

Volume XV

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 7th 1869

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

It is most satisfactory to us that Lady Cath: Petre has written to your Lordship to make known her dissatisfaction & to define the charges expressive of her annoyance.

In reply I must first state that we have had at S^t Leonards (Convent) but one case of Scarlet fever, or Scarletina, and this one child remained here being put into the Infirmary quite apart from the other children at the top of the westend of the building – This case occurred after Beatrice Petre began to look ill and ab^t the time of her removal. But as soon as symptoms of sickening for something (?) began to appear amongst the younger children we removed them to Mayfield to avoid the possibility of an epidemic here (as far as human care is worth) and when the incipient stage of the disease, whatever it might prove, w^{ld} admit of removal without danger . I sent two Sisters to attend on the children and another to wait on these two & to relieve them from fatigue if required. The Villa at Mayfield offered every advantage on the part of health & attention, and is evidently the best place for them. The children are thriving admirably and even with renewed health – and I think these results will prove that the promptness with wh

I acted was instigated by a right judgement and the blessing of my good God. My first anxiety was for d^r little Bee – doubly increased by the knowledge of the sad bereavement of her poor parents with whom I could & did sympathise intensely – Happily we have thus avoided an epidemic – The prompt measures and sanative remedies used have no doubt been the real secret of the state of health now renewed at Mayfield- and also of the children here who are perfectly well - & without any signs or danger of contagion. I think Lady Catherine & M^r Petre ought to be thankful to our good God for all the care & watchfulness bestowed upon all the children as well as upon d^r Bee, Seeing that the danger has been averted by the providence of God! The disease may be brought into any family at any moment, through Grocers Butchers, Bakers or Doctors, but we are in the hands of God and can but do our best trusting in Him –

I have been too anxious for the health of all to leave anything undone – I enclose you a printed form of the precautions we took from the Illustrated news and printed them ourselves in our little Printing Press, which I shall try to shew your Lordship when you next give us the pleasure of a visit. But I have not yet answered the charges – w^h perhaps I had better write on a separate paper.

I must not forget to add that the parents of four new children, all of different families, who came to the Convent have been informed of the state of health of the children sent to Mayf^d & of the one case here, and knowing the

precautions we have used they have left their children with us feeling perfectly satisfied that they are as safe here as they would be any where throughout the country tho' I said [sic] told them I would not take any responsibility in influencing them – They simply know the facts & judge for themselves.

I am sorry to give your Lordship the trouble of this long letter but still I hope the good news of our being free from any disease will make up for the many words.

Cecie Bellasis is gradually gaining strength.

I remain my dear Lord

Y^r faithful & ob^t Servant

in J.C. Cornelia Connelly

[Feb. 7. 1869]

Answer to Lady Cath. Petres

Charges

Charges

1. No epidemic of Scarlet Fever made its appearance at S^t Leonards – Therefore we had nothing to conceal and nothing to announce But as it was spreading over the Country we were on the alert to avoid the possibility of having it in the Sch^l and on the first signs of the children sickening they were sent to Mayfield with every precaution for their safety &c.

2nd Charge.

There was not the slightest risk in sending Beatrice well rolled up in a woollen shawl with two prs of stockings to keep her feet warm, two flannel petticoats on, & her strong boots on. She ran down the cloister laughing – She and her companions had a very merry journey to Mayfield The Medical man had seen Beatrice the day before and had not prescribed anything for her, and we did not even wait to consult him before removing her. She went in a close[d] carriage to the train, & from it to Mayfield in the same guarded way.

3rd Charge

I could not tell Lady Cath: of the attack before it occurred and her letter to S^r Aloysia did not accelerate the information as she was on the point of writing when Lady Catherines letter arrived.

4th Charge or demand -Whether Bee's letters were suppressed.

One letter was returned to Bee that she might correct the sarcastic expressions she had made in regard to some secular persons as the act required reparation, & I presume she wrote again as this occurred in Xmas week – but no letters were suppressed for any other reason than this & for the one demanding £2 for needle work w^h the Sister knew her Mother would object to.

The letter written by her Father when he was with Rodolph was immediately burnt as we were afraid of introducing the contagion into the Sch^l. Also, the Photograph of her little brother was not given to her but immediately put away wrapped up in Camphor.

No one intended any thing beyond the ordinary precaution in these and we should do the same by any child under our care.

We think Lady Catherine ought to be very grateful for all the maternal care shewn to d^r Beatrice and very grateful to our blessed Lord that she has been kept out of much greater danger at home, where her poor Father wished to have her during the holidays had we not warned him of the danger.

Cornelia Connelly

Sup.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book 11. Letter 109, p.121]

Second Letter.

(dated) Feby 13th 1869

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J.M.J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

My former letters together with my answers to L^y C's [Lady C. Petre] charges I think fully shew the truth of both these letters. The Dr saw B on Monday the 25. She went to M on Tuesday the 26 & Sr A wrote to L^y C on W the 27 It wd have been better had she written on Monday, but no doubt she thought it wd uselessly annoy & fret L^y C as nothing serious was the matter with the child & very likely I thought so too, but I am not quite certain of what did pass through my mind about it. Thank God all the children are perfectly well now & the better for this little attack. Perhaps L^y C has forgotten the contents of our medical man's letter in answer to the one she wrote to him.

2ndly I did not send the child into a nest of infection! On the contrary her chances were better at M, than either at her home or here. And moreover I gave strict orders that the children were not to come in contact with the invalids, until the disease had fully developed itself. The parents of the other sick children have written to thank us for the prompt care their children have received & are grateful to God for the blessed results. I hope my dr Lord that this beautiful weather may enable you to take plenty of fresh air to strengthen & ~~re~~ [sic] renew yr health. I am so very sorry that you are given the trouble of these letters, & I am yr faithful Servt in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I am afraid that I shall only fret myself & get into a puzzle of uncertainty, & annoy your Lordship in your present too many sufferings, if I go on thinking or writing a^{bt} the Rule &c, w^h really ought not to fall upon a woman in any responsible sence, even before revision.

