

Although I have to congratulate myself on the result of my journey that I at first thought would be rather useless, I persist in thinking, my dear daughter, that you and your sister Mme Constance, are exaggerating things and that charity is not the sole motive of your observations; your mind with its tendency to look on the black side and the great susceptibility of Mme Constance have evidently a big part in what you say or what you think blameworthy in your Mme Superior. Do not forget that Mme Marine is your Superior, as I am your Superior, and that it is the same principle that must guide you in your feelings as regards obedience and love for us.

Next, my dear child, I think myself obliged, in conscience, to forbid you as well as Mme Constance to send anything, either note or letter, without recourse to the ordinary way, that is to say, through the intermediary of your own particular Mme Superior to whom you must hand your notes and letters sealed. If you think you need to take precautions, you could address to Mme Superior General the letter destined for me, or to me for the Mme Superior General, when you think you have serious motives for not addressing these letters directly. These roundabout ways are subject to thousands of drawbacks. And then what becomes of religious simplicity with behavior so far from being straightforward? These ways of acting would spoil you, my dear children, both in the eyes of God and in your own esteem.

I have said a word of what I have just written to Mme Constance, if my memory does not deceive me, but I see that it is a duty of my office to inform you both of this. So you will tell Mme Constance about my letter.

Do not worry, however, about what your badly enlightened zeal has led you to do; avoid falling again and the good God will be pleased with you.

Count also, my children, on the indulgence and on the devotedness in Jesus Christ of your spiritual Father, who hopes that his frank behavior will increase in you, filial and above all religious confidence. Let God be our good, our affection, our aim, and we shall be happy here below and in the other life.

(End of Letter missing: 1851 added in English Translation)