

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Jan 10th [1862]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Many thanks for your kind letter & for the very consoling thought that our d^r Sisters are really of service to dear Mrs Wood. We are praying for her, but I fear from all that Mth Theresa tells me there is but little hope of her perfect recovery.

I will attend my Lord to what you say regarding Manifestation of Conscience, but I think we have always made a wide distinction between faults and sins, and that everyone understands, that sins belong only to the Confessional – Still we sometimes have cases where reference is made to us in order to know how to distinguish between a temptation or a passing thought, and a consent to Sin – and many are greatly relieved by this help. Do not suppose My Lord that anyone could be tied up by the supposition that their sins were to be confessed out of confession! Our Holy Rule says “ No one shall conceal her temptations, which must be made known to the Confessor or the Superior” &c. I do not think my Lord that we should have any right, even if our rule were silent on the subject, to forbid the religious to mention their temptations, as many persons living in the world & unbound by any rule are eager to get all the help they can to govern a sinful nature. I think I understand the freedom your Lordship wishes all to understand, and I will do my best with others.

With regard to the education of boys for the Priesthood we certainly have but little hope of doing any thing at so great an expense, but still we must not give it quite up as there are certainly other Colleges where boys are placed at

less than half the sum named – There is no chance of our putting away any money – We never more than meet our bills, & thankful are we to do so with punctuality – This year we have spent a great deal on Vestments and many extra wants so that we shall be just a little behind the mark & * we shall be happy in wanting & not getting until we are quite up to it.

Lady Stafford has determined to give us £1000 towards our church if we will consent to have her buried in the Vault where M^r Jones lies. She will also secure the £50 penalty to the Priest who buries her, which is the fine incurred by doing so. Shall I be quite safe in making her this promise? Lady Stafford is daily becoming more feeble and she only wants to secure the certainty of her burial there to settle legally for the £1000 to be given. Will your Lordship give me an answer – as soon as possible?

Many thanks for your Lordships kind offer of Jersey – If you would like to send us – here we are-you have only to send - The money never will fail – but we cannot give up America, we only wait Gods time.

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

*so that crossed out, & written over

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 13th [1862]

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J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

My difficulty is not in the least as to receiving the money – it lies only in the prohibition of the Act of Parliament in which “ All Souls” was named.

With regard to five years more I do not think that the trustees every-[sic] have the power to change a Deed – If so no one could rely upon their deeds being carried out. It is only a few months since your Lordship & D^r Ullathorne deplored the clause of ten years, which both said never ought to have entered into it, There is nothing but puzzle after puzzle to no good, and much certain loss.

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful servt in X

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 29th [1862]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I am obliged to be at the Convent in Harley S^t for a day or two and shall leave here by the next train.

We shall all pray very much that Our Lady may guide the Trustees & protect us from another five years of uncertainty and annoyance – and that other means may be devised that will be more for God's honour & glory, and for the good of your Mission, My Lord -

I am

My Lord Bishop

very faithfully

yr Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 2nd [1862]

Private & Confidential.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I enclose an extract from Saturday's Tablet which your Lordship ought to see.

Mr Foy was in London last week and it struck me that he is the most likely person to push the matter on in this way. I do not think it possible for him to move without venting his resentment & bitterness against the Convent. Whoever he speaks with we are the subject uppermost, & though I was but three days in London his resentful remarks were mentioned to me by a friend there.

Now my dear Lord all this is not only an insult that is of daily occurrence here but it seems to me an insult against the authorities who are now treating the question that has been placed before them.

I was very sorry that your Lordship sent my letter to Mr Foy regarding Lady Staffords donation – They will do all they can to mar the matter and in doing so will seriously injure themselves while ~~they~~ [sic] they fancy they are injuring us or our cause – which is the cause of God and His Church – turn the matters which way they may.

For the love of the Holy Child and His Immaculate Mother, do My Lord take M^r Foy away from this place – All will go right if you do – and every right disposition of the future Church or Churches here will be at your own command.

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Southwark Diocesan Archives

[Copied from photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 5th [1862 ?]

Private & Confidential.

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Thanks for your kind letter. I still plead for the removal from my inmost heart and we shall willingly consent to give £25 pr:an: towards the support of a Priest who wld be one who would labour with M^r Searle in the interest of the Convent as well as the Mission. The sooner Mr Foy leaves this place the sooner we shall be in peace & happiness.

We shall pray very much that your Lordship may be quite satisfied that the clause may not be renewed & that other plans may be settled much more for the good of the Mission & for the glory of God.

Do let me know that you will remove M^r Foy & send one, like Mr Searle in some measure, to work together for the united good all. [sic]

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 6th [1862]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I do not know what reply the Trustees intend making, but I said we were praying that the clause might not be granted. Be comforted my Lord in the assurance that if the five years are not granted other arrangements will be made that will do more than justice to the Mission either by our acceding to your former proposal in a way to meet your wishes, or by the conditions your Lordship may make as soon as we can build the Church – You seem to think that we do not care for the Mission, but my dear Lord you are wrong – We have always had the Mission at heart, and when matters are depending upon our good will you shall indeed prove the truth of ~~the~~ our sincerity and our submission both in regard to the Church & the Congregation. Do not be pained at all about the five years or the clause. You shall have much more for the Mission than this grant could have given you if it be refused or not.

If it be refused, say to the Cardinal Barnabo that we shall make all straight in a better way both for the Mission & for the Convent.

As soon as I know what is decided, I will tell your Lordship how we can more than satisfy you and satisfy also the S. Congregation, & their wishes & intentions. And this not by empty words but by a document that will be binding

upon us.

Do not be pained unnecessarily my Lord, & will you let me know as soon as the matter is quite decided, that we may at once act in a satisfactory way & secure all that is right & just towards yourself & the Mission, without injury to our peace & happiness.

How your Lordship can suppose that we can love God & not care for the good of the souls around us I have never understood. We have simply kept our ground in the best way we could, and at the same th [sic] time we have helped all that we could towards the good of the Mission, notwithstanding many calumnies and false aspersions being thrown upon us.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am my Lord yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

P.S. I never wished or asked your Lordship to sacrifice Mr Foy or any other person. I merely requested in justice & for justice sake that we should no longer be sacrificed, as we have been.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 11th [1862]

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J M J

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

The only thing we can do at present is to abide by the decision of the Trustees, who alone have the power to act in the case in question – When once this matter is settled and the clause ended we shall then be free to act more faithfully & generously towards the Mission than any power could justly exact from us. I think I have a clear view of the means to be taken not only towards building the Parish Church but also to finish our own in a humble way – but in any case my Lord you have nothing to fear by the decision regarding the joint occupation clause, whether it be for or against. Only be sure that we only desire what may tend the most to God's greater glory and the good of Souls – not only the souls of our children & the Community, but the greater good in general.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

ARCHIVES S.C. PROP FIDE

[SRC Anglia Vol.16 f.881 from Photostat]

[C.C.'s hand.]

Copy of a letter written to Monsignor Grant This letter, as the date shews, was written before we received any instructions from Rome. Feb.11,1862

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb, 11th 1862

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J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop,

The only thing we can do at present is to abide by the decision of the Trustees who alone have the power to act in the case in question. When once this matter is settled and the clause ended we shall then be free to act more faithfully and generously towards the Mission than any power could justly exact from us.

I think I have a clear view of the means to be taken, not only towards building the Parish Church, but also to finish our own in a humble way; but in any case my Lord you have nothing to fear by the decision regarding the joint occupation clause whether it be for or against. Only be sure that we only desire what may tend the most to God's greater glory and the good of souls – not only the souls of our children and the Community but the greater good in general.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

Note of

Letter to Monsignor Grant sent July 30th 1862

Offering, besides free access to the Church when built, £1000 for another Church in the town.

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr affectionate serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES

Mayfield

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb, 24th 1862 [Year inserted

in Bp Grant's hand]

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J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop

Thanks for your kind message by Mth Theresa.

The names of the Postulants are –

Lizzie Drury - Dower £400

Annie Boyle Class abt. £300

Jane Lansdowne id id

W.Farnell id id id

Kate Aggio music abt £30

Ellen Pearson Lay Sister.

We hope to hear something of the Students retreat in a few days. The sooner we have it the better, and the Postulants days of recollection need only end with the clothing, though they will follow the retreat. Will your Lordship kindly give faculties to whoever gives the retreat to act as Extraordinary to all at the same time?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your Faithful sert. in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

A true copy

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 2nd 1862

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

It will indeed be a happy day for us on which the Holy Father approves of our Institute! - This it is that is so necessary to secure stability, and the perfection of religious discipline. And, as our Holy Rule, which we love as we love our d^r Mother the Church and more than our life, is already approved for several modern female orders there would remain but little difficulty in obtaining the great blessing of the Approbation of the Holy Father for our Institute. Indeed I should think that much anxiety even in temporal matters would be at an end if this were done, at least here.

With regard to Miss Gray's vows there was no doubt whatever that they were only conditional & not Solemn. Many similar cases have occurred in Rome and in France, where no doubt has been raised. She herself knew that she was released by the condition and she perfectly understood that condition when she made her vows.

Will your Lordship have the kindness to name the day for the Clothing which you omitted in your letter of this morning.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in Xt

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat of the Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 4th 1862

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

By this morning's post I sent your Lordship the printed copy of the Rules, which we had done last year for the use of the different Houses & for our own convenience.

Though the Rule in all essentials is the same as that of several other approved orders, such as that of the S.Cuore & the French S. Coeur in Paris, and partially I think that of the Sisters of N.Dame, yet it is not a copy of any of these Rules, being taken from the Constitutions of S^t Ignatius, the source from whence all those Rules sprang; Ours, like theirs, excluding all that is unfit for women, and retaining all that leads to a perfect imitation of our Lord & to the highest practice of religious perfection that is set forth in the Holy Gospels.

We have had the abridged Constitutions & the Summary translated into Italian. If your Lordship should like to have these printed we can have it done without any difficulty.

It seems to me that it would be of a more solemn influence

to have simply the Institute approved, as in all essentials the Constitutions are already proved and acted upon with great good all over the world and are approved for others by the Church. No one could feel any doubt or uncertainty upon this point – but our constant prayer is that we may have the approbation of the Church for our Institute. We have the one given by the Cardinal the year before His E. went to Rome before he was made a Cardinal. I remember shewing this to your Lordship but perhaps you have forgotten it.

I shall be glad to hear that our little book reaches you safely.

Many thanks for appointing the day for the Clothing.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 7th [1862]

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J M J

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

There is a very unpleasant affair with the Council Office very wickedly represented by M^r Stokes, which I can hardly explain so that you c^{ld} understand it by letter – but as your Lordship will probably be going to Mrs Wood I shall feel more satisfied that you should call on M^r Allies if quite convenient, and learn the whole from him. It will relieve your mind for me to say that no deception was intended nor was there anything to be gained by the supposed deception.

Pray remember us sometimes in the Holy Sacrifice.

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

March 9th 1862

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My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I have had no correspondence whatever with M^r Stokes on the subject in question – My information comes through M^r Allies.

