

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 9th 1874.

+

JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in X^t

I am sure you cannot know that they are without Sundays Mass at Mayfield all this time, or your Lordship would have sent them some one until the Chaplain arrives! I presume Father Baron could not oblige the Boys to turn out in muddy weather – So the Sisters, during all these beautiful Feasts Epiphany Retreat and Renovation of Vows, have been totally neglected. Some have trudged through the mud for the Mass at the Boy's Orphanage at 6½ , moon light, and the remainder with the children to get carriages to take them to Mark Cross – This is doubly sad as we could have had F^r Frank Jarrett all this time with only a word from your Lordship, and there is no fear of the Jesuits wanting ever to keep a footing in such a desolate place as Mayf^d without a single Catholic family to keep up a mission ! and the poor labourers overstocked with Bible readers and Methodists! The place is only fit for an old priest like Father Jarrett who would not thank me most liked [sic] for thinking of it for him.

Now my dear Lord for the love of God do send someone for Sunday's Mass at least if the Chaplain is not yet ready.

I am my dr Lord

Your faithful servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan 14th 1874

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JMJ

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

I am so very sorry for the appearance of importunity or abruptness in my letter of yesterday, which perhaps was written in a mistaken zeal for the good cause for I really had no thought beyond it!

I did thank you my Lord very gratefully for the offer of the Industrial but I think your Lordship does not remember that an exchange for the Training School was to be with the Convent at Hadham where our lease ends in September., (& thus supply the staff)

I thing I ought to explain that the Archbishop never did decline our services, but the House which His Grace proposed could not be had, and in the meanwhile the Sacré Coeur Nuns came forward and applied to have the Training Sch^l while the Archbishop imagined the correspondence on our part had ceased.

And now that I have explained the matter to your Lordship I shall think no more ab^t it, unless it be to make an act of contrition for having taken up your precious time with these two letters.

I am ever My Lord & d^r Father

Your most grateful ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME [Copied from Letter Book 1V. Letter 82 Page 108]

1874 From Our Mother to the Bishop.

Dated, The Convent St L – on Sea Jan 16 – 1874.

+ J.M.J.

My Lord & dr Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

A thousand thanks for your kind letter & its enclosure which in one of its statements much more than astonishes me! I have letters to prove that the A.B. was anxious to have us to take the Training School & that I was twice called up to London by His Grace on this subject & for this object. Once to visit Harley House & once regarding the House in Dorset St which the Sacre Coeur had purchased. When that house was said to have been sold & when we failed in getting it, the Archbishop imagined our correspondence to have ceased. I certainly never withdrew our acceptance of the offer from the Poor School Committee & I should have thought that Mr Allies ought to have been one of the last persons to act against us considering all circumstances. Why he should do so I do not know unless it is that he fancies we have not the pecuniary means to keep up & maintain the School & on this point he is wonderfully far from the truth! Lord Petre also wished us to have the School, so if he has been induced to change his mind, it can only be through Mr Allies' influence and representations. I write this simply to explain the truth. It would have been preferable for us to have had the Training School in Southwark if practising Schools were to be had. We had the Staff & the means.

But I only wish or care to follow God's will & ever to keep ourselves ready for the manifestations of it in the ordinary course of events.

I shall think no more about it My dear Lord & Father in Xt & I am

Y^r Lordship's grateful

Serv^t

Cornelia Connelly

[The original of this letter is in the Southwark Diocesan Archives]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 12th 1874

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JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t .

I must write to thank your Lordship for your great kindness in sending our old friend F^r Frank Jarrett to our Sisters at Mark Cross. It is one of the greatest consolations we could have just at this time, may our good God return abundantly all you grant to us for the good of our poor souls & for His own work.

The poor Duchess is very good & quiet today, praying constantly and making acts of contrition for her sins. We feel very happy ab^t her now, though she is not sufficiently in her mind to receive Holy Communion.

The Doctor does not say that she cannot recover but we do not think she can possibly last much longer.

I will write again if there is any change and I am always

My dear Lord & Father

yr grateful serv^t

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 23rd 1874.

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JMJ

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

I write a line to say that as we are entering Ember week, and it is a little more than three months since the Extraordinary was here we shall be very thankful if your Lordship will give faculties for this purpose to F^r Frank Jarrett who is now at Mark Cross.

I heard indirectly last week that your Lordship did not like our Sisters going out in the Pony trap, which we have used occasionally during the last two years – if this is correct we shall part with it immediately. – Yes, or no will be sufficient.

I remain

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

Your Lordships Obⁿ Sv^t

Cornelia Connelly.

[Bishop Danell's hand: - Answer

I am pleased at your promised obedience to my strong wish that it should not be used for the future.]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from a photostat]

No. of message 4496

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Office of Origin

Hastings

Handed in at 1.43

From

To

Mrs Connelly

The Bishop of Southwark Cathedral

Convent St. Leonards

Southwark S.E.

The Duchess has just breathed her last at Three o'cl.

[April 8th 1874]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

May 25th 74

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JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in Xt [Bishop Danell]

Many thanks for your reply – I have written to Burgess Hill to know if they can take the poor woman on a small pension if not on Charity. The Medical man recommended Bethlem & advised my writing to the Priests at S^t Georges, otherwise I should have hesitated. He said she could be taken not as a pauper but amongst the more respectable class.

I write also to thank your Lordship for saying positively that you would name the day- Will you say within the Octave of the Assumption as this time will suit all parties if named in time.

I purpose going to the North this week, will your Lordship send me the letter for Eltham that I may take it en route to the North, and there get all the information necessary in order to know the duties of the work. I cannot tell you my Lord how much consolation we have in the thought of undertaking another work of Charity in the Diocese if such be the blessed Will of our good God.

The Scarlatina has not spread thank be to God a thousand times!

