

Her parents took her to Egypt, but she turned from a life of idleness and pleasure to nurse sick Arabs in an hospital. On returning to London she ignored society to work in hospitals, where she laid the foundation of a practical training that proved of inestimable benefit to mankind for all subsequent time. In 1849 she went to Pastor Fliedner's school, conducted by the Protestant Sisters of Mercy, at Kaiserworth-on-the-Rhine, not far from Dusseldorf, and took a course of instruction in their methods of relieving distress. From Germany she went to France to examine various institutions in her chosen line of work.

Soon after her return to London she had an opportunity to undertake important work. Learning that the sanitarium for governesses was languishing for want of proper support, she volunteered her services free of cost. She also raised money for its support, and put it on a good financial basis, but impaired her health.

#### LEAVES FOR CRIMEA.

On October 21, 1854, she sailed with a band of 38 nurses—of whom 10 were Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy and 14 members of an Anglican sisterhood—for Scutari. "I am naturally a very shy person," she says; certainly she had a keen horror of parade, and she started with her gallant band without public notice or farewell. At Boulogne, however, it became known that this company of ladies, with their uniform dark dress, were nurses on their way to the Crimea, and the white-capped fisherwomen of the place thronged round them and carried their luggage to the railroad station, scornfully refusing to let a man so much as touch an article.

The band of heroines reached Scutari on November 5, the very day of Inkerman. The great barrack hospital there was a huge quadrangle, a quarter of a mile on each face; its corridors, rising storey above storey, had a linear extent of four miles. The hospital, when the nurses landed, held 2,300 patients; no less than two miles, that is, of sick-beds—beds foul with every kind of vileness. The mattresses were strewn two deep in the