

Volume X11

pg 001

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 7th [1859]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I also am very sorry for the other Novice, but I could not reply about Miss Gray, because under the circumstances we thought it better that she should be a few months over her 2 years rather than incur the possibility of doubt on our part – I do not mean doubt as to her vocation for there is but one opinion in this respect, but only doubt as to her having been sufficiently tested & proved during the last few months of her noviciate.

I will do of course exactly as I believe your Lordship wishes in regard to the questions you send, but I beg your Lordship to allow me to use my discretion as to the time of presenting them to her – She is cut to the heart at her profession being delayed, but she does not know of the questions which are yet to be answered.

Before very long we shall have some postulants ready for a clothing, and before then the questions may be fully answered and weighed by your Lordship.

I thank you very much my Lord for your kind care & precaution in this case, as in all others, and from my very heart, tho' it has cost me some pain, perhaps not a little in this instance.

We had a very lovely feast yesterday with the renewal of Vows, and High Mass at 11 O'clock. And to-day Exposition

of the B Sacrament, when we do not forget to pray for your Lordships intentions.

I am always yr Lordships ob^t serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [Copied from a photostat]

[March 17 1859 ?

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have shewn your Lordship's letter to Mr Bamber together with its enclosures, & we shall pray that S^t Theophila may obtain light to direct the case according to the Will of God.

Your Lordship no doubt remembers ~~the~~ [sic] that I asked for three postulants to be clothed – We have only two to offer- one of the three having proved so defective in eye sight that we are doubtful as to the prudence of receiving her.

There is another case upon which I beg your charity & consideration, but I had better leave the explanation of it till I see your Lordship.

Perhaps you may take rather an early train on Friday, as there will be no time to say anything if your Lordship arrives at night.

I hope this warm weather together with change of air may be of benefit to your health, and

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 17th

The children are all figuring in green bows.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[copied from photostat]

All Souls

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 20th [1859]

Jesu Mary Joseph.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We thank you very much for your kind visit yesterday with all the blessings therein conferred.

In the course of our conference regarding the mistrust of the of the [sic] property & other matters, it strikes me that I never said anything regarding our many other blessings, and especially of Mr Bambers devoted kindness in regard to the Community & the Students, and this seems of ungrateful memory which I now wish to recall to mind:- I do not think anyone could have been more kind or punctually attentive to us than he has always been for which we are very grateful, both to him & to your Lordship.

I hope to be able to arrange for the old man to go this week, as I gave him notice of the necessary change yesterday.

The Mason is making an estimate of the cost of the removal of the seat and the building of the wall, which I hope to see begun before I start for Preston on Wednesday next.

Begging your Lordships remembrance in the Holy Sacrifice and a blessing for us all,

I am,

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Mary

May 11th [1859]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Your printed letter gave us the opportunity of making many acts of inciting the children to special devotions, which we shall continue throughout the month please God.

Our Chapel throughout the last week has given us a little foretaste of heaven. Six of the Sisters & children received the miraculous oil of our dear Saint, & we think one is cured, tho' her complaint was not one that would be very striking, being very much on the nerves –

The hooping [sic] cough cases have had wine from the Chalice & I hope they may be speedily cured –

Private & Confidential

I am sorry my dear Lord to enter upon a very disagreeable subject, but you are our Superior and I find I can no longer conscientiously remain silent. I have long had the conviction that Mr Foy was inimical to the convent, but I have hitherto cast the thought simply upon his good intention to do his duty to the Congregation, shutting my eyes & ears to all suggestions against him, but now I have had notice given to me secretly that his presence here is injurious. with such details that I can no longer hesitate in agreeing that he ought not to be the Priest for this place. Seculars are recommended not to “ trust the appearance of piety in the Chapel “ ! “ The Community is not what it seems to be “ ! The Rule is not approved of by him &c &c. “ The Community has injured the Congregation “ ! Together with many other untrue, & imprudent arguments to strangers, if even they were true.

I have not said one word of this to Mr Bamber as I

feel my Lord, that I can tell you in all confidence all that is of any consequence to the peace of my own soul without hesitation, & more so, far, than to any one who is not my Superior. I am quite satisfied that your fatherly care will look to our true interest as much as if you were ~~an~~ [sic] resident here, tho' you cannot see the evil consequences in the same force.

I ought to add that I am not at liberty to give you any clue to the source of my information, but the proofs are of a character that I cannot doubt their truth, tho' for the love of God, I readily excuse Mr Foy's intention.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your affectionate serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 22nd [1859?]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We are very happy in looking forward to the retreat from F^r Hathaway.

Will your Lordship ask our dear Lord not to let me fail in generosity in any way? & above all in any matter that would please His Holiness, which I think would give me more true pleasure than anything I could desire upon this miserable earth.

Whether the Church is built within three years or not, I am very sure that we shall never be the cause of the Congregation losing any of the benefits that our Lord intends them to enjoy. 2^{ly} No, my Lord, We have no money excepting such as might be taken as a loan, and if the Church is our own at the end of the term, I think it might be used, and the Congregation enjoy all the same benefit as if they build for themselves.

I think the proposal of the Archbishop, to rail off a portion of the Church just as the Trinita or Monte Pincio in Rome is secured, the very best of arrangements whether the church be built now or later.

I hope your Lordship is not anxious on one side or the other, for we are quite sure that Our dear Lord will settle the matter for us just as He wills & as is most for His honour & glory.

I am, my Lord Bishop

Yr affectionate serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many thanks – We shall be ready at 6.³⁰ – If the Litanies are said the ceremony need not take more than ½ of an hour, and your Lordship will want rest after the journey but this is just as you wish.

I am sorry to know that some unfortunate disturbances have occurred at the Presbytery which ought to be known to your Lordship wherever the guilt may lie – or the madness, which ever it may be. Please do not say that you know anything about it if you have not heard it from another quarter – but when your Lordship comes it will no doubt be quite cleared up.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your affectionate Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

P.S. I will write to M^r Bamber by to-nights post. He will have to address his report here , otherwise be too late.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 6th

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep. 9th [1859]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have this moment rec^d your letter.

The Sisters rank thus on the class list.

S^r Elizabeth B. Bird. £35

S^r. Monica M.A.Ingram £35

S^r Ellen L.I.Newsham £40

S^r Berchmans- Lay Sister.

I should have no difficulty in proving this-

Begging your Lordships blessing for all

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr affectionate serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 9th

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [Copied from a photostat]

[Sep 14. 1859]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

F^r Hathaway has just gone and we feel as if some particular holiness had departed with him.

I really do not know how the money is best to be had, but I suppose it may easily be raised on the dowers or the endowments if your Lordship does not object.

We should certainly look forward to finishing the Church for ourselves as soon as possible, after providing for the Congregation by the side of the Presbytery. Tho' it would not be done so soon if we built the Church below out of our own funds.

Begging your blessing

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

St. Leonards on Sea

Sep 14th

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 21st [1859]

J.M.J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We shall try to pray very fervently for this Soul in danger. I hope it may not be poor Mary Ellis! We never have heard from her since her marriage. Many thanks for the patterns but I see that the Chasuble is Gothic, and I think your Lordship approves of the Roman only.

The mitre is not so high as the pattern we have, and it is pointed at the corners- I thought your Lordship said "round corners". Thus

The old style is more thus, [a mitre is drawn here]

and the pattern sent is pointed at the sides thus [2 mitres drawn here]

Which is the right one? And moreover the size is too small for your Lordship's head, ~~in~~ [sic] the one sent being nearly an inch too narrow on each side.

M^r Bamber tells me that the Ecclesiastical Examination is to be in the third week in September. Will your Lordship

ask F^r Galway to send us a Father to give the Students & the children a retreat the week after? – that will be the last week in October – I think we might receive a few ladies at the same time who would be glad of the opportunity of a private retreat.

The Extraordinary might then act for the Community as your Lordship proposes.

Begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr grateful child in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Monday.

[Oct/ Nov 1859?]

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Your kind reply to my letter has just reached me.

Of the three Novices to be professed one has a dowry of about £500- Catherine Drury- Another has nothing at present- D^r Beardsalls daughter- her class would be about £40 - The other is a Lay Sister.

Of the postulants - two are equal to classes of about £30. They have no other means and they are both Converts- Veronica Clack, Emily Fitzgerald - & the third is a lay Sister.

I have been ill today & am glad that your Lordship is coming late enough tomorrow for me to hope to be up.

Begging a blessing

I am

my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

C. Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 27th 1860

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have stated for S^r Celestine & S^r Theophila the valuation for their class in the Schools, not counting the Gov^t grants, or the sums due on the pupil teachers, which amount in S^r Celestines instance to about double as she is 1st class.

In all the Statements hitherto made as to the Dower or class list I have observed this rule, giving your Lordship the valuation of the proceeds of the Schools without counting Gov^t aid, which in all our 1st class teachers would amount to about £25 or £30 including drawing and the pupil teachers extra –

1. Your Lordship already has a copy of the rules & Constitutions but you requested me some time ago to have them drawn out again, and I am having them done in Italian, Should you prefer this copy?

I can have a certificate from each house now or when I go to the north – which ever your Lordship may prefer.

2. There is no property belonging to any house but this one, & beyond their annual income they have nothing, though every house pays off its yearly debts without fail and we always have more money due to us than the standing bills amount

to in each house.

I am very sorry that the time your Lordship names for the professions should be so very inconvenient to us, as it will be a disappointment to others - and

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your ob^t servant

in Jesus Christ

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

44 Upper Harley St

March 31st [1860]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I think we have long given you invariable proofs that Your Lordships wishes are as commands to us, and had I interpreted your arrangements to extend to an empty Church I certainly should not have infringed upon them.

As soon as I heard of the jealous observation made in regard to ye (?) childrens presence I ordered them not to go into the Chapel at the second Mass.

It is painful to me that those we should look to with confidence to lighten your Lordships cares are the very ones who uselessly increase them, but God alone is sufficient.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 30th [1860]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We reached here safely last evening leaving all in the north quite well.

Your kind letter I received in Blackpool should have been answered immediately – Thank you my Lord for sending us the extraordinary Father H Walmesley is to be here tomorrow.

I send the enclosed which I hope is what you wished to have. Will your Lordship please say if it is right?

I am so tired that I can hardly see where my pen goes.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 10th [1860]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have written regarding S^r de Loyola's sisters, and I think we have much more than a ray of hope –

Our dear Mary is not much better to-day though all immediate danger has passed. Her Mama is to return before the end of the week, and as soon as Mary is able to be removed she is to go to London and have the best Medical advice. She is most patient and edifying in her illness.

