

My dear Sister

I think it is a good idea that each mistress correct, reward or punish her own pupils, so as not to do harm to the mistress or even the pupils, of a class which is out of control. It will be good if you come to an understanding with the sister who takes her class in the same place as you; you must agree on some general rules and then as far as possible, act uniformly.

The fear of darkness, of solitude etc. is a childish prejudice which will be corrected little by little through reflection and through faith and confidence in God. You see from your experience how dangerous it is to talk to the children of ghosts, were-wolves, phantoms and a thousand other falsehoods which frighten them and which leaves traces even when they have learned how ridiculous are all these assertions. Teach them their religion and the duties of the creature to the Creator and you will obtain what you want from the children, without giving them cause to be afraid and uselessly unhappy.

Your own timidity, my Child, will equally go away with time; it is a matter of the body rather than the will. Do not upset yourself about it.

Do a certain amount of piano practice. I do not want to make you exclusively a music teacher; you have to learn things that are higher and more indispensable. I want you to practice your writing very much; it seems you have the right dispositions, but examine well between the English style and the round slanted style. For the rest, use time, my dear sister, and this time does not come successively (Translator: "in one stretch"). I recall also another point: generally speaking, you do not open your mouth wide enough when you speak French; that might not perhaps be a disadvantage when speaking English; but you must give great attention to the language in which you have to teach.

I hope you will not refuse (illegible) to the charitable Sister, whoever she is, who corrects you when you speak badly. Yes, my child, you may believe that the good Sister Louise is in Heaven, and that she is interceding for us. This is one more patron for our Institute.

I doubt if you will be able to decipher my writing. I am almost ashamed of giving you such an example; however, you know I do not have to give writing lessons and you must not measure my feelings by my writing. Good-bye.

I am all yours in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 3rd October 1834