I hope your Lordship is quite well & I am ever

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in X^t:

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

Layton Hill

The Convent Blackpool

June 16th /74

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J.M.J.

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

Tomorrow the 17th will be just two months before the Election, & if you could possibly let me have the instructions to be sent to each house, regarding the Local Chapter, I sh^{ld} be very grateful, as they w^{ld} be just in time for the American Mail of this week, and we always choose the Cunard line of Steamers as the shortest & surest –

I was fortunate enough to be here when Canon Fisher came to the Convent, before going to Preston, on Monday – He was very kind, when I saw him after he had seen the Community, and said that he found every thing perfectly [sic] satisfactory in all respects. This was the greatest consolation I could have – and I think he is too good to be one sided wilfully – and quite ready ~~not~~ [sic] to be just to all. He only wants to see what can be done for the best –

The scheming and plotting that has been going on is beyond even what I could have imagined, & I now understand why he wrote to me about not removing the Sisters.

Please my Lord let me have the instructions regarding the Chapter by return if possible, & believe me to be

Your Lordship's faithful

servant in JC.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent Layton Hill

Blackpool

June 19th 74

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JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

It is painful to me to have to inform your Lordship that Florence Colegrave, whom your Lordship saw at S^t Leonards during your Visitation with F^r Bosio, wishes me to write to second her application for a dispensation from her Vows, which terminate in September next – She is determined not to wait till her obligation ceases, and prefers taking the responsibility on herself rather than follow the advice given to her by her Superiors & Directors,

If you do not give her leave to go she will most likely give so much scandal that we shall regret it, or she will run off. Indeed she is at present a source of scandal to the children in the school especially to the English girls, who cannot understand her disobedient insolence – She is first cousin to M^r Manby (Colegrave) the Apostate Priest, and the family temper clings to her. It is to be deplored [sic] that she ever was admitted to Vows even for three years yet very fortunate that they are of no longer duration. Her mother is a protestant and I have heard is as hot tempered as herself. The Extraordinary who was lately at the Convent at Toul, said that she neither feared God or Hell! If your Lordship would simply say that she is free to go you corroborate only that which the XX11 Rule provides for “ If for any grave reasons any one should desire to leave “ &c – added to which we are forced to say that she has proved herself unfit for religious life.

I have had several letters from her requesting to be allowed to go since I left Toul, and if she is not allowed to go I fear there may be serious difficulties with her protestant Mother.

Begging a blessing I am

Ever My Lord & Fth in X^t

Yr faithful Ser^{vt}

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent Layton Hill

Blackpool

June 30th 1874

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JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in X^t

I hasten to express my most grateful thanks for your letter, empowering me to convoke the Chapter, and also for the printed instructions w^h I rec^d by the last post yesterday. I am now writing to the several Convents to fulfil your Lordships expressed wishes, and to forward immediately the printed Instructions.

It will give your Lordship pleasure to know that I have had two interviews with Canon Fisher, & that his reverence came to Preston on Saturday last and put all things on their former footing. Mother Lucy made her act of submission in his presence, and promised to put aside all past grievances, real or supposed, &c &c and all is now at an end in past matters and the Sisters generally made happy by the return to former peace.

It is sad news to hear that F^r Jarrett is on the eve of departure from the Orphanage & we must pray hard that he may remain with us! Our stay here has been prolonged beyond our usual time but the fruit of Canon Fisher's kind interference & D^r Whitty's prudent advice will far more than repay us for the extra time spent here.

We shall all pray earnestly that matters may be settled for the good of all, and I will only call your Lordship's attention to the uniting of Hadham & London into one, while the two communities at S^t Ignatius & S^t Walburgas in the same Town are made separate – At S^t Ignatius's the Sisters with the Superior number five & at S^t Walburgas they number six – Perhaps your Lordship may have left this matter to the Bishop of the Diocese to arrange.

I remain, my Lord & d^r Father,

Your Lordship's ever

Grateful & Ob^t Servant

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Perhaps also I ought to observe that the 25 Sisters in Preston have the chance of four deputies instead of three -

The Convent S^t L. on Sea

July 31st 1874

JMJ

My Lord & dear Father [Bishop Danell]

Had there been sufficient time when your Lordship was here I should have explained more fully the work that required immediate attention & w^h I spoke of some months ago. The roof over the upper class rooms requires to be raised, & we need another floor over it as soon as it can be done. The estimate for this work is three hundred & eighty five pounds - £385. As the time presses for the holidays, and we could not have the work done at any other time, I beg of your Lordship to send us leave to accept the estimate by telegram. They will secure the first floor being ready for the opening of our classes by the middle of September. We shall not use any Capital for the payments, but there is no time for delay in this necessity. We are hoping to see your Lordship on Wednesday please God.

I am ever My d^r Lord

Your faithful ser^{vt}

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Community presses for this work, as a necessity, so the Election can make no difference, though the other building I spoke of must of course be deferred.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

Convent

58 Clarence Gardens

S^t Anne

Regents Park

Sep 29th 1874

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My Lord & d^r Fr̄ in X^t

My this mornings post I have received letters from Mth Gertrude & Mth Alphonsa saying that they had been to get the blessing of the Bishop of Liverpool and to make known their removal, but that his Lordship seemed displeased and said he did not even know the result of the elections nor that of the deliberations regarding the Rule. His Lordship also spoke of his conditions to the Election & said No. 2 forbade any removal – His Lordship asked if the 3rd condition had been fulfilled (one house and one Superior) –

His Lordship finished by ordering them to remain until His leave was given and said he acknowledged no changes at present in His own Diocese.

This matter rests with you my Lord and we were not prepared to find that the Bishop of Liverpool knew nothing of the Elections or of the change of the Rule and Constitutions.