Begging a blessing for her

I am

My Lord Bishop

yr faithful serv^t

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jun 26th [1860 ?]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Thank you for referring to us regarding the future Chaplain. Certainly an old Catholic is to be preferred under our circumstances – but at the same time it is most desirable to have one who would give familiar instructions to the children and to the Queen's Scholars in the place of sermons. This is the great want which we have always felt since we lost (however we greatly gained in other ways) the very pithy and useful instructions of D^r Melia.

Your Lordship so well knows the sort of Priest ~~that~~ [sic] we require, that it seems almost useless for me to say any thing on the subject - & I should much rather not have any feeling on the ~~subject~~ matter [sic]. M^r Bamber is perfect in his punctuality & kindness, & I only pray that the next may be as edifying.

Begging your Lordships blessing .

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 10th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

If Mr Bamber had had the kindness to say that the Exposition on the first Friday was no longer transferable or that he would be obliged to trouble your Lordship ab^t it, we should of course have sacrificed the hay making rather than give your Lordship the trouble of writing, or run the risk of losing the blessing of an Exposition. No doubt ‡ [sic] it was meant for the best, and we do not deserve it.

The Students must plead for themselves – I had rather they got a penny from the poor than shillings from the rich – But they will plead their own cause much better than I can plead for them.

I enclose a cheque for the remainder due to the Holy Father, and

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 13th [1860]

J.M.J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many more thanks than our pen can write for your kindness in allowing us the Exposition, w^h we are now having.

Will your Lordship have the goodness to remind F^r Gallway that we wish to have our retreat the 1st week in August, and will your Lordship please to give the faculties. The London Sisters are here for their holidays and we are anxious to know the day we can begin & who will give it.

Yes, my Lord, we shall particularly offer every 1st Friday for the Holy Father & for your Lordships intentions, and every Communion, especially in adoring the Sacred Wounds of our dear Jesus and offering His precious blood to the Eternal Father.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES (ROME) &

[Copied from Letter Book 1]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES
(Photostat incomplete)

Letter 76, pages 75- 77

The Convent . S^t L- on –Sea.

July 30th. 1860.

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

When I spoke of our plans for the building of the schools, I am quite sure that I did not sufficiently explain our view, and as your Lordship kindly proposed my doing so in writing, I shall not delay the matter.

When we proposed using the dowers of the Sisters for building the Church, there would of course have been no human return for the money thus expended; on the contrary, it would have involved additional minor expenses without any return to the Community. This will more or less be the case always, but with an increase of resources from our schools, it will not be so much felt by us. I have pondered over this matter in every way; and what I proposed to Your Lordship on Friday was really the result of long thought. The money I proposed investing in the building of extra rooms & dormitories, would bring in a much higher interest to the Community than the present interest of 4 & 5 pr ct. The building itself would be as safe, if not safer than the Russian stock &c &c in which it is at present placed. So that our proposal is simply a change of investment, & not an expenditure. If our accommodation in the dormitories is of the highest class, of course the parents can have nothing to complain of, whereas at present we hear many complaints of crowded dormitories & though we do not crowd our beds, as some do, we are still very much in want of beautiful dormitories.

As these accommodations would be an additional attraction, we should in every probability have an increase of resources, so as to put aside £500 a year towards the building of the Church, while at the same time we still should have a capital of £6000, (2000£ of this payable after the death of a third) to insure the Community against accidents. The Buildings being insured against fire, we should only risk the events of life which all are subject to from the queen to the beggar.

If we cannot build the school dormitories, how could we hope with any safety to build our Church at the end of 62? – I do not know My Lord whether I have made the matter as clear to you as I see it myself. If you grant us this Your Lordship will have the happiness of forwarding a good work in the Community & if you do not grant it, we shall all the same be quite sure that it is not God's will that we should have it – and then we had rather not have it.

Do not forget My Lord, that the capital of a Community goes on increasing, while its members must gradually die: and not only does the capital increase, but the increase of the buildings brings a daily increase of investment in furniture &c &c which comes out of the annual income.

I have no intention to refer to any higher authority while we can know & see God's Will in Your Lordship's decision. I never have appealed to any other, and I did not understand why you proposed such a thing.

One word more on another subject our retreat - &c &c. ~~We have not heard anything decided about the Retreats & our London Sisters must return in time for their poor schools so that we shall be obliged to begin alone on the 3rd of August. — If Father Gallway knows-~~ [sic]

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful Servant

in JC.

C-----[Connelly.]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 4th/ 60

J.MJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We are all very sorry not to have a F. for the retreat – We are going on very nicely however, following out our former retreats, and if your Lordship will send us an Extraordinary from Farm S^t we shall do very well.

Many thanks for the answers to my requests – H.T. writes to her Mother to-day sending her letters. The sum we should wish to invest in the building is £2000. If your Lordship gives us leave to build we shall not hesitate as to the investment, being quite satisfied that it will be such as is for the interest of the Community & of the individuals now holding the Stock.

I do not think that the Archbishop or His Holiness would be willing to exact of us one fourth as much as we should be willing to do in our own time, nor of your Lordship either.

The blessing your Lordship sends will help us much in the retreat –

I am ever

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 9th [1860]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I should be very glad if we had thirty to offer your Lordship for vows instead of three, and I should willingly take the responsibility of their old age though in all probability they w^{ld} never reach it.

You have the amount of our means in figures my Lord which I gave you not long since. The amount of our Capital is £8000 though we should only be able to invest £5000 in the buildings. The rest is secured for the future.

I wish you w^{ld} remember My Lord that we only want to labour for our support as mendicant orders beg, and above all as Our Blessed Lord himself laboured for thirty years. If we sink into making a provision for our support, not imitating our Blessed Lord, we shall not be blessed. We have in our buildings an all-sufficient help. My sister writes to me from America that she has nearly paid off the debt of £10,000 for the building of the Convent and that their school is large & flourishing! – They have been ab^t ten years in paying it. Now my Lord will you be generous & consent to our taking our own considering it as a debt , which we shall pay back to the Community - : We want to invest £2000 in our School & Dormitories next Spring and £3000 the year following on the Church – We shall pay back £100 pr:an: till it is all paid – or we may pay more that will come in small dowrs of £300 or £400 which we expect.

This is what we wish to do if your Lordship is not averse to it. Begging your blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 11th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

If you approve of our making an offer to build a Church costing from £1200 to £1500 at the side of the Presbytery, I will immediately do what depends upon ~~to~~ [sic] me to bring this matter to a conclusion, and put an end to your Lordships many anxieties in our regard. If it is to be done, the sooner we come to the conclusion the better. I hope your Lordship is not suffering. The retreat seems to be going on very beautifully, but there ought to be double the number to attend.

I sent the music for S^t Theophila & the copy of the letter the evening of the 9th which I hope reached yr Lordship safely.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr grateful serv^t

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep12th [1860?]

J.MJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I regret having given your Lordship any anxiety, and I assure you we most readily renounce the much longed for buildings, far, and far rather than be the cause of any doubt as to receiving those whom our dear Lord has sent us .

More Sisters are very necessary to us for the work we have in hand, and I hope your Lordship will come to us if possible on S^t Theophila's Feast w^h is the 1st Wednesday in October. I rec^d the the [sic] little blank book and will do as you wish, but it will take me some little time to make it out again correctly. When I do so perhaps I had better cast aside the Gov^t augmentations as there is no use in relying upon them in our calculations - In fact it would be better for us and more in accordance with your Lordships views to put the Gov^t augmentations by, for future dowers for the very excellent vocations among the dowerless class. This is not as I should like but I bring my view to what seems to be your Lordships which is the best for me.

I have not come to this conclusion without a thoughtful night as M^r Bamber brought me your Lordships letter yesterday. Begging y^r Lordships blessing I am my Lord

yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 16th [1860]

[In Bishop Grant's hand:-

Sep. 17. 1860

Replied that the Novices may profess from
year to year, subject to any decision of H.H.
Rev. Mother being charged not to let the number
of Novices grow beyond those really required
for the Convent wants.]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have this moment finished writing out your little notebook of the funds, and I
hope it may be quite clear- Sunday's work! I think it will not be servile work –

The children's coming home increases the occupation of the day just at first &
Our d^r Lord has sent us six new ones –

Florence Colegreave

Mary Theresa Weld

Florence Weld

Mary Toovey

Lizzie da Costa

Mary Corry.

We expected fifteen but some are coming later – and some are not returning.

I do not much like sending this note Book by post, but I hope it may find its way to the inside of your Lordships Desk –

Begging a blessing on all

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 18th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Many thanks for the Prize verses, they reached us safely and are very pretty
The children shall sing them for your Lordship on S^t Theophilus Feast as a trial and a
remembrance of past favours & of those that are to come.

I hoped when your Lordship saw the real state of our funds that you w^{ld} allow
us to build, but as you do not seem to wish this will you allow me to expend £600
capital on an addition behind the Convent which we can do before the winter sets in
and which will contribute very greatly to our immediate wants. If your Lordship will
allow this I will not ask anything until the Church is finished – And I will also promise
the six hundred shall be paid back to our Capital. If I did not feel that this
expenditure is necessary for the good of our present school I would not urge the
matter further.

We are praying very hard to S^t Anthony to send us money to build out the
whole square and to give us an Industrial School for our poor girls & orphans.

Begging your Lordship to come yourself on S^t Theophilus Feast

I am

yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

[Sep. 18. 1860 ?]

My Lord Bishop since writing the first sheet I have rec^d your kind letter regarding M. Bouloin. I shall not see him if he arrives.

Your Lordship will remember that if you grant the building we shall still have a capital of £12,000 and this will go on increasing.

I am

My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 20th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I think I did not mention in my last letter that we should have £2500 more in our own control next year, which is now in the hands of the Guardians, so that there will be no doubt of our being able to finish the Church in /62 which your Lordship knows is the earliest period that we can legally do it.

I am anxious to have your answer regarding the expenditure of £600 for the Recreation room and a dormitory against the back of the Convent as we have not a day to lose in order to have the October sun on the wall and the playroom secured for the winter – Please grant us this for the love of the Holy Child – We have 40 children for this winter, and such a happy group to delight ones heart. We expect four more in the Spring and our Babies are praying for their benches to be filled, as all but four have mounted to the 4th Class.

