

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

[ This letter is only fragmentary. Parts have been cut out ]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Feb. 25 [/72]

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J.M.J.

My darling Monica

I must forget it is Lent and make up my deficien....

.....me in every respect – Now

darling this includes all other praises.....

...admirable Photographs which

represent him to be in perfect health and freshness of age.

Your dear Mamma must be delighted with them.... ours framed.

God ever bless you – love to dr Clara

Yrs affcly in J.C.

C.C.

[Addressed on back]

Miss Monica Bellasis [ later Mother M. Edward]

Volume 2

pg 02

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME

[copied from Original]

The Convent Aug.9<sup>th</sup> /72

Mayfield

Hawkhurst

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J.M.J.

My dearest Monica [ Bellasis- later Mother M. Edward]

It gave me much pleasure to hear from you so soon after your arrival, & had I not been so much fatigued you should have had a prompt answer my darling. – But you will accept this as the answer to your first, and it must convey my thanks for the copy of d<sup>r</sup> Miss Whites kind letter, which I shall value particularly.

So you did not tell dear Papa that you sang all alone on the night of the prizes ! I am very glad that you left us this pleasure, as it was a very nice act of humility on your part to keep your secret, and it is a double act of virtue to offer for you to our Blessed Lord.

Now my darling I want you to tell Clara that she must not allow her Papa to go to Hyères without her. I am quite sure that he needs her most watchful care and d<sup>r</sup> Kattie can have better nursing than she could give her, from a good experienced English Nurse, used to her duty. We found your d<sup>r</sup> precious Father looking very poorly & thin - He requires all the care & nourishment that can possibly be given- This is my whisper to d.<sup>r</sup> Clara & for her alone - She must watch & forsee his wants & give constant nourishment, to get good blood into his system.

May God ever bless you my darling.

Y<sup>rs</sup> lovingly in J.C.

C.C. Sup

Volume 2

pg 03

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES MAYFIELD.

[Copied from Original]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

May 9<sup>th</sup> – [75]

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JMJ

My dearest Monica [Bellasis]

Your dear thoughtful letter giving us news of Katties safe accouchement reached us the post after Mr Bowrings had kindly sent the news.

It was a relief to know that your darling Mother and Clara were once more safe and with you- only fancy your long silence ! The truth is no doubt that you have been so well employed at Torquay that you half forgot your old school days Can you not manage to meet your old companions on their Whitsuntide Picnic to Mayfield ? You know you are always welcome on all occasions threefold without waiting for any invitation-

Love to d<sup>r</sup> Mama & Clara

The Bells rings ! Ever yrs affectionately in JC

M Cornelia Connelly.

[Copied in pencil in another hand ]

This is a relic of dear M Foundress I think You may love to possess it

You can destroy the first page if you like.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES- ROME

[Copied from Original]

The Convent, April 15<sup>th</sup> 1876

St Leonards on Sea.

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J.M.J.

My dearest Monica [ Bellasis- later Mother M. Edward ]

A few lines only to send you your precious photograph which was too long mislaid, but no doubt you prayed very devoutly for the poor Nuns, who were so cut short in the work they had to do for our Lord ! You ~~will pray~~ [sic] will also pray for us dear in our journies [sic] of this year when we shall be making our visitations in each of the Convents. There are accidents so frequently by railway as well as by sea that it is doubtful where they are the most numerous- One thing is never doubtful- that we are in the hands of God by land or by sea and we must always be ready to fly to Heaven! Our Holy Week services are just over & we are just having Holy Saturday blessing of the House. I suppose you are having the visit of Mons. le Curé also & that we are doing the same thing- Now I must wish you a very happy Easter and beg of you to convey my best wishes to your d<sup>r</sup> Mamma & to Clara.

I saw your d<sup>r</sup> Sister Mrs Charlton a few days ago and she was not looking very well, and no doubt rather anxious abt the arrangements for her house at New Castle- Her little girl is at Mayfield & every body is charmed with her. You will be glad to hear that Mother M. Frances has been in London for a change & has just returned to Mayfield. She is not allowed to fatigue herself with the Sacristy & in fact she is to have nothing to do with it henceforth, as she always gets too much interested in the work for her good. God bless you darling & help you to pray well for our intentions & for all blessings.

Y<sup>rs</sup> affc<sup>ly</sup> in J C

C.C. Sup. G<sup>l</sup>.

Volume 2

pg 05

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME

[Copied from Original]

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J.M.J

My dearest Monica [ Bellasis- later Mother M. Edward]

Your letter recd this morning had a very warm welcome & was rapidly passed on to dr Mother Mary Frances. – Now my dear child you will feel assured that your dear self will have a still more heartfelt congratulation when the time comes for the actual step to be made.

Where there is a true vocation God gives the grace necessary, and you need not think whether you are very clever or not – I am particularly pleased with the expressions of your letter & with your trust in God, Who never fails us when we confide in Him. Let us unite in thanking God that your dear Mama is resigned to make the sacrifice – of course it was a great trial, but the prayers of your d<sup>r</sup> Sainly Father will be her great help – You will be five, in all, given especially to the Service of God and this will be a triumph to him in heaven. Give my dearest love to Mama, to Clara & to Katey– I must stop now dearest Monica I am not allowed to write long as I am only recovering slowly.

Ever y<sup>rs</sup> affectionately in JC.

M Cornelia Connelly

Sup Gen.

The Convent July 5<sup>th</sup> /78

Mayfield

Hawkhurst

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME [Copied from Original]

The Convent

March 8 - 1877

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JMJ

My dearest Children

Your letter reached me last week & I hasten to wish you every blessing with many congratulations on the great grace bestowed upon you. May you be more & more happy in seeking to know, love, & serve our dear Lord in the fulfilment of all your duties, by the clear understanding of the Commandments of God & of the Church, and of the great grace of the Sacraments.

May God ever bless you my dearest Children, & believe me to be,

Your loving Mother in JC

C.C.

Sup Gen SHCJ.

[ Re reception into the Church, Feb. 1. 1877]

[Addressed on the outside]

The Misses Ella and Ada Darlington [ later

The Convent

Mother Francis Xavier,

St Leonards House

Mother Marie Claire U.S.A.]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

The Convent April 27<sup>th</sup> [1877]

St Leonards on Sea

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JMJ

My dearest Child, [ Mollie M<sup>c</sup> Master later M.St.John- U.S.A.]

I intended writing to you at Easter, but when you remember the great number of letters I have to answer you will not be surprised at any delay- You are in our daily prayers and this is better than having many prayers.\* We are now making a Novena in w<sup>h</sup> you have a large share- & your Photograph has to take the place of your face that I may be sure to imagine you as you are & to call upon our dr Lord to bless you & to plant you in the fertile garden of his Spouses & there to help you to bring forth very sweet fruits of virtue to endure for all Eternity.-

May his sweet Mother & S<sup>t</sup> Joseph ever bless you with the gift of perfect fidelity to his Grace and that you may rise above all that is merely human & go on in the perfection of the Blessed love of God.

Ever my dear Mollie

Your loving Mother in JC

C C Sup Gen

Mother Helen prays much for you & your Sisters

[\* The word prayers has been crossed through in pencil and letters added above in pencil and another hand. ]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

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JMJ

My darling Freda [later Mother Mary Teresa Walton]

I had hoped to drive to the station to meet you,  
but am forced to send the little Pony carriage as the  
other was broken yesterday ! But no one bruised !

We shall expect you to arrive safe at 4/½ - The  
Servant will send you this by the porter while he  
waits with the pony on the other side

Ever yrs affc<sup>y</sup>

My darling Freda

C.C.

Sup G.

May 7<sup>th</sup> 1876

The Convent Mayfield



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Oct 13<sup>t</sup> [1876]

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JMJ

My darling Freda [ Walton later Mother M. Teresa]

I am very glad to know that you feel so happy again and that you are in good spirits. I spoke to your dear parents when they came here with Lucy abt the possibility of your having a winter in Paris. Now my darling, I think this would be a great benefit to you, as you would be in a Convent, and at the same time have the advantage of following a course of Readings in French History & Literature , and also a Conversational course to habituate you to speaking in French, which you have never really acquired. I want to form a class of our old pupils for the course and perhaps you could persuade Katie McGee to join you - If you think she would be likely to make one of the number I wld write to her father so as to secure this advantage for her.

I expect to leave here in abt a fortnight & I shall possibly remain all the winter in Paris . We have a warm welcome from the Card: Archêve to found a house in the most advantageous position.

Mt M Angela has perhaps written to you - She will be there for the winter & perhaps longer.

I hope dear Mary is quite well and Annie as happy as usual.

Ever my darling Freda

Yrs aff<sup>y</sup> in JC

M.Cornelia Connelly

Sup Gen.

P.S. Your dear Mamma will be with Annie very soon or I shd not like to ask you to leave her.

Volume 2

pg 10

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

51, Rue de Théâtre

Grenelle Paris

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1976

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JMJ

My dearest Child, [Freda Walton]

I know your troubles so well that you need no excuse for not writing. – If Xmas is trying to you at home just now why not get the consent of your parents to come here at once & to bring Lucy with you ? I shall be very glad to have her here to finish her year, and she would thus stand a fair chance of being forced into speaking French, volens nolens-

This week we are to move into our New Convent, at the Chateau du Parc de Neuilly, abt ten minutes drive from the Arc de Triomphe, Place de l'Etoile. You will be delighted to be amongst the first there. The Chateau was built by Louis Phillippe [sic] for his Sister and will take in abt 50 children so you can have a room to yourself with Lucy if you like ! There are only six children with us at present, but the prospectuses are not yet printed, and we shall no doubt soon have a nice school.

Congratulate dr Annie for me on the birth of her dear little one & tell her she must constantly give it to our dr Lady .Today is her Mothers Expectation & we sang “ Like the dawning of the Morning” at Mass this morning in our little Chapel, & I never forgot you.

