of your recollection but his face has not changed at all. With love to all

Ever your affectionate Sister

C. Connelly

[Addressed to:-]

Ralph W. Peacock Esq<sup>r</sup>

Philadelphia

Pa

Via Liverpool  
& New York

SHCJ          ARCHIVES – ROME

[copied from original]

[March 30, 1854]  
Rome "66 Via Ara Coeli"

My dear Brother [John Bowen]

Your letter followed me to this place, where I am stopping to have our Rule examined and approved, but the likeness of dear little Mary was not sent with the letter but kept till I return.

Thank you very much for sending me something of dear Georgy and I need not say how happy I feel for [him] and all you tell me regarding both Elizabeth and Mary - As you had a dispensation it is all right both for her and for the dear children.

Your letter tells me throughout how little you understand my heart and feelings either regarding the sacrifice of the world or the giving up of natural happiness with my darling children, ever dearer to me than my own life. I have long since given up the world ( without casting aside the good habits of civilized life) and my dear children were as much under my eyes as if I had not left the world till their father broke his word and his promises and stole them away from me in a moment of excitement and unjust anger, may God forgive him.

I am much interested in all that you tell me concerning yourself & family and I should like to have a Convent at San Antonio very much if you think the Bishop would wish it: but I could not promise to come there myself unless with the consent of our English Convents because I am not my own mistress quite and have only to do that which our Chapter decides upon as wise, & prudent and good; But this need not prevent your having the advantages – others being sent - and as we are devoted to education of the highest standard both among the poor and the rich, it would not be a small benefit you would confer on your neighbourhood by founding a Convent. If you should come to any conclusion to enter upon this make the offer

(continued below)

to Bishop Odin to secure two hundred acres of good land for a farm in trust for our Community and I will raise £100 (\$500) towards the building of the Convent. But unless the good Bishop enters into it heartily and is anxious to have us there I would not make the least advance as I am convinced he is much better able to judge in the matter than either you or I could. I have just had a letter from Ady - She tells me that Mary is well married, and seems to think her troubles are nearly at an end. Kate & Julia are with her. She has indeed had her troubles and perhaps much less through her own fault than you think – It is always best to err on the side of charity, and the safest to take the best view we can of everyone, especially of our own family.

Ever your own

Sister C.

Volume 1

pages 73 – 75

SHCJ        ARCHIVES    ROME

[copied from original]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

St Leonards on Sea

England

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1858

“Deus meus et omnia”

My dearest Brother

I am sorry not to have heard from you for so long a time but I hope nothing in my letter offended you – perhaps there was nothing that interested you – you see I cannot spread out long words on long sheets as dear Georgy used to say, peace be to his dear Soul, but perhaps I put more in my little sheets that you do in your “post quarto” – Please do not despise these sheets – Do you know that they are an inch larger than the usual sized paper for letters in this Country, & when we are in Rome we must do as Romans – and besides the “post quarto” is generally used only by the lower classes – I do not mean this as any hint to you but only as an excuse for the size of my paper & moreover I have not a sheet of post quarto in the Convent, plenty of f[oo]lscap for the Schools, but as I said my little sheets contain more than your big ones. If I were at your side you would tease me by tickling the ends of my nails would you not? How ones thought flies over years long gone, carrying many heart breaking sorrows!

I feel very happy that Mary McKenna is with you poor child! Is it true that she begged her way out? How is she in such distress, and why is it that Cornelia & Ady have not helped her at least till her confinement was over. Do write and let me know the affairs of the family dear Rapho – How is it that Kate did not go to Isabel Montgomery or to one of her Sisters in preference to being with

(continued below)

Mrs. Springer or why is she not living with one of her Sisters as instructress to their children? I cannot make out the matter, nor why their father's property is not coming to them. Ady had \$2000 pr. an; Who has this now? The mystery is of a piece with your poverty! – What has become of the Jamaica property? Do solve these double mysteries, will you? and tell me all about yourself & family, &c &c &c.

You know that our dear Molly is quite out of health. She tells me she has an enlargement of the liver (and I am threatened with the same) I trust she takes every care tho' she seems to long for heaven – she has sacrificed every earthly tie and given her whole heart to the service of our good God who alone can reward her with all that is wirth possessing.