Do let me know that your Lordship does not object to the two rooms at the back & that you will come and bless the foundations on S^t Theophilus Feast.

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 23rd [1860]

J.M.J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many thanks for your reply rec^d. this morning.

1. The builder was to have sent the estimate to day. – The £600 was my own calculation. Your Lordship shall have it when it is done.
2. The building will perfectly suit our present plan and not interfere with the future buildings'
3. The purpose is to give us a School hall & Recreation room with a long dormitory above, to be entered by a staircase from the end of the School hall. The reason why it will probably cost so small a sum is that it can be built against the wall of the back of the Convent which has only two small windows in it and thus we gain a wall and two corners. I much wonder that this thought never st [r]uck us before.

The School Hall will serve beautifully for the recreation room and for the Theatre, (which we have had at the Training School only, for the last four years – much to the inconvenience of the Highest School) and the present recreation room will serve for a good refectory.

Thanking you again

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Volume X11

pg 033

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 24th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I enclose the probable estimate of M^r Hughes, who is a well known, excellent builder – He built the Training Schools, and has always pleased us in his work and in the manner of conducting it.

He made the estimate on a drawing that I made for him, with his own measures.

I told him not to include the plastering & glazing as we can do these out of our weekly funds.

I think £700 very little for so great an addition to our comfort & accomodation in the Schools.

Will your Lordship have the kindness to give me an answer as soon as possible as I will then have a proper contract drawn out upon a correct drawing. I did not wish to run the risk of being taken in by plans or contracts till I am certain of your Lordship's approbation.

We are praying very much for the Holy Father. I hope everybody is constant in petitions for him – What sad news!

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

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Amt of Contract	£2965
80 pr ct – paid -	<u>2400</u>
	565
Certificate beyond sum due	<u>200</u>
	<u>£ 365</u>

Remainder due “ one month after the whole work is completed “

The East window was in the specifications and though the Rose Window was shewn on the drawings the agreement to change it was made before the Contract was signed.

Heating is contracted for with Alderton & Shrewsbury of Hastings –

Altar with Farmer & Brindley.

Extras accepted by us.

Roof to Porch	£30
Organ Gallery	60
Pine Staircase	28
Invalids Gallery	24.10
Roof & door	18.-“
Doorway & Door from aisle to Lobby	15.
Painting Roof	50. - -
Sanctuary floor & steps	<u>110.</u>
	£335.10
Remainder of Contract	<u>365.</u>
	<u>£700.10</u>

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 25th /60

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We have considered all that your Lordship has proposed before we came to the conclusion regarding the proposed play room and Dormitory.

This end of the Convent, we wish to keep for the Community alone, and the North & west end for the children.

I do not ask your Lordship to allow us to invest more than £700 in this building. The Money is in Anne Laprimaudayes name and she wishes me to invest it in this way. The Dormitory would not be used as an infirmary, therefore the sick children could not be annoyed by the play room.

I shall send your Lordship M^r Hughes estimate as soon as he can make it out - Please let me know whether you will come on S^t Theophilus Feast and lay the corner stone after you have conferred all the other blessings of your visit.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep.26th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Mr Hughes will let me have the proper contract tomorrow, so that it will only require your Lordships approbation for us to sign it. He says his bricks are dry & in perfect condition to begin & get up the walls in 6 weeks. Our workmen are levelling the terrace behind, and M^r Hughes says he can be quite ready as soon as the contract is made, and have the foundation prepared for the Corner Stone for your Lordship to lay it on the 3rd of October. I do trust S^t Anthony may clear away all doubts, and that we may have the great pleasure of seeing your Lordship on that day? The Dormitory will give ample room for 30 children & thus relieve us from our present pressure. In fact unless we have accommodation for more children I do not see how we could safely invest a sufficient sum out of our capital to build the Church in /62. The investment of the £700 in this way will be more than equal to the interest of £2000 to us, or even £3000, as we are actually in want of the Dormitory at present.

The plastering & the glazing will cost another £100 which I have in hand.

Begging your Lordships blessing,

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 28th [1860]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many thanks for your kind document which we have signed, adding a little word after "Stock"- Perhaps it might not be possible or desirable to purchase this sort of investment precisely at this date, and if it be such as the owner would wish bearing 4 pr ct interest, I presume it will be what your Lordship requires.

Surely your Lordship will come if possible & profess & clothe our Sisters and bless the corner stone if even there is no ceremony.

Thank you again & again for the trouble you have taken my Lord &

I am

Yr faithful serv^t

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

[The following is in Bishop Grant's hand with the exception of the signatures and the words included between * * which have been inserted by Cornelia Connelly]

S^t Leonard's

Sep. 28. 1860.

Sister Anne Laprimaudaye is willing that £700 standing in her name shall be spent on the new Building at St Leonards, and the Community undertakes to open a separate account of Capital & Interest in order to be able to shew that the Interest at 4 per cent has been regularly paid for her support & that the Capital has been restored at the rate of £100 per annum, which will be invested in Stock * or other property bearing interest * on the 28th of September every year until the whole sum has been replaced to her name, notice being given hereof every year to the Bishop.

Signed

Annie Laprimaudaye

Signed

Cornelia Connelly Sup

for the Community

When this has been signed & sent to me, the work may commence. There is no Ceremony for the Corner Stone of any building but a Church, & therefore it will not be necessary for me to lay the Stone on the 3rd.

+ Thos. Grant.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

[Sept. 1860?]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I think you have made some mistake My Lord regarding the class I have always named, though I explained it before. The Gov^t has nothing to do with the valuation of the class or with the salary of the of the [sic] Mistress. The present Novices offered are neither of them employed in the poor Schools, nor are they certificated teachers. I have valued their class in the position they fill in the Young Ladies School either here or in London. To avoid all anxiety for the future regarding the Gov^t funds which may cease at any moment I will not include them in the future allowance for our support and then we shall not be disappointed when they cease.

If it would be much inconvenience to your Lordship to come about the 1st of October perhaps you w^{ld} not mind delegating M^r Bamber as S^r Gonzaga (Snow) is wanted in London, and she is only stopping for the immediate preparation for her Vows, and she is moreover rather consuming herself in expectation.

I am sorry to find that M^r Wenham is not disposed to oblige us. I wrote to him on the same date as that of yr Lordships which he answered to M^r Bamber declining my request. It is a pity for the girls & for ourselves & for the Xtmass success.

I am my Lord Bishop Yr faithful serv^t

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 7th [1860]

J.M.J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I think if you knew all the circumstances regarding S^r de Loyola's Sisters that your Lordship would not advise her going to Edinbro'. I think such a step would do harm. Her eldest brother is doing his best with the girls in a quiet way, and the only way to gain them.

Regarding her future prospects there is little or no hope of her gaining anything more than they are willing to concede to her. I will send your Lordship the copy of the Will by Mth Catherine, which was done by one of M^r Cuddons clerks. The only doubt is whether M^r Gray had the power to revoke the settlement he had made on his wife.

S^r de Loyola was not invited to Edinbro' by her Brother, or her Sisters, but by M^r Robertson the Prot: Executor - and I fear that her restlessness in this matter may very much disedify them.

Begging your Lordships blessing, I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 041

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 13th /60.

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have reflected upon your Lordships last letter & it seems to me, My Lord, that no one is responsible for S^r de Loyola but your Lordship, and myself for the Community. For my own part, My Lord, I do not intend to leave the matter in the air, nor to shuffle it. The thousands of pounds we are obliged to work out in Miss Bowles case will not bear a repetition, and it seems to me a very unwise step to refer to others & thus embarrass ourselves in a matter of duty which no one can free us from.

S^r de Loyola [Gray] is acting for herself with her lawyers. If the Codicil is proved invalid by the previous settlement she will be safe, but if not she must choose for herself either to obtain a Bond from her Brothers & Sisters to secure her rights during her life time, or to abandon her religious life. We cannot My Lord be answerable for her loss of property in any future events. There is plenty of time to weigh all matters thoroughly, and she is quite capable & willing to act for herself. The object of her proposed journey was principally with the determination to secure her property. I think her brother will not be likely to wish her to go to Edinbro' though I may be mistaken.

.Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 18th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I shall follow your advice as exactly as possible in regard to S^r de Loyola and the letter shall be carefully kept. Her eldest Brother came to London this week and brought his youngest sister to a Protestant School, where she will be able to see her Sister from time to time. Maggie is with her Sister Amy, who is a good Catholic. M^r Robertson would not allow her to come to London. Alexander has gone or is going to Paris to remain until Christmas.

Mr Allies & M^r Stokes were here on Monday & Tuesday for the Inspection of the Training School, & the results of the visit were I believe favourable. The building is going along nicely, and M^r Hughes thinks the walls will be quite up before the end of the month.

I hope to go to the north next week & to return in time for our childrens retreat

Begging your Lordships blessing .

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct. 25th [1860]

J.MJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

F^r Locke writes this morning to say we are to have some one for the Retreat on the 5th. Will your Lordship have the kindness to give faculties to act as Extraordinary as it is nearly three months since F^r Hathaway was here.

The buildings are going on rapidly, and the workmen as silent as religious.

I have found it quite impossible to leave here this Autumn, so the intended journey is put off – The numerous letters together with the Examinations & unending preparation for them bring more than work for each day.

Mrs Charlton is bringing her two girls back to us – one having broken her arm, and become very delicate during the Holidays with threatened attack of the lungs.

My Niece has arrived in England and she is coming here to examine her vocation for religious life. Should she embrace it, I think she had better make her noviciate in another of our Convents – Perhaps Blackp^l.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

yr faithful Ser^{vt}

Cornelia Connelly.

“ Holy G. Angel all Hail “

[C.C's hand]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We visited the Convent at Clapham and were very kindly received & shown over the grounds & the Convent by the good religious. On our return I called upon our workman (the carpenter) to prepare the arches in the colonade [sic] & to make the divisions for the music rooms. After this on examining the ceiling of the colonade we found it would require some repairs and going further into this examination it proves that the gutters have sunk and the roof would require unslating to reset the gutters; this being some expense we have talked over the matter and instead of repairing the roof we have come to the conclusion that it would be much better to build another story over the colonade which would cost about £200 if built without chimneys. Again we are desirous of carrying the hot water pipes through the corridors to the west end of the Convent which would cost another £100 or a little more if we carry it up to the second floor over the colonade. If we can appropriate money to do this will your Lordship approve of its being done when the weather would make it safe?

