

[Photostat of original]

Steam Boat West Wind
July 16th 1843

Rev. & dear Bishop, [Anthony Blanc]

I am sure you are very sorry for me on the loss of my most valuable trunk, but it had a miraculous medal in it and I hope by our prayers it may be found. I begged of Mr Vesian to ask you to have some Masses said for it, in honour of St Anthony – Would you have the goodness Rev. & dear Bishop to tell Mr Vezeian that there were two cloaks and some music rolled inside of two Blankets strapped on the top of it – the Brass plate with the name, Connelly, was in front – We are all well and comfortable. You will have heard that Mr Devereux is on board with his daughter. We will suffer little or nothing in our journey from the loss of the trunk, but it contained several hundreds in Jewelry etc which would be a serious loss, but perhaps God wishes us to be detached and poor, at all events it was a mistake and always His most blessed will; so if it is lost let it go, only that we do all that we ought to do, to get it again which I am quite sure Mr Vezeian will do.

With most grateful thanks

Rev. and dear Bishop for all your kindnesses,

I am your obedient child in J.C.

C. Connelly

To the Right Reverend the Bishop of New Orleans a'l'Evêché

New Orleans

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book II Letter 75, page 80]

1866

My d Lord

We all wish to express to Y.G. our gratitude for the very kind letter of rec. [ommendation?] for the Mayfd [Mayfield] wants wh has given fresh courage to our d SS who have just started on their painful mission. They will present the precious Doct wherever they go with prayers for Y.G. and we hope that It may assist in softening the hearts of those to whom they appeal. For certainly the Orphan of the Con. of the H.C.J. at Mayfield now needs a roof to cover them as much as we need immediate assistance to pay the debt upon what has already been done. We earnestly hope that our d SS in London are working with great fervor among the poor knowing the peculiar wish of Y. G. on this most interesting point.

I remain my dr Lord

Your Grace's most humble Servt

Cornelia Connelly –

Convent H.C.J. - St Leonards on Sea

Feb 9th 1866

To / The Archb Dr Manning

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book III Letter 3, pages 3-4]

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to the Archbishop - Oct 31st, 1870]

My Lord Archbishop & very d^r Father.

The kind forethought expressed in your letter received yesterday has our best & most grateful thanks. Perhaps Y.G. may defer taking any steps regarding the Ogle St. Schools until the site of the T.S. may be quite settled. The SS of Notre Dame will probably wish to choose the most central position possible , that they may increase their work by taking such schools as may be provided to meet the present educational crisis - And perhaps also they may build Schools in connection with the T.S. Or they may settle near the Ogle St. SS. , & then we might all regret the change. Be this as it may we shall hold ourselves in readiness My Lord to follow whatever move may be for the greater good as Your Grace may judge desirable. Our SS join me in thanks & in many expressions of devotion & filial affection & I will only add that I am

My dear Lord and Father,

Your humble servant in JC,

Cornelia Connelly

Supr. G.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV, Letter 41 – page 53]

Letter from Our Mother to the Archbishop [Manning]

(dated) Dec 2nd 1872

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JMJ

My Lord & dr Father in Xt.

I learn from Canon Wenham that the number of Pupil Teachers by far exceeds our estimation. He counts upon 30 each year, allowing the probability of success upon only half the numbers [sic] of fifth year ex P.T. This point is then quite settled. And if Your Grace will allow some one to let me know the result of the enquiries regarding the lease, we should then beg of you to name four managers to act with the Poor School Committee, and with the Government authorities. We see no further difficulties.

Begging a blessing

I am my Lord & Father

Your faithful Servant in J/C.

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV. Letter 42- Page 54]

J.M.J.

My Lord Archbishop [Manning]

& dr Father in Xt –

I enclose for your Grace two letters received this morning, and beg to say that if the legal arrangements have been concluded for the purchase of Manchester Street House I could go to London any time next week, to draw out for the Architect the plan of building and repairs that would be required before we could expect the approbation of the Govt Authorities.

I should propose using the materials of the present old workshops to build up one side of the new building, as far as they are worth using and to have an iron front towards the Garden and iron roof - The whole to provide Dormitories for 50 Students, together with a Practising ^{middle [sic]} School room & a classroom. The Middle School if kept within 1/ pr wk would receive Govt aid & be under the usual inspection.

I have the ground plans & find that we can make this erection on the workshops & Coach House without infringing on the Garden ground.

I remain

My Lord Archbishop

& dr Father in Xt

Very faithfully yr servant

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

St Leonards

Dec 18th 1872

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV. Letter 44 – page 56]

1872

The Convent St Leonards on Sea
Dec 31st

My Lord Archbishop [Manning]

& dear Father in Xt

Father Seddon writes to say that your Grace is in want of a good young woman to take charge of the instruction of two or three girls for their first Communion. I presume a person of from 25 to 30 years of age would be required for such an office and we shall make every enquiry in our power.

There is a Miss Fitzgerald in whom the Sisters at St Annes are interested who has been recommended as a very good person. Fr Johnson could learn all particulars from Sr St Dunstan & perhaps she might be the very person to suit Your Grace for the Home. I hope Y.G. received a letter I inclosed from Mr Wray the Architect which I have never answered! It would be a great service to us to know that the House in Manchester Sq has been legally secured for the next Lady Day as our immediate arrangements after the Christmas holidays must be chiefly influenced by the future prospects of the T. School, the preparation of the Mistresses – the private students &c &c depending upon the certainty of Y.G.'s arrangement & settlement. I remain

My Lord Archbishop

& dr Father in Xt

Your faithful servant

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV, Letter 45, page 57]

1873

Letter from Our Mother to the Archbishop dated

St Leonards-on-Sea
Jan 6th

My Lord Archbishop [Manning]

& dr Father in Xt –

The payment by instalments at the usual rate of interest is all we can at present offer for the Dorset Sq The amount was £2900, with expenses of lawyers I suppose £3,000 I have no doubt whatever that we shall be able to pay off the whole in 2 or 3 years but I should not feel authorized to make the promise of any thing more than the annual instalment & interest which I already made out for Your Grace.

I presume the money could not be had from the Fire Insurance Office for less than 5 per cent & if so we ought not to object in consideration of the importance of the work. If Y G has any difficulty in the money arrangements I think Fr. Taylor of Spanish Place would be able to suggest the means. We should have to spend at least £1000 on the repairs & I think our friends would help us in this or lend us the money, or advance it on account, so that the actual capital need not be more than £3000.

