

LETTER I

TO MISS FITZSIMONS, 17 JULY 1769

[1]

As it is always a real pleasure to me to hear from you, I am much obliged to you for both your kind favours; in the first there was enclosed your note. I can't help saying that if I could be jealous at anything you did in my regard, it would be at [your] not writing in a more friendly manner; as, be assured, you may command anything in my power.

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I cannot express how much I suffered on your account, as I was sure your uneasiness must be great, at not hearing of the arrival of the young ladies I mentioned. They were to depart in the first vessel that sailed to Havre. When I wrote I thought everything was settled. But it has pleased God to order things otherwise—which in all appearance has turned out a fortunate occurrence, for by the delay there are two subjects more such, as one might ambition in every respect. I shall say nothing of their merit as that will speak for itself. I am not acquainted with Miss Coppinger; I have seen her, but it is on the amiable character Mr. Doran gives her I depend. And I am afraid I shall not have the pleasure of seeing her again before she goes, as the measles is like a plague here.

Though not mortal, yet it is dangerous to grown persons; and Mrs Coppinger told me it was the only disorder she dreaded, as her daughter is subject to a whizzing in her chest. She and her father are greatly pleased at her choice of a state of life, they are so pious.

I wish Mr. Shea was so well pleased at his daughter's inclination; he has not as yet given his consent. He says it is a sudden thought; he does not know it long, though she has been thinking of becoming a religious more than twelve months. She is a person of incomparable sense and very sedate and of an age to know her mind—she is past twenty—so it is not very probable she will change. I believe Mr. Moylan has so much influence over him he will prevail.

Miss Coppinger's parents won't let her go until her Aunt Butler approves of her resolution to which—by what you mention of her good intentions to this foundation—she will immediately give her consent. And it was thought proper not to press Mr. Shea for his consent, to show him she still persists to his knowledge longer than a few days as he at first imagined. She is their darling child; all this objection is to her going to France, for they are too good Christians to hinder her from being a nun. There is one comfort

I have in these two young ladies, which is [that] they seem so much attached to their families they could not think of being anywhere but here.

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I am sorry Miss Coppinger cannot see the schools, as I think no one can have an idea of their use unless an eye-witness. As you wish to have a particular account of them, I will tell you how I began. I fancy I mentioned to you before that it was an undertaking I thought I should never have the happiness of accomplishing. Nothing would have made me come home but the decision of the clergyman that I should run a great risk of salvation if I did not follow the inspiration. This made me accept of a very kind invitation of my sister-in-law to live with her.

[4]

When I arrived I kept my design a profound secret, as I knew, if it were spoken of, I should meet with opposition on every side, particularly from my immediate family as in all appearance they would suffer from it. My confessor was the only person I told of it; and as I could not appear in the affair, I sent my maid to get a good mistress and totake in thirty poor girls. When this little school was settled I used to steal there in the morning — my brother thought I was at the chapel. This passed on very well until one day a poor man came to him, begging of him to speak to me to take his child into my school. On which he came in to his wife and me, laughing at the conceit of a man who was mad and thought I was in the situation of a school-mistress. Then I owned [that] I had set up a school. On which he fell into a violent passion and said a vast deal on the bad consequences which may follow. His wife is very zealous, and so is he, but interest blinded him at first. He was soon reconciled to it. He was not the person I dreaded would be brought into trouble about it. It was my uncle Nagle, who is, I think, the most disliked by the Protestants of any Catholic in the kingdom. I expected a great deal from him. When he heard it he was not angry at it; and in a little time they were so good as to contribute largely to support it.

[5]

And, by degrees, I took in the children, not to make a noise about it in the beginning. In about nine months I had 200 children. When the Catholics saw what service it did, they begged [that] I would set up schools at the other end of the town from those I had, for the convenience of the children, to be under my name and direction; and they promised to contribute to the support of them. With which request I readily complied; and the same number of children that I had were taken in; and at the death of my uncle I supported them all at my own expense.