The lease for our house is to be signed this evening, but the rooms have to be cleaned etc., etc., so it will not be possible to be in before Friday or Saturday. If

you come by a late Steamer you had better sleep at Hotel Piel, Paris, just opposite the Gare du Nord. They are good people and reasonable. We stayed there several times.

Ever yrs affc<sup>y</sup> in JC.

C.C. Sup Gen.

Ever your loving Mother

C.C. S.G.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Original]

Au Chateau

3 Boulevard de la Saussaye

Neuilly sur Seine Paris

[Jan 1877?]

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JMJ

Dear Freda

If you recd my letter you will remember that I asked you to write & let me know at what time in January you would like to come & I told you, that when I knew I could then arrange for one of the Sisters to come across with you. Of course I could not not [sic] understand why you made no answer and concluded that you were enjoying you[r] Christmas so much that you had no other thought – I am glad you are at St Leonards & happy my darling, and very soon I hope you will be here with Mt M. Joseph who will come with you by the tidal train if possible, or by the Calais boat – Better to come by Folkestone & I will ask Mth Aloysia to send for a time table- You must not come by a later boat than 6 O C – at Paris, or if you are forced to come later you must sleep at "Hotel Piel" wh is just facing the Railway Station. [ Here the letter is cut away]..... Railway for a late arrival and no one is admitted into the Convent after 9 O C.

You will have to enregistrer your luggage to claim it at Paris- & you will have to show your bill of the register or you will not get your luggage –so you must not lose the tickets or your register bill –

Goodbye My darling & [ here the letter is cut away]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

The Convent Sep 10<sup>th</sup> [1877]

St Leonards on Sea

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J.M.J.

My darling Freda [ later Mother M. Teresa Walton]

I have hardly time to send you a line but I want you to bring Lucy down here yourself, if your dr Papa will permit you to come. I also want you to get permission for your dr Lucy to have this year in Paris. The change would be of great benefit to her, & you can tell her what a happy winter she will have the chance of spending

I expect to send Mth St Raphael over with some of Lucy's Companions but I shall not be able to go over myself for some little time. Now my darling do your best to obtain this advantage for Lucy & to come yourself to bring her.

If you will enquire when Agnes Magee is coming you might make the journey together, w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>ld</sup> be more pleasant for all.

Kind messages to your dear parents & to Lucy -

Ever yrs affc<sup>y</sup> in Xt

C.C.

Sup Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Sep 15 - 1877

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JMJ

My dear Freda

I wrote to you abt a week ago, & now I hear from your Papa that you & Lucy are in Switzerland Mother M Angela also received your letter saying you would be sure to visit the Convent Neuilly before returning – I hope you will be able to induce Lucy to remain there until she can speak French with some facility – Your papa only wishes that wh is for her advantage & Lucy herself must see this.

I hope my darling that you have fully enjoyed your trip & all the beauties of scenery that so much delight the eye, & lead the heart to the enjoyment of God's greatness & infinite wisdom & glory.

You will not forget us in your little visits to the B Sacrament. Love to Lucy & to Theresa -

Ever yrs lovingly in Xt

C.C.

[ Addressed on back]

Miss Freda Walton

Not to be forwarded

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S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

The Convent Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> [ /77]

St Leonards on Sea

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J.M.J.

A very happy Feast.

My darling Freda [later Mother M .Teresa Walton]

You will be remembered at Mass & Holy Com tomorrow of course –

You must not grieve too much over your retarded movements & do your best to satisfy your dr Mother. I hope the time may not come for Annie to reproach herself in any way on your account. Her character & yours are very different & she knows quite well that nothing was ever done here to persuade her into religious life, and she ought to be equally careful not to interfere with you.

Good bye my darling & may d<sup>f</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Winifred guard & protect you & bring you safe to the house of the Holy Child

Remember me to your dear Mama & papa – And Mary and Annie & tell Theresa that she might have stopped at S<sup>t</sup> Leonards on her way home [sic] if she had made the efforts She would have had a very warm welcome.

Ever yrs darling Freda

in the heart of the Holy Child Jesus

C.C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

[ The following message is on the back of a Christmas card decorated with holly]

To dearest Freda – [later Mother M.Teresa Walton]

With Xtmas greetings. The Holly at Mayfield is waiting for you to decorate the  
Altar

C.C.

Sup Gen

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

Dec. 24 [1877]



Copy

To Miss Aglionby from Our Mother dated Feby 23<sup>rd</sup> 1866

My dear Miss Aglionby-

Mrs Wilcox has forwarded your kind letter & I beg to express our most sincere gratitude for your very generous offer of Wigton Hall as a temporary shelter for our dear Nuns at Blackpool. But it grieves me not to be able to say that we can accept your highly appreciated kindness yet it will not be possible to do so. I assure you we shall not forget it before the Altar of Our Lord, who will reward you as He alone can reward; & we shall ever cherish the same gratitude as if we had been able to embrace the proffered charity. You will no doubt perfectly understand that we could not remove our Children to so great a distance without the consent of their parents and the removal of the Community, children and furniture temporarily would be attended by very serious difficulties, which I am sure you will see. Our lease at Raikes Hall does not expire till November & I trust we shall make some arrangements for the few intervening months to suit our dear kind friend Mrs Wilcox's convenience. I hope we may have the pleasure before very long of seeing you & thanking you in person, & proving to you how deeply I am touched by your kindness. Wishing you our Lord's richest blessings

I am yours very faithfully in J.C.

C.C.

Letter written to E. Barton by Our Mother April 13. 1863.

J.M.J.

My dear Emily

Your wish to return to the Noviciate does not surprise me, but at the same time you must not feel hurt if I tell you very frankly that we really do not think your health equal to the works of our Institute nor the former habits of your early life likely to assist you in following out a religious vocation. What would you do in the absence of your “ heavenly tea & toast” and with the “ terrible silence “ when not teaching ? I am glad that you speak openly of the poor living and the hard work. If we compare the simple living of our religious with the abundance & luxury of persons in the world it is certainly poor, but if on the contrary we compare it to that of the mendicant orders or to that of hermits of the desert it might be called luxurious – without either comparison it is simply the ordinary fare good for health & strength and good for all the essentials of life and health – good bread excellent meat milk & vegetables cocoa coffee & tea ( not heavenly in strength ) and besides all this any other diet the Doctor may think proper to order for those under his care. Now my dear Emily if you were to come back to us you wd not have more care or consideration in point of health than you had formerly & most likely not as much. You know that we go into religion to be formed to habits of poverty & obedience and not to draw others to conform to worldly habits & customs or to our own views & opinions & in all these matters our own opinions are absolutely nothing . Reason & Virtue, and the example of the SS [ Sisters, who have passed their lives under the same Rule as our own are our guides in the ways & customs of our life. Very likely it seemed to you that our dr Sisters worked very hard and they are truly glad to have the chance of such work & as much of it as they are able to do & we thank God for it humbly and most

gratefully. Still they have not the hard work of those who earn their bread by teaching in the world. On the contrary the SS here are relieved when their health demands relief while in the world generally the teacher toils on in order to earn her bread & finds herself spent beyond recovery. And in our case this state of things never occurs as facts prove for we have never lost a single Sister who had not been in a consumptive state when she came to us & several of those have been preserved many years beyond our expectations & are still going on with prudent care – Be ready my dr Emily to do God's sweet & holy will at all times – you have tried to serve Him in religion & you have proved yr good- will. Our dear Lord will accept your will rather than the “ Deed “ & you would be much more likely to succeed as a Teacher of music living in or near a Convent than if you again attempted to bind yourself under Religious rules. You say nothing about your health or Occupations ! We all remember you with affection & want to know how you are – Does Clara write to you often ? Let me know & believe me

Yours affectly in J.C.

C[ornelia C[onnelly]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

June 30<sup>th</sup> [1861

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JMJ

My dear Mrs Bellasis,

The continual occupations of the past week with two Inspectors at the Training School have filled all my time, but I deputed Sr Mary Ignatia to acknowledge your kind letter. I quite agree with your Medical Man in thinking that the fresh air will do for Mary much more than any other remedy, unless it be peace of mind, which it will be quite impossible for her perfectly to possess until she has made her great step ! - We all thoroughly understand my dear Mrs Bellasis how intensely you must suffer in making so great a sacrifice, but at the same time how much more you have to be thankful for than if d<sup>r</sup> Mary were going out to India, or to New Zealand, or else to have her enter upon married life, with perhaps great uncertainty as to her happiness – Even the Queen in parting with her eldest daughter had much more cause for sorrow than for joy – So I really hope you will take the brightest side of your heavy trial and make the offering to God as joyfully as possible.

I should almost be inclined to advise you to let Clara return with the maid who is to bring dr Mary to us. She has complained lately of pain at the back of her head and I think she is fretting about Mary's leaving you - so much so that we have had advice from our M<sup>dl</sup> Man, who does not wish her to study too much, and as the examination papers are coming on it will be almost impossible to avoid some extra excitement. I really do not think even should she

remain that it will be prudent to allow her to write her papers under these circumstances.

With many kind messages to all your dear circle

I am ever

Yrs very faithfully in JC

Cornelia Connelly

Dear Mr. Bishopp

The Sr Bursar has handed me your letter & returns the receipt for £50 on acct of the children.

With regard to the wine charged Conny has had it, & even asked for it, so you may feel quite sure that it was necessary for her, but for the future it would be much better that you should send it for her yourself & thus regulate what you think best for her. You may be quite sure that nothing is charged that has not been received as the infirmarian keeps strictly the acct of what she serves out for the sake of health.

The Dancing lessons are given thus in the Autumn a half quarter & in Spring a whole quarter – we only allow a half quarter in the Autumn as it is sufficient to keep the children in practice & it would not do to leave them from midsummer till the following spring without instruction. The Dancing Mistress is an expensive one, but her name commands a higher price than others her charges are £2. 2 per qr. for each child & she says she cannot form her pupils on one qr. in the yr, but unless you wish the children to have these Lessons they need not be given in future.

