

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of original]

[to Bishop Grant]

[Oct.4. 1851]

[ This is only a fragment of a letter.]

The amount of my long letter comes to this that if Mr. T. will arrange with your Lordship the three points aimed at –

- ( 1<sup>st</sup> That the Congregation be assured of having always free access to the Church
2. That a piece of land be given south of the Public road for a Boy's School
3. That a piece on the N.West of the road be appropriated for a burial ground - )  
we shall, I hope obtain all that is necessary for peace on all sides.

There is one matter I have not hitherto alluded to – It is this – I think it necessary that I should leave this place for a time and I may do so quite quietly without loss to the Community. I do not allude to the wretched trial brought before the Courts, but to the peculiar position we are now in: and besides this we are pledged to give five sisters to the P. School Committee – The Committee already have three in Gate Street. – I may go with the other two and devote myself to the poor Schools, and thus some good may grow out of much past evil.

I feel confident you will remember our troubles and I urgently beg your Lordship to make the visit of this house as soon as possible.

Did the hamper sent by rail reach its destination safely? Our Constitutions were packed among the Vegetables. I also sent by post a parcel containing copies of certain

papers which I thought you ought to have.

Please my dear Lord give us all your blessing and believe me to remain

Your obedient child in Xt

C[ornelia] Connelly.

Convent H.C.Jesus

All Souls

St. Leonards on Sea

Oct 4th 1851.

[June 20<sup>th</sup>] [1853]

Dieu Seul.

My dear Lord & Father in Xt. [Bishop Grant ]

I must thank you very much for giving Mr. Glenie faculties for our confessions. He will remain here today and tomorrow but he cannot return on Saturday because of his being obliged to hear the confessions at the Good Shepherd and having at the same time extra work at Brook Green.

Would it be possible my dear Lord for you to come yourself? Our children will have it that your Lo<sup>rsp</sup> promised to come in June, but they have construed your kind "perhaps" into a promise. Should we have this advantage perhaps your Lordship will at the same time examine the Postulants who are very eager for their clothing; but if you w<sup>ld</sup> prefer waiting till Dr. Melia returns this last consideration must be thrown aside.

You know my dear Lord we are only waiting for your orders respecting the loan for the building, & for raising by subscription the sum necessary for the whole, including the boys School & the permanent Bishops & Priests house. Do come down my dear Lord and let me beg pardon if anything displeased you in my last letter which I should be very sorry for while I am always

Your Ldships dutiful child

C. Connelly

All Souls

June 20th.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

July 15<sup>th</sup> [1853?]

My dear Lord & F<sup>r</sup> in X<sup>t</sup> [ Bishop Grant ]

Father Barron will send one of their Fathers on 7<sup>th</sup> August, to end the retreat on the Assumption. Thank you very much.

I want very much to see you my dear Lord and to ask about many things, especially urging the settling of our affairs here. You know my dear Lord that it is most desirable we should have a religious Priest and one acquainted with the true spirit of our constitutions, therefore I want to beg your Lordship to send two English Jesuits to this place one for the Convent & one for the Mission or if your Lordship does not wish to take any part in Dr. Melia's leaving, as he has warned me that he should leave, will you allow me to apply to the Provincial explaining at the same time that I have your leave to do so? It seems to me that this arrangement would be the very best thing in the world for us , and the Jesuits would take good care to secure the Mission. Would it not also be most desirable to have a director who is under his own religious Superior & not a duplicate of the exiled Italian Jesuits? The example has always the most beautiful influence, and an independent religious is a sort of anomaly that everyone must feel.

I hope not to annoy your Lordship with my letters but I am sure you will be full of charity for us & that you will have patience with me while I am always your obedient & dutiful child

C [ornelia ]C [onnelly ]

[continued below]

Mr Marshall has sent a beautiful report of the Schools, & our Pupil Teachers have passed their five years in three. I hope your Lordship will be pleased.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

July 19<sup>th</sup> [1853?]

Private

My dear Lord & F<sup>r</sup> in X<sup>t</sup> [Grant]

Without committing myself or anyone else I have sounded whether the Provincial would take the charge of us if offered and I have reason to believe he would not decline it.

Secondly – I think we could support two English Priests with ease on what D<sup>r</sup> Melia requires for himself alone, but as Tunbridge Wells is so near perhaps the Provincial would prefer sending only one.

3<sup>rdly</sup> The troubles with M<sup>r</sup> Jones would not influence the present state of things I think, as I have heard their- The Jesuits – zealous labours & actual poverty much extolled among the poor who remember them gratefully. And as the property here is secured for female education we should have nothing to apprehend on that score.

I feel sure my dear Lord that you will do as our B. Lord inspired you and I want you to know how thoroughly every tie of child-like & prudent friendship is broken and rooted up for ever with D<sup>r</sup> Melia - I do not speak of any want of Charity but of the impossibility of any confidences. Will you not for the sake of God and the love you have for our souls take up his offer & make us happy & good ?

I am my dear Lord

Yr dutiful child in X<sup>t</sup>

C.C.

P.S. Please do not forget my dear Lord that D<sup>r</sup> Melia is not only not under the Provincial but that he is only under the Cardinal.

“ Dieu Seul “

[ In another hand: D<sup>R</sup> Melia]

My dear Lord & F<sup>r</sup> in X<sup>t</sup> [Bishop Grant]

If it be true that D<sup>r</sup> Melia is to leave here on Monday, & your Lordship has not named a Priest to take his reverence's place, I do not think I ought to leave for my journey on Monday as I have engaged to do if possible.

Will your Lordship have the kindness to send me one word of advice by return of Post?

D<sup>r</sup> M. is away & when he returns I shall not like to ask him this question –

With sincere respect & veneration

I am y<sup>r</sup> Lordship's o<sup>bt</sup> child

C.C.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Sep 16 [1853 ]

( S<sup>t</sup> Cornelius )



SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [Copied from Photostat of original]

[ 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1853]

“ Dieu Seul”

My dear Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I have just heard of the death of my eldest son of yellow fever. The tidings of are doubly sad to me as I know he had not been to confession for two years or more & I have only a hope that a Priest may have been called in by his Catholic uncle. Of your charity remember his soul in the hope of God's mercy and of the poor boy's natural irresponsibility of character.

I told Mr Bagshawe that I should write to yr Lordship this evening to express my sorrow that you remove him. I should judge him to be peculiarly suited to the Mission and to our Community notwithstanding his age.

Humbly begging your Lordship's blessing and prayers

I am very respectfully yrs in JC

C.Connelly.

All Souls

St. Leonards

Oct. 13th

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1853.

My dear Lord & Father in X<sup>t</sup> [Bishop Grant]

I enclose a copy of a letter from Rome with the copy of the answer sent by to days post.

I beg of you my Lord not to put off the retreat & clothing – I can keep M<sup>th</sup> Alphonsa here in my place if I am to go to Rome which I suppose I must in obedience do. I do not think from the tenour of this last letter that the approbation of our Rules is ~~not~~ [sic] the object really existing – I have rather come to the conclusion it is simply to get me out of England ( because of the noise of M<sup>f</sup> C ) I had written my answer to D<sup>r</sup> Cornthwaite having come to this conclusion & that it also must be the will of God for some other wise end, when by the second post I received the enclosed unintelligible letter from Mr Connelly – What have you to tell me “ is inevitable “ my Lord? – It nearly upsets me not to see things clearly or not to come at what any body is meaning As M<sup>f</sup> C. says that no one knows of his writing this letter pray do not name my having sent it to you.

I hope my Lord that all these miseries may not retard the clothing & the retreat. Three of those I wish to offer are at work in the London schools and I must bring them down a day before the retreat begins.

Begging your blessing & a remembrance in the H. Mass

I remain

My d<sup>f</sup> Lord

Yr O<sup>bt</sup> & Humb<sup>le</sup> child

C. Connelly.

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1853

Is not our faith a sword of strength

I feel it so My Lord -

[ The following is only a fragment of a letter ]

Rome: which I may do by [ one word illegible] a couple of translators chosen for the purpose.

Our Sisters are well acquainted with the Constitutions but they must reconsider them before I leave & give their approbation & signatures to this effect.

May we expect your Lordship on the 19<sup>th</sup> or is it still uncertain? Thank you so much for this kindness

Miss Cusack promised to let her sisters know in time to come from Liverpool and I have put off the subject on the plea of uncertainty as to your Lordship's coming – She of course must leave the final decision to your examination, but What is the usual course when relations are at a distance?

Thank you very much for sending M<sup>r</sup> Butt – I think he will be very kind to us, tho' I am sorry to see him looking so very delicate.

I am my d<sup>r</sup> Lord & F<sup>r</sup> in JC

Yrs very humbly & Ob<sup>tly</sup>

C Connelly.

All Souls

Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [Copied from Photostat of Original]

[June 11<sup>th</sup> 1854]

JMJ.

My Lord, [Bishop Grant]

I have written to Mr. Buckle for security on the £2000 and to have his assistance in raising it. The fourth Thousand we may have from another friend perhaps, and if not, we may get our lawyer to raise it for us.

2. We may offer I think 4 p.c. interest.

3. For the Security we must do the best we can & get others to join with Mr. Towneley & Mr. Buckle, which might be without difficulty, it seems to me.

4.<sup>th</sup> The gradual payments may be more difficult – Could we not rely on subscriptions and donations, and two collections a year in the Church to pay off one thousand – Let one thousand be taken from the endowment and £2000 on the bequest of Mr. Buckle?

Begging a blessing

I remain my Lord

Yr humble servt in JC

C.Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

June 11<sup>th</sup> 1854

P.S. Please to return me Mr. Towneley's Letter when quite convenient.



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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

All Souls S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 1854.

“ Dieu Seul “

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

As we have heard nothing to the contrary we may hope you have long since arrived at your journey's end in Rome & that you are quite well.

I want to say a few words to your Lordship; & tho' I did not intend to have any wants of any sort until your return these must be excepted. 1<sup>st</sup> Would your Lordship have any objections to offer M<sup>r</sup> Garside the place of 2<sup>nd</sup> Priest here? I should like him s̄ [sic] very much to give lectures to our Novices and to the Schools, on Sacred & profane History &c , and I think with this assistance in our schools that two Priests may very well be supported here. I spoke to M<sup>r</sup> Garside on the subject last winter in reference to our London schools, but I should much rather have him here if he would like to come. I shall write & ask him to go & talk with your Lordship if, as I hope, he is now in Rome.

2<sup>ndly</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Nynn, or M<sup>r</sup> Garside has a body of a Saint, which is mine – And with your Lordships leave it is to be brought to our Convent. Will you my Lord go to see our martyr, S<sup>t</sup> Theophila ( baptised) and bring her to us when you return?

3<sup>rdly</sup> My third request is longer to write perhaps, but less to do. It seems to me my Lord much better to do nothing in regard to our Constitutions at present but simply to let the matter rest in the hands of God. Perhaps you wished me to say so when

your Lordship last spoke on the subject. Time will surely bring to light His Holy Will in our regard & prove whether we are to be a religious Order in His Holy Church or whether we are to sink into a few scattered houses of pious women without a religious head, or strength or discipline within ourselves, and consequently without any comparative, holy, religious influence. It seems to me a sort of duty that I should say what we feel & think on the subject and the rest I leave in the hands of God to wait in patience His doings. Therefore my Lord if you please let us go on in peace just as we are & ask nothing of the Holy See except a blessing which is always the most precious.

Will you also my Lord take one more request and this is no less than to say Mass for us at the Shrine of S<sup>t</sup> Peter to obtain the requests of some of the Community who said a thousand Aves before the last Xtmass Midnight Mass, to obtain what is very much for the glory of God & the Salvation of souls? If we do not obtain these souls I am afraid no one will ever propose the thousand Aves to be said at this X<sup>t</sup>mass or any other, in faith thro' them, even in the deepest love & veneration for our sweetest Mother.

Begging your blessing I am your Lordships

humble servant in J.C.

C.Connelly.



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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

[Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 1855?]

Dieu Seul

My Lord Bishop, [ Grant ]

Thank you very much for proposing to come on Saturday next. We shall begin our half yearly retreat tomorrow evening, which will allow us five days an a half.