With regard to Miss Gray I was always most careful to keep myself free from any advice in her case. It is quite possible that I might have written to the effect that her vows being by our Constitutions conditional she might, if her Director advised it, leave the Order & go into another House as a boarder under our protection, thus making herself free to act in whatever way the law could demand, and at the end of the five years she might re- enter as a religious. But I never advised this or any other step that would endanger her Soul for the sake of regaining her fortune. And even when she left us I referred her solely to the advice of the Jesuits at Edinbro' that I might not have any responsibility. Surely you could not think me so ignorant as to suppose that a person could take a false oath without committing a mortal sin! which would be much worse than " penal servitude" that I have been undergoing these sixteen years by my own choice, with God's infinite blessing.

" Where there are many contradictions there much fruit is to be hoped for. "

What are the many other charges my Lord?

If I am wrong in any matter give me the chance of a voluntary penal servitude.
AMDG – I am ready with the help of God & His d^r Saints to humble myself & to be humbled for justice and righteousness sake.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr very faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

[1862 ?]

[Bishop Grant]

How much I wish we could raise the money for the Church ! – If your Lordship will allow us to take a loan of £1500 we shall do it immediately and the other £1000 could soon be had by subscriptions –

Will you my dear Lord only consider this a little before you come and settle it at this visit?

Begging a blessing

I am always

Yr Lordships ob^t

& poor child

C. C.

Easter Sunday

Convent

All Souls

S^t Leonards

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Easter Monday [1862]

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J M J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We all wish you the sweetest & holiest joy of Easter, though perhaps the remembrance of us just now does not bring any joy with it. – Still we wish you every joy all the same.

We have had a very lovely Holy Week to prepare us for all Easter joy in the forgiveness of our enemies & persecutors, and in the renewal of the spirit of penance – in which I must remain until your Lordship enlightens me as to the many heavy charges brought against me, and gives me the chance of refuting them.

Our children are to hold their Bazaar on the 28th and 29th and we hope to get a fair sum to assist us in beginning our fund for finishing the Church.

Lady Stafford has decided upon not being buried here so that we need not look for any help there –

I heard of the remark of one of the Congregation the other day, that “ if a Church was built for the town it w^{ld} very soon be closed “. Such remarks are not encouraging to those who are of the same opinion.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv- in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 1st [1862]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I send one line by this post to beg you will remember us on S^t Walburga's dear feast of to-morrow.

Our Bazaar brought in £97.11.6 and we must make it £100 - before the end of putting up the remainder – As I shall miss the post if I write more just now I will only add that I think Cardinal Barnabo will be pleased in the end.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Ser^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

44 Upper Harley S^t

Monday 5th [May 1862]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I left Mrs Wood's parcel at S^t George's when I tried to find you at home.

I am very glad that you have seen my letter to Miss Gray. I do not know the contents of the letter but I do know that that [sic] I never advised her to a less perfect life nor have I any thing to reproach myself with in the sad course she has taken. I did my utmost to prevent her taking any unadvised step and wrote to your Lordship ~~the~~ her [sic] exact state of mind when she determined to go to Edinbro'-

Are you surprised my Lord that she and her husband should wish to justify themselves by dreaming or imagining all kinds of evil against us ?- I am not – A person who could prefer her money to her Vows she made to God is certainly equal to anything less guilty.

There is no doubt that she herself failed in obedience and all religious virtue during her last six months at Harley S^t and gave very bad example.

I cannot make out what yr Lordship means by our "system" & you have twice used the word – System of what ? I do not know of any system but that of our education which is thought good on the whole & Miss Gray has boasted enough about it to others when she was at S^t Leonards – I thought ridiculously.

Whenever you choose my Lord to make your own examination into any matter of anxiety I am always glad that you should do so and I think you will not be disappointed in your former opinion.

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

June 12th 1862.

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Your letter of the 7th inst reached me this morning - & we all beg to return our sincere thanks for your presenting the Alb to His Holiness & for the letter accompanying it.

The charge made by M^r Lingen was quite refuted and not accepted, but Lord Petre & serg^t Bellasis had an interview with Lord Granville in which they stated that the P. Sch^l Committee could not assent to an unjust act They left a copy of the correspondence with Lord Granville & he promised to read it. Lord Petre & M^r Allies think that he will quietly let the matter drop.

M^r Stokes has now made an attack upon M^r Morrell with some false charges in which he shews his bitter spirit against us or our Training Sch^l If he intends to put him out of office M^r Allies thinks he will be foiled in the attempt. The correspondence has been sent to Lord Petre.

With regard to the Church my Lord you will of course treat with the Trustees. I do not even know the substance of the appeal beyond the printed form which D^r Ullathorne gave me last summer. I very much hope that your Lordship will deliver us from the many evils resulting from the

present annoyances – which are all to be traced to the one source; & when one Priest has recourse to another to know whether it is true that I am excommunicated we must expect consequences that are much hurtful to the Community and injurious to me personally.

We shall pray that your Lordship may soon return, and will you say what day you will appoint for the prizes? & will the 31st of July do?

Begging your Lordships 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

June 20th [1862]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I had intended that my letter of congratulation should be among the first to greet your Lordship on your return, but it gives us all the more joy to find you are safe even before we expected you, thanks to our Imm: Mother & to S^t Anthony whose lamp we keep burning that if any of the Bishops get lost in the seas he may quickly pick them up , & bring them to their desolate flocks,

A thousand thanks for your last letter conveying the blessing of His Holiness. Has your Lordship brought us all the Indulgences that we so greedily asked? We are longing to know, and to receive the blessing of His H. by your own blessing my Lord – Mrs Wood is pining to see you and will perhaps run up to town unless your Lordship is coming very soon.

Do you know my Lord when the American Bishop are [sic] to pass through England? – Our Sisters are ready to go as soon as we know for certain when we are to expect them. “ The Deeds” were signed long ago, and if the war should come near them, it is now 400 miles off, they must nurse the wounded soldiers.

I am doing all I can to arrange for the finishing of the Church as soon as possible so that a visit to us just now w^{ld} not be lost even though we are waiting to know what day you will decide upon for the children’s prizes – W^{ld} the 31st of July do? Thank God a thousand times that your Lordship is safe.

I am My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on SeaJune 22nd 1862

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I received your letter from Rome and answered it as your Ldp desired by return of post. I enclose Mr Allies last letter shewing that matters remain still unsettled. The Council officers have not addressed me on the subject & the correspondence is not in my possession, though I have seen all the letters that have passed – Mr Allies, Serg^t Bellasis & Lord Petre have done every thing that could be done to enlighten Lord Granville on the injustice of the charge. I will write to Mr Allies by this post and ask him to call on your Lordship & read the whole case to you just as it stands. It seems to me that it would be much better to withdraw my name (with any amount of injustice) than to risk the loss of the Training School – The one is a personal matter in which the charge has been refuted, while the latter would involve the loss of a great charity which c^{ld} not be supported, on comparable advantages, by any other amount of influence. I hope your Lordship sees the importance of this.

2. I shall be deeply grieved, and with our Community unanimously, if your Lordship opposes our journey to America. I know the particulars regarding the place thoroughly. There are upwards of a hundred poor children now in the School at Towanda and more than a thousand Catholic families around the

neighbourhood. The Convent or frame Mansion with five acres of land together with two farms of 150 acres is our own property & not an “ offer” made to us – There are also some hundreds of pounds due to us on this property, which will more than cover the expense incurred. Every preparation is made and all purchases concluded for the outfit of our Sisters & for their Chapel & Schools. The Agent in America is having the Convent repaired & the first immediate furniture is ordered to be ready for us. If you do not wish that the Sisters go alone- though I have chosen the elder Sisters among the professed, your Lordship perhaps will not object to my taking them myself, returning in the Autumn. There w^{ld} not be any necessity for this even if they did not go with the Bishops on their return, unless you wish it.

Again, my Lord, do not imagine that we are acting in the dark Our object is not to go to any of the great cities or to raise a Training School in the present unsettled state of the Country, but simply to have the Towanda School & to receive the children of the neighbouring Catholic families into the Convent on a pension suited to the condition of the people. The place is 400 miles from the War which will probably never reach the valley of the Susquehannah. The quiet position of the Convent is all that is most desirable for the Community destined to fill it, and incomparably more advantageous than if located in the large cities.

Do you think it reasonable my Lord to doubt the capability of supporting the Community of five Sisters on their own premises with a garden & fruit of five acres, and two farms?

Your Lordship did not say whether you knew when the American Bishops are to return to their Sees – Do not suppose, my Lord, that I wish to throw any responsibility upon you, or

upon others beyond the Community – All I ask is that you should not a second time oppose our going out, which in peace or in war can only be productive of good – Remember the 100 poor children and all that thousand of Catholic families & do not think of the great works in the large cities that have plenty to seek them – We want the quiet of this foundation more than the great works – Our boxes are packed and

we want only a days notice to be ready to start – (Not mine, if there is such a word for a religious – I mean there is nothing packed for me in the shape of a box).

Will your Lordship then let me know at once when the Bishops are to return & & who is going among the first?

The 30th of July will quite suit for the prizes.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 24th 1862

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Enclosed is a letter giving Lord Granville's final answer.

I have given Miss Annie Laprimaudaye's name to fill the office of Principal provided Mr Stokes is not allowed to visit the Sch^l. Unless we are delivered from his misrepresentations we cannot keep the School under Gov^t aid nor hope for success.

In haste to save the post

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 25th 1862

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We count on your being at the Meeting of the poor Sch^l Committee this Evening - & I have requested M^r Allies to be guided by your opinion regarding the withdrawal either of my name, or of the Training Sc^l itself, from Gov^t aid.

If we are to be cut off in a year or two to suit the purposes of the Council Office Officials, we had better withdraw at once & make every effort to endow the Sch^l under Ecclesiastical Inspection only. No doubt we should be assisted by the Duchess of Leeds & others and thus carry out a more effective work.

Perhaps your Lordship has or will think over this before going to the meeting. If we determine to withdraw what shall be done with the present Students who in justice must get their certificates?

Yr faithful Serv^t

My Lord Bishop

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 28th 1862

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

The contents of Your letter regarding the Property shall be obeyed.

There is no property in Philadilphia – [sic] Three of the Deeds were properly witnessed by the American Consul, but one remains still to be witnessed though it is recorded in Bradford County, & witnessed by the Mayor of Hastings which one American lawyer said was all sufficient, but another objected to it. This is easily remedied.

Training School.

Thank you, my Lord, for your kind consideration.

1. There is no doubt of our duty towards the existing Scholars which must be fulfilled in the best possible way.
2. The Towneley Deed does not in any way concern Gov^t Inspection The Deed was drawn up in 1852 when we had no other than a Middle School in the Lower buildings. Our Training Sch^l under Gov^t aid began in 1856. We should always wish to keep the School as a Training Sch^l with^{out} any limit to the age of the children received into it.

3. We very carefully avoided giving the Gov^t any chance of a hold upon us regarding the buildings and we only engaged to give the use of the building for this purpose for two years, so that

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(2)

pg 032

we are perfectly free in this respect.