Would it not be better, and a great relief, if I were to go to Rome with a letter to Cardinal Barnabo expressive of your Lordship's wishes in all matters that you think necessary & desirable? The Rules & Constitutions from the beginning are none of our own as your Lordship well knows but simply compiled from others, and even this part very ill done as far as it is done at all, but the substance is that of The Saints & therefore to be loved –

I am sorry even to tease your Lordship with this letter , but I am not in any hurry for an answer, but your Lordship said the Rule must be approved. I only [sic] say what seems to me the best way of disposing of a responsibility as far as we are concerned submissive to your Lordship's wishes, in which I shall see God's holy Will. We want to arrange to keep the 11th of April in the grandest possible manner, and at the same time full of the most tender gratitude that we can prove to the d^r Holy Father! Ah! what a joy to look forward to the great day when we shall all know each other in truth and purgatory will end!. When we shall rejoice even in the knowledge of sins that have been forgiven! This in God's mercy, am I right?

We have some very pretty legends My Lord that I want our children to have, but they would require revision to secure their soundness in doctrine- Might I ask M^r Donnelly or Canon Bamber to correct theme & then have them

printed, or rather published for our Schools?

I remain My d^r Lord

Your faithful ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 8th 1869.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

March 15th /69

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J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

You told me to remind your Lordship of the Extraordinary for Lent – I now do so - Will you send F^r Williams, and will you at the same time give him faculties till the end of May, for any of the Sisters or children who are in need? He comes over to see the Duchess from time to time and there are some of the Sisters who have always found more or less difficulty in going to M^r Donnelly, and particularly just at this time.

If any Jesuit is asked any thing regarding our Rule they only answer “ put yourself totally in the hands of the Bishop “ “ and, rely upon him and upon his acting conscientiously towards you in the approbation of your Rule – The only item that I have even had an answer upon was to cast out the article upon manifestation of conscience – I have done so in practice by your Lordship's order long since and from the beginning it was quite understood that speaking of sins is excluded.

The notes made by Canon Morris, as the only essentials to be looked to in the Rule are nearly all finished & the whole being put into Italian & as far as they are done they embrace all that the S. Cong: requires to be amended. The whole article on Conscience is struck out.

I hope your Lordship is not suffering from this cold weather and that you take a dose of bed w^h has often proved to be the best remedy, and not an indulgence to sloth!

I remain

My dear Lord

Your faithful servⁿ

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on SeaApril 12th [1869]

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JMJ Private & Confidential

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

We are much grieved to hear of your prolonged illness. – I have deferred our proposed visit to the North, and must do by letter with your Lordship what I intended in going to see you.

My Lord I wish to go to Rome immediately, without further delay. Will you give me a letter expressive of your approval of my going & of your wish that the Rule should be examined and pronounced upon in Rome – Every word of it is now translated into Italian – Will you then say the best you can for us my Lord, according to our lowliness, and all that may help us out of this state of anxiety – Taking away from us the responsibility either of ruin or approval of the work, before the coming Council? Perhaps it would please the Holy Father if your Lordship were to speak kindly of the two churches here, & the one at Mayfield, & of the two Orphanages in connection with us or rather through us or at least it w^{ld} be something ~~to put in~~ [sic] to help in coming to some favourable conclusion that the hand of God is on the work, and that it is not a human fancy merely, to be cast off after a labour of twenty three years, and long suffering, and many conversions directly & indirectly let alone the thousands of poor. Surely it seems impossible that any other spirit than that of our Lord could bring & keep together souls practising not only His Commands but trying also to follow His Counsels? My Lord pray give me your letter, & bless our journey, and do not put me off. I have said the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary for nearly a year daily for the intention of the conclusion now arrived at.

I am my Lord your faithful ser^{vt} in JC.

C [ornelia C [onnelly]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

April 15th [1869]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I am so very sorry to have given you an extra line to write when you are forbidden.

I will try to do my best tho' I feel ashamed to ask a recommendation from any but your Lordship.

Tomorrow we go to Mayfield & on Monday to London D.V. and in the meanwhile I will tell the Sisters to have a statement of numbers in the Schools & Com^{ty} to present to the Bishops. I have written to America to this effect.

If possible I should like to be in Rome in May under the especial blessings of our Lady's Month.

Do try to get well my d^r Lord & do not trouble ab^t us. I shall be very obedient please God, & quiet, only wishing His Most Holy Will.

I remain

Ever my d^r Lord

Yr faithfully grateful ser^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

April 19. 1869

[Bishop Grant's hand]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

It would indeed give us most heartfelt satisfaction to go to see your Lordship today but I must not ask it or think of it a second time – Ah! My dear Lord if we could take your sufferings for you how sincerely do we offer ourselves ready for any exchange our Lord would be pleased to take. Will your Lordship ask our Lord to accept our prayer and to take three of us who want to get to heaven & to leave you a long life of health to labour for His Glory?

We have just seen the dear Archbishop who immediately said he would give us letters with all his heart, and that he would see your Lordship today and consult with you first, regarding Rome.

Tomorrow we go to Blackpool & then to Preston – and a little later we shall go to D^r Goss & then return to London. I go with a heavy heart at the thought of your Lordship's illness and beg of our dear Mother to be always with you in her own sweet way –

I am ever My dear Lord

Your most affectionate

& respectful Child

in JC

C.C.