We are here my Lord to assist in the removal from Hadham to London and have been obliged to decline the first lease proposed. Mother Angelica is with me. I had hoped to be absent from S^t Leonards when Mth Gertrude was to return that she might enter upon all her local duties without reference to me, but nothing can be done until your Lordship pleases to treat with the Bishop of Liverpool. We shall probably be detained here till the end of this week & then return to St Leonards.

We settled all at Mayfield last week, as far as possible, regarding the Noviciate – The offices, Division of the

House &c &c ., which can readily be completed by the Carpenter.

I hope something is settled for poor Mother Catherine regarding the Farm & the finances as her health will not bear much worry.

Crosses and upsets prove to us how little Christ-like we are, and how quickly the thermometer of supposed heroism falls to zero when put to the Test!

I think I ought to say to you my Lord that Mth Gertrude has sixty five boarders at Blackpool and that I am not surprised that the Bishop of Liverpool should not consent to a change, & I have no one to supply the amount of teaching required. If you will consent to two of the Assistants living at S^t Leonards for the present three years, & allow Mth Gertrude to remain there we should be relieved from these extreme difficulties. On all sides the work increases , and the health of the Sisters is giving way. If your Lordship will consider this amendment (!) we can propose it to the Council w^h is to meet ab^t the 10th of Oct. I am harassed to death with demands for more Sisters at each house than we can possibly supply – and as it is we are obliged to withdraw a Novice from Blackpool who was sent up to assist them in their great need early in the summer before the General Chapter.

I am very sorry to take up your Lordship ['s] precious time by this long letter, but I am sure your charity will see the necessity of acting in these emergencies.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I remain yr faith^l Servant

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Private

Oct 27th /74

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J M J

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

Thanks for the faculties. It is a great relief to me to know that your Ldp goes down to Liverpool on Thursday. The letters from Preston are most distressing, and I can do nothing for them until I know that the Bishop of Lp^l puts no obstacle to the Elections. I do not believe that his Lordship ever wished to do so, but that he simply waited information from yourself my Lord.

Perhaps I ought to say that as things now stand I think it most important that Mth Gertrude should come here immediately and yield her place to the one Elected, Mth de Britto.

It would be a great help in the present distress if you would only send me a telegram after your interview with the Bishop of Liverpool saying two words – act immediately – and I shall start without delay.

We are all praying for your Lordships intentions and,

I am my Lord & d^r Father

Your faithful servant

in JC

Cornelia Connelly

P.S. Will your Lordship also let me know whether we still have the general leave to receive Postulants or whether you prefer our making a particular application for each one? Two are now waiting Agnes Mosley (Sister to the Rev. W. Mosley Chatham) and Louisa Mouchard – neither have any dower but each will have paid for them £50 for the Noviciate C.C.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 5th 1874.

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J M J

[In another hand

Rosary £5

Acknowledged TC Nov 6]

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

I wrote by the next post, after receiving your kind letter, to the Bishop of Liverpool as your Lordship directed, but I have had no notice whatever from his Lordship in reply. Tomorrow we go to Preston, and I trust we may be some relief to those who do not know what they are to do! There are two Superiors in two of the houses at present to the extreme annoyance of both parties.

We go direct to the Convent, St Walburgas Maudands, Preston, and I shall see Father Whitty & be guided by his advice in the present uncertainty. If your Lordship has any further advice to give me will you kindly write to the the [sic] above address, and I shall be very thankful for it.

I enclose the Rosary collection which ought to have gone earlier, &

I am ever My Lord

Your faithful ser^{vt}

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent Nov, 22nd 74

St Walburgas

Maudlands

Preston.

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J M J

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t

Your letter was forwarded to me here, and I hasten to say that I have not a thought of going contrary to the wishes of the Bishop of Liverpool! I have not made a single move of Superiors or of the Sisters in in [sic] the Schools belonging to Lancashire, but I sent a Sister, who was not in any office or School, to Blackpool to assist in the work there, Mth Gertrude had asked for her when she came up since the chapter, and the Sister herself was ill at ease here, so that all parties were relieved by her going to Blackpool. And again I sent two Novices back to the Noviciate who had been at Blackpool one for her health & the other as a companion since last April, and we could not suppose that these could come under the restrictions of the Bishop of Liverpool.

We are going over to Liverpool to make a second visit to D^r Fisher tomorrow & hope there may ~~soon~~ [sic] be more light as to matters here before long. We have been here since the 6th of November and I think all things could have been made clear & straight had we been free to carry out the elections, but great offence was given by the Secretary of the Chapter having failed to send the list of the Elections to the Bishop of Liverpool.

The present unsettled state of things is very bad for every body.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I am My Lord & d^f Father

Yr faithful servant in JC.

M.Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Jan^y 5th 1875.

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JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

My best thanks for your kind letter & for the consolations your Lordship hopes for under the cross, - The “ Perfect joy “ of the Seraphic Father Francis of A! I wish most sincerely that your Lordship may have consolation elsewhere in proportion to the crosses from the North!

I write most particularly to you my Lord at this moment to express very frankly our total inability to keep that article of the Rule No: 3. Pg 47. regarding the acceptance of the income of those who voluntarily wish to assist our works both Local and General.

We have never received donations from the Capital of Novices, but we have always accepted their voluntary contributions of income, as other approved Orders are free to do, (returning them if claimed) – We only wish my Lord to have the same freedom & privileges for good works as other orders engaged in the active service of the Church, & not to be crippled by useless restrictions upon income – In fact at this moment we are under heavy liabilities, in advance of our income, so that we could not pretend to decline using all that we have accepted annually. What would the Notre Dame Sisters have done had they not received Mrs Petre [’s] income? or the Sacre Coeur, &c and we cannot understand why anyone using her income in works of Charity should, because she is in religion, be forced to increase her Capital by hoarding it up ! I am sure my Lord you only want what is just & right as we also most sincerely do, and I now send your Lordship a sheet of the building expenses at

Mayfield which we completed this year to the amount of £4700 – You will remember my Lord that you sanctioned the raising of

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pg 20

£2500 by a mortgage on the property – The remaining sum of £2200 we have not borrowed but have paid in advance of our income. Besides this large sum we have the Contract for £385 with extras £40 and this brings us to £2625 without touching a farthing of Capital.