I am sorry to hear of the large estimate so little expected. Would it not be well to have the Church and the dormitory connecting the entrance from the Convent with the alterations for the refectory & school room, alone done at present and leave the Priests House to be done at a future time? We shall be obliged to take one half of our Oratory for a dormitory almost immediate for we are without an infirmary and much need one.

Repeating our sincere thanks for your promised visit, and with every expression of veneration

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr O<sup>bt</sup> child & servant in JC.

C.Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> [1855? ]

P.S. I hope my Lord that you did not suppose that we wanted Mr. Butt back for our own sakes, or to take Mr. Todd's place – If my letter gave such an impression I did not intend it, for we are quite happy with Mr. Todd and every body is just beginning to know him. – I hope Mr. Butt may come for the

sake of his health, and because this place agrees with him, and he wants rest, and we should always be glad to have him here.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

May 7<sup>th</sup> [1855 ]

“ Dieu Seul “

My Lord Bishop, [Grant ]

I shall send “ the Specifications “ by this evening’s post.

Mr Townley & Mr Buckle have seen them, & have signed the cheque for £1200, which I enclose. There will now be no cause for delay in signing the contract for the Priests House.

I see that £250 are provided for the enclosure, pump, well &c. I suppose the proper entrance to the House would be secured, making it if possible one with a [?] future entrance to the Church – Will your Lordship look to this before signing the Contract, and also to the builders having no claims upon our Carpenters shop or other materials on the premises excepting the sand named in the specifications. Neither can the men have water from our premises - & in this necessity would it not be better to dig the well immediately?

I am sorry that the Dormitory & school should be put off especially as it keeps up old grievances.

Many thanks for your care of Miss Fronduti. I think it better for her to begin her postulate without delay which may bring her clothing at the end of our yearly retreat, ( should she then shew herself firm in her determination to embrace the religious state), but your Lordship will guide her.

I have been quite ill since your Lordship left us, and am again excessively fatigued with yesterday's holiday and yet there is nothing the matter with me. –

Does it not quite look like having had a round scolding from your Lordship while it is not true?

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr o<sup>bt</sup> & humble servant

In JC

C.C.

All Souls

St Leonards

May 7<sup>th</sup> [1855 ]

Pray let me hear of the safe arrival of the cheque.

Dieu Seul.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

The men are at work. Mr Wardell came on Monday. - I mentioned what your Lordship had proposed regarding the Boy's School and the Dormitory.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration for us. Messrs H & H are making the estimate for the two.

Miss Fronduti was so perfectly wretched by remaining in apparent indecision that I gave her the Postulants hood & cap.

Humbly begging your blessing

I remain your Lordship's O<sup>bt</sup> servant in JC

C.C.

All Souls

St Leonards

May 18<sup>th</sup> [1855 ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I return the enclosed with thanks. I thought the house alone was to have been £1200. Pray let us come to a conclusion about the schools as soon as possible – I think it ought to be built for £200 and £50 more allowed for extras: but your Lordship knows best.

I sent for Mr Hughes (or Mr Hunter) and explained some requirements in the Dormitory which I will explain to Mr. Wardell. Thank you my Lord.

I am waiting to know when our Lancashire retreat is to be given and also the time of our retreat here (which was not positively settled by F<sup>r</sup> Johnson note) before proposing the professions and clothings to your Lordship's remembrance, Miss de Laprimaudaye and Miss Fronduti are going on well and happily.

Thanks for your Lordship's prayers and blessing. Sister Gen<sup>ve</sup> has not broken one single plate bowl or any other thing since you blessed her hands!

I am my Lord

Ever y<sup>r</sup> o<sup>bt</sup> child & servant in J.C.

C.Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards June 24<sup>th</sup> [1855?]

P.S. Two of our children won the prize for 50 pages of Catechism not missing more than three words. This is the highest prize and about a dozen have gained prizes for

30

pages not missing three words.

Our good Mr Butt has given us the three rooms behind the library but if your Lordship wants them before the house is finished everything may easily be returned in its former state.

Pray forgive this long postscript it is Sunday night.

[Sept 1. 1855 ]

I quite approve of your making the offer to Mr Marshall to build the Lecture room, Library & Study room as soon as you can raise the money, moved by the excellent reasons you give, & by the appearance that Gov<sup>t</sup> will have no power over the building & provided you contract no obligation to build, if you have not the money.

+ T. Grant ]

“Dieu Seul “

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

It is just two weeks since your kind visit, and tho' we have all thanked your Lordship in our hearts and often & gratefully, I almost reproach myself for not having written to say so before now. We have had sickness among the children & in the Community and added to this I have been obliged to send two Novices (The Miss Cusacks ) to Liverpool – They were telegraphed for, to attend their Father who was anxious to see them being in extreme danger I sent a professed sister with them - & they are to remain until he is out of danger of a relapse.

We have just returned from a visit to the Presbytery, very much pleased with the prospect of seeing it soon finished – The Boys School is quite a little fright of a place – I am sorry for it – It really is not as good as our dairy, which



cost less than £50 – We saw so very little of you my Lord at the time of your visit ( though it was so very kind to have telegraphed to give us time to prepare ) that I quite forgot to tell your Lordship that we had had a fire in our Dairy which nearly burnt up two pigs that were being smoked – They were not alive however, but had been well salted.

2<sup>ndly</sup> We are having a window enlarged that looked into the Dormitory so that we may have our Choir up stairs & behind the Congregation: and we are going to try to have an organ as soon as possible that we may be delivered from the false harmonium which really destroys the devotion of our music.

I hear, my Lord, that if we do not claim any grant from Government we may have our Schools acknowledged by government as Training Schools, and by this, obtain “ exhibitions “ for our girls after the end of their apprenticeship which will enable us to support them one or two years longer – and also to support those who enter as postulants after the end of their five years – But in order that Gov, may approve we must have a lecture room, a library & study room, and a class room, besides accommodation for 40 Or 50 girls boarding with us – Therefore we should have to build upon the foundations, which are laid already, below the present refectory May we offer to build as soon as we can raise the money? Our offer would be to M<sup>r</sup> Marshall who would attend to the matter officially.

I hope your Lordship understands that we should not, by

this offer, give the Gov. the smallest claim to the building – I ought to have given as my first reason for wishing the Training School to be acknowledged by the Gov., supposing it to be proposed to us, that by this proceeding we should do away with

any examination of the religious which is, to say the least, offensive to religious generally – We should do away with the examination on the ground of being simply competent teachers, with a sufficiently strong staff to prepare Queen’s Scholars – These Queen’s Scholars may furnish the opportunity to take certificates for the postulants who would thus secure their certificate at at [sic] the end of the postulate, they wld then cast aside all study & begin their noviciate properly. We then would be delivered from future examinations & human anxieties regarding them.

I shall almost tire your patience my Lord, were I not sure from former experience that you will bear with me better than I bear with my miserable self, I might doubt it –

I wish we could pray b<sup>r</sup> de Laprimaudaye into your hands my Lord – What a pity that he should settle down among the Monks a [? word undeciferable ]

Begging humbly a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr o<sup>bt</sup> servant & child in JC

C. Connelly

Thursday

Aug 30<sup>th</sup>

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

Many thanks for your approval of our proposed offer for the Training Schools. I hope we may realise much good from the results.

Our Novices have returned without any apparent injury and I hope the visit may effect an increase of charity on all sides, which certainly had not fully existed since their father's second marriage. They were at the Convent, Rupert House, in Liverpool & simply went to visit their Father during the day, returning for their dinner even during the visit. I do not think your Lordship will think it quite just to prolong their noviceship, unless there are more grave reasons for doing so than this visit can produce & I am sure you will take another view now that the being at the Convent is explained. Only one of the two is near the close of her Noviciate.

Humbly begging a blessing

I am my Lord

Your Lordships

O<sup>bt</sup> servant in JC.

C Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards Sep 7<sup>th</sup> [1855 ]

P.S. Miss Dunn is here and promises so far well –

Miss Tussaud came yesterday. – We shall be glad to get into our new Dormitory to make room for the children & it will not be ready any too soon.

“ Dieu Seul “

My dear Lord Bishop & F<sup>r</sup> in Xt [Grant ]

I received the enclosed by to-day's post.

Will your Lordship have the kindness to advise me on the subject?

I am anxious to know who will be appointed for this place & I beg very humbly that it may be an Englishman at least.

I wish I could know whether your Lordship would really like to have a Jesuit here, & if you would only say frankly & confidentially just what you wish, I w<sup>ld</sup> do all the begging or disagreeable part, and our Blessed Lord w<sup>ld</sup> settle the rest. Do give me this much confidence this once my Lord –

I am very humbly

Your Lord<sup>ps</sup> o<sup>bt</sup> child in Xt

C. Connelly.

All Souls

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> [1855 ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant

I think you will laugh when I tell you that S<sup>t</sup> Theophila inspires us to hope we may be able to build the Church quite by ourselves and that this will be much better for us in the end than to give up what will finally be necessary for us.

You know my Lord that we are to grow & grow to a great size, and that “ from this hill there is to come forth a flame that will enkindle all the world “ – and that we are to grow “ as a city upon the clouds “ and that “ S<sup>t</sup> Michael stood upon the turret of our Convent & fought one whole night “ and, and I could tell your Lordship so many sweet and holy dreams impressed upon the minds of several of our Community, becoming almost of faith with us, that I should cause a smile at least at our credulity were I to repeat them in any other sense than as dreams of zeal – Still my Lord we do hope finally to build the Church & to fill it. – Only let us have patience.

Thank you my Lord for kindly proposing the 15<sup>th</sup> we shall be quite ready at that time – There will be three, I think, ready for their profession by S<sup>t</sup> Thomas’s day.

Humbly commending these with all the Community to your Lordships blessing & prayers,

I am my Lord Bishop

Your ob<sup>t</sup> servant in JC.

C Connelly

All Souls

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>

[1855 ? ]



[ Dec. 18. 1855 ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Our sisters are now in retreat. I will ask Mr Butt to see those for profession tomorrow - There are three – and two for clothing.

We shall not be quite ready till the 21<sup>st</sup> , and if your Lordship can arrange your travelling so as not to suffer by the fasting, we shall not mind the fast day, having one good meal.

Your Lordship must not of course touch your own private funds for the percentage, or any thing else connected with the buildings. I feel almost hurt at your naming it. If you could allow anything for the boys school from the building funds, that no one could feel, we should be very glad of it. Otherwise the acct must be with us.

It is very odd, but I am not aware that I ever had the smallest reluctance to Mr Wardell's having the building of the Church. I quite remember thinking that he was not the man to be employed on that work, because his design had not been carried out. I have not the least wish one way or another: and if I had, I should subject it to your Lordship's better judgement.

The rooms proposed to Mr Wardell are those you gave me leave to have done provided we had the money in hand. When the estimate is made you shall have it. M<sup>r</sup> Wardell is drawing out the building as it is to be when we gradually

fill our buildings. We shall fill the west end as soon as we have possession. At present we cannot work effectually for the want of class rooms.

I am annoyed at your having any perplexity with Mr Scoles acct. You will remember my Lord that you recommended Mr Jackson on the opinion of the Oratorian FF<sup>s</sup>. - On the strength of your letter I wrote to Mr Towneley to request him to come here, & to make an estimate for the finishing of the Church. Mr Jackson came, & brought with him Mr Scoles, I believe on his own responsibility and they stopped on the premises about three hours, as well as I recollect, or perhaps less. After this visit Mr Scoles sent me a pencil tracing of the plan that he could have sketched in a half hour; & besides this he wrote to me twice or perhaps three times. I should think the payment of his journey and the loss of one day would be all that could be honestly charged, - No specifications were drawn up, nor plans sent. An exhorbitant estimate, sent in a letter without any details, could certainly not legally claim £85!

I sincerely hope that Mr Towneley will not pay it, and should we finally have to liquidate so unjust a charge we ought to have the Charity to warn our friends against the possibility of falling into the same snare , or into the same hands. Do you not think so?

I hope soon to be able to tell your Lordship that we can have the £1500 for the Church, but we must continue to pray until a more positive answer comes to our request.