The Convent

S^t Ann's, 58 Clarence Gardens

London.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat]

St Anns

58 Clarence Gardens [London M.W.L.]

May 4th [1869]

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J M J

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

We must resign ourselves to the D^{rs} orders very sorrowfully but your Lordship does not say that you have taken S^t Walburgas Oil ! Do take it –

I enclose the numbers, wh I brought with me here, as the probability was that they w^{ld} be required –

Yes My D^r Lord I have entered all the points Canon Morris named as essential and as far as I understand Rome to require.

Will your Lordship bless our journey when you send the letter? We shall start immediately that we have it.

If possible, we shall go to S^t Walburga's shrine and ask her to obtain a perfect cure from all the present sufferings and a long life for your Lordship, for the love of God, & for His glory.

Ever my Lord & most dear Father

your faithful & affectionate

Child & ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

No 22. 2^o Piano

Via San Niccolo di Tolentino

Rome.

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June 16. 1869

J M J

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

Amidst the cares and labours of our work here our thoughts & prayers turn very constantly to your precious health longing to know how you are bearing the heat of June. We must hope that no news is good news, and that the remembrance that your Lordship intends to come to the approaching Council may be taken as a sort of prediction that returning health may succeed the sufferings of this past year. And we do indeed hope it is so.

Yesterday we had the great happiness of an audience with the Holy Father – We were not received in the usual way, but his Holiness walked into the room, where we were waiting with some other parties at the three corners of the room, and gave a few moments to each, but when his precious Holiness came to us he was tired and said “ Oh let me sit down “ and down he sat on our seat ~~while~~ [sic] putting his hands on his knees as if the going round the room had quite tired him, and then he spoke in his sweet voice & with the benign smile of a Saint asking us all sorts of questions, blessing our rings and our cross and asking about our dear Bishops, one after another – Granting all we asked and blessing all we asked – The Sisters laugh when I tell them I was comparing Him to God the Father and not thinking of God the Son in his suffering life, but to me there was that one impression in the almost superhuman majesty of his noble high Holiness. I could dwell for ever on the remembrance of it! And his Holiness before leaving turned to me and said with his benign smile “ Propaganda is looking over your rule and doing for you “ and when he again blessed all and walked away it was like a vision of a

little bit of heaven gradually disappearing.

And now my Lord you will wonder what we are doing all this time in Rome! Simply we cannot get off. We have worked very hard in doing and redoing certain parts of the rule under the guidance of a Franciscan Father Consultore, who not only has a head large enough to take in all questions and solve all doubts, but a heart of such largeness that we cannot but feel the most perfect confidence in all that he suggests. We thank God with every breath and every beating of our hearts that we came to Rome ourselves to work through every difficulty and to revivify our faith. We have had perfect quiet this month – not a single soul amongst our old worldly friends has found out that we are in Rome, so that our days have been spent in the churches then writing and overlooking various rulebooks, consultations with the Franciscan Father and then a drive out (!) in the Roman cabs to all the magnificent monuments of Roman Faith in the splendid Churches with their precious relics and crypts and paintings bringing the consoling facts of the lives of the Saints before our eyes, with their wondrous miracles as it were living and just taking place. What a blessed spot is Rome ! They know how to thank God in his Saints and to revere His work in them. So nothing is lost and everything recorded in one way or another. We are seeing again every thing that is to be seen, though the crypts are rather cold for those inclined to stiff knees and Rheumatism, but we do not stop long.

Card. Barnabo has been a very dear Father to us. He is as merry and witty as ever saying little things to cut us up, and then to encourage us reminding us so much of your dear Lordship – and your story of the Cooper! My Lord I must not take up any more of your precious time, but only add that we hope to start for England next week. Father Anselmo is away and we have to wait for a final

reading before we make the copy of our Rules for Propaganda. If only he comes back today we shall not be disappointed, as we all work very hard in writing out quickly, and we shall not have to wait for the printing. Good bye my dear Lord we shall hope to have your blessing and prayers to take us home safe. It is very hot here and we are not able to sleep at night from the irritation of the heat spots over hands and faces – like small pox!

Ever your Lordships faithful child

C [ornelia] C [onnelly]

[In Cornelia Connelly's hand]

Copy

“ Let S. Crane * go away – But as she is sure to ask to return, get her to
“express in writing her wish to leave. When she leaves, she is hereby dispensed
“from all her Vows taken in the Institute

+ Thomas Epus [Bishop Grant]

June 28th 1869

*[Sister to Sister Alphonsa (Emma Crane).]

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

St-[sic] 22. 2° Piano Via San Niccolo

di Tolentino Rome

July 5th 1869

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JMJ

My Lord & dear F^r in Xt [Bishop Grant]

You may imagine with what joy we this morning rec^d the consoling news of your Lordship's decidedly improving health! Thank God. a thousand times.

Tomorrow we hope to start on our journey home after our disappointment last week, having been delayed a whole week by F^r Anselmo's absence from Rome on acc^t of his health. Every thing is now ready for the printing of of [sic] Propaganda, and F^r Anselmo says the Rules are now " perfect "

We find an immense change in Rome – so many improvements, and such numbers of restorations by the most saintly Pope! Preparations are being made everywhere for the coming Council, & speculations too by the agents for the lettings of their apartments – Every thing in the way of provisions & general living very much increased in prices – God grant your Lordship's return of health may enable you to come to the Council. S^t Thomas' Church at the English College is slowly advancing & we had the pleasure of seeing your Lordships picture there and the Refectory & place where you used to sit.

In my last letter I ought to have reminded your Lordship that M^r Donnelly's three years ended about a month ago. A change at your convenience w^{ld} be a benefit to the Convent – I need not say more as your Lordship will quite understand that I do not mean either more or less than this.

Our visit to Rome has been a great consolation and help to us, and I trust we shall ever be grateful for the edification we have received in this City of Saints, and that we may try day by day to become like them in true humility, and in unending praise & prayer.