I hope your Lordship was not too much fatigued with the papers & examination. How sad for Mr. Hope Scott & the poor children but what a happy change so far as the dear departed was concerned! A telegraphic message reached Sergeant Bellasis this morning. We ended our novena last evening and perhaps St. Walburga told our Lord that that [sic] she was ready for heaven. R.I.P.

Begging your Lordships blessing .

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Convent

St. Leonards on Sea Oct. 27th.

Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 3rd [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many thanks for your kind letter. The hot water pipes are to be put in immediately, but I think we must wait till the Spring for the Dormitory; for tho' Mr Hughes would be willing to build with the security of the hot lime, there must be more or less risk of destruction from the frost. We shall take care to replace the Capital as your Lordship proposes.

I cannot help hoping that your Lordship may agree with us regarding the advantage to all parties in building the future Church on the ground by the Presbytery before the remaining years expire, when we might justly be expected to give three or four hundred pounds towards the building. As the place increases, & we increase, the difficulties will of necessity be multiplied, but your Lordship knows better than we do –

I have asked for the retreat to begin on Monday next but I do not know who is coming.

Begging Your Lordships blessing .

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in X^t.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X11

pg 046

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 23rd [1860]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Yes, we have rec^d notice that the Drawing Inspector is to come on the 27th but we do not know that he is a Catholic, and if he is not he will of course have his journey for nothing – What shall we say to him? Sir are you a Catholic – “ Yes Madam but not a Roman Catholic. “ Sir, I am sorry you have had the trouble of this long journey, but you will have to be approved by the Bishops P.S.Committee before we can admit you to our Schools – Will this do my Lord? – It seems to me very uncivil to let anyone come without warning him first, and the unpleasantness might be avoided I sh^{ld} think – If your Lordship were to call on M^r Allies & tell him what to do there might be some ill feeling saved perhaps.

Our buildings are going on nicely – the walls are up and we are longing to see it finished.

I think your Lordship has not heard of the retreat – Every body enjoyed the cleansing & began with fresh courage so we may hope for the fruit to grow and ripen later.

We have the three Misses Caldwell who came to us to-day making our number in the highest School Forty three – Thank God –

I hope [that] you are quite well My Lord & not suffering from this pinching cold.

I am always your Lordships faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from a Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 25th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

We shall expect the Drawing Inspector on Tuesday and do as you say.

I think, My Lord, that the time taken for each paper might very readily have been mistaken, but generally it must have been noted correctly – The girls state the time on the back of the drawing, and if they forget when they began it, they state about the time they think they have taken – And again they may have worked on the Drawing after they had signed it. I do not know of any finished drawing having gone up to the C. Office – but I do know that the papers generally were done very quickly.

Many thanks for your Lordship's blessing. The little Children are all well, but we have had coughs & colds in numbers in the Training School.

What sad news still of the Italian affairs!- How shall we begin our Peter's pence? We must not delay this.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 27th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I have great pleasure in telling you that the Examination was successful and the Examiner most civil and amiable – He said twice that he had not seen any female School where the principles of drawing were so thoroughly understood; and on leaving he said it was the best female school he had examined.

We are so thankful to God & Our Lady and S^t Anthony for this They each had a candle during the time of the drawing exercise – Do thank God for us my Lord as a failure would not have been for His glory.

We shall & have prayed for the Soul of the Duke of Norfolk – It is a comfort that Mr Hope Scott will be a son and a friend to the Duchess and her dear children in their sad affliction.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 29th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have to thank you for your letter rec^d yesterday, and I hope all matters may be arranged in the best possible manner with as little trouble and annoyance to your Lordship as the importance of things require.

With every dutiful expression

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 9th [1860]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I think it would be very unreasonable to complain of the Inspector's speaking to our girls, and I could not think of doing such a thing. I am very sorry to find the result of the Examination (religious) so very unsatisfactory, but we propose taking the girls this year ourselves as they do at Liverpool, & then we shall have all the blame to bear, The Students say that they do better with the Sisters and of course this depends solely upon the simplicity with which they ask questions & get out of any puzzle they may fall into.

I am my Lord

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X11

pg 051

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 10th [1860]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

As nearly as possible those are the details of the Drawing Inspectors visit to the Training School.

On entering the School he first told the Students to take their places, then handed the papers to each in silence – Before they began the examin he explained to them the manner of filling up the papers as to the time, name, prize &c The papers in Geometry were not all alike, so he passed round to each child until he came to one which he considered more difficult “ To construct a rectangle equal in area to a a [sic] given triangle. “ He asked the child if she knew the meaning of the question & understood the way to work the problem, to both of which she answered correctly, he then passed on to two others speaking in the same way. He appeared very much pleased with the answers & said that it was th. first Training College in which he found the Students understood the problem. –

Later he remarked that the Students did great credit to whoever taught them & that their knowledge of Perspective was astonishing. He was throughout his visit polite & respectful.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

[Dec 10. 1860]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I hope the enclosed details may prove satisfactory They are as exactly stated as possible, and I really think the poor young man will be scandalised if he hears of any complaint being made. I hope I have obeyed your Lordships wishes and

I am my Lord

faithfully & respectfully

yrs

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 18th [1860]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We have heard that you are about leaving the Diocese and that Canon Hearn is to take your Lordships place. You have told me not to believe till your Lordship tells us such things. I hope it is not true.

I have just rec^d your second letter I shall put your Lordship at perfect rest in our regard by a[n] swering all the questions by to nights post - I will now only say that a few months ago we heard that it was circulated by one [of] the old Convents (or friends of theirs) that the education of the children here consisted in running about the fields – By another that half the year was spent in playing at Study – By a Priest that Holidays were the rule & Study days exceptions – By many that no children in a mass every [sic] looked so healthy & so happy.

The child who left us in Consumption was d^r Mary Lisle, who was sent back to t^e [sic] us with a severe cough w^h had never left her since she had the Whooping cough and the Measles. The only one who has left was Dorita March who was pining for her Mother, and in her sea Sickness in crossing spit blood. The Doctor saw her and found her a little bilious. I think is she [sic] perfectly well now.

The other matter regarding

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 18th [1860]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Knowing that you would be anxious to hear from us I have just dispatched a few lines by the eleven O'clock post – and now I take up your two letters to answer them in their several points.

1. We went to F. Maher as Extraordinary & I know of no necessity at present in this point.

2. I have told your Lordship that the Study in no way weighs upon the health of our children. On the contrary they have here 5 minutes recreation at the end of each hour and we attribute the unusual healthfulness of our children to the care taken not to over tax the body or mind, neither keeping them confined to their studies beyond the time allowed nor making a task of the Studies. The pleasure they take in their occupations is the proof of their not being over taxed. We have never had a case of ill health much less of death or consumption from Study. In M.B. Phillipps' case we may rather blame herself & her parents than the School or any application to Study – She would not take the least care of herself however warned & when there was a chance of recovery her Mother took her into the midst of the din of Rotten Row where she had a sun stroke, and then again when at Garendon she fell into a bilious fever. It is very certain that neither her Convent

life nor her Studies had anything to do with her disease, [sic] or with her death.

3.- The Drawing Inspection.

It is not possible my Lord to make the Music papers take the place of Drawing papers. Those who can sing & play on the Piano can alone take the music papers, and those already take them. It is most unfortunate that your Lordship cannot come into some plan to have the Inspection as it will no doubt be a serious injury to the rank of classes of merit. But we have only to obey.

4. With regard to the hours for the Religious Study I have only to say that it has not been limited. And I need not add that as we should miss the chief aim of our life, & the end of our vocation in a great measure, if we failed in making Religion the highest & dearest object we have in view it is not likely that the children would be swayed in rather aiming at the Secular knowledge than in the Study of Religion! - I will enclose the hours and also those of Hammersmith & Lp^l if I can find them in the minutes. Their Meditation, H. Mass, Ex Con Rosary, Adoration & extra prayers without any other study would always prove how far we value Religious training and knowledge above every other Science.

5th Regarding the Church, -

If any one has left money or given it for the Church, it seems to us my Lord that you would secure every advantage by building it beside the Presbytery where it would invite people to enter and where it could be open for Night Service, which could not be the case in the midst of our grounds. In this case we should not of course think of building our own Church for some years as our numbers

do not quite fill the present Chapel and when we do require it, there will be no reason that it should in any way clash with the Church for the public at the Presbytery. If on the contrary you do not build on the road below there will still be no need to make the Church larger than it is at present as the ordinary Congregation is not more than a twelfth of the numbers in our Convent. We are upwards of 170 and the every day attendents outside are twelve or fifteen.

I think these are all the points of your Lordships first letter.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

You are aware that it was quite necessary for us to have the addition to our school rooms- in fact that we are not comfortable without it. We have thirty seven children in our highest Schools and the quarterly profits of the School quite satisfy us that we can put by £100 a year towards the repayment to S^r Theophila [Laprimaudaye] of the £700 needed for the present enlargement of their accommodations. The children generally are of the highest Catholic families & the repayment of the amount is quite safe.

Mr Hubbards neices [sic] are quite sensible of his kindness towards them and ~~I am sure they w^{ld} be extremely sorry to have his disapprobation of any transaction~~ [sic] they have every confidence in his affection for them.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 30th [1861]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

It is my painful task at this moment to inform your Lordship that one of our Sisters at Preston without any notice whatever left the Convent, having renewed her vows at the Epiphany and apparently in excellent dispositions. The morning she left she went to Holy Communion. She took a ticket in the train for London, leaving a pencilled note in her cell saying that she could not remain any longer: Mth Lucy sent a telegram to Mth X. to meet her at the Euston S^{cr} Station which she did and took her to S^t Ann's to get her to eat something & to see what could be done for her but as soon as she was alone & got the chance she slipped off. They immediately wrote to me & I sent the direction of her Sister telling Mth M.Xavier to bring her here if she found her in her right mind, but if not sane to go to your Lordship to know where we could send her or what should be done. They found her in a Secular dress at her Sisters and she gives no reason for her conduct but seems quite quiet, perhaps too much so to be natural.

F^r Barge of S^t Patricks is the Director of the family I believe. Her Sisters are some in trade & some out at service – One Sister is a lay Sister at Blackpool and another is here as a postulant.

They have the smallest possible portion of mind, but they have always been good & obedient till now.

I hope Miss Simeon received the Oil of S^t Walburga – I directed it as your Lordship wished without writing – at the same time, so I suppose they will let your Lordship know that it is rec^d –

We are asking S^t Anthony to give you a good Priest to send us, and to give you as many more as your Lordship can provide for.

