

Barrack Hospital, Sestri, Oct. 12th

1855

My dear Mary Anne

I duly received yours of the 11th ult. & as one of mine w^old crop it on the road I write as soon as I can in order to put our correspondence right. The letter I sent to you I enclosed in a letter to my sisters, I hope you have got it by this time, but I am rather surprised at not having had answers by this time to two of my letters written to Sarah. I hope they have not miscarried. — If all my letters have arrived duly you will by this time know all about my proceedings & my settling here with Miss Nightingale & that I had not left the Army. Miss N. went up to Balaklava on Monday to look after the hospitals there as the wounded are kept there so much now, & only sent down here when I. for convalescent — last Sunday a draft of about 200 came here. It is to be seen that walking about without legs, arms, hands or some other contusion — O the horrors of war! How fervently I do long for peace on all accounts — And then it is such a demoralizer. I assure you I had no idea of many of its moral & social & private evils till I came here — & to keep nurses in order in a hospital of this size is no little task. — Being left in charge of the Army Miss N.'s absence makes me feel the full weight. There is a housekeeper a young lady who formerly kept a school, & who is a paid assistant here, but she needs my support in her authority & that does not lessen the charge — She is a good little woman kind, obliging & useful — extremely like that little Miss Taylor who used to live in Louisa Place — just her size but better looking in the face.

Mr. Smith is also with me. I have been
trying to institute an evening school where
those who wish to improve themselves might
come to me - to have availed themselves of the
opportunity, but the most ignorant are always
the most prejudiced & so they keep away - so give
them a moral lift is my great aim. They all
have their respective good qualities but some have
bad faults - such as secret drinking - & lightness
of conduct - The greatest hardships I find here are
in the way of the table - The hard meat & the
greasy cooking quite upset my stomach & it
is so difficult to get things more suitable.
I think the hospital necessary detention for the sick
& wounded is desirable, but that for the ladies
& the nurses wants a good deal of reform - only
one gets into the way of making things do, hoping it will
hold for long - What rejoicing there will be if
we heard peace was declared - The scenery is so
gay & the refreshing part in this work of help -
David. At least it does more to reconcile &
eases me than I can find them any thing else
The views are so beautiful & nature always
cheers & soothes. It is a very strange & new
life certainly & has many privations & disciplines
but with them all I do rather than have any
in the work than rest, for it is an opportunity
to see & learn a great deal - And if ever I have to
return to England there will be much to look back
upon with interest & gratification it has been so en-
gaged in one part of our life. I do often fancy
myself well at home but well for from it in the
recollections by many my dreams of well known
places - I rec - a letter from Mr. Edgcomb & ans-
it immediately - He interests me very much, the
as you say, I think her views incorrect in
some things.

You are quite right dear Mr. A. in observing that
I had not had the training I had, I never will have been
fitted for this work now. It is not half the
persons I have seen in England eager to come out. It
would be too mountainous for them, & not a city, except
to look daily after the same things absolutely useful
for the comfort of the poor soldiers, & yet in themselves
of little interest - This is not half what many but
think you think dear Mr. A. that for the most part
self denial is caused by but by one or two great
sacrifices, but a continuous multiplicity of little
ones which one's own heart knows of & perhaps no
one else. In a military hospital you are under
for more restraint than in a civil one - The
authorities think like the men to be "pelted" as
they call it by the ladies - & so their best
guard is to keep to the duties assigned you.
Women are always most grateful for any little
notice or attention to them & as for as long as
devotion goes they are models of patience in
their sufferings. - One of them said the other day to
me ^{one of the nurses} "we soldiers can never do enough for you women
for all you have done for us." On Tuesday I
was at constant table with a body of the nurses
who had a holiday to go & see the Mosque of St. Sophia
It is well worth a visit - very handsome in interior
work - only Greek & Eng. are allowed to see it - Of
course we walked in our stockings feet the floor -
then visited the Bazaar where there are good shops
but the dirt, the noise, & the smells quite
sickened me - After, we had to go thro' the narrow
streets of Stamboul which were worse still - you
can form no idea till you see them of their filth
Nor of their scavengers the dogs. I was to that the
the dogs' excursion was over & we were all
floating safely back again in our cages on the
waters of the Bosphorus & the evening gale was puffing
our lungs from the late noisiness & which had subjected

