B.7

(Direct "India Office")

India
& Dowlais hospl
S. Wales

Augt. 4th 1871.

Porthmawr
Crickhowell
S. Wales.

My dear Miss Nightingale.

Your kind letter of the 30th found me here repairing damages after a tumble in a Hansom Cab, some time ago. in London - some remains of a sprain in the hand will, I hope, excuse a scrawl.

Mr Plowden is very anxious to put into his

Blue Book all he can of
Dr. Cunningham's General
Review. But we have not
yet got it at the India
office; & unless you could
lend us your copy to
work upon, we may have
to wait long ere the
Govt. of India send it on
with their lucubrations
upon it — If you can
lend us your copy there
will be ample time;
for Mr. Plowden had
been waiting for a reply
from the War office, &

the Bengal Portion has only just gone to the Printer & from the description you give of it, the Review should be given in extenso in the Appx. with a para in the body of the Bluebook drawing special attention to it. | If you can so help us will you kindly order the Rept. to be sent to Mr. Plowden at the India Office? He would of course not criticise, & would merely give all that Dr. C. states, & say that the Rept. is now unde the consideration of the Govt. of India".

I fear it will be long ere the Financial Philistines at Simla enable D. C. to use any but moral & intellectual pressure. Mr Geo: Campbell in Bengal is in evil case - between an ignorant & bigotted population - selfish land=owners, an empty Exchequer & an endless contest between himself & some Secretary of Lord Mayo's, as to whether of the two can best, single handed without aid or interference you any other mortal, manage in minute detail, the affairs of 150 millions of ~~rather~~ self=willed, evil minded, & rather troublesome children. God helps them.-

I have been set to look into the Indian Military Expenditure & to try & find out for the Duke of Argyll, why whilst the Army has been decreasing since 1862/63, the Expense has been increasing to the extent of at least one million in charges other than Pay & Allowances.

As far as I could judge
it seemed all waste
& mismanagement –
but Genl. Norman who
invented the Staff Corps, &
now rules in Military
matters in India, greatly
to the grief of Lord Napier
& most good soldiers,
says it is all your
wicked devices. He does
not mention you by
name – but improved
Barracks hospitals &ca
drainage & sanitary arrangements
have done it all –
As far as we have gone,
"we fail to see," as the

fashionable phrase is, any
thing of the kind; & I have
great hopes that the
result, whatever it may
be in other respects, will
show what a miserable
amount of ~~real~~ money has
been spent on real sanitary
improvements -

I do trust you are
getting a little comparative rest; real
rest I fear you never will
have, whilst the world
continues so dirty & disorderly.
But I wish you could have
seen the results of one little
book of yours, as I saw them
last Sunday, in a Hospital
just opened by Mrs Clark at

the great Dowlais Iron works nea
Merthyr – she had been
working quietly against
the prejudices of Managers
& Foremen who ~~thought it~~
better Political Economy to
let people die, & of the people
themselves who could not
bear to leave their dark damp
hovels – but she has prevailed
at last & her great wish was
that she could have seen you
once. Believe me

My dear Miss Nightingale

Ever sincerely yours.

H A Bruce

P.S. Could you in answering D.C. give him a hint to keep Mr Plowden always supplied with a couple of copies of his reports as soon as they are printed?