I simply make this statement to shew your Lordship that these liabilities were incurred before any restrictions were imposed upon us and that a law or Rule which did not exist at the time they were incurred cannot be binding on our conscience, at least till we have have [sic] paid off our debts incurred by these liabilities.

We also feel deeply that future good would be very gravely retarded if not quite lost by restrictions on an income that would be spent in the world & yet forced to be hoarded up in religion against the will of the owners.-

Begging your Lordships blessing & prayers

I am ever My Lord

Your ob^t ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 19th 1875.

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J M J

My Lord and d^r Father in X^t

The third part of the corrected Rule was safely received yesterday – Thanks. Mother Veronica had translated from the first copy sent, so that it was ready to go to Father Bosio immediately.

The printer in the Town is doing the first part w^h F^r Bosio corrected – It was not possible for us to undertake it ourselves having several Sisters ill and ill also myself.

Mother Angelica is in Preston with Mth Gertrude arranging to meet the views of the Bishop of Liverpool in amalgamating the three Houses there. There are many difficulties but I think they must and will be met. Mth Lucy is under Mth de Britto in Blackpool & Mth Gertrude has taken her place at S^t Wilfrids until we can find a house that will accommodate twenty two Sisters.

Would it not be better not to translate the Second part of the Rule under the present objections & difficulties? There are several objections on the part of the community as well as from the Bishop of Liverpool who told our Sisters that he did not acknowledge it! We should only have to reprint the corrections and we shall not get it done for less than £20. The Printer was obliged to buy new type for that which he has done because of the accents on the letters & the number of 's to be used.

I wish we could send a large subscription for your seminary, but Mayfield & our buildings here have thrown us beyond our income in advance & we have to be very watchful over our expenses till all anxiety is over, and then beware of future contracts- : we invariably drag you into at least

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pg 22

a third more than you expect.

I wish the Marquis of Bute would pay off & endow your Seminary and leave your Lordship no more anxiety to kill its victim by inches as it does very often.

With many thanks

I am my dear Lord

Your faithful

Servant in X^t

M. Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

April 5th 1875.

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J M J

My Lord and d^r Father in X^t.

I am grieved to take up a moment of your precious time today, but matters are pressing and we have held our April Council, therefore I send two of the Assistants to give your Lordship the necessary information. Your Lordship will remember that when Mth Gertrude was elected for Preston Mth Angelica was elected for S^t Leonards and the latter election has not yet been confirmed by your Lordship – I beg of you my Lord not to delay this confirmation, which is not only of importance to us My Lord but absolutely necessary in the present state of affairs. – The reasons which would prove this necessity are far more urgent than I could possibly convey in a letter.

Many thanks for your Lordship's letter & for the beautiful ceremony we had this morning to which nothing was wanting but your Lordship's presence.

With every grateful expression

I remain

My Lord & d^r Father

yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

[To Bishop Danell]

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

April 15th 1875.

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J M J

My Lord & dear F^r in X^t

Mother Angelica & M^r [Mother] Aloysia will present your Lordship the copies of the Minutes that you require. Of course the Books could not be removed from the Archives.

It would be a sad thing indeed if the Constitutions had not provided for such cases as this of Mth Alphonsas. Happily they are expressly provided for, as your Lordship will prove on examining, Section V article 6th pg 38. where it is stated they “ may be deprived of their respective offices” within the period of three years” – The Constitutions do not say, for anything the individual may have done, or for any misbehaviour, but simply “ for grave reasons “ Mth Alphonsa has no right whatever to claim exemptions. We had the decisions of the Council, the expressed determination of the Bishop of Liverpool, and your Lordship’s approbation of the amalgamation of the three houses before it was made, and the election of Mth Gertrude was confirmed both by your Lordship & by the Bishop of Liverpool.

The reasons for the amalgamation were undoubtedly most grave , and D^r OReilly totally rejected the election of the three Superiors. All this was done lawfully according to the Constitutions & to the rights claimed by the Bishop of Liverpool.

The removal of Mth Alphonsa to Mark Cross is a temporary measure and I am quite sure that Mth Cath^{ne} would not accept of Mth Alphonsas presence in the Community under the anomalous position of one not under her direct control as a

subject, nor could I conscientiously impose a burden that I would not myself accept.
If your Lordship does not

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pg 25

sustain us in our government far greater evils must be the result, and the almost
immediate result. Begging your prayers I remain

My Lord & d^r Father

Your servant in X^t

M. Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 7th /75

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JMJ

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

Our children have all returned and we are anxious to have the retreat for them to begin on Monday the 18th . Will your Lordship have the kindness to get F^r Gallway to send us a Father for this date?

I am sorry to trouble your Lordship about the Mark Cross Orphanage, but the work cannot prosper without the necessary spiritual aid the Sisters and children are entitled to claim. If it is true my Lord that you really have no Priest to send will you allow us to get one for you from France, or will your Lordship send us one of the Old Jesuit Fathers? I think you w^{ld} get one for certtain by asking the Provincial. They cannot go on as they have been doing and I beg of your Lordship for the love of God & for the souls of the Sisters & and [sic] children under your paternal care not to put aside the urgency of the case –

I shall only await your Lordship's answer to send for the Priest from the excellent Curé at Toul, or to implore the Provincial to send us a Father having your Lordships leave for such an entreaty.

I am My Lord & d^r Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in X.

C.Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

[Dec 6th 1875]

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JMJ

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

Will your Lordship kindly read my observations to M^r Arnold, and return them to him with the Bond & your own directions? If the weather were not so intensely severe I should be tempted to be my own post man.