We think it quite impossible with any chance of success to submit to M^r Stokes' examination & reports. And there is but one opinion among us – That it will be absolutely necessary to withdraw if he is to report upon us. Our remaining would be folly or worse than folly knowing that we should expose ourselves to more embittered enmity than that which we struggled against during the last year. In fact we could not work under such a system of injustice.

I am very sorry for all this additional trouble to you, on your return, when we should have so much wished to give your Lordship every consolation.

The children have set their hearts upon the 28th for the prizes to go home on the 29th Would it be quite the same to your Lordship to appoint the 28th?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 1st [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Will you have the kindness to tell me the name & address of the Book Binder you mentioned to us last year, who binds for Burns & Lambert I did not enter the name at the time & only remember your having given [word erased] being now in want. Burns & Lambert have charged us so enormously high for those he has just finished that we must seek elsewhere for the remainder.

I wish your Lordship could be here when D^r Wood comes, and if you want a little rest it would be perhaps of some advantage in making a reversion after the visit of the Cardinal. We hear from D^r Duke's reports to the Duchess & Lady Stafford such wonderful assertions set afloat, and from his son also, that we do not know what to make of the Cardinals visit nor of the news forced upon us, whether we will hear it or not. Amongst other facts stated is that I have a letter of censure from Cardinal Barnabo & that if I do not acknowledge it, no doubt the letter is in my pocket – all these wonderful things are announced to the labouring people to bring up to the Convent – The first came from Victor Duke to our fish boy – D^r Duke states

to the Duchess of Leeds & Lady S. that four Bishops have denounced me & my “sisters” not_ “ only in this but in their general way of going on “ so that we are to be dissolved & dispersed &c &c &c . I wonder who the four Bishops can be – D^r Errington? the Cardinal, D^r Ullathorne? and who can they have invented for the fourth? – These are the diplomatic reports which are unintelligible to us.

There is a young person for Clothing the next time your Lordship comes to us.

Miss Marian M^c Kay –

She is an American, unknown to me before she came to our Middle School – but has been several years in the School & teaches music here (during the last year). She has no other dower than her education. What does your Lordship say to a visit to us just as we are expecting to se D^r Wood, when the matters for America can be discussed at the same time that we shall be glad to have you present & to give us light under all these floating rumours!

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 4th [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Your letter was read to the Community within the space of two days as your Lordship directed.

I trust we shall not be disappointed in seeing D^r Wood, and we shall beg of our Imm. Mother to soften your Lordship's heart ~~and~~ [sic] to consent to our going with him for the love of the Holy Child, and for the love of the poor children who will learn how to love the Holy Child & His Imm. Mother more than they do now.

Your Lordship perhaps forgets that you said we might go when the Deeds were signed, and before that you said we might go where there were religious Fathers established in the neighbourhood – In the present case there are excellent Franciscan Fathers within 300 yards of our House, and the Jesuits quite near for retreats or to act as Extraordinary.

I cannot think why you are so hard upon us my Lord and when we are always trying to be good & to please your Lordship, and to do our duty in every way.

As to the House being wholly independant – it will be wholly so, and under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Diocese What is there to fear either for them or for us – The House is more largely endowed in proportion than this House, and your Lordship can have the same understanding

that you have with D^r Goss & still more that no claims can be made upon us.

I did not intend to say so much but only to pray to our dear Mother & to S^t Anthony to help us – We have prayed for this for two years & we cannot think you really will oppose our going in the end.

I will ask Mr Searle to report upon Miss M^c Kay – She is I think about 22 years of age and an orphan – She has been several years in our Middle School.

Is it your Lordship's wish that we should finish the Church as soon as we can arrange to raise the funds to meet the cost without involving the Dowers of the Sisters? And if so shall I request a plan to be made and submitted to the Trustees in the usual order to be observed?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 6th [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Yes, we must obey whatever order comes from Rome – and this most heartily lovingly and rejoicingly if even there should be a sentence against ourselves, which would be a million times worse than any thing regarding any temporal matter. Be quite persuaded that nothing is thought of without your approbation.

1. Col: Towneley has not been here since long before you went to Rome when they were stopping at Brighton and I forget when that was. 2. M^r Stonor was here on several matters of business and the principal one was to know what could be done in the disposal of the field which your Lordship had proposed (about a year ago, or perhaps less) should be sold & devoted to the building of the Church. It is very uncertain whether the money can be thus used if even the field is sold, but on a stretch it is possible that the finishing of a Chapel for the Charity may be accepted as according to the trust – as soon as I know what can be done your Lordship shall also ~~shall~~ [sic] know, if not before.

3. M^r Goldie was here not to receive any order from me, but to look at the Church and to see the Duchess of Leeds regarding a house she wishes to build on our ground if she

gets leave to do so – Her Grace wishes to build a large house behind the east end of the Church that will be of use to the Community after her death, and I had already mentioned this to your Lordship. Until the Duchess comes to some positive decision & has the right granted to build nothing can be done & it is a matter still in the air.

The decision regarding the Church seems not to be our affair & it is really only the Trustees who have any power. The Dowers of the Sisters your Lordship will not allow to be used, and the Trust Deed requires the money from any land sold to be invested for the use of the Charity, so that I cannot make out where the money can be claimed if even Rome judged fit to order us to build a Secular Church.

Again if we can get the money to finish the present Church for the Community, what is to prevent the Congregation using it as they now do until such time as we can have the chance to collect & save up our own money independant [sic] of Dowers to add to their own yearly Collections, and when an increase in the Congregation would give a greater probability of a Church being kept up? Does your Lordship see any other way to meet the difficulty?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

We hope D^r Wood may come this week for certain.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 15th [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Mr Searle received in his parcel from your Lordship a letter addressed to D^r Bendon which he immediately returned to you –but there was nothing in the envelope to me but your Lordships letter.

Many thanks for your gift to the Children of Mary – for which they also return their expressions of gratitude.

It will be a relief to us to know hat your Lordship approves of our withdrawing the Training School from Gov^t aid & inspection & I am sure you will let us know your decision as soon as it is quite made.

We hear that D^r Wood has taken his passage for America by the steamer that leaves on the Second of August, & I hope your Lordship will be able to see him between this & then-

Will you also my Lord give me three words saying that you [leave] me free to act with him for our future foundation. I promise you that you shall have the Certificates from each Sister that will perfectly fr [sic] exonerate your Lordship from any reproaches that might, however improbable, be made on the subject. I will also secure the same for myself if your Lordship wishes it, and

take care that no one goes who is not warmly desirous of the step. Do give me this consolation My Lord and we shall have additional zeal & courage to go on in the midst of the many crosses of this miserable life.

We are hoping to see D^r M^c Closkey of Albany to day or tomorrow.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME. [Copied from Letter Book 1 page 151.]

[Letter to the Bishop with Cardinal Barnabo's]

The Convent S^t Leonards -

July 17. [1862]

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

The enclosed came by the 2 o'clock post today & I hasten to enclose it for your Lordship's inspection and advice. It is evident that the decision assumes that I have a power that I do not possess.

I am My Lord Bishop

Your faithful Serv^t in JC

C. C.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 22. [1862?]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I wrote to the Cardinal Pref. thanking His E. & said we should obey with a "good will" the commands of his letter though there would be several particulars to be made clear by your Lordship in order to do things in the best possible manner.

I wish my Lord that you could arrange so as to stop here a few days when you would see for yourself what is necessary for the good of Religion in general & for our good in particular. A few quiet hours would settle matters better than a volume of letters.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Cardinal's letter has not yet reached me.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 22nd [1862]

+

J M J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

D^f Wood has just left us after a most pleasant visit – Our only regret was that your Lordship was not with him. He has left us his cordial consent in writing on condition that your Lordship will give your “ cordial consent “ to our going out with him to the U. States.

Will you my Lord in a few lines say that you do give your “ cordial consent” to their going? and will you send it by return of post that we may write to Liverpool to have the berths taken without delay D^f Wood has taken his passage in the Scotia which is to stop at Southampton on Sunday the 3rd of August.

I will have the certificates of the Sisters who wish to go & give them to your Lordship when you come for the Prizes, so that nothing may be wanting to make you quite satisfied – But please do not delay the answer as the places must be taken in Liverpool at once – and we shall finish the last packing.

If your Lordship would just write on a separate slip of paper to record with D^f Woods certificate that you cordially consent to their going, with D^f Wood's consent, it will do -

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Will the proportion of M^r Wardell's plan of the Church meet your Ldp's wishes & shall
Mr Goldie estimate the cost

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 23rd [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

The letter is quite safe – of course your Lordship will not make use of any copy of the letter from Rome with the party of D^r Duke as we do not recognise them as regards future arrangements. It is addressed to me alone – and not to them. The wishes of your Lordship shall be carried out to the very utmost extent of our power but we can have nothing to do with D^r Duke, nor allow ourselves to be influenced by the spiteful & injurious rumours afloat.

Do not make yourself uneasy about the house of the Duchess, we shall be guided by your Lordship in this as well as in the the Church – And do not be afraid of the money to be raised – we can borrow the dowers as we cannot touch the Trust money to build it. I hope your Lordship is now quite well –

Will you not try to come on Sunday if not on Saturday?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

P.S.

I wrote last night to beg your Lordship to send me your assent & signiture [sic] leaving me free to act with D^r Wood - pray let me have it by return if possible as every day is of consequence to us

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Letter Book 1 Page 152.]

[A P.S. to the letter of July 23rd 1862 which does not appear on the photostat from the Southwark Diocesan Archives.]

[July 23rd 1862]

P.S. I wrote ef [sic] last night to beg Your Lordship to send me your assent and signature leaving me free to act with Dr Wood – pray let me have it by return if possible as every day is of consequence to us.

Copy

S^t George's

July 23. 1862.

Rev^d Mother Superior

Provided the conditions described in my letter about the Philadelphia foundation are fulfilled subject to this one modification that the Sisters will be free to return until the end of 1865 and not later, and that no money is to be sent from England after July 23 1862, *and that if any is sent before that date, I must first consent.

I am willing to pass the Sisters to D^r Wood's jurisdiction from the date of their departure from St Leonards, but I must have certificates from them and from their parents and guardians, that all are quite willing for them to undertake this foundation and to fix themselves in the diocese of Philadelphia.

I do not recollect M^r Wardell's propositions sufficiently well to reply to your last sentence but you will be able to guess that you will want say £2,000 £300, £4000, and it will be best to see how far this can be raised before you set M^r Goldie to work at the specifications and Estimates.

Yours very respectfully

+ Thomas Grant

*? We presume this date means 1865 as it is the same date of this letter and the consecutive sentence would mean nothing if it were meant to be /62

Copied

[' Copied' & note in margin appear to be in C.C.'s hand remainder not]

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 24th[1862]

Philadelphia Property &c.

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop,[Grant]

I send the copies of your letters together with a copy of M^r Wards last letter to me, which I shewed to D^r Wood.