Copy

Letter written to Miss E.H.Bowles by Our Mother ( dated

Convent H.C.Jesus. St Leonards-on-Sea. Feby.5<sup>th</sup> 1863.

+ J.M.J.

My dear Miss Bowles –

The sentiments expressed in your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> are fully appreciated & I thank you for giving me the consolation they afford. I have frequently been gratified by the knowledge of your good works among the London poor & especially in the Im. Conception charities. You well know that our good God is ever ready to cast the veil over past offences & to bring forth where we least expect it. You will not be offended if I say that I am really sorry you do not settle yourself to some fixed purpose in the world after so many other trials where you have not found peace. How many have sanctified their souls in works of Charity out of Religion who could not succeed under Vows in certain Orders. You have two <sup>great</sup> means of serving and pleasing our dear Lord – your works among the poor and in your writings. I have just packed up a case of 4 doz of your History of England to send to America where it will be much relished. Could you not write some short plays out of “ the Martyrs of Japan “ or “ Laurentia “ that would do good among the young people who are forced into profane farces instead of the holy examples of the martyrs ? - The Jesuit Fathers would no doubt be as glad to have them as ourselves & you would be sure to write them well if done for this intention. I am going beyond an answer to your letter & I will only add that I wish you every blessing and a holy Lent full of good works & with many kind expressions I am

Yours faithfully in J.C.,

C.....C...

Volume 2

pg 24

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat ]

Copy of a letter sent to M<sup>r</sup> John Bowles Sep 13<sup>th</sup> 1856.

My dear Sir

In consequence of a letter received from Miss Bowles regarding her difficulties in meeting the interest money due on your mortgage on Rupert House, I think it my duty to inform you that we are not able to assist her beyond the hundred pounds pr an. which I already promised her,

Should you decide upon selling the property, which seems the most kind and reasonable termination of this unfortunate purchase, you will no doubt remember that your Sister has about £1300 belonging to M<sup>r</sup> S. Bowles, besides her own property invested in this house.

I need not say that any measures you may think proper to take, to secure your rights, we shall be most happy to cooperate with immediately.

The property ought to bring in the money expended upon it. ( I think between £8 & 9000) The Jesuits wished to purchase it last year, but they were not able to do so.

I am

d<sup>r</sup> Sir

very truly yrs in J.C..

C.Connelly Sup/G

All Souls

S<sup>t</sup> Leonards

Sep 13. 1856

To J.S. Bowles Es<sup>qr</sup>



My dear Mrs Buckle

The retreat will be given during passion week by Fr. Gallway.

I am sorry to say that I can only offer you a bed in a Dormitory, but if you object to this, we may find rooms within a stone's throw of the Convent. Let me know in time which you prefer – as my arrangements will depend partly on your preference.

If you can take Catherine Malone with you after the retreat I shall be very glad, as we cannot keep her without pension & she must take a situation of some sort immediately.

If Margaret & Fanny McCabe wish to make the retreat & will share in the dormitory with you we shall be very glad to see them.

I am

dr Mrs Buckle

Yrs very truly in J.C.

C.Connelly

All Souls

St Leonards

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> [1856]

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

[Copied from Letter Book III ]

Letter 4. Page 4

The Convent St Leonards – on Sea

Feb<sup>y</sup> 3. 1871

My dear Sir [ Rev<sup>d</sup> W Buckle ]

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup>, & I feel very sorry to hear of the failing sight of your dear Father – though the account of his good health is more satisfactory You say nothing of dear Mrs Buckle's state of health which I fear is still a cause of anxiety to you all.

Will you have the kindness to thank Mr Buckle for his generous forethought in proposing to pay the £2000 at once promised to your dear Sister ? There would be no difficulty whatever in giving the legal security for the payment of interest at 4 pr. on the new building at Blackpool which is held in the names of four of our Sisters; or if your dear Father would prefer any other form that I could sign from here, I shall be quite ready to do so. The security on the Convent at Blackpool would be the best as the money could be immediately invested by our Lawyer on that Building This property is in the form of a Trust in which your father is one of the Trustees. Sr Maria Joseph is at present living at Blackpool & was quite well when I last heard from her;

I remain my dear Sir

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Supr. Gl.

Volume 2

pg 27

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

[From copy-press duplicate of original]

Miss Elizabeth Burns

Portman Street

Portman Place

London

My dear Elizabeth

Our retreat will be given by Fr Gallway S.J. during Passion week – As soon as I know the day it is to open I will let you know – but if your parents do not object to your coming the week before I shall be very glad to see you – I shld like you to feel as much at home here as you do in Bentick St before the retreat begins & thus you will be more at ease to profit by the retreat.

I am

dr Lizzie

yrs in J.C.

C.Connelly

M. Sup

All Souls

St Leonards

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1856

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

[Copied from Letter Book 1

Letter 52, pages 52-53.]

Copy.

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

St Leonards-on-Sea

May 10<sup>th</sup>. [1858]

My dear Miss Christian

You will be sorry to hear that your letter to Margaret has given both pain & anxiety to her, which your kind affection would certainly have wished to avoid. Had I not been very constantly occupied, I should have written to you myself upon the subject most dear to her, which my dear Miss Christian ought not to be treated with indifference. Still there is no necessity to decide either for or against her Religious Vocation. Is there any reason why she should not remain as a Boarder in the Convent during the next six months without distressing her by doubts or contrary views; saying simply that you will not oppose her if we think proper to receive her as a Postulant at the end of this time ? We feel quite sure that you are too good to oppose her desire if it be the holy call of God, and in her state of health it seems to me to be the only safe way of knowing the sweet and holy Will of God in her regard.

You will perhaps after some reflection agree with us on this point, and allow her to return partly to the School classes without obliging her to study; and in the Autumn come to see her yourself and judge of her dispositions & of the stability of her present determination

May our Blessed Lord guide you in your decision for the welfare of this dear child

I am very truly

yours in JC

C....C....

Sup –

P .S . I ought to have mentioned that Margaret may return to the Dormitory if you think it better to reduce the expense to the school pension. -

Letter written July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862

JMJ

My dr Mrs. Dashwood

It will be quite convenient for us to receive Mona at the time you name – the 15 or 20<sup>th</sup> of July. Of course it must be always expensive to support a large family, but no doubt it will prove less costly to have Mona in the Convent at £50 pr. an than to have her at home. Her dress alone would cost this sum in the world.

We shall however consider it to be arranged as you propose £50 pr. an during her Noviciate & £30 later. We should presume however that she wd probably inherit some legacies that cd form a dower for her in after life to provide for illness &c &c which we are bound to have secured conscientiously in order to fulfil our duty to all.

Your communication shall be considered as quite private & I hope you will not hesitate in making any further enquiries you wish. I really cd not form my opinion regarding dr Mona's vocation until I see & know something of her present state of mind beyond that wh. is contained in a letter.

I am my dr Mrs. Dashwood

Yours very faithfully in JC.

C. C.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book II]

Letter 53 – Page 59

Copy of a letter dated Jany. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1865

+

J.M.J.

My dear Mrs Dashwood

I think your dear child has told you that she hopes to make her Vows the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Feby, when we shall look forward with much pleasure to seeing you here. I send you the inclosed form of agreement for the life pension of Mona, tho' I trust it may not in any way interfere with the dower she may inherit from parents or Grandparents in future. Our Vows are, as you are aware conditional vows & it would not be right to deprive her of any inheritance that she would have by remaining in the world, though she is ever [sic] ready to renounce all & for ever [sic] to follow in the footsteps of our dear Lord & in his holy poverty & in her vocation to religious life.

Will you have the kindness to give the "Agreement" to Mr Dashwood to fill & sign & then return it to me ? I am happy to say that Sr M. Xavier is in excellent health & very happy. She does not know of my writing, but I send you her affectionate & respectful love which I know is always at heart and hand.

Wishing that 1865 may bring you every blessing

I am

Very faithfully yours in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

All Souls

Convent H.C.Jesus

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1856.

My dear Mrs <sup>[?]</sup> Eyston

I am sorry to hear of M<sup>r</sup> <sup>[?]</sup> Eyston's illness – This weather is unusually cold & trying for elderly persons – We shall not fail in prayers for him, & I hope you may soon be relieved from all anxiety. I readily find the dates of Miss Bowles donations to our Convent – The first was in May 1851, £384.18.6. and January 1854. £277.11. – I do not know whether she wishes to make any restitution of the debt she has left on the three names involved in the bond of £1300. which was signed by those individuals, on condition that they should not be personally involved, but that the sum should be secured in the property to be purchased but as I have sent Miss Bowles upwards of three hundred pounds this year towards the payment of her debts at Rupert House there would still remain nearly £1000. against her supposing she would wish to reclaim the donations made here <sup>[?]</sup> which she declared to our sisters she meant to sue me for.

I am grieved for her more than I can tell, tho' I am very grateful to our good God that she is no longer one of us.

With many felicitations of this sweet & holy season for M<sup>rs</sup> Eyston & the dear little ones,

I remain

My dear Sir

Yours very truly in J.C.

C.Connolly [ sic]

[The above, written on notepaper ( in Mother Lucy Woolley's hand ? ) appears to be a( somewhat inaccurate) copy of a letter, not now extant, sent by Cornelia Connolly.]