I remain

My Ld Archbishop

& dr Father in Xt

Your faithful Servt in Xt

Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV Page 61]

From Our Mother to the Archbishop

The Convent
St Leonards on S.
Jan 21. [1873]

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JMJ

My Lord Archbishop & dear Father in Xt. – [Manning]

I have tried my best to induce the Duchess of Leeds to advance even £1500 towards the purchase of Dorset St House in vain! We are so straitened with the extra expense of the building at Mayfield that it will be impossible for us to put down even £500 or to make any payment till the end of the first year.

If Your Grace can arrange for the £3000 to be raised & to be paid by us in instalments of £300 annually, together with interest at 5pr. ct, the whole could be paid thus in ten years. We should thus cut off five years of the original term, and by putting £1000 on the building & repairs we should increase the value by one third, which would be a sufficient guarantee for the money expended. Lest I should not have made myself clearly understood I will write on another sheet the payments I propose which will embrace the very utmost we can promise to do. I wish the Marquis of Bute & others interested in the education of the poor would make the purchase & give the house to Your Grace. I assure you it should be purchased tomorrow, if I could put my hand upon the sum demanded.

Begging a blessing

My Ld Archbishop

& dr Fr in Xt

Your faithful Servt.

Cornelia Connelly.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV Page 64]

Jan^y 25th [1873]

Letter from Our Mother to the Archbishop/
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JMJ

My Lord Archbishop

& dr Father in Xt –

Mr Arnold's influence at the present time is less than the weight of a fly. He would rather be of harm than help in the affair at the present juncture which is rather peculiar from great irritability – suspicions of everyone and real weakness of the Duchess. If Your Grace can arrange for the conclusion of the purchase as the letter of 23rd (Leeds) proposes, we must make ourselves ready to meet it at all inconvenience or trouble & sacrifice. It will be the same cost in the end.

Ever my Ld Archbishop

& dear Father

Your faithful Servt in Xt

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

St Leonards-on-Sea

Jan 25th 1873

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV Page 66]

To the A.B. of Wesminster.

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JMJ

Your Grace
& most dr Father in Xt. [Archbishop Manning]

Mr Sills has written to me regarding the Dorset St House & I have repeated to him what we are able to do referring him to Your Grace as to the raising of £3000 for the purpose. If Your Grace wd propose to the M. of B. & other wealthy Catholics – surely they would not refuse assistance for such an object.

Numbers of Students who passed the Xmas Examination at Liverpool are unable to enter there for want of accommodation & surely there could be no greater charity than to provide for the Mistresses of the P, Schools and without certified Mistresses the School Grants will be lost & the Catholic body will suffer three times 3000 pounds by want of Certified Teachers. Besides we are willing to pay off the whole with interest by Instalments. If we had money in the funds at our command we should sell out without hesitation & pay it back, but we have not –therefore if it cannot be borrowed we must renounce the work with great regret.

Begging a blessing I remain

My Lord Archbishop

& dr Father

Your faithful Serv^t

In J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

St Leonards-on-Sea

Feby. 19. 1873

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV Page 74]

Letter from Our Mother to the Archbishop

April 3rd [1873]

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JMJ

My Lord Archbishop & most dr Father in Xt.

No doubt Your Grace has heard by this time that the Dorset St House is sold! Now I most sincerely hope Y.G. will not be annoyed at the loss, as after all it was nothing so very desirable & not to compare to Harley House in its position or capabilities. If it is God's holy Will that a London T.S. should be established, I feel perfectly certain that we shall find another position favourable to the work – as at Bayswater or Notting Hill – or perhaps even Harley House again, as I heard they again wish to leave it! I want Y.G. to know that we are not grieving over the loss of the Dorset St plan & that we think more depends upon the P.S. Committee & on the Privy Council, than on the actual possession of the House.

Begging a blessing I am ever

My L. S & dr Father in Xt.

Your faithful servant

C.C.

N.B.

May 15th 1873

The whole of this correspondence & the visit to London ended in smoke –
The proposed purchase was a mere bubble –

C.C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV Page 82]

[This is a draft of the letter on the following page and it is all crossed out]

The Convent
St L. on Sea
June 4th [1873]

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JMJ

My Lord Archbishop

& dr Father in Xt –

I beg to inform Your Grace that I received an official notice from Mr Allies by Saturday's post saying that the P.S. Committee had, in a meeting held on the 30th of May come to the conclusion that it is desirable to establish a Female T.S. in London and that the Committee is prepared to undertake the official position of managers of the T.S. in regard to the Privy Council "& will do all in its power to obtain the consent of the Privy Council to its establishment & its aid by an annual Grant ! " I answered Mr A's letter with thanks saying the Community was willing to hold itself responsible for such excess of expenditure as must necessarily occur beyond the usual Grants. With the approbation of Your Grace the matter may now be readily decided & I have begged the Revd Canon Wenham to call upon Y.G. for me to know Y.G.'s wishes regarding any future steps to be taken

With every expression of ~~regard~~ devotion

I beg to remain My Ld Archbishop

Your faithful Servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly

Sup.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV: Letter 67, page 83]

The Convent St L-on-Sea.
June 4th 1873

My Lord Archbishop [Manning]

& dr Father in Xt –

I think Your Grace will be glad to hear that at a meeting of the P.S. Committee held on the 30th of May the Training School for the South was voted for & that it should be offered to us. I received an Official notice of what had transpired from the Secretary saying that the Committee is prepared to take the Official position of managers of the School in regard to the P. Council & that the same aid would be given to us as that which is given to the Liverpool T.S. I answered Mr A's letter with thanks saying the community was willing to hold itself responsible for such excess of expenditure as must necessarily occur beyond the usual Grants. With the approbation of Y.G., I presume the succeeding steps may readily be taken & I have begged Canon W to call upon Y.G. to know your wishes & that we may take such steps as may be in accordance therewith.

With every expression of devotion

I beg to remain my Ld Archbishop –

Your faithful Servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly

Supr.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book IV, Letter 102, page 140]

Copy of a letter to His Eminence by Our Mother – July 30th 1875

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JMJ

Your Eminence [Cardinal Manning]

I must beg you to accept of our best thanks for your valued remembrance of us for the Schools in the East of London & I am very sorry to say that it will not be possible for us to take them. It would be very desirable to open a Middle School in connexion with the Schools in Spanish Place Homer Row & St Anne's where we could take full charge of our Pupil teachers, & thus secure for them every watchful care & give them the advantage of studies which they can never have while living at their own homes, & it seems to us our first duty before undertaking any new work. –

It has been a heartfelt joy to us to unite in the numerous Congratulations that have been presented to Your Eminence, & though ourselves absent, we beg of the Holy Child to bless all the works & many cares you have & to bless Your Eminence with His most choice Gifts & that our Immaculate Mother may be the sweet Messenger of His Benedictions & I am ever

Your Eminence's grateful

& humble Servant in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly

Supr Gl.