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Begging in Spirit your Lordship's blessing on our returning journey, while wearing next to my heart your few written lines for our departure.

Ever my Lord & d^r Father in X^t

yr grateful & affectionate

Servant & child

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 12th 1869.

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J M J

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t [Grant]

It is a great pleasure to be able to tell your Lordship that we have arrived after a journey of five days from Rome, having stopped on our way a night at Luca, and a day & a night in Paris. The ease of our journey in returning by land was quite delightful – And the enjoyment of the enchanting scenery in crossing Mont Cenis was much more than we had bargained for in the decision to return by land! The voyage from Marseilles to Civitavecchia was quite as much to be dreaded as a journey to America, if not more as the heat was an additional suffering We were three nights & two days on board the steamer, with contrary winds & storms – When your Lordship goes to the Council I do hope you will avoid the sea and have a thorough change of scene by land.

I cannot tell you the intense pleasure we have in knowing that your Lordships health is so much improved! We thank God again & again without ceasing.

I wrote to your Lordship the day before we left Rome and must now only add with every grateful expression from Mth Theresa & the Sisters that

I remain your Lordships

Most grateful & faithful in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent S^t L. on Sea.S^t Swithen. 1869.

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J M J

My Lord & dear Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for your kind letter – It gives me a pang at heart to give your dear Lordship the trouble to read another letter so soon, but I cannot help myself. There are six of our Novices waiting for their vows, who have been accepted by our Chapter, and Cicie Bellasis still waiting for her Clothing – Her health has much improved and she is anxious to be settled.

The Novices for Vows are

Miss Agnes O'Connor	Clothed April 18 th 1866.)	Value of
“ Ellen Carter	Jan 10 th 1867)	Services
“ Jessie Gray	Jan 10 1867)	£30 pr an.

Lay Sisters

Eliz Broadbent.	Jan 10 th 1867
Grace Critchley	in 1867
Eliz Davis –	April 18 th 1866.

Clothing

Cicie Bellasis.

If your Lordship will have the kindness to send F^r Clare as Extraordinary perhaps you w^{ld} like him to examine them – It is now time for the Extraordinary and I

do not ask for F^r Williams as he could not act for Mayfield and we had rather have F^r Clare. Will your Lordship at the same time settle for the Father to give our retreat during the holidays now very near. Who will your Lordship

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send for the prizes? Ah! If only it w^{ld} be possible for you to come down & stop in the sea air for a change, to prepare you for the journey to dear holy Rome, we should indeed pour out our hearts in thanks to God! Might we hope for such a possibility? We would not tease you but only think of you inside the walls of the Presbytery, and put S^t Walburga's Altar in your room & get every thing your Lordship could possibly want – Ah my Lord if you get to heaven before us I am afraid we shall envy you too much, & the more as I have laid in a fresh stock of Faith in the City of Saints, where God is praised from night till morning as well as from the rising to the setting sun, and where the patience humility and charity of the Cardinals, Priests and religious speak as a constant sermon to our hearts. I shall never cease thanking God for all we have seen & heard and for your dear blessing & the letter that took us there! May the sweet Mother of God thank you for us.

Ever my d^r Lord & Father

Yr faithful & ob^t Child

& Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Vows

Clothing

Extraordinary

Retreat

Prizes.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

July 20th 1869.

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I have written as your Lordship requested to the FF.^s at Farm S^t and requested the answer to be sent to you.

Padre Anselmo left yesterday with Canon Doyle to see your Lordship on his way to the Archbishop and he promised to tell you ab^t the Rules &c &c Of course no change may be made until we know that the Rules are approved at Rome by the Cardinals therefore these Sisters will make them [their Vows] as usual for the year with the intention to live & die in the Order.

As the Duchess is so soon to see your Lordship my great hope is that you are really better.

I shall never offer you more Sisters than we need for our work – If we had 60 instead of six we could find work for them thank God.

Begging a blessing

I am ever

Yr faithful & grateful

Servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

[July 29. 1869]

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J M J

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

Our Prizes went off pretty well last evening, but Oh! how much we all felt your Lordship's absence & the cause of it I cannot tell ! – The only comfort is that our hopes are raised at the thought that you are slowly at least, getting better. Our poor prayers are constantly offered for you.

Thanks my Lord for your letter rec^d yesterday. I will read that portion of your letter to M^r Spillane, as soon as he comes, regarding the prohibition of Externs, and it shall be strictly observed by the Sisters in charge.

F^r Clare came yesterday morning for Confessions and I told him that his faculties extended to Mayfield & to the Mark Cross Orphanage as usual – Was I not right in saying so? And am I not to make this conclusion in general? It is unfortunate to act on a doubt & therefore I ask, to be certain another time.

Your Lordship has not named who you delegate for the Clothing of Miss Bellasis or for the Vows of the Six Novices.

It will be more convenient to have the Ceremony here and if Our Lady ad Nives, the 5th of August, would do the Serg^t can make it convenient to come here for the occasion.

Begging a blessing I am my d^r Lord & F^r

Your affectionate serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent S^t Leo-

Thursday.

The Convent

Mayfield

Hurst Green

Aug 26 1869

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JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

The enclosed list is I believe correct though I have not our Registers to count from by me. The sight of your hand writing is cheering, and we all hope your Lordship is gradually growing stronger will soon be restored to perfect health.

Mth Theresa is very busy at S^t Leonards making the most of holiday times in repairs &c &c . We hope the cells may be done before the winter sets in & that we may open with full schools.

We are also trying to arrange for a Winter at Hyères, and already have the promise of four children to go with us. We contemplate (if your Lordship still approves) taking a villa within a few steps of the Church, close to the Serg^{ts} Villa or within a few minutes walk & as soon as we see our way quite clear I will write to your Lordship & give the particulars. If you go to Rome in October will your Lordship stop at S^t Leonards on your way and rest a day or two? It would be a very great favour & blessing to us and we shall beg of our Lord to inspire you to do so.

