

a girl in her 'teens, she had mastered Latin and Greek; she also studied Roman, German, Italian and Turkish History. Later, she took great interest in Mathematics.

Miss Florence Nightingale also possessed a most orderly mind and body; she owed much to her mother, who was very well read, and shared the love of books with her husband. She also took an interest in the household duties in which her daughters took part.

Miss Nightingale wrote on February 7, 1837, that "a call" came, and sounded in her ears. She always remembered the date in after years, and referred to it many times. No record survives of how the call reached her, but follow it she must, and she was full of religious fervour.

Miss Nightingale travelled extensively in Italy, Egypt, and most of the countries of Europe. She saw and learnt all she could and she worked hard when in England, always wanting to improve herself in nursing and in doing good works for others. She was much misunderstood by her own family, who could not understand her point of view. After her return from the Crimea all this was changed.

She went to Kaiserswerth to study nursing, and much wanted to continue this when in England, but it was impossible owing to the nursing conditions in hospitals in this country at the time. She was appointed Lady Superintendent of the Hospital for Gentlewomen in Harley Street, and when she had held this position for a year the Crimean War was in progress. She wrote to her friend, Sidney Herbert, who was then Minister of War, offering her services. He also wrote to her urging her to go to the Crimea, and their letters crossed. She acceded to his invitation, and in a week she and her nurses started for the seat of war. A very motley collection they were: ten Roman Catholic Nuns, eight Sisters of Mercy, Church of England (two different houses), six from St. John's House, and fourteen nurses serving in different hospitals. It was a difficult team to drive. In the Crimea the state of things was even worse than they anticipated. There was no equipment. The Government said the soldiers had been well provided, but the fact remained they had only the clothing they stood up in. Both were right; the men had been obliged to leave all the equipment that had been provided at Varna before they left for the seat of war. It was nothing but muddle. Miss Florence Nightingale and her devoted friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bracebridge, who went out with her, and her band of nurses, set to work to put the hospitals in order. Miss Nightingale found the sanitary arrangements in a most dreadful condition, and wrote to Sidney Herbert to induce the Government to send out a Sanitary Commission, and that was done, the Commission being composed of Dr. John Sutherland, Mr. Rawlinson, and Dr. Hector Gavin. Dr. Gavin died of fever soon after their arrival in the Crimea. The other two worked wonders, and the death rate diminished in a remarkable way. These two men became Miss Nightingale's devoted friends.

In achieving all this Miss Nightingale was bound to tread on the toes of the Medical Staff, who resented, as they thought, her interference, though she did nothing without their consent. Also, she had difficulties with some of the nurses, and had to send home several for drunkenness and other faults. In a short time she herself was stricken with fever, and her life was despaired of. She was faithfully nursed by Mrs. Roberts, a St. Thomas's Hospital nurse, and she made an excellent recovery. The soldiers one and all were full of grief at her illness; they looked upon her as if she were an "angel." On her recovery, the doctors wanted her to return to England, but this she would not consent to do, and remained at her post until the last patient had left.

Miss Nightingale instituted a system for enabling the soldiers to send home a portion of their pay, and when it became flourishing it was taken over by the Government. Her arrangements with regard to the patients' food were beyond all praise. Her humour saved her from much heart burning. She wrote to her mother from the Crimea: "Such a tempest has been brewed in this little pint pot as you could have no idea of. But I, like the Ass, have put on the lion's skin, and when once I have done that I can bray so loud that I shall be heard in England. However, this is no place for lions; as for asses, we have enough."

The Government offered to bring Miss Nightingale back to England in a man-of-war, but she refused, as she preferred to come home by easy stages, and she travelled as Miss Smith with an aunt who had gone out to help her. When she arrived in England in August, 1856, she went to her home at Lea Hurst, Derbyshire, and arrived before the household were up.

The English people collected and presented to her £44,000, with which she founded a Training School for Nurses. She visited many hospitals, and her final selection for this purpose was St. Thomas's.

No doubt the good work done by Mrs. Wardroper, who was then Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, helped her to make her choice. She also organised an Army Nursing Service, and gave much advice on the construction of hospitals. Though broken in health by her strenuous work in the Crimea, she offered, if necessary, to go out to India, when the Mutiny broke out, but this she did not do. Her greatest work was done after the Crimean War. The sanitary and water reform in India, achieved through her instrumentality, was little known of by the general public; in fact, most people only heard of it when the "Life of Florence Nightingale," by Sir Edward Cook, was published in 1914.

Soon after her return from the Crimea, Miss Nightingale's father gave her an allowance, and she lived in London. She worked both day and night for the betterment of the soldiers, and for the nursing profession. She was more or less of an invalid, but it is doubtful whether she would ever have accomplished the amount of work she did if she had not been almost "bedridden," and only saw people by appointment. Sidney Herbert was her great guiding star, and when he died, worn out by worry and overwork, she was distracted, and thought all her labours would be in vain, as there was no one to take his place, but she worked on until her scheme for drainage in India was an accomplished fact. She also gave advice about sanitation, and on the training of nurses in other countries. She wrote books on Nursing, Records of Commission after Commission, and Blue Books without number were to be seen in her room. But through all these long days and nights her religion was a great comfort to her. Though she was a great worker for India, she had never been there. She loved India and knew it through and through.

Miss Nightingale was very fond of animals, and knew many of their ways and habits. As for *cats*, she had many, and in later life always had one or two in her room. She lived to a ripe old age, and like many great men and women, she did not receive any great honour until she was too old to understand it. In 1908 the Freedom of the City of London was conferred on her. The Order of Merit was awarded to her by King Edward VII, but it is doubtful if she realised the honour when it was presented to her.

She had many joys, but many sorrows; she was a woman of wonderful courage, with a strong religious belief, and she was a great believer in mankind. She always said: "Never to know you are beaten is the way to victory."

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