

..... [p1]

1872

4th Janry5 S^t Marys road

Westbourne Park

Bayswater.

My dearest Father.

Your welcome letter has been forwarded to me here. I returned from Scotland last Friday weary with life & self more weary still. had much fresh sorrow but the heavier the cross nearer to God so why complain. but I have heard so much wickedness since I came here & in Scotland it makes one shudder how people

..... [p2]

can dare to sin as they do ignorance is bliss happy those whose lives are removed from the busy throng & hear & see nothing!

I went immediately to see poor Mary it is a long way off from here & cost me 1/6^{d1} so I told her I could not come often she is stouter than ever a face like a Moon! - It is not a school she is a nurse girl but the lady

..... [p3]

is not going to keep her she says Mary is not competent enough for her post. Poor child What is to be done? I am going to look out for her in this neighbourhood she has 25 frcs per month but has not been there a month yet consequently has received no money but she will pay back her passage money as soon as she possibly can I have left my address with her that she

..... [p4]

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1 De afkorting 'd' (van het Latijn 'denarius') werd vroeger gebruikt voor 'penny'. De volledige uitdrukking staat voor 1 shilling 6 pence.

may write to me from time to time & let me know when she has to leave that I may see after her. I questioned her about the Nuns there was nothing very far amiss only that her Ladyship did not like being there & would not remain she became impatient & demanded to have a situation & the Nuns told her she had a bad temper! — I know myself those Nuns have not much patience they expect perfection & that they are not themselves! but of course I lectured Mary however, what will do her most

..... [p5].....

good will be to be left to her self for a bit & taste a little of the stern realities of life & that the best help is self. The Protestant servants do all they can to set her against her faith & she says she can't go to confession in English I told her to tell this to the Priest at the convent & he would find an opportunity for her going in French if not I will see to it by & bye.² She frets because you don't write please

..... [p6].....

don't let her lose heart I am sorry for the girl but I suppose she must have a portion of the cross as well as others she thinks she has "much grief" & I daresay it is as great as she can endure for the time she wishes herself at her mothers again poor soul I left her cheerful smiling through tears and a promise to be her friend I will try & get her among catholics in this neighbourhood as a nurse girl where two

..... [p7].....

are kept. I have already spoken to a catholic Lady who has promised me to do what she can on her behalf.

And now on the other subject of your letter. as regards your poor convert³ I feel for her position but if she is prudent herself she may bring her Husband round again I suppose something has scandalized him? — Do you know who they are? Is she

..... [p8].....

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2 'by and bye', betekenis: in de nabije toekomst.

3 Het gaat om een zwangere Engelse bekeerlinge, die zonder echtgenoot in Brugge beland was en door Gezelle onder zijn hoede genomen werd. Mogelijk betreft het Lucy Weguelin (Lady Smith), die een maand later, op 6 februari 1872, met haar echtgenoot officieel ingeschreven werd op het adres Hoornstraat 9.

a Lady? – and could she appreciate the services of one!! - because I am not humble enough to be considered as a menial⁴ I don't mind what I do provided I am treated as an equal. though I am poor my position is equal to that of a Lady and I think this is only proper pride you know dear father I have found by experience it does not do to be too humble or you get imposed upon! perhaps you can't agree with me?- in this arguement –

..... [p9].....

as far as looking after the children, the house &^c I am quite able but I have little or no experience in the other matter. I was never with any one but M^{rs} Waterton but if she likes to risk it I would be willing enough to come to her. I think I could undertake provided she is agreeable but distinctly let her understand I am not a nurse for such occasions & then

..... [p10].....

she can decide for herself. I could look to the infant take charge of it for the time & nurse her &^c if she would be satisfied with one who is not a regular nurse I daresay she would not be disappointed it generally ends in doing more than I profess to do. I am just here resting on my oars at present and ready for action any where! –

..... [p11].....

When is she going to take a house. & when would she like me if I do join her & I would leave it with you to make some arrangement as regards time, remuneration &^c -

I must be deeply in debt to you for postage stamps however I will wipe off the score at a future date Pray for me dear father

..... [p12].....

that I may not be disappointing our Lord in my life for it is such a queer mixture I dare not think too much about it & yet every year brings us nearer the end of the [Chapter]

May the next year be an improvement is all I can pray for.

God bless you & give you His grace on all occasions is the sincere prayer of [your] child in [Christ]

.....

4 Dienstmeid (of knecht), en meer in het algemeen iemand met een 'menial job', waarmee een job wordt bedoeld die weinig ervaring of opleiding vereist.

C S Galbraith

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