The children's plays are found very amusing – Serg^t Bellasis & his daughters are here –

None of the Community know of my sorrow in this poor child's fall, except those immediately concerned in it. Perhaps your Lordship will have the kindness to call on F^t Barge – Perhaps he may not yet have seen the poor girl, but if you mention, Elizabeth Crane, he will immediately know who she is. She and her sister were cast as P. Teachers.

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^{nt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I came to town last evening on business. If your Lordship is in this part of the world today will it be quite convenient to stop at the Convent for a few moments? If not, will you say what time tomorrow w^{ld} find your Lordship at S^t Georges. The poor girl evidently has a screw loose in her head & I think it would be more safe to get her a situation. Her own act has released her from her vows, and I trust in the sight of God that she is not guilty. We can never tell whether Priests or Nuns may go mad, and I think her case is one in which the intellect alone is to blame – Still we should never be safe with her. She made a good noviciate and was always regular in her duties. She is certainly not insane, and I trust may do well in a situation.

Begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 8th [1861 ?]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We arrived safe yesterday and I sent your Lordships letter to M^r Bamber.

I began to write to the Rev^d. Mother at the Lp^l Training School when my good angel whispered to me in thought, you had better let that alone at present and tell the Bishop that it is not worth while to mix up our arrangements with theirs, which might give another handle to M^r Stokes who is not our friend. It would have been very satisfactory to me to have entered fully into the details of the Training School as I did with M^r Allies but it would have taken up your Lordships time without perhaps any other result than my own satisfaction.

The result of the Candidates Examination was to cast off I believe more than half the Pupil Teachers, and unfortunately as if the Examiners had rather cast lots upon the papers than examined them, some of the the [sic] best were cast and the inferior girls took in some cases first class. The great object is to decrease the numbers in training, and now that this has begun we may begin to fill our Dormitories with middle School children, who no doubt will take the place in some future day of the whole Training School. We have always foreseen this, but I had not thought of any immediate cutting off of [sic] the numbers of those who had actually passed their five years apprenticeship.

Happily we shall have nothing to bind us to the Gov^t as they have no hold upon us. Our numbers this year will probably be about the same as the last, but there ought to have been many more.

To return to my subject, I hope your Lordship will understand my not writing to the Lp^l Training School at present is on the conviction that if your Lordship could view all the surrounding circumstances in their various details you would not wish me to write.

Our table table [sic] has been drawn out for this year and your Lordship already knows that the Drawing has been cut down to 2 hours – which is a great pity for the poor girls.

Begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

One of the Fathers from Farm Street is coming for the retreat next week or the following – Will your Lordship please to give the faculties to act as Extraordinary?

Has your Lordship seen this very devotional picture of our dear Pope?

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 12th [1861]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Many thanks for your kind letter – The Students last year called themselves walking Bibles, and we all know that they studied very hard & thought they were thoroughly prepared for their Examination. No profane branch of Study in the least equalled the preparation for the Religious Examination not even drawing which was given more as a rest & recreation than as a Study. If we have the same Examiner & the same circumstances this year we could not hope for any change of results.

2. Unfortunately I did not see M^r Searle. I thought your Lordship knew we were on our way to S^t Leonards when you gave us your blessing. Many thanks for the valued Pastoral which M^r Searle sent by post. M^r Bamber leaves us tomorrow, after Mass.

I will do as your Lordship directs regarding the Extraordinary but I think we shall most likely not see him till next week.

I have not had the courage to tell the Postulants that your Lordship proposes waiting till after Easter. Several of them have gone beyond the three months and for several reasons it would be very desirable to have the Clothing

[Incomplete]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 15th [1861]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop

I have asked our Blessed Lord to make me think only what is right & true, & what your Lordship wishes me to think whatever may be my private convictions regarding the last Examination. We shall certainly try to do our very best for the Students be the result what it may. As the Students are partially fresh girls they will not be likely to be so much discouraged as the same children would be.

2. I am very sorry that your Lordship was annoyed by B. Kenny. Mother Catherine I think told your Lordship that the girl knew nothing of what you had said to me. I certainly did not understand that your Lordship's communication was private, on the contrary I thought the child had boasted of being in at Gate S^t and that it was a public matter. As to having your Lordship's statement contrasted with hers I do not think that such a thing entered into any body's mind.

I supposed your Lordship meant us to communicate the fact to the Sisters and I sent them to you for advice. Perhaps I have acted blindly & ignorantly in the matter and I crave your Lordship's patience.

3. Miss Harcourt's Dower is left to her by her fathers Will which is recorded – The money is in the funds but her Aunt

receives it for her during her life according to the Will. Miss H. has made her Will securing the whole to the Convent in case she should die before her Aunt – She receives no pension during her Aunts life – The value of her services in the Schools would be ab^t £40 pr:an:

4. Miss Christian – The £300 belonging to her when of age is the portion of her father's property now in the hands of her Uncle Judge Christian of Dublin. He will pay her pension £50 pr:an: as long as he remains in office – and in case of his death her maiden Aunt Mary Christian will do the same There is no Deed – The only security for this is a letter which does not bind him legally, and it is all he will give.

5 Miss Gray & Miss M^c Cartan The fund is the class or the value of the services rendered in whatever School she may be employed –

For Vows –

S^r C. Parkinson. - £12 pr:an: by her fathers Will - £30 value of services rendered in the Schools

S^r Frances Kirby £40 pr:an: value of services –

The present salary is £40 without counting the Gov^t assistance.

In haste for the post.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 24th 1861

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

The contents of your letters received yesterday more than surprise me.

I sent our Sisters to your Lordship for advice & direction on the subject in question – They had accepted the girl, after she had been at their School a year, as a Candidate for apprenticeship, and they had reported her character as good in their return to the Council Office, and this occurred some time, ab^t a week or ten days, before I saw your Lordship. Is it surprising that they should be puzzled on the matter when your Lordship refuses to listen to their difficulty? I shall write by to-nights post and tell the Sister that she is to dismiss the girl for reasons which I am not at liberty to state, and of course, many unpleasantnesses will result with the parties concerned, with the Managers & with the Council Office unless great prudence is observed & the right means taken to avoid them – and also to avoid the appearance of inconsistency [sic] & injustice all of which might have been attained had your Lordship advised the Sisters when they sought only to know and to do their duty.

Recommending myself & them to your Lordships patience

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr Obedient Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 7th [1861]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

As it will be just a month from to-morrow that your Lordship proposed coming for the clothing I must not omit naming that other two of our Postulants will be ready at the same time – Miss Atkinson former Student class £40, and a Lay Sister also, Emma Crane.

It has been a great disappointment to some to have prolonged the time so much beyond the three months.

Everybody is grateful for your Lordships having sent us the very sort of Priest ~~the~~ [sic] we most need. His instructions are admirably suited to our children & Students and are attended with eagerness. They are written & he allows us to take a copy of them.

The retreat given by F^r Vaughan was of great service and the children and Students were as much delighted by his meditations as they were with F^r Gallways

Begging your Lordships blessing for all,

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr obedient serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 19th [1861]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I wrote to you nearly a fortnight ago, regarding two other postulants, and I think my letter must have reached your Lordship. It is so unusual not to receive an answer that I fear your Lordship has not forgiven my stupidity or that of the Sisters in Harley S^t. If this is the case I beg of your Lordship not to make me unhappy by the supposition that you are offended without at the same time telling me how to repair the fault or the stupidity or the want of judgement on my part or on that of the Sisters. Our great happiness is that when we commit inadvertent faults in religion we always have the chance of making prompt reparation. I thought I had done this when I wrote instantly to dismiss that unfortunate girl, which the Sisters obeyed immediately taking their chance of the consequences. Was not this right?

My neice [sic] returns to America immediately after Easter, and she is very anxious to have ~~one~~ [sic] our Sisters there, where she will be able to assist us in many ways & to ensure an excellent work.

May I have a line from you my Lord to say that you are not offended?

I am yr Lordships obedient Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

[A fragment- c.19 March 1861]

[To Bishop Grant]

Private

I do not know my Lord whether the enclosed will be satisfactory but I should quite think with S^r M.T. that it would not be prudent to give her Protestant Uncle any control over her property – His brother did his best to persuade her that she ought to keep the Capital in the family, but she quite convinced him that she intended to dispose of it herself when she received the £1000 which she gave to pay the Bowles. The sooner the whole is separated from the joint family Stocks the better, for though she has made her will there would be a very doubtful chance of getting what could not be so easily defined.

If we are to build the Church next year there will be the same interference with S^r Theresa's money which she is quite willing to claim at once & to place it in the Console, where she could dispose of, or invest it in the safest & best way for herself, and for the interests of the Community – Ought I to advise her to do so, or had she better wait till next year ?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Sr. Mary Theophila Laprimaudaye

Sr. M. Theresa Laprimaudaye

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 20th [1861]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

The sum asked for by S^r M.Theophila is her own money left to her by her Mother, over which no one has any control but herself. She says that M^r Hope Scott is solely Executor to her dear Fathers Estate, and Guardian, with Sir John Simeon, to the children under age.

After writing to the Lawyer she also wrote to her Uncle John Hubbard, and she says, that as a mark of respect & condescension only, ~~that~~ [sic] she mentioned to him how she intended investing the money. She is not disposed to give any further explanation regarding the matter and it seems that no one has a right to claim it.

Many thanks, my Lord, for the trouble you took in drawing up the paper, as it might otherwise have appeared that we were not acting fairly by her.

I wrote to your Lordship yesterday, and you will see that I had been anxious to have an answer to my former letter.

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 25th 1861

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Replying to your Lordship's letter rec^d yesterday, in its several items,
1st The Novices hitherto have as far as possible passed their 1st year at the Noviciate, but generally speaking it does much good, and is greatly to be desired for those who are to be employed in the poor Schools, that they experience the laborious life they embrace before they make their vows. Also in the case of two Sisters it is often of great advantage that the second year Novice experience the reality of a separation from her own. I have never had to repent the sending away of any Novice from here, though several have failed in the test, yet they w^{ld} equally have failed had they remained.

Does your Lordship intend this command to extend to all cases without exception?

2. We have had a Novice Mistress (and an assistant N Mistress for the last five years) who is obliged to direct & guide others & to think for herself. There are six Local Superiors any of whom could fill my place in case of resignation or death.
3. Your Lordship has probably forgotten the full exposition I gave you, not a year ago, of our temporal resources, not only regarding each individual, but also the whole collectively

which, to quote your Lordship's own words was "very satisfactory".