We are much in want of a small bake house and oven. It is a very little matter to tease your Lordship in naming Still it is " building " and I suppose that Nuns must not even build an oven without their Bishop's leave. – It is very



comfortable to ask leave, but if- - no I will not suppose it is teasing because your charity My Lord never minds trouble & you will not deprive us of the opportunity of practicing the Obedience that is so very sweet and profitable, and I am quite sure is [sic] ever dear to the perfection of the Bishop.

Yes, my Lord we have our devotions in our Novena for the Coming of the Holy Child and we are calling all to “ come “ and “ adore Him “. His Holy Mother must build the Church for Him this year. And S<sup>t</sup> Theophila must be the little maid servant to have all in readiness. Will you tell her to be obedient, and to bring us the certainty of the means immediately as a present to the Holy Child – material gold this time is requisite.

Begging your blessing

I am

Your Lordship's

O<sup>bt</sup> servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Dec.18<sup>th</sup> [1855?]

[ Jan 13. 1856 ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I propose going to London by the 7 o'clock train tomorrow morning, when I shall try to see your Lordship at S<sup>t</sup> Georges on my way to Bentinck S<sup>t</sup>. Should I fail in my effort to do so I shall call on my return Tuesday Evening or Wednesday Morning.

I am so very sorry that you have any trouble about the money. Strictly speaking we have no obligation for Masses: but I should much wish that a yearly sum should be saved for this purpose as soon as we can make the arrangement for benefactors and for our little Society.

I am very sorry about M<sup>r</sup> Jackson's bill: but if we have no alternative we had better put it into the Church acct I think & not urge it upon any one - I would send you the amount if had it [sic] but we have not enough to pay the heavy Christmas bills that with the best care in the monthly payments, still come in at the New Year. Besides this some of the parents are in our debt & tho' we have written to ask them to pay they do not; which is annoying just now as we have such high prices for food and clothing. We shall be more at rest in this regard when we are in advance of the clothing bills and supply of materials for the children's work and drawings &c &c.

Thank you my Lord for your advice regarding Alice Blunt. I wished her particularly to write to Miss Hanmer but she

could not find out her address. Miss Hanmer seems never to put any thing but the date. This is a little like your Lordship, is it not?

Alice is passing her holidays with Mr Currie & her brothers, but she ought to be here by this time as the classes begin tomorrow. I will attend to her writing every fortnight to Mrs Wyndham. I only lately knew that Mrs W. had any power over poor little Alice. I told Alice to write to Lady Gerard, but I ought to have exacted it of her & I must blame myself for it; but I will try to mend in this as in many other faults and omissions. Will you pray for me sometimes my Lord ?

I hoped to hear something about the Mortgage on the Church as security for our loan. I want to come to some certainty about the Church before we decide upon the Schools. I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Towneley about it & he seems to enter into it with the idea that [ word crossed out ] the Mortgage [sic] may be done but I shall hear again from him. I do not in the least fear the responsibility of the loan – Our Lord, - time, - and unwearying diligence, must bring out good fruit and overcome all difficulties.

Begging your blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in JC.

C. Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> [1856]

All Souls

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> [ 1856? ]

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I do not think any of our Sisters depend upon our Capital or the annual income from it. The income is between five & six hundred pounds, without counting that from the Schools.

With regard to our London & Preston Sisters, you need have no uneasiness my Lord, as we have two offers of house & lands, waiting for us, on the foreign Missions which we cannot accept for some years, for want of subjects.

I have written to M<sup>r</sup> Towneley to ask for the money for Messrs Scoles and J. and M<sup>r</sup> Wardells also – And if he has not gone to Ireland he will no doubt relieve you from all anxiety.

It seems to be the Will of God that we should again put off the Church, as we have an immediate prospect of the Training School & the pensions for the Pupils from Government, which will make it necessary for us to build the addition to the Schools as soon as possible. I enclose Mr Marshall's letter which will explain the matter.

Do, My Lord, trust in God, and all will go on well: & more than well – to His glory & the good of souls, which is the only worth of education.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am your ob<sup>t</sup> servant in JC.

C. Connelly

I shall probably have to go to London on Monday.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from a photostat]

[ Feb 8. 1856 ]

Dieu Seul

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I shall manage to follow your wise counsel in admitting only three or four at the same time: but we have seven who arrived from Nottingham last evening. We shall take care of them.

I am very glad that M<sup>r</sup> Butt has exposed the true view of his position here. We shall be very much better off in feeling that the Convent is his first object & duty, which we never could if he had the responsibility of the Mission upon him.

We are quite willing that your Lordship should name £100 pr an. & the entire support of the Altar: for which in return, we should wish to have the right of some regular Masses for our Community ( living & dead ) & for our benefactors ( living & dead ) & Mass at 7.

I do not think it would be proper for us to give seat rent in our own chapel nor to ask it of the parents of the children

We are quite willing not to admit our Training Schools to the High Mass and that the seats should be charged for at this time, for the support of the Mission, but your Lordship knows that we have nothing to say regarding this, & that the Mission is solely yours to think of & decide for.

If your Lordship decides upon providing in store a life pension for each Sister, I am afraid we shall never build the

Church. I think the most reasonable & efficient way of limiting professions would be to suppose a salary of £30 for each Mistress of the School & £20 for each lay Sister employed in the clothing offices, laundry, kitchen & refectory, as “ the labourer is worthy of his hire”, and without out [sic] such labourers the harvest of the Lord would not be reaped, & our work would be destroyed. – I feel quite sure my Lord that you would be the last to refuse a true vocation on the score of money; & if I refuse it will not be on my own responsibility but in obedience to your wishes.

I recollect, that in the world, I counted each servant in the family as an average expense of £30. As the servants of the Holy Child we might average the same in profit & loss so as to meet the balance.

Begging your blessing

I am my Lord

Your O<sup>bt</sup> servant in JC.

C Connelly

All Souls

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 56.

[ Dear John

I could not allow the Mass on Sundays as it is forbidden by the Holy See to allow duplication if it can be at at [sic] all avoided.

The number of Masses seems to me more than a priest can be fairly required to say under the circumstances. What do you think. + TG.]

[ Feb. 11. 1856 ]

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

The Masses we should like to have are these-

- 12 I monthly mass for the living benefactors of our Institute.
- 12 I monthly Mass for the deceased benefactors.
- 12 I Monthly Mass for the deceased members of our Communities- (here or elsewhere)
- 52 1 Mass every week for the benefit of our order in general
- 88 & for such members as are most in need of Divine help -,  
& for the children under our care.

This would make 88 masses – ( £22 ) –

2. We should not think of making any change for the Congregation in the candles- We spent last year upwards of £21 on the Altar Candles – The only thing we should care to have would be presents of small candles on the great feasts: for the people to bring on being asked, as M<sup>r</sup> Butt arranged for the Imm. Concep. – Such little acts are of benefit to the donors, and give edification to our children, who would soon desire to contribute to the Church in the same way if they had the good example, as your Lordship knows much better than I.



3. Our Mass is always at 7 excepting Sundays & Holidays of Obligation. We should like it if possible even on those days to be at 7 – as we feel the least irregularity in the hours to be a disadvantage.

I am happy to tell you my Lord that our new children are gradually realising their ~~new~~ [sic] Convent life and we are taking particular care of them – They will ~~will~~ [sic] no doubt with the blessing of God soon be very good & pious – The Holy Child Jesus will be with them as members of the family of our blessed Mother.

Begging your Lordships blessing,

I am your O<sup>bt</sup> servant in JC.

C. Connelly.

All Souls

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>

Feb. 29 [ 1856 ? ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I really do not know when to propose the clothing. There is only one lay Sister, who has been quite ready for the last month, & I do not think it will do her any harm to put her off until some others are equally promising

I had a long conversation with M<sup>r</sup> Bamber this morning & I think what he proposed regarding the chapel services, which he will tell your Lordship himself, will prevent any probable warfare – I will only add that in addition to what he proposed we had better exclude the highest school also from High Mass & vespers –

In this case the doors could perhaps be closed at our private Mass & Vespers. ~~I name this because I suspect some young gentlemen of coming to look [?] attract the attention of the older girls.~~ [This passage heavily scored through – barely decipherable]

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am my Lord

Yr O<sup>bt</sup> ser<sup>t</sup> in J C.

C. Connelly.

Convent

Feb 29.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I received your letter this morning which followed me to Bentinck S<sup>t</sup>

I am sorry not to see your Lordship but perhaps it may take less time to state on paper the points I should have wished to expose ~~to your Lordship~~ - [sic]

1<sup>st</sup> The Nottingham Nuns have resigned the Training School – This was done before M<sup>r</sup> Marshall wrote to me.

2. I am quite sure that M<sup>r</sup> Towneley will not assist in the building of the Church while he believes that the Training Schools have the first claim and offer a work that tends much more to the glory of God & the good of Souls and finally to the generally good, than the immediate building of the Church. This also is our opinion.

3. I think that if your Lordship understands that we shall be deprived of the Queen's Scholars ( & consequently of their pensions which will amount to £500 per annum ) if we put off the buildings will not oppose the Schools.

4. Your Lordship had already consented to the building of the Schools, and I wrote to this effect to M<sup>r</sup> Towneley.- What must I do now?

5. M<sup>r</sup> Butt made the offer to the Gov. for the acknowledgement of the training Schools not long after

you first gave leave for the buildings to be extended.

If we withdraw it will be contrary to the interests of the Community as well as to the Mission –

If your Lordship wishes us to remain until 2 o'clock we shall not find it long if we may go into the Church.

I am

yr Lordships o<sup>bt</sup> Servant

C Connelly.

1 o'clock.

Volume X1

pg 040

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a Photostat ]

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

April 25<sup>th</sup> [1856 ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I beg to acknowledge & to thank you for your letters received this morning.

Your Lordship will no doubt quite understand that I feel averse to contract any debt that might fall on the Community where a personal matter is in question: and I hope, (if it is really better that I should pay the costs, rather than insist upon their falling upon Mr Connelly, which seems to be much more just, ) I say I hope, the payment may be made by a promissory note which I might meet without debt, tho' not without very great inconvenience. If I ought , I must do this, and as Mr Capes has thought proper to trouble your Lordship with this very disagreeable subject, perhaps it might be better that the acct be settled through M<sup>r</sup> Harting, including his own, in the promissory note.

The note might be made payable £100 in July & £100 in October or rather the remainder in October I do not know what there is over the £210.

I have sent your Lordship's note to M<sup>r</sup> Butt. We are not bound to have any Masses; but I think they ought to be said for our benefactors.

Thank you for the proposed visit on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> & either day will suit for the Postulants & they can begin their preparatory retreat on Ascension Day, under the auspices of our Blessed Lady.

The building is advancing rapidly & is very beautiful.

Begging your blessing

I am my Lord

Yr humble servant

In JC.

C. Connelly.

Did M<sup>r</sup> Butt ask your Lordship to write to Rome - to ~~M<sup>r</sup> Laprimauday~~ [sic] to have our Children of Mary united to the Roman Sodality? I hope it is not too late – Mr Lap.<sup>r</sup> has decided his vocation for the priesthood during a retreat which he has just finished. He returns in May.

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pg 042

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

[ April 30. 1856? ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

It is a very long time since you were here – even so long as the 15<sup>th</sup> of last November! We have only had the extraordinary once since then. I do not think that any one has been in the slightest want, or I should have thought of it before now, & if it should be quite convenient to your Lordship, we shall be ready for the first opportunity, when you come from Brighton. If not convenient then, we can take the next visit, on the 6 of June.

The Examination of Mistresses is to be held in our School rooms on the 17 of June, by H.M.Inspector. I think we shall probably have other religious, who will desire to be lodged in the Convent. I suppose it would not be quite charitable to refuse this, but I should be obliged to put them together, separate from our Sisters, quite in the “ West End “ of the building.

I have this moment written to M<sup>r</sup> Towneley about the land. Our copy of the Deed has been stolen or wonderfully mislaid – M<sup>r</sup> Towneley had the kindness to have two copies made. I think D<sup>r</sup> Duke has your copy - Shall M<sup>r</sup> Butt get this for us?

