

every likely place. . . . We felt ashamed to have in the house such women as came. One alone expressed a wish to go from a good motive. . . . Money was the only inducement."

The party which eventually left London Bridge, consisted of ten Roman Catholic Sisters, eight Anglican Sisters, six St. John's House nurses, and fourteen nurses from English Hospitals. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bracebridge, personal friends of Miss Nightingale.

"Sidney Herbert was confident of the success of the scheme which he had originated, and he had reason to be so. Nevertheless, it is impossible," says Lord Stanmore, "but that he should have experienced some anxiety as to the reception which this novel venture might meet with from the military and medical authorities at Constantinople and Scutari."

On November 16th a few lines from Miss Nightingale, and a longer letter from Mr. Bracebridge announced the arrival of the party at Scutari. Mr. Bracebridge said that they had been well received, and described how

"the great corridor of the hospital, 450 yards long and four rooms, holding twenty-seven each, has been filled with beds and men in double rows, leaving four feet to walk in the middle. We had 400 shirts sent by Macdonald (the *Times* agent). About 500 clean shirts were put on; half the men had only rags, or shirts saturated with blood. There was long waiting for bread and tea, and out came Mrs. Clarke with warm arrowroot, and another with chicken broth, and fed those who were faint with a spoon. . . . The behaviour of sisters and nurses perfect, and especially the Catholic sisters, and the patients behaved very well to them."

Miss Nightingale immediately set to work to organise an invalid kitchen. "No doubt," said Mr. Bracebridge, "many have been lost for want of nourishment. . . . they tire of boiled food cooked in great coppers." In reporting the hospitals full Mr. Bracebridge says: "I mean as full as convenient, allowing for the bad air from wounds." It is evident that he contemplated the despatch of other nurses, for he says "In case of sending out other nurses it is easy." In view of what afterwards occurred this is of interest.

Other questions besides the care of the sick were referred to Miss Nightingale for adjustment. One of her letters home begins abruptly with the speech of Mrs. L., Barrack Hospital, Scutari, Asiatic Side, November 14th, 1854, which was as follows:

"I came out ma'am, prepared to submit to every thing, to be put upon in every way. But there are some things ma'am one can't submit to. There is the caps ma'am that suits one face and some that suits another; and if I'd known ma'am about the caps,

great as was my desire to come out [to] nurse at Scutari, I wouldn't have come ma'am."

Devoted as these nurses were, they were evidently not altogether devoid of human weakness.

Of the medical staff Miss Nightingale writes:

"We are very lucky in our medical head. Two of them are brutes and four are angels—for this is a work which makes either angels or devils of men, and of women, too. As for the assistants, they are all cubs, and will while a man is breathing his last breath under the knife, lament the 'annoyance of being called up from their dinners by such a fresh influx of wounded.' But unlicked cubs grow up into good old bears, though I don't know how, for certain it is, the old bears are good. We have now *four miles* of beds, and not eighteen inches apart.

"We have our own quarters in one tower of the barracks, and all this fresh influx has been laid down between us and the main guard, in two corridors with a line of beds down each side, just room for one person to pass between, and four wards. Yet in the midst of this appalling horror (we are steeped up to our necks in blood) there is good—and I can truly say, like St. Peter, 'It is good for us to be here'—though I doubt whether, if St. Peter had been here, he would have said so."

#### THE INVASION OF THE HOSPITAL BY FEMALES.

"Whatever distaste," says Lord Stanmore, "the medical staff may have felt to the invasion of the hospital by females, Miss Nightingale was received with much apparent and some real cordiality both by them and by the civil and military authorities." Lord Stratford, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, writing to Mr. Herbert, on November 5th, spoke of the nurses as now "actually under the same roof with the gallant and suffering objects of their compassion," and added, "notwithstanding the reluctance of the Faculty to admit nurses of the softer sex into the wards of the hospital, I cannot but hope that much additional comfort and relief may be derived by the sick and wounded from that attractive source." In the same letter, Lord Stanmore tells us, he assured Mr. Herbert that the Relief Fund raised by the *Times* was altogether superfluous, and that "as the subscribed money is rendered useless as to its intended object by the liberality of the Government, and the philanthropy of Miss Nightingale, he wished, the subscribers would consent to apply the funds, which it would be so difficult to return, to the erection of an Anglican Church at Constantinople!" "Lord Stratford," the author states, "lived within a short distance of Scutari. His reputation for acuteness and sagacity equalled that which he possessed for energetic and masterful action. He had at his command a host of emissaries and informants. If, with

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