I hope Mary McKenna is doing well, with you – pray let me know my dear old Rapho, and do not be touchy or test with me – If my letters have offended or annoyed you I am very sorry, but you know me of old, and know that I never mean to cross or vex you – We are growing old my dear Rapho and perhaps you are cross and do not know it – I also am getting very old. I shall be very soon at the end of my 50<sup>th</sup> year. Is it possible? And you 57! How old is Elizabeth? Yes we are coming to the close of this life and are we well prepared to give an account of our stewardship? Ah! how many faults to regret, even when we have left the world! And yet our dear Lord gives that jubilee of Soul and athat certainty of immortality in the blissful hop of eternity which our dear Jesus has merited for us in the Redemption, so that it is a joy to think of death. –

I have nothing to tell you about my own darling children except that Pierce has taken them to Brussels without bringing them to see me or even letting me know of their departure – May God forgive him! Poor darlings! I little thought of their having to suffer in this way, while I can do nothing to help them except by prayer. I have offered to go on the Missions to Japan (if our Lord will let me) and perhaps our dear Lord may convert Pierce bless the children by the conversion

of these Idolaters – Who knows! You know the English have entered Jeddo & a treaty has been signed for free entrance in any part of the Island. I so much wish to go if possible. Will you tell Mary McKenna to write to me and I should like to know something about Elizabeth & your children remember will you?

Since I last wrote to you we have had several professions & clothings and everything is going on with spirit – There are a great many conversions among the English Clergy and the Church is quickly increasing. God bless you my dearest brother. Kiss your little ones for “Aunt Nelia” and believe me

Ever your affectionate Sister

Cornelia Connelly

Addressed to

John Bowan Esq.

San Antonio

Texas

U. States America

SHCJ          ARCHIVES   ROME

[Copied from a typescript of original  
which had been lent to the SHCJ]+  
JMJThe Convent – St Leonards – on – Sea,  
Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 1866  
[England]

My dearest Brother, [John Bowen]

A letter came to me last week saying that Julia Duval had been at the Convent and she said she had heard you were very ill, but as no news had been received at the same time by your darling children, I trust you are not so ill as she had heard. Ah! my dearest Old Ralpho my tears began to flow at the thought of any thing happening to you so far away from us all, but I comforted myself with the thought of your dear wife being with you and your dear boys and Lewis Duval who I hope is a son to you and Elizabeth.

I need not say again my dearest brother how anxiously I shall look forward to ~~receiving~~ having good news of your recovery and of your safety in every respect, both in body and soul – Then again it is a comfort to think of your having the good Priest so near you – Oh what a consolation it would be to me (to us all) to know that our good God had given you the light of Faith and that you are now a good Catholic. He alone can show you the way and the truth, and the prayers of your darling children will bring down blessings on you my dearest Old Ralpho. These will be more powerful with Him Who died for the love of you than my poor pleadings and while I have rejoiced in your happiness, surrounded as you have been with your darling children, the one thing all important, the one thing for which God created us,

(continued below)

eternal happiness, the salvation of your most precious soul has ever been in my heart. Oh that our most merciful Lord may let you see by the light of Faith all that He has done for you and how very little He asks in return that He may make you most blest and happy eternally! – Ask, only ask, and He will give you Faith, worth more than thousands of other miracles! And with Faith will come hope and love – with all their accompanying joys and virtues. May our most blessed Lord be with you and console you in every trial and illness, sweetening all that would naturally be bitter to you. He alone can give you what you need, only ask and you shall receive, ask with the desire of a living Faith! Ask that He may give Himself to you in the Sacrament of His love, that He may live in you, that you may never die, but only pass away in the flesh to live with Him forever! I ask this for you my dearest brother and I am sure that the dear departed ask the same for you. Our dear Mary also prays constantly for you to the Sacred Heart of our most dear Lord and Redeemer. Oh may He bless you a thousand times and give you a blessed contrition for your sins and with a perfect contrition His mercy will indeed bless you though we may not have the satisfaction of hearing from you or of knowing fully how you are doing in soul and body. I send my Angel in spirit to watch beside you with your own dear Angel, to give you all my most tender sisterly love – to tell you how much our beloved Lord loves you and is ready to bless you and to give you all you shall ask for, only do your part in your readiness to believe faithfully all He teaches through His Holy Church, and through the successors of His Apostles, His priests – Forget human nature with all its weaknesses and think only of

(continued below)

the wonders worked by Faith, of the miracles vouchsafed to those who have died for the Faith and – Believe.

