

L.S.J.M.J.

14-16

My very dear daughter in Jesus Christ

I have delayed writing to you as I wanted to weigh up a little what I should decide to do as regards (erased). It seems to me that I shall have to act very warily in order to avoid putting out a wick that is still smoking. Mme (name effaced) is more guilty than Fl. and the latter can be recalled to her duty, if we act cautiously and charitably. Let (name effaced) not know that I am aware of her blunders. Tell her what you think useful as regards her report, and we shall take counsel together on the course it would be right for me to take with her, when I come to Alost.

As for you, my very dear Child, do not lose courage. Profit by your very faults to advance on the way of perfection towards which we cannot tend enough whatever may happen to us. I do not refuse either to help you in your efforts, with my prayers. So forward, my dear Child, forward with the grace of our divine Spouse!

I am always very sincerely and affectionately

Your Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 27th July 1862