Volume 18

page 23

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book III]
Letter 26, page 37

[Fragment in C.C.'s hand]

[May, 1877 ?]

My Lord Cardinal

~~It is the wish of~~ [sic]

With the approbation of the Bishop of Southwark we have sent the
Circulars

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
USA

[Copied from Photostat]

Convent Holy Child Jesus
All Souls
St Leonards on Sea
Feb 3 1852

My dear Lord & Fr in Xt [Bishop Blanc, New Orleans]

It has been a long time since I have called upon your fatherly care or remembrance yet I feel sure I am not forgotten among those numbers included in your prayers and paternal blessings.

Not only with this assurance but with a Christian certainty of your charity for Mr. Connelly and my poor children I beg of you to interest yourself in the spiritual welfare of my son – I have heard some months ago that he is in New Orleans with Mr. C's brother who is a Catholic. and who wrote ~~himself~~ [sic] to me saying the dear boy was with him; but I have never heard since, and as John Connelly was himself a Convert much under the influence of his brother I am desirous to know something about him as well as about my dear child – Will it be asking too much of a favour to beg of you my dear Lord & Father to tell me what hope or hold there is upon the child, and whether there is any thing I can do or any influence I could make use of to regain him to his faith and duty? It must be as incomprehensible to every Catholic as it is to me that Mr. C. should have taken the course he has – He acted at first on the persuasion he was right in his wish to have a certain sort or power over me which was not in accordance with the wish of the Bishop nor with my own sense of propriety in a protestant country and I cannot believe that he had any wrong intention at that time – but since then he has fallen among thieves who have wounded him and robbed him of his faith. – and what

[continued below]

- 2 -

is to become of him unless our Lord will be himself the good Samaritan and bind up his wounds and heal them? – My dear Lord I must not dwell on this deep sorrow – for I am without the power of any remedy and can only distress others by my tears, and useless tears unless they move the heart of my Lord to pity – I am sure of your prayers but I want also your influence. Might you not exercise it on Mr. Connelly thro' his brother & my son, and be yourself a Father to the poor child while he remains in New Orleans? I am asking with the confidence of a child because I know you to be ^a father and I know also that you may better understand the delusion Mr. Connelly has fallen under than others who never understood his character or comprehended the innocent affections which he seems not to have had the strength & grace to overcome. Ady & Frank are with their father – I have not seen either Mercer or Adeline since I received the religious habit in 1846 and I fear they are not allowed to write to me as my letters remain unanswered.

Begging your advice and counsel as to any hope of the possibility of doing any thing for my poor son or his Father thro' your Lordship's influence and begging also your prayers & blessing for our Community

I am my dear Lord & Father in Xt

Your obt child

C. Connelly

M. Sup.

May I beg to be remembered
To dear Mdme. Cutts, and to
Père Abbadie when you see them?

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book III]
Letter 27, pages 39 & 40

[In C.C.'s hand]

Copy rough Circular to the Cardinal & Bishops

My Lord Cardinal [Manning]

With the approbation of the Bishop of Southwark I have sent to all our Convents the Circulars convoking a General Chapter for the Election of the Mother General & the Four Assistants, to be held on the 2nd of August 1877, at the Convent St Leonards on Sea, and I write to your Eminence to ask permission for the Elections of the deputies to be made at our Convents at Nottingham Place and at Hendon – and also ~~for the permission~~ [sic] that those elected may with the Sanction of Your Eminence present themselves at the meeting of the Chapter.

I take this occasion humbly to thank you Eminence for all the kindnesses so liberally bestowed upon our^{us} ~~dear Sisters by the devout Clergy~~ [sic]-

and I remain

My Lord Cardinal

Your Eminence humble Ser^{vt}

in J C.

M Cornelia Connelly

Supr. Gen^l.

May 4th 1877

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book III]
Letter 32, page 47

[In C.C.'s hand]

My Lord Cardinal [Manning]

I beg to enclose the certificates of the Canonical Election of the Superioresses for the Convents at Nottingham Place & at Hendon together with the ~~Assistants for ea~~ [sic] respective Assistants

I shall be greatly obliged if your ~~Lords~~ [sic] Eminence's Secretary will kindly send me a line to say that the Election has ~~the~~ ^{your} [sic] approval ~~of you~~ [sic]

The Secretary of the Chapter has already announced the result of the first Elections and I beg the blessing & ~~prayers~~ [sic] of your Eminence on our humble works in the Service of God and especially ^{a blessing} for our Four Assistants & for myself unworthy / while sincerely thanking your Eminence for all past favours

and

I remain my Lord Cardinal

Your humble & obedient Servant

in JC

M. Cornelia Connelly

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book II, Letter 27, page 30]

Letter from Our Mother to the Bishop of Port Louis (20y's

1863

November 2nd. 1863
(Feast of All Souls.

J.M.J. Dr Collier ?

My Lord Bishop.

It gives me great pleasure to receive a letter from yr L. though we are all very sorry to hear of the ill health of any of our venerated prelates. No doubt the South of England would be the very place for health – unfortunately we have no other buildings than the Convent & the Presbytery with every corner filled. There are however many furnished houses within a stone's throw of the Convent where either the whole house may be taken, or a certain number of rooms only, just as your L. may wish. The apartments generally rent for £3, 4, or 5 per week according to the number of rooms Y.L. would require; a large house would be from £6 to £10 per week if furnished. The unfurnished houses just opposite the Convent rent for £65p.an, but they are not large houses. A widow lady who gives music lessons to our children being in reduced circumstances is about taking a house for herself with a view to let part of it; perhaps this might suit your L. & if so, I shall be most happy to offer my poor services in any arrangements you may wish to use them for.

Begging a blessing I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Servt in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SHCJ ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[The whole in C.C's hand]

[Folded foolscap sheet endorsed:-]

Copy of the letter to the Archbishop.

Accompanied with a copy of Dr. Grant's arrangement &
Cardinal Wiseman's letter of Aug. 30th 1848.

To Archbishop Errington
(Copy)

[Feb. 22nd 1859]

My Lord Archbishop

In reply to the request of your Grace, that I should give a written statement of what I consider the relative position rights obligations etc of our Community, I beg very respectfully to say, that we have no other rights than those declared in the Trust Deed made by Col. Towneley, and accepted by Our Bishop Dr Grant. I have not a copy of the Deed at present in my possession, nor † [sic] have I any of the papers or documents of the late Rev. J. Jones, they being in Col: Towneley's possession.

I have made a copy of the Cardinal's letter which offers the property to our Community before we left Derby, and also a copy of the arrangement made by our Bishop for the present use of the Chapel and we presume a similar arrangement will be made for the future Church.

The Presbytery & the Boys' School were built by the Community & the Schools were erected by Col: Towneley for the work of the Community.

