

## NIGHTINGALEIANA.

## "THE ANGELIC ONE"

One is always getting peeps of Florence Nightingale now that she is becoming a personality of international interest, and in a book just issued, "Paxton and the Bachelor Duke," Miss Violet R. Markham tells of her grandfather, the gardener's boy, who became a man of affairs to the sixth Duke of Devonshire (son of the beautiful Georgiana), and then progressed to a kind of universal agency for the affairs of the whole kingdom and built the Crystal Palace.

In a delightful article which recently appeared in the *Times*, reviewing this most interesting book, it is recorded that Paxton's wife, the housekeeper's niece with whom he fell in love at breakfast the first morning at Chatsworth, did not approve of Miss Nightingale, to quote:—

"Capable and energetic women do not always admire similar qualities in their own sex. The Duke, on the other hand, felt unbounded enthusiasm for the heroine of the hour. Miss Nightingale was a Derbyshire woman—a fact that was held to confer lustre on her native county. Before the national testimonial was started some question had been mooted of a fund to be raised by the ladies of England. To this fund the Duke wished to subscribe 100 guineas. As the ladies were to be responsible, he gave the cheque to Sarah. Sarah thought the fund nonsense, and the cheque much too large. Further, she disliked the lady who was responsible locally for raising the money. Since the arrangements were fluid at the moment, she quietly sat on the cheque, clearly hoping the scheme would fall through."

"As the scheme," continues the *Times*, "did not fall through, Sarah received a sharp letter from Paxton, and was obliged to write to the Duke her apologies with an extremely roundabout explanation. Before then, on the opening of the Crystal Palace, the Duke had given her, along with massive silver plate for Paxton, a beautiful bracelet inscribed with the words, 'beloved and worthy'; and there are no grounds for supposing that even in the throes of the Nightingale affair he ever regretted the gift. What he did regret was that Miss Nightingale 'had no time' for him or Chatsworth. He had set his heart on entertaining her there.

"The would-be host was urgent; the lady, though gentle, was non-committal. The sequel was thoroughly characteristic. 'The angelic one,' he writes sadly a few days later to Lady Granville, 'had given me hope she was coming here to-day. Instead she sent all the rest of her family.'"

Our Florence Nightingale was ever thus. She had no tolerance of "fashionable asses."

## SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

(From the "Daily Telegraph," March 20th, 1860.)

On Sunday last prayers were offered up in all the garrison chapels of England on behalf of Florence Nightingale, now dangerously ill. What testimony could better express the gratitude of Englishmen towards that incomparable woman, so brave, so tender, so full of a martyr's spirit?

The Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital at Aylesbury in making an appeal for £50,000 states: Florence Nightingale helped to enlarge our hospital in 1860. Writing to her brother-in-law, the then Chairman of the hospital, she says, "We must make the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital the most beautiful in England."

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The King, in response to the request of the Board of Management, has commanded that one of the wards in the new wing of the Middlesex Hospital shall be called "King George V. Ward." During the progress of the work His Majesty has several times visited the hospital with the Queen.

Princess Arthur of Connaught will open the new Nurses' Home, pay wards, and other extensions at Putney Hospital on Tuesday, April 30th.

If a suitable date can be arranged the Duke and Duchess of Kent have indicated that they will be pleased to visit Glasgow, probably in June, to open an extension to the paying patients' block at the Victoria Infirmary. It is expected that the Duke of Kent will also lay the foundation-stone of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary annexe at Canniesburn.

The Duke of Kent, as president of St. George's Hospital, will attend the Silver Jubilee Empire Ball to be held at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, on May 8th, in aid of the rebuilding and endowment fund of the hospital.

Gifts and promises for the building of the new Westminster Hospital now total £124,575.

The Building Committee has reported to the Governors that it considers the most suitable and convenient time for the laying of the foundation stone would be during June. The Prince of Wales, president of the hospital, is to be consulted on the question.

The work of demolition on the new site was completed on March 1st. Work on the foundations will begin on May 1st.

Plans for the nurses' home and the medical school have been finally approved.

A new nurses' home is to be built for Hackney Hospital (L.C.C.) at a cost of £91,500. It will accommodate a staff of 265.

The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, has received a donation of £5,000 for the building fund from the trustees of the estate of the late Sir George Sutton.

Lieut.-Colonel Nathaniel Farrington Eckersley, a former High Sheriff of Shropshire, and formerly of Standish Hall, Wigan, has bequeathed £10,000 to the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

A gift of electrical equipment costing £6,000 has been made to Bristol General Hospital by Miss Hilda P. Wills.

The medical work of the Church Missionary Society is stated to be in serious danger, and several hospitals are threatened with closure.

The new King George extension to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields Eye Hospital), City Road, is to be opened by the Duke and Duchess of York in May.

The cost is estimated at £112,000, of which about £105,000 has been promised or is in hand. An urgent appeal is out for £8,000.

The time is growing short in which this sum can be obtained, and it would be unthinkable to fail to get it by the time that the Duke and Duchess of York open the extension.

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