
My very dear Mr. Fisher,

I send you this first blessed Christmas of your charge - a joy to all who are in your charge. May your Christmas be the means of each a new Christmas - a really fine year - a fine year of progress. My very dear friends I say, "Hear for a hard beginning, some progress, a blended end. That is the true sign of a good beginning as said (but exactly in these words) our great grandfather, some 300 years ago. And then was any good work done for God without troubles especially at the outset? So, forward the Right Brigade. O the brave charge they made.

No pains will be spared to make the trained nurses of Britain worthy of their brave charge - their great career. You have yourselves a beautiful Hospital, a beautiful Medical Staff, a
beautiful fraction. Will you spare no pains to answer to the prayer?
He then every day more a more real, honest through times in your morning. O pit to a carful more: Then life or death depend upon it.
Always forward, forward: always bring your journey to the end of your own conscience, even when rather quick when. Lead more fraction, if there are not there in judge it.

I in my old age do this. So it all your life, do it with all your might, if you could be good human. A good more still make proper a learn something to the end day of her hearing life.

That is a great temptation to a young community to be in a hurry, to scratch the ground it is not to dig deep. To do surface work, to put in oil flowers instead of growing flowers great from the seed. Strike your roots deep, rather than spread your branches too far. Stick together as tight to your superintendent like a bundle of jappo - you know the fable.

For this purpose I will tell you the rule which exists,
in a community. I know. They read once a week the verses about charity in the famous chapter in Corinthians. 3 or 4 times a day they pith their thoughts to themselves. Am I doing that? If not, I am a nurse as a labelling symbol.

But dear friends will you please make a bargain with me. I will do this till next Christmas (if I live to try, for I am very ill) if you will - Wish well to every other trained, training or in training. "Nurse in the country." O what a good thing is friendly rivalry!

In past days the utmost that was done was to expect from her obedience; she was simply told what had to be done, and ordered to go and do it. Now, the utmost pains are taken to show her why it has to be done and how. Is it not then much easier now to have the spirit of obedience? This then is what is called training. Training which is given her a experience which the nurse must give herself every day of her life, by which her training shows her how to give herself, so to make the good nurse.

Let your experience cast its light before, so as to
give sight to the path before you and only to the path behind which, as S. Paul says, you must turn behind. That is a melancholy sort of experience. Shall that you have been with Jesus not be afraid of seeming unlearned or ignorant? I feel everyday of my life though perhaps I number as many years of experience as you of life that ignorant and unlearned I am. The best trained nurse is unlearned or ignorant. Do you remember what it says in Acts about S. Peter not S. John's wonderful influence, of all coming from this that though they were unlearned or ignorant, people could see that they had been with Jesus. Can our patient so sharp be to see or an assistant is to see in us that each day we have been with Jesus? Each one of us may in his life perhaps remember some one of whom she always felt that she had been with Jesus. What an influence she had! That a shame it is that I or every one of us cannot say this of herself. That shows that I have been with Jesus today? A really great man who lived long ago one of the first of the trainers both of missionaries or of nurses - his nurses still number since 2,000.
I have talked with them myself - I used to say to their nurses - you will not win them by saying fine things - if I add - you will not win them by saying hard things - perhaps they know more than we do, or perhaps we can tell them nothing that they have not heard or read before a hundred times - but it is what they see that harms them.

Dear nurses all, by all means let us mind what we say, but still more let us mind what we do - let them, our patients only, see in us what they had better do themselves, a nearer that they had better avoid. That we wish them to do let them see we do. Let them, our patients only see alike in nurses & physicians what will do them good to see.

And for this end let us never do anything, but that we should wish to be seen. And for this end let us be with Jesus every day: now I do not want to preach but to practice, so if you knew me you would know that I need to practice perhaps more than any of you.

But I do not mean to give in - I mean to reform - please God Almighty yet, that I may stay in my infirmities. Will you excuse an old, old
hospital nurse like me - she lived before training was thought of - for saying that I think the most dangerous flaw in trained nurses not.

You, a young community, have not felt them yet. But if you live as I wish you Jacob's 144 year
you will have to resist them.

she is complaining, he is complaining. Do watch just be vigilant. Danger may be at any time when all seems
secure is these, complaints. What business have we to complain? Is that brave? If that brave? Is that making a brave charge?

In a plain pedic, the superintendent will tell you what that means. She never
complains.

Trained nurses talk a great deal about being prime. But the first trouble or trial we have - the first discomfort do we say - Oh this is not like the place I was accustomed to! or This is not what I expected! or We may be ordered to do something different or something we don't like.

This is inconvenient, we never did do, this is
and my place this is unfair this is putting upon me.
If we talk thus then our fine words about preening our God's work are, of course more vain and empty, if we are only talking empty talk.

Conceit. Is that brave? And we ever know a really brave man concealed? Any conceit is the result of vanity, but not of bravery. When a named horse is named she shows herself shrewd.

Is God concealed? No.

What then are we cleverer than God?

And now, toward the Light Brigade of Cambridge, may you all be able to say at your first New Year in another world: "O the brave charge was made!"

May we all be soldiers of God!

Your affectionate servant

Florence Nightingale.