[ only corrected copy]

All Souls

St Leonards

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1856

My very dear " Bessie " [Gray ]

I have often wondered why you have not written to me for so long a time. Has your uncle forbidden you to write my dearest child ? I know you too well to suppose that you could be offended & at the same time not tell me so – If it is that you are forbidden to write you are now of age and surely not to be subjected to an intolerance of such a nature and therefore I hope you will write without delay – Tho' if you can come yourself to finish lent [sic] and make a retreat it will be much more satisfactory to me than any letter could be – Could you and Amy do so ? Fr Gallway comes to us tomorrow Evening and the retreat is to begin on Thursday so that if you could start immediately and stop one night at Rupert House you could quite manage to be in time. I should have written to you sooner had I known what day Fr Gallway had decided upon coming You could take your first day in the train " The End of Man " & the " Use of creatures " so as to be ready & even with those who have begun with Fr G.

We have several new postulants lately, but I must leave all my news to tell you after Easter if you come – and if you

cannot come to write to you then. I think Amy will always understand that I include her in my invitations to you – The “you“ is always plural in such cases

I am, with love to Amy, always

yours, dearest Bessie

in the heart of Jesus

C.Connelly

Convent of the H.C.Jesus

All Souls, St Leonards

March 4th,

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[from Copy- Press Duplicate ]

[March 19<sup>th</sup>] [1856].

My very dear Bessie [Gray ]

It was a great relief to me to know that you may write to me. –

I have only time to say one word and that is do not go to a ball during Holy Week. Oh Bessie dear how can you think of it ? And while our Lady is telling you to “ look and see if any sorrow is like unto “ hers. Do not go Bessie – You can be sick & weary, by contemplating the effects of sin & pleasure while looking upon that sacred Thorn-crowned Head remembering that it was so crowned for you. I hope you will tell me that you are happy at Easter – That is that you did not go.

May God bless & strengthen you my very dr child

I am always

Yrs devotedly in J.C.

C.Connelly

Convent H.C.Jesus

St. Leonards

March 19<sup>th</sup> [1856]

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book IV.

Letter 77 – Page 98 ]

1873

Copy of a Letter written by Our Mother dated

The Convent

To Mrs M. Craigie Halkett

St Leonards – on – Sea

Crammond House

Decr. 1873

Midlothian

F. of St. F. Xavier

N.B.

+ J.M.J.

My dear Madam

I have only this moment received your letter & hasten to congratulate you on the light which our good God is bestowing upon you. Oh ! let me assure you there is not a word of truth in the stories you have heard or those “ Reasons “ so called, which you have read! They are all false from beginning to end & the result of a crooked and disappointed mind. If I could see you dear Madam & your devoted husband I would soon convince you of their falsehoods. I would welcome a visit from you both & give you every information you need. I have been a Catholic thirty seven years & I can assure you I look upon the Catholic Clergy as a body supernaturally endowed with immaculate purity, as angels dwelling in human bodies still remembering that they are in “ earthen vessels “ We must never forget that there was a Judas amongst the twelve & such must from time to time occur, and from age to age, but they are as weeds cast off the Garden of God’s beautiful Church, the One, Holy, Apostolic and true Church. Oh ! do not resist the interior voice speaking to your heart

It is the voice of the Holy Spirit “ Arise go into the City & there it shall be told thee what thou must do “ - Acts 1X. Oh ! may God bless & guide you to the true fold ! You are now as one outside the walls of a splendid Palace which is filled with treasures you have never seen or imagined ! Treasures of Grace, of Faith & Hope, of Love unrealised until sealed by the Sacraments, which you have yet to receive ! and then think of these to be shared by your devoted husband and dear children when the same voice will have spoken to them ! “ Arise “ then and “ go into the City “ where you will be instructed in all truth, in Catholic doctrine which is a Code of the highest Faith & morality. There are the Priests at 17 Lauriston Street Edinboro who would give you all the instructions you would require. I send you an abridged Catechism of Xtian Doctrine – but there are fuller books of doctrine that you can get at any Catholic Book shops – such as Fanders’ Catechism, Weinenger’s Doctrine – or I would get them & send them to you, if you like, by post. Before closing this I must tell you that I was placed at the head of this Convent twenty five years ago by the late Cardinal Wiseman a great Prelate of untainted morality – and what your husband heard is totally false. May God Himself guide you & bless you & yours ! One word more- & I must close this.

Be very patient with your family & do not be astonished that they should oppose you & be careful not to wound their feelings in the step you are about to take – but God forbid that you should be delayed by any human

motives which can bear no comparison with the Grace of God now moving your heart. Your prayers will call down blessings upon them far outweighing any human advantages.

If you wish to have any other information from me do not hesitate in writing again & believe me to remain

Yours very faithfully

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

G.Supr

Copy of a letter to Lord E. Howard from Our Mother.

(dated) August 17. [1865]

+

J.M.J.

My dear Lord Edward –

I beg to thank you for your kind letter. If you remember I said we could not give more than £2200 for the house and ground 12 acres but if you will give the bricks in for £2500, I will immediately call upon our Chapter that we may unitedly decide upon the purchase.

I shall be happy also to know whether you will allow half the purchase money to remain in a mortgage on the property at the usual percentage until we can make it convenient to pay it off gradually, or by instalments of £500. I remain my dr Lord

Yours faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.



Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> Wrote to Lord Edward Howard – substance of letter [1866]

In your letter of Augt 27 the arrangement stood as follows

“I have no objection further to say that I will conclude “ for £2500 but I am sorry to add circumstances make me desirous of “ realising the money” ----

You will no doubt remember that we valued the land at £100 pr acre & the House at £800 – I think you valued the bricks at £300 but I have nor referred to your former letters - &c--

Less than 12 acres would not be sufficient as we must have a dairy for a convent & school – Asked for the refusal of the Farm House & plot 25 together with the lots running out to the Bispham Road – Asked what sum was offered for the House if he did not object to mention as I should be glad to know that I had not either overvalued it or under valued it - &c

[ Cornelia Connelly]

Volume 2

pg 42

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book II]

Letter 78 – Page 82 ]

+

J.M.J.

Feby 26<sup>th</sup>

The Convent St Leonards on Sea Feb 26<sup>th</sup>\_[1866 ]

My dear Lord Edward [Howard]

I have not yet written to your Agent. But in order to bring the purchase money to £2000, I should like to know whether you will conclude to give us eleven acres only at present for this sum taking the boundary line in plot 24 behind the pond to the Bispham Road.? If we can agree on this point I will inform our Sisters at Blackpool & they will enter into arrangements on the spot with your Agent.

Certainly no portion of the land I propose could possibly be termed building land, & I think we shall never live to see the Western portion so employed. I am in no hurry for an answer.

Believe me to remain

Very faithfully yours in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly. Sup.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book II]

Letter 28 ,page 31 ]

The Convent St Leonards on Sea

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. 1863.

+ J.M.J.

My dear Sir Hungerford – [Pollen, Bt] –

I think you are not aware of the fact that we do not allow our children to go home at Xmas for their holidays which they enjoy very much in the Convent except in some especial cases, and these exceptions are never made without a necessary motive of Charity – I am very sorry you did not consult me on the subject when you were here, as I could have explained very satisfactorily to you that we certainly could not make an exception in regard to your dear little ones. Can you make this up to the children by coming here during the Xmas week so that they might enjoy the devotion of the Season and at the same time have the opportunity of seeing you frequently during your visit here? I sincerely hope you may be able to make this arrangement, as any exceptions in their case is neither desirable nor possible. It wd be much better for us to renounce all responsibility in their regard than to hazard the loss of any little good we may effect through the blessing of God by making exceptions without just grounds. I hope my decisions may not pain you and that you will decide upon not requesting any other course than that which is followed by the whole school. I am happy to say that the children are quite well & happy & they will no doubt enjoy a Xmas here more than any they have ever yet passed if they find that you are happy in having them here & in coming to see them.

I am my dr Sir

Yrs. very faithfully in J.C.

C....C...

Letter to Captain Innis.    Written Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. 1859.

JMJ.

My dear Captain Innis

I am very sorry that you are not coming with the children and still more sorry that you will not appoint a Catholic guardian at least to act with your Sister, and I should despise myself in yielding to any false delicacy that would naturally prevent my saying what I feel as to the necessity of this act of duty & having done this I shall say no more on the subject. If you cannot bring the little pets yourself I shall be very glad to see Mrs. Palmer with them & I am

My dr Sir

Yrs very truly in JC.

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

1873

Letter from Our Mother to a would-be Postulant/ E. Johnson

The Convent Jan<sup>y</sup> .10. 1873.

“ quis sicut Deus” ?

+

J.M.J.

My dear Erminia

Your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> gave us much pleasure as we feel convinced you have done all in your power to know God's most sweet and holy Will. We shall give you a very cordial welcome & I trust you will find joy & rest in the Heart of the Holy Child Jesus & in the Society of the Angels who surround Him. I send you my d<sup>r</sup> child 2 little pictures illustrative of our life which must say to you more than I could put in volumes of letters. You know that you will have at least three months as a Postulant before being Clothed when you will study the practical part of our religious life & prove your stedfastness of purpose, not only in will but in Deed Our motto is “ Actions not Words “ and I doubt not that you will find the “ Actions “ much more consoling than words. May our dear Lord ever bless your good will & accept you as His own beloved Spouse.

Ever yours affect<sup>y</sup> in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Supr Gl.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1

Letter 79- Pages 80-81]

Copy. April 5<sup>th</sup> [ 1861]

My dear Madam [ Duchess of Leeds ]

It has been an immense deprivation to me not to have been able to thank your Grace in person for the generous & noble act of charity you have made in offering our Community the gift of a sufficient portion of land in Baltimore or Lycoming to ensure an excellent work of the truest charity for America. If the proposed Convent is to be established in Baltimore or in the neighbourhood, wh. is the spot my niece most desires Your G will secure the chance of an excellent catholic education to the children of parents who are too easily satisfied with the sort of superiority offered in Protestant Schools where the children have their faith only weakened in return; and you will also secure the chance of support for the usual number of orphans dependent upon the success of our higher schools. The education & the prayers of those poor children will add to Your Grace[’s] eternal crown, added to the prayers of the Community for their Benefactress.