Humbly begging a blessing

I am

My Lord Archbishop

Yr obt servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Convent, All Souls

St Leonards on Sea

Feb 22nd 1859

SHCJ ARCHIVES (ROME)

[Copied from Letter Book I]

Copy

Letter 82, pages 83 – 85

Letter to the Bishop of A----a-
April 8th [1861]

to Dr Gould
Melbourne

JMJ.

My Lord Bishop –

I must not lose the first post to return my very grateful thanks for your kind letter which brought forth many zealous offers from the members of our Community, each hoping to be chosen for so excellent a work, and I need not add that it will be a great consolation to me to have some of our Sisters labouring for the good of the dear children of Your Lordship's diocese and under your paternal care.

1. Our Order is devoted principally to the education of all classes.

2^{ndly} To affording facility to persons ~~making~~^{wishing to make} [sic] retreats.

3rd To instructing the sick & preparing them for the Sacraments when requested by the Parish priest. Our Houses are under the jurisdiction of the Bishop and we have the approbation of Cardinal Wiseman for this and all branches of our Institute, but we have not yet received the Bull of the Pope being only founded in England ~~in~~^{since} [sic] 1846.

We have here a young ladies ^{school} [sic] composed of the highest families, and in separate buildings a middle & Training School, together with a day school for the surrounding poor. Added to these we usually receive about 12 or 15 orphans, to train as servants & laundresses.

The ~~most~~^{chief} [sic] of these works would probably be useful in Your Lordship's diocese and we should thus be able to

[continued below]

- 2 -

~~Be of our use~~ ^{devote ourselves} [sic] in our humble way for the salvation of souls & for the glory of Our Holy Mother the Church. I presume my Lord that we might make our preparations to go to Australia about a year hence. We should require to know some of the details of the probable expenses to be incurred, not only for the voyage, but for our first settlement there and regarding these matters I will write to Mr. Wardell as I ought not to take up more of Your Lordship's precious time. Many thanks for the prospectus of the Sisters at Geelong and for the Church at Ballarat. I presume Your L would approve of the latter for our ~~Convent~~ [sic] locality though the most prudent plan would be perhaps to rent a house until the Community have some experience of their future wants & prospects, and then we might purchase for a small sum fifty or a hundred acres where they could raise their own sheep, & supply their schools with butter & milk and gradually build their Convent. We could send them an excellent Farmer from here a Catholic who has been very faithful to us for the last 12 years & much wishes to go to Australia. I think I ~~æth~~ [sic] noticed in a book on the Gold Colonies that land could be purchased at 5/ or 10/ per acre, but I suppose this is only ~~be~~ [sic] in the wild parts of the country which would not do for a Convent.

The great object would be no doubt to go where a young mission is springing up and where the position of the Convent would ensure health & afford every facility to the pursuits of education & training which would not be the case in a town.

Your Lordship will see how much we want information on all these subjects & I will only say with many thanks that I am

My Lord B-----

Your faithful Servant

In JC

[Cornelia Connelly]

SHCJ ARCHIVES - ROME

[Copied from Letter Book I,
Letter 84, page 88 – 89]

Copy.
April 24. [1861]

The Convent
St Leonards-on-Sea
Sussex
England

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JMJ

My Lord Archbishop, [Kenrick, of Baltimore]

I have great pleasure in being able to beg your acceptance of a set of white Vestments being the work of our Community which I trust my Niece will by this time have presented to Your Lordship. Please God that she reaches her destination in safety. May I beg that Your Lordship will sometimes remember our intentions in the Holy sacrifice? My dear Niece will be the bearer also of our respectful and grateful messages, and she will also tell Your Lordship how much we desire to labour in America, though in doing so we should not wish to diminish any of our good works here. By the great blessing of God, our community has much increased within the last four years, and particularly within the last year, as the most of our Novices have been successful in their vocation, & many of them thoroughly educated in our Training Schools. My niece will likewise tell Your Lordship that the Duchess of Leeds has given us five acres of lots on the Frederick Road which is to be made over by a deed of gift through an American Lawyer. The Duchess has also given us 2000 acres in Pennsylvania which is at our disposal to assist in building &c as we may wish. Her Grace also intends building on our grounds here, in order to reside within our precincts. I have requested Kate to ask Your Lordship to be one of the Trustees for the Frederick Road property and also Mr. Edward Grant with 3 of the Community. I hope that this

[continued below]

- 2 -

may be agreeable to Your Lordship and that I am not mistaken in the supposition that Your Lordship will not be sorry to have us in Your Diocese, though we await an invitation which Kate is very sure you will send us. It is not for us to presume that it is so until we know it from Your Lordship. Perhaps the present state of the Country may a little retard our movements, but I trust the good sense of the majority of the people may bring about a wise separation of the States which never can be really united, under such opposite interests and principles. I think My Lord Bishop that I fully explained our works in a former letter written last winter and it will be useless for me to enter upon them again though it wd give me pleasure to do so if my letter never reached its destination.

I will therefore only add that I hope to have a few lines from Your Lordship with a blessing for myself and the Community

I am

My Lord Bishop –

Yours very respectfully in JC.

C C

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book III]
Letter 34, page 50

My Lord Cardinal [Manning]

I have received your Eminence's very kind letter and without delay I write to say that we shall make no move at present for the Convent at Hendon, nor without laying the matter again before your Eminence for further consideration.

There are we think insurmountable difficulties in making a permanent foundation on the premises now occupied, and we have also thought that an influential family near the Church might be able to do more for the Mission than we in our humble poverty would be likely to effect.

I must also add that we should be very sorry to leave so good & holy a Priest as Father Carter has always proved to be, and one to whom we shall ever feel most grateful.

With every expression of devoted

Submission & veneration

I am ever, my Lord Cardinal

Your Eminence's humble Servant

M. Cornelia Connelly

Sup. G^l

Oct. 17th 1877

Convent

S. Leonard's on Sea

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Letter Book II]
Letter 30, page 33
[1864]

Monseigneur,

L'Imprimé ci-joint expliquera suffisamment les raisons qui me déterminent à vous adresser cette lettre. Grâce à la bonté miséricordieuse de Dieu, la restauration des ruines de Mayfield est sur le point d'être entreprise par le célèbre Architecte Pugin, mais ce travail, à peine ébauché ne pourra se compléter que peu à peu et morceau par morceau

L'évaluation des travaux est de six à dix mille sterling, ^x notre budget actuel ne dépasse pas 505 livres sterling et nous serions complètement découragés ~~mais~~ [sic] sans la confiance qui nous soutient que Notre Seigneur bénira l'œuvre qu'il a commencé, et que nous devons poursuivre pour le ~~mon~~ [sic] plus grand honneur et sa plus grande gloire. Cet œuvre est si palpitant d'intérêt pour tous les cœurs Catholiques que nous ne doutons pas de leur généreux secours ; et ~~pour~~ de [sic] notre part, nous ne cesserons de prier dans l'Ad. Perp. Du Très Saint s. devant cet autel que leurs aumônes auront élevé. Nous supplions donc Notre Seigneur J.C. et sa Mère Immaculée de vous inspirer d'une sainte ardeur dans l'accomplissement de ce pieux devoir tant par l'intérêt dont vous ferez preuve que par l'aide matérielle que vous lui prêterez ; vous attirerez ainsi sur vous et sur le peuple de M, dépourvu de toute consolation spirituelle les plus chères bénédictions du ciel. Les photographies des dessins de restauration seront envoyés sur demande à ceux qui voudront les voir

Veuillez ^[sic] agréer Monseigneur l'assurance des sentiments de respectueux dévouement avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être

Votre très humble servante en J.C.