[6]

I did not intend to take boys, but my sister-in-law made it a point, and said she would not permit any of my family to contribute to them [the schools] unless I did so. On which I got a master and took in only forty boys. They are in a house by themselves and have no communication with the others.

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At present I have two schools for boys and five for girls. The former learn to read, and when they have the Douai Catechism by heart they learn to write and cypher. There are three schools where the girls learn to read, and when they have the catechism by heart they learn to work. They all hear Mass every day, say their morning and night prayers, say the Catechism in each school by question and answer all together. Every Saturday they all say the beads, the grown girls every evening. They go to Confession every month and to Communion when their Confessors think proper. The schools are opened at eight, at .twelve the children go to dinner, at five o'clock they leave school. The workers do not begin their night prayers until six, after the beads.

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I prepare a set for first Confession twice a year, and I may truly say it is the only thing that gives me any trouble. In the first place I think myself very incapable; and in the beginning—being obliged to speak for upwards of four hours and my chest not being as strong as it had been—I spat blood; which I took good care to conceal for fear of being prevented from instructing the poor. It has not the least bad effect now.

When I have done preparing them at each end of the town, I think myself like an idler that has nothing to do. Though I speak almost as much as when I prepare them for their first Communion, I find not the least difficulty in it. I explain the Catechism as well as I can in one school or other every day; and if everyone thought as little of labour as I do, they would have little merit. I often think my schools will never bring me to heaven, as I only take delight and pleasure in them.

[9]

You see it has pleased the Almighty to make me succeed, when I had everything, as I may say, to fight against. I assure you I did not expect a farthing from any mortal towards the support of my schools, and I thought I should not have more than fifty or sixty girls until I got a fortune; nor [did I think] should I have had a school in Cork. I began in a poor humble manner; and though it pleased the divine Will to give me severe trials in this foundation, yet it is to show that it is His work and has not been effected by human means.

[10]

And had I only a proper person to begin it, I think it has the prospect of meeting with surprising success. I am charmed with the account you give me of the ladies you are with, I hope the same spirit will be communicated here.

I think religious discipline would be too strict for this country, and I own I should not rejoice to see it kept up. I must say Miss Moylan's prejudice to take on here has made me see things in a clearer light than I should have done, and makes me accept the disappointments I have met with as a decree of the divine bounty. All her friends are sorry she went abroad; and I must say, laying aside her own merit, this house would have a great loss in her, as she is of a family deservedly loved. They are in hopes she is beginning to change; I wish it may be so. If she has so much zeal, she will never have such an opportunity of exerting it as here.

[11]

For I can assure you my schools are beginning to be of service to a great many parts of the world—this is a place of such trade—they are heard of, and my views are not for one object alone. If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power.

[12]

I must look on it as one of my crosses that the two ladies who were so good as to patronise this foundation should be removed. But the Almighty is all-sufficient and will soon make up this loss to us. I beg you will present them my compliments.

[13]

Mr. Moylan desires to be affectionately remembered to you. As he gave you an account of the building, I shall say nothing of it only to excuse myself as to the house I built first. I never intended it for ladies. At the time I was sure I should get the ground at the rear to build in; and as it gave on the street, I was obliged to have it in the manner it is, in order not to have it noticed as a convent. I shall refer you to that and many other things in my next which I hope the young ladies will be the bearer of.

Letter 2 - Early in 1770

TO MISS FITZSIMONS, EARLY IN 1770

[1]

. . . as I always reflect on myself how many faults I have. How happy she was to have such a pious turn so early in life and to have let herself be directed by that great servant of God, your former mistress, who I long to know whether she will do that meritorious action as to settle this foundation. Her zeal is great. I am sure if she does it, she may be compared to the grain [of] mustard seed in the Gospel. Though our house is the least in the Order, has it in our power to do more good than any; and the good seed she will sow will spread, if she is inspired to it.

