

L.S.J.M.J.

15-31

You are right, my dear daughter; the Superiors are children of Adam just like those under them. But as Mme Marine is very sensitive because of her nervous, sluggish constitution, one must treat her gently and not give her any reason for distrust. At a well-chosen moment, make her the observation about which you have written to me and give her to understand that you wish her not to lose the rewards attached to punctual observance of the Rule and that this is the intention of your remarks. Take care to speak of yourself. Without that precaution, your remarks would miss their goal, because it would be advisable for me to make them directly and not through your mediation.

It is evident that Mme Marine cannot appear to occupy herself with Mme Constance and that, in reality, she cannot be much concerned with her. That Lady will get on better alone, than if one wanted to try and lead her. You must all behave with indulgence towards Mme Constance who is good but by no means great. Do you think that the office of assistant is in keeping with her character? Tell me in all simplicity when you write to me again.

Your ever devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

19th Feb. 1851