I am my Lord & d^r Father

Yr faithful servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat]

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JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

We are to begin our retreat without a Father this evening, Our Father in heaven we trust will remember us!

Perhaps some one may drop in at Mount S^t . on Saturday or Sunday & then be sent down. The Sisters from Mark Cross and Mayfield are here so we shall number between 60 & 70 – while other Communities of ten and twelve are preached to, in preference or for some other good reason no doubt. “ The Lord ruleth “ & we must do our best .

Thanks for your Lordship's kind advice. I wrote to the Serg^t & asked him to ask the Cure to get the Bishop's consent I felt too shy myself as I do not know the Cure or the Bishop.

I hope your Lordship is really better & that you may indeed be able to go to Rome, & that you will give me leave to go again (!) before very long.

I remain my Lord & d^r F^r

Yrs faithfully & ob^{tly} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

Sep 2nd 1869.

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JMJ

My Lord & dear Father [Bishop Grant]

I am very sorry but God's sweet will is better than our own always.

Miss Mary M^cCourt is aged 24 –

“ Sarah Melling 19 –

They are to take the place of two Novice Converts who did not succeed and were sent one to a situation & the other to the Poor Clares. They go on the allowance for the Noviciate and have nothing of their own. Signora Fantozzi is 42 years of age She has her own money. It is a mere pittance but she will most likely succeed as she is very child like in simplicity and as devout and active as she is simple.

If your Lordship w^{ld} appoint the 13th Oct. S^t Edw^d Feast we should be glad. It is the day we went to the Convent at Derby 1846. May our sweet Mother sooth [e] your pains and herself offer them to Jesus in remembrance of His own precious wounds, & to day in remembrance of her own dolours we ask for you dear Father & friend and guide! May her pity give you speedy relief – Oh that we could help you and share in your sufferings & make them sweeter than joy to you, my Lord & d^f Father.

Ever yr grateful & sorrowful serv^t

C.C.

Sep 19th

The Convent S^t L. on Sea.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on SeaOct 28th 1869

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JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

The time for your departure is drawing near and I want to know whether we may not hope to see you on your way to Rome? I want also to ask a letter from your Lordship to the Bishop of Fréjus who, we hear by a telegram sent last evening approves of our going to Hyères, and I also want a fresh blessing on our journey – I wear the old one for Rome on our Scapular, and the fresh one will be a little “Jubilee” to one’s heart, if your d^r Lordship will send it. We count on leaving here in ab^t a fortnight with six pupils and three sisters. Mr Ed: Weld has decided upon sending Agnes with us, and there are possibly two others making eight who may go so that we shall have employment in the duties of our vocation, besides prayer.

The Duchess has just returned and she tells me your Lordship is looking so much brighter and stronger, that we are hoping the journey to Rome & the change of climate may quite restore you to health. England cannot spare you for many a long day & if prayers will bring you safe back all will end well for us.

I wrote on the 14th to thank your Lordship for delegating M^r Spillane for the Clothing w^h went off with

consolation in all respects except your Lordship's dear presence, but unfortunately never got my letter finished and now our thanks are most gratefully offered, though rather late.

F^r Clare is giving the children their retreat cutting, up vanity on all sides & making the children attentive by his merry wit – Ah! what a long time has elapsed since our children have been enlivened by the benign merriment of our dear Bishop!-

The poor Duchess does nothing but talk of the personal infallibility of the Pope - It is worse than ever. –

My dear Lord, I so, from the depths of my heart, beg your pardon for all my faults, and thoughtlessnesses, and for any trouble & anxiety I have ever given you! Oh! that I had never, never given your dear Lordship any thing but consolation – You have ever been my most excellent friend and Father and Benefactor – May God himself give you a rich reward, for all your deeds –

Ever my Lord & d^r Father your faithful servant

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume XV

pg 30

SOUHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

St. Leonards on Sea

Nov 3rd [1869]

+

JMJ

My Lord & dear Father [Bishop Grant]

We were most joyful on learning that your Lordship was sufficiently well to perform the ceremony of the marriage of M^r Arnold's daughter and hope most truly that you were not over fatigued.

Many grateful thanks for the remembrance of the Professions & Clothing. Mth Theresa will write to Canon Danell to ask for the 8th to day.

We start tomorrow morning early, four Sisters and five children. We have been disappointed in two or three others who were wavering, but think of next year, which may not come. One has Measles! and cannot come with us till later.

Will your Lordship bless us, and ask the Holy Souls to help us to be very good and devout to the B.S. – Our Lord will be very near to us but no chance of being under the same roof this winter. We shall have an altar towards the B.S. and have our devotions there when not in the Church. Do you think my Lord that I might go to Rome after Easter or would there be still so great a crowd that it would be useless to try? The thought of the Holy Father is like a vision of Heaven to me, and the hope [of] calling forth the remembrance of the Rule would be worth any sacrifice.

Pray send a line blessing us & the children. The post comes before the hour of the train.

My poor heart would thank you a thousand times, My Lord,

for all your kindness & does so without ceasing – Oh that we could pray your health back – And that the cross you wear would cure the bearer of it!

Ever my Lord, with many respectful greetings from Mth Theresa & the Sisters

Yr faithful serv^t in J C.