9/31/31a

light
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How long I wait here - I the whole of the winter
I'll see this the is quite a story - see how the
papers have from Oxford - A No. there is a paper
back - do we know a paper there & the 13th Nov.
Oxford - No. there know the price of the
edition is 1. I had been the the - you may like
how to get money - I am glad you do a holiday from
of about twenty for you there is a paper for
I think that is the best I can give you - do is a
man - I am glad with you - & a paper which
& the I am glad with you - & a paper which

mountain the 10
necessary -

So much the poor fellows had perhaps no better
on their shirts, I saw not a shirt to his back
& how it is such a comfort to see them clean
& well provided for - & they look so grateful
when they feel they are getting better & often
tell you how comfortable they are -

Miss Morton at Caused + Miss
nightingale

Capt M. G. Nichol
Readington
Oxford

As I have told you the general hospital, the same
as we have had told you to the hospital - I have
not yet seen a great deal for my time in full
order - the winter & they are at about eight
of the hospital - I am well - do you know
how the hospital is - better or worse - you are
the hospital for the winter - do you know
what time from the - I am well - do you know

I forgot to
prepare & send
most mental
of being the same, giving the
in there is the work
it is the other that is

At the risk of being ^{Private} egotistical I must tell
you some of my experience on this subject here
only I w^d like this page to be private for then
I shall write with more ease. - It is very true
dear Mr. A. that I felt keeping a linen store
was not work for my mind - yet I satisfied myself
with it because it did not draw too much on
my physical powers in a new climate where
one had to feel one's way with caution - Also the
sense that poor Soldiers were made comfortable
tho' whole & clean linen was a satisfaction. Also
I had told Lady Comy I w^d rather take a subordinate
place at first & learn by way by observation the
course at once on any responsible office. She taking
charge of the Messes which was brought about by my
conversation the first day with Sir Miffyula
I felt w^d draw me into a change of occupation
more suited to my mind - but it was a work to
be entered upon slowly for I found with the ex-
ception of 4 they were a set of women of an
ordinary cast of mind & that to endeavour to
elevate them w^d if not pursued discreetly
only give offence. I felt ^{towards them} what the little girl
wants Sir B. to feel - a real love to these
poor women, coarse as they may be they
have strong for their duty & kind hearts to the
Soldiers - I respected them for their work & my
whole heart was set on their improvement
Sir B. was delighted that I took the subject up -
The kind Mr. O. lady had ever done so - that may
seem to have his other object than to get the
Soldiers, & ~~to~~ ask to do such a thing as look after
them w^d answer "I w^d do but come out for that."

Now what I felt was, I came out to be useful
if I could but be so in the way I w^d choose
as most to be liked, there w^d be a way in some
other direction afforded me - I accordingly began
first by showing simple acts of kindness to the
Nurses, & bought them some Creature Comforts
they wanted for the table, got some better ar-
rangements made respecting the diet & the
serving of the table - & always showed them as
much respect in carrying for them & to their
taste as I w^d to a lady - I soon saw they
felt all this & that I was working my way
successfully - Then came the time for
this evening class - I jumped at it eagerly -
two were too old to be bothered with such
things & Miss Norton w^d not come at
their room to teach & ~~the~~ ^{she} who can neither read
nor write were too proud to submit to be taught.
I took no notice of these objections - kept
out of the way of offending the two old ladies
& to my own inconvenience taught in another
room where I could ^{perpetrate} ~~perpetrate~~ & lay a
to get on very well - While they wrote copies
I read something interesting to them about
Turkey or its people & manners - I saw
the plain w^d succeed & I felt my hopes
bright when suddenly I was laid low -
God humbles us by showing us how ready
we are to sin when He chooses to lay us
aside as broken tools - I was in my
illness He comforted me by showing that I
had not labored in vain even in that obnoxious