[2]

I am sending boys to the West Indies. Some charitable gentlemen put themselves to great expense for no other motive. Only as they are well instructed, and as the true faith is decaying very much there by reason of them that leave this country knowing nothing of their religion, [this] made them lay this scheme, which I hope may have the desired effect. All my children are brought up to be fond of instructing, as I think it lies in the power of the poor to be of [more] service that way than the rich. These children promise me they will take great pains with the little blacks to instruct them. Next year I will have pictures for them that go to give the negroes that learn the Catechism. I must beg you will be so good as to buy me some dozens of the common pictures of that sort for them.

[3]

I forgot to speak to Miss N. to send them to me by the first opportunity. I am glad she is liked by the ladies where she is. Had they known all she suffered for this foundation as well as I do, it would make them pass over many imperfections they may see in her. I am confident her intention is good; ignorance may make her err. I run no risk in giving directions about her to a person of your piety and sense, as you were confident [that] had I known the Fille[s] St Joseph were Jansenist[s], I should never have sent her there.

[4]

And I hope you'll act in regard of the young ladies as you think proper, and be sure I shall always approve of it. I must say I was desirous they would learn what was proper to teach young ladies, hereafter, as there is a general complaint both in this kingdom and in England that the children are taught only to say their prayers. As for spiritual matter, I am sure the nuns will take good care of that.

I must beg the favour of you to present my compliments to the Superior, [to] your mistress and [to] your former one; and my best wishes attend them and the young ladies.

[5]

Had I the happiness of being acquainted with you, I should imagine you were laughing at me, to think I fatigue myself in the least. I can assure you I never thought the least trouble in acting in regard of the schools, only in one part of my duty. Don't be uneasy about my health. Nobody can enjoy better health than I do, thank God. I must say I suffered a great deal in mind, which for a time I thought would have hurt my constitution, [but it] did not in the least. I am afraid you all will be tired of me, I may live to be so old. That [is] what is most to be dreaded. I beg you'll believe me to be with the sincerest esteem, dear Miss, your most affectionate friend, Nano Nagle.

[P.S.] I wrote to Mr. Halloran about Miss Nagle and shall be guided by what I hear from him as he is so good a judge.

TER I

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For I can assure you my schools are beginning to be of service to a great many parts of the world—this is a place of such trade—they are heard of, and my views are not for one object alone. If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power.

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I must look on it as one of my crosses that the two ladies who were so good as to patronise this foundation should be removed. But the Almighty is all-sufficient and will soon make up this loss to us. I beg you will present them my compliments.

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Letter 3 - 29 April 1770

TO MISS FITZSIMONS, 29 APRIL 1770

[1]

I had the pleasure of receiving your kind favour and hope my last letter has convinced you that it was no neglect on my part not answering .you sooner as nothing can give me more real pleasure than hearing often from you , till I have that of seeing you. And that longed-for sight, I hope, is not at such a distance as I some time ago imagined it to be.

[2]

I can't too much admire your zeal and great trust in the divine Providence, which I always looked on as the most settled beginning any foundation of this kind could have. And I build more on the success of it from that poor way [in which] it first took its rise than any means it has pleased God to give me at present to carry it on. I can't express how much I suffer to think of all the severe trials you have gone through, and am sensible it's more painful to meet them where [you] should expect everything to forward such a good work. Yet the Almighty permits this to try your patience and to hasten this establishment, and to draw a future benefit from it, as the faults we disapprove in others we take generally to mend in ourselves. I dare say it will be the peculiar care of them that begin this foundation to inspire always to others to do all in their [power] to forward other establishments, as in all appearance several may spring from this. It's in this light [you should] look on their odd manner of acting in both convents. And as to myself it does not disedify me, as I believe it's all for our good. It's certain others might not think as I do, which makes me sometimes imagine the disappointments I have met about the foundation going abroad to have happened for the best, as very probably they might have lost their vocations had they seen their behaviour in our regard.

[3]

As to what you mention to me about being professed here, as your worthy friend and his uncle approves of it and as it's your own decision, it's highly pleasing to me also. And I think it would be going to a very unnecessary expense, as you could not reap any advantage by it hereafter and I suppose would be very disagreeable to the ladies you are with that anybody intended for this place should profess among them, as they may always have a dread of their returning back to them. On the whole I hope you have come to the best resolution in every respect.