C.C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME. [Copied from Letter Book 111 Page 5]

[Extract of a letter written by Our Mother to the Bishop – dated May 8. 1870]

[1870]

“ I wrote to H.E.Card. Barnabò, as I was advised, to know about the clause introduced into the Rules after our departure regarding the Sacred Canons which has put us in doubt & embarrassment, having always regarded the Canons as belonging to the old cloistered Orders, & not binding upon any of the lately approved active Orders, but no answer has come, & all the Convents are waiting to know! Our vows are made according to the Constitutions, and we do not see how the Sacred Canons, which we do not understand could be binding upon uncloistered religious Our obedience to the Bishop as our Superior & lawful Prelate is of obligation by the fourth Commandment of God, which is quite understood. Will you not my dear Lord ask the venerated Cardinal in charity to exclude that clause which only causes us trouble and confusion of mind without any good to be hoped for since every Bishop has the full jurisdiction over the house without any need of bringing each poor Sister under the Canons which were made for cloistered and simply contemplative nuns. We should never understand our position or even the force of the Constitutions if we were to be bound to subject ourselves to laws unknown to us.

Now my Lord and most d Father I am sure you will do by us that justice which you have always so sweetly exercised in our

humble regard & it is in your power to make us quite happy & certain in our conscience by taking out the additional passage on 21 (Italian) No 1. It is a

confusion to us (though it may be perfectly clear to Y.L.) and we should never know how we stand if it were left in.

The Convents in every diocese would be in confusion or disunion according to the circumstances of the day or the place, and of what use could it be when the Rule declares how we should have to depend upon the Bishop & to appeal to him ? And this is on the very same page! I am afraid I shall weary your dear Lordship & I must only now beg a blessing for all & a line in return.

Ever my Lord & most dear Father

Your devoted & faithful servant

in J C. Cornelia Connelly

“ Dieu Seul “

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t [Bishop Grant]

I had already heard that Mr Chambers intended to bring forward this case. It is simply this –

A girl of about 15 years of age, whose mother was unable to control her, was recommended to our Convent by the Rev^d J.A. Gross of Hale's Place Canterbury – She came to the Convent last February & by mistake was put into the middle school – Two days after her arrival the mistake was discovered and she was put with the Orphans who are employed several hours of the day at housework – Her mother wished her to be trained for service. This change offended her exceedingly and she quietly walked out of the lower gate without being seen by any one & went to one of the Parsons here who took her immediately under his protection and applied to D^r Melia for her clothes. The girl was sent home and no doubt her mother would give every evidence as to the truth of the case.- D^r Melia gave a statement of facts from the Pulpit a short time after the ridiculous story was got up and we must only be astonished that any honest man or Parson could take up the matter seriously. We heard that the story had been carried with many additional fictions of interest to the schools at Hampstead & elsewhere.

I am always your Lordships o^{bt} c^d

Cornelia Connelly

Your Lordships letter reached me this morning Wednesday, just in time to send this by the post which I have found the safest & the speediest generally.

All Souls

Wednesday [c.1851-1853]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have only two moments before post to say that I hope you may not be alarmed if you hear of a report of three of our children having run away – It is quite true that three girls did go and they were out all night – with good M^r Butt hunting them and walking all the night till he was evidently quite tired. It was the night of the Good Pastor! His search was useless, but the naughty children returned the following day, starving & exhausted – We have kept them in bed ever since as a penance, but they must come out tomorrow. They were from the Orphans, two of the oldest!

I shall not be able to go to London as I intended, and perhaps it may not be quite necessary just yet.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am

My Lord

Yr o^{bt} servant in JC

C. Connelly.

S^t Leonards

April 9th [1854-1858]

Convent

Feb 19th [1855 or 62]

Jesus Mary Joseph.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

The Superior at Earl's Court cannot receive Miss Nihill for more than a week and she does not wish to go there as they charge £3 per week.

It will be a great relief to us to have her go as she is not in a happy state of mind, and begs very hard to stay, which I cannot grant and yet find great pain in refusing. Will your charity devise some plan of release for her & of hope for the future ?

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t

In J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Convent

Feb. 19th

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from a photostat]

[3 Sep. [58-60]]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

The retreat has gone on with much devotion, and is finishing with the Exposition of the B.S.

I thought I told Mr Goldie that we did not contemplate finishing the buildings at present.

Pray give us your paternal blessing & ask our Lord to let us profit by this retreat.

There are several Novices who are anxious to make their Vows, but I must speak to Mr Bamber and then write to your Lordship regarding them.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep. 3rd

[All Souls

St Leonards

March 20th 185?]

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

We shall have a dormitory fit for use in about a month, in which we might accommodate about a dozen of your Orphans if your Lordship should wish us to take them until the buildings at Norwood are ready. I have promised to go to London on Tuesday next – Shall your Lordship be at S^t Georges that morning, or if more convenient Monday evening ?

Begging your blessing

I am my Lord

yr faithful serv^t

In JC.

C.Connelly.

All Souls

S^t Leonards

March 20th

Convent H Child Jesus

Blackpool

July 4th [1857?]

[1855 or 1862]?

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

The enclosed letter followed me to Blackpool and I am at a loss what answer to make.

I hope to be in London next week, perhaps on Wednesday – Will your Lordship have the kindness to direct me regarding the young woman?

I hope your Lordship has not suffered from the intense heat we have had of late. Poor Father Clifford has gone quite mad, and Preston has been in a terrible state of agitation from the whole event. The retreat made under F^r Bampton has just ended, and I am happy to say every body begins again with fresh strength and good resolutions for the future.

I have not seen the F^r Prov: to ask for the Community at S^t Leonards to have the exercises.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord Bishop

Yr faithful servant in JC

C. Connelly.

Convent HCJ

All Souls

S^t Leonards

Sep 17th [1857?]

[1861-2?]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

Many thanks for the Cheque safely rec^d and gratefully accepted, particularly at this moment.

Our dear Sister is rapidly declining perhaps she may be with us only a day or two longer – Your charity my Lord will remember her at this awful moment I am quite sure.