The sympathy they all showed was very great
In short I was told the breakfast table in
a morning was flat or cheerful in proportion
to the tidings as to what sort of a night I had had
& how I was going on - When it was resolved I
should be allowed they all asked for leave to go
& see me once more before I left the hospital
& they bade me farewell with tears -
My own Nurse told me they talked at the
table that "they felt I sought their good"
& had their welfare at heart, & that Nurse
had never yet been a lady who could do much
for them as I did - Many have been the
wishes sent up to me by them that I was
back again at the Hospital. - It was a
work of self denial to give myself to it
thoroughly, for only think sitting down to dine
with a lot of women very much inferior
in cost of mind to my own servants at home
some taking up bones with both hands & claws,
2 others, secret drinkers, occasionally of very
poor quality of liquor, which they had got by
stealth thro' the windows in the ward - If you
realise all this dear Ph. A. you will find my
position. I often could not eat - after coming
for them my appetite was quite gone with
the smell of the dinner & the sight of the
guests - One day especially I shall never forget
for it was the day of my being comforted from
one night in by work - I had earned for all

(I forgot to tell you that the housekeeper a
nice little woman sat at the other end
to assist in this work) I had no chair for
the untempting meal & sat back in my chair
looking on the scene & thinking that a work
I had denied I had done with myself
& now I was doing this with it. I felt very
flat & thought of the two nice kitchen at
home & three well mannered servants
^{in contrast} to these of such a lower order & I was soon
their companion! Suddenly the words
came into my mind with a force I shall
never forget "Do not make himself of his
reputation but live in the form of a
servant" "Eat & drink with publicans
& sinners" & for why? Not of love to man.
to us! My depression was to be denied
I mentally exclaimed, My precious Saviour
if I may follow him even at a distance
in the work of humiliation should I not es-
teem it a privilege an honor & not a
trouble? From that day I have been
cheerful in my work - & satisfied & happy
P. afternoon the evening kiss me very
affectionately & told me I had been such
a comfort to her since I came for the money
here, much less business, & she thought
I was calmer & had that I had a good
All this has been covered during the day
M.A. do not think me dreadfully silly
laughing to tell you all this - but really

Associated with 9/31/31

Copy of a Letter from Miss A.W.Morton to her
friend Mary Ann Nichol (~~the daughter of Valerie Boyle's~~
~~great great grandfather~~) *my great grandmother's sister.*
-Valerie Boyle's VB.

Barrack Hospital, Scutari
October 12th. 1855

My dear Mary Ann

I duly received yours of the 11th. ult. and as one of mine
wd. cross it on the road I write as soon as I can in order to put
our correspondence right. The note I sent to you I enclosed in a
letter to my sister, I hope you have got it by this time but I am
rather surprised at not having had answers by this time to two of
my letters written to Sarah. I hope they have not miscarried.
If all my letters have arrived duly you will by this time know
all about my proceedings and my settling here with Miss Nighting-
ale so that I need not repeat the story. Miss N. went up to
Balaclava on Monday to look after the hospitals there as the
wounded are kept there so much now, and only sent down here when
so far convalescent - Last Sunday a draught of about 200 came here.
It is sad to see them walking about without legs, arms, hands or
some other condition - O the horrors of war! How fervently I do
long for peace on all accounts - And then it is such a demoralizer.
I assure you I had no idea of many of its more social and private
evils till I came here - and to keep nurses in order in a hospital
of this size is no little task. Being left in charge of them
during Miss N.'s absence makes me feel the full weight. There is
a housekeeper, a young lady who formerly kept a school, and she
is a paid assistant here, but she needs my support in her authority
so that does not lessen the charge. She is a good little woman,
kind, obliging and useful, extremely like that little Miss Taylor
who used to live in Lov--- Place - just her size but better looking
in the face. Mrs. Smith is also with me. I have been trying to instit-
ute an evening school where those who wish to improve themselves
might come to me - 4 have availed themselves of the opportunity,
but the most ignorant are always the most prejudiced and so they
keep away. To give them a moral lift is my great aim.