The amount due on the lands of Lady Stafford which was rec^d by D^r Wood was \$ 15,000 and as the Duchess has not rec^d anything on her land she presumes that the same amount on the 1700 acres made over to us on the Lycoming property unconditionally, will give us an equal sum- so that neither D^r Wood nor your Lordship will have any cause of anxiety on the score of property. They will be better provided for than ourselves far, and far – and without enmities or claims upon them like some others.

D^r Wood has three or four places he pointed out to me on the map where he would like to have us sh^{ld} we not wish to remain to Towanda, and indeed he wishes the Sisters to go to Philadelphia first & then to visit Towanda & to know exactly the certainty of their expectations there before deciding upon the spot. The advantage there , is the security of the House & endowment, as you will see my Lord by M^r Wards letter.

The certificates shall be ready for you- but none of those going are under guardians being quite beyond minors.

With many thanks

I am my Lord Bishop

yrs faithfully

C. C.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 25th [1862]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I think it is my turn to cry out with President Lincoln “ one war at a time “ – I was just getting to work on M^r Wardells plan when your Lordship [s] correspondence with M^r Wenham together with M^r Stokes letter came by post.

I will return these by tonights post – and answer there is a man living in the Boys School by M^r Foy's permission not with any reference to ourselves.

I hear this man will not allow anyone to enter into the School and that his intention is apparently to keep possession until the law will give him a right to the ownership of it.

There are various other matters to speak about that one can hardly write, but they may wait till your Lordship's next visit.

Our children are collecting for us and we shall soon have £600.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Copy of a letter written July 25. 1862.

To the Bp. Grant.

My dear Lord

Many thanks for the inclosed letters – We have taken a copy of them. Mr. Stokes alone brought forth A.M.Cave's name, as you say and we had no thought of presenting her. No instructions whatever were given not to enter her name. The girl was not in the school but up in the field with her comps. at the time of the Ex. and we had no intention to present her. Father Rowe will no doubt remember the conversation in the parlour before Mr S. went to the T.School & he will also remember that when Mr S.† [sic] asked if A McCave was not at the school I immediately answered ' Yes she was, but that she was there as a private student. She was never offered to Mr Stokes or presented to him nor was the name Kavanagh ever used to him by me in any way or by any other that I know of in any official way.

Her having her Mother's name privately was quite a private matter not coming under any official authority. No exclusion whatever had been inflicted on A. Mc Cave, and any pupil teacher or private student not under prohibition may be presented any number of times at the Xmas Examinations. There was no reason why she shd not have tried for the 2 Examinations; and if Mr Morell had heard her read she wd no doubt have had her marks without further questions. I don't think that private students are ever obliged to read at the Midsummer Ex; and for what reason sh he have questioned her obligation to read if she could read as others have done at the Xmas Ex when Mr Marshall was here. I have never heard of the private students being in any way obliged to read at Midsummer (but Mr Marshall wd tell this for certain) & I do not think

any private student is under the jurisdiction of the Council Office until her name is sent in officially. As nearly as we can remember private students writing the 1st year papers have only read at Xmas when the candidates always are obliged to read, Nothing can excuse Mr S not having acknowledged that A McCave was not presented to him at the reading Ex. I think I could stand any cross-questioning without confusion or nervousness if you choose my Lord but would it not be ~~bett~~ [sic] well for you to see Ld Granville & to let him know that they have condemned me unjustly & that we will not submit to his judgement? that we shall either have justice or withdraw the school?

I am &c &c &c

C... C...

P.S. I hope Your Lp. understands that I can with the strictest truth maintain that I never intended to present A M^c Cave at the June Ex and I did not do so.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME [Copied from Letter Book 1 Letter 135,
page 158.]

Letter to Dr. Grant sent July 30th [1862]

Offering besides free access to the Church when built the sum of £1,000 for
another Church in the town – (£1000 towards building it)

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 29th [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

You did not give us the chance of thanking you for your kind visit again before your Lordship left, and I only heard when it was too late that you had been in the Chapel – and now I must repeat that we do thank your Lordship very gratefully for the many benefits of your visit,

I send the proposed proportions for the Church and hope your Lordship will let me know as soon as possible that M^r Goldie may draw the plan & get two estimates made for the work – It is always better to have two that there may be a fair competition

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 10th [1862]

+

J M J

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

Would you have any objection to our beginning a subscription for assisting us in raising the money to finish the Church while we have the opportunity of seeking help from the Dowager Queen Christina and several other great people who are here just now?

If your Lordship has no objection we shall do all we can to get their assistance

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

P.S. We should only ask for the " Convent Church " so there w^{ld} be no fear of compromising the Trustees.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

[printed on paper]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^T LEONARDS ON SEA

Aug 16th 1862

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I am afraid we shall lose all the building weather of this year if the plan for the Church remains much longer undecided. And besides this there is an appearance of tardiness on our part in carrying out the wishes of Propaganda which I am sure your Lordship will wish to avoid. When the plan is once decided then we want to secure the Cells for the Professed & a separate Noviciate that every possible advantage may be secured for our dear Novices.

But first of all we must secure the finishing of the Church as ordered, and I am only waiting for your Lordships approbation to write to M^r Goldie Will you decide as soon as you have the answer from D^r Ullathorne, (or from Rome if it is to be decided there on the last proposal?)

I am making use of your Lordship's consent to beg for the Convent Buildings and have several promises. The Duchess has headed the list with £500-

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES, ROME. [Letter Book 1. Page 159]

[Notes only]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 19th [1862]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have just drawn on the fly leaf the only plan I can suggest which is in the least likely to suit your views. I do not think that Col. Towneley or the other Trustees will agree to it, but your Lordship must know better than I whether we have the power to act contrary to their views or not. If this *occupation suits your views I will immediately forward it to Col. Towneley. – The Church is spoiled in its appearance while the plan of the Trinita would be very beautiful and most devotional. That which is allowed in Rome would surely be allowed here. By putting the altars in the centre of the church they would stand back to back with a reredos to separate them, the sacristies would be divided and everything separated [*so] that the services could never interfere but each would have an ugly undevotional church.

The members of the Community think we have not been properly represented in Rome, and that only one side has had their work done. There is [an*] appearance of injustice certainly which might be removed if Col. Towneley himself were to represent his view of the case. I thought of going to Rome myself to show that we really have no power whatever to act not being Trustees. As possessors of the benefit of the property we can be called upon to act privately , and in this way only. We can give up our dowers and we can work but we cannot do an illegal act. Is not this the true view my Lord?

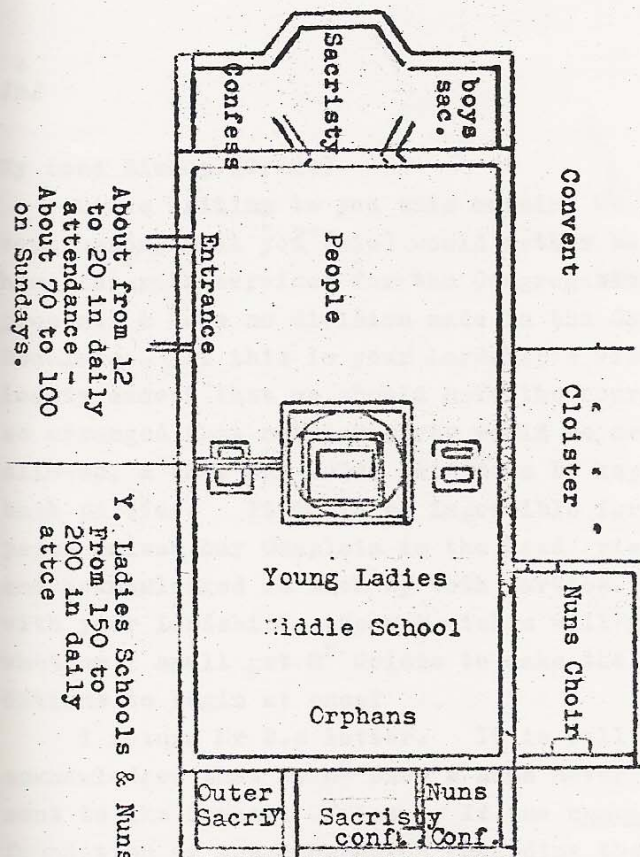
Begging a blessing I am my Lord Bishop

Yrs very faithfully in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

[* words lost through destruction of edges of paper.]

57



R. St. John 17.1.60

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 19th [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Since writing to you this morning we have come to the conclusion, that perhaps you would rather be inclined to have separate services for the Congregation, as we have at present, & have no division made in the Church for the Seculars. If this is your Lordship's wish we see no difficulty except that we should have the hours of the services so arranged that neither party would be cramped in the time allowed, & that the rules laid down be kept strictly by both parties. It would be impossible for us to be at peace unless our Chaplain is the head Priest in Authority, and acknowledged as such by both parties. If this agrees with your Lordships ideas & wishes will you let me know whether I shall get M^r Goldie to make the plan & specifications to begin at once?

I return Mr S.'s letter. It is well that he has acknowledged that A.M^c Cave's name never was written or sent to the Council Office. If the numbers are the foundation of the accusation regarding the name it seems to be a very slippery sandy foundation – I cannot answer for the numbers as I said before – But I was always sure that there had been no mistake in the name.

We are waiting for the Teaching Examination and it is very necessary for the girls to have it over with as little delay as possible otherwise the preparation for the Xⁱmass papers will suffer from the delay, and suffer vey much.

M^r Allies will be absent until the 9th of Sep. but Mrs Allies could forward to him your Lordship's decision announcing at the same time that we shall withdraw the School at Xⁱmass, when our duty to the present students will cease.

The Liverpool students had their teaching Examination over before the holidays, which was a great advantage in leaving them free for the the [sic] greater part of the year.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 26th [1862]

+

J.M.J

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I have just written to Col: Towneley to know what can be done.

2. Twenty eight Students went up for reading and none were rejected. If your Lordship will refer to M^r Allies correspondence with the Council Office you will see that this point was fully explained, & that M^r Stokes made the statement that only 28 were presented to him –

They rejected this fact at the Council Office.

I think My Lord, that all your trouble, & our own, will prove vain - & that they will be more glad to get rid of a Catholic Training S. than to cut off a few of the Protestant ones, as they proposed in the last great meeting.

We must of course wait for the teaching Examination till we can get it, which will most probably be, only when my name is withdrawn & the sooner this is done by my own resignation the better. We shall also be the more free in making our preparations for the working up our future Middle School. Until we have actually withdrawn the School from Gov^t

we can only take a very limited number in the little Middle School, & we cannot make known what we intend to do.

The “ Scotia “ has arrived thank God –

Begging a blessing

Always yr Lordships

faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep.2. 1862

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many thanks for giving F^r Eyre faculties for the retreat which we are endeavouring to profit by, as we ought with gratitude.

I mentioned to your Lordship that I had written to Col: Towneley and I think he will prove that Mr Jones was bound in conscience to give us the Property – At all events I am quite sure that neither he nor we, wish anything but the accomplishment of God's Most Holy Will in this and in all things. Therefore we must patiently see how the truth stands, not according to our memory or to our opinion, but by written facts. In the meanwhile if we ourselves offer to build a Church by the East Side of the Presbytery not as an act of retribution but as a gift to the Diocese would it be accepted at Rome? – if you think it would be accepted will you make the offer ? or if your Lordship doubts the acceptance as a free gift , will you know for certain whether it would be accepted or not. I think there would be no doubt of our being able to build a Church that would be double the size at present required for £1500 or £2000 – Our present chapel cost £600.