OSCOTT ARCHIVES

[copied from an authenticated manuscript copy]

My Lord,

Allow me to present you my warmest congratulations on your new dignity – I cannot think of it without sorrow for myself & sorrow for the Propag. But it is the will of God and Bavaria will gain as much as the Propaganda loses - I hope dear Father that it will be for your happiness in this world as well as in the next - I feel much afflicted and indeed desolate when I think of ever losing your holy direction and most consoling advice – but now I will not anticipate my misfortune – I will only think of your Lordship's happiness and will hope not to [be] forgotten in your holy prayers.

My Lord

Believe me ever

Your humble &

most respectful

C. Connelly

Palazzo Simonetti

Tuesday 12th [July 1836]

OLD ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE ARCHIVES
BATH STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

[copied from an Authenticated
copy]

L.

Mother Connelly to Bishop Ullathorn.

[A beautifully headed letter with a design of St. Mary's Convent, Derby, on the front. Also handwriting very delicate.]

St Mary's Convent, Derby
Aug 24th 1848

My Lord,

It is with great pleasure we now find ourselves under Your Lordship's protection and that we now look to you as our Bishop and our Father.

Your Lordship's very kind promise to visit our convent in our present oppression, is a source of great consolation to us, and we shall pray fervently that it may also be a consolation to Your Lordship and that nothing may interfere to prevent its fulfilment. We have earnestly solicited the visit during the five months without success; therefore, my dear Lord, we the more perseveringly desire your promised visit, and it is necessary for us that our affairs be examined into and that we may be judged impartially. All this our most excellent chaplain has explained to Your Lordship – Our confidence and hope is only in your visit. The Community is going on religiously and in great peace notwithstanding.

[continued below]

(2)

our exterior troubles. Our schools are increasing – and within the last year we have formed a night school where we have upward of a hundred girls. They learn the catechism every night besides sewing, cutting out work, reading, writing and the rudiments of Arithmetic, in turn. The school opens at 6p.m. and closes at 9 o'clock which gives us almost as much time with the girls as a half-day school would do. We attend to their confessions regularly, and they have instructions two nights in the week from our good Chaplain. We have upwards of a hundred and fifty little children in the day-school tho' they are so frequently kept at home for the service of their parents that we seldom see more than 60 or 70 together. The little ones also have instruction twice a week from our Chaplain who is most truly devoted to the good of souls and an example for us all in his unwearied sacrifice of himself and in his great humility. I did not intend to have said this and as all that I could say of the Community would be of the same character, I may only add, as far as we are concerned, should your Lordship not be satisfied it will only be with me – and perhaps our Lord will allow this that I may have that penance which will make me truly grateful to your Lordship and help me to correspond to my vocation.

Again repeating the grateful thanks of our Community and humbly begging your Lordship's blessing,

I am,

my dear Lord,

Your obedient and faithful child in Xt.

Cornelia Connelly.

To the Right Rev^d

Dr Ullathorn.

SHCJ ARCHIVES - MAYFIELD

[copied from a copy in C.C. hand]

Copy of the reply
Sent to the Bishop of Birmingham

The Convent
St Leonards on Sea
Sept 13th 1861

Reply to the statement made by
Dr Duke to the Trustees of the Convent Property

My Lord Bishop, [Ullathorne]

When the Community of the Holy Child Jesus came to St Leonards the service was held in one of the lower rooms of the Convent. There was then no question or proposal concerning Parochial rights – On the contrary the Rev^d J Jones would not allow the chapel to be registered for marriages. Mass was said on Sunday & sometimes in the week & the public was admitted to the services, but it was never constituted as a Missionary Church. Mr Jones paid his chaplain £20 pr:an: & I was told that the Bishop allowed him £30. We never heard or saw High Mass in the room used for a chapel before Mr Jones' death.

There was no sort of Catholic School either for boys or girls on the premises until the Community collected one by one the poor children of the neighbourhood by means of the distribution of pictures & medals & in one week we attracted about 20 children & with these opened the 1st Catholic School at St Leonards. A few months later the chaplain who had accompanied us from Derby (Mr Richardson the former Chaplain left before we arrived) begged to have a few boys brought into the School in order to have them prepared for their first Communion – As a charity

consented to admit them, but we very soon found that other boys were sent & the Chaplain insisted upon the duty of keeping them for their souls' sake ^[sic] - whether we wished to have them or not, & he intimated that the Cardinal desired him to keep them in for the sake of the mission. This occurred just after Mr Jones' death, when the Chaplain wished me to consent to the Boys having a dormitory that they might sleep on the premises! – Shortly after this he was removed & Dr Melia took his place. At this time the boys were still in the room at the South end of the Convent, where the former chaplain had placed them & the girls school, begun by the Rev^d J Jones was being finished & ~~the~~ ^[sic] by a builder employed by Col: Towneley. As soon as the building was finished & the workmen had left the premises Dr Melia took possession of the key of our girls school & put the boys into it. He said he acted on authority w^h I had no right to dispute. Of course he kept possession of the school & our girls used the room above built for a dormitory.

If your Lordship will refer to the Cardinal's letter of 1848 you will see that it contained no proposal of Parochial rights or of a boys school – neither was there any question of a mission in the agreement made by the Rev^d J Jones.

Things were in this state when D^r Grant entered upon his charge. His Lordship very soon decided that the Deed must be made, & he refused to admit Novices or Professions until the Property was settled on us by a Deed of trust. This was done. I understood at the time the Deed was drawn up that Col. Towneley was induced to put in a clause

[Letter continued – begun on page 31]

- 3 -

of ten years for the building of the Church by D^r grant suggesting that the Congregation were able & willing to build it, but that the Community had not the means to do it.

