



Love & Kisses
Florence



Etched from an original cabinet photograph made in London

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

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FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE was born of English parentage on May 15, 1820, in Florence, for which she was named. Her childhood was spent in England. From her earliest years her strong love of nature and animals manifested itself. She had a natural shrinking from society, and, although her social position necessitated her presentation at court, her first season in town was spent in examining into the working of hospitals, reformatories and other charitable institutions. She took a six months training course in the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses at Kaiserswerth, learning hospital management. From there she went to Paris to study the hospitals under the charge of the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. After her return to England she reorganized the Governesses' Sanatorium. In the year 1854 reports of the sufferings of the sick and wounded in Crimea came to England. Miss Nightingale offered her services and set out on the 24th of October with a staff of thirty-seven nurses, partly volunteers, partly hospital trained. Her labors at Scutari, where she gave herself body and soul to her tasks, greatly lowered the death rate, which had been appalling. She had the general superintendence of all the hospitals on the Bosphorus and remained at Scutari in spite of her increasing ill health until Turkey was evacuated by the British in 1856. The enthusiasm aroused in England by her heroic work led to the raising of a fund of £50,000, with which she founded the Nightingale Home for training nurses at St. Thomas and Kings' College Hospitals. She also turned her attention to the question of army sanitary reform and army hospitals. In 1858 she published her "Notes on Nursing." She was frequently consulted about hospital plans both at home and abroad. In 1892 she organized a health crusade in Buckinghamshire, sending teachers to instruct the cottagers in hygiene. She died in London, August 13, 1910.

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