

L.S.J.M.J.

18-17

In response to your long letter, I will tell you, my dear daughter, that your Mme Superior may follow the orders of the doctor and eat meat; that you may also listen to what your doctor at Ghent recommends and may follow what he prescribes, only when he prescribes the usual things. I do not know what kind of treatment he subjects your sick to, and I cannot take responsibility for it. You must not talk to him nor write to him about Mme Félicité.

I will be very pleased to learn that the improvement experienced by Mme Julie is maintained.

I cannot say any thing at the moment about Mme Cecile. I am pleased with your wish to help your sisters; but zeal must be wise. You cannot expose your house, without serious reasons and your dear Mme Superior will understand what I mean. If Mme Julie recovers, I will not see anything to prevent you from calling Mme Cecile to your house. Meanwhile, let us be prudent and put our confidence in God and our Holy Patrons.

My compliments to your Mme Superior and Mme Julie.

All of you can count on my devotedness.

Your Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

5th of the month of St Joseph 1853

Tomorrow the feast of St Colette is the anniversary of the foundation of our religious congregation at Alost, in 1817.