

NIGHTINGALEIANA.

When one begins to study a subject it is marvellous how interesting items bob up, and the following letter from Miss Nightingale has come to Miss Bushby from a namesake, Miss Dorothy Bushby, of Weymouth, who has most kindly given permission that it should appear in print.

Miss Dorothy Bushby writes: "I found the letter from Florence Nightingale, and enclose a copy of it. I find it was written to Lord Lyons and given by him to my great aunt, Miss Alice Bushby, who left me an album full of letters from Victorian and other celebrities. It is, as you see, the actual letter in which Florence Nightingale refuses the offer of the 'Caradoc' and announced her intention of returning to England in a French ship.

"I find that my grandfather was in the Crimea until November 10th, 1854, when he returned to this country in the 'Caradoc.' Florence Nightingale reached Scutari on November 4th of that year, so this explains why there is no mention of Florence Nightingale in the book my grandfather subsequently wrote of his experience in the Crimea. In this book he states that on October 14th a large proportion of the surgeons sent out had to return home sick before landing in the Crimea, and of the Medical Officers who remain in the field, there is so much cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery and fever, that they are fully employed from morning to night.

"My grandfather also states that 5,000 men were suffering from disease and that the lack of doctors and medical stores was appalling. Of course this was the reason Florence Nightingale set out for the Crimea, and not a day too soon."

Letter from Miss Nightingale to Admiral Lord Lyons, Commander-in-Chief of the British Fleet in the Black Sea:—

July 22nd, '56.

Scutari Barrack Hospital.

MY DEAR LORD,

I have found, upon enquiry, that it is quite possible for me to obtain passages by the French steamers—and therefore I will not accept your magnificent offer of the "Caradoc" the more gladly do I release you from your kind promise, because I conceive that it would be the showiest method of getting myself home and I shall be glad to take the quietest. Believe me,

By dear Lord,

Your obliged and Obedient Servant,

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

A very characteristic letter indeed.

WOMEN AND WAR

The Women's Auxiliary Air Force, and the bonny Land Girls are, we learn, proving themselves "perfectly splendid," and costing the country but little.

On the other hand we have all read with indignation, and agree with the Duchess of Westminster, who has drawn attention in the Press to a serious evil. She states that women of means are hanging on to well paid war jobs that could now be done by women who are almost penniless as a result of the war. "Yet," she writes, "I am continually coming across cases of wealthy women who took on jobs in a voluntary capacity, and now that the war has started, have obtained well paid jobs. They ought to make way for the hundreds of competent women who are literally starving. There is plenty of voluntary work to be done." These rich women have men in high places. It would be well if every venal and unpatriotic woman who is paid by the State should have her name posted. We were all shocked to learn that a lady of title was receiving £600 a year in a Government Service. We do not wonder that a lady of similar title repudiated the accusation that she was the receiver.

EVACUATION.

Our criticism of the Government's Evacuation Scheme in our last issue has brought us several comments, all supporting the danger of the violation of family life and liberty in the home.

Unity of Family Life.

We are glad to note that the Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking at the Canterbury Diocesan Conference, urged that greater thought be given to evacuation problems in relation to the unity of family life. If war lasted any time, what would be the position of families from which children had gone and the position of householders into which children had been received?

He could foresee a very great slackening of a sense of parental responsibility and unity of family life. Quite certainly it was a matter requiring far greater and more systematic thought than had yet been given to it, and he hoped that thought would be given to it before it was too late.

Dealing with the international situation, the Archbishop said: "Can we doubt that the world is now confronted by the menace of a force which is really and truly evil?"

"It is clear that we are using no mere language of exaggeration when we describe this spirit, armed with ruthless force, as in truth satanic. Indeed, it is a manifestation of anti-Christ.

"I cannot bring myself to doubt that the Christian citizen is fully justified in giving his support and service to his country in the task which it has most unwillingly but resolutely undertaken."

A Protest.

A number of protests of which the following is typical appeared recently in the *Yorkshire Post*:—

"Sir,—I have been asked to send you the following resolution passed at an Acklam parish meeting:—

"That, it having been proved that during the recent Government evacuation scheme children suffering from impetigo and in a verminous condition were billeted in the village, this meeting protests against this as an avoidable and grave injustice to the householders concerned.

"In forwarding this, I beg to add the following observations as expressed at the meeting: That this experience of the village regarding the condition of the evacuated children is not an isolated one, but appears to have been widespread in the area; and, further, that as the evacuation was organised after many months of preparation, during which the necessity for these particular safeguards was consistently urged, it is difficult to believe that the requirements of the moment justified such a disregard of precautions against infection on the part of a Ministry charged with the safeguarding of the public health.—Yours, etc.,

A. W. CARTER

(Honorary Clerk, Acklam Parish Meeting).

Acklam, Malton, Yorks, October 27."

The Dear Animals.

A reader of this Journal asks for advice—Is she, or is she not, compelled to admit evacuees into her clean little home near London when she is out on business nearly all day? In the district, she states, householders are distracted. Very undesirable people are thrust upon them. One friend is so overdone, the children with dirty habits have had to be moved.

Another, on returning from shopping, found the two boys billeted on her had killed her dog and buried it in the garden—she is broken-hearted. These little hooligans have been

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