[4]

There is nothing in Mr. Moylan's power he won't do to endeavour to get leave for your former mistress coming over. If he can't succeed by writing, he is so good as [to] be resolved to go over himself, though he can hardly be spared even for a few days from this place, his presence is so necessary here. Yet he has it so much at heart to see it once fixed [that] he does not think anything a trouble [which] he can do to serve it. We all admire that amiable lady's zeal and fortitude to leave her own country. I flatter myself that you and she will be amply recompensed when you see all the number of souls you'll be the means of saving, and the universal good not only to this country and very probably to others. I beg you will tell her I should have wrote to her to acknowledge my thanks and gratitude to her when I heard of her consenting to come here, only the want of not writing the French, or more the fear of my letter being read before it came into her hands as with the help of one of my friends I could have sent

[?] a French letter. And at the same time assure her of my respectful compliments.

[5]

It gave me a vast deal of trouble to hear my cousin had such a violent fit. You may well imagine if I thought she had hysterics, I never would have been such a fool as any way to think the nuns would ever permit her to receive the habit among them. It makes me uneasy to think how disagreeable it must be to; them to have her in the house, as they have a notion it's a disorder that is taken. We can't foresee what sickness it's pleased God to afflict us with or at what time. I wish her native air may agree better with her for her own sake and ours, for a better mistress for the poor children I fancy won't be easy to get. She was indefatigable about. . .

[6]

P.S. As [I am] informed Miss Coppinger has been also very uneasy at not hearing from any of her family, I must beg the favour of you to tell her I heard yesterday from them, and they are all well and [so are] her cousins in this town; and at the same time assure her of my affectionate compliments. Adieu, dear Miss.

Letter 4 - 13 May 1770

TO MISS FITZSIMONS, 13 MAY 1770

[1]

I am glad to profit of any opportunity to assure you how pleasing it's to me to acquaint you with anything I thought would be agreeable to you, as I am certain [it] will be to hear that I hope we have got a very desirable subject in the young lady I mentioned to you some time ago, recommended by Mr. Austin. I wish I could transmit to you that part of his letter in respect of her, that he wrote to Mr. Doran. [But] as it was not convenient to give it to me, I shall give you a full account of her and some conjectures of my own in her regard. As you may be surprised I have not insisted on a better fortune if you did not know how matters stand, [let me tell you that] I have done nothing in it only with the approbation of our worthy friend and his uncle. Her father will give only £200 to the house, he is to pay £15 a year interest on it; while she lives, he is to give her a pension for herself that he does not choose to name at present. His indignation I believe is so great against her for being a nun [that] he offers her £2,000 if she will marry. Her inclination, I find, was to go to the same convent where she was brought up in. He would not consent to it, as he says there is a probability [that] in France they may demolish all the monasteries. He consented [that] she should go to Flanders, and Liege was the place he chose for her; I suppose, being under an ecclesiastical prince, he thought it would long subsist.

All these objections made her determine, I believe, on taking on here; and [she] says she is greatly pleased to [be] among them that has been educated in France. When he gave her leave to come here, he desired that she should leave Dublin in July and go to a convent in Galway, to remain [there] till things are fixed here. I have begged [that] she should come here and stay with me. In [the] first place she could be of great service and it would be a great comfort to me to have her; and

[secondly] it's thought more advisable for many reasons by his odd manner of acting in her regard. At least I imagine he does not see her, so as the footing I request is put on being less expense for her going to Galway than coming from thence would cost him more. If he thought it would be agreeable to her, I dare say he would let her come. I fancy you'll admire to hear she is his only child and, I believe, the same [person] we mentioned to you about two years ago, as everything corroborates with what I heard then, only her being so very young as they told me she was. If it's the same, the father is a very religious man and has made a very good fortune, and retired from business lives in the country. There is a great appearance [that] beside[s] her wealth [?] she will be of vast service to the house. Her name I don't know. She has had a mind to be a nun since [she was] a child, [and she] is mighty devout. Nobody can write better than she does or [has] better orthography— this [is] what Mr. Austin mentions of her in his last letter. When he first spoke of her, he said she had great talents. Providence has ordered everything for the best in her regard to keep her for this place.