2. The Congregation at their own expense built the present Chapel.

The present Chapel was built for a Refectory for our Community with the intention of using it as a Chapel until the Church could be built. It cost upward of £600. Dr Duke subscribed £50, the Chevalier de Zulueta £50, and a Mr Middle (as nearly as I can remember the name) also gave us £50. the Queen of the French gave us £60 for having kept the Corpse of one of her Ladies upward of a week in the Convent, & this sum went to make up the £200 by subscriptions. The heating apparatus cost us £200, so that the whole cost was £800 of which £150 was paid by the Congregation.

3. “The Community have” - “assumed possession”

The Community of the Holy Child Jesus were given possession of the whole property of All Souls in December 1848 by Mr Jones himself who gave up to them the whole charge of the Convent Chapel & Farm together with the plate, church vestments, library & furniture throughout the premises, & we have had possession of the same from that date to this.

4. “The Chapel” --

The Chapel has always been open to the public at the times appointed by the Bishop and we have never had any intention to close it unless ordered to close by the same authority. The hours for the public services have been kept with perfect exactness without exception. Unfortunately we cannot say the same of the plaintiff. One morning,

Sunday, when by order of the Bishop our door was locked at the Convent mass at 7A.M., the plaintiff assaulted the outer door while Mass was going on & kicked at it to the great disturbance of the children & community until it was unlocked - :

The Chapel is not only kept open, at the hours named by the Bishop, but all Catholics & visitors have far greater advantages & facility in visiting the B. Sacrament than they ever had before the Community came to St Leonards when the doors were always locked except at the time of Sunday services & occasional [sic] week day Masses & Benedictions

The Services of the Congregation were separated from the Convent by order of the Bishop greatly to the advantage of both parties, & I trust will always be separate. The arrangements for confession &c have never been interfered with in any way by the Community – Any body can go to confession whenever the Priest chooses within the hours appointed by the Bishop.

No one was ever turned out of the Church when visiting the B. Sacrament. On two occasions when the annual retreat was being given several persons came in & the Priest who was instructing stopped till they were told that the instructions were private – The following year the same thing occur[r]ed with a Nobleman. – These two instances were made use of as a source of Complaint: Mr Foy came with the Choir at night after the hours marked by the Bishop of which we complained to the Priest privately.

5 “Boys School” – Wretched Shed”

The Boys School planned by Mr Wardell under the

directions or approbation of the Bishop. & unfortunately very ugly, cost us £250 – This sum is just 100 more than the subscription of the Congregation to our Refectory or present Chapel. There were but ten or twelve boys attending the School when we were induced to build a School for them in order to remove them from the room Dr Melia had taken for them. I think it is more than two years since the master was dismissed & the School closed.

The Congregation never was larger than it is at present. It always consisted of visitors rather than residents, consequently it is very fluctuating.

6 Dr Duke had quarrelled with the Rev^d J Jones before the Community came to St Leonards, & he was only called in professionally a few days before his death. During the last year of Mr Jones' life he frequently expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the plaintiffs conduct & it was only to satisfy the wishes of the Community that the Refectory now used as a chapel was built & not by any transaction of the plaintiff who could not even venture to offer his subscription to Mr Jones, but acted through the Community.

7 Mrs Ireland had made a deed of gift of all her property conveying the whole to the Rev^d J Jones some [sic] years before her death more-over she was quite childish during the latter part of her life.

The building of the Presbytery for the accommodation of three priests at the Cost of the Community ought to prove to any reasonable ~~man~~ [sic] person that the sole object of our life is the interest of the Catholic Church.

The only conclusion we can come to is, that the plaintiff is assuming a very absurdly false position – That he has done great mischief to the Catholic interest in this place & that he is now doing more injury than ever.

The doubt created upon the Trust Deed in general casts an apprehension that we shall never be safe in building the Church.

I have taxed y^r patience, my Lord Bishop already too long & I will only add that

I am respectfully

Your Lordship's

Copy of the reply faithful servant in JC
Sent to the Right Rev Cornelia Connelly
Dr Ullathorne
Bishop of Birmingham)

[in pencil] - Latter part

(Not copied but remembered after the letter was sent)

(P.S. Working of the Mission not)

(dependent on the Conventual property)

[Document endorsed as follows :-

Copy of a Reply made to the Statement of Dr Duke's appeal to the Trustees of the Convent property at All Souls St Leonards on Sea.

Dr Duke having no reply from the Trustees appealed to the Holy See -

Dr Errington was appointed to look into the matter – He visited the Covent and left matters as they were –

Dr Ullathorne was then appointed. He visited the Covent during my absence. A Telegraph was sent from Preston to know if I could meet his Ld^p in Birmingham & answered affirmatively – I went to Birmingham & his Lordship gave me the appeal to answer. It is the enclosed manuscript.

C.C. Sept 14th

1861

SHCJ ARCHIVES MAYFIELD

[copy of a letter to Bishop Vaughan]

[Feby. 10th. –56]

My Lord Bishop

I beg to acknowledge and to thank you for your kind letter & to express the grateful feelings of our little Community on receiving Your Lordship's generous offer of the House adjoining St. John's Chapel.

Your Lordship is perhaps aware that we are a young Community, and that our work has very rapidly increased here & elsewhere, therefore it would be almost impossible for us to send an affiliation anywhere at the present moment.

If Your Lordship is not in immediate want of a Community, perhaps a year or two hence would not be too long to wait for us. In this case may I ask Your Lordship

- 1st. Whether there are any large poor Schools to be hoped for in the town?
2. Whether the number of Pupils offering for the Middle School would probably be sufficient to ensure the support of the Convent?
3. Whether the Middle School children would be Boarders in the Convent?
4. Whether the existing House is large enough to accommodate Pupils as Boarders?
5. Whether the House would be settled on the Community, and whether lease-hold or free-hold?

These questions grow into a list quite, but I must ask them, & give Your Lordship the trouble of answering them, before we could fairly consider the subject in question.

May I beg My Lord that your proposal to us may bring us

[continued below]

- 2 -

under a remembrance in your holy Prayers and to a share in your Blessings which I shall most especially value.

My Lord Bishop

I am

Your Lordship's

Humble servant in JC.

[unsigned but in the hand of Mother Connelly]

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat]

[c. 1849]

My dear Lord, [Bishop Wiseman]

I am truly happy that you take this clear view of the case, it is undoubtedly the true view. Dr. Winter's and Lord Shrewsbury's (might I say) blindness on this subject has long been a source of great surprise to me. I think Dr. Winter will find some difficulty in making out any double dealing. We have God & the truth on our side, therefore we need fear nothing. I am ready for anything that God wills. Do you not see that Mr. C. has determined to break up our Order and ruin and upset the whole? He declared he would do this and he probably hopes that I may go to another Convent to begin afresh under him! I should not be at all surprised that his threats of Apostatizing are only to gain this point.