There is no doubt that if the Congregation is to increase as we all hope it may, the inconvenience would also increase

in proportion having smoking men & boys in the midst of our grounds as they have been on Sundays quite lately. And as it is more than probable that if the S.C. quite understood the position at present proposed they would not allow a public entrance at all, or at least not give free entrance to loitering men & boys. Will your Lordship consider this matter & will you write to Card: Barnabo? I depend upon your representation my Lord rather than upon our own – If you do not write it will appear that you are doing nothing, & others, more busy with what does not concern them, may again misrepresent us. Moreover my Lord I said in my answer to Rome that I should depend on your guidance to do the utmost in my power to meet their wishes.

When your Lordship was last here I forgot to mention that there is a man living in the Boys School by M^r Foy's permission not with any reference to ourselves. I hear this man will not allow anyone to enter into the School and that his intention is apparently to keep possession until the law will give him a right to the ownership of it.

There are various other matters to speak about that one can hardly write, but they may wait to your Lordship's next visit.

Our children are collecting for us and we shall soon have £600.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

P.S. Can your Lordship tell me anything about a M^r D'Arcy – We have taken his two children into the highest School- His wife was a Miss Burke & he is represented to

us as a relation of Sir Tho: Burke – They are to pay a very small portion of the ordinary pension and seem to be good people.

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pg 065

[Written at bottom of letter in Bishop Grant's hand]

Sep 7. I do not know how to put the condition that you propose, viz. that the new Ch. at the E. side of the Presbytery is to be an act of donation and not of retribution, as this will in one form, ask him to reverse his judgement. Would not the best form be to offer to build a Ch. near the presbytery so as to keep the Convent Ch. always closed & solely for the Community, & thus to give effect to the wish of the H.H. for peace & concord. It would be necessary to add that the present Ch. if finished would hold X, & that the proposed Ch. would hold X & that the Congregation is X, & that you would build the Ch. in X length of time. I am willing to place this offer without the condition before H.H. first ascertaining that Dr U. will report favourably upon it. It would be well that the space of ground allowed should be sufficient for any reasonable enlargement & that Col. T. should be willing to assent. In this way I can propose it to Dr U. & to the S.C. You know he wished it before he made his report to Rome & I think he will try to receive it kindly now. But he may say his work is done & that he will be silent now.

+ T.G.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 9th 1862.

+

J M J

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I read your letter to the Community & we think it better to let things remain as they are. Col: Towneley has gone to Vichy for Lady Carolines health. Shall I send for M^r Goldie to draw the plan for finishing and making the division as proposed by the S.C.? The division need not in any way affect the plan and any future arrangement can be carried out later quite as advantageously as now.

2. Is you Lordship willing that we should use the dowers of the Sisters to finish the Church These are the only funds we have, together with the subscriptions we have & may still obtain.

3rd Will your Lordship give M^r Searle faculties for receiving the Children of Mary who were away when your Lordship came for the prizes. – The Students have their Holidays during the Month of July and they had been waiting some months for their reception into the Sodality.

4th Has your Lordship instructed M^r Allies regarding the Council Office? – We shall be glad to know that it is settled, as applications are being made to us regarding the Xmass Examination & we do not like to give out our withdrawal from Gov^t until they have had a formal notice at the C.O.

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 13th 1862

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We can borrow £3000 from our Dowries, not pledging ourselves to pay interest until Miss Bowles debt is quite paid – This will end in 1870!! or 71!

Many thanks for your Lordship's blessing & for the Children of Mary. M^r Searle will probably return on Monday. As his health wanted renovating we begged he would stop away & let us arrange for ourselves between the two Masses on Sunday, behind the Altar & upstairs, Schools at one & Community at the other.

Our children of the Upper School are beginning to return & all ought to be here on Monday morning to begin their Studies. We hope our numbers will equal those of last year & fill up the vacancies of the 1st Class.

I wrote to M^r Allies last night. The number leaving at Christmas will be eleven 2nd year Students and about eight of the 1st Year – 12 intend to remain, and if the Poor School Committee will continue their grant to us, which I have begged M^r Allies to request them to do, the 12 can remain with us

for their second years Training. Will your Lordship second our request, that this grant should be continued to the School the same as if we had not withdrawn from Gov^t aid?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

[Address printed]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 19th 1862

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I have not yet heard from M^r Allies as your Lordship supposes.

It is not in the least necessary to change our determination to withdraw the School whether the P.S.Committee judges well to continue their grant to us or not. I proposed this to M^r Allies in order to have some means to support such Mistresses as might offer for Training independent of Gov^t & thus to continue the Charity, but not in any way as necessary for ourselves,

3. We have thoroughly considered what is to be done & the past year has kept our minds fully occupied with the subject – We shall put our full strength on the middle School & have the upper class as much as possible to meet the full system of training our own pupil Teachers both private & public in some degree.

4. Yes – it is well that M^r Morell is coming this year, but even if M^r Stokes had acknowledged his error, we could never have given him the chance of bringing forth another accusation.

Church. I will see to your directions.

Many, Many thanks for the telegram.

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

Sep 23rd [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Mr Morell writes to say that he had rec^d orders from the Council Office to defer the Inspection that was to have taken place yesterday – He gives no reason for this, but we may presume that the contents of the Letter from the P.School Committee must be the cause of the change for one purpose or another.

I hope our Mother of Dolours will inspire your Lordship not to oppose our withdrawing from Gov^t or at least our removing the Training Sch^l to London. When I say that it could not go on here while M^r Stokes is in office I speak for the Community & not for myself. But we are quite willing to move it to London either to Harley St if possible or to underlet that house & take another in Southwark if you wish it, in connection with any large Parish School.

Your Lordship will I am sure see how necessary it is to us to be delivered from all immediate responsibility here – At a Branch House there would be the one work alone while at this place the care and responsibility is tenfold.

Our Lady of Dolours must in her own sweet way convince your Lordship that we have not decided this point hastily or with obstinacy of opinion or through wounded feelings, but on a conviction that there is no chance or hope of justice

at this place. And with this conviction it would be impossible to labour much less to succeed in our efforts. Do not allow yourself to be uneasy at any pecuniary loss as far as regards the Community – We can flourish more fully without the aid of Gov^t than with it, when our attention is placed more fully on the Middle School & we are delivered from the annoyance of Gov^t – And on the other hand the London Convent will require no further aid from us if the Grants are transferred to them. So that we shall be gainers rather than losers. This is the work of our dear Mother of Dolours who never fails in her sorrowful pity for us whenever we go to her.

If you approve of all this the point is shall it be in Southwark or Harley St?

If in Harley S^t I presume the Cardinal would not view it simply as regards the taking of pupils but as a fresh work & being connected with Gov^t his consent would be required – In this case the transaction could not be through me in any way under present circumstances – Your Lordship will best know what to advise. We should much prefer letting Harley S^t for the remainder of the lease & taking another in Southwark – there would still remain the one Convent at S^t Anns in the Cardinal's District.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

X111

pg 073

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME

[Copied from Letter Book 1 Letter137,
pages 160-161]

Copy. Letter written to the Bishop . Sepr.23. 1862.

The Convent -

&c &c -

JMJ

My Lord Bishop - [Grant]

Mr. Morell writes to say that he received orders from the Council Office to defer the Inspection that was to have taken place yesterday - He gives no reason for this, but we may presume that the contents of the letter from the P.S. Committee must be the cause of the change for one purpose or another. I hope our Mother of Dolours will inspire Your Lordship not to oppose our withdrawing from Government or at least our removing the Training School to London. When I say that it could not go on here while Mr. Stokes is in office, I speak for the Community & not for myself. But we are quite willing to move it to London either to Harley Street if possible or to underlet that house & take another in Southwark if you wish it in connection with any large parish school. Your Lordship will I am sure see how necessary it is to us to be delivered from all immediate responsibility here – At a Branch House there would be the one work alone, while at this place the care and responsibility is tenfold. Our Lady of Dolours must in her own sweet way convince Your Lordship that we have not decided this point hastily or with obstinacy of opinion, or through wounded feelings but on a conviction that there is no chance or hope of justice at this place. And with this conviction it wd be impossible to labour much less to succeed in our efforts.

Do not allow yourself to be uneasy at any pecuniary loss as far as regards our Community. We can flourish more fully without the aid of Govt than with it when our attention is

Volume X111

-2-

pg 074

placed more fully on the M. School and we are delivered from the annoyance of Govt. And on the other hand the L C [London Con] will require no further aid from us if the Grants are transferred to them. So that we shall be gainers rather than losers. This is the work of our dear M. of Dolours who never fails in her sorrowful pity for us in whenever we go to her. If you approve of all this the point is – shall it be in Southwark or Harley St? If in Harley St I presume the Cardinal wd not view it simply as regards the taking of pupils but as a fresh work & being connected with Govt, his consent wd be required. In this case the transaction cd not be through me in any way under present circumstances. Your L. will best know what to advise –

X We shd much prefer letting the Convent in Harley St and taking another at ~~St~~ ~~An~~ [sic] Southwark. We should then have the one Convent at St Anne's in the Card's district. –

I am &c &c.....

X Latter part written fm memory - seen & approved.

[Cornelia Connelly]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 6th [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

There are five postulants whose time will end towards the completion of this month – They are,

1 Mona Dashwood,

No Dower but a pension of £50 pr an during the Noviciate & £30 for life.

2 Lizzie MacVicar – No pension- Class value £30 pr an

3 Lay Sisters

Jane Tricker

Mary Pearson

Ellen Parkinson

Will your Lordship say what time would suit you?. Mrs Dashwood & family are travelling on the Continent but they are anxious to know the precise day of the Clothing in time to be present at it.

Our Bazaar brought us in about £70 – but we ought to have doubled this sum – I send the enclosed for the Convent Rosary Collection to M^r Forristall as directed.

M^r Goldie has not yet come, but he was in Scotland when

I wrote and if he does come I am quite in a puzzle as to how M^r Jones plan can ever meet what the letter from Rome orders and I think he will be in the same puzzle – The plan places the Sanctuary at the extreme east and in this case how would it be possible to find room for the pupils even if the Choir at the side were to be built for the Sisters?

It seems to me that separate services alone would meet what is really desired and the arrangement thus would not be contrary to the Trust Deed. Then again if the Trustees do not agree to the separate provision for the Seculars who is to answer for the consequences?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Most respectfully

Yr servant in X^t

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 13th [1862]

+

J M J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Either your Lordship must have misunderstood my letter or I have very poorly expressed what I intended – as I have never questioned or doubted on the point of obedience, or of the fulfilment of every justice. The question is simply how it is to be put into practice, & whether it is understood in the true light –

I have had a legal opinion of what can be done to meet the wishes of the Sacred Congregation, and I have no doubt that we shall very soon understand more clearly what we can do, & what we cannot do.