May our dear Lord bless you forever! Let me hear soon how you are.

Your affectionate sister,

Cornelia

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[typed from a typed copy]

Answd.

June 27/66

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

May 17<sup>th</sup> [1866]

My dearest Brother [John Bowen]

I fear you are still suffering and ill or you would have written to let me know of a return of health. My dr. old Ralph a few lines only from you will do me good so pray tell Lewis to let me hear if you cannot write – A letter from d<sup>r</sup> Molly tells me he has returned to you preferring a Southern life to a Northern City one – I should like to see him – He is now abt 24 years of age I think – He was a baby of a few months old when I last saw him. And all your darlings Oh! how I should like to spoil them a little with love I am afraid I should if they were with me. I have been thinking very seriously of going over this summer if I were not so tied here by circumstances.

Do let me know what you think of the two Wills made by our dear Sister. When two opposing wills sprang up in Old Girards case all went to the natural heirs I remember hearing – should we not come in then? I wish with all my heart I could obtain my share & get some influence over my poor children though the money could do me no personal good – and I am sure you would not be sorry to have your share. May our Lord spare your life yet many years till you are well ready for heaven & your children well protected. Give my love to dear Elizabeth & with all the fresh sisterly love of my youngest days I am the same

Affectionate

Neely

I hope your darlings make up for their absence by their fond letters to you.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from a typed copy]

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> St Cecilia's Feast [1867]  
1135 Spring Garden St.  
Phil: [USA]

J.M.J.

My dearest Brother

Your telegram decided me in regard to your two darlings going with us, but it grieved us to hear of your again being confined to your bed! I trust dear Mary will be with you in a day or two, and that you may find every consolation in her devoted affection for you. I was indeed sorry so soon to part from her, but still very thankful to have known her even for so short a time. Sallie (we call her Cornelia) and Bella are very glad to go with me, but sorry to leave the Sisters here. It would be impossible for me, in a letter, to explain the great advantage they will have in being three or four years at St Leonards on Sea – the School is the very highest in England and they will have the advantage of the whole course, if only you will leave them with us long enough, that is three or four years, until darling Bella has had her full share. Such an education will be equal to a fortune to them in their future life (besides all the other higher benefits &c &c) They are getting a few little articles of clothing just to be proper and nice on their arrival, and I shall see that every economy is used that you would yourself wish if you were on the spot. At the same time you wld wish them to feel at ease, like their companions, and have the same pocket money &c &c. Their pension shall be reduced one half, & the children will only cost one for two – In the meanwhile I hope Mary will teach little Lizzie so well that she may be ready to replace these two darlings when they finish – And she also must come on

(continued below)

[Letter of Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1867 p. 2]

same reduced terms – Now my dear Brother you are not to tease over prompt payment – Take your time and all will end well – Your friends say that you are very rich (!) but I suppose they mean rich in land as you own so much around St. Antonio, that you will be rich as the town grows. I only hope you may get well over your gouty Rheumatism & health will be better than riches – I was also tied down to my bed by cramps and Rheumatism on my sinews last winter, but a course of Homeopathic treatment cured me, and I must tell you the medicines prescribed – 1<sup>st</sup> Sulphur & Nux Vomica. Nux V. at night 3 globules, Sulphur in the morning 6 globules. Then after these, Sepia three times a day, 3 globules for a week – Stop three days then begin again the same for one week. Then Kali Bichrome 3 Globules three times a day for a week. Stop three days then Sulphur 3 globules once then begin Kali Bichrome 3 Glob. three times a day. This latter seemed to do me more good than any others. When I feel cramps beginning or sinews contracted I immediately take a dose of Nux V. at night & Sulphur in the morning & then Kali Bichrome three times a day & thus escape all pains & fresh attacks, and though it may never be driven out it still may always be kept under total control be a proper and watchful treatment.

