

generous willingness to assist *both you and your relations*,⁽¹⁰⁾ I confess that the attitude you now assume of endeavouring to extort from me compensation to which you are not entitled, while, at the same time, you have used your position to create a cabal against my authority and hurtful to the interests of the Hospital over which you have been placed—I say, when I reflect upon these things, I am bound to come to the conclusion that you have not been, and are not, animated by the principles which I have always tried to believe influenced your conduct.

“I am,
 “Yours faithfully,
 “Sister Clara, “THOS. J. BARNARDO.
 “Her Majesty’s Hospital,
 “Stepney Causeway, E.

“P.S.—I find that on the 12th January I replied to yours of the 10th already referred to, saying I would write fully or see you the next day—that is, the 13th January; but *I did neither*, for on the morning of the 13th I had to leave hurriedly for Bristol, and remained there three or four days. Your letter of the 21st, from which I have quoted, was, therefore, a *fresh reminder* that the matter was not *then* settled, and I replied to that letter on the 23rd, completing your engagement and enclosing you a cheque. I have set forth the above thus clearly to prevent any possible misconception of the facts or of the dates.”

Sister Clara’s comments on the above :—

(1) I have proved the utter groundlessness of this statement in the *Nursing Record* of September 26.

(2) I hardly know how to characterise this statement, so leave it to Mr. Barnardo himself to explain away as best he can.

(3) I only found my diary by accident among some papers put by five years after the entry.

(4) As an honest man, I ask Mr. Barnardo to produce this written engagement, which would at once put an end to the whole matter.

(5) See 1.

(6) Will Mr. Barnardo please explain—after his paying my sister a salary—whose *employée* she was?

(7) I wonder when the compulsion on my part has taken place.

(8) This is given in Mr. Barnardo’s own peculiar, modest and best self-denying style; and seeing it in print, no doubt he will fully appreciate it.

(9) Do my sister’s services all these years, without pay, and under broken promises, count for nought?

(10) This referring to an entirely private family matter, and not at all bearing the construction Mr. Barnardo has placed upon it, I do

not think it desirable to inflict the story upon the readers of the *Nursing Record*, but have, to verify my statement, supplied the Editor with all details.

[We are perfectly satisfied with the explanation Sister Clara has given of the above, which has nothing whatever to do with the matter before our readers.—ED.]

Sister Clara then received for her pains the letter set out below from Mr. Barnardo’s solicitors, who, in something like under *twenty-four hours*—judging from the dates of the two last letters—must have, in some miraculous manner or other, managed to disinterestedly digest *all* the particulars of an intricate and lengthy correspondence extending over a period of at least five years, which has taken *us weeks* merely to arrange and put in sequence, been able no doubt to go fully and, of course, dispassionately into the whole matter, and advise Mr. Barnardo thereon as to the best, most conscientious, and business-like proceedings he ought to take under the circumstances.

“35, Lincoln’s Inn Fields.

“9th May, 1889.

“Madam,—Dr. Barnardo informs us that on the 12th of April you wrote giving him three months’ notice of your intention to leave your situation as Matron of the Hospital in Stepney Causeway. He also informs us that you have admitted entering into a combination with all the Nurses, Probationers, and servants that they were to leave on the same day as yourself, namely, on the 12th of July, and that Dr. Barnardo was not intended to have had any intimation of this, as you (who, as the head of the Institution, engaged the Nurses) had arranged to receive their notices without informing him.

“Under these circumstances we have advised Dr. Barnardo that you are liable to instant dismissal. If, therefore, you do not leave the Hospital by twelve o’clock on Saturday, Dr. Barnardo will take such steps to remove you as he may be advised. We hope, however, to receive a letter in the course of to-morrow stating that you have reconsidered your determination, and will with your sister leave quietly on Saturday morning.

“We are, Madam,

“Your obedient servants,

“H. C. NISBET AND DAW.

“Sister Clara.”

Which was acknowledged by Sister Clara thus :—

“May 10, 1889.

“Gentlemen,—In reply to yours of this morning, I beg to state that, *under protest*, and without any prejudice to any action I may bring, or

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