I remain

My Lord Bishop

Yr humble servant in JC

C Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards April 30<sup>th</sup>

P.S.

I do not know of any position to suit Miss Lewis but D<sup>r</sup> Todd wants a Mistress, tho' he offers only 10/- per week. If you would like to send Miss Lewis to us without salary & two hours school work, (the rest of her time for her own use & benefit ) I shall be glad to take her, at least till she can choose her own position.



[ May 5. 1856? ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I sent your letter to Miss Lewis by the following post. Should she write to me I will let your Lordship know of it immediately.

I received a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Allies on Saturday, stating, that the P. Council require a plan showing that the Training School is not connected to the Convent. They require a plan of the kitchen – The present kitchen, being in the Convent, cannot be offered as belonging to the School: and the only way to meet what the P Council demand, will be to ask M<sup>r</sup> Towneley to have the next addition built at once. This is what your Lordship proposed when I first shewed you the plan of the present addition.

I am sorry to find the papering was not included in the last payments It was certainly mentioned in the Contract. Does your Lordship understand how this is ? I do not.

Begging a blessing & a word for us all to our most sweet Mother.

I am

Your Lordships

humble servant I JC

C Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

May 5<sup>th</sup>

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

We should much rather have the ceremony on Friday, if it will bring your Lordship a day earlier to us.

Lady Henry Kerr is here to remain until the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. She is delighted at the thought of seeing you.

I think I mentioned some time ago that there would be at this time several Sisters who had then reached the end of their Noviciate. One of these hopes to make her vows on Friday; and an other who finished her two years to morrow ( Miss Cusack the sister of the one your Lordship received some time ago ) hopes for the same final result of her many trials. We have approved of both, & I have spoken to Mr Butt regarding them.

I omitted telling your Lordship, when you were here, that we had dismissed as many as four novices, after trying three of them in other of our houses at different times. And another quite lately, who may give us some trouble, which I will explain when I have the advantage of seeing your Lordship.

I also want some other advice but must wait till then.

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr humble servant in JC

C. Connelly.

All Souls June 2<sup>nd</sup> [ 1856 ]

[ Aug 26. 1856 ]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I have been upon the point of writing to you for the past three days – 1<sup>st</sup> to say that I do not know to whom the £32 is to be paid which your Lordship will remember was due on the papering of the presbytery – I have therefore sent it to your Lordship. I could not send it before receiving the midsummer payments, and I have to thank your Lordship being patient with me.

2<sup>ndly</sup> To say that two of our Sisters have finished their Noviciate & several are anxious to be clothed. When would it be convenient for your Lordship to examine them & have the ceremony?

Father Tickell wrote to say that he is coming, but I shall not feel certain of the fact till I see his reverence. I send the document required.

I hope my Lord that you have not suffered from the warm weather as much as some of us have. It has [ been ] the hottest summer I have ever experienced in England.

I am always my Lord Bishop

Yr very faithful

& grateful child in JC

C. Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Aug 26<sup>th</sup>



“ Dieu Seul “

My dear Lord & F<sup>r</sup> in Xt – [ Bishop Grant ]

I have a letter to day from the Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Barron saying “ I find that, under present circumstances, we should be unable to undertake the Mission of S<sup>t</sup> Leonards even were the good Bishop of South<sup>k</sup> to offer it to us. “

No doubt my Lord it is that we are unworthy to obtain our request, and this is the reason we are denied so great a blessing.

With ever grateful thanks for the favours already granted, I am very respectfully

Yr Lordships o<sup>bt</sup> C<sup>d</sup>

the Heart of Jesus

C. Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards Sep<sup>r</sup> 6. [ 1856 ]

P.S. I forgot to mention that I hope to be in London on the 19<sup>th</sup> on my way to Liverpool & Preston.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from a photostat ]

[Oct. 31. 1856]

“ Sursum Corda “

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I think it will be quite impossible for me to take any responsibility regarding the keeping up of Rupert House, as affairs now stand.

I have written to Mr Byston and enclose a copy of my letter for your Lordship's perusal.

The letter to M<sup>r</sup> Bowles dated Sep 13<sup>th</sup> will show your Lordship that he must perfectly understand that we wish to take any measures that he may think proper to secure his rights.

Begging your blessing

your faithful

servant in JC.

C Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Oct 31<sup>st</sup>

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

We all wish you a very merry Christmas & a happy New Year.

I hope our little Xtmass offering may reach you safely, which we beg you to accept not for its value, but simply as some of the work of the year which may be useful in some homely way.

I ought to mention that Rupert House has been given up to M<sup>r</sup> Kaye for the Mortgages and the interest money paid as Mr Kaye advised.

I am sorry to have to say that much littleness & meanness has been displayed by Miss B in winding up these matters, which I shall not trouble you with relating now, but when your Lordship pays us the next visit perhaps you will not mind hearing it.

Humbly begging your Lordship's blessings upon the blacks & the whites, that we may not one of us quarrel with our own hearts, especially at this Holy season, or even when the most cut up forget our duty.

I am my Lord

Yr faithful servant in J.C.

C. Connelly.

Christmas Day.

1856.

[ The first part of this letter is missing. ]

good wishes – Yes everything is going on nicely, and a good Draper of Bkp<sup>l</sup> has left £200 for our Convent here – Our sisters visited & prayed for him during his illness and he returned it very generously.

We hope to move to Raikes Hall before the 1<sup>st</sup> of December – We have rented the place for very little more than the present house, and the situation & accomodation are infinitely preferable – and D<sup>r</sup> Goss has approved of the change – some months ago –

We are also in hopes of securing a better situation for the London Sisters in S<sup>t</sup> James Parish, near Regents Park where they will have good air and an increase of work in time –

You must not think we are “going to fail” – for the capital is very safely untouched till it comes forth for S<sup>t</sup> Leonards Church & Schools &c. Bees always store away more honey than they eat. I have not touched the £300 that you gave me leave to take for the Music Rooms and hot water pipes & I mean to pay the whole without touching it if I can – using the good thoughts and management that our blessed Lord gives me in such matters.

Begging your Lordships blessing,

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in J.C.

Cornelia C,



SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

[ 1856 or after ]

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I have made a mistake regarding the Clothing – only one of our postulants has fully completed her time – The three others will not be ready before the twenty seventh of May – Four Novices will probably be ready for their Vows in June & perhaps it would be better to defer the clothing until then.

I have no intention or views about the money, or any wish to borrow it. I mean to pay for it and I shall undoubtedly very often have to sigh to God to know where it is to come from, but in the end it will come one way or another. “ Ask & ye shall receive.”- If the note is to be paid at a fixed time as I suppose a promissory should be, it must not bear interest - But if the time be unlimited it would only be just to name the interest - If you advise me to borrow the money now , and pay the acct I will do so - In this case, please to send me M<sup>r</sup> Capes letter to your Lordship, and a letter of advice that I can make use of ( in asking for the money ) from your Lordship. I think M<sup>r</sup> Dunn would be kindly disposed to lend it to me, if I explain the circumstances.

Our Sisters are all very busy with the Training School, even almost too much so for our good. I hope your Lordship is quite well. If you are in Brighton so soon will not your Lordship run over to see us without waiting for the Clothing?

I am your Lordships humble servant in J.C.

C. Connelly.

All Souls, S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

~~I thank you for your kind letter rec<sup>d</sup> this morning, and I shall be very glad for you to see Mr Byston who knows all the circumstances of Miss B [owles ]'s affairs.~~

Perhaps your Lordship will kindly inform the Cardinal that M<sup>r</sup> J Bowles did not lend the money to our Community, or in favour of a Religious Establishment – On the contrary he acknowledged that his affection for his Sister led him to an imprudent act, which a more enlightened charity would have refused.

He also knows that his Sister purchased Rupert House without our knowledge or consent, and that she could not have obtained a loan of £5000 unless he had sustained her and signed the Bond for it unknown to us. As an act of [ words crossed out – indecipherable ] kindness towards her Brother our community became responsible for the interest of a mortgage for one year but we never promised more.

Perhaps your Lordship will also tell the Cardinal that we acknowledge the Bond for £1300 – This was signed by two members of our Community on condition that no individual was to be involved in any debt, and that this sum was to be secured on the property which condition was put aside to allow Mr John Bowles to have the first and only mortgage.

The only view I take of the subject, in every submission to your Lordship, is this – Miss Bowles acted privately, and independently of our Community – not as a religious certainly, but as a secular. Not acknowledging any superior Authority nor referring her Brother to any

Authority.

The loan of £5000 was an unprincipled act on the part of Miss Bowles – And on the part of her Brother an effect of the weakness of human affection. – Does justice demand that our Community should be responsible for the unknown deeds of others? Surely not my Lord in right reason for where there is no responsibility [sic] power there is no responsibility – Even the Common law acknowledges this, as in “ Infants- Minors “ It seems to me that Miss Bowles ought to have subjected herself to some authority if she wished to be protected.

As the Cardinal says that we cannot deny the responsibility of the Community or as your Lordship's quotes the “ chief Superior of the chief House & Order “ I humbly suggest my Lord – that the order should first be acknowledged such by the Church, before it be involved in any debt as a body, otherwise, you stand a fair chance of involving the Cardinal or your Lordship perhaps as unknowingly as we have been taken in. I deplore our Institute not having been approved. Had this been done, proper authority would have been enforced; ourselves secured as a body, acknowledged as responsible, and this scandal prevented – We asked no more than many orders have already obtained, nor have we ever shewn any unwillingness to submit, in docility, to the wishes of our Superiors in the smallest point wherein religious discipline might not be destroyed. I am very sure throughout our many troubles we have ever maintained, & aimed at that rectitude of intention which ensures us peace & rest while quietly labouring for the souls of Christ's little ones, awaiting the declaration of His most Holy Will regarding our Rule. But however this may serve those long tried, and for a certain number of years, to prove the stability of the most faithful, you will see

other evils than this one in question. – The most intelligent and clever are the first ones to bring up the fact that His Holiness has not app<sup>d</sup> for us, the same rule which he has approved for others – If this was modified for them in minor points, not touching upon religious discipline, why might not the same have been done for us before now? We know that we are not worthy of any favour from His Holiness, but the only question is the work of God, and the good of souls, & that we have the means of serving Him, and of maintaining a right spirit in those He has given to us, which never can be ensured with stability, until the Church blesses us by the seal of her approbation.

I had no intention to enter upon this subject at present & I hope I have not said more than may please you.

When your Lordship sees M<sup>r</sup> Byston you will judge of what the law may claim from us, and I hope that may be nothing more than our share of of [sic] the £1300 tho' we are willing to acknowledge ~~the whole of this~~ in order [sic] to be generous!

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in J.C.

C. Connelly.

[Paragraphs crossed out are so crossed out in original]

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pg 055

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat ]

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> [1857]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Many thanks for your kind letter rec<sup>d</sup> this morning.

We are quite ready to do what M<sup>r</sup> Byston advises and let the law have all that it can demand, ( but no more), without incurring the expense of disputing it.

Perhaps your Lordship will kindly inform the Cardinal that Mr Bowles did not lend the money to our Community , or in favour of a Religious Establishment. On the contrary he acknowledged that his affection for his sister led him to an imprudent act, which a more enlightened charity would have refused. He also knows that his Sister purchased Rupert House without our knowledge or consent , and that she could not have obtained a loan of £5000 unless he had sustained her, and signed the bond unknown to us.

As an act of kindness to Miss Bowle's Brother our Community became responsible for the interest of a mortgage to this amount for one year but we never promised more.

The only view I take of the subject is this - Miss Bowles acted privately , and independantly [sic] of our Community not as a Religious, but as a Secular. Not acknowledging any superior authority, nor referring her Brother to any Authority. The loan of £ 5000 was an unprincipled act on the part of Miss B.. – and on the part of her Brother an effect of the weakness of human affection Does justice demand that our Community should be responsible for the unknown deeds of another?

Surely not my Lord – for where there is no power there can be no responsibility – It seems to me that Miss Bowles ought to have subjected herself to some authority if she wished to be protected.

Will you therefore my Lord say to Mr Byston that we are willing to take whatever responsibility of debt ~~that~~ [sic] the law exacts, but not a farthing more and I hope this quite agrees with your Lordships view of the case.