Now my dearest & sweetest old Rapho I must tell you that I quite quite love your dear wife from all I hear of her from the Sisters & from the dear children and I thank & bless God for giving you one so estimable and devoted. Cornelia is like her if I may judge from the photograph, and Bella is so like you that every time I look at her I see your countenance and sweet gentle expression, very different from your late photograph with the long white beard! There is not a vestige of your old look in the Photo – But in Bella your expression

(continued below)

[Letter of Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1867 p. 3]

is perfect –

They are lovely children – I shall scold you if you let Lizzie put off her shoes in hot weather – Bella's feet are so large that when she danced my eye caught them instantly & this must come from running down to the brook and about without shoes! Lizzie must make an act and keep on her shoes when she wants to throw them off! and thus learn self-control – I hear you teach them to “make acts” and all kinds of good things – God bless a thousand times for the good things you have taught these dear ones! – He will bless you dear old Rapho - & give you faith. Will you tell me what you have done with the Jamaica property that ought to give you plenty independent of San Antonio? Faith, Health, & Means to you. The trial abt the Will is going on now but I know nothing – Mr Grant wanted me to appear at Court but I refused – If the Wills are all doubtful I shall put in as one of the natural heirs & claim my share for Ady & Frank. We sail on Wed. Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. Berths taken.

Yrs Lovingly

C[ornelia] C[onnelly]

SHCJ          ARCHIVES   ROME

[Typed from a typed copy]

The Convent  
St Leonards on Sea  
England  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup> /66

J.M.J.

My dear Elizabeth [wife of J. Bowen]

I have just heard of the illness of my dearest brother but I trust he is recovering. I address this letter to you both and need not assure you of our prayers for his safety. I am very anxious to hear from you exactly how he is and hope to do so from our sisters at Sharon as soon as they have any good news to tell me –

I cannot too warmly congratulate you on the darling children being placed at Sharon – next to being in our convent here it is the greatest consolation to me to think of them there, where they will be thoroughly taught all that is desirable for them to know where they will have all the advantage of mixing with children of their own age without danger of contamination in any way – What a very great blessing my dearest Elizabeth has our dear Lord bestowed upon you in having all these dear ones Catholics! Our Sisters at Sharon give me very charming accounts of all three, and they have written to me most sweetly – I love them very much – and indeed feel as if I knew them perfectly only from what I hear & see by their letters.

May our good God ever bless you & yours, & bless you especially in my dear brother's being brought into the one true Church where alone he will find rest – where alone find the truth with all its consoling hopes and joys

Ever my dear Elizabeth

Yr affectionate Sister

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ      ARCHIVES   ROME

[Copied from original]

The Convent  
Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> [1868]

JMJ

My dear Elizabeth, [wife of John Bowen]

Mary has written to tell us of her sudden engagement which has filled me with anxiety not only for our darling Mary, but also for you and all the dear children. If you do not know <sup>the [sic]</sup> man's former life and history for the love of God defer the marriage till you do know from reliable authority who & what he has been & now is. The instances are endless of adventurers who leave a wife or even wives in other countries – marry a girl, get hold of a widowed mothers property, spend it by wheedling her out of every thing she has (by getting her to sign what she does not understand) and when he quarrels with his so called wife absconds and gets another in some other new country too far off to be pursued or brought under the law – Now do not imagine this to be a fable or any very uncommon act. One of your husband's sisters (not myself) was on the eve of accepting an engagement of marriage. Ralph wrote to New York (where the lover had passed two or three years) to know the history of this man's life – the answer came immediately that he was a gambler and a married man! As soon as he knew that dear Ralph had written to know something ab<sup>t</sup> him he went off & was never heard of again. Now dear Elizabeth do not be persuaded to consent to the marriage until you know from others, not from himself, his whole true history. And moreover I beg you to have a proper marriage settlement to secure the little property Mary will be entitled to from her father,

(continued below)

should the man's character & history prove to be honourable & honest – What are two years of residence in a Country if the former part of his life was not worthy & honest !!! Oh Elizabeth get some worthy friend to inquire for you all that is necessary, who will say nothing to anyone, and if no one can be relied upon to act as a friend for you go to the Priest & get advice and knowledge of how you can be secure and get the proper certain knowledge of the man's character.