I hope M^r Goldie has called on your Lordship, & you will perhaps give him instruction as to what is to be done.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yrs faithfully in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 19th [1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I think I told your Lordship that Col: Towneley would probably make an appeal or a statement to Rome which would shew the matter in question in its true light. We must wait patiently till there is time for this to be done – otherwise we stand simply in the legal position which is as follows.

“ A trust Deed was executed with the approval and concurrence

“ of the Bishop & Col: Towneley & with the assent, or rather acquiescence

“of the Convent after much consideration & with the best advice.

“That Deed is perfectly final & irrevocable according to the law of England.

“Under its provisions the property & Church are now applicable

“exclusively to the purposes of education, under the management

“of the Convent. The Bishop, Col Towneley and others are the

“legal owners &

“ trustees – The Convent being only managers or Servants

“under their direction – neither the Trustees nor the Convent
“ have any power whatever to alter the provisions of the Deed –
“e.g. they cannot give the Congregation any right to use the Church
“nor enter into any engagement to do so; and if they permit the use
“of the Church by the Congregation it will be liable to be taken away
“from the Congregation any day in the absolute discretion of the
“Court of Chancery and would be most certainly taken away from them
“if they caused the slightest inconvenience to the Convent or the pupils,
“or if there were any disputes or difficulties. It follows that it is quite
“useless to demand any alteration in the Trust Deed, or any departure
“ from its provisions in the case supposed or any other.

So far my Lord for the legal point which does not question our submission to the Holy See – What is to be seen, is, how we shall be able to meet the

Volume X111

(3)

pg 080

obedience required and this is the reason why I so strongly urge separate services for the Congregation, under submission of course to the Holy See, until we can build the Church in the town.

If matters were thus settled we ^{old} put aside a certain sum yearly at interest, for a Church in the town, & let it grow till a Congregation is formed that could sustain it and in the meanwhile there would be more than abundance of room with separate services for the Congregation.

Whatever I say on this subject my Lord it is with all submission & deference to your own wishes & commands, & I hope you will understand that I mean to do so always –

I am My Lord Bishop

yr faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

We have very good news from our Sisters at Towanda – They have begun both Day & night Schools, and also are about to open their Boarding Sch^l The War is far away from their quiet valley.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from a photostat]

[In Bishop Grant's hand :-

Reply to my letter announcing that I did not intend to have any clothing or profess[ion] till the Decree of Rome had been carried out. My letter was Oct 21 1862]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

I took your letter rec^d by the 3 Oct post after having read it twice myself, and read it to Our Lady of Sorrows asking her in her own sweet meekness to listen to it – and the interior answer I got was “ burn the letter & tell the Bishop to forget what he wrote & to come & tell you what more you can do than you have done “ – I have burnt it my Lord & now will you come down & tell me what more I can do than I have done?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

P.S.

Has your Lordship forgotten that you told me to send you the legal opinion that I copied out for you?

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

[Address printed]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^t Leonards on Sea

Dec 21st 1862

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop,[Grant]

Your kind letter brings many holy thoughts which must be most profitable to us at this sweet season, and I hasten to thank your Lordship and to wish you in union with our Community every joyful felicitation, a thousand times.

With regard to the grated door it is quite true that it is closed during the Services. It is opened however for the secular services at the ¼ before the first bell, and not closed till they are over. It is also opened when the Assistant priest comes to hear confessions on his usual days, and not closed till the confessions are ended.

It would indeed be very sad if we prevented any one going to confession – Alas! several have died within the last year without confession, and one poor old man told our Porteress, of whom he was seeking work, that he had been very long without spiritual help but that he had been twice to the Priest to make his Confession but that he had no time to hear him – The following week he was found dead in his bed – R.I.P.

The poor old man desired to confess his sins, and we hope in God's mercy – He used to mend our old shoes.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

your faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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[Bishop Grant]

1. You will see the enclosed from D^r Wood
2. M^r Foy's letter was sent to him –
3. The certificates for the Sisters shall be ready on Monday - & parents.

Yrs My Lord Bishop

very faithfully in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X111

pg 085

ARCHIVES S.C. PROP FIDE

[SRC Anglia Vol.16. f.879-880.]

[Photostat]

[C.C.'s hand.]

Copy of Memoranda sent by Monsignor Grant received 3rd Jan 1863.

(1) New Church to be available to public or to be always limited to the Nuns and Pupils only.

(2) Sufficient for a Church at a valuation for land and building to be fixed by Dr. Ullathorne according to an Architects ' calculation: as it would not be desirable to build a mean Church at St. Leonards'

What sum will be given?

3) What can be done for Priest's residence and support as Mr. Jones contemplated the latter in one of his papers.

(4) Masses for Mr. Jones.

(Copy of answer to the above sent to Monsignor Grant).

The Convent - S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 4th 1863

+

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop

Mr. Stoner has sent me the Memorandum Your Lordship has kindly made as to our matters of which I enclose a copy for reference.

(1) I am sure that I only anticipate your Lordship's own judgement in saying that it would be far better under all circumstances to limit the New Church to the Nuns and

Pupils and to remove the Congregation to a Church on a more convenient site as soon as possible.

(2) Dr. Errington when he was here thought £800 sufficient for a Church suitable to the Congregation. The expense of a site and of a house or apartment for a Priest must now be added. Originally we proposed to give £1000, but with the

Volume X111

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pg 086

assistance of friends (who are anxious for our separation from the Congregation) we confidently expect to be able, and we promise to provide £1500 whenever it is necessary. We trust that this sum would be sufficient to effect what will be required without taking into account public subscriptions which would certainly supply any small deficiency and we could not give more without encroaching on the Nuns Dowries to which I know your Lordship objects as strongly as any one.

(3) We have not forgotten the additional expenses which would fall on the Mission by the present arrangement, and we purpose to give an annual sum of £30 out of whatever income or donations we may receive, and I intended to communicate this additional proof of our anxiety to meet the wishes of the Sacred Congregation in our reply to Cardinal Barnabo. We also propose to have the pleasure of providing a full first supply of Vestments Altar linen and plate for the New Mission and we shall always be glad to promote its interests in every way in our power. In return we hope for the like good offices, and we should expect the Missionary Priest to undertake the Masses mentioned below.

(4) The only expression we know of Mr. Jones' wishes was, that the Benefactors should have the "month's mind", and we should expect that the Priest would accordingly say 25 Masses (annually) for Benefactors and 25 Masses for the Community living and dead. In concluding this letter I must entreat your Lordship's kind and just consideration of the sacrifices which the Convent is prepared to make for the sake of peace and religion. All the benefit the Community derives from the Trust Deed is their lodgment and the opportunity of serving the cause of Religious education. And it may surely be thought that these services in that cause are sufficient in return for shelter. It is quite certain that the property at St Leonards is

settled on Charitable Trusts for education not for the Convent and if in that settlement there was any

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pg 087

error or omission it was on the part of those who prepared it (unintentionally no doubt) and not of the Convent who had nothing to do with the preparation of the Deed. We are however ready cheerfully and willingly to do all we can to atone for what is considered the error of others, and independently of this to promote religion in this locality and we hope we shall have this much credit for our conduct both in the eyes of your Lordship and of the S. Congregation.

Humbly begging your blessing

I am,

My Lord Bishop

yr. faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^t. Leonards on Sea

Jan 4th 1863

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Mr Stoner has sent me the Memorandum your Lordship has kindly made as to our matters, of which I enclose a copy for reference.

(1) I am sure that I only anticipate your Lordships own judgement in saying that it would be far better under all circumstances to limit the New Church " to the Nuns & Pupils", & to remove the Congregation to a Church on a more convenient site as soon as possible.

(2) D^r Errington when he was here thought £800 sufficient for a Church suitable to the Congregation The expense of a site & of a house or apartments for a Priest must now be added - Originally we proposed to give £1000-, but with the assistance of friends (who are anxious for our separation from the Congregation) we confidently expect to be able & we promise to provide £1500 whenever it is necessary. We trust that this sum would be sufficient to effect what will be required without taking into account public subscriptions which would certainly supply any possible small deficiency – and we could not give more without encroaching on the Nuns dowrys to which your Lordship I know objects as strongly as anyone.

(3) We have not forgotten the additional expenses

which would fall on the Mission by the present arrangement & we purpose to give an annual sum of £30 out of whatever income or donations we may receive, and I intended to communicate this additional proof of our anxiety to meet the wishes of the S. Congregation in our reply to Cardinal Barnabo. We also propose to have the pleasure of providing a full first supply of Vestments, altar linen, and plate for the new Mission, and we shall always be glad to promote its interests in every way in our power.

I return we hope for the like good offices, & we should expect the Missionary Priest to undertake the Masses mentioned below.

(4) The only expression we know of Mr Jones wishes was that the Benefactors should have the “ Months’ Mind” & we should expect that the Priest would accordingly say 25 masses for Benefactors & 25 Masses for the Community, living & dead –

In concluding this letter I must entreat your Lordship’s kind & just consideration of the sacrifices which the Convent is prepared to make for the sake of peace & religion – All the benefit the Community derives from the Trust deed is their lodgment & the opportunity of serving the holy cause of Religious education – and it may surely be thought that these services in that cause are sufficient return for shelter. It is quite certain that the property at S^t Leonards is settled on charitable trusts for education, not for the Convent & if in that settlement there was an error or omission it was on the part of those who prepared it (unintentionally no doubt) and not of the Convent who had nothing to do with the preparation of the Deed.

We are however ready, cheerfully & willingly to do all

we can to atone for what is considered the error of others, & independantly [sic] of this to promote religion in this locality, & we hope we shall have this much credit for our conduct in the eyes of your Lordship & of the Sacred Congⁿ

Humbly begging your blessing,

I am, my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X111

pg 091

ARCHIVES S.C. PROP FIDE

[SRC Anglia .Vol.16 f.880 v]
[Photostat]

[C.C.'s hand]

COPY

St. George's Jan 5th 1863

Rev.M.Superior,

I thank you for your speedy reply to Mr. Stoner, and I will do my best to make it under Dr. Ullathorne's guidance, the basis of a good arrangement. I fancy that there will be some addition or modification required, but rest assured that I will work at it with a sincere wish to make all parties quite satisfied with the result. How happy will it make me to be able then to turn time & thought to the future of the Institute, and to the hope of rendering the present promise of success lasting. I wish you would get prayers for these various results as life is passing away and the day is well nigh over.

Blessing all,

Yours very respectfully

(Copied) + Thomas Grant

Copy of answer of thanks -

The Convent S^t Leonards on Sea

+

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop ,

I thank your Lordship very much for your kindness and I am glad to find our proposal was acceptable to you. I will only add that now as always we shall ever

make it our study to please your Lordship and to promote the interest of this Institute and of the Mission in this place which we are satisfied cannot be conflicting.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr Lordship's faithful

serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

[Address printed]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 7th 1863

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I thank your Lordship very much for your kind note & am glad to find that our proposal was acceptable to you.