I am very sorry to hear that you Lordship has not been so well – We are all pretty well though we have had a bad case of inflammatory Rhumatism [sic] that has been cured by doses of Gin and Sulphur – a poor beggars remedy, but quite infallible.

Begging your Lordship's blessing & prayers

I am always my Lord Bishop

Your devoted servant in JC.

C Connelly.

I am 48 to day, ought I not very soon to go to a better world my Lord? And yet not ready!

“ Sursum Corda “

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I rec<sup>d</sup> yesterday a letter from Mr Byston in which he says” with regard to the unfortunate

“ Rupert House business my opinion

“remains the same & I have both written

“it & told it verbally to Emily Bowles namely

“that she having got you all including

“her Brother into the scrape you have

“behaved very handsomely to her Brother

“in allowing the Ladies to give him an

“unconditional mortgage on the property

“which they were not legally bound

“to do altho I considered as I told you

“at the time they were honourably

“ bound to do so as his money had

“bought the premises in which

“ you at once concurred – M<sup>r</sup> Bowles

“has therefore now the means of

“ selling the property & paying “

“ himself & cannot ask for more “

“I have sent Emily Bowles a statement “

“ of her monies all of which have been “

“paid to her excepting the two sums “

“I wrote to you about- I have  
“ clearly shewn her this as I found  
“ from her that her family was  
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“ under the wrong impression  
“ that you had seized & spent  
“ all her money which in point  
“ of fact she has done for herself.

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“

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It is a great source of comfort to me my Lord, that Mr Byston should have witnessed the course of these facts, and that he is not influenced in his judgements by any one, having known & remembered them even more accurately than myself.

Would it not be well my Lord to send them to His Eminence, ~~should~~ in case [sic] there should be any diversity of opinion on the subject?

Mr Byston writes from Brighton, but he says he is to be in London on Monday- ( Gray's Inn )

I hope your Lordship received my reply to your last letter sent by return of post.

Begging your blessing I am my Lord

Your humble servant in J.C.

C Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Jan 19<sup>th</sup>



Volume X1

pg 059

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

[5 Bentinck Street

Manchester Sq]

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> [1857]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I was disappointed in coming on Friday, as I intended finding it impossible to leave S<sup>t</sup> Leonards before the following Monday. I called on my way up at S<sup>t</sup> Georges, and was again disappointed by finding your Lordship out & away – but I was more fortunate in seeing Mr Byston, who seems hopeful of settling matters to your satisfaction finally, tho' not in too much of a hurry. – I do not think your Lordship will have much cause for anxiety as Father Gallway is taking an interest in Miss Bowles and thinks she is very penitent. I heard yesterday that she was in hopes of being received at Blandford Square as soon as these affairs are settled, which is comforting news.

We start for Preston in a few moments & I will only beg your Lordships blessing while I am always

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

5. Bentinck S<sup>t</sup>

Manchester Sq<sup>r</sup>

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

March 9<sup>th</sup> [1857]

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

Many thanks for your kind letter rec<sup>d</sup> this morning.

There is no prospect of the blessing of another ceremony before Easter, tho' we have four promising postulants, but your Lordship is always so good to us, that I take the courage to ask with simplicity for what we should like, and this is that your Lordship would send us a Jesuit every three months – we do not mind who, but you know my Lord that religious like to have a religious Extraordinary, and we should always choose a Jesuit.

If I am wrong in speaking with so much frankness I hope your Lordship may reprove me. I will send your letter to M<sup>r</sup> Rymer and propose his coming to us next week.

I do not think any one is in want of the Extraordinary unless it may be some of the Students.

I am

my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

All Souls

Aug 7<sup>th</sup> 1857

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We may easily defer the two I spoke of as doubtful and three of the postulants, so that there will be only three for profession and six for Clothing – Three Choir Sisters & three lay Sisters

The Dinner party talk my Lord cannot do us much harm – Mr Byston does not think it well to plead the case – So that Mr Bowles can only get a judgement on the names in question. He cannot touch any thing not belonging to them, and he already has all they could claim – and all that his money purchased or that Miss Bowles owned.

Begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Servt in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

[Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 1857]

My Lord Bishop - [Grant ]

I hope my letter which crossed the last one from your Lordship somewhat relieved your anxiety regard<sup>g</sup> the [sic] legal measures g [sic] commenced by Mr Sam: Bowles.

Mr Butt went to see your Ldp yesterday but was disappointed I do not know why you speak of the note you made regarding the debt to Mr S. Bowles – I did inform Mr Byston of ~~the cond~~ [sic] your wishes & views – and still consider myself bound just so far as the conditions of my assent to the taking of that money could \*1 bind me morally – when M<sup>r</sup> B finds what portion of his money ~~any~~ a [sic] judgement can bring back to him, he will himself listen to reason & come to some terms that we endeavour to meet – ~~That will be to take such money as our labour /~~ [sic] zeal and labour would otherwise have brought into the Convent – and ~~to~~ [sic] take it by such small instalments as / ~~we can meet without~~ [sic] ~~As to taking~~ I presume my Lord that you would not propose my taking the dowries of members of our body to pay this debt. It would be ~~robbing Peter to pay Paul, and in case of very grave~~ misdemeanour, or ~~unfitness for religious life we should be forced to keep a putred~~ member on acct of their money – ~~If they themselves wish to appropriate it in this manner it seems to me that it should be of their own uninfluenced will.~~

I presume my Lord that you would not wish me to take the dowries of members of our body to meet a debt of this sort – There might be many serious objections to such a disposition of money, and I should not be willing myself to be instrumental in such dispersal of property destined for the good of our body in general, nor does it seem to me that I have any right to do such an act.

Beggin.....

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I hope my last letter, which crossed the one from your Lordship, somewhat relieved the anxiety felt regarding the legal measures commenced by Mr Sam: Bowles. I did inform Mr Byston, the same day, of your views & wishes and just so far as the conditions of my assent to the taking of that money could morally bind me, I must conscientiously help in paying it.

When Mr S. Bowles finds how much of his money a judgement can bring forth, he will perhaps listen to reason, and come to terms we can meet – and receive his money by such instalments as our zeal and labour may produce. We are quite at peace.

I presume my Lord that you would not wish me to take the dowries of members of our body to meet a debt of this sort – There might be many serious objections to such a disposition of money, and I should not be willing myself to be instrumental in such disposal of property destined for the good of our body in general, nor does it seem to me that I have any right to such an act.

Begging your blessing

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv<sup>t</sup> in J C.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 1857.



SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[ From Photostat]

[c. 19.8.1857.]

My Lord Bishop

There will be only two for profession. One of these receives at present £100 pr.an. secured forever, about £80. – The other has some property but will only have possession of it at her Mothers death.

Of the six postulants to be clothed 3 are for Lay Sisters 1 of the Choir Sisters has about £80 or £100 pr an the other two are pensioned by Gov<sup>t</sup> which I presume will last as long as they are to be in this valley of tears.

I am very glad for you to make the visitation when your Lordship may judge also of me, and of the probability of my usual actions being in accordance with the calumnious charge of obliging any one to burn letters on business that the truth might not be known. If I have not grown in humility my Lord I hope that charge has at least made me grow in charity and meekness, by the many acts I have made when unbidden it has returned to my mind. The Superior part of ones soul must be preoccupied not to let the inferior become active on such occasions – Happily mine has been pretty constantly employed.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yrs faithfully in JC

C. Connelly.



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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

[ Aug. 1857 ?]

My Lord Bishop

Thank you very much for not putting off the professions. Mr. Byston, you will see by the enclosed note, has sent me a proposal to compromise matters which will finally make something more satisfactory to Mr S. Bowles than it can ever make to us. It seems to me very unjust that the Community should pay for what it never received. I do not however trouble myself or others about it as we are not acting for ourselves.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant inJC.

C.Connelly.

P.S. I asked Mr Byston to have your Lordships approval before the proposal be carried out

[Sep.21. 1857]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Thank you very much for sending our good Sister your blessing. You must have written the one page not long before she breathed her last – She was a most simple and saintly soul, and most edifying throughout her religious life – thus we hope that we have another advocate in Heaven.

I do not think that any body is in immediate need of the Extraordinary – several of the Sisters went to Father Lambert but if there is any want before the next clothing I will write immediately to let your Lordship know it.

I am annoyed by the miserable tattling of Miss Bowles affairs, but I suppose we must expect this and ought not to be annoyed, but rather rejoice, as far as the suffering may go.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Sep 21<sup>st</sup> 1857 [? 1867]

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> [1857?]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Mr Byston wrote last week to propose a reconsideration of his first offer, & I hope the parties may be wise enough to take it. Perhaps Miss B. may hope to work upon others as she did upon her brother; but unless the sands of S<sup>t</sup> Leonards turn up a gold mine I do not see what means are to be devised - moreover her brothers know very well that they were in fault and have only themselves to blame.

You may rely upon the peace I shall maintain upon this, and all other matters that are of no consequence at the hour of death. I have been

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

The offer made to raise £1300 for Mr Bowles is the utmost we can hope to effect.

Had it been possible for us to have delivered Mr Bowles from further anxiety before leaving Liverpool ( & you know this my Lord ) we should have taken the liabilities of Rupert House upon us with generosity and trust in God. It was impossible then and it is equally impossible now. The £1300 must be raised through some of our friends if they are willing to lend this sum on interest & to receive in return small payments saved from our yearly pensions.

Who could have foreseen in human wisdom these disgraceful claims? Or who could have imagined that our act of kindness, ( advised by good Mr Byston ) giving security by a mortgage exclusive of our own claim for £1300 ( paid on Rupert House without our sanction) should have entailed such unjust demands? It is true that Mr Bowles might have seized the house as security for his sisters note of hand, but he could not have touched the right of the others who claimed £1300 upon the property – Is it acting honourably to make out a claim against those who dealt thus with him. – Is it even fair?

Your charity for all parties my Lord would induce to every sacrifice, but it would have to effect some super human means to bring forth satisfaction for these claims. We have not the means to meet your wishes nor could we honestly promise to raise them.

Begging your blessing

I am My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in JC.

C.Connelly

Facts for consideration regarding Rupert H. &c -

1. That Rupert House was purchased by Miss Bowles without the consent of our Community, without having asked our advice, knowing at the time she made the purchase, that we had refused to pledge ourselves for any property that would involve personal liability.
2. <sup>ndly</sup> That our Community never received the sums she borrowed from her Brothers. She alone received and expended them according to her own designs, and against the advice we had given her in the proposals she advanced in 1853.
3. <sup>rd</sup> That the only sum which I conditionally consented was the note or bond for £1300, not to be received by our Community, but to be invested in real property, which ( with the approbation of the Bishop of Liverpool the concurrence of the Poor School Committee and the assurance of a grant from Gov<sup>t</sup> for one third of the amt. to be expended on the building) was to be appropriated to a Training School –
4. <sup>thly</sup> That I did my best to prevent Miss Bowles from Squandering her own money; that I never induced her directly or indirectly to these ambitious deeds; that I warned her on every occasion in my power to beware of any liabilities which she might not be ~~able~~ [sic] certain of being able to meet – that I warned her against natural rashness of character as frequently as I thought it prudent to do so – and gave her no power to involve our Community.

[Continuation of Facts for consideration regarding Rupert House]

5. <sup>thly</sup> That I never rec<sup>d</sup> any estimates for the alterations and buildings added to Rupert House ( & for a very good reason having warned Miss Bowles not to make them) – but that when I visited our Community in that abode and the estimates were presented to me, after the work was done, I expressed the highest disapprobation of them and condemned the whole as an inconceivable dishonesty.
6. <sup>thly</sup> That in offering the compromise of £1300 to Mr S. Bowles the community undertakes to pay a sum of money for nothing received. And we have offered this compromise with the intention to borrow the money and to pay the interest upon it till we can gradually pay it off by means of our annual pensions, which would otherwise have been devoted to the poor of Christ.

If there has been any fault on the part of the Community it lies in the mistaken Charity which prompted me to patch up these sinful deeds and to prevent their consequences, but in this I acted upon the advice of our Lawyer & that of Miss Bowles director.