You may be quite easy, my dear Lord, as to my letters or that they could prove anything more than the affection of a sister to a brother. I do not believe I have ever written a letter to him that might not safely be brought before all our enemies.

As I never intended to give Mr. C. any authority over me or the Convent, and never considered him in any way our Superior I fear nothing on this point – and the

[continued below]

very allusion to being in the confessional with him, is a want of delicacy that pains me more than I can express. It would indeed have been a question of Heaven or Hell that would ever have induced me to take such a step.

You have no doubt been astonished at the tenour of Mr. C's letters to me. I allowed him to write all these things without answering anything that I thought would irritate him to have contradicted. Had I told him at first the whole truth he would have crushed us, when he could have done so, now he cannot crush us. I also thought he would get some other crochet that would have caught his inclinations, and thus his thoughts of authority over us would have gradually died away.

I am so sorry to know that you have such heavy crosses. I hope Mr. Sing has withdrawn his demands on you. He has not answered my last letter about the bills. Do keep up your spirits. I wish you could be with us at this moment of trial.

Ever my dear Lord, & Father in Xt

Your true & grateful child

Cornelia Connelly

St Leonards on Sea

Tuesday

SHCJ ARCHIVES - ROME

Letter Book I

Letter 85, page 90

1861

Copy April 25.

My Lord Cardinal [Wiseman]

JMJ

+ It is a great consolation to us to know that Your Eminence is sufficiently recovered to visit St Leonards, and I need not add that our prayers have been constantly offered for the relief of the many & long suffering Your Eminence has so heroically endured. We are praying now very fervently that the warm sea air may prove all that is most desirable for the renovation of your health & strength and I will only add that I am

My Lord Cardinal

Your faithful and

Grateful Servt in JC.

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

The Convent

April 25

SHCJ ARVCHIVES - ROME

[copied from Letter Book I
Letter 89, pages 92B – 94]

To Dr Wood
Bishop of Philadelphia

The Convent
St Leonards -on – Sea
June 3rd [1861]

JMJ

AMERICAN

My Lord Bishop

The first post must convey my best thanks for your Lordship's kind letter received on the 31. ult. Together with our grateful acceptance of your offer of the House and schools. We shall hold ourselves in readiness to undertake our journey as soon as your Lordship thinks it prudent to do so. Though we presume that in the present unsettled state of the country there would not be a fair chance of success in this holy & much hoped-for work.

I think my niece niece [sic] must have given your Lordship the immediate details of our works and the enclosed prospectuses will show the sort of schools established. Added to these we likewise train orphans and poor girls in all domestic work thought the number of these depends chiefly upon the resources of each Convent. I also enclose the report of the Bishops Poor School Committee in 1855, which give some view of the Catholic connexion in school matters with the Eng. Government that may be of interest.

Of course no interference is allowed on Religious points which is a condition made by our Bishops, and only Catholics are received in our Female colleges I presume there are no "Govt." funds raised ~~raised~~ [sic] in the United States for educational purposes and if there were funds, the Catholics would not be likely to have a fair chance.

I sent your Lordship's letter to the D. of Leeds, who immediately

Came up to see me, explaining that there was no necessity or use in her sending a power of attorney as none of her lands had been let or leased, & that a deed of gift for the 2000 acres belonging to Her Grace in Lycoming County, should be drawn up by an American lawyer, which Her Grace would sign & deliver to us.

I inclose a letter for Your Lordship which the Duchess is to hold got for Mr. Ward the agent in Tawanda [Towanda] Bradford County who will give every facility in point of the information necessary so that the deed has only to be drawn up in favour of the Community of females entitled Sisters of the Holy Child from St L-on-Sea Sussex England in trust to Your Lordship myself and four of the Community whose names I sent to my niece for the land in Baltimore.

Should Your Lordship think that there is little hope of establishing a training school on the land, of course it could be sold the Deed being drawn up in such a form as to empower the Trustees to sell any portion or portions of it that may be advisable or necessary. I should be sorry however not to retain a certain portion of it where the Catholics are the most destitute and with a Branch House in Philadelphia Both Lucoming County & Bradford might become positions most desirable for boarding schools & poor day schools.

I have written to the Duchess this evening to say that we joyfully accept the 150 acres in Bradford County, and this should hope to be almost immediately a position that would be ~~advise~~ [sic] available for a middle school and orphanage if not for a higher school, being so near the populous portion of the State of new York. I will write by this post to my niece and send her to see your Lordship – 50 dollars to have the expence [sic] of the Deed &c defrayed both for Baltimore and Lycoming, but any further expences [sic] regarding the matter I shall be happy to refund to your Lordship.

Were it possible and safe for our Sisters to make the journey in August the state of the country permitting, your Lordship might count upon seeing them.

Begging Your Lordship's blessing I will only add that I am

Very gratefully your servant in JC –

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

SHCJ ARCHIVES - ROME [copied from Letter Book I
Letter 93, page 98]

1861

JMJ AMERICAN The Convent St L – on – Sea
July 15. 1861

Copy

My Lord Bishop [Wood]

Your present determination is quite what we might have expected; but at the same time we are filled with apprehensions the most sad, at hearing your fears for the state of the country. It seems almost impossible to realize this sudden change from prosperity to utter ruin, from the high hopes of a brilliant nation to the reality of one of "Rowdyism". We shall pray more than ever that our Mother Immaculata may take her seat in the very centre of the land and bring "peace on earth to men of good will". We shall say our rosary of the Dolours especially for your intentions daily. We give up all intentions of going to America until the war is over, and then we shall hope that we may labour in your diocese with every prospect of good to souls, and an increase of faith to the neighbourhood that may be most agreeable to you. My niece will no doubt have the Deed drawn out for the Lycoming lands, and Mr. Ward will be glad probably of a chance of the Mission being provided for, as his daughter is a Catholic, and, judging from his letter to the Duchess of Leeds, he seems to be a very good man. At all events the lands will be secured for the increase of the Church, and this is the first great object.

Would you be surprised if I tell you that the Sisters who were most zealous for labour in the American States and in my own native place actually cried when they found our going was to be deferred? – Yes – it really was so! And the existing feeling is that I, being an American, and having myself [sic] devoted myself to the works of our Vocation in England,

America ought to be the desire of their hearts before any other place out of England. The Bishop of Melbourne has asked us to send out a colony to Australia which now they fear may be the first. But if the American people come to their senses, I suppose we may expect a just separation of the North and south, being of such opposing interests, and then probably the school in Bradford County would be the one you would be likely to turn towards. We could send an excellent Irish farmer with the Sisters who has served us most faithfully since 1848, and the expences [sic] of the schools and Community would be defrayed chiefly by the produce of the Farm and £500 would be sufficient to expend at the first on a frame building for themselves and their schools which they would pay back to our building fund at their convenience, either by a sale of the lands or otherwise.