I will only add that now as always we shall ever make it our study to please your Lordship & to promote the interest of this Institute & of the Mission in this place which we are satisfied cannot be conflicting.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your Lordship's

faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

[Address printed]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 15th 1863

J.M.J

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Mr Stoner informs me that you think I ought to state to your Lordship, for the information of the Sacred Congregation, our readiness to complete the Convent Church at once as well as to provide the £1500 for the Church of the Congregation – I am very happy to do this in the most explicit manner, & altho' to a great extent we are dependent for both purposes on the assistance of our friends, the S.C. may fully rely on the necessary funds being forthcoming when they are required.

Begging your blessing

I am,

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 21st 1863

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

It is a pleasure to us to make the Scapulars & to send them, and I am very glad they are welcomed.

We shall pray that our matters may come to a satisfactory issue as no doubt they will with the blessing of God & confidence in His all ruling Providence.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan-[sic] Feb. 5th [1863]

+

JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

You are aware that the Duchess of Leeds has purchased a house in our neighbourhood for a female orphanage of which she wishes us to take the charge. I have by me some rules proposed for the use of it, but before looking into them I should like to know whether your Lordship wishes us to take the work & whether it will meet your full approbation.

It was on the 13th of Jan. that I wrote to Cardinal Barnabo. I had hoped your Lordship would hear from Rome before the retreat, as some of our Postulants have gone beyond their time and are anxious for their clothing.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful serv^t

in JC .

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from Letter Book 11 p.14]

Letter written by our Mother to Dr. Grant Feby 20. 1863

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J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many thanks for your kind letter which should have been answered sooner had I not expected to hear from the Duchess that the Rules for the Orphanage would be ready to forward to Your Lordship. It appears however that there are some additions to be made by Her Grace which we have not yet seen.

2. The Community there is of course only proposed as a Branch of our Institute similar to all the other off shoots.

Pray accept our thanks for Y Lordships kind messages and for the Pastoral letter which is always dear to us.

The Cheque is for the Orphanage Collection which we have great pleasure in sending. –

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Servt. In J.C.

C ..C..

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

[March 1.1863]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for your kind letter announcing the receipt of the papers at Rome.

Mr Searle tells me that your Lordship will probably be down at Easter to open & bless the New Orphanage – Will it be convenient to your Lordship at the same time to have the Clothing of the Postulants & to receive the Vows of one of our old Novices?

There are six Choir Postulants & three Lay Postulants. These will not quite make up our loss of the Sisters who went to America and those who are destined for Ore.

Begging your blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 20th [1863]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Our good Sr Walburga is very near her end, and she thanks your Lordship for the blessings you so kindly sent her. – She has received all that she can receive, and last night M^r Searle gave her the last blessing. Her dispositions are most humble, & confiding in the infinite mercy of God she hopes for heaven in peace & joy – We are sending many messages to our dear friends the Saints & to our Sisters with the hope that she may not be very long in Purgatory – Will your Lordship please to remember her in the Holy Sacrifice?

M^r Searle gave me your Lordship's message regarding the 9th We hope the Orphanage may be ready by this date and see no reason why it may not be so.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am my Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

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pg 099

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 25th [1863]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The message sent by your Lordship, through Mr Searle, obliges me to trouble you with another letter, in order to beg your Lordship to keep to the day you settled for us – the 9th – and to come again for the opening of the Duchesses Orphanage.

It would be quite impossible to have the clothing & profession on the same day as the opening of the Orphanage, so that perhaps your Lordship would not find so much inconvenience by coming twice instead of stopping two days. S^t M Veronica has already been in retreat five weeks, and the week after Low week would bring the Clothing nearly a month later than we expected.

Will your Lordship then kindly keep to the 9th as you first settled and greatly oblige us by so doing?

Our dear Sister was buried yesterday morning and we had a most consoling funeral service – Many thanks for your Lordships kind remembrance of her soul.
R.I.P.

Ever faithfully

My Lord yr O^{bt} Serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

It is only as the opening of the Orphanage draws near that I see how much there will be to do & to get through on the day itself, for I should otherwise have said at first that we should require two days.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 26th [1863]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Tomorrow I hope to be able to make out the list of Novices with dates who will be ready for their Vows on your Lordship's next visit.

I mentioned to M^r Searle that you had seen the one Novice, now in retreat and she has written to her Father for his consent to the proposed voyage – Will your Lordship send M^r Searle the conditional faculties, that we may be ready for the Visitation of our B.L.? She is only in her 21st year – but her father has never opposed his children in their religious vocation, and he is now a Catholic, so she does not apprehend any difficulty.

I find that the Sisters cannot sail on the 11th as the vessel goes to Boston on that date, and the V.G was to meet them in New York – so we shall have to take the Persia, which sails on the 4th July, otherwise I should be obliged to make a second visit to Preston as I must be here before the prizes.

Begging a blessing

I am My Lord

yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat of the Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 2nd 1863

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I enclose the Certificates your Lordship wishes to have & I have kept a copy of them myself.

If your Lordship would like M^r Searle to examine the Novices before your Lordship's next visit it would be much more satisfactory for you to have the Ceremony the day of the Prizes –

They go into their days of recollection this evening to remain until they make their vows, and it would be a disappointment not to make their vows on the day of the Prizes.

We start this evening on our way to Lp^l for the Persia which sails on Saturday. We had a letter this morning which was of a very different nature to that of the Times of yesterday. There was not one word ab^t the War or any disturbance of any sort.

May I beg your Lordship to remember ou [r] dear Sisters on their journey & to bless them?

On Saturday Evening We expect to be in Blackpool.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 46 [sic] 17th [1863]

+

JM.J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We have long wished to assist ourselves in the support of our household by taking a Farm in our neighbourhood without hitherto being able to find one that would suit us. Added to this we have long felt the want of a retired place to serve as a change from sea air for many of our Sisters who require it, and at last we have settled upon a place that would quite suit both purposes – There is a grazing Farm of 119 acres with a good house containing ten rooms, built only three or four years ago on the Old Palace of Mayfield – We should like if your Lordship will allow us, a few years hence to remove our Noviciate and the older professed there to be free from School work where both old & young could have total retirement and rest.

We have had the best advice regarding the land &c, and have offered the price demanded viz £5250 provided the title is proved good, having had the Consent of our Counsel & that of the Superiors of Harley S^t and Preston who are at this moment with us passing a portion of their holidays.

This investment will not in any way interfere with the offer we made to Propaganda, and the interest we shall with

common care & management receive, will no doubt far exceed the present investment.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in X^t

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 18th [1863]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I have received your letter commanding me to withdraw from the offer to purchase Mayfield Farm, & I beg to say that I have been able to do so.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in Xt.

Cornelia Connelly.

Reply Aug. 19 [In Bishop Grant's hand]

May Our Dear and Immaculate Mother obtain an abundant reward for your obedience.

2. Consider now the sources from which the purchase money comes in order that we may see what the donor or donors expected to be done with it or for it, & find some good & safe & profitable investment into which it can be placed as soon as you hear from Rome about your offer.

3. I had prayed to St Theophila to save you from Mayfield as I was sure it would not answer, and I humbly thank our dear Saint for making it easy for to you [sic] to withdraw from it.

4. Let me know about the points mentioned in parag.2 when you have had time to think & consult. [+ T.G.]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 20th [1863.]

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JMJ

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

There are no donors of property. It was simply a reunion of the individual funds belonging to the disposal of Members of the Community that we proposed to invest to better advantage than in the Stocks, as others do, without being liable to any censure.

One half the sum was to be paid & the remainder to be at 4 p^r c^t interest.

I am

My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 6th [1863]

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JMJ

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for your kind advice of which I shall make the use your Lordship intends.

The Duchess wishes me to send two or three of the Sisters over to Mayfield at once – W^d your Lordship approve of my doing so for the present in view to arrange it for the future purposes? – Begging a blessing,

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 19 [1863]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

You will no doubt remember that S^r Mary Francis' 2 years have quite expired and I am happy to say that she looks forward to her Vows with great joy. Serg^t Bellasis & Kattie were here on Saturday and I told the Serg^t that I would ask your Lordship to come on the Feast of S^t Stanislas the 13th of Nov^r. to receive her Vows. Would this date suit your Lordship?

There are two Postulants for Clothing at the same time,

Miss Margaret Morley

& Miss Sophy Clack

also one lay Postulant.

We have to thank your Lordship for your forethought regarding Mayfield. If you come on the 13th we shall be quite ready for your Lordship to bless the House & the ruins on your return and perhaps you will give leave for Mass to be said occasionally before we are permanently settled there w^h would be a great blessing & one that will be felt in many ways.

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

Oct 25. [1863]

J.M.J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for naming the 18th for your Lordship's visit – The accts shall be quite ready.

We could not spare the Sisters to form a distinct House at Mayfield even if the building would admit a Community – There are five or six rooms in the Old Palace but the new house would not accommodate more than six or eight persons. We only wish to use it at present as a Sanitorium [sic] and and to have leave for occasional Mass there when the chance offers itself – But this will do to discuss when your Lordship comes down.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 29th [1863]

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JMJ

My dear Lord , [Bishop Grant]

There is nothing we should more earnestly pray for than to see a Noviciate with perpetual Adoration established at Mayfield, but this is not possible at present.

I never supposed the Sisters could live at Mayfield without the B. Sacrament. All I proposed was that they should go for a few days at a time for change of air, But, as your Lordship does not approve of it, of course we must renounce it, and prefer your Lordship's wishes.

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

Jan 29th 64

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

As the Duchess has given us Mayfield & with others gives a promised subscription for the restoration we do not wish to lose any time about it. And indeed as M^r Pugin says that a few months delay may be most fatal to the Hall it seems imperative to secure the valuable architecture.

We have had letter of introduction to some of the most influential Families in Paris & Brussels, & therefore with your Lordships permission & blessing we propose sending two Sisters to collect funds there for this object. Would your Lordship kindly give a letter of Sanction to the Abp. of Paris, or to any other who could aid in the work?

I hope your Lordship is not suffering from the bad colds that are so prevalent, and

I am

My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from Original]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

ST LEONARDS ON SEA

March 31st [1864]

Received April 2 [T.G.]

J.M.J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I went to see Dr Collier yesterday regarding the clothing, but his Lordship says that he has neither Mitre nor crosier with him, and that he is going to London next week to meet the Bishop who is named for the Mauritius.

If it is inconvenient to your Lordship to come sh^d you like to delegate F^r Emiliani to perform the Ceremony? Monday is the feast of our Lady and the postulants have been praying for their clothing to be on that day.

The names are

Maria Hagan	C 1	£30
Theresa Chadaway	id	id
Jane Jones	id	id
Emma Loughran	-	£25
Mary A Bowler	-	id
Janet Moore	-	id
Annie Flanagan	Lay Sister	

If your Lordship approves will you let us hear by tomorrow post? They made their retreat during Passion week but still would like to prepare again the day before.

Mr Searle writes that he will travel with D^r Manning & they are to start on the Friday of Low Week.

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Begging your Lordships blessing

I am

My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

Approval, saving the necessity of re-examining these sums before Profession as under the new Code, I do not see how they will come and if they do not come, Profession will be impossible. T.Grant.