They all have their respective good qualities but some have sad faults such as ~~secret~~ drinking - and lightness of conduct. The greatest hardships I find here are in the way of the table, the hard meat and the greasy cooking quite upset my stomach and it is so difficult to get things more suitable. I think the hospital accomodation for the sick and wounded is admirable, but that for the ladies and the nurses wants a good deal of reform - only one gets into the way of making things do, hoping it will not be for long - what rejoicing there wd. be if we heard peace was declared - The scenery is to my mind the refreshing part in this work of self-denial. At least it does more to reconcile and ~~renew~~ me when I am tired than anything else. The views are so beautiful and Nature always cheers and soothes. It is very strange and new life certainly and has many privations and ~~disciplines~~ but with them all I wd. rather have my share in the work than not, for it is an opportunity to see and learn a great deal - and if ever I live to return to England there will be much to look back upon with interest and gratification at having been so employed in one part of one's life. I do often fancy myself not at home but not far from it in the remembrance my memory draws of well known scenes - I recd. a letter from Mrs. Edgcombe and ans. it immediately - she interests me very much, tho' as you say, I think her views incorrect in some things.

You are quite right dear M.A. in observing that if I had not had the training I had, I never wd. have been fitted for this work here. It wd. not suit half the persons I have seen in England eager to come out. It would be too monotonous for them and not exciting enough to look daily after the same things absolutely useful for the comfort of the poor soldiers, and yet ~~in~~ themselves of little interest - this would not suit many - but dont you think dear M.A. that for the most part self denial is learnt ~~by~~ not by one or two sacrifices, but a continuous multiplicity of little ones which one's own heart knows of and perhaps no one else. In a military hospital you are under far more restraint than in a civil one - the authorities dont like the men to be "petted" as they call it by the ladies - and so one's best safeguard is to keep to the duties assigned you. The men are always most grateful for any little notice or attention to them and as far as ~~my~~ observation goes they are models of patience in their sufferings. One of them said the other day to one of the nurses "We soldiers can never do enough for you women for all you have done for us". On Sunday I was at Constantinople with a body of the nurses who had a holiday to go and see the Mosque of St. Sophia. It is well worth a visit - very handsome mosaic work - only French and Eng. are allowed to see it - of course we walked in our stocking feet thro' it. We then visited the Bazaar where there are good shops but the dirt, the noise and the smells quite sickened me. After, we had to go thro' the horrid streets of Stamboul which were worse still. You can form no idea till you see them of their filth not of their scavengers the dogs. I was thankful when the day's excursion was over and we were all floating safely back again in our caiques on the waters of the Bosphorus and the evening gale was purifying our lungs from the late nuisances to which we were subjected

Private

At the risk of being egotistical I must tell you some of my experiences on this subject here only I wd. like this page to be private for them. I shall write with more ease. - It is very true dear M.A. that I felt keeping a linen store was not work for my kind - yet I satisfied myself with it because it did not draw too much on my physical powers in a new climate where one had to feel one's way with caution - Also the ~~sense~~ that poor soldiers were made comfortable thro' whole and clean linen was a satisfaction - also I had told Lady Canning? I wd. rather take a subordinate place at first and learn my way by observation than enter at once on any responsible office. The taking charge of the nurses which was brought about by my conversation the first day with Miss Nightingale I felt wd draw me into a

a range of occupation more suited to my kind - but it was a work to be entered upon slowly for I found with the exception of 4 they were a lot of women of exceedingly ordinary casts of mind - and that to endeavour to elevate them wd. if not pursued discretely only give offence. I felt towards them what the little girl wants Miss B. to feel - a real love to these poor women, coarse as they may be, they have been strong for their duty and ~~kind~~ kind nurses to the soldiers. I respected them for their work and my whole heart was set on their ~~improvement~~ - Miss N. was delighted that I took the subject up. She said no other lady had ever done so - that may seem to have no other object than to pet the soldiers and when asked to do such a thing as look after stores wd. answer "O we did not come out for that"