Cornelia Connelly -

Continuation of Facts regarding Rupert H.

7<sup>thly</sup> I furthermore state that Miss Bowles made the final payment upon Rupert House by a Note of hand for £5000 signed by herself & her Brother Mr John Bowles, without the knowledge of the parties whose names had been entered in the Deed.

No one except her Brother knew of her intention to take up a note of hand until her design of securing the purchase of Rupert House was accomplished – Therefore no other than herself and her Brother could be responsible for such a purchase.

8<sup>thly</sup> That when the fact stated came to the knowledge of the parties whose names had been entered in the purchase, those ladies agreed by Mr Bystons advice ( as an act of kindness to M<sup>r</sup> John Bowles who had involved himself together with his Sister for the amount of £ 5000 without any security) to allow a simple mortgage to be given on the property, agreeing conjointly to take the responsibility of the payment of the interest for one year – Miss Bowles having agreed that no individual liability should be incurred by the names entered for the Deed.

9<sup>thly</sup> That when this Mortgage deed was signed ( in which Miss Bowles alone directed Mr Allan Kaye) the mortgagors believed they signed what Miss Bowles had agreed to, under the supposition that she was acting honestly; nor were they



aware of the deception until the fact that the mortgage was not a simple mortgage, was declared by the lawyers.

If truth and justice require publicity to these facts should we do right to conceal them? Should we not again err in a mistaken Charity as we erred in allowing any security to Mr John Bowles, or again in endeavouring to save Miss Bowles from the evil consequences of her own private act?

Cornelia Connelly.

Facts for Consideration regarding Rupert House

[ The following note is on a draft in C.C.'s hand of the above]

Note for M<sup>th</sup> Theresa –

a simple mortgage would not have involved the Sisters

and this was what was agreed to.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Sep 28<sup>th</sup>

[1857?]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

It occurred to me this morning that I had never stated in writing the chief facts regarding our difficulties in the claims of Miss Bowles – it is not with a view to discuss matters which have come to a positive conclusion on our part, but simply to state the facts in writing, which must have more consideration or weight than passing words, and I hope nothing more is necessary on my part to make clear that which I have already stated. Begging a blessing.

I am My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant I JC.

C Connelly

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have written to Mr Byston and he will probably send you my letter.

I do not know how we shall raise the £1300 offered unless your Lordship will assist us by authorising the loan, which we could gradually pay off annually from the pensions rec<sup>d</sup> together with the interest thereon –

If we are to become bankrupt it will be better to be innocent bankrupts than guilty ones, and if we were to agree to these proposals made, we should be ruined after useless struggles.

My Lord, I must trouble you with further facts and with these enclosed I shall have done all that I see, as depending upon me, and leave the rest to our merciful God.

I have stated these facts to the best of my belief, not sacrificing the truth by any mistaken charity; and if there is any appearance of a want of charity I hope your Lordship will forgive it, and pray that I may never really fail in this one, and only virtue.

Begging your blessing

I am My Lord Bishop

Your faithful Servant in JC.

C Connelly.

All Souls

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

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1857.

All Souls

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1857

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

As something was dropped about signing a Bond without the means to meet it I send you a copy of the security I had in hand when I consented to the money being raised – I mentioned this you [sic] once but you seem to have forgotten that I had told you our Sisters never signed any Bond but that one for £1300 which Miss Bowles of [sic] security perfectly covered at the time, as the money was in the Consols, but she afterwards insisted upon having it, and we could not refuse it as she could not pay the contract she had made for the repairs of Rupert House.

I hope your Lordship sees clearly that no one signed that Bond without a right principle governing.

I am sorry – at heart – to tease with these very petty things when your precious time is so much occupied with holier and more fruitful subjects.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant

In J.C.

C. Connelly

Convent H C. Jesus

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Oct 13 [ 1857]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Judging from the tone assumed by Miss Bowles & her Brother it does not seem to me to be possible to meet any compromise by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I have already represented the absolute impossibility on our part to meet the demand. You my Lord are our Superior and I am ready to second the responsibility you propose taking to the very utmost of my power. Will you remember this my Lord, but at the same time I again repeat that it is impossible for us to meet your last proposal.

Of course I shall not send your Lordships letter to Mr Byston but I think he ought to know what steps you intend taking

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 1857.

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

D<sup>r</sup> Duke came to see me this morning regarding our Music Master Herr Kloss. We had a long conversation which ended in D<sup>r</sup> Duke's agreeing to enquire whether the facts supposed to have been asserted by Herr Kloss came through any other source than Herr Zimmerman who has been his avowed enemy and was himself discharged from the Convent because of a disposition, ( which we had observed during his German lesson) to an unguarded freedom of speech, and manner.

I should not trouble your Lordship with these petty matters but that I hope you will hear all that the person ( whose name I do not know) has to say on the subject – He will call upon your Lordship this week. Herr Kloss is certainly a first rate teacher, and with splendid talent possesses the art of communicating his art to others.

He is never with our children alone for one moment. One Sister remains in the parlour while another brings a fresh pupil to replace the former one, and we have never known him to fail in respect & diligence with our children.

I hoped to have a letter from your Lordship to-day, but it did not appear.

Thank you very much my Lord for the blessing you asked for us, and always for your own which as a bon bouche comes at the end of your letters. Begging again a blessing

I am



My Lord Bishop

Your ever faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC

C.Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> [1857]

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I did suspend Herr Kloss [ 3 letters indecipherable] the day I wrote to you, and I will dismiss him irrevocably to-morrow. If he is an injured man I think his enemies will have a great deal to answer for – and I do not believe that the person who spoke to your Lordship was unprejudiced. We should be more sorry than any other could be, to have a person coming to the Convent who could shew any want of propriety & I can only repeat to any one who may ask a recommendation that he has always shewn himself most respectful and diligent.

Begging a blessing,

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> [1857]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant]

I have a letter this morning from Mr Byston making a proposal which I have already declared our inability to accede to.

Will your Lordship have the kindness to tell me what answer the Bishop of Liverpool made regarding our proposal to take Rupert House? As this is the only way that we can relieve your Lordships anxiety regarding the case I am desirous of knowing the Bishop of Liverpool's view before taking further steps.

If we make this offer and promise to secure the regular payment of 4 pr.ct. interest, I think we shall act generously and do more than any Chancery suit could gain for the Mess<sup>rs</sup> Bowles since no human power could force us to pay what we have not got. I have told you my Lord that Mr Towneley has advanced all that he intends to advance on our endowment, and there is no other money that I have the power or the right to touch beyond our yearly income.

I shall await your Lordships reply before answering Mr Bystons letter.

Begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant

In JC.

C. Connelly.



All Souls

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

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 1857.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Many thanks for the details of your kind letter. I have just written to Mr Byston to say that if the Good Shepherd Nuns cannot be induced to purchase R.H. we had better make the offer proposed – to take it & pay 4 pr:ct: interest.

If this is decided upon I feel confident that our Blessed Lord will help us & that the glorious S<sup>t</sup> Michael will finally get us through all our difficulties. We shall give him due honour if matters are settled AMDG.

Our Examination is to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec: and the Students beg for a retreat of a few days the week before, that they may be in a state of holy indifference at the approaching crisis – Do you think my Lord that I might venture to ask your Lordship to give them this blessing? I am almost ashamed of myself for suggesting so much labour, but perhaps the Holy Souls in Purgatory have suggested the thought, because we are praying for them particularly and your Lordship is also in for the same Charity to a much greater extent, and tho' I do feel ashamed of asking still I ask. Will you come and give it?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Lord [ Bishop Grant ]

I enclose Mr Bystons reply to my proposal together with my answer. Will your Lordship read, & if you approve send it by post to Mr Byston.

I forgot to remind your Lordship of the next clothing which might take place after the few days I requested for the Students if your Lordship approve. [sic] There are five Postulants ready for Clothing and there ought to be some for profession, but of this I have not yet enquired.

I am so grieved to take up your Lordships time by so many letters.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful Servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I sent your letter with those enclosed to Mr Butt, & then gave them to S<sup>r</sup> de Loyola – She has written to her father who will I hope be moved by her letter. When your Lordship comes for the retreat you will see her and judge of her state of mind and determination of character She is just 23 years of age.

Mr Byston has sent me the refusal of the Good Shepherd Nuns to purchase Rupert House.

He has drawn up proposals which I have sent to Preston for the opinion of M<sup>th</sup> Lucy & as soon as she has returned them I will do my best to close matters.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1857

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Convent H.C.Jesus

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

[1857]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I was about to write to thank you for the many blessing [s] conferred upon us by your Lordship during the past retreat, when I rec<sup>d</sup> the enclosed and also to complain of that little parcel returned. Surely we may sometimes give a little offering without reckoning! and especially to our Bishop. My Lord, I must not write a grumbling letter after so many benefits received – but do as you recommend pray that you may not send M<sup>r</sup> Butt from here – and if our prayers are heard no blessing will fall upon those who try to have him elsewhere – I do not mean this in any way against charity but for charity, in keeping him here.

We have four Sisters of Compassion from the Dunns' Passage Schools here for the Examination which begins tomorrow.

I shall try to write to M<sup>r</sup> Glenie tonight but I am expecting M<sup>r</sup> Marshall and his little Edith every moment and then all the bustle of the opening of the Examination, which brings the world into the Cloister or at least over the door way.



In reply to the enclosed letter I must first state that we shall have Six Certificated Mistresses who will be ready to accept schools after Xmass – Several of these have good voices & can sing from notes, but not one musician.

I should think there w<sup>ld</sup> generally be very little hope of finding musicians from the Students of Training Schools.

Many thanks for your dear Pastoral – The sealed names shall be sent at the time stated. Should you laugh if all demand M<sup>r</sup> Butt?

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr humble servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

[ Dec. 16. 1857]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I will do my best to induce our Students to remain for the examination of the 29 & 30<sup>th</sup> They are all engaged and are expected to take charge of their schools on the first of January. I do not think that Mr Wenham or anyone is precisely in fault regarding this matter, because nothing was decided in time, but it ought not to happen again in justice to these dear children, who have looked forward to their holidays for a whole year.

Begging a blessing

I am

my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

All Souls

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

Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.



All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I am very grateful for your kind letter, particularly at this moment of fatigue and suffering. I hope you have a very cheerful Christmas for I am sure you deserve it my Lord, and that a happy New Year is in store for your Lordship.

I suppose our Sisters , or rather M<sup>th</sup> Theresa told you of Theresa Hinds walking out of the third storey window, on the 21<sup>st</sup> after taking some drink in the Scullery! The poor creature was caught by one of the sisters and held by one wrist till another came to her assistance, but she slipped through their grasp and fell to the ground, wonderful to tell, without a bone being broken or even a scratch of her skin. She is much bruised and her ankle slightly sprained, but she sits up in her bed with ease, and and [sic] wishes to get a situation! What are we to do with her ? She is determined to go away and we could not keep her, with the risk of a repetition of such desperate acts. Will your Lordship advise some Asylum where she could be saved ?

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

Convent

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1857.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

As you have appointed the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> would it not be well to have the Examination of the remaining Students on those days?

There are only two of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year who have not gone home, but I presume you will decide upon examining those of the 1<sup>st</sup> Year as it will be a preparatory step for the second year, and will also assist in counteracting the idea that the religious part of their training might be a secondary matter. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January we wish to make our private half yearly retreat, to end on the Epiphany, so that if your Lordship defers the Examination please not to have it during that week, but rather after – We should prefer having only a written examination or if your Lordship advises or desires more that it might be simply in witnessing a lesson given by the Students on the articles of the Creed or on the Sacraments. This w<sup>ld</sup> embrace all that would be necessary for a certificate bearing on their future duty as Schoolmistresses –

M<sup>r</sup> Wenham will of course depend upon your Lordships plans.

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful sv<sup>t</sup>

C. Connelly.

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pg 087

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME [copied from Letter Book 1 Letter 34, page 31.]

Copy

December ....1857

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

You are mistaken in saying that I named the 29<sup>th</sup>. I have your Lordship's letter before me dated Decr.11<sup>th</sup> written to Mr Wenham in which you say " Will you write to Revd. Mother to fix Decr. 29<sup>th</sup>. & 30<sup>th</sup>. as the days for the Queen's Scholars Ex? etc.

