

September 24. 1874.



10, CHAPEL STREET,

PARK LANE.

AL/1864

Dear Madam:

I have long been
intending to have the pleasure
of putting myself into personal
communication with you —
indeed ever since (January 1872)
when you made me a most
kind and generous offer of
undertaking the organization
of a Mite's Hospital at
Naples, which I was then
projecting; your very
encouraging letter reached
me through my friend
Lady Josephine Percy to whom
it

was addressed. I was
obliged at that moment
to give up the idea of forming
a Hospital at Naples: it is now
being planned by others - and I
have some work in hand in
England that I can give it
but little help. -

Now however that we are
joint Honorary Secretaries for
the same object - viz: the National
Assocⁿ for the Sick Nurses for the Poor
it is but natural and necessary
that we should work together.
And this has emboldened me to
write to you myself. Sir Edmund
Lechmere has given me your
admirable letter of the 27th July
I read - but I have delayed

to write until you were likely to have
returned to England. -

You will easily believe that
I am very interested as there always
been in the Higher Education of
Women and in the necessity of finding
employment for women of all
classes. I cordially agree in the
feelings you express on the subject
in your letter to Miss; - I should
advocate very earnestly any
plan that rendered women
capable of serving as Nurses,
or as Superintendents of Nurses -
especially in Hospitals at home
or abroad. On this subject I feel
very strongly and would fain
say more were it not beyond the
object more immediately in hand
at the present moment.

Understand that we work in
prospects, the work undertaken by
W. Rathbone's committee of which
you & I are the chief part, is that
of forming a "Central Model
Training School for Nurses" -
where so "thoroughly practical &
scientific" would be the education
given that "gentle women of the
higher classes" would be induced to
avail themselves of it, and to
find in it a "new profession" for
whose sake means rendered
a profession necessary.


In whatever way I can assist
this excellent work, I am ready
to do it. It is a work that will
require a good deal of money
and a long time to start it;
but I trust it will be accomplished.

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10, CHAPEL STREET,
PARK LANE.

In the meantime we are
proceeding with our humbler,
but even more useful work of
providing Nurses for the Sick Poor
in their own homes. - For
these Nurses, in London, as you
quite perceive, we do not need
scientific training - nor could
gentlewomen ever do the work
exactly that will be required
of these Nurses. Intelligent
women who have been found
trustworthy, steady nurses in
a Hospital and have had a
year's training therein, are all
that we need for such
commonplace nursing as the



District Nurses will have to do.
In fact their work will be almost
as much that of making the
patients comfortable as of actual
nursing. They will be employed
in keeping them clean, & in making
them so themselves - beds, attendants
etc - in giving the proper medicines
and food, in dressing sores,
giving injections, blisters, leeches,
etc etc and making the sanitary
arrangements necessary for
the recovery of the patients
and the safety of the neighbours.
We want the rough, strong muscles
and manners of the same class
as the patients they are nursing;
a gentle woman born and bred

will indeed not shrink from any
work however fatiguing or filthy,
for a time, when necessary, and will
do it thoroughly well, broy'd up
by the spirit of self-sacrifice;
but in the long run she has not
bone and muscle for it, and she
is simply labouring in the wrong line.
The education given in such
Hospital Training as the District
Nurses would have received,
is enough to lift them high above
the moral level of the patients
they are nursing, without
destroying the sympathy and
fellow feeling of their original
station in life. -

I shall be glad to be assured
by you that we think alike
on these subjects, - and you

till allow me to express a hope
that we may become personally
acquainted before long.

I have made myself ill with
overwork and I am obliged to
go away for a few weeks;
but I believe I shall only be
absent October & November.
After that time I shall hope
to have the pleasure of seeing
you here at my house in
London.

Remain

Yours very truly

J. Stangford.

1394

Lady Strangford. w. 15

Ans. Sep. 18th

AL / 1864



Miss Florence Lees

The Meadows

St. Leonards 'on Sea.

"THE GARDEN"
GODDALL PATENTERS

Fawcett Library
27 Wilfred Street
London S.W.11