Should the Bishop wish us to have a training School in Lycoming County, the whole female Catholic education throughout the country would be secured by thus providing efficient Schoolmistresses for the labouring classes and this would be an immensely extensive charity in its influence over our poor pleasure seeking money getting country. I must not end my letter without a petition from our Community, and this is that Your Grace will give us your Bust or a good photograph for our Parlour. Lady Stanley was our first benefactress in England and Your Grace will be the first in America.

I am

Your Grace’s faithful Servant in JC -

C. C. \_\_\_\_\_





Volume 2

pg 47 - 48

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[Copied from Letter Book 1

Letter 86, pages 90-91]

Copy. April 25 [ 1861]

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JMJ

My very dear Duchess - [ of Leeds]

Your Grace's munificent donation has been made known to the Community who all unite with me in expressions of the warmest gratitude for your great generosity and this morning we returned thanks after Holy Communion; with fervent petitions that our Lord would return you the hundred fold in the rich blessings of His Grace. I need not add that we shall continue this petition with the remembrance of your Grace's intentions in our daily Rosary & in the Office of the Most Blessed Virgin.

We now only long to make your Grace feel that this Convent shall be a dear and devoted home to you where you will meet the love & affection of those dedicated to the service of Our B L & His most sweet & Immaculate Mother.

The great cause of regret is that your Grace is not with us at present & that we shall be obliged to trust you to the risques [sic ] of a railway journey almost at the moment that we feel we are owing you an immense debt of gratitude. I have just written to my niece to apprise her of the gift of 2000 acres which is to secure the salvation of so many thousand souls by the religious training that will be secured for the service of God and His Holy Church. Surely your Grace will have many spiritual children for all eternity in contributing to the salvation of their souls by this immense charity & you have bound us to you not only for Your Grace personally but by our prayers for the repose & increase of happiness & eternal glory with Jesus for the one most dear to your fond memory & to your inmost heart. I will only

add that

I am

My most dear Duchess

Yours ever affectionately

In JC –

C...C.. Supr

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES MAYFIELD

[ On two single sheets of notepaper is the following letter in C.C.'s hand:]

Not exactly as sent, Aug 31. [1872]

My dear Duchess

I am sure your warm heart will be sorry for us when I tell you that M<sup>r</sup> Arnold says that the Community names I offer will not be a proper Security for the loan for Mayfield and he proposes returning the money he had already prepared for us & received on my ~~assurance~~ [sic] suggestion regarding the Mayfield property before he knew of any doubt regarding the Trustees – What are we to do ! – I cannot meet the first quarter of the Contract in any other way than by this loan - & I shall be forced to stop the works on the first demand of payment unless your Grace will ~~use~~ ~~your influen~~ [sic] advise the Trustees ~~to~~ [sic] as to their perfect safety in this matter – All would be simply understood by them if you explain that we have already expended upwards of £4000 on the property you gave & that the loan we propose is to be expended in increasing its value – The Contract is upwards of £4000 and the loan proposed is only £3500 – The risk of which is on a property of the actual value of £14, 000 – This would bring the ~~personal~~ [sic] responsibility of each Trustee, in the estate, to less than £1000 – which could not much afflict anyone knowing that a whole Community must first meet the liability !! Now my dearest Duchess say what you wish and I am ready to stop the works with walls unprotected and one fourth raised rather than incur a debt that cannot be met by any acceptable security-

Now darling Duchess if you object

Now darling Duchess if you object to the application to the Trustees say so at once as we cannot remain in doubt or debt –

It will be a good investment for any one and we have no other difficulty than the Signatures

We are in retreat and this is a great source of anxiety ~~to me~~ [sic]. One word from yr dr Grace will put us at ease.

Ever yrs lovingly in J C

C.C.

Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to Mr Manley dated Augst 15<sup>th</sup> – 1868.

+

J.M.J

Dear Mr Manley,

You will remember that you kindly promised to send the amount due for Florence at Midsummer. I have counted upon it & as we have unusual expenses in our buildings just now I must beg you to forward it at your earliest convenience. Florence has not yet heard from her Mama, nor do I know what course her Mother intends to pursue in her regard. In the meanwhile Florence has gone to Mayfield for her holidays & intends to wait patiently for an answer. I shall be glad to know whether you think it safe for us to receive Florence into our Noviciate during her Minority & whether as her Guardian you give your consent to her choice of a religious life.

I remain

My dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Supr.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from the Original]

The Convent

St Leonards on Sea

June 1<sup>st</sup>

+

J M J

Dear Miss McCrea,

Your Mother will be glad to know that her two little girls are provided for at the Convent Preston, till they are eighteen years of age.

Mr Banks is the Solicitor who has charge of Our dr Sister M Francis's affairs. She made her Will in 1876 and added a Codicil in favour of her two little Cousins the Miss Kenyon's education at our Convent at Blackpool and of your two Sisters at Preston who are preparing to become pupil Teachers there, so that your dear Mother will not have the anxiety of extra expenses when once they are of an age to enter as pupil teachers.

I hope you are succeeding in your Piano lessons and in all the virtuous efforts you are making for your dear Mother & family – if you happen to be near Preston when I am there I hope you will come to see me for I feel much interest in your success as well as in that of your dear little Sisters.

With kind regards to your dear Mother

I remain

dr Miss McCrea

Yrs very truly in J C.

M. Cornelia Connelly Sup Gen.





Written July 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

F. of the Most P.B. DNJC.

J. M .J

My dear M<sup>lle</sup>—Müser

May I beg you to have the kindness to thank the Queen for the honour her Majesty has done us in coming into our Choir ? – and may I beg M<sup>lle</sup> Müser to assure the Saintly Queen of our frequent prayers for the desired intentions ? I beg also to present our thanks for the kind donations received this evening through her Majesty's Chaplain which shall be appropriated to the Church –

I am

Very truly

Yours in JC.

C [ornelia] C [onnolly]

M S [uperior]

[ We read in the Sacristy journal for the Convent St. Leonards on Sea that on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 1858, the Feast of the Most Precious Blood : “ The Queen came to Vespers and Benediction “]



My dr Ellen [O'Connor]

I was glad to have your letter & to know that your parents only wish what is most for your good. This is a great blessing to you.

Mth Emily tells me you will have an annoying letter regarding your apprenticeship from Mr Newsham – I think my dear child that you had better come here without delay & then I shall have no difficulty in settling the matter with Mr Newsham myself. You must ask your dear parents to come here to see you & this will do instead of the whole month with them. Let me hear from you as soon as you can.

The Sisters are coming from Bentinck St. tomorrow morning with two of the students for the Training School. If this reaches you in time you might come with them.

Pray for us all dr Ellen

& believe me

Yrs in JC.

C.C. M Sup.

Sunday

Feb. 17 [1856]



My dear Mr Paley

We received your most beautiful present this morning from Dolman and I assure you if our thanks could have put you in the ranks of those to be canonised we should have pleaded heartily for you by the holy inspiration which was so fruitfully carried out.

We had wondered when we should see the Lives of the Queens of England on our shelves, and Lingards antiquities were already marked to be sent for, as soon as our dear Lord should send us the means to do so –

We are so very glad to have the Church Restorers and shall read it with redoubled interest – I have read Penny on Faith – we shall make good use of it with converts should it please God to send us any such occasions of charity – Miss Bridges is now with us and will I trust profit by your noble present –

With many thanks and prayers from all our dear little community believe me

dear Mr Paley

Yrs most truly in the Hy Cd Jesus

Cornelia Connelly

SHC.

Monday

St Mary's Convent

Derby.

[1848]



Volume 2

pg 56

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book No.3

Letter No. 17, pages 14-15 ].

Copy

Letter written by Our Mother General to Mr Paley dated

The Convent Jan<sup>ry</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 1876.

+

J.M.J.

My dear Mr Paley

Perhaps you will be surprised at the subject which induces me to write to you at this moment.

Hitherto when I have spoken to you of your dear daughter's future, you have seemed not fully to realise the possibility of her heart and mind having turned more especially to the service of God in retirement from the world and all its dangers & to the love of a more devoted & meritorious life in the work of Education.

I believe this to be the real state of her mind not only at present but for some time past. I now write to ask you to give her the opportunity of speaking to you confidentially & quite alone.

I feel quite sure that you will do her the justice to listen to her wishes and to grant which she believes will secure her happiness for time & for Eternity .

You know my dear Sir that in taking so serious a step everything must be done with mature deliberation, and if you allow her to come to us in the Spring, she would have three months to weigh well her determination this time being devoted to the Postulate. After this term she would still have two years Novitiate before being allowed to settle in religious life.

If she were not happy and wished to return to the world and to her family she would be perfectly free to do so. You will fully understand my d<sup>r</sup> Sir my motive

in writing to you so frankly, and I feel quite sure you will give dear Mary every encouragement to speak to you as confidentially as she wishes to do.

I address this to the University that you may the more easily grant my request and I remain

My dear Sir

Yours very sincerely in JC.

M. Cornelia Connelly

S.G.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from the Original]

The Convent

Mayfield

Hawkhurst

Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 1872

+

JMJ.

Dear M<sup>r</sup> Patmore

Your letter giving the written proposal for the money arrangements for dear Emily is perfectly satisfactory, and generous on your part-

It shall be kept as a sufficeint [sic] document to ensure perfect understanding on both sides which I presume is your wish.

You must not be jealous, but very grateful for the great grace of having one so near & dear to you consecrated to the service of Him who can do much for you, & who will do much more through her prayers than she could ever do by her loving presence. And is it not another proof of His love that He calls you to make so great a sacrifice ? “Actions not words “ – By their deeds ye shall know them “ – There is no love without sacrifice is there ? We must imitate what we love very dearly, and be consumed in loving, as our Lord Himself shows us in giving us His Sacred person in Holy Communion ! Be strong in faith.

