

Madame Clothilde

I have not yet had the opportunity of addressing to you directly my congratulations on the post of confidence with which our divine Master has wished to charge you. It is a new means of making yourself useful to your neighbor and serving the Institute. I count on your generosity in discharging your duties with devotion, and in making light the burden you will carry cheerfully and charitably with your sisters.

I cannot stop myself talking to you about (name crossed out). All those who have been following her with attention, are all agreed that that pupil is going to lose, during this last school year, what she had gained during the previous year. Inclinations that are even disturbing have developed in her and what seemed to be ingeniousness could well be only the result of small combinations of her self-love, her vanity, and a little malice that I regard as dangerous. I found in her the elements of childishness, a desire to please, to be superior to the others, and to pay rather nasty tricks on the others. She evades supervision and does not worry using roundabout ways to gain her ends. An act of disobedience does not frighten her, etc. I will give explanations by word of mouth. As she is not in class, she will hardly do any work this year and will occupy herself with trifles. The inclination of (name crossed out) causes me a good deal of anxiety; it causes it to her father, far from rendering him service. Please deal with her and pray for her. I will help you as much as I can.

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 13th October 1859