Begging a blessing

I remain my d^r Lord

Yr faithful ser^{vt} in Xt

Mth Cornelia Connelly

The Convent Dec 6th 1875.

13 Nottingham Place [London, W.1]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea Dec 23rd /75

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JMJ

My Lord & dear Father in X^t

According to your wishes I send a copy of the letter written by Miss Woolley before her departure from Blackpool and also a copy of my reply through Mth de Britto. I have written to the latter for a copy of the receipt I requested her to secure.

I am grieved that your Lordship should have the annoyance of this matter, but the turn of such events brings forth the truth, and proves the characters we have to treat with. I shall be extremely sorry if Mons^r Capel brings her into any work in London. She counts upon him, and upon Mr Stokes to uphold her.

This is not to be a Xmas letter! But the enclosed envelope must bear our greetings –

Begging a blessing

I remain

My d^f Lord & Father

yr faithful servant

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Letter from our Mother General to the Bishop (dated)

Copy

The Convent Jan 15. 1876.

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JMJ.

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

In reply to your L's kind letter I hasten to say that Mary A. Kelly was a lay S^r with us, who made her own appeal to the Cardinal from the Convent at Hendon about a year ago for dispensation from her Vows. Her Mother wished also to take her into service where she & her husband had been employed I understood for many years. Mary Anne had never been quite satisfactory in religion & during the last few years her conduct was particularly disedifying, so that we all readily assented to her appeal for dispensation, which was wholly her own act.

When she left the Convent at Hendon, we provided a box of Clothing such as we thought suitable for her & sent her a Cheque for £10. The Clothing (external) was not what she wished it to be, & we sent her £7 extra to purchase what she herself wished to have. She had not left us very long before she wrote again for money for port wine &c. We have taken no notice of these letters as we do not give credit to the alleged " Doctor's bill " or to the need of wine &c beyond the living they have in the service of that gentleman's family. I heard that she had received £2 from the Cardinal's Secretary before it was possible for her to have used up the money we gave her for her own wants. I think the poor girl is the tool of her Mother in this begging.

She went to se the SS. in Nottingham Place & she has also been out to Hendon. She was with us in the little Orphanage

at S^t Leonards & was then a good girl, but the chief part of her religious life was spent between London, the Culvers, and Hendon. This is I think all I can say about her & I hope the money she has received may not have been worse than wasted, though this is very doubtful.

Begging a blessing

My Lord & d^r Father in X^t

Your obedient & faithful servant

Cornelia Connelly

[The original of this letter is in the Southwark Diocesan Archives]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Feb 3rd 1876.

+

JMJ

My Lord & d^r F^r in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I am very sorry to trouble you with another letter so soon, but I fear you have forgotten faculties for the clothing of Dora Dobson who is in retreat, and Mother M Francis is anxious that she should not be delayed & disappointed. She is the only one that has been chosen out of the three postulants- one of whom has been quite declined & the other on further trial deferred.

Mth Angelica sent your Lordship the votes – all in favour of Dora –

Will your Lordship give the faculties to the Father at Pennybridge or if you prefer any other we shall be quite satisfied ? –

A line from your Lordship will settle the matter –

I think Mth Angelica mentioned that the Postulant has no Dowry but that £50 will be paid for her Noviciate.

I remain My Lord &

d^r Father yr Lordship [s]

faithful Ser^{vt} in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

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JMJ

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

Our dear Mother Helen passed away on Saturday Feb 26th and her funeral took place yesterday.

We had the Masses said for her immediately here & at the other Convents, but we feel she has gone straight to Heaven, having been from the time of her Noviciate most faithful to all her duties without any intermissions of fervour and most ardent devotion! We have gained a great friend in heaven who never failed in acts of humility & obedience upon earth during her religious course – R.I.P.

May I beg you my Lord to remember the Ember Days of next week for the Extraordinary for Mayfield Mark Cross & S^t Leonards? And also for the Triduum for the Noviciate – Shall I write to F^r Provincial Farm St [reet] or will your Lordship do so?

We were very sorry to hear that F^r Baron was appointed for Holywell, but they hope your Lordship will send F^r Donovan to Mark Cross as his time is at an end for M^t Walmesley.

Begging your Lordship's blessing I remain

ever my d^r Lord & Father

Yr Ob^t & faithful serv^t in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Mar 2nd 1876

The Convent March 8th 1876

S^t Leonards on Sea

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JMJ.

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

You will grieve with us to hear of the sudden death of our dear Mother Gertrude. She came down from Preston on Friday as far as London with Mother Angelica & on Saturday arrived here. She had leave from the Medical man in Preston to travel though she had been ailing from an affection of the heart & lungs for some time. He thought it would be well for her to remain here for some time being a warmer climate, – She was as well as usual on Sunday & followed the Community hours – In the evening she was not so well & on Monday we sent for the Doctor – who did not find her in any immediate danger. – Yesterday she said she would die and that S^t Joseph would take her - at ab^t ten o'clock P.M. she was much oppressed and we could not leave her with safety, but at one this morning her breathing was alarming & we sent for F^r Hogan & for the Doctor She rec^d Extreme Unction & breathed her last at a few minutes before five this morning –

She longed to die and expressed unceasingly her gratitude to God for her life in religion We have sent to the Bishop of Liverpool & to the Sisters of the sad event – Though to her one full of joy. R.I.P.

Yr Lordship's

faithful serv^t

Cornelia Connelly

Copy April 10.th 1876.

The Convent April 10th 1876.

S^t Leonards on Sea

From Our Mother G^l. to D^r Danell

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JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t.

I purpose going in about a fortnight to visit our Sisters in America, accompanied by one of the Assistants Mother Aloysia and another Sister. Will you kindly send us your blessing for our voyage, & will your Lordship remember us in your prayers?