Remember me to Mrs Patmore & to d<sup>r</sup> Emily & believe me

Yrs very faithfully in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

Sup G<sup>l</sup> .



Letter from Our Mother to Lady Petre-

Decr 23<sup>rd</sup> 1872

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J.M.J.

My dear Lady Petre –

Your kind letter and the beautiful Calvary from d<sup>r</sup> Lord Petre & the Statue of the Sweet Holy Child received on the eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> claim my most grateful acknowledgement and thanks & a return of many supplications that our d<sup>r</sup> Lord may bestow His most choice blessings on you & yours. Your kind attention my d<sup>r</sup> Lady Petre was indeed a great surprise & I must assure you that the care of your darling children has always been a source of grateful thanksgiving on my part. It is a pleasure to me to think of them & to pray for them. Will you tell d<sup>r</sup> Frances that her valued book shall be our Christmas reading and the pretty Thurible and Incense boat of d<sup>rs</sup> Margaret & Katharine will be a constant remem. before the Altar – I hope d<sup>r</sup> Lady Petre that your dear circle are all in the enjoyment of perfect health & that you may be free from all anxieties during the festal Season in w<sup>h</sup> we all join in wishing you every felicitation. We are expecting the Dow<sup>r</sup> D. of Leeds to arrive every moment. She has been very ill. The Duchess writes to me from York saying that the Dow<sup>r</sup> is extremely weak & that we shall find her much changed. I trust Our good God will prolong her life until she has completed the work of her noble charities &c &c --

[ Letter taken off.- conclusion in accordance with the preceding-



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book IV,

Letter 62 , page 76]

Sent letters on the same subject to Col Towneley to Sir Geo Bowyer to Canon O'Sullivan Canon Butt Canon Bamber Lord Petre -

Convent St Leonards on Sea

April 18<sup>th</sup> 1873

+

J.M.J.

My dear Lord Petre –

I write to ask you to interest yourself at the next meeting of the Poor Sch<sup>s</sup> Committee in Low Week in the proposal of a London Training School for Girls, I must explain to you that the northern Counties with Scotland can send at least fifty Queen's Scholars to the Liverpool Training School, thus filling up the accommodation provided for them by the SS of N.D. while the Midland & Southern Districts which supply from 30 to 4 [ 0 ] Q.S. are left without any provision for their training & getting Certificates. The establishing of the T.S. does not involve a question of extra expense to the P.S.C. beyond the usual aid given to the Lpl. T.S. The main point is that the P.S.C. embrace the work & obtain from the Py. Cl an acceptance of another T.S. for the Southern & Midland Districts. If this is once done, we shall see our way with ease to future movements. I must not fail to add that the SS of N.D., do not only not object to another T.S. but they think it wd be a special advantage to have two normal Colleges conducted by different Teaching Orders. We cannot doubt this ourselves - & if you agree with this opinion will you kindly my dr Ld Petre interest yourself in the work & obtain the interest of others for the same end. Your dear Children are quite well & all that you can most desire them to be, & I must now only beg you to present many affectionate remembrances to the Ly Petre & your dear daughters and

I am ever my dear Lord

Very faithfully yours in J.C. Cornelia Connelly Supr.

The Convent

St Leonards- on Sea

Jany. 22. - 74

+

J.M.J.

Dear Lord Petre

I write a few lines to beg of you not to forget what has transpired with us regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Training School which I hear is now proposed for the Diocese of Southwark. Will you kindly remember my Lord that we have never withdrawn our acceptance of the Training School since the offer made by the Poor School Committee, and that I stated in my answer to an official letter from Mr Allies, date 30<sup>th</sup> May 1873 that our Community wd hold itself responsible for all that would be required in the extra expenditure beyond the usual grants to the School. I confess my Lord I do not understand how Mr Allies would pass over all this & seek another Order of Religious to take that charge which we had already accepted ! If, by the wish of the A.B., the work was to pass over to the Diocese of Southwark, surely with the approbation of the Bishop, our Sisters wd have a prior claim to any others having accepted the work as far back as June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1873, since which time we have never had one line from the Poor School Committee. And still more might I urge their claim to priority from the fact of their having many large Public Schools under their charge, the Government reports upon which rank them among the very highest in the Kingdom.

I am sure you will understand my dear Lord that I do not recall these points to your mind with any personal

view, but solely for the good work which we have at heart, having both the staff of Sisters & the means to promise success.

I am

Very faith<sup>ly</sup>

Yours in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Sup<sup>r</sup> .





Letter 64 – Page 69

Copy of a letter to Mr Ross.

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Dear Sir,

I am much grieved to hear that some of our children in walking out trespassed upon your flower garden. I very sincerely beg to apologise to you for their conduct which cannot be excused & I have punished them by forbidding their usual walk during the ensuing month. If you will allow me to send one of our gardeners to repair the damage done & to re-place the flowers by others fresh from our own garden I shall be most happy to do so

I beg of you kindly to accept of my apology for them & to name any other right or just reparation that may be in our power to make.

I remain

dear Sir

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

Sup.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from original]

[ corrections as in original]

[May 1849]

Dearest Lady Shrewsbury,

How can I thank you enough for all your kind offers and for ~~all these~~ <sup>such [sic]</sup> manifestations of your true and highly valued friendship and generosity towards me ? this re- [sic] more than a simple letter – Time, and the opportunities that A<sup>ty</sup> God may bring forth can alone prove to you the truth of my gratitude which will never be the less for not being able to act upon your generosity I think you & dear Lord Shrewsbury must now see that nothing would have a good effect <sup>in England [sic]</sup> as the scandalous report is already widely spread – indeed on the contrary by going abroad it would be more widely spread and return to England no doubt, greatly exaggerated – Besides ~~all this~~ <sub>[sic]</sub> dear lady Shrewsbury a flight like this would be an acknowledgement of some cause for flight which wld be contrary to the truth – We have nothing to fear, God and the truth ~~is~~ <sub>[sic]</sub> are on our Side – I think only of the consequences <sup>of such [sic]</sup> to our convent, a question of twenty persons who are engaged with me in the establishment of this order – You see at once that this would be an unfaithful and cowardly step on my part which would be destructive to the convent and in every sense giving Mr C. the advantage over us- He would then have gained his point- ~~Do not fear~~ <sub>[sic]</sub>



[Continuation of a letter to Lady Shrewsbury, May 1849]

I do hope dearest Lady Shrewsbury that you see this as I do and in ~~truth it~~ seems to [sic] truth I do not fully <sup>pretend to [sic]</sup> explain all the evils attendant upon that would necessarily follow [sic] upon my going abroad – but you must see that it would only be to begin [sic] give ~~fresh hopes new cause for~~ [sic] Mr C. false expectations ~~on Mr C's part~~ [sic] that could never be fulfilled and his sole object would be to force me to begin a new congregation under his guidance – How much I thank you & dear Lord S - and can only repeat it [sic] again and again.

May <sup>Aty</sup> / God guide and bless Bertram — I truly beg the ~~precious heir~~ [sic] your precious Bertram With sincere prayers believe me to remain

Yrs ~~most truly~~ true friend & servant [sic] in Xt

Cornelia Connelly.

Pray let me hear <sup>know [sic]</sup> if you hear any thing ~~more has~~ <sup>certain [sic]</sup>

Has Mr Paley been in any way shaken by Mr C's - conduct ?

[The above corrections are to be found in the original letter ]



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

FROM ORIGINAL

Convent G. Coteau

Vigil of St Theresa 1842

Dear Lord Shrewsbury

It was very kind of you to think at all of writing to me and I am very glad to have the chance of thanking you myself not only for the honour you do me, but to thank your Lordship for all the kindnesses you and dear Lady Shrewsbury have shown to Mr Connelly and for the interest you have felt in us and for your goodness towards our little boy – In our prayers dear Lord Shrewsbury your good family and your intentions have not been omitted and never will be while we know our hearts and our duty – and I humbly hope that you and dear lady Shrewsbury will not forget our intentions before the Altar – Perhaps you would have the goodness to give my thanks and remembrances to Princess Doria

Mr Connelly gives us most delightful news of all that is going on in England – truly it is joyous to see such strides towards Catholicity- as holy Mr Spencer would say if all only go on praying they will be converted before they know where they are. We are here in a sweet solitude but we hear of the good that is going on among those who are gaining crowns for Heaven – My good husband will have told you about our pretty Convent and the College and perhaps had interested you and dear Lady Shrewsbury in the little order of S.H of Jesus There are in this house about twenty Nuns and for several years past upwards of a hundred children in the boarding school this year they will not have so many on account of the great distress in the money affairs. They have also a school for orphans.

I am so happy to hear that Merty goes on well at Oscott, and I trust he will always be a good boy, and with many thanks again, dear Lord Shrewsbury, believe me

Most gratefully & humbly yours in J.C.

C Connelly

[ Dec 28 /46 ? ]

My dear Lord Shrewsbury

We thank you most sincerely for thinking of our little community at this happy Season – We are not wanting I assure you in our prayers and wishes for the welfare & happiness of all at Alton though we are so late in wishing you a merry Xtmass & a happy New Year Indeed dear Lord Shrewsbury your beautiful Ecce Homo makes us think of you at very prayerful moments with grateful hearts – I should have written yesterday to thank you for your remembrance of us but Sunday is a very busy day with 200 girls to lead to Church for the High Mass ~~and~~ [sic] after an hours labour in teaching them, and from 2 o clock until 4 in the afternoon teaching them to read etc. etc. – much as we deplore the state of things which renders this necessary we cannot but acknowledge it is the only way to get hold of the working class – the factory girls- With respect to our poor day schools they are going on very well but <sup>we</sup> shall never get on without some pecuniary assistance I have not yet written to Mr Langdale – as we were not clothed, it seemed better to put it off for a little while – We are so much obliged to you dear Lord Shrewsbury for all the kindnesses you have shown us – But you may be sure we shall do with you as we do with our dear Lord – the more He gives us the more we go on asking –

With the most sincere felicitations of the Season to dear Lady Shrewsbury & Miss Talbot & Bertram believe

me dear Lord Shrewsbury

your most gratefully & humbly

in the Hy C<sup>d</sup> Jesus

[Cornelia Connelly]

Monday

St Mary's Convent Derby.





