

striking manner the true nobility of his character." He "admitted that in sending out more nurses he had technically failed to observe the terms of the agreement with her, he apologised for so doing, he refused to entertain any idea of her resignation, and he authorised her to send back at once to England the whole of the nurses who had gone out with Miss Stanley." Lord Stanmore, who has been unable to obtain sight of the original of this letter, of which Sidney Herbert kept no copy, says, "those who have seen it describe it as couched in terms of such courtesy and kindness as cannot have failed to excite some compunction in the mind of its recipient for the unmeasured invective of the letter to which it was a reply.

"Meanwhile Miss Stanley and her party were pursuing their way eastward, unconscious of the reception in store for them. They reached Constantinople on December 18th, and were puzzled at being met on arrival by an order, directing them to take up their abode not at Scutari, but in an unfurnished house at Therapia."

Three days later Miss Stanley went down to Scutari to see Miss Nightingale, and subsequently wrote home from Therapia.

"Florence showed me a copy of the letter she wrote to Mr. Herbert. I scarcely like to express an opinion to you about this. I can scarcely guess what answer will be sent. . . . I confess I have got to be convinced that more nurses are not needed. If the experiment is a failure I concede the point; but if, as I am told here, and we heard at home, it is successful, I do not understand why the comfort is to be so limited.

"I grant that no *one* head can be individually responsible for such a number in such a position; but authority may be delegated to inferior heads who may be held responsible for a given number.

"Florence requested me formally, in the presence of Dr. Cumming and Mr. Bracebridge to *succeed her at once*. I refused this most decidedly for every reason."

Miss Stanley, who was an intimate friend and enthusiastic admirer of Miss Nightingale, had, as has been stated, intended to return to England at the earliest opportunity after duties had been assigned to her charges, but "Miss Nightingale declined the services of the newcomers and refused to take any oversight of them. They were not consigned to her, she said, and she 'washed her hands' of them. Miss Stanley, in these circumstances, nobly sacrificed her own plans and wishes, and resolved to remain with the band she had brought out. . . . To her, only secondly to Miss Nightingale, belongs the credit of establishing a recognised place for female nurses in military hospitals. Indeed, without her milder in-

fluence, the reaction against the 'monstrous regiment of women' (a reaction not allayed by Miss Nightingale's sharp tongue and masterful interference) might possibly have proved successful."

The party taken out by Miss Stanley was composed of ten ladies, professional nurses, Protestant deaconesses, and Irish nuns. The special value of her services consists in this, that "in spite of opposition and denunciation she succeeded in proving two things, the possibility of which Miss Nightingale had denied. She showed that ladies could safely and with good effect be used as nurses, and that when efficient they are superior to ordinary nurses, on account of their better education and greater self-command. The result of her labours also conclusively established the fact that a much greater number of nurses than was contemplated by Miss Nightingale might be usefully employed in the hospitals, and that they were indeed urgently needed there."

It must be remembered that "ordinary" nurses were then recruited mainly from a very low class, and that "drunkenness and immorality prevailed to a large extent among the hired nurses, eleven of whom, out of a total of twenty-one, were dismissed within a year." Again, we read, "one of the objections urged against the employment of ladies was that they would be exposed to the shock of hearing much vile and profane language from their patients. To such vile language they had indeed to listen, but it was from the hired nurses associated with them on a footing of equality, and not from the soldiers, to whose delicacy of feeling in this respect all the ladies employed in the hospitals bore equally emphatic testimony."

Miss Stanley's staff did good service in the General Hospital, Scutari, at an additional hospital at Kulali, in the Crimea—where, notwithstanding Miss Nightingale's protest, some of them were sent—and also later at Smyrna.

Writing of Miss Anderson's work at the General Hospital, Miss Stanley says: "She finds the work painfully interesting—such a field for labour, so few hands to do it." Later she wrote from Kulali: "The doctors were very grateful and pleasant; we want just double the number to do the present work as it ought to be done; and what are we to do when the number is doubled?" And two days later: "To my horror I saw two great steamers coming up and anchoring under our windows. . . . The doctors say that if the men recover it will be owing to the nurses, but the mortality is very great. . . . I have written to *implore* Florence to send us some more nurses."

(To be concluded.)

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