We have been, & are praying very hard to our Lady of Dolours this week that she may deliver us from all our troubles, especially those of Rupert House. Rosary of D. Stabat Mater & Miserere, are our prayers of the Novena, & if your Lordship will give your blessing, & remembrance by a word to our Sorrowful Mother, she will settle matters much better than the lawyers.

Mr Stokes & M^r Marshall came yesterday to examine our Students- I believe they were satisfied tho' they did not do themselves justice in their teaching.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am

very gratefully

My Lord Bishop

Yr ob^t servant in JC.

C.Connelly.

[In C.C.'s hand]

In 1858 the Holy Father graciously sent a rescript granting a yearly Mass to be celebrated forever in honour of St Theophila Martyr and another day [sic] on which a Mass may be celebrated in honour of St Walburga in the chapel of the Community of the Religious of the Holy Child Jesus –

1860 His Holiness graciously signed a rescript giving us His Apostolic Benediction & granting us a Plenary Indulgence once a month with the usual conditions –

The B.S. is kept in 10 Chapels of the H.C. & there are no schools that are not attached to these Convents -

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[COPIED from PHOTOSTAT of ORIGINAL]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

If we renounce the building of the Training Schools for a year or two, and ask Mr Towneley for the £1500 to build the Church could you find some other party to advance the same? For tho' both sides of our former project fell through it may yet not be the Will of God to defer the Church if it only depends upon the Schools. - We are not obliged to take more than we can accomodate in those schools: & the building of the Church will greatly improve the condition of all parties not only by the Church itself but by the rooms that will be vacated when the Church is opened.

I write to save the mornings post as every day is of consequence to us, & we must take care not to lose both Schools & Church by unnecessary delay.

I must say the rest tonight –

I am my Lord

Yr Ob^t servant in JC.

C.C.

All Souls

S^t Leonards

Jan 17th

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

All Souls

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 27th

Jesus Mary Joseph

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I had promised to go to Preston about the 15th but your Lordship's convenience is our law, & I can wait.

I hope you have not forgotten poor Miss Nihill who is anxiously waiting your answer; her position is not the most enviable since there is no question of her being able to remain with us. Please to send her a word.

The Archbishop said he would see your Lordship & come again here, but I do not know when.

Begging your blessing

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Dieu Seul

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t [Bishop Grant]

Did you mean that I might beg for money for the Church, and if so may I do so before making any proposals for a loan? & if you allow me to do so, may I refer any payments to be made to your Lordship? I wrote to M^r Scott Murray but without success – He says no instructions have been left regarding the subject of my letters.

Will it be possible, do you think my dear Lord, to have our girls school out of the dormitory this summer and, if possible, before the examination in July? This is quite a private request and I do not want D^r Melia to know that I have named it again, only if it could be it would be a great relief & a great advantage to us.

May we not hope you will take a little rest & sea air with us before long? I promise you we shall not tease your Lordship about any of these things for I have quite made up my mind to suffer not only personally for the love of God but also in our dear Community - I only wish (just now) that I could really love to suffer & not only imagine it while in prayer.

I hope you are quite well my dear Lord & that we are your dear children always – Begging a blessing

I am very respectfully

Yr Lordships O^{bt} child

C.Connelly

All Souls

Whit Tuesday.

“ Dieu Seul “

My Dear Lord & F^r in X^t [Bishop Grant]

Would it be possible for your Lordship to send F^r Ferrara or one of the English Jesuits to give us our yearly retreat before the end of the vacation?

Two of our London Sisters are with us for the vacations, & they must return on the 22nd of this month – It would be very desirable for them to have the benefit of our retreat.

F^r Collings is giving the exercises at [?] Liverpool house and F^r Cooper just finished at Preston.

May I beg one line just to say whether we may hope to have the retreat preached or whether we should make it ourselves from “ Manrèse “

Begging a blessing

I am always y^r Lordships

O^{bt} Child

C.Connelly

All Souls

June 6th

P.S. Two of our Postulants are ready to be clothed and we are much in want of Novices for the London & Liverpool Schools. I think if I could see your Lordship about them you would not willingly defer their clothing. Miss Peasley is also very anxious to be clothed, making a third, but of this one we are more doubtful. Many many thanks for sending M^r Reardon who has been all kindness to us.

All Souls

Aug 29th

“ Dieu Seul “

My d^r Lord & F^r in Xt

Will the enclosed list do to offer for your consideration?

F^r Bampton has gone to Teignmouth & I am so very sorry – It will be a great pity not to come to even a temporary arrangement with F^r Barrow who has the power to do all that the Provincial could do & he it was who told me that your Lordship's offer ~~he thought~~ [sic] w^{ld} be accepted if made.

I hope your Lordship is quite well – If our poor prayers could obtain an increasing flow of blessings upon your Lordships labours I am sure you will have them in return for this blessed retreat – I shall never be able to tell you half that I should like you to know but I am always yr Lordships

grateful & o^{bt} Child

C.C.

P.S. I forgot to say, if your Lsp has not already heard from M^r Bowyer, there are fresh troubles brewing for us – but we must be stronger than ever after the retreat like steady little soldiers – AMDG.- A blessing please – extra for this last cross -

I open my letter to say that F^r Etheridge (Prov. at Rome) would accept your offer if made –

~~If D^r Melia goes this week~~ [sic] As F^r Bampton cannot come for confessions this week may one of the other London Fathers be sent?

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Oct 11th

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We are overwhelmed with grief knowing the necessities and sorrows of the holy Father, and we pray ardently by & with the wounds of our dear Jesus living in us & by His Immaculate Mother to help his Holiness – but we must do more & I want to know whether there is any subscription on foot that we might join by a raffle as we have no money.

We have been working a point lace Alb, which has ten years fine work on it and worth about £200 or £300, and if your Lordship approves I will get Burns &

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have written to M^r Buckle regarding Mr Birt's daughter by tonights post.