S<sup>t</sup> Mary's Convent

Derby

Monday

[ after July 23 / 1847 ? ]

My dear Lord Shrewsbury

D<sup>r</sup> Wiseman has just left us and he has recommended me to speak to you about the circumstances of the Abbate Asperti's delay in consequence of his passport having been refused by the Police – It seems that before the Abbate left Rome his brother had applied for a passport for Rome & had been refused upon which he brought forward his brother's ( the “ abbate “ ) having <sup>formerly [ sic ]</sup> got a passport without difficulty and on turning over their books they found the passport had been given for only six months absence which had expired ( I believe ) more than a year before – on account of this, it seems the police have refused to give him another notwithstanding all his remonstrances concerning the urgency of the case - Would it then my dear Lord Shrewsbury be asking too much of you to represent these circumstances to the Austrian Ambassador ? – a word from him to the police at Bergamo would probably remove all difficulties – and as the Count Dietrichstein would no doubt be most happy to oblige you we should thus obtain our good Chaplain without further delay - D<sup>r</sup> Wiseman thinks this would be the only <sup>thing [sic]</sup> to be done to obtain his release I am sorry my dear Lord to trouble you about this matter yet at the same time I feel your ever ready charity will be willing to assist us in our Spiritual

wants as well as in our temporal necessities - I am most happy to say our little community goes on well gradually increasing in piety & good works - D<sup>r</sup> Wiseman brought us today our approbation from Rome which will be good news for M<sup>r</sup> Connelly –

I suppose you will have heard that S<sup>t</sup> George's is to be opened in the Spring & that M<sup>r</sup> Newman and his Congregation are to be in London – D<sup>r</sup> Wiseman is still "Coadjutor " of this district-

With the kindest remembrances to dear Lady Shrewsbury & to Miss Talbot

I am dear Lord Shrewsbury

yours most truly in X<sup>t</sup>

Cornelia Connelly

SHC

[St Mary's Convent

Derby

before June 16<sup>th</sup> 1848]

My dear Lord [ Shrewsbury ]

I should like to write to you on many things concerning Mr Connelly and as I know so well your happy & holy influence upon him & your true friendship for us both it is a comfort to me to do so and I feel it will not offend you. I however wish at this moment to speak only of one subject; and that is, my wish that he should give up any interference with our Convent or our Rule - His visit to Rome has been only time & money thrown away, so far as we are concerned and indeed, as soon as I knew what he was doing at Rome I was obliged to write to the Card. Prop<sup>da</sup> to prevent any thing being done at present – Had any thing been done I should not have accepted it since it was not with my knowledge or consent that any thing had been proposed – As I told D<sup>r</sup> Winter I shall write again to Prop. but it will be as I did before to decline any interference in the Rule or any additions or changes of the Same which I brought with me from Rome approved of by the Cardinal – This is all we require at present (and is even more, I believe, than the Sisters Mercy [sic] have ) – Mr Connelly seems to have forgotten that he assisted me with the rule on the foundation I gave him and that at that moment, as well as at this, I had no idea of accepting any thing in the rule but what passed through the inspection of my director –

[Continuation of letter to Lord Shrewsbury, before June 16<sup>th</sup> 1848 ]

Will you then my dear Lord explain all this <sup>to him</sup> in your own gentle, holy way and induce <sup>him</sup> to turn his heart all to his flock for the love of God ?

I have much more that I wish to say to you but I cannot now do any thing more than undeceive Mr Connelly in his hopes of ever having any thing more to do with our Convent or our Rule.

May Almighty [ God ] reward you my dear Lord for all your kindness and I trust He will return richly all you may do in assisting me in my present troubles –

With every prayer for dear Lady Shrewsbury's intentions & desires as well as your own

believe me my dear Lrd

Yrs most truly in Xt

Cornelia Connelly



My dear Lord [ Shrewsbury ]

It is very good of you to write to me so kindly – I should have preferred going on in the same way, with Mr Connelly, letting time clear up all things – But now circumstances have made it my duty to take a decisive step with him which will be more useful in the end, tho' at the moment he will be wounded – every other means proves useless, only exciting him the more – I have now destroyed every hope he may have of ever having any authority over the Convent and shewn it in the clearest way – I wrote also to D<sup>r</sup> Winter begging his assistance in the matter and he will talk about it to you –

When this is done & Mr Connelly has proved his sincerity by sending my little girl to me, he may then have the necessary intercourse by letter and even an interview –

You may imagine my dear Lord Shrewsbury how much all this costs to my feelings, the more so, having so many things to struggle against at this moment, Mr Sing annoying us in every possible way, even by writing to both the Bishops – Your kindness is indeed a great consolation in the midst of so many trials which however being all for God will draw down His blessing –

With the kindest regards to dear Lady Shrewsbury and prayers for God's blessing upon you believe me

dear Lord Shrewsbury

Yrs truly & gratefully in X<sup>t</sup>

Cornelia Connelly

St Mary's Convent

June 16. 1848





1863.

Letter from Our Mother to Mr Thornton; ( dated )

The Convent

St Leonards- on -Sea

March 31<sup>st</sup> 1863.

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J.M.J.

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for the half notes, one for ten pounds and one for £20 which are quite safe. We shall return you the bill receipted on the arrival of the other halves. I think I mentioned to Mrs Thornton that it is usual to have a written document to secure the pension for life when a dower is not given. It is necessary that this should be arranged before the time of admission to simple Vows, & I mention the fact at present as your dear child's second year is advancing and you may require some little time to consider the matter and to arrange it with your lawyer to your satisfaction She will no doubt send you an Easter letter and tell you herself that she is very well and happy. All that I have to say of her would give you consolation & I trust this will give you and dear Mrs Thornton additional Easter joy.

With many kind regards – I am my dear Sir

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

C... C...



Copy of a letter written by Our Mother to Miss White- Sr Theresa ( Carmelite)

Decr 27<sup>th</sup> [ 1873]

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J.M.J.

My dear & much respected Sister in J.C.,

May Jesus ever be more & more known loved served & praised !

I have received your second letter at this joyful & holy Season & return our most grateful thanks for all your kind intentions & most charitable acts – which I trust may be carried out to your perfect satisfaction – I will immediately have your wishes faithfully complied with in securing the daily Invocation of Our Lady for a Church for the Mission in your own words & our dr SS will not only pray for the same Intention, but we shall make efforts in various ways to secure a Church there as soon as possible. The Schools are very flourishing & well attended & the reports of the Ecclesiastical Inspector most satisfactory. If you will not find it an interruption it will be a great pleasure to me to send you an annual account of the works done there & of the reports given after the Examinations. Indeed my dear friend the thought of a union of prayer with you & your dear Community & of union in the works of charity & teaching has always been most dear to our hearts. The prayers of the children are not the least part of the good work & these you have in your own right & for your own disposition.

I must beg of you dearest Sister to excuse my not having answered your first letter, your dear & much valued letter

which I received during a severe attack of illness in the summer & though I could have answered it on my recovery, I was retarded by a feeling of great delicacy on the subject of St Ann's & I could not bring myself to influence you or to act in any way regarding the final settlement you might be disposed to make. The more so also from having known all that Mr Canty had said & done upon the subject & it seemed better to me to leave the matter in the hands of our good God who would inspire you to act in perfect accordance with His most Holy Will. I should wish now more fully to cooperate with your views in the good work God has inspired you to found & that we should purchase four or five of the adjoining houses (which are very small on a line with the one which adjoins the School & build a Convent there to complete the work & to have our own pupil teachers.

[ The rest of this letter is written on a piece of paper which is stuck over the top half of page 106 ]

as soon as we can accomplish our good Intentions.

I must repeat my felicitations of the Season and wish you a holy & happy New Year while I am ever dear Sister Theresa

Your faithful servant in Xt

Cornelia Connelly.

Sup. Gl.

P.S. Shall I keep the Duke of Norfolk's letter or return it to you ? -



1866

Copy of a letter written to Mrs Wilcock by our Mother

( dated. The Convent St Leonards – July 18, 1866

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J.M.J.

My dear Mrs Wilcock

Your letter was very welcome to us & you may be sure we have frequently spoken of you & yours with affectionate interest. What a pleasure it must have been to you to have had your excellent Bishop with you after all your longings & above all to see your good Margaret brought into the true fold ! How good of Our Lord to give you the reward of one more precious soul brought to the light of Faith ! I suppose she feels herself half in heaven already by the peace & joy of knowing she is in the right way – pray give her our most hearty congratulations with the enclosed picture en Souvenir of the bright day of her reception. And for your dear plans for the future on Lake Bank

1<sup>st</sup> I see no difficulty in regard to maintaining the Priest who would be appointed by the Bishop for the Chaplain of the Comy. - ( & the Priest of the Mission ). The Bishop would of course settle matters clearly as to his duties in the Convent. ( & on the Mission ).