[2]

It mortified me that she did not join you; and had she, I am sure she would have met with the same fate that others did. Even Mr Austin heard so much to the prejudice of this Foundation, that I believe he did not endeavour as much to prevail on her as he would [have done] had he known how matters were. Ever since Mr. Halloran has been here, who was informed of the truth of everything, nobody can interest himself more than he does for its success.

[3]

We must think the Almighty permits everything for the best. You'll see with His assistance everything promises well. And His divine hand will uphold us in getting your former mistress. The house she is in will in my opinion bring a judgement on them if they hinder her from being the means of saving so many souls.

[4]

Mr. Moylan desired me to assure you of his most affectionate compliments. He is so hurried that he has scarcely time to eat his meals since the Jubilee. He attempted several times to try to get an hour to sit down to write to you; it was in vain. It mortifies him he can't, as I don't know anyone he has a higher esteem for. His health is so much impaired since this great fatigue that he told me himself yesterday as he could . . . any ease here to relieve on your account his friend with . . . afraid it would have no weight with him . . .

If it was not in regard of this Foundation he thinks you would choose to finish your noviceship there, and as soon as leave is got for that other lady to come away immediately . . . He expects his sister every moment and will have time to write to you and to the Superior at the same time as the Jubilee will be soon over. I was surprised when he asked me if I wrote to the mistress of novices. I never did, I know I ought have done it and to . . . ; not writing the French prevented me; as I am very unfond of being troublesome to persons that have not time to spare, and I could not entrust anybody else.

[5]

I hope your fortitude will bring you through all crosses and put a happy conclusion to this Foundation. And never be discouraged from choosing any young lady you think proper. I have often been ashamed for fear you would have thought I was any way flattering you with the success of it. I met so many disappointments; and that very young lady I now mention, I was sorry that we ever spoke of her to you, though we were sure of her when we did and afterwards she was resolved to go to France; you see we have got her back again. And if Miss Smith is not entered into any other convent, Mr. Moylan think[s] he will prevail on her to come here; I sincerely wish he may.

[6]

I beg you'll be so good as to present my compliments to the Superior, [to] your mistress, and [to] your former one who[m] I love and reverence, and [to] Mr Fitzsimons. My best wishes attend the young ladies. All the family of Barryscourt are in perfect health, and Miss Nagle['s] family are also very well. I hope you and they enjoy, as I wish you may always, perfect good [health].

[7]

It gives me a vast deal of trouble to find [that] them two young ladies that want to learn can have no advantage. If it could be permitted them to have anybody to teach them anything you thought would be hereafter an advantage to the house, don't spare any expense. You'll be [the] best judge in that and everything else in their regards. They are happy to have a person of your good sense to direct them. And [I] can with truth say you are under God the chief support of this good work, which I flatter myself you will see prosper far beyond what one has a right to expect in such a country as this. I am, my dear Miss Fitzsimons, your most affectionate friend, Nano Nagle.

Letter 5 - 10 July 1770

TO MISS FITZSIMONS FROM BATH, 20 JULY 1770

[1]

Though I did myself the pleasure of writing to you lately, yet [I am induced to write again] by a letter I received from our worthy friend [Dr Moylan] who acquaints me with the sudden death of his sister-in-law. She was a most amiable person and I am most sincerely sorry for her. He says he resolved to leave Cork in about twelve days if the ship be ready and the wind fair. I always admired his zeal; and this is a great instance of it: to leave his afflicted family and tender father. This shock revives all the trouble he had for the death of his eldest son, for if anybody ever died of grief, his daughter-in-law has. Yet, notwithstanding Mr. M's fortitude to leave his friends in this situation, if his father who is old and sickly should fall ill, it won't be in his power to depart as soon as he expected. Nor can I imagine it possible he will let him go, as he can hardly bear him out of his sight when he is in urgent affliction.