May God bless you and yours,

Ever yours affectionately in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SHCJ          ARCHIVES   ROME

[Copied from the Original]

Villa de Sémainville  
Hyères, Var, France  
Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 1869

+  
JMJ

My dear Elizabeth [wife of John Bowen]

Your letter containing a bill for £200 was forwarded to me here where we have come for the purpose of bringing some of our Pupils to the genial climate of the South of France, and with a view also to founding a Convent of our Order here. Many thanks dear Sister for the remittance – I forwarded it immediately to St Leonards and have arranged to bring your & our darlings here with the remainder of our party. I think it will be of immense benefit to them in every way & they will go on with their studies, more particularly in French and Drawing and see something of the world - & of France & Italy in particular. I hope it has not put you to great inconvenience to send the money – but any inconvenience may be balanced by the advantages to these darling children who are ever anxious to do right & to profit by everything in their way – They are so much beloved in the School by the Sisters and the children, that they have no end of encouragement, and of innocent enjoyment I wish your boys had the same though nothing wld. induce me to advise you

(continued below)

to send them to England for their education The English boys are rough fighting boys & glory in combativenesses, in Colleges – and they get flogged too for naughtinesses, but at home with their Mothers and Sisters they are gentle as lambs and full of attention and politeness to their parents & Sisters. I always regretted having sent dear Mercer to an English College & would never have consented to sending Frank.

I hope your dear Johnny's rheumatism is cured – Why do you not try a course of Homeopathy with him? If you get the books & read fully on the subject you can cure him yourself with time & patience He ought never to take coffee but only weak tea or milk water & sugar – very little sugar in anything – Sugar produces Rheumatism & gout & makes a strong acid in the stomach & bowels – I wish you would get that large Book of Dr Laurie to read out the causes of disease. Though I should not advise you to use the Globules but the Tinctures – The tinctures one drop three times a day produce a most marvellous effect after a course of three weeks – I have been under this treatment for the last ten years, and have kept myself going on well, while other medicine would have very soon put me into the grave. No doubt your good son in law would laugh down a system not in accordance with his own, but if he tried it with patience on delicate subjects such as his own little wife & baby he would soon find the benefit. The use of Chammonilla would quite do away with colics and opiates to lull them! It has been a long time

(continued below)

since dear Mary wrote, I hope she takes an interest in her dear brothers. She is very capable of educating them and giving them more advantages than they could possibly have in the companionship of the boys of your neighbourhood (if you except perhaps some few). Will you tell dear Mary from me that if she teaches her own brothers daily, if only between school hours she will keep herself up in memory for her own children and counteract the languor which the climate leads to. The employment of intellect will do good to her body as well as her mind. I am now in my 61<sup>st</sup> year & though always delicate & weak never expecting to reach my 50<sup>th</sup> year I use an Office Book of the small print and never use spectacles for writing so you see I am a good specimen of the usefulness of constant employment, & of religious life under the blessing of God.

I hope my dear Elizabeth that you are able to go to holy Mass on Sundays and all Feast days – You know this is strictly of obligation, to keep the Commandments of God & of the Church and your dear boys will be led by your example and by their Sisters. Tell them I love them very much though I have never seen them – They are each of them a remembrance of their dear father to me. I wonder whether I shall ever have little Lizzie to educate as her Sisters – If it is Gods will that I should live so long I hope indeed to have her – and perhaps to bring her from America the next time I go to Philadelphia – perhaps two or three years hence. I hope to

(continued below)

- 4 -

see Cornelia & Bella in abt four days and as soon as they have rested after their journey they will of course write you an account of it

I wonder you do not get D<sup>r</sup> Gaenslen to go to live in Jamaica on Bowen Hall estate – where he has a half interest in the whole and during the summer the mountain residence is delightful – It used to yield in good years sugar crops \$20,000 per annum May god ever bless you & the dear children. Tell Johnny I shall be glad to have a letter from him.

