

My dear daughter in Jesus Christ

This time I should need to apologize to you. It is really too bad to put off answering you. However, travels, new business added to what you know, and then forgetfulness that also comes and mingles with my good reasons from time to time, those are what sometimes cause a delay that upsets me, I think, as much as it does to the people who are expecting news from me. The word forgetfulness, which slipped from my pen, must not lead you to believe however that I might be unconcerned; it is quite the opposite; it is rather that there is excess in the keenness of my solicitude.

I very willingly subscribe to the proposal you have made to me about Mlle Bonte. Let that pupil who has inspired me with real interest, examine before God what she has to do, and she will find me as kindly disposed to be of use to her as she can wish. I am not surprised about what you told me about her; it is not a new thing for us, as you know.

I will have the pleasure of seeing you within a fortnight or even earlier, if the weather turns bad.

Receive, dear Child, the assurance of my devotedness.

Your spiritual Father

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 12th October 1839

You already know, I think, that Mme Louise has gone to receive the crown that her zeal has merited for her. She died on the 2nd of this month.