I have told Mr Butt that we shall keep up the fires in the Presbytery as soon as all the windows are in – During bright, windy weather the house would dry more by being opened from 9 o'clock till 2. – We must take care not to let M^r Butt go in too soon- for even with large fires a new house is always cold.

I have asked Mr Butt to burn all the bad books – I think we must assort [?] the whole together – but this can be discussed when your Lordship comes for the profession & clothing.

Thank you my Lord for your paternal hopes & prayers for us - Will you pray for two very naughty children one (Isabella Eyre) in the first school & the other Mary Whitwell (the unfortunate daughter of the Apostate Priest)? They are both thieves, and give us a great deal of anxiety.

In the proposal for the building, or rather raising funds for the Church, one thing may perhaps leave us in some doubt, which might be better avoided – Your Lordship says “ As soon as the Community finds an extension of space necessary the moiety contributed by the Congregation will be paid &c &c – Supposing we might want to pay the moiety – three years hence, when the space might not be precisely necessary, but still that we should prefer having the nave for ourselves and paying for this purpose rather than for the absolute necessity to obtain space, would our payment be accepted – And would this be understood?

Thank you so very much for all the trouble you take with us.

Begging a blessing I am my Lord

Yr humble servant in JC.

C. Connelly

All Souls

S^t Leonards on Sea Nov 28th

All Souls

Wednesday Dec 10th

J.M.J.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I am really sorry to intrude upon your time, but it seems better that you should know exactly where matters stand, and therefore send the enclosed

Begging a blessing,

I am my Lord

your faithful ser^{vt}

In J.C.

C. Connelly.

Sunday Evening.

My Lord Bishop

The proposals of 1853, which depended upon the concurrence of the Bishop of Liverpool & of the Poor School Committee, together with the assurance of a Grant from Government have nothing to do with the purchase of Rupert House in 1854-

We cannot admit any of the facts (some of which are incorrect) as making us liable for Miss Bowles private acts – And I think M^r Eyston knows enough of the former transactions to ensure his acting with strict justice.

I have been suffering intense pain from an abcess in my ear and I am unable to write more fully tonight – If you wish for your own satisfaction that I should refute the statement of Miss Bowles I will do so as soon as my naughty ear has been brought to its duty

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord

Your faithful servant in JC

C. Connelly.

Thursday Evening

44 Upper Harley S^t

W.

JMJ.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

You never before mentioned that you required a months notice before the vows, or had I known this I should have written to your Lordship expressly for the purpose. I am sure it will be a great disappointment to the Sisters who have preparing for the consummation of their wishes during the past six months. – But of course your Lordships Will must be the Will of God to us –

I hope my Lord that you are quite well – and

I am

Yr Lordships faithful

servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

P.S. Perhaps your Lordship would kindly make the months notice & examination the expression of your future will, and allow M^r Bamber to examine the Novices before your visit – Such disappointments are so discouraging after the last six months – and not good. I am so very sorry I did not know it in time.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied fro Photostat of Original]

“ Dieu Seul “

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t [Grant]

I had not the least idea of the loan falling upon your Lordship – I only proposed getting subscriptions added to the loan we should negotiate [sic] ourselves for completing the whole of the buildings –

I think we could do this very readily: ~~by~~ [sic] and even a mortgage seems infinitely preferable to selling any portion of the land which is increasing in value daily The portion of the lot intended for the burial ground I think would hardly bring more than £200 or £300 & I really feel we should act more wisely to buy than to sell –

I am so sorry to have the least view contrary to your Lordships wishes and having said just what we think & feel about it, we quite submit to your Lordship's judgment –

You did not allude to D^r Melia's leaving us, tho' I understood from him that he had told your Lordship that he w^{ld} leave this parish at the end of June – He will return on the 10th July, I suppose to take leave of us. If your Ld^p has no one in view may I propose one that w^{ld} be liked to meet your approbation?

Begging a blessing

I am your Lordships dutiful child

C.Connelly.

All Souls

Friday

The Convent

44 Upper Harley S^t

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop [Grant]

I have to thank you for your kind letter which followed me here, where the retreat is going on admirably. Many thanks for your kind advice, but “ S^t Catherine’s Academy “ is a fable – Nothing has been done without D^r Hearne’s approbation, nor do we intend doing anything new or out of our ordinary work. Some people seem to like to cavil at everything their neighbours do, and we must not be astonished at their doing so.

2. It was I who gave leave for the children who had been ill to go into the empty benches on a week day for the Mass, so I shall come under dismissal and not the poor Sister who only obeyed.

I hope your Lordship is quite well and not too much fatigued after all the kindnesses bestowed during your last visit, and

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr very faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from a photostat]

[Questions to be considered in proposing an arrangement]

[Bishop Grant's hand ?]

Copy of your Lordships Memorandum

- (1) New Church to be available to public or to be always limited to the Nuns & pupils only.
- (2) Sufficient for a Church at a valuation for land & building to be fixed by D^r Ullathorne according to an Architect's calculation; as it would not be desirable to build a mean Church at S^t Leonards What sum will be given?
- (3) What can be done for Priests' residence & support, as Mr Jones contemplated the latter in one of his papers
- (4) Masses for M^r Jones

SPOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat]

[fragment of a letter to Bishop Grant]

any dissensions [sic] is utterly false. I do not think it possible for a Community to be more perfectly united in this vale of sorrow, nor more perfectly happy - & this not only in ourselves but in our branch houses – There may be very imperfect subjects in one or two cases but certainly not in a way to affect the spirit of the Community.

Please do not try to induce Mrs E. Weld to send the children back to us
We were partially warned of her before taking them.

I shall miss this post if I say more.

I am my Lord Bishop

yrs faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

[The commencement of this letter appears to be missing]

I hope this is quite right now, and

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.