Ever yrs. affect. In J.C.

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from a manuscript copy  
of the original]

[To J Connelly Esq 8 Roses Cottage Vicksburg, Miss.]

Bishops Cottage G. Coteau  
Nov 14 1842

Dear John

I received your kind letter a week or two ago and you may be sure it gave me much pleasure to know something about you and dear Geckla. Yesterday was the anniversary of your arrival here and you are not forgotten in our prayers – Pierce & I keep a mem of dates in our examination book & here is my list for you J Connelly Bap. July 23 1841 – Confirmed by Bishop Flaget 25<sup>th</sup> married 13 Sep. Nov 13 St Stanislaus G. Coteau. Feb 22. (St Peters Chair at Antioch) Mary Angelica bap. March 12 (St Gregory) 1<sup>st</sup> Communion So you see you are thought of when we are taking care of our own souls – How happy I am to know you are so comfortably fixed at your own home and are not at boarding: with management & economy I do not think you will find it more expensive than boarding – and for you dear Angelica it must be much more private and agreeable. You must tell me more about your Church and who you have for your Confessor. How I wish dear Gec[k]la you had a book I have here it would clear all your scruples and lead you on in the sweet paths of peace: but you must get John to send for it for you: it is in 2 vols (I believe) the English Translation The title “Practice of Christian Perfection by Alphonse Roderiguez” – And when shall we hope to see you again! - You would find Frank quite a big boy and trying to say every thing: with pretty curling hair and rosy cheeks and saucy chin and altogether an envious object for you and Gec[k]la – But joking aside I do wish you

(continued below)

would come up or rather down, in lent & make a retreat for your souls health – you could make it at the college you know, and, Angelica here and so settle your affairs for the year past and for the one to come. - I heard from Conowago lately but not from Mary for some time; she was well however as they said nobody was sick but poor Mme Mignard who is fast hastening to the tomb – you recollect her. Mademoiselle Zoe – she was sick when she left here – They are in quite a little paradise there. There are from 1, 2 to 3 hundred Communicants on Sundays and the young farmers make their meditation every day and two examinations and the women are not behind them you may be sure – Ady had taken her children there, I heard & intended staying herself until Christmas – My Sister Bowen has gone to Jamaica with Monty for the winter. George is at Mill Grove and Ralph is still in Texas but not so sanguine as on his first arrival – I wish he was only safely out of it – I heard from Mother (Oct 7 ) they were all well and Harry's children she says are very lovely – They I suppose she means Harry has moved to a much better house in Twelfth near Spruce St “where Fisher his wife and six children found us the next week.”! I heard from Pierce once since your letter though I have had three since he left Alton He passes a few days with Merty and tells me he is very well and Merty strong and rosy though not fat notwithstanding a famous appetite. Pierce will travel with young Berkeley until spring but I suppose he told you himself his last letter was dated Brussels – I sent you last week some papers – I think you told me you took the Herald – I sent some to George but perhaps you send them to him as you are so near – If you do please let me I know and I will not send him any more. Father de Theux has gone to Cincinnati – I go to Father Abbadie now to settle accounts for my soul. I heard from Father de Theux not very long since. He says the College (F. Xavier) is going on well and gives very consoling accounts of all the good that is going on, that those who seek themselves and the pleasures of the world know nothing of – and so it is they cannot believe in miracles because they do not see them and how can they when they blindfold their eyes? Ady and Frank are both

well – I will hope to see you here in Lent. Dear Mme Cutts sends you both many kind messages and all remember you with affection. Frank says Unco Dohn when we talk about you – Ady tells me to tell you she wants to see you very much and sends you many kisses as you see I write to you and Geckla together & you must tell me how you passed the summer dear Angelica & how you found your father disposed & whether they tormented you about religion & all that has intereste[ed] you since you left our sweet solitude. Good bye my dear John & Geckla ever yours in the Heart of Jesus

C Connelly

I forgot to tell you that Charley comes on well & is very useful He takes us up to the Church once a week & makes

[here the manuscript breaks off abruptly]

