

L.S.J.M.J.

18-12

I thank you, my dear daughter, for the letter you have just written to me. In it I find those sentiments of generosity that God has given you from your first years and which grace sanctifies through fidelity. Let the Lord be the goal of our efforts, and we shall hardly need that human help that is granted to beginners. Find in your sincere love for the divine Spouse of your soul the encouragement, the help that are sometimes refused us elsewhere.

You will gain in authority, to the degree that the pupils of last year are changed or replaced by new pupils. But try and see to it that the latter do not copy the previous ones. It would be perpetuating the evil not to prevent the insubordination caused, or at least aggravated, by certain imprudent acts on the part of Mme Clémentine and her friends, from being passed on like a contagious disease.

Twice a year I receive a letter from Mme Colombe, your cousin and my goddaughter. It always contains such good and naive sentiments of gratitude towards her former mistress, Mme Flore, and family affection for you and Mme Marie Charlotte. Please tell Mme Flore, and add, from me, that I approve of the wise precaution that Lady has written to me about as regards the measures to be taken by the Mistress general.

Ghent, 16th February 1850