2ndly You only anticipate the true interests of the Convent in not allowing funds to be raised on the property at Lake Bank The Trust Deed ought to secure the property from the possibility of a Mortgage. It wd give me much pleasure to accept yr kind invitation either in Sept or Ocr., but in the meanwhile perhaps you will kindly let me know the other matters of minor importance & also what views you have regarding the building of the Convent. We are still unchanged

& shall hold ourselves ready for our former offer of £200 towards carrying out the plans, but I very much doubt whether £600 with even our £200 will effect what you want – still it cd surely be raised in time. I shall send yr letter to M. Gertrude who will probably be rather surprised to know that the Bishop inclines to have a Convent on Esthwaite water. You know dr Mrs W that whatever His L wishes wd be our first object - & that anything contrary to his wishes wd be contrary to our own. Our aim is only the greater glory of God & the good of souls & wherever we are, the good of the Mission ( & of the Diocese ) is one with our desires & interest in our work. Our own interest as a Community once secured is for the interest of the Diocese & for no other. The perfection of each individual work makes up the whole in the beautiful order of the Church & accords with the order of God in heaven & on earth – I am making my letter too long for you dr Mrs W & now must only add with love to yr dear dr daughter & with many messages fm M M Ignatia who has various roots, seeds, &c &c to take with her when she next visits L.B. I am ever

Yours most faithfully in the HH of J & M.

Cornelia Connelly.

[ Note in C.C.'s hand]

Mrs Wilcock finally wrote to say that she would make the property over to the Bishop that we could build but not own the property nor have any claim therefore I stopped the correspondence.

C.C.





S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book IV

Letter 74. page 91 ]

The Convent St. Leonards- on Sea

[ October / November 1873 ]

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J.M.J.

My dear Sir [ Sister Angela Hunt's Brother-in-law ]

It is now a week since I proposed to your Sister-in-law that she should write to inform her Mother of the step she is taking; but she declined doing so & wrote to you in preference. I would myself have written to your Mother, but she seemed averse to my doing so.

Now I must immediately inform you that she has never made solemn or perpetual Vows & you are wrong in supposing that she commits any sin in being released from the simply yearly vows which she made in 1865. And our Constitutions provide for all cases similar to her own. It is now more than a year since she expressed to our venerated Bishop her wish to leave the Order. And it is about three years since she began to have doubts of her Vocation to our life, and this was when she was living in Preston. She is quite unhappy & it is a great pain to us to witness her discontent & unfitness for our life. We have no wish or intention to disgrace or expel her, but she ought to go to her own home & I beg of you in charity to inform her Mother of the real state of the case & to persuade her to give her child an affectionate welcome. We have provided a comfortable wardrobe for her & and shall give her sufficient to keep her free of expense to her Mother until she can get a suitable situation elsewhere & she ought to go to her home before settling herself anywhere.

I remain My dear Sir

Yours very truly in Xt.

Cornelia Connelly Supr.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book I

Letter 32, page 30 ]

Copy

December 1858 [1857]

J.M.J.

To the Superioress Convent Brompton

My dear Revd. Mother

I must not lose a post in telling you how much we prize the lovely flowers you have sent us and which are rendered doubly valuable in coming from you. I am confused and quite ashamed that you should speak of gratitude to us. Have you forgotten how many kindnesses you showed to our Sisters when you were living in Queen's Square ? It rather becomes me to speak of our gratitude to you & I am only too happy to have this occasion to renew the union we have always felt with your dear Community. I hope we shall have future occasions of proving to you our sincere esteem and sisterly affection. With many expressions of gratitude to you and to your dr. Sisters I am

Very faithfully yours in JC.

C....C..... Sup



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Letter Book IV.

Letter 73, page 90. ]

Copy. Written by Our Mother to the Superior at Cortenbergh

The Convent H.C.Jesus St . L- on- Sea

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Oct. 21. 1873

J.M.J.,

My dear Revd. Mother -

Miss Hunt was placed under your care in the Asylum by her own Sister under the direction of her Mother, and it is not in my power to remove her. But I will immediately forward your letter to her Mother & inform our venerated Bishop of the same, who well knows the case.

I must explain to you my dear Revd. Mother that it will not be possible for me to receive Miss Hunt into any of our Communities. I have consulted our medical attendant & he advises me to leave her to her Mother & not to write to her myself. He has no confidence in her cure, but she is very cunning in assuming the means to gain her end. All I have to do with her now is to defray her expenses which her Mother is not able to meet. Will you kindly inform her that this is the case and that she must write henceforth to her own Mother with whom I am ever ready to treat. Recommending myself to your prayers I remain my dear Revd. Mother in the S. Hearts of Jesus & Mary

Yours very faithfully

Cornelia Connelly

Supr.



[ To the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mother at Newhall ]

My dear Rev<sup>d</sup> Mother

You have perhaps been surprised that I did not answer your kind letter sooner but I wrote to F Cobb instead, hoping his reverence might be able to advise you on the subject of our dear child –

I am truly sorry she is not with you & I should be very glad that you should consult Fr Brownhill or Fr Cobb upon the best means of proceeding to bring her back again -

Again repeating my sincere thanks for all the trouble you had with her & begging your prayers for her & for our community

believe me to remain

dear Rev<sup>d</sup> Mother

Yrs truly in Xt

Cornelia Connelly

St Mary's Convent

Derby Sep. 26. 1848



From Our Mother to the Superior at Rochester.

The Convent H.C.Jesus

St Leonards- on- Sea

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> [1873]

My dear Revd Mother

In reply to your kind letter I must assure that it would be indeed a great pleasure to me to be able to supply many little details of the early life of my beloved Sister, though I think you have those of the most interest in your own possession.

Her conversion to the Catholic Faith of happy memory was granted on her visit to Gracemere or Grand Couteaux [sic ] in the winter of 1840 At this time her mind was not favourably disposed towards Catholicity, every means having been taken to pervert her mind from the truth Her piety, together with the influence of practical Catholic surroundings induced her to consent to join me privately in making a short meditation on a text of Scripture, using also the book of Meds according to the Method of St. Ignatius upon which we conversed frequently during the day In a few weeks she determined upon seeking further instructions, & was finally received into the Church by Monseigneur Blanc B. of N. Orleans, to whom she made her first Confession at the Convent of Grand Coteaux. My dearest Sister, from her earliest childhood was remarkable for her gentleness & amiability which were accompanied by an almost unvarying cheerfulness of mind She was very fond of birds & flowers & these claimed her chief attention when she



was not studying her lessons or writing. Her character was very docile & freed from self confidence & she generally exalted others far beyond herself & beyond their merits especially her youngest Sister whom she praised quite undeservedly though she intended no fault in so doing. From the time my dearest Sister was received into the Church, her faith increased rapidly & she used constantly to repeat Oh ! if we only have Faith, we shall remove mountains/. You my dear Revd Mother well know the love she had for the Sacred Heart of Jesus & it was a great happiness to me to witness the expression of this fervour when Our B. Lord provided for us the Convent in Philadelphia in the autumn of 1867. Her life seemed to be one continued act of love with a heart overflowing with charity to all around her. I must not trust myself to say more, but our prayers will ever follow her beloved spirit though she may not need them for herself they will be at her disposal & for the fulfilment A.M.D.G. of her intentions & wishes. R.I.P.

I hope dear Revd Mother that you received long ago my letter of thanks for the long & most touching account you sent me of her last precious moments which I sent to various friends of my beloved Sister & amongst others to Fanny Russell who loved her very devotedly -

Begging a remembrance in the prayers of your dear Community I remain  
dear Revd Mother

Yours in the SS Hearts of Jesus & Mary

Cornelia Connelly . G.Supr.



J.M.J.

Copy of a letter written to Taunton. July 15. 1859

My dear Sister in J.C.

I am sorry for your anxiety, but I am not aware of your letters having been withheld from Hetty. She certainly has received many from Taunton, & I think she has written very frequently to you, or to some of your Sisters, and also to many of her companions. Again in regard to her afflictions I trust she feels them less vividly, & I decidedly object to caressing old troubles. Indeed we should have very little hope of forming her character if we allowed her to sink with this sort of melancholy. She is far behind her companions here in the course of studies, and feels the necessity of applying her mind more than she has hitherto done, therefore we may hope for an increase of intellectual energy together with growth in practical piety and solid virtue, and I trust you may find her much improved in many ways. Begging a share in your pious prayers

I am

My dear Sister in J.C.

Yours faithfully

Cornelia Connelly.

Sup.



S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES - ROME.

[ Copied from Letter Book IV]

[Letter 12 – Page 11]

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Copy

J.M.J.

The Convent St L -on Sea

April 20. 1872

Very Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Lady Abbess [ Winifred]

I beg to acknowledge & to thank you for the kind Invitation & for your letter received yesterday. It will give us much pleasure to accept your proffered hospitality & to make your personal acquaintance V<sup>y</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Lady Abbess. It is many years since I first heard the Rev<sup>d</sup> F<sup>r</sup> Jarrett speak of you, not yet imagining that I should ever really have the advantage of a personal interview. I ought to say that I do not know for certain how soon we shall be able to start on our journey, but we hope not to defer it beyond the end of this month.

Yes, my dear lady Abbess we respond most zealously to your words “ All to the greater glory of God “ and it will be an advantage that I had not foreseen to confer with you & to profit by your superior knowledge & experience in the spiritual life even on so short a visit - & I will now only add that I remain with every expression of reverence

Rev<sup>d</sup> & d<sup>r</sup> Lady Abbess

Yrs devotedly in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Sup. S.H.C.J.



Notes on Our Mother's letter to the L<sup>y</sup> Abbess at Ypres. dated

August 8<sup>th</sup> [1872]

1. The subject of Ypres always of equal interest.
2. Not at all surprised at her being kept in suspense by the Bishop.
3. Better to secure the transfer of the Sr. from Lyons to a Benedictine Order – perhaps by means of a ( charitable ) pension, as, if she joined us she would of course have to be released from her Vows, & go through the experiments of the Nov. without the freshness of youth to carry her through.
4. If the French postulant has the requisite qualifications we shall be happy to receive her – opportunity of coming over with the Superior from Toul - &c &c – She could be met at Hazebruck - or Calais - - but doubtless the Abbess would send further particulars – before speaking to her - & probably wait for a letter from the Bishop of Bruges also.
5. No other arrangement could possible interfere with former intercourse with the Abbess herself.

