

competent, I was compelled to write as I did to you, so as to terminate uncertainty.

"Neither this letter, nor my former letter, is intended to imply in any way that your sister has 'failed in duty,' or that she was not 'faithful' and earnest in the performance of it. I have told you before—and I say again—that I have a very great respect for Miss Jump, a feeling which I could not entertain if I supposed she had been deficient or unfaithful in the performance of duty, so that it is not necessary for you to defend her as you do in your letter.

"The case is much more simple. I merely wished to bring before you the fact that your sister was not at present occupying any position to which I had appointed her, and that I regretted I did not consider her strong enough or competent enough for any vacancy which existed.

"Meanwhile, it is necessary to appoint a housekeeper, and I felt the most direct and candid course was to write as I did in my last.

"Believe me to be,

"Dear Sister Clara,

"Very faithfully yours,

"THOS. J. BARNARDO."

"Sister Clara,

"Her Majesty's Hospital,

"19, Stepney Causeway, E."

We wish particularly to draw our readers' attention to Sister Clara's remarks on the above.

(1) No communication whatsoever received by me from Mr. Barnardo conveying even a hint to the contrary.

(2) If this is so, why, then, did Mr. Barnardo utilise my sister's services in the several capacities in which she acted?

(3) In spite of this peculiar and contradictory statement Mr. Barnardo actually placed my sister in temporary charge of Baby's Castle.

(4) My sister did not intend in the *first* instance to occupy any post in the Institution but that of general assistant under my own immediate supervision.

(5) I am quite positive that no such conversation took place.

(6) Mrs. Barnardo was never present at *any* interview I had with Mr. Barnardo on business matters, so this statement has no weight whatever.

(7) How could this possibly be, since my sister *had already* filled a post agreed to by Mr. Barnardo?

(8) I have never had any *previous* communications straightforwardly pointing this out to me, or certainly should have acted upon it at once.

Sister Clara then wrote Mr. Barnardo as below:—

"H.M. Hospital,

"April 12, 1889.

"DEAR DR. BARNARDO,—I am glad to see by your letter of the 9th inst. that you *do not*, as a Christian man, *deny* the promises you made to my sister, when taking Mrs. Baro's duties at 282, Burdett Road. She then asked you *plainly* if you could give her work in the new Hospital, to which you replied that you meant to give it her, and salary, and would talk it over with me.

"As to the communication made at the time the cheques were stopped, my sister, when at Hawkhurst, wrote to you asking if you could continue her remuneration when she returned to the Infirmary. You did not reply, but continued the cheque for four months. After her return suddenly they were stopped without any explanation whatever, *although* she wrote to you asking for one; but no letter, or any communication whatever, came to her hand, or mine, on the subject; but of course you have the copy of the one you refer me to. Perhaps you will let us see it, as the original one *never reached her*. The conversation you refer to in the Housekeeper's room I well remember, and made note of it, as your remarks on the subject were such as will *stick* to me.

"They were these:—

"Your sister is *not suitable*. We need one of more commanding appearance and nicer looking. I know the lady that will do.'

"I objected; upon which you said, most distinctly, 'I mean to give your sister work, but it must be apart from you. Anyhow, go on as you are for the present, precisely as we have done.' Therefore you have practically prevented her seeking work elsewhere.

"It is irrelevant to mention Mrs. Barnardo, as she was not present, neither was she in the house at the time. However, it is needless to discuss the matter further, as I now place in your hand, this day, April 12, 1889, my resignation as Matron of the Hospital, my duties as such to terminate July 12, 1889. In consequence of this, it is quite possible you may like to defer the rearrangement of the Hospital until I and my co-workers have left; but if you object to retain my services after having received my resignation, if you remit a cheque for *salary, board, lodging and washing*, up to the last day of June, I will leave the end *this* month.

"I remain, faithfully yours,

"SISTER CLARA."

This was acknowledged by Mr. Barnardo's secretary (Sister Clara admits the error in date).

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