In fact I could at once invest this sum in the lands that are to be made over to us by the Deed of Gift when it is once signed.

But this must be for your Lordship's further consideration. I must not forget to mention that you give me a title that does not belong to me. We have no titles among us nor Abbeys. We are simply Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, being of 3 ranks, Chapter – House Sisters & School Sisters and our houses are under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Diocese – and we have no Abbeys. But I must not take up your valuable time and I will only add begging a blessing that I am

My Lord Bishop

Your faithful servant in Jesus Christ

Cornelia Connelly.

Posted the same day.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from Letter Book I]
Letter 102, pages 112-114

The Convent of the Holy Child –
St Leonards – on – Sea –

AMERICAN

March 3rd. 1862.

JMJ. To Dr Wood of Philadelphia (in pencil)

My Lord Bishop –

Before this I trust you have received from Mr Ward the Deed for the Towanda Mission signed by the Duchess of Leeds, and witnessed by the same witnesses as the Deeds for ourselves, which latter made over to us the large frame House, together with five acres of ground & other two farms, one of 100 acres, and the other of 46 acres – in Bradford Country. The d of L is very anxious that we should go to Towanda as soon as possible. Now our movements must depend upon your advice my Lord. Mr W says that they are perfectly quite [sic] quiet & that we shall be as safe in Towanda as we could wish. Is this your opinion and do you wish us to open a day school there without further delay? If so our Sisters could go at Midsummer. If not, it will not make the slightest difference to us to wait till peace is declared & you think we may go. We should look forward to a very small work to begin with, but as the country becomes more settled the place will be more accessible for a Training, or a Boarding School & Orphanage – Whatever you think best. I think my Lord you know that the D of Leeds has given the whole of the Bradford lands to the Jesuit FF., excepting that which is made over to us and to your mission at Towanda, but there is a little delay in signing their deed because of the necessity of carrying out the ejectments of unpaying tenants. The property of Lycoming is secured by deed

[continued below]

- 2 -

to us and the D. is counting upon our turning this property to good account without selling it. Her Grace wishes me to ask your lawyer, whose name I do not know whether he could not lease the land on an advantageous contract for working the coal mines, which Her Grace thinks ought to bring in enough to build in Philadelphia and to endow several Convents elsewhere. There is now a contract for timber on this land which is to bring in 1500 dollars \$500 of which is at present due. This I thought we should appropriate at once to Towanda to build a wing for the Chapel &c &c that may be immediately required & the 2 farms and garden wd be the immediate support of the Community. We could open our day school without delay and I should send not less than 5 Sisters to make the foundation. Will your Lordship say whether we had better wait till peace is declared, or whether you approve of our Sisters going at Midsummer? We have prayed every day for more that a year to St Anthony, who had so great a love for the HC to send us to A if it is for the good of souls and the glory of G., and when we make our usual prayers to him this evening. For the first time it occurred to me that his own FF's are at Towanda. We have a very beautiful statue of the Saint receiving the HC standing on his breviary. Our Saviour is of surpassing beauty, and the whole is so devotional that we daily thank our Immaculate Mother for this vision so often repeated to the dr Saint. I must not encroach upon the time of Your Lordship which must always be very precious, but I will now only ask your blessing & prayers for our Community and children in number upwards of 150, besides our two day schools, so that we have need of all the

- 3 -

Blessings & prayers we can get. And we beg also a remembrance in the Holy Sacrifice while

I am my Lord Bishop

Your faithful servt in JC –

C.... C....

May I beg of your kindness to send the inclosed to my poor protestant Sister?

Convent Mayfield
June 29th [1876]

My Lord Archbishop [Wood]

It is with heart felt satisfaction that I have to acknowledge & to thank your Grace for the kind letter brought to me by our dear Sisters and I hasten to express the gratitude of our religious for the kindness shewn to our Assistants during their visit to Philadelphia, and to say that it will be a most pleasing duty on our part daily to beg of our Lord to return your Grace a hundred fold of His light & mercy.

At the same time I wish sincerely to humble myself & to beg pardon for past deficiencies observed in myself or in others and for anything which may have ever displeased your Grace or have met your disapprobation and I beg of your Grace to look with a favourable eye upon all faults of inexperience and not to attribute faults of this nature to any premeditated will or to false principles of independence. I am sure that the goodness of your Grace will believe the only object of our life is to serve God in obedience to His Holy Church under authority, to devote ourselves to the salvation of Souls & to lead the Children under our care to the same submission & dependence and I trust we may truly prove to your Grace that our dependence on this Authority is not only in word but in deeds –

I have often wished to write to your Grace but I never knew how far my writing might be an intrusion upon your notice & upon your very precious time. As soon as Mother Mary Xavier has recovered from the effects of her journey she will no

[continued below]

- 2 -

doubt take the first opportunity to thank your Grace for all the paternal Charity you have shewn towards all the Sisters as well as towards herself

My Lord Archbishop I am truly

Your grateful & humbled

Servt in J.C.

C. C.

SHCJ ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book III
Page 42]

Eminence,

D'après les constitutions de notre ordre, un chapitre général doit s'assembler à St Leonard's-on-Sea, le deux soût prochain, à l'effet d'élire une Supérieure Général et quatre assistantes.

Déjà j'ai envoyé, avec l'approbation de Sa Grandeur Monseigneur l'Evêque de Southwark, des circulaires à toutes nos maisons, pour que chacune y soit représentée par des déléguées. Aujourd'hui je viens demander à Votre Eminence son autorisation pour l'élection d'une déléguée de notre couvent de Neuilly sur Seine, placé sous sa haute juridiction. Je prie aussi très-humblement Votre Eminence de daigner accorder son approbation à celle de nos religieuses de Neuilly que les suffrages désigneront pour faire partie du chapitre général : la sanction de ce choix, faite par votre Eminence, donnant à la déléguée toute autorité pour représenter dignement le couvent du St Enfant Jésus de Neuilly. Je saisis cette occasion pour exprimer à Votre Eminence mes sentiments de profonde gratitude pour la bienveillance et le dévouement que Mar. Le Promoteur n'a cessé de montrer à l'égard de nos chères sœurs, et la prie d'agréer l'hommage de mon profond respect

avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être

de Votre Eminence

la très humble servante en J.C. C.C.

[Cornelia Connelly]

Le 9 mai 1877

Du Convent St Leonards on Sea

[In another copy of this letter, the following is added in C.C.'s hand]

Translation made by Mons l'aumônier