Our resources are certainly beyond the requirements of human prudence since we have not only paid very large debts not incurred by any faults of our own, without the help of subscriptions to meet these persecutions and unjust claims, as more able persons have had, and without begging our way to pay for the support of the many orphans and children we have annually ~~supp~~ [sic] maintained by our own labours, but we have every year increased our resources.

The palm of the just shall bloom as the lily – Let your palm bloom my Lord in keeping your promise to come to us the week after Easter, and do not force me to break my promises - The responsibility of rejecting valuable vocations like these, some of which have been trained by us for seven years, is no trifle – Neither does it seem according to reason & justice - The dowered untrained vocations we have to begin to educate, while these have in themselves a rich dower – It is you My Lord who are not to fail in sustaining the good you have done & that you still have to do with us.

I shall not disturb our Novices & Postulants by a doubt as to your coming the week after Easter and

I am, my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 25th 1861

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

In reply to the several items of your Lordships letter rec^d yesterday first – The novices hitherto have as much as possible passed their 1st year at the Noviciate, but generally speaking for those who are to be employed in the poor Schools it does much good and greatly to be desired that they experience the laborious life they may expect before they make their vows. Also in the case of two Sisters it is often of great advantage that the second year novice should experience the reality of a separation. I have never had to repent the sending of any Novice away from here, though several have failed in the test, yet they w^{ld} have equally have failed had they remained.

Does your Lordship intend this command to extend to all cases without exception?

2. We have had a Novice Mistress and an Assistant N. Mistress for the last five years, who is obliged to direct & guide others & to think for herself – ~~There of whom could fill my office in case of resignation or death.~~[sic] There are 6 Local Superiors ~~from~~ [sic] any of whom could fill my place in case of resignation or death.

Your Lordship has probably forgotten the full exposition I gave you a few months since of our temporal resources not only regarding ~~the~~ [sic] each individual but also the whole collectively which to quote your Lordships own words were very satisfactory. They are certainly beyond the requirements of ordinary human prudence since we have not only paid very large debts not incurred by any fault of our own/ but we

have every year increased our resources/ without the help of subscriptions to meet & unjust claims persecutions, [sic] as others have had, and without begging 1. our way to pay for the many orphans & children we have annually supported from our own labours –

The palm of the just shall bloom as the lily – Let your plam [sic] bloom my Lord in keeping your promise to come to us the week after Easter and do not force * me [sic] me to break mine [sic] promises – The responsibility of rejecting valuable vocations like these, some of whom have been trained by us for seven years is no trifle –Neither ~~de~~ does [sic] it seem according to reason & justice – Dowered untrained vocations we have to begin to educate – while these have in themselves a rich dower. Do not my Lord fail in ~~unsatining~~ sustaining [sic] the good you have done & that you still have to do with us

[Copy ends here.]

*force is written over another word which is indecipherable.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 26th [1861]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Your letter reached me after my answer to the first had been sent to the post.

I always have the opinion of our Chapter before offering either Novices or Postulants for profession or clothing, & when there is the least doubt we discuss the matter a second or even a third time in Chapter when it concerns vows.

I am always glad to show your Lordship our accts whenever you feel more comfortable & easy in seeing them, and they shall be ready for you as they are always are when your Lordship comes. It is very little more than a year since your Lordship last saw them when you could answer from your own knowledge then as your Lordship will be able to do again at any time.

Monday the 8th will be the Annunciation of our B. Lady but the day that may best suit your Lordship will be the most acceptable to us.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X11

pg 076

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

April 2nd [1861]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We shall hope that you may be able to come yourself for the ceremony, but at the same time we are very thankful that your Lordship has provided against any further delay.

I have informed the Novices that they are professed from year to year & that they are subject to any decision of His Holiness regarding the Institutes like ours.

I also certify that there are no debts on the Institute beyond those which the current payments of the pupils will meet in the course of the quarter.

There are no Sisters offered for profession but the two named in my first list. They are –

Sister Frances Cath: Kirby.

& S^r Clementina Isabella Parkinson.

The Novices for Clothing are,

Miss Mary M^c Cartin

“ Cecilia Harcourt

“ Margaret Gray

“ Elizabeth Atkinson

“ Margaret Christian (11)

Ellen Jane Slater Lay Sister

Your Lordship will find that these names correspond to

the two lists sent.

I hope your Lordship has escaped the terrific colds from which we are suffering. In my own case I have never had anything in the form of cough & cold in the least to equal it.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr very faithful

serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

In case your Lordship cannot come, will you also empower M^r Searle to receive the Children of Mary who have been elected?

Volume X11

pg 078

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

April 4th [1861]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Many thanks for sending the enclosed, which I have considered attentively, though I was not able to write yesterday.

It seems to me that no one ought to be obliged, or persuaded to bind their money in trust when their reason & judgement suggests a more devoted and generous disposition of it in Gods holy service. – But there is a great deal to be said on both sides of such questions. I would not like to advise another to take a less perfect course for the sake of human motives, and every religious would like to use her property in the service of God rather during her life than after her death. The interest of course being secured to her for her life. We should never be able to do any thing in the way of building if we tied up all the money in trust though we could very easily bind ourselves to pay the interest for life without inconvenience. In the case of the present £700 of S^r M. Theophila she has the merit of this especial gift, in the advantage it affords to the Community & Schools, while we also shall share in the merit of paying the sum back again for further similar investments in the service of God & His children. I have always been under the impression that we should take these matters quite as our B. Lord arranges them for us, and when the parents of children wish to bind their

money under trust for their children, that * it is done for them, and of course is less advantageous to the immediate prosperity of the Community, but apparently Gods own arrangement. Is it not better to leave matters thus being at the same time careful in securing to every one her life interest on money invested for the Community ?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

*(they do it for them)

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April 4th [1861]

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I take a second sheet of paper to write on quite a different subject. It is this –

The Duchess of Leeds has very generously given us lands in America, that my Niece may take two of our Sisters with her to see the Bishops there, & to choose what portion of land they would think eligible for a Convent or Training Schools, either in Maryland or Pennsylvania. Our Sisters wish very much to go with her. The voyage is only from 9 to 13 days generally and I have promised if your Lordship does not oppose it to send them on the 10th inst – I shall take every care that there shall be no danger of their doing any thing to involve themselves or us – My Niece assures us of 20 pupils immediately and in very little time that they shall be doubled.

I do not think that I ever mentioned that we were invited by two of our American Bishops four or five years ago, when my brother offered us 300 acres of land, but we were not then strong enough to undertake more than we had in hand.

Will your Lordship give the consolation of knowing that you will not disapprove of their going, and that you will bless their proposed journey? Whether it be to stay there or to return.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

April 8th [1861]

J.M J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Many thanks for the prompt reply to my request.

Of course I shall not send the Sisters with my Niece, who will go alone, and attend to the details of the land and the Deed for it, which the Duchess wishes to have drawn up by an American lawyer & then to be sent here for her signature. This is much the best plan, but it did not seem to be the most charitable. I should not have thought of sending any one, who did not wish to go, nor any whose parents w^{ld} raise any difficulty, and I am rather surprised that your Lordship should have imagined that we should do anything so likely to give dissatisfaction to our friends or relatives.

Many thanks also My Lord for the ceremony of this morning, which has made many more happy than they were a fortnight ago. Everybody is more & more satisfied with the excellent Priest your Lordship has sent us – And I trust the Students may profit by the great advantage they have in his beautiful lectures.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful & grateful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 4th [1861]

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JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Bishop Grant]

I think you have probable [sic] heard that our neighbour M^r Brisco has offered his land behind the Presbytery & on the east side of the Convent grounds, for sale as building lots, and he has opened a road by the side of the Presbytery.

If the land should be purchased for this purpose even a high wall would not screen us, as the land rises and we should be even more exposed on the east than we now are on the west – Therefore I thought it would be to our advantage to offer, on condition that the trustees give their consent, the exchange of our lot on the west side of the Magdalen Road for an equal portion of land on our west side at the back of the Presbytery. The west side would be infinitely more valuable to the Convent and at the same time the lot on the other side of the Magdalen Road is very valuable in itself.

I send M^r Brisco's letters on the subject for your Lordships consideration, and I will write again after we hear what the Bailiff has to say on the subject.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 23rd [1861]

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J M J

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Mr Searle brought me your Lordship's kind letter yesterday after Benediction Will Friday 26th of July suit your Lordship for the Distribution of Prizes? If so will you consider this date as settled – The children will thus return on the day following for their holidays.

I will write to F^r Maher by toenights post – Many thanks my Lord for your prompt remembrance of us.

On the 26th of June we are expecting Mr Stokes for the Training Schools and Mr Morrell's date of Inspection of the Day School is on the 1st of June so that one examination is scarcely over before another comes – We must beg our Lord to count them all in the awful one that is to be the end of our miseries.

Many thanks for your Lordships blessing.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in X^t.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 29th [1861]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

We are all in the midst of preparation for the procession of Corpus Christi and the Cardinal has just made his farewell visit, leaving us His blessing. His Eminence goes in his carriage to London making a journey of two days. I am not writing to give your Lordship this “ news “ but to ask for a clothing of five of our Postulants who are anxious to be clothed on the 21st of June There will be five ready for their Vows on the 26th of July and we shall be glad to have a separate ceremony on the 21st, S^t Aloysius’ Feast – Is it unreasonable to ask your Lordship to come to us twice with only one month between? If there is no prior engagement on this Feast perhaps a little sea air would be refreshing rather than otherwise, and it would be a great pleasure to us to see your Lordship twice rather than once.

The names of the Postulants are:

Martha Hoskins) £30 each Schools, &

Eleanor Jones) no Dower

Priscilla Mullen)

Catherine Daly) Lay Sisters.

Emma Crane)

We have a great many vocations for America, when the war

is over! And also for Australia ! Shall I not encourage their zeal with more hope than for works in Japan (not varnish) and China !

We shall pray very much for your Lordships intentions tomorrow & at the 40 hours.

Many thanks, my Lord, for sending F^r Maher. Everybody likes M^r Searle, and we are all trying to be good.

Begging a blessing I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 8th [1861]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We shall hold ourselves in readiness for the Clothing on the 18th

I will send the names of the Novices before the 26th of this month, and this will be a month before the time proposed for the Vows.