[2]

As I heard you thought I came [here] for my health: as you are so good as to interest yourself in my regard, I was afraid it might have made you uneasy. [I beg] to assure you that, thank God, I never was better, and it was not to [take] the waters I came nor have I tasted them. I came to see my brothers and be sure it was with much ado I could prevail on myself to pay this visit. I did not acquaint you with this tour, as I wavered so much with myself that I may say [that] till I was in the ship I was not sure of coming — it was so much against my inclination to leave my children, and only to serve the foundation I never should have prevailed on myself.

Our friend, I have reason to think, spoke with a prophetic spirit by what has happened. For my own family would otherwise never have the opinion they have at present nor ever [have] interested themselves as they do for its success. You must be [have been] surprised when you heard that they knew nothing of it. You heard what was true; the young lady that told you that my sister Nagle says was the first she heard of it and could not believe it at all, she told her so. I fancy you don't forget [that] I wrote to you [that] when I began my schools my own immediate family knew nothing of it. So the same method I was resolved to take [now], as I was sure they would be the first to oppose me. Never said I one word to them till I saw things had such a prospect of succeeding, which I was sure I never could have persuaded them of if they did not see it. And it gives them all great pleasure that I should be the means of promoting such a good work, and my sisters-in-law are as eager to get good subjects for us as we could be. I hope you'll approve of my manner of acting, as the less noise is made about affairs of this kind in this country the better.

[3]

Mr. K[eatin]g got a letter from Dr Butler. On which he came [to] speak to me about his sister. And [he] says [that] as we must be of such service to the kingdom, if we had the Protestants' consent for the establishment he would be better pleased she was amongst us, as she could do more good than anywhere else. On which I told him before my brother and sister that had I consulted my own family [then], I should not have had a school in Cork; which they said was [true]. They argued with him if such a proposal was made he ... the foundation and the schools. I leave you to judge what . . . such a thing must be looked on ...

Letter 6 - 28 September 1770

TO MISS FITZSIMONS, 28 SEPTEMBER 1770

[1]

I was sorry it was not in my power sooner to tell you how much I am obliged to you for not standing on ceremony with me and being so good as to write to me so often of late, though I could not answer your kind favours as punctually as I wished to do. I believe you'll attribute my silence to the real cause, which is want of time.

[2]

I can't express the joy I had to hear of Miss Kavanagh['s] resolution and that she had joined you. It was what you ambitioned this long time past. If once we were fixed, the object in view is so great that I dare say many would follow your and her example. I had little reason when first I thought of this Foundation to expect the success it has already had met. I must say, every disappointment we have had the Almighty has been pleased to make it turn out to our advantage; though my impatience very often made [me] not submit to His divine Will as I ought. I believe we are obligated to your worthy friend for this young lady['s] [determination] to come here. We are happy, I think, to have one of the sisters. I am not surprised at what you mention to me in regard of Mr. Kavanagh, for he and his lady by some conjectures of their own was sure Miss Nano intended coming here. As for my part, I could not say anything that gave the least notion that she was [so] inclined; nor did I flatter myself by what the clergyman then told me of her that she would; and I must do her brother and sister justice, they did not seem at all angry with her for it. I dare say she will be still of great service to us by her prayers.

[3]

I can't avoid telling you how eager Mr. Doran is for your coming over soon, as he foresees [sic] they will every day be starting some new difficulties on account of the French lady—which is already the case and was made an objection when Mrs. B. got leave to come. And he wrote to his nephew [Dr Moylan] the many reasons by which it makes it so necessary to have this establishment begun as soon as possible, as he and I are sure by the character you give of this lady that she is not one of those modern religious persons who think every inconveniency such a cross that there is no bearing it. She that makes such a sacrifice for the good of souls will have fortitude to make light, I hope, of not having everything settled as comfortably as it ought to be.