By the next post the Italian Rule will be sent to Y.L; that is, the first, second, and third parts. Father Bosio declines correcting the Common Rules, though we should rather have sent them with the others, & he says Your Lordship only wishes the three parts to be sent, so there is no use in waiting for them.

Canon Wenham & F^r. Goddard are having the examinations today, & the children are all alive with anxiety to do their best.

Many thanks my d^r Lord for your kind remembrance of us, & for sending F^r Donovan to the Orphanage, & for your Lordships many kindnesses in every respect; & with every grateful expression I remain

My Lord & d^r Father

Your humble Serv^t in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup GI

[The original of this letter is in the Southwark Diocesan Archives.]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent April 21st [1876]

22 Winckley Sq^r

Preston

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JMJ

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

I sent six copies of the Italian, printed, Rule about a fortnight ago to your Lordship and hope they are safe.

After many prayers we decided that it is better for me not to go to America just at this time but to send two of the Assistants. The two, Mth Agnes & Mother Aloysia start tomorrow in the Scythia & will be absent for a month or six weeks & they will ascertain all that is necessary to know the minds of the Sisters & of the Archbishop of Philadelphia.

We find the Community here in the best dispositions possible & we shall stop about a month with them D.V. and then return to London, after our visit to Blackpool.

I shall take Mother S^t John to the Bishop myself or send her tomorrow with the Assistants, unless His Lordship may be expected at Preston which is possible.

Begging your Lordships blessing for the travellers & for myself

I remain

My Lord

yr faithful Ser^{vt} in Xt

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup Gⁿ.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

April 28th / 76

22. Winckley Square

Preston, La [ncs]

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JMJ

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

Perhaps your Lordship had not glanced a second time at the names on the election list. Mother Catherine was not elected for Preston but for London. It is Mother S^t John Williams, who was Mother Gertrude's Assistant, who was chosen for Preston and Mother S^t Dunstan elected for her Assistant. I think Mother Catherine is now in London & has probably already been to see your Lordship.

I had a very kind letter from the Bishop of Liverpool yesterday appointing Monday for us to go to see His Lordship. I am sure we owe His Lip a debt of gratitude for the benefits of the amalgamation of the three Convents & for His most kind protection of the work here, which is very prosperous.

I must thank your Lordship for your kind letter & promise of prayers & blessings for our travellers, who sent us a few lines from Cork, in good spirits.

With every grateful expression,

I remain

My Lord & d^r Father,

Yr faithful &

Ob^t Serv^t in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup G.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

13 Nottingham Place

[London, W.1.]

May 22nd 1876

Monday

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JMJ

My Lord & d^r Father in Xt. [Bishop Danell]

We returned from Preston a few days ago & hope to be at Mayfield tomorrow evening. - Will it be possible for us to see you at S^t Georges tomorrow, Tuesday, 23rd at 4OC^l?

The Sisters are safe, in Philadelphia but they had a very bad passage out.

I am my Lord

yr faithful ser^{vt} in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent, June 9th /76

Mayfield

Hawkhurst.

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JMJ.

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

We, and the children, are all praying for the triumph of the 13th in the Belgian Elections, but we do not know what they are for!

Your Lordship will not forget the faculties for the Clothing and the examination of the Postulants.

It is almost time to settle the day for the Prizes – would the 26th suit your Lordship? – We are obliged to have the three last days of the week free to suit our Irish children, and the Sisters are hoping to have the time settled so as to make sure of your Lordship presiding at S^t Leonards.

Our two envoys to America are hoping to start on the 14th in the Scythia, but I doubt if they can leave quite so soon, as they hope to bring Mother M. Xavier with them.

Has your Lordship sent the Rule to Rome or is it still waiting ?

Begging a blessing

I am ever My Lord and d^r Father

Yr humble ser^{vt} in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES. [Copied from Photostat of Original]

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

According to your Lordship's desire we send you the plan which we should wish to follow with regard to the Rule, & we are the more strongly urged to do this at once, in consideration of the shortness of the time to elapse between this and the next Chapter.

The circular convoking the next Chapter ought to be issued in the month of February next.

It is the general opinion that two of the Assistants should go to Rome with the Rules taking the remarks & experiences which have been gained upon it in the different dioceses & lay them before a Consultor appointed by Propaganda. Everyone that is interested in the case would then have greater Confidence & be more satisfied with the modifications which will necessarily have to be made.

In proposing this we have no desire but to act in concert with your Lordship in procuring the general good.

What we propose doing is to modify the rule according to the remarks and experience gained and thus have it ready to lay before the next Chapter for deliberation.

We beg of your Lordship to add another favour to the many acts of paternal kindness we have received at your hands by giving us a letter for the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda. We should wish to start on the 15th of October the Anniversary

of the day on which our Convent was first blessed by the presence of Our Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

We are, My Lord

Yr faithful children in X^t

Mother Catherine Tracy

Mother Angelica Croft

Mother Aloysia Frankish

Mother Agnes Orr

Mother Cornelia Connelly

Sup Gl.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 4th 1876.

[Signature and address only in Mother Connelly's hand- the letter written by Mother Angelica Croft]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 4th 1876.

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JMJ

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

I have just rec^d your kind letter – The two decided for the visit to Rome are Mth Agnes & Mth Angelica – They will be at S^t Georges to see your Lordship on Monday Morning D.V. They hope to be in Rome by the 10th of this month. I am sure your Lordship will do the best you can for them to bring matters to a prospect of satisfying all parties if such can be attained in this valley of tears! With many thanks

I am ever My Lord & d^r Father

Yr faithful servant in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

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JMJ

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

The six copies were sent as your Lordship requested & I hope safely delivered.