There is no fear of our having more than enough – for our work while much more is offered than we have the staff to supply. And so at last Count Cavour has been swept away! The wonder seems rather that he & Garibaldi were not swept off the face of the earth before they did so much mischief –

We are having the 40 hours with devotion & begging Our Lord to grant all blessings & to give us all we want for His honour & glory, and especially for your Lordships intentions.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 22nd 1861

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

At the moment I was ab^t writing to thank your Lordship for the many benefits conferred during your last visit, which I now do very gratefully, your letter regarding the Church reached me.

1. We have talked over this subject my Lord, and have more to say against the proposal than we can find in favour of it. As the Boy's School which cost us £250 is locked up for want of the means to support it, and we are the losers of £15 pr:an., besides the principal, we could not look forward with much satisfaction to a highly multiplied repetition of a sinking investment, and there would be very little reasonable hope of the Church being kept up as it ought to be. – Again, if it could be kept up, we should probably be the laughing stock of our Protestant neighbours having two Churches staring at each other ! Or still worse, rivalling each other! and even if it were supported in the best manner; it never could equal the attraction of a Conventual Church, either in varied beauty or cleanliness, which is a result of a religious training.

2^{ndly} If a future Church is contemplated, would it not be much better to build it either towards the West End of S^t Leonards or the East End of Hastings, those living between the two having the use of the Conventual Chapel as they now

use it ? Why should they not do so? We have no wish to deprive any one of a spiritual advantage whether we are assisted in building the Church or not – and I see no reason why they should not have in future separate services as they have at present; if they are willing to bear the expenses of them. (I have changed the pen, and changed the ink with which I am writing so I suppose it is the paper that will not do its duty, and I hope your Lordship will excuse all this blotted writing.)

I meant when your Lordship was here to have requested that the separate Benedictions in the week might not be kept up, as the very few seculars who come would find plenty of room in our back benches, and they prefer coming to our services on acct of the music.

We have spent since last Christmas £50 in candles alone because of the numerous double services.

To return to our first point my Lord, if the boys School cannot be kept up for want of funds how are all the expenses of candles, wine, washing of Church linen, repairs, Sacristan's wages and Choir to be met not costing less than £200 pr: an:?

It is useless for me to say what we think of the ingratitude of those who have for so many years rec^d the benefit of such an expenditure not only without thanks, but by a return of insults and abuse, for which on our part we have only to thank God.

If it be determined to build the Church without our assistance there is abundant space on the East side of the Presbytery.

Will your Lordship have the kindness to let me know how we may obtain our Altar wine direct, from the Lisbon College? We hear it may be had at 12/ pr doz. While we are paying 22/- nearly 100 pr c^t less!

Again thanking you my Lord .

I am

very gratefully & faithfully

Yr Lordships serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

P.S. I have not half said all that I would like, nor how sorry I am that your Lordship should be teased about these matters of the Church when we hope so soon to be able to build.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from a Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

S^t Peter & S^t Paul./61

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J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Your letter to D^r Duke was sent to him the same evening, but I have been so much occupied with the Teaching Examination, that I had no time till now to return thanks for your very kind consideration in allowing us to read it. I most sincerely hope that every arrangement may be made to your Lordship's satisfaction.

Your Lordships's letter of yesterday's date has just reached me, and though there is no Saturday nights post, I write now so as to secure the first post of Monday.

I think My Lord that you forget that M^r Jones did not leave any private Instructions – Perhaps you allude to the Proposed Agreement which I sent to your Lordship the original of which is in M^r Towneley's possession – I have no copy of it. The only paper I have of any consequence is the Cardinal's letter, offering the Convent to us, which was ~~sent~~ [sic] copied & given to D^r Errington when his Lordship visited the Convent.

Your Lordship no doubt remembers that M^r Towneley has all M^r Jones papers, and D^r Ullathorne can only get information that could be worth anything from those who claim a power as Trustees.

We have had a succession of Thunder Storms during the last three days & our hay is all out! I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

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pg 091

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jul 14th [1861]

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JMJ.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

It will be an immense disappointment to the children if your Lordship is not here for the Prizes. D^r Ullathorne shall be very respectfully received whether his Lordship may come on a visit of duty or otherwise, but your Lsp has promised to come and I really cannot tell the children that you think of not coming.

I quite thought that I had sent the names of the five Sisters for Vows – What shall I do? Two of them are certificated Mistresses from Preston, and they have been here since the 25th of June to secure the whole month in preparation for their Vows. For the sake of the schools, and for the satisfaction of the Priests, who will be so much annoyed at their not being at their duty in time, will you take my first notice, which was more than a month before though it was not all that your Lordship required, and I will try never to make the same mistake a second time? It really was a very stupid mistake, and I only now observe that in my last I only gave the names & dates without any dower or class list: -

But this will be better-

S^r Anastasia, Susan Riley,

Clothed Sep 11th 1858.

No Dower- ~~class~~ [sic] Salary in the School £25

S^r Margaret M. Ellison,

Clothed July 27th 1859

Dower abt £250. left by her parents, & in the hands of the Executor who is ready to pay it or have it paid over immediately

S^r Mary Walburga White,

Clothed ~~July 27th~~ [sic] 1859 April 19.th

No Dower. Salary in the School £25.

Lay Sisters.

S^r M Jos. Kerr clothed April 19th 1859

S^r Catherine P. M^c Dermott clothed July 27th 1859.

I think I have already answered your Lordships second letter in part. Regarding the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament the children are allowed to go down at 5¼ every day besides going after supper when the Litanies are said, but they are not obliged to go. We generally find much more real piety when we do not exact practices that are not of obligation.

The Rosary is said by the younger children in the Dormitory and I should think it an excellent time to say it. Formerly it was said at the time of needlework & I believe it is the usual time in most Convents but I do not remember why this was changed most likely because they would probably be more attentive and keep silence all the better.

It would be well perhaps to know who said there was any dissension between the Sisters and myself as this seems very like a wicked falsehood, that had better be cleared up.

I think I have ~~never~~ [sic] told you everything and

I must now write out the hours & I will only add that

I am

My Lord Bishop

yr faithful Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

It seems to me that the Liverp^l hours are as nearly as possible like our own. I see they have 5 hours for Religious Instructions like ourselves,& the study is not limited.

The Convent

Blackpool

Aug 11th [1861]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

It is quite a puzzle to me that D^r Ullathorne should go to S^t Leonards just at the time of my absence, and when I had told your Lordship that I should not be able to return in less than 3 weeks. However the Sisters will no doubt do their best to make his visit as pleasant and as profitable as possible. The letters have been very regularly forwarded to me, and I presume he has not written to appoint the time, as I have rec^d no notice of his Lordship's intentions until this morning, through Harley S^t, by your Lordships kindness.

I presume my Lord that our poor S^r de L-[oyola] Bessie Gray has been with you before you receive this – When I left London she promised to enter into a retreat and to seek direction from F^r Gallway, but she was in so great a state of excitement that she insisted upon coming up immediately to see her brothers and sisters – According[ly] a lay Sisters [sic] was sent with her to meet me in Blackpool on her way to Scotland. I endeavoured to persuade her to make a retreat here in vain. She then consented to be directed by the Jesuits in Edinbrough [sic] and to have the advice of D^r Gillis - She remained a week in Edinbro' & on Saturday went to London with her Brothers having made up her mind to return to the world and to live with her Grandmother in Guernsey and to go with her to Italy (!) if she will consent to take her. She immediately claimed her money and settled matters with her lawyer – and seems to be in peace ! No doubt she has explained her own views, and made her conscience straight. I kept myself

free from any other advice than that of following her Directors decision – And the lay Sister who accompanied her took a letter from me to F^r Amherst regarding her state of mind. Had I not consented to her going to Edinbro' I have every reason to believe that she would have gone without seeking any advice and with scandal to the Community. As it is now no one is surprised or curious on the matter, and I have only to hope that she has been to your Lordship before going to her Grandmother. I beg my Lord that you will not forget me in the Holy Sacrifice in this humiliation, which I feel deeply though it will be a blessing to us in other ways.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 21st [1861]

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JMJ.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

We returned here last evening having seen D^r Ullathorne in Birmingham on Saturday. His Lordship was very kind to us and our visit was a very pleasant one, and also most profitable in several ways.

I have the correspondence printed by D^r Duke, which I had heard of without seeing, and as soon as possible shall return it [to] D^r Ullathorne with our remarks.

In speaking with M^r Searle this evening we proposed asking your Lordship to allow us to have Mass said during the retreat in the School Hall, to avoid any clash with externs – Does your Lordship approve & grant this or should you prefer our doing as usual for the Mass?

I found every body pretty well, with one exception and we have returned less tired than I expected.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful

Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

“ Dieu Seul “

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

I enclose you a copy of the Conditions accepted by our Community before taking up our abode at All Souls, together with other writings that may give you a full knowledge of our present position.

Our Community certainly requires your authority and Paternal care being now your pupil without the power or the will to claim or to give away any right, and being wholly dependent on you. May I then without indiscretion urge this Visit of our House as soon as possible that all may be relieved from a heart-wearrying and unprofitable anxiety.

I feel every confidence that you will know and do what is right in our regard much better than we would do for ourselves.

I am my dear Lord & F^r in Xt

Yr ob^t Child

C. Connelly

All Souls

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 19th [1861]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 24th [1861]

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J M J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We are drawing near S^t Theophila's Feast and Mary Bellasis is nearly at the end of her three months probation. I have not been in any hurry to remind your Lordship of Mary's Clothing as you know of the time of her coming to us.

There is also another Postulant who was formerly at our Young Ladies School, Miss Thornton of Preston. No immediate Dower is to be paid for her, but her Father is to secure her annual pension –

And probably a Postulant Lay Sister, who has been with us five or six years, employed in the Laundry.

I presume your Lordship will not want to come here 'till D^r Ullathorne has brought matters to a satisfactory close, but perhaps you will give me some idea of the time for Mary's Clothing as her friends would like to know whether it will be possible to arrange for some of them to be present. Mary has improved immensely in health so that there is really no hurry on her acc^t.

Our dear children have nearly all returned and in excellent spirits. We shall want a Father from Farm St for their retreat next month. Perhaps your Lordship

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 26th 1861.

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J M J

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Many thanks for your kindness in writing for the retreat.