2ndly Your Lordship is also misinformed or mistaken in saying that I left three letters unanswered. I left one unanswered, because I could not answer it. I did not know that I had the least right to detain the students after the end of their year, nor do I now think that I could have exercised any such authority.

I named the 21 & 22 as the latest time. But I did my best to meet your Lordship's wishes & the poor students and ourselves also have been kept in a state of anxiety or indecision for the last fifteen days and we and they have lost the repose of the holidays which we feel needful to us. Everybody has been expecting Mr Wenham all the day as it is the 29<sup>th</sup>, but we shall be equally ready next Monday. Theresa Hinds is the unfortunate girl we took in at the door about six months ago – Miss Hanmer's poor drunkard.

Begging your blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in J.C.

C.....C...

Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Decr. 29th

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop. [Grant ]

You are mistaken in saying that I named the 29<sup>th</sup> I have your Lordships letter before me dated Dec 11<sup>th</sup> written to Mr Wenham in which you say “ Will you write to Rev Mother to fix Dec 29 & 30 as the days for the Queens Scholars Ex “?

2<sup>ndly</sup> your Lordship is also misinformed or mistaken in saying that I left three letters unanswered . I left one unanswered because I could not answer it. I did not know that I had the least right to detain the Students after the end of their year, nor do I now think that I could have exercised any such authority. I named the 21 & 22 as the latest times. But I did my best to meet your Lordships wishes, and the poor Students, and ourselves also, have been kept in a state of anxiety or indecision for the last fifteen days, and we & they have lost the repose of the holidays which we feel needful to us.

Everybody has been expecting Mr Wenham all the day, as it is the 29<sup>th</sup> , but we shall be equally ready next Monday.

Theresa Hinds is the unfortunate girl we took in at the door about six months ago – Miss Hanmers poor drunkard –

Begging your blessing

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

in JC.



Cornelia Connelly

Convent

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> [1857]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

We are much pained with the prospect of losing Mr Butt, but we perfectly acquiesce in whatever he wishes & your Lordship arranges.

I was very sorry that your Lordship was not present at the Examination, and also sorry not to have had the advantage of seeing you.

I am

My Lord Bishop

yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1858.

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I enclose Mr Byston letter together with Mr Bowles refusal of the last proposals made.

We cannot meet his demands – will your Lordship say what answer we should make by Mr Byston?

Our dear Sister Francis received the last Sacraments this Evening tho' she does not appear to be in any immediate danger, yet she has been gradually growing very weak, and the cold perspirations have been so frequent lately that we felt very uneasy ab<sup>t</sup> her. She is a constant source of edification to us all, and the Novices visit her in turn to witness her great cheerfulness and sweet piety – She says that Religious life has been her paradise here so that she must prepare for her purgatory to come. She was in the London poor Schools seven years!

Will you send her your last blessing my Lord, and will you also remember her in the Holy Sacrifice ?

I am

My Lord Bishop

your faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

Monday Jan : 11<sup>th</sup>

All Souls

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



SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

[All Souls Jan 12. 1858 ]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Your kind letter received this evening has no doubt crossed mine, enclosing the one rec<sup>d</sup> from Mr Byston. We are quite ready to do whatever your Lordship advises regarding a loan, tho' we have no security to give beyond our names. The very utmost that we could hope for in payment of the loan would be by instalments of £200 pr:an: which w<sup>ld</sup> take 9 years to fulfil i.e. £500 to M<sup>r</sup> J Bowles & £1300 to M<sup>r</sup> S. Bowles.

The only money we can borrow will be the £300 from M<sup>r</sup> Laprimaudaye and we have no money in hand except such as meets our monthly bills.

Will your Lordship come to some conclusion after considering these facts and instruct Mr Byston what you wish to have us do?

Will your Lordship remember the soul of my poor son, who I fear is still in purgatory, and will you also pray for his father's conversion just at this time ? It is asking a great deal, but I think our dear Lord wishes us to pray for them, and I will tell you why when I see you again my Lord.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful servant in JC,

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> [1958?]

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

[Jan. 20 1858]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I shall keep in mind what you direct regarding the Lay Sister – She renewed her Vows on the Epiphany.

We are perfectly willing to do whatever you may judge for the best under existing circumstances regarding the debts. The utmost we can offer is the loan for £300 and the annual payment of £200.

I am more than grieved that your Lordship should be in any way annoyed regarding this settlement, and if it only depended on ourselves we should very willing [sic] – let the law take its course, and despise the falsehoods threatened in the Times, and much rather than suffer you to be annoyed by any future debts, tho' there shall be no uncertainty regarding the annual payment of the £200. –

I do not understand what is meant regarding Mr Wardell – Nor did I know of any plans made by him for finishing the Church!

The “ Triduo “ is the greatest of blessings to us. Oh how much doubt & suffering might be spared if F<sup>r</sup> Gallway were only named as our Extraordinary, to come every three months!

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

my Lord Bishop

yr faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

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

Jan 20<sup>th</sup>

[Jan 21. 1858]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

In writing to you yesterday it did not occur to me to say that if any money should be left for our disposal, either by the death of our Sisters or by other legacies, that we are quite willing to pay off the whole amount as soon as it may come into our irrevocable possession. This may make the loan less difficult – Be assured my Lord, that whatever you decide upon in this settlement, we very willingly believe to be the very best “ in Domino “.

I am

My Lord

Your faithful servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

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

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1858.



J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

You have no doubt heard the sad tidings of M<sup>r</sup> Laprimaudaye's death – He has quickly won the reward of his innocent and fervent life – Still you will I am sure pray for him, & for his orphan children now in the world !

This event may make the loan invalid as Mr Harting had not executed the final step with us, tho' he had been authorised to do so by our dear departed friend. I think it is necessary for you to know this without delay.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

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

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> [1858]

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SOUTHWARK DOICESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

[Jan 28. 1858]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Our dear Sisters thank you very gratefully for your kind letter of condolence which I immediately gave them to read rather than to convey myself what your Lordship so kindly expressed.

Poor little Lucy & Madeleina have not returned since the holidays but as Mr Laprimaudaye told me he had secured Catholic guardians for them I hope there may be no difficulty about their returning.

I am sadly grieved that your Lordship is still to be annoyed regarding the debt. On Friday, tomorrow, I purpose going to London & on Saturday to Preston. I shall try to see your Lordship on my way to Bentinck S<sup>t</sup>.

Mrs Fowler brought her daughters [?] yesterday. I think there are heaps of rubbish to clear away before the good seed may be put in, but there will be a fair chance through her daughters [?]. Mrs Charlton, the High Sheriffess, brought her daughter to us yesterday, and is coming to the Theatricals tonight.

Begging your Lordship blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Y<sup>r</sup> faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Jan 28<sup>th</sup>.

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

One of the inmates of the Convent, a distant cousin of M<sup>r</sup> Bambers, wishes to go to confession to M<sup>r</sup>. Foy. Will you have the kindness to send the faculties as soon as possible, as she has made her confession and is waiting for absolution.

I was destined to be disappointed again yesterday, but I had seen M<sup>r</sup> Byston who is inclined to do all that is possible.

Everybody seems to be very happy in regard to the late change. –

Begging a blessing

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv<sup>nt</sup>

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

All Souls

St Leonards on Sea

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 1858



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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

All Souls

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

March 24<sup>th</sup> [ 1858 ]

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

Mr Bowles has accepted the offer last made –

I have desired Mr Byston to consult your Lordship & M<sup>r</sup> Towneley regarding the security for the money to be raised.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Your o<sup>bt</sup> servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1 page 39.]

Palm Sunday

March 28<sup>th</sup>

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [ Grant ]

I cannot do more than we have already offered to do. We only received [ ?£700] [ figure not clear] with Miss B, and we shall have £1992 to pay on her debts. She squandered her own money My Lord, not in the service of God or our Institute, but to follow her own views solely, and in charity she deserves the reproaches of her brothers, and far more deeply those of our Society'

She was indeed unhappily long enough with us to sow seeds of disobedience, cabal and disunion, and to give a lasting example of an ambitious, restless, and seditious character, which can never be forgotten or effaced.

I wish I could forget that she ever existed, unless it be to pray for her in a general way.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful Servant in J.C.

C.-----C.-----

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonard's

March 28<sup>th</sup> [ 1858]

P.S. Perhaps I am asking too great a favour from you, my Lord, but still I ask it – will you say the Mass on Good Friday for Mr. Connelly and my dear children ?

All Souls

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

April 9<sup>th</sup> 1858.

J.M.J

My Lord Bishop, [ Grant ]

We must finish with the whole party of the Bowles, or with none, and I am quite sure that Mr Byston will see this more clearly than I could point it out. I hope you are better in health, My Lord, tho' you say nothing on this subject! and as you are able to be at Arundel it must be so. - I am sorry that you have any worry still on our account, but I suppose if there was not this trouble there would be some other.

Do you remember Margaret Christian, who has been very ill for the last four months? So ill that she could not eat without immediately rejecting every thing except the doses of Castor Oil ordered by D<sup>r</sup> Duke.

During the last month she has been continually insensible, & for a long time has not been able to move her limbs, or even to put her hand to her head, or more than move the joints of her fingers. She was in this state on Saturday when D<sup>r</sup> Duke saw her – The Infirmarian had told her to ask our Lord to let her rise with Him on Sunday morning, Easter, and she offered herself to Him the same evening making a promise at the same time. In the middle of the night she felt herself quite cured, got out of her bed & walked across the room, then went to her bed

[continued below]



again – In the morning she dressed & went to Holy Mass and has been up every morning since – She eats and walks about the grounds as if nothing had been the matter with her. We are all amazed, and D<sup>r</sup> Duke says he is quite sure there was no sham about her illness for she had no pulse when she was insensible.

Begging a blessing

I am, My Lord Bishop

yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

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

April 15<sup>th</sup> [1858 ]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

I will send Mr Byston the statement said to be his. I do not understand the repetition of sums, and I never heard of the £600 said to be taken to the Convent.

Miss Bowles left our Society with an annuity of £40, ( settled on her by her by her Mother, she said, ) and just before she left she received the half yearly payment, which she took with her leaving us her debts. She came to us without any dower and simply paid her pension.

Her donations to this Convent were £400 at one time & £300 at another and these are the only donations we ever received from her. You know quite well My Lord that she claimed the right to dispose of her own property, and I suppose she had the moral as well as the legal right to do so, until solemn & irrevocable vows had been made. There is certainly no obligation by our rule to return donations, nor should we have accepted them with the knowledge of any moral obligation pending thereon. Nor have we any rule obliging us to return property which never came into the possession or control of the Community.

When I returned from Rome your Lordship said that I was not answerable for the act of Miss Bowles, in this purchase, and when I consulted D<sup>r</sup> Crook who was the Confessor at R. House, he told me not to trouble myself as the matter was a private act with her Brother - Now I cannot see, my Lord, what causes the change of view in this matter. If I was not responsible when she

hoped to be successful in her enterprises, surely I am not responsible for her failures.

As Miss Bowles has the annuity of £40 which would support her in any Convent that may be willing to accept her, I cannot think there is any claim upon us.

Your Lordships decision must be our guide. We have no other view or will in this or any other matter than God's greater honour & glory & the fulfilment of His most sweet will, being grateful for wrongs and persecutions for justice sake, but not for any human glory.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

C. Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME. [Copied from Letter Book 1 pages 40-42]

[ A P.S. to the letter of April 15<sup>th</sup> 1858 which does not appear on the photostat from the Southwark Diocesan Archives.]

[ April 15<sup>th</sup> 1858 ]

P.S. I forgot to say my Lord that I do not think it possible to withdraw Miss Bowles' name from the arrangement proposed by Mr. Byston, as she is equally answerable in the mortgage deed and in the Bond of her brother Samuel, & she might possibly raise some legal claim upon the mortgage or the property in the case of her name being omitted.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

My Lord Bishop, [ Grant ]

I have only one moment before post to enclose the package from Mr Byston

& I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

In JC.

