

Praise be J.M.J.

15-12

The resolutions you have made, during your retreat, my dear Child, have given me real joy and I have thanked our good God for the lights he has communicated to you. I fully understand that you have not carried out exactly all you had prescribed for yourself, but you will have been less imperfect than you were beforehand, and by force of your efforts you will become what grace has made you see you ought to be. The task of perfecting yourself is not a task of a few days; you will work at it all your life. So arm yourself with courage; attack your faults with zeal, do not allow them any respite; purify your tastes and intentions and you will triumph over all your woes. Our good God will not refuse you the virtues with which he loves to see his spouse adorned. Appear outwardly easy, and show that religious are happy people. Meekness and cheerfulness must always be your distinguishing characteristics; in that way you will do much good for Religion.

I do not fail to recommend you to the Lord, that is one of my sweetest duties, for I want to be really

Your devoted Father

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 9th October 1835