2. I will see that the time arranged for Mary's Clothing shall suit the Serg:^t

3 Miss Thornton's pension is to be paid, & settled on her, for life – but it has not yet been done in writing.

4.th It might look as if your Lordship had not so much interest in Mary if your Lordship does not come for the Clothing – and I do not think that D^r Ullathorne would allow himself to be influenced or embarrassed. I was very much edified by our visit to Birmingham and by his Lordships visit to our Convent in my absence – Far more than I can express – and particularly knowing that his Lordship did not like us. In fact I had presumed that he had been named to take D^r Errington's place because he was not favourable to us – Perhaps I was wrong.

5th In regard to the “ Revised Code it will make no difference to us. It is a great pity that the Managers of schools should cry before they are hurt.

If they will make the calculation of attendance, they will find that the Gov^t Grants may more than equal the Stipends for the Pupil Teachers, and the Augmentations to the Mistresses. The only thing to regret is that these Grants may too much depend upon the good humour (or bad) of the Inspector, and that if the Catholic Inspectors presume upon their power the Managers will of course reject all

Gov^t aid. We shall not depend in any manner upon Gov^t aid, & I will attend to what your Lordship suggests regarding the expenses and the numbers to be supported.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 3rd [1861]

S^t Theophila

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

We are just ending our beautiful feast of S^t Theophila, which has been ever more devotional than our first one - We had a new red vestment after the true (Gothic) Roman pattern which was taken from one of D^r Ullathornes, and we had also a beautiful new white Cope – with a pointed small hood – M^r Searle preached an excellent sermon on the “ narrow way “ & applied it to the d^r Saint making her Martyrdom an example for us in the reality of our daily life – and now I must end our day by sending a few words of grateful thanks to your Lordship.

I enclose a letter which I rec^d from Canon Shepherd regarding a Miss Aggio who is a person without Dower. Will your Lordship say whether you wish me to refuse the application. She seems to be a very good person and maintains herself chiefly by her Music lessons. Of course she would be much less valuable to us than one of our own Students, but nevertheless I should be disposed to give her the trial without any reference to the Dower.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 18th 1861

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop,[Grant]

I have yet not written to thank you for all the benefits conferred in your last visit which I now do very sincerely & gratefully.

2. We have received notice from the Department of Science & Art that the Drawing Examination is to take place on the 8th day of November, and we are requested to send an estimate of the number of Candidates likely to present themselves. Will your Lordship say whether we are to do as we did last year, or whether there is any fresh arrangement to be made.

3. I am cutting off the number of girls received gratis to prevent any danger of diminishing our Novices or Postulants. We want about twelve for the American Mission and we are praying for good ones to take the place of those whose vocations for America are so long retarded by this miserable war.

Again thanking your Lordship & begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 103

SH.C.J. ARCHIVES- ROME.

Letter Book 1.

Letter 96, Pages 106-107

Copy 1861

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

X X [in pencil]

Oct [20th unclear] 1861

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have read your Lordship's letter three times very attentively and also read it to the Community.

You know my Lord that I always wish to please you and to do as you wish in all things but you know also that with regard to the property of Mr Jones we depend upon Mr Towneley and the trustees, and whatever judgement Dr Ullathorne pronounces, it is not ourselves who act, but the Trustees.

And again how could I conscientiously propose what would be so much against the interests of the Community and at the same time our own Church remaining unfinished ? Misunderstandings existed during Mr Jones's life to a great extent and while certain unruly characters live they will still exist, whether there be any cause or not. Mr Jones never intended a separate church for a Congregation that barely can claim such a name being to this day chiefly composed of visitors, & if they build one * ten chances to one it will be empty and unsupported. Col T I am very certain wd not consent to sell the Community property to build a church that would not be of any use to the Community.

Moreover My Lord – I think he has already stated that he would not pay the Endowment money if the Church were shut up so as to prevent the people hearing Mass - to which we give a very hearty Amen.

I should think this ought to satisfy any reasonable Congregation and that it would be all that Dr U would be likely to require

The clause of ten years will die out next June, and then if Col Towneley agrees with Your Lordship & the other trustees

* Too abrupt

that the field on the west side of the Magdalen Road might be sold to enable us to
*X build the Church, I am quite sure that we shall most willingly let it be sold for
such a purpose. There is no unconveyed field in Mr Towneley's name. Every year
this field is increasing in value, & by next year it will bring about £3000 or more
perhaps

It will be a happy day to us when your Lordship is no more teased with this
matter and when the people are satisfied with the numerous advantages they enjoy
here. In later years when they will want another Church at the other end of the town,
we, or the next generation will joyfully assist in raising the funds for it. Begging your
blessing

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

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

[* large X in ink]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 22nd [1861]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have to thank you for the kind advice contained in your last letter.

We dismissed the only Master employed in teaching at the Midsummer Holidays, and now we have a Mistress who has an excellent reputation as a teacher and is a most devout Catholic. We have hitherto been most unfortunate in our Masters, but it is to be hoped we shall not require any change in our present arrangement. We shall be very careful regarding secular news. I thought we were more than necessarily strict as to any communications of a gossiping nature, but I suppose things will creep into daily conversation sometimes involuntarily.

The Religious Examination is to begin tomorrow – Will you ask the Angels to help our children not to give way to nervousness & that they may do justice to themselves & to their instructors.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

We have sent the two Prospectus's of the Schools to Mr Gawthorne as we do not know which he would chose – The Middle or the Highest.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 14th [1861]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop,[Grant]

I must write to thank you for the beautiful day our Novices enjoyed yesterday when we all prayed especially for your Lordships intentions – The Holy Sacrifice was offered at 7 O clock by M^r Searle who is always so kind & considerate, that we ought very much to thank your Lordship for choosing him for us – We ended the day by a Hymn to S^t Stanislaus & the Office of the Holy Souls which we are making this Month with the children. The two Postulants who were deferred from the last clothing hope for this grace the next time your Lordship comes, & there is also a third Postulant who will make the first of the twelve who are to replace those who are to go to America. She has no dower beyond her class & music- valuing about £40 pr: an:

I think I have not written to your Lordship since the Drawing Examination which went off the same as last year.

M^r Searle will write to your Lordship regarding our childrens Confirmation on Friday.

I am with repeated thanks

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 18th [1861]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I enclose you the receipt of £600 on the £700 which I promised should be reinvested for S^r M. Theophila. It is paid by the dower of another Sister, which is given without restriction of investment on interest. Though you only required me to pay the £100 yearly I prefer doing this to satisfy Mr Hubbard on your Lordships acct. This will leave another hundred to pay back next year – or sooner if I can, to have it off my mind.

I am

My dear Lord

Yrs respectfully and faithfully in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The enclosed letter is from Lady Huntingtower & perhaps your Lordships charity might assist in bringing matters more straight -

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from a Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 19th [1861]

+ [1863?]

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

The names of the Postulants for clothing are, Miss M A. Thornton, Lucy Waterhouse and Ellen Murray, the latter is a lay Postulant. The enclosed is the drawing your Lordship wished of the Sarcophagus – It would make the dimensions unclear if we put in the Pall, but it is made of red velvet with a crown & the Martyrs palms crossed, in each corner worked in gold. Should you wish to have the pattern it shall be sent – but any one could draw the palms crossed & a crown to suit their own taste better perhaps.

The Sarcophagus is made of zinc & glass with a wooden floor and back- gilt. It cost £10 but it ought not to have been more than £5 at the most – Mr Ross made it but I think he has failed in business.

The Red velvet pall cost about £15 as nearly as I remember.

I sent your Lordship the receipt for £600 on the money borrowed for the building which I hope reached you. Had I not better have the receipt myself?-

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from a Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 2nd [1861]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I have just rec^d your letter dated Nov 30th.

Had I intended to deceive your Lordship it certainly would have been a blessing and a good that the truth should be “ brought out “ and not a proof of the contrary. Your Lordship spoke of the Music Master and I had in my mind only the pianist who gave the lessons – In fact I had never remembered Sig Guglielmo, who gives $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour lesson twice a week only – nor did it occur to me later that he would come under the list of Masters being but one lesson – though of course he does. Will your Lordship have the kindness to say whether it is a general order that we are not to employ Masters. I have never understood it as such, knowing that in Rome they employ three or four masters in one Convent. At Roehampton I think they have four – At Newhall I think Masters are employed, and throughout the Convents of the Ursulines in France and elsewhere Masters are employed, but perhaps there is a new regulation of which I am quite ignorant.

Sig^f Guglielmo was recommended to me by Mrs Duke and others some years ago, and he has always conducted himself very properly since we have known him. He is a married man, and I have never heard any thing that w^{ld} induce me to suppose

that he is not a proper person to employ. There is no lady here that could do justice to the children, nor is there any one in the Convent that could teach singing but myself & I do not think it consistant [sic] with my office to take it even if I had the time to devote to it.

Sig^r Guglielmo usually goes to Edinbro' in the month of December – If your Lordship requires me to dismiss him I had better do so when he has left for the journey, so as not to create another enemy in the town – But I trust your Lordship will not require of us to renounce the advantages that are enjoyed by others. .

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yrs very faithfully in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 5th [1861]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I think it must be the Pianist, Herr Kloss, that your Lordship refers to, who was dismissed some years ago, when Maria Dunn was here. I have never heard any thing against Sig^t Guglielmo We have changed the time of the lesson, as M^r Searle suggested an earlier hour.

Will your Lordship remember us in the Mass of the Immaculate Conception?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 19th [1861]

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JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Our many thanks for your kind visit of yesterday must be again repeated, that we may be sure at least that they are conveyed in words.

Will your Lordship let us know whether you have been helped in the decision to be made to-day? We have kept our promise in praying for it. And this brings to mind another subject. It has long been in our minds that we should like very much to assist in the education of Priests for the Diocese, by placing one or two boys in your Seminary at Old Hall or Lisbon. What should your Lordship think of this work? I think we could manage to do it in one way or another, and as we shall by increase of numbers soon require two Priests we should thus satisfy the desire we have of doing our share in providing for our own wants & for the Diocese. Perhaps the little Orphan boy is one who might be offered for this purpose if he is old enough.

Does your Lordship know whether £25 pr: an: would be likely to cover the expense of each boy? We should prefer the Lisbon College unless you [sic] Lordship differs. Again my Lord we should like to offer this work to our Lord especially for peace all over the world & for our future Convent in America.

We heard of some Sisters of Mercy going out about three weeks after your Lordship had thought us very imprudent in thinking of it! Now we are still worse off as a war with England is apprehended. I want to go myself next Spring if possible just to stay to see our Sisters comfortably & safely settled in their new home, and then to return here. But if the war continues there would be nothing to do.

Begging you Lordship's blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Y^r faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.