CC.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

April 18<sup>th</sup> [ 1858 ? ]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from a photostat]

All Souls

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

April 29<sup>th</sup> [1858 ]

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I have to thank you for the statements in your Lordship's letter received this morning, and in reply to say,

1<sup>st</sup> That the Queen's Scholars are never obliged to perform menial offices. They do housework one hour every morning & this was stated in the annual report sent to Gov<sup>t</sup>

2, The linen is washed in the Laundry where two lay Sisters are constantly employed besides several women & girls. The Students never assist in this department unless it be granted as a favour once or twice in the year.

3 The Students are particularly well satisfied, and very grateful for the unusual advantages they have in our Schools. They imbibe in a remarkable degree the Spirit of the Holy Child Jesus giving us proofs of the especial grace belonging to that sweet and life-giving name. It is not true that any Student ever jumped out of the window – This story originated in the fall of the crazy Irish Woman, the miraculous details of which are already known to your Lordship.

4. I have never heard of any person of the name " Guisi " [ ? ], and the taxing is a fable. The Q.S. are marked for forfeits for their desks being in disorder &c and the a<sup>mt</sup> forfeited during the last year came to one shilling, which is at the disposal of the School by vote.

5. I am never absent or " keep at a distance " when duty or charity demands my presence. The whole course of action with all the details of the Studies, Conduct &c &c of the Students are directed by me and I do not give lectures.

I think my Lord that this is all I need say in reply to the complaints unless it be to add that one of the Students was advised to leave the Training Sc. last month to save her from being expelled, and her complaints may be the origin of your statement.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC

C Connelly.

April 20. 1858.

P.S. The girl who was advised by me to go said to one of her companions that she intended to do & say all she could against the School. She promised to be good & went away without any evil intentions as far as I could judge, but she may have been embittered by not getting a School immediately.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES (ROME) .[Copied from Letter Book 1 Letter 45, pages 45-46]

In reply to the Bishop's letter the following day ( April 22 ) the following certificates were inclosed.

WE HEREBY TESTIFY THAT THE LINEN FROM THE LAUNDRY IS RETURNED TO US CLEAN.

A.Stanislas M<sup>c</sup> Dermott.

M. Gertrude Porter.

R.C. Training School

St Leonards-on- Sea

April 22 1858

and the subjoined -

“ We, the undersigned, hereby testify that no feast has ever been given or provided at the S<sup>t</sup> Leonards Training School at the expence [ sic ] of the Queen's Scholars. The Students have been allowed to contribute to their own feasts by their own request, but not by vote, simply collecting their money, and purchasing their cakes themselves. During the past year this was done three times.

1<sup>st</sup> During the Midsummer holidays

2 On the feast of S<sup>t</sup> George

3 At Christmas.

We also state that the forfeit money was appropriated to the Christmas Grotto by a simultaneous voice.

Helen Francis Cusack



Sarah Agnes Orr.

Cornelia Connelly

In the same Envelope.

We hereby testify that the Irish woman who fell from the ~~the window~~ [sic] third-storey window was taken in through charity and was never admitted among the Queen's Scholars.

Cornelia Connelly

Helen Francis Cusack

Sarah Agnes Orr.

The accompanying letter from Our Mother.

My Lord Bishop

I inclose certificates regarding the points in question which may elucidate any want of clearness in my first letter, which I also inclose. The " shilling " seems to belong to the forfeits of this year & it is now in hand. The inclosed account of the Mistress of Order will be the best proof of the finances of her department

I think your Lordship will laugh at the immense importance of these documents, but I am very glad to call them forth for the sake of general exactness, I hope your Lordship is able to enjoy this beautiful weather, which seems to give renewed life to everyone here.

Begging your Lordship's blessing I am

&c &c &c

C..... C.....

April 22 1858

[ The whole letter crossed through marked “ Not Sent. “ ]

Copy

Written April 25<sup>th</sup> 1858

+Supprimee par licence [ This is heavily scored through, and barely readable.]

+

My Lord Bishop

In reply to your Lordship's letter received on Friday, I beg to say

Ist That I must decline any interview with Miss Bowles. In all charity & forgiveness, we still feel that she has acted the part of a demon towards us, and the only way to secure charity is to keep apart. – The calumnious effects of her many grievous falsehoods can never be effaced, nor will it be easy in time to forget them, tho' I trust Our Lord may remove the Viper of animosity, and help us through the burden of wrongs which must be felt for some years, and but for the sweet dropping dew of His Charity would be insupportable.

2<sup>ndly</sup> That I have repeatedly stated that I have had nothing to do with the disposal of Miss B's property. She claimed & exercised the sole control of it independently of the Bishop or her Religious Superior, & it seems very contrary to right reason that any one could imagine that we could restore what she wilfully sank & has irrevocably lost.

3<sup>rdly</sup> If your Lordship decides that we should give her the amount of her donations to this Convent by means of a pension of £0 [ figure covered by heavy scoring through] pr an, we shall hold ourselves in readiness to take the means to meet your final decision.

I beg your prayers my Lord that our Community may forget and may bear the wrongs brought upon them for Jesus' sake.

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in J.C.,

Cornelia Connelly.

J.M.J.

[ April 25. 1858]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

In reply to your Lordship's letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> I beg to say

1<sup>st</sup> That I must decline any interview with Miss Bowles. I could give your Lordship very strong reasons for this determination, but I refrain on motives of Charity. I will only say that I hope that F<sup>r</sup>. Gallway who knows only one side of the case may not influence your Lordships decision on the wrong side.

2<sup>ndly</sup> I have repeatedly stated that Miss Bowles claimed and exercised the sole control of her property, independantly [sic] of either Ecclesiastical or Religious power – that which she sunk, she has irrevocably lost.

3<sup>rdly</sup> if your Lordship thinks that any thing more ought to be done in her case, remembering that she has a pension of £40 pr an. whatever you decide, as of strict obligation on our part, we shall readily accept as your Lordship's final decision and we shall feel every confidence that our dear Lord will help us through the heavy burden of these wrongs which but for the sweet dropping dew of His divine charity would seem insupportable.

Will you pray much for us, my Lord and bless us.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Y<sup>r</sup> faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

April 25<sup>th</sup> 1858.

[ April 28. 1858]

“ S<sup>t</sup> Joseph “

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

Our dear Sister Frances left us just after midnight. She received Holy Communion at 3 O clock and ended her agony singing “ Jesus & Mary I love you “ to one of the poor School tunes. She is to bring us many blessings and her very lovely end is already giving strength to the weak hearted.

One of our Sisters asked her, what she would most wish to practice if He gave her back her life, She answered “ Fidelity “, ( in little things she meant.)

I think the other Sister who has been ill is cured – but not by the Doctor – When it is an undoubted cure, and we feel certain of the fact I will give your Lordship the details.

I told you my Lord some time since that our dear S<sup>r</sup> Frances was most grateful for your last blessing.

With every assurance of dutiful submission

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

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

April 28.

[ April 30. 1858]

“ S<sup>t</sup> Walburga “

My Lord Bishop [Grant ]

Thank God I am quite well but I am nevertheless most desirous to do all in my power to relieve your Lordship of all anxiety, & as speedily as possible.

The Sisters in Liverpool certainly earned their living and were not indebted to Miss Bowles for their support, but if your Lordship advises that Mr Byston should add £700 to be paid to Miss Bowles by instalments to suit our means, or by £150 pr an for four years after Mr Sam: Bowles is paid, please to ask Mr Byston to settle the matter thus.

I hope your Lordship's heath is improved, but you never say anything in return for our enquiries.

It seems to me that the cure of our Sick Sister is something stupendous! , and even more so than Margaret Christian's was.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

April 30<sup>th</sup>

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [copied from Photostat of Original]

[May 7. 1858]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

There is very little hope of the Medical Attendant concurring in gratitude for a miracle, unless our Lord will pour down the light of Faith and work a still greater one in his conversion which we intend to ask. But my Lord we do not need his concurrence, not do those who know of the miraculous power of this wonderful oil feel much astonished at the cure. Our dear Lord has given us a spiritual bon-bon that we contemplate & taste of, and eat of for the refreshment of our souls, while there it remains for us to enjoy while we are still in this valley of tears.

We should indeed be very grateful for the privilege of keeping S<sup>t</sup> Walburga's Festival in the Holy Mass. The miracle occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April but the Festival is marked in the Golden Manual on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, Walburga V.Ab.- The second Convent in Preston is called S<sup>t</sup> Walburga's C.

2. Thank you my Lord for your promised visit, & thank you also for not wishing to clothe any Students- I am satisfied that it is best to have done with the Studies as well as the examinations before beginning the Noviciate.

3 I think the adviser ( F<sup>r</sup> Gallway) ought to send us a five thousand pounder- Saint to make up for the game he is playing us. What we offer my Lord is simply £2700, having received but £700 from Miss Bowles, but if your Lordship agrees with F<sup>r</sup> Gallway in thinking it fair to increase the



sum tho we think it worse than unfair still on the principle of Our Lord – if you take my cloak take also my coat – We are willing to offer £850 – but if Miss Bowles is not living when the money is paid off to Mr Sam : Bowles we are not willing to pay it to her heirs.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SS. Names.

S<sup>r</sup> Aloysia ( M.A.Frankish) ended her Noviceship in February – ready for Vows.

To be clothed.

Miss	Annie Wynn.	}	<u>Choir Sister</u>
	Maria Prosser	}	<u>For Clothing.</u>
	Mary Davison	}	Lay Sisters
	Ann Mulvaney	}	

Will your Lordship have the ceremony on Friday or Saturday morning ?

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

My Lord Bishop [ Grant ]

I enclose Mr Byston's letter rec<sup>d</sup> this morning. I quite agree with his opinion.

Your Lordship has probably received my letter written last evening.

Begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv<sup>t</sup> in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

All Souls

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

May 8<sup>th</sup> 1858.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME. [Copied from Letter Book 1 Pages 51-52.]

[ Copy of a letter sent by Our Mother May 10<sup>th</sup> ]

My dear Lord – [ Bishop Grant ]

I, and the Community of S<sup>t</sup> Leonards Convent have, at your Lordship's request taken into consideration Miss Bowles former position with our Community, and the application of her fortune, and we have come to the conclusion that she has no equitable claim or demand on us whatever, and we are advised that she has no legal claim.

We are, under the arrangements which have been proposed by way of compromise, taking upon ourselves the payment of £1,000 down, and the payment of a further sum of £1000 and Interest by Instalments to discharge the debts of Mr Bowles, Rev<sup>d</sup> S.J.Bowles, and M<sup>r</sup> Allan Kaye, which we consider have been with a very slight exception wholly incurred by Miss Bowles without the authority of our Community and should fall on her, we are disposed to treat her charitably and handsomely. Your Lordship is authorised by myself and the Community of St Leonards Convent to communicate to Miss Bowles that her case has been fully considered, and altho' we are in no way bound to do so we are ready to make her the following concessions.

1<sup>st</sup> That after Rev<sup>d</sup> J.S.Bowles has been paid his £1000 by Instalments of £150 per annum and Interest Miss Bowles shall be paid £850 by Instalments of £150 per annum payable half

yearly, but without Interest; the first half yearly payment to commence & be made six months after the last Instalment of the £1,000 has been paid Revd S.J.Bowles. It must however be understood that if Miss Bowles should depart this life before the last instalment is paid to Rev S.J.Bowles, then the arrangement is at an end and nothing is to be paid her Executors or Administrators, and also if she dies before the several Instalments become due, the Instalments remaining unpaid are not in that case to be paid.

2<sup>nd</sup> That it is understood that we shall not be asked for any Security for the payments to her as above stated, but her claim must rest on this letter.

3. That Miss Bowles execute a Deed of Release as Messrs. Byston and Mills may think advisable, and sign the necessary deeds to carry out the proposed arrangements with her Brothers.

I trust that your Lordship will consider these terms honourable and handsome on behalf of the Community and which of course must be considered as made without prejudice.

And I am My dear Lord

Yours very faithfully in Xt.

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[ Cornelia Connelly.]

All Souls

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

May. 10<sup>th</sup>. [1858]