I therefore with this reservation allow F^r Emiliani to clothe them.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 10th [1864]

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JMJ

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

The Middle School has returned to the same state in which it was when the Trust Deed was made & in which it remained until we sought Gov^t aid. It is no longer a public School in any respect nor do we wish it ever to become one again. The School is conducted on the same methods as all our other Schools of the same character. Those who wish to become private governesses are prepared for their vocation by their own studies & those who wish to be School Mistresses have the same course of School Management & Schools methods as our former Queens Scholars. The Trust Deed requires nothing more than the sort of school which existed when the Deed was made, which was about four years before we established any connection with Government. I hope this will be satisfactory to your Lordship.

2. I send your Lordship the enclosed Statistics which will probably meet all that you desire regarding numbers.

3. The Finances of our houses stand in a very satisfactory and reliable ground as far as any thing human is reliable.

The resources are –

1st The Boarding Schools

2. The Poor Schools

3 Individual assistance from pensions &c.

The latter are especially applicable to the Noviciate of

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those whose family or friends are without the means to pay for the Noviceship of their children. There is no actual endowment to any of our houses, though there will be rents due to this Convent in a little time from the ground rents proposed on the lots now being let. All other funds belong to the disposal of the individual Sisters of our Institute, and they cannot be appropriated or invested without the consent of the Individuals who could reclaim them.

4. The American Houses have no need of our care in pecuniary matters. Their excellent Bishop D^r Wood & his Lordships V. General take every interest in our Communities, & give them full exercise for their ability in School matters. I hear both from D^r Wood & his Vic. General that they are much pleased, and most anxious to have double the number if I could send them. They particularly wish to establish a Noviciate near Philadelphia as soon as possible. They have property there to fall back upon should they ~~they~~ [sic] ever be in want which is not probable humanly speaking.

I will take a copy of your letter, which I enclose, in case your Lordship wishes me to keep it.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am My Lord yr faithful serv^t in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 18th 1864

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

There is no mention whatever of a Training Sch^l in the Trust Deed which only provides for “ the Education of Females of the Roman Catholic Religion either of the “higher or middle classes of Society who may be able to pay wholly or partly for the “benefit of such Education or of the poorer classes of Society who may be unable to “make any payment of the same and in particular for educating such persons “respectively as School Mistresses, Teachers, or Governesses of a superior or “inferior kind such Education to be conducted by & under the direction and care of “the Religious Community called “The Order of the Holy Child Jesus”

If your Lordship has any doubt on the subject I am quite sure that either Col: Towneley or Mr Stonor will make the point clear to you.

Regarding the Mayfield works there is no cause for alarm I am quite free to stop them at any moment. The Duchess is most anxious that the portion contracted for sh^{ld} be done without delay.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I am My dear Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on SeaMay 23rd 1864

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

In reply to your Lordship's letter of the 21st I shall have to ask whether you will consider the annual rents and proceeds of investments, together with the School funds, and the Salaries of Poor Sch^l Mistresses as a sufficient security for the £30 pr:an: for each Sister for her life? If this is what your Lordship wishes we can more than square our £30 pr:an: each, and invest our tenth for the aged and infirm. If not we should be obliged to hire secular Mistresses to assist in carrying on the work here – or, we should be obliged to give up our Poor Schools in London & Preston to supply the places of the Novices who are teaching here.

I should really not think it just my Lord, to ask either your Lordship or any other Ecclesiastical Superior to guarantee the support of religious under Simple Vows! The religious Superiors are themselves bound to take the necessary measures to secure the support of the Community and they have no right to ask for the services of Sisters whose support they are unable to meet. It seems to me My Lord, that an educational order ought to meet its own expenses on the ordinary principle of justice. We have hitherto more than done so, solely by our own labours, and your Lordship will

also remember that we have paid the unfortunate debt of another who had no claim upon us either legal or just.

To return to secular Mistresses we have already two, a Parisian & a German – to the former we pay £32 pr:an: - to the latter £20 pr:an: having their maintenance besides the salary to provide, and putting aside the extra expense we should suffer very much in the loss of the religious spirit among the children if we are deprived of a sufficient number of religious sisters.

It strikes me that perhaps your Lordship refers to the Noviciate at Mayfield in your anxiety for the support of the Sisters? If so I hope you will remember that we always hold ourselves bound to know that the pensions rents or income will meet their support before we present them for clothing. I have always acted upon this principle, as your Lordship knows, and as the annual state of our finances have proved when your Lordship has made the visitation.

In regard to a little matter at present pending I shall be glad to know from your Lordship how I am to act. One of our former Students, Fanny Hall, who spoke to your Lordship regarding her Vocation has written to know whether I will receive her as a Postulant. Your letter came just as I was ab^t to answer affirmatively. I therefore deferred giving any reply, until I should know your Lordships wishes. Of course she will remain in doubt and anxiety until she gets an answer, which still must depend upon your Lordships present wishes.

I am glad to be able to say that S^r Theresa is improving and that all are pretty well.

I am, begging yr blessing,

My Lord Bishop

Yrs very faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

May 31st 1864

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JMJ

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

The cheque for £2 is safe & I beg to return thanks for it.

I am sorry your Lordship still sees any cause for anxiety regarding the provision for our numbers. With regard to the American houses your Lordship is no doubt aware that they have their own Noviciate and the especial care of their Bishop & his Vicar General, and claim no assistance from England.

There are three Bishops here in question – Your Lordship, The Cardinal & D^r Goss – My letter has fully explained to your Lordship that the houses in each Diocese are amply supported while they are by no means adequately provided with Sisters – And, whilst it would be out of harmony with our Institute to demand the inspection of individual Bishops, does your Lordship really think that either the Cardinal or D^r Goss would accept this additional labour, or incur any responsibility? It seems to me that we should get no thanks for our pains.

Whatever your Lordship wishes to have explained in regard to the statistics I shall be most happy to take any personal trouble to explain & to make perfectly clear.

Begging your Lordships blessing I am My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

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S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from Original]

The Convent

44 Upper Harley St

June 12th 1864

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We arrived here last evening on our way to the North – Will your Lordship have the kindness to let me know whether it will be quite convenient to see us to morrow?

Should your Lordship not be able to see us, may I ask whether it will be agreeable to you to give faculties to one of the Jesuit Fathers at Tunbridge Wells to hear the confessions of the Sisters at Mayfield? They have consented to send one of their Fathers over to say Holy Mass on Saturdays and Sundays for the present with your Lordships leave.

I am

My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Corpus Christi [1864]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

If you knew Miss Harcourt you would not feel so much trouble on account of her insane conduct. Perhaps she is much safer in being released from her Vows than she was in not living up to them and no one could easily foresee her strange act in wh she proved herself very little more responsible than an idiot.

She has been induced to purchase an annuity with her dower of of [sic] £500 which will save her from want, and under the kind care of Canon Morris I trust she may also be induced to take some employment in a French Convent if any can be found willing to take her. She has not a friend in the world out of the Community.

^{2ndly} The Rule provides my Lord for dispensation of the Vows under” very grave reasons” and only for the sane. Surely the individual could never be constituted the judge in her own cause!

If the Order were confirmed by the Holy See the fugitives w^{ld} no doubt incur excommunication, at present they are no less apostates in will & in spirit – that is as far as a person committing such an act may possibly be sane.

^{3rdly} Not one fourth of our numbers are maintained on their own pensions or Dowers, but it is not likely that we shall ever have even one tenth out of the Schools at once – We have hitherto not had numbers sufficient for the work. They ask for more in Preston Blackpool and in London while we are in want ourselves and are

obliged to use Novices more than we should wish. If your Lordship will cast a glance over the Statistics you will see that the extent of work done far exceeds a just proportion to the numbers

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pg 122

of religious ~~required~~ [sic] employed. In fact the work to be done ought to support 200 Sisters rather than 100 –

The Vicar General writes from America to beg that I will send six more Sisters, while we have not enough for our own work!

The Novices are hoping soon to make their vows when your Lordship comes for the prizes or sooner if possible while the Postulants are most eager to be clothed - We shall pray very much that your Lordship may not disappoint them in their hopes. They must trust in this blessed Octave that our dear Lord may arrange all for them as He wills and now I must only beg your Lordship's blessing while I remain always my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat of the Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Aug 31st 1864.

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J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I beg to thank you very gratefully in my own name & in that of the Community for your letter & enclosure of the 27th

The approval of the Holy See for our Rules & Constitutions & their final settlement after the experience we have had, is naturally a matter much desired by all, and I rejoice to think that in your Lordship's judgement the time is approaching humbly to solicit it.

I shall request the Superiors of our houses & all our Sisters to add the "Veni Creator Spiritus" versicle & Collect to their daily Exercises & to make one Communion each week between this & Xmas for the intention mentioned by your Lordship – and I shall not fail myself with the assistance of the most experienced sisters to give my best attention to the subject, especially on those points your Lordship thinks most in need of explanation. I feel sure it will not be a difficult task at once to simplify grave & solid objections & to secure those fundamental principles which make our Institute what it is & give us our spirit of life.

I enclose the names your Lordship desires, but as we enter upon our retreat on the 5th perhaps your Lordship will

will [sic] kindly name the end of the retreat for the Vows & Clothing. Begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat of the Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 5th [1864]

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J M J

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

We purpose starting tomorrow to see the Sisters on the Steamer to America They are to sail in the Scotia which goes on Saturday the 8th -I enclose their certificates of which I keep a copy for ourselves as usual.

Should your Lordship be near Harley St after 2 OCI – tomorrow would you mind stopping there to give the Sisters your blessing? We should all be very thankful for them to have it, and to shew your Lordship the picture of their new home, at the same time.

I also wish very much to see your Lordship myself: either now or on our return.

Poor S^r Theresa is decide [d] ly worse & D^r Hale says the left lung is diseased – I have promised her if possible to return for the 15th, S^t Theresa's Feast.

I am my Lord Bishop

Very faithfully & respectfully

Yr servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov. 11th 1864

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Many very grateful thanks for the precious little sermon directed to me in your hand writing. I shall try, my Lord, to profit by it.

There is a good work now for your Lordship's leave to do – It is this – We want to open the old boys School for the mixed school of little boys & girls and to keep the present girls day Sch^l for a higher class whom we frequently refuse. We had the playground of the former enclosed some months ago, and have only waited to know whether we might put up a class room at the side which would cost ab^t £50, and at the same time screen the back offices from the road to which access would be given by opening a door at the side of the class room. May it be done?

I bear in mind your Lordship's wishes regarding the Rule but fear it is much heavier work than mere marginal alterations – A very little movement in the wheels of a watch makes it useless and worthless, and just so it is with religious constitutions, but I have begun the duty at least both in communicating the matter as your Lordship wished, and in praying over it and also in considering how far the various items are to be changed or replaced.

Our Sisters supposed to be dying are reviving – but poor S^r Claver at Harley S^t is much worse.

Many thanks for your Lordships blessing to all, and I remain

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in X^t.

Cornelia Connelly.