

L.S.J.M.J.
(Dictated letter)

18-172-1

Madame Superior

Being only very imperfectly informed of the motives for criticism about the meals taken by pupils, with their mothers or parents, in the presence of their brother, who, according to your Rule, could not and did not benefit from that meal, I could not explain myself clearly. However, the event you tell me about explains the whole of that matter to me and reminds me of a similar case that happened to the sons of Madame Beckaert, who could not share in a meal at the Ladies of Mary convent, that his Van Crombrugghe cousins were taking with his sister. In that family, that action on the part of the Ladies of Mary was greatly criticized. Then, as on this occasion, they did wrong to criticize your customs which are very wise ones, in spite of the disapproval of people who are incapable of appreciating the propriety of it.

The conclusion to be drawn from these small events, seems to me to be that means must be found to avoid opportunities for malevolent criticism, to say the least of it. Please discuss the matter with Mme Superior General.

Ghent, 6th February 1865

(Number 18-172 duplicated)