[4]

One could not imagine in a house so lately built that the walls would be so dry as they are, nor can one judge of them till they are plastered, and when the plaster dries immediately, it's owing to the walls being so. Had I not seen it had this effect on it, I could not have believed it. You'll find it will be very habitable this winter, which I did not think it would be. And when you are settled there, I shall

be to blame if I don't get every necessary that is thought wanting, as there is nothing in my power I shan't endeavour to do. And I hope you'll be so good as to excuse, in the beginning, all, and consider we are in a country [in which] we can't do as we please. By degrees with the assistance of God we may do a great deal. As I think by what your

Letter 7 - 17 December 1770

TO MISS FITZSIMONS, 17 DECEMBER 1770

[1]

It is not to be expressed, all the anxiety of mind I have gone through by your and our worthy friend's silence, as I did not get the letter you mention to have been sent by hand. Nor did I know what to think till I had received yours of the 27th of last month.

It did not surprise me to find by it that nothing was yet fixed; as I was sure I should soon be made acquainted with how matters went if there was good news. On the receipt of your letter I spoke to Mr. Doran, who is so good as to write in my name to the Superior, begging her interest and that she would be so charitable as not to defer making her community give a categorical answer. As to that point I think she can't well refuse the last request in conscience; as to the other she may not have any scruple about it. Had I written myself, she might say that I could do it as well before as on this occasion; and others may take it ill that I did not pay them the compliment.

Only Mr. Moylan has such patience and zeal, he would certainly have long ago given up the affair. He is resolved to leave no stone unturned to bring about this Foundation. He says you and he will consider what is best to be done, for I dread they never will consent to lose so useful a subject. It's all in the power of the Almighty; we don't know what is best for us and so ought to be resigned to the divine Will.

[2]

I think I have reason to take it unkind of you to give me so many reasons for making use of the credit I gave you on Mr. Waters, as you may be sure nothing could give me more pleasure than that I could in any way oblige you. And I beg you'll not be uneasy if Mr. Fitzsimons can't pay me readily; for money is at present so scarce and [there is] such a run on the bankers in this Kingdom, that people can't get what is due to them. I shall acquaint you when it's paid. When one is in a strange country any disappointment is sensible. As for my part I am often without money; yet as everybody knows me, I don't mind it.

[3]

It gives me vast pleasure to find that Miss Kavanagh is so well pleased with teaching in the poor-school. It shows a particular call from the great God to take delight in it. I dread, though her health is better, that in winter it will be too cold for her. And it would be better she should take care of herself for the good of the poor here where she can be of more service, than there; and I beg you will endeavour to prevent her from going to them . . .

[4]

The young lady in Dublin, her name is Lawless. When everything was settled, F. Austin told it to her father who came to town; but she could not prevail on him to come with her. He made an excuse that he was old and sickly and the weather was too cold for him to venture. He gave her leave to come when she got company proper for her to travel with. She was with an uncle of hers in James's Street. He engages not to let her want anything during her life.

[5]

We were sure you were coming over, in consequence of reports that certainly you were on your way, until Mr. Doran inquired into the truth. I could have wished that, when you determined not to come this winter, I had been informed of it, not so much on my own account as on hers. I could not have avoided putting myself to some expense. And at a time when I had many calls for money and employed workmen in .the short days, which makes work come out vastly dear; and only, as I mentioned to you, that I was resolved not to buy what could be had in a few hours and at farthest in a few days, I should have put myself to very unnecessary expense, which I am determined not to do till you are landed. This is a day I long for.

[6]

It is a vast pleasure to me to find that your mistress is so much changed in her behaviour, as I think there is no greater happiness in the world than to be in union. Whoever we live with, we must expect to have something to suffer as this world is not to be our paradise.

As I find they will allow you to leave when you have a mind, I hope that you and my cousin will get a person to instruct you in what may be useful to teach hereafter, if you should think proper.

[7]

Give my best respects to Mr. Moylan, to your former mistress, to the Superior and to your present mistress. My affectionate compliments to all the young ladies. To Mrs. Lynch, when you see her, I beg you will say that my best wishes shall always attend her, and that I shall never forget her kindness to me, which I have a grateful sense of.