

Madame Superior

I think you will have to proceed with much prudence with Madame (name illegible). You know that the Ladies of Mary are accused of being parsimonious. This reputation does a lot of harm, which will increase as it spreads around. I will speak about your affair with Madame Superior about this when she comes to Ghent.

You must not be too surprised to see that the number of your pupils is not increasing very much. I know on good authority that the methods of Madame Clara are not appreciated, and it appears it is not without good motives. I hope that with prudence and with zeal you will manage to put your affairs in order, but God must have a place in your interests.

Your affectionate Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 19th October 1855