

Cormorat, 18th October 1865.

My Dear and Beloved Sister,

To describe the joy which filled my heart when I saw and read your kind letter is certainly impossible; for have we not all found a beloved long-lost child, a dear sister, in a word, have we not all recovered a part of ourselves? Believe me, dear sister your letter could not have been received with more happiness and joy. ~~xxx xxx~~ Its contents were not merely read but devoured with ~~xxx~~ unimaginable avidity. You were wrong, dearest, in thinking that we did not want to correspond with you. No doubt you remember that the first letter you sent to Switzerland was not only for your parents, brothers and sisters, but for all your friends, ~~xxxxx~~ and this letter, alas! God decreed that a fire should reduce it to ashes and that we should all have to submit to His decrees and await with impatience a letter which was promised us! We waited in vain. The days, the months, the years go by and there is no sign of life from Rosine. Believe me, it was a heart-break for our father, a heart-break for our mother, a heart-break for your brothers and sisters, and finally a heart-break for your little Albertine. But today, no more agony, no more worry, no more sadness, for today the ~~xxxxxx~~ daughter and sister who was dead has come back to life, she who was lost has been found.

I would have so many things to tell you if I were not afraid of boring you. ~~xxxxxxx~~. But what am I saying, for if I put myself in your place I realize that you will be pleased to have some details of your country, your mother land, your family, the objects of your love. I realize that you are in a country of exile separated from those you love and who love you in return.

I was only a very little girl when you placed your farewell kiss on my cheeks, the last kiss. I was only a child not yet understanding what was happening around me, and yet your last words, our tears, our stifled sighs, our repeated sobs still ~~xxxxxxx~~ bring a lump to my throat. Hermann leaves us without a handshake and an indifferent stranger announces his departure to us. God has had to sustain us miraculously to be able to endure so many trials. He has been good to us, this God who watches over his children and who has promised to be the shield of those who trust in Him. At all times we have seen that He was working for us, and if we have heard thunder rumble over our heads we have also seen the clouds disperse and the sun shine brilliantly in all its splendour.

I was almost eleven when Daddy took me to Morat in order to study the German language. What sacrifices they had to make to give us the upbringing they have given us. ~~xxxx~~ My stay in Mummy's home town was only for one year, and I spent some fairly happy days there, although often boredom, that cruel malady, often afflicted me. Mummy came and got me, and it was then that she saw for the last time the places she knew as a child. Let us hope that God will preserve her for us for a long time still and will allow her to once tread the soil of her birth place. After Marie's marriage, I learnt the trade of tailoress, which she still teaches. However I felt that I was not made for this, for, ~~xxxxxxx~~ for a long time I had been thinking that one day I would like to be a school teacher. After ten months of rather irregular work, I stopped completely, and was then able to study with enthusiasm the course I desired. After making my first communion I replaced Anna in a kindergarten which she opened two years before and which she handed over to me in order to be able to become communal schoolteacher at St. Isier. I had charge of this little class for a year and was happy. It was then that I realized that the vocation of schoolteacher is the noblest that a young woman can embrace, although it demands sacrifice and great dedication. Daddy then placed me with a Monsieur ~~xxxxx~~ Huguélet at Framelan to continue my education. What happy days I spent then; I was the pupil of a worthy teacher and I found at Framelan salvation and ~~xxxx~~ life. After studying regularly for six months I sat for the examination for obtaining the schoolteacher's diploma and to my great joy I obtained it. Oh! how I blessed and still bless the ~~xxxxxxx~~ Creator of all excellent grace and of every imperfect being, oh! how I bless and shall always bless Him who is the support of the weak, the leader of the s all.

Oh! How we wish to bless Him together while we are on this earth so that xxxxxxxxxx in all eternity we may have eternal praises in our mouths and on our lips.

I was appointed teacher at the Roman Girls' Elementary School, I liked it there, and I would have stayed there longer if the xxxxx had not been so excessive and therefore tiring and arduous. I also felt that a lower class was not designed to increase my small amount of knowledge but rather to restrict it. After ten months I applied for the Cormorant school and to my great satisfaction obtained it. It is a class of from forty to fifty children, of all ages; I had made up my mind to stay there for a long time if the Lord granted me health. Alas, in my young imprudence I did not foresee that I would suffer painful and cruel difficulties and constant troubles, all from a single person, a very influential person, the village xxxxx mayor. Must I therefore now leave pupils of whom I have become so fond and who are fond of me in return? I must, I think; I have made applications for various positions. May God xxxxx grant that they succeed. May God grant also to me the power to do His will however hard it may sometimes appear, may God xxxxx let me see that all things are for the good of those who love Him.

I was pleased to hear that your little family is well and gives you joy. I remember Emile. I also remember hearing that there was some resemblance between him and me. I would like to hold him close to me, as well as the two little girls. You will do this for me, will you not? You will tell them that I love them, and will xxxxx tell them for me that they must work hard, obey, and give their young hearts to Jesus. Will you also give my very best wishes to your husband, to my brother-in-law? I must however give you some word of the family, although Charles and Anna will also write to you, at least I believe so. Daddy and Mummy are well, but their hair is growing white and their foreheads are becoming lined, alas. They are already sixty, and they are alone now, alone as in the first days of their marriage, without children around them. Fritz is also well, as is his family; if he had a few less worries I would be really very pleased. Marie's family has increased with the birth of a lovely little girl a fortnight ago whose voice now mingles with that of her brother and sister. Marie is better today, although this birth was apparently very difficult. Oscar is pleasing us, he is working with enthusiasm and courage and it is only up to him to make his business succeed. Immediately after I had read your letter I sent your address to Hermann; I don't know whether he has written you, for we have not had any word from him for a year.

(Here follow several passages written vertically and xxxxxxx almost exclusively religious).

Goodbye dear xxxxx Rosine, goodbye xxxxxxx all my friends, a lump comes into my throat as I write xxxxx goodbye, and so I shall say Au revoir, till we meet again in heaven!

All my best wishes and my unchanging love,

Your affectionate sister,
Albertine Jung.

xxxxxx Dad was waiting for a letter in German. Hurry up and send us news. A thousand kisses from all the family.