Now what I felt was, I came out to be useful and if I could not be so in the way I wd. choose as most to my liking, there wd. be a way in some other direction appointed me - I accordingly began first by showing simple acts of kindness to the nurses, and bought them some creature comforts they wanted for the table, got some better arrangements made respecting the diet and the serving of the table - and always showed them as much respect in caring for them and to their taste as I would to any lady - I soon saw they felt all this and that I was working my way successfully - then came the time for this evening class - 5 jumped at it eagerly - two were too old to be bothered with such things and hoped Miss Morton wd. not come into their room to teach, and 2 who can neither read nor write were too proud to submit to be taught. I took no notice of these objections - kept out of the way of offending the two old ladies and to my own inconvenience taught in another room where I could have comparative quiet and began to get on very well. While they wrote copies I read something interesting to them about Turkey or its people and manners - I saw the plan wd. succeed and I felt my hopes bright when suddenly I was laid low - God humbles us by showing us how needless we are to Him, when He chooses to lay us aside as broken tools - however in my illness He comforted me by showing that I had not laboured in vain even in that ~~xy~~ short time. The sympathy they all showed was very great. In short I was told the breakfast table in a morning was flat or cheerful in proportion to the tidings as to what sort of night I had had, and how I was going on - when it was resolved I should be moved they all asked for leave to go and see me once more before I left the hospital and many bade me farewell with tears.

My own nurse told me they talked at the table that "they felt I sought their good" and had their welfare at heart, and that there had never yet been a lady who could so think for them as I did. Many have been the wishes sent up to me by them that I was back again at the Hospital. It was a work of self denial to give oneself to it thoroughly, for only think sitting down to dine with a lot of women very much inferior in cast of mind to my own servants at home, some taking up bones with both hands to chew, 2 others, secret drinkers, occasionally at my side, smelling of liquor which they had got by stealth through the ~~warders~~ in the wards - if you realise all this dear M.A. you will feel my position. I often could not eat - after caring for them my appetite was quite gone with the smell of the dinner and the sight of the guests. One especially I shall never forget for it was the day of my being comforted from on high in my work - I had cared for all (I forgot to tell you that the housekeeper, a nice little woman, sat at the other end to assist in this work) I had no relish for the untempting meat and sat back in my chair looking on the scene, thinking what a work of self denial I had committed myself to and now I was thro' with it. I felt very flat and thought of our own nice kitchen at home and nice well mannered servants in contrast to those of such a lower order, and I was now their companion.

Suddenly these words came into my mind with a force I shall never forget "who made himself of no reputation but took on him the form of a servant. He ate and drank with publicans and sinners" and for why? out of love to Man, to us!

My depression instantly vanished. I mentally exclaimed

orderlies

'My Precious Saviour if I may follow thee even at a far distance in thy work of humiliation should I not esteem it a privilege, an honour, and not a trouble? From that day I have been cheerful in my work, and satisfied, and Miss N. afterwards one evening kissed me very affectionately and told me I had been such a comfort to her since I came, for the nurses were so much less boisterous, and she thought I was calculated to do them so much good - All this has been reward enough. Now dearest M.A. do not think me dreadfully self lauding to tell you all this - but really I thought you wd. be interested to hear of it - it has been so very interesting for me to experience it all. Now farewell my dear faithful friend and believe me ever your most affectionate A.W.Morton.

My best love to Mary. Pussy has jumped up and overturned my ink. So excuse the blotches. Thanks for the paper you sent.

I forgot to tell you that seeing the men, giving them paper and envelopes and writing things is the work most mentally interesting, it is the other that is monotonous though necessary. Formerly the poor fellows had perhaps no buttons on their shirts, some had not a shirt to their backs, and now it is such a comfort to see them clean and well provided for - and they look so grateful when they feel they are getting better, and often tell you how comfortable they are.

How sorry I was to hear of the illness of your cousin. I hope ere this she is quite restored - we have two nurses here from Oxford, a Mrs. Howe and a Mrs. Clark - who are known to Miss Skean and the Rev. Thos. Chamberlain. Mrs. Howe knows the family of the Latimers and so I think does the other. Give my kindest love to your sisters - I am glad you had a holiday from your schoolteaching for I am sure you wd. need it. Mrs. Smith (Miss N's aunt) is here just now. She is a nice kind old lady - she is the companion most suited to me I have met with yet - and a Miss Tibbetts who superintends the General Hospital, who seems a very nice lady but owing to the distance I have not seen much of her - for my time is fully occupied. Her sister and Sophy were at school together at Nottingham. Farewell dear Mary Ann. Let me have the comfort of a letter as often as you can spare the time, for letters really are such a pleasure out here from any one. Your very affectionate friend A.W.Morton.