SHCJ        ARCHIVES - ROME

[Copied from a manuscript copy  
Of the original]Bishops Cottage –  
Dec 31 – 1842 –

Dear John

I wrote to you some time since in answer to the kind letter you sent me but I do not know if ever you got it – At the same time that it gives me much pleasure to do so again, it is not that which is my object but rather to tell you that I received by the last mail a notice that Richd Ably has been declared Bankrupt & that the 20<sup>th</sup> day of Feb next court room City of Jackson is the time and place for final hearings – where cause may be shown, if there be any, why the certificate should not be granted &c. &c. If there is anything to be done in this business you & George, I am sure, will not neglect it. - You never told us the result of the discovery you make about his or Mr Mullers property? I hope you will have good news for me when you write and will tell me all your housekeeping events joys and troubles and Geckla can fill up what you forget – I imagine you there in your nice little cottage so neat and orderly making your plans for your spring garden. You know damp weather from fall to spring is the time for all cuttings – if you come here in lent you must take plenty over with you - I have had two letters from Munich - Pierce was well and had seen many of our old friends – and tells me of a miracle that he saw and examined himself – I had a letter from Father de Theux yesterday: he tells me of an instantaneous cure by a short & fervent prayer of Bp Flaget and of some wonderful circumstances respecting the conversion & baptism of two children and followed by the conversion of their father - I believe

(continued below)

they do not like to talk about these things before the unfaithful and as far as my experience goes it has no other effect than to make them think you are easily deceived. He tells me too of a great deal of good that is going on everywhere, of Mr Reynold's great preaching &c., &c., and of the great success of the Fathers at the Rocky Mountains. You know our first Superior Father Point left here to go there; they have already baptised more than seventeen hundred Indians of several different tribes – Thousands of others were preparing for the same Sacrament – several had made their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion & approach the Holy Table frequently with the best dispositions – Angels like more than men – F de Smet had made 5000 miles since last April in all sorts of wilds & deserts, amidst the most cruel tribes, had never slept under a roof, and yet had never one hour of sickness, never met with the smallest insult, never wanted either breakfast or supper; Well then does he exclaim "The Lord was mindful of us & He has blessed us - &c.

Madam Cutts sends her respects to you & Angelica & the children, kisses to you both. Will you come over in Lent? Goodbye ever your affectionate sister

C. Connelly

SHCJ            ARCHIVES – ROME

[Copied from a manuscript  
copy of the original]

St. A.

Steam boat    Wm Quack [?]  
Thursday July 13 1843

Dear John

You will no doubt be much surprised to know that we are on our way for Philadelphia. I send this by Plaquemine in hopes to see you & dear Geckla as we go up – though I have been thinking that as she has been so sick you will perhaps have taken her to see her sister for change of air - Well, we hope at all events to see you and to meet George if he has not already gone. - I only decided on Saturday morning by the advice of my dear Father Abbadie to start off in the first boat and we have been hard at work ever since but have arranged all quite as comfortably and as well as if we had been longer about it – Ady and Bun<sup>Frank</sup> are both well – Till I see you and dear Geckla every affectionately

C. Connelly

I go to New Orleans to arrange our affairs but will start from there as soon as possible and in the best boat – perhaps stay there one day – so be on the watch for us –

[The post mark is Plaquemine]

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SHCJ          ARCHIVES – ROME

[Copied from a manuscript  
copy of the Original]

Chez les Dames de l'Assomption  
Chaillot

July 19 [ 1846]

My dear John,

I received your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> April yesterday in answer to mine of the preceding autumn. You may be sure I was much relieved to hear that dear Angelica was over her confinement & that you had another dear child to console you for the loss of your darling in heaven if one can call the gaining of Paradise for a soul loss. And why has dear Angelica never written to me herself? Perhaps she may imagine me disposed to criticise but letters ought never to be criticised being only the composition of friendship and I am sure she would have a great deal to tell me if I were by her side so why has she never made the effort to write just what she would say to me? I think I would give her a penance for this if she were to consult me how to cure her dislike of writing – let me think a moment – Yes I would condemn her to a half hour of letter copying every day until she had copied a volume & then I would advise her to reserve a half hour every day for writing if not letters she could keep a journal, & put down all the events of the day that are worth remembering. If she will do this I will promise her that she will never have the remorse & torment of leaving letters unanswered. You see dear Angelica I do not forget your sufferings at G. Coteau and indeed I would have written to you before had I not wished to spare you the annoyance of answering it – As for Pierce not writing to you John, I think you make a