I was not able to start for Paris as we intended last week, but I hope to be there in a few days –

The Sisters are there and every thing removed from Toul – They had excellent letters from their venerated Bishop of Nancy & Toul, ‘ from the Clergy of the place, and Cardinal Manning also kindly gave a letter of introduction for Mth M Theophila as the daughter of his old & intimate friend.

The Cardinal Guibert has been most kind to the Sisters, and I think they will have every assistance in their good work.

We have all to thank your Lordship for your kind letter for the Assistants on their projected journey & no one owes your Lordship more thanks than your humble

servant in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 11th 1876

[Hand printed Christmas Greeting on an illuminated Card]

CHRISTMAS GREETING.

Dear Lord and Father we will pray
To the sweet Holy Child today
That His bright smile may shine on you
And fill your heart with joy most true
An earnest of the future bright
Which this New Year shall bring to light

1876

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^t Leonards on Sea.

51. Rue du Théâtre

Grenelle, Paris

Jan 6th 1877

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JMJ

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

I hear from Mth Aloysia that my letter of Xmas & New Year greetings to your Lordship has gone astray, but I hope it may still turn up & prove to your Lordship that we were not ungrateful in our remembrance of the great festivals of our loving little Lord, nor of the duty, a very pleasureable [sic] one, which we owe to your Lordship for all the kindnesses of the past year. –

I sent my letter through Mth Aloysia that she might sign the Cheque for our usual humble offering, but it never reached her. No doubt the influx of letters from Paris during the X^t mas & New Year has caused many delays, and I do trust there may be no sin of theft in the loss. It is singular that the other two letters enclosing Cheques, on different days, should be the missing ones ! We must beg of S^t Anthony to bring them to light without any theft.

This morning we had Mass said by the Promoteur of the Archevêche & the renovation of Vows, with a beautiful little revivifying sermon.

We have had every kindness & encouragement from the A.Evêché, where encouragement is success and the Promoteur thinks we shall soon have thirty children. D.G.!

There is no news yet from Rome.

Repeating our expressions of grateful devotion.

I remain My d^r Lord

Your faithful servant & child

In JC M. Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

[A] * [in Bp Danell's hand = answered]

The Convent

March 31st 1877

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S^t Leonards on Sea

JMJ

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

I write to wish your Lordship all Easter joy & consolation, and to unite our lowly Alleluias with the glorious ones which you are sending up to heaven, at S^t Georges.

We returned from Paris on the 15th and left all well there - The Cardinal Archbishop give [sic] us his parting blessing with all good wishes for the success of the Sisters – and the Promoteur of the Archevêché did all kindnesses for us in every way – He sent us an Oblate Father to give the retreat to the Children, who preached most simply & touchingly yet not following the Exercises of S^t Ignatius – The retreat was most delightful & profitable to all. In fact we have been so edified by the devoted & Apostolic Clergy of Paris, that we could imagine ourselves in Old Rome of our youthful days. They seem to be living Saints in their Martyred life of abnegation & heroic duty. Their zealous faith must be the blessed fruit of the martyrs of the Commune – All Paris seems to thrive on the past humiliations, and truly we see “ France humbled & France contrite, “ in Justice.

I must not take up your precious time my Lord, but the time for convoking our next Chapter has arrived and we are in doubt as to the advice from Rome or rather from the Consultor appointed by propaganda – Shall I write for the Sisters in America to be here in July or will your Lordship let me know your appointed time? They are obliged to return in August.

Begging an Easter blessing

I remain My Lord your humble ser^t

In Jesus C. Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent April 25/77

[A] – [Bishop Danell's hand- answered]

S^t Leonards on Sea

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JMJ

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

I do not want to press your Lordship too much for an answer to Mth Agnes's note sent with the Votes for the Postulants to be Clothed & for the profession of Miss Morley, S^r Sebastian – But I am sure you will allow for the anxiety they are in to inform their friends in time, and to say whether your Lordship will perform the ceremony, on Tuesday the 1st of May, or whether another date may be more convenient to your Lordship. –

I am glad to be able to say that Mother Angelica is better and she was able to go to Mayfield on Monday, the Doctor having ordered a change for her as soon as possible. Her illness was a very serious attack on her nerves from her having overfatigued herself. Our poor S^r Mary Frances Kenworthy is very seriously ill with an attack on her lungs which the Physician has pronounced to be most acute – The other invalids are as usual.

We have asked for the ceremony to be at Mayfield because the Postulants are there.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I remain ever yr humble Serv^t

In J.C.

M. Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

June 19th 1877.

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JMJ

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

Until yesterday we fully counted on your Lordship's return for the Synod, and though it is more than probable this letter may not reach your Lordship in Rome I write on the uncertainty to let your Lordship know that I did immediately convoked [sic] the Chapter for the 2nd of August 1877. Letters sent May 4th I also wrote to the different Bishops to request their permission for the Election of Deputies.

This Evening I shall write to the Vicar General S^t George's for the same purpose as it will not do to remain in uncertainty while the date of your return may be deferred.

We shall all pray for your Lordship's safe return with all the favours the dear Holy Father may be pleased to bestow upon us all, and

I am ever

My d^f Lord & Father

Yr faithful ser^{vt}

In JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly.

1877

Copy. Letter from Our Mother General to the Bishop (dated)

The Convent Augst 27th / - 77

[St Leonards on Sea]

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JMJ

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

We are all anxious to know that the fatigue of the Chapter is quite over, & that your Lordship is quite well.

Fortunately we have succeeded in getting the promise of a Retreat though at first refused, as we had not asked early enough! F^r Johnson declined, but F^r Whitty was so charitable as to arrange for F^r Murphy of Stonyhurst to come.

I enclose the Votes of the Council for the Clothing of the Postulants who have finished their term of three months satisfactorily.

Mother Angelica is at Mayfield & seems rather better but I fear she may not be well for some months to come.