(continued below)

great mistake since to count at the least I make out from two to three letters to you, Harry & George while we were at Rome that I remember his having spoken to me about. I left Rome 18<sup>th</sup> April with the children & our English maid that we had with us ever since we left England, & got to Paris on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. We have been lodging in the Couvent de l'Assomption every since. Pierce left there with Lord Shrewsbury a short time after & travelled the hottest weather one can imagine through Switzerland & Germany so that we have not seen him since, however we hear from him very often & from Mercer too. They were both well last week, & Merty almost crazy with joy at the thought of his vacations which will begin the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. - You have no doubt heard of the death of our dear holy Pope Gregory XVI and of the election of our present Holy Father Pius IX. I have had three or four letters from Rome giving a minute account of all that occurred but you have no doubt had it all in the Herald. There is one thing that I do not think will be mentioned publicly, there was a dove flying around the Chamber of the Conclave of Cardinals during the whole time of the Election which they endeavoured in vain to drive out. - The Romans are delighted with their Father & Sovereign. His reception by the Roman people was most touching - I must tell Pierce to send you a letter that I received from Mr Shaw that I sent to him, which will deeply interest you. I have this moment got a letter from Pierce he is well & deeply engaged in the duties of the ministry instructing, preaching hearing confessions &c., &c. - So you see it is not for nothing that I have given him to God. You may be sure this thought gives me much consolation & we ought to look for a greater share of the divine love in proportion as we are willing to sacrifice our natural happiness. A.M.D.G. and look too for even more in eternity - I have said nothing about our dear little God child - I wish I

(continued below)

could see it & help Angelica to take care of it, but she must make the cross on its forehead for me every morning and as I am so far away from it & all of you, I can only pray and I do always more than once a day that Almighty God may keep all of you and bless you and fit you for the eternal beatitude – I thank you most sincerely for your remembrance before the Altar & beg of you not to forget us & our intentions after your Communions, & sometimes to receive our Lord for our intentions. When we remember that one Communion would be sufficient to make saints of us if we corresponded perfectly with the grace of God, it makes one hope that that one will finally come & will deliver us from a divided heart; for why are we not all Saints? Only because our hearts are not fixed in God – I look upon your presentiments as only a little nervousness since I am afraid you are not quite saintly enough to get to heaven so quickly or to have the grace of prophecy yet awhile - Do you make a little meditation every morning? If you do not I wish you would try it, if it were only for a quarter of an hour during the beginning of the Mass or after it, preparing the points as you go to bed. I am sorry to hear that George remains in a state of indifference to Catholicism. Why don't you lend him the books you have, & get him interested in the Puseyite movement? I think Harry would be a Catholic, if it were not for (his wife) Eliza who is so very bitter against everything Catholic, that even little Nanny laughs at a crucifix as she has no doubt been taught to do by her mother. Please God that Harry may send them to Catholic schools where they may learn what is true and what is false. The conversions in England are innumerable among the clergy & their flocks. The Jesuits alone have had in London last year 500, & I think Pierce mentions in the last two years in two other districts

(continued below)

6000. Gloria Patri. Kiss the dear baby for me with love to dear Gecklas ever dear George [John?]

Your affectionate Sister

C. Connelly

Paris 1846.

We shall not leave Paris before August and then we go to Mrs. Berkeley's to stop there until I decide under Father Mahone's direction upon my future movements, but you can send your letters for me to Pierce & he will send them to me wherever I may be. I trust we may all see our dear country again but when, God only knows and I do not think it will be likely to happen before Merty's education is finished. You know I shall never enter the Order of the Sacred Heart, the Constitutions are not such as I could consent to for myself or our dear little Ady, and there is something more to be done for the glory of God. Though wherever I may be for Ady she must judge for herself & decide her own vocation with her spiritual director.