Will your Lordship kindly send faculties for F^r Hogan for the ceremony of the reception of the Postulants? He already has them for the Vows of S^t Mary Bernard. We are all very grateful my dear Lord for your great kindness to us & for the time bestowed upon us, the little ones of your flock & no one more so than myself – unworthy – while I am

Ever Your Lordships

grateful & obe^t Serv^t in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

[The original of this letter is in the Southwark Diocesan Archives]

Volume XV11

-2-

pg 49

[Enclosed in letter to Bp Danell 27. Aug. 1877]

Votes of the Local Chapter. 6.

Matilda Parry	111111	For-	0	Against
Johanna Power	111111	"	0	Against
Kate Power	111111	"	0	Against

Signed (Mth Aloysia

(Mth M. Frances

General Council

Matilda Parry	1111-	0-----
Johanna Power	1111	
Kate Power	1111	

Mother M. Theophila was in Paris.

Sent Aug 27th /77 -----

Signed

C.C.

The Convent Oct 2nd / 77

Mayfield

Hawkhurst

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JMJ

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

Your letter was forwarded to me by this mornings post & I have requested Mth de Britto to send a copy of the printed Rules to your Lordship immediately. The Book should have been sent last week but there were several mis-prints w^h I wished to have corrected, & the errata printed, to put into each book before sending it & this sh^{ld} have been done last week had we been sure that nothing had escaped our observation.

The Sisters in general and universally seem very happy ab^t the Rule excepting the second year Novices not being at the Mother House for their training in the employments they will be bound to fulfil when under Vows – We do not think it quite just to them, nor do we think we have a fair chance of knowing them or trying their characters, qualities & abilities in the small Community at Mayfield. All would have been well if the Rule had been left in regard to the second year Novices, as it was in the first year.

Private

There is another point w^h I speak of for my successor & not for myself in my present position w^h I can, by & for the love of God, bear & even embrace.

(second sheet begins here)

Private

It is this, that the General Superior ought to be

Volume XV11

-2-

pg 51

the Head of the House in which she lives, with a Vicaress in charge to take all the duties the Head may impose upon her. This was what F^r Bosio at first proposed, and it was the wisest plan, and the one that would work practically amongst women as far as my own experience goes. Young Superiors are always disposed to act independently, and to undo what their predecessors have already done, and this with the best intention & without any wilful fault. Believe me, my Lord, I am not speaking personally, but for the sole view of the future. I do not mean to say that my heart has not been cut a thousand times, & when no one but God has known of it amongst my numerous imperfections & faults, but my portion lies in this by the sweet Will of God. – Another may not relish such a portion especially if younger than myself. Perhaps your Lordship will think over this point before the next election & get information as to the position of the General in other orders, where the work is carried on with great advantage to the glory of God & the good of souls.

I send the errata as far as I have observed the mis-prints myself, and I remain my Lord & d^r Father

Your obedient & grateful servant

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The retreat begins this evening & I return tomorrow or Thursday

[A.- in Bp Danell's hand]

Jan 4th 1878

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

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JMJ

My Lord & d^f Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

I wrote to your Lordship on Tuesday Jan 1st , enclosing a letter from F^r Bosio, - & now I send one from M^r Banks. Will your Lordship kindly inform F^r Bosio of the contents of it, if his Reverence has already arrived in London, on the 3rd , as stated in his letter. The votes of the Community & of the Council no doubt reached your Lordship in my last-?

Begging a New Years blessing for all at S^t Leonards

I remain my Lord

Your faithful serv^t

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent April 4th 1878

S^t Leonards on Sea.

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JMJ

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

Though I do not want to give you a single letter more to read, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of expressing my grateful & constant remembrance of your visit, & great Charity, in coming to see me at a moment of expected death.

I am not able to say more being still very weak & unable to walk and also not allowed to write or fatigue myself.

I hope your Lordship is quite well & will soon be in our neighbourhood for confirmation &c

Begging your d^r Lordships blessing I remain My Lord & F^r

Your grateful & affectionate

servant in X^t

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup G^l.

[Bishop Danell's hand: - A]

[June 13th 1878]

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JMJ

My Lord and dear Father in X^t [Bishop Danell]

It is just a week since we came to Mayfield. The Medical Man thought I might endure the journey very well tho' only just recovering from the fatigue of it –

Your Lordship's kind letter I have shewn to Mth Aloysia & sent it to the other Assistants by last nights post. I was quite sure there would be the difficulty your Lordship expresses. The perpetual Vows have been a cause of anxiety for the last three years so that we were forced to make the application against our own convictions -

I hope your Lordship keeps well, and that I could say of myself that I am well enough to be of some use w^d I certainly am not at present.

What with my illness & the many anxieties & cares of the last six months our humble Easter offering to your Lordship was omitted. Better late than never & I now enclose it with best thanks to your d^r Lordship while begging a blessing

I remain always

Your grateful Serv^t

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Mayfield

Hawkhurst.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES.

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Oct 26th [1878]

[Bishop Danell's hand] sent leave

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JMJ

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

Since our return from Mayfield, w^h was ab^t this time last month, I have not taken up your Lordship's time by a useless letter, knowing I should have more to say a little later. I now enclose the votes given by the local Council at the Noviciate & the General Council at S^t Leonards. Mother Angelica is in Paris, but she gave her votes in the usual form –

Will your Lordship kindly give leave for the profession & clothing to be on the 25th of Nov.; (S^t Catherine's Feast), at Mayfield by F^r Corney? – If we ask for any other, kind & good Father Corney might be hurt & that would be a great pity –

I hope your Lordship has not been too much fatigued by all labours of the Summer months, and we have had a beautiful Autumn which has generally proved healthful so far. I wish I could give a better account of myself but the least worry tells upon my system & nerves from which I never suffered until this year, still I am gradually getting stronger.

I must not say more than that I am always

My d^f Lord & Father in x^t

Your faithful servant

Cornelia Connelly

S Gen^l