

Grandchamp, near Neuchâtel, 30th January
1870

My Dearest Rosine,

I have not forgotten or your family, even though it is a long time since I wrote you. The change in position and occupation, and also laziness to some extent, are the sole causes of my silence. So many things have happened since I wrote that I do not know where to begin so as to forget nothing.

I must first thank you from the depth of my heart for the charming and interesting letter which came and gave me such pleasure last June. All the details it contains about your family give me the greatest joy, except for the illness of my dear niece Pauline. I understood the position in which you found yourself, my dear sister, when you had to leave your beloved child in the hands of strangers. I thanked God with you that after a few weeks spent in hospital you were able to get your dear child back, greatly strengthened if not cured. I say the most ardent prayers for Pauline's health, asking our Father who is Heaven to be her fortress and her liberator in the time of trial. I would like to Emile in his school room, working with courage for the moral and intellectual development of the children entrusted to his care. Emile! Your task is fine and noble! Work like a faithful workman, in the vineyard of the Lord, for you will harvest in his good time, if you do not relax. If you have received talents, make use of them by taking one more step in the vast and deep field of knowledge. Always look to Jesus, for it is through Him alone that one becomes a good teacher, a true educator. And Bertha, is she still so enthusiastic in her housework? Yes, her task is also fine, if as a devoted daughter she helps her mother in her housewife's duties, which are sometimes so difficult. May she become a good Martha without however forgetting to be a Mary, "sitting gently at the feet of Jesus to listen to his word and choosing like her the good part, which shall not be taken from her. And Hermann and Cecile, what are they doing? I think that they are playing and amusing daddy and mummy. May he who said "Allow little children to come unto me" become their good shepherd and their friend right from their earliest years. As for you, my dear sister, I see you surrounded by your little family happy and contented to feel yourself loved and to be able to love those whom God has given you. Your task is fine and noble also, my Rosine, for you have young beings to lead to Christ by teaching them the path to Heaven. May God give you and your husband also the strength and the health you need to bring up your family on foreign soil.

And now I must talk to you a little of myself, of my new way of life and the new position that God has created for me. Our marriage was celebrated in the Corgémont Protestant Church on 15th July last. It was Charles who married us and I think with joy of this beautiful day of festivity. The sun shone so brilliantly, hearts were so happy, one felt the presence of God among us, so that this day has become the most beautiful in my life. There were 15 of us able to rejoice together. It was so wonderful during the dinner to lift up our hearts to God and sing hymns in His praise. After a short honeymoon, my dear husband took me to my new house, which I have not yet seen. It was not without emotion that I climbed the stairs to my flat. It is pretty, although the rooms are small. We have six rooms pleasantly arranged and very sunny. We are happy there, we love one another, we have peace, we share the same feelings, we both kneel in prayer to God. I have nothing except to do except my housework, but there are already five of us as we have three young boys as borders. The countryside is magnificent, the walks are charming, we are only ten minutes from the lake. My husband goes and give his lessons at the teachers' college, then we are together again in our little Eden, always happy and contented. It is not for me to praise my husband, and yet I cannot prevent myself from admiring his kindness to me, kindness which has never failed for one moment. With his kindness, his care and attention, his love, his happy temperament, his ever joyful heart, he is really making me a spoilt child. He looks after the garden and many other things that I would normally do. My life is very easy, and so I can only praise God for the choice He has made me. I am infinitely happy and I could not ask for anything without

having to add : But, I have everything I want. Why should I not tell you, my dear sister, that we are expecting a child at the beginning of May? This hope is a great joy for us, and I am working with pleasure on the child's layette. Do not forget me, my dear sister, when you pray for grace, so that God may be my liberator and my support. My health has been excellent since Christmas. Before then I was greatly troubled by sickness and vomiting. May God help me. Daddy spent the new year at Grandchamp. We were enormously pleased at his visit, which only lasted a week. He is still the same; of course he is getting older but is still bright and agile. He made a trip to Bale at the beginning of Autumn to meet Hermann there. He had come from London for the International Congress of Working Men. Hermann wrote from Bale to Dad to say that he could not come to the Jura and to ask him to travel down to see him. Poor brother, to be in Switzerland and not to be able to travel a few extra miles to see his family! It is sad, don't you think like us? Hermann has taken a very bad path and persists in going further and further along it. He does not write us; no doubt our religious convictions do not suit him. Poor brother! Let us pray for him. On his way to Bale, Daddy visited our relations at Zafingue who were pleased to see him.

Fritz is still the same, I think, sorely tried in his family he lost his last little girl, whom God replaced by a son in April, I think. The birth of this child almost cost his wife her life, and she had to be taken to hospital. Thanks to God and to the care to the deaconesses, she has completely recovered.

Dad's

Marie has not been living at home since November. Her family has also increased by a boy who is now eight or nine months old. I don't know how she manages, but she has her housework, and four children to look after, yet she still works for her old customers. She has a ~~xxx~~ sewing machine. Her children are well, except for Paul who still has bad eyes. Her husband is really not very clever, and he hardly earns his keep.

I don't know what Oscar does, but no doubt he is well. May God make him more responsible. He has two lovely children and ~~xxxx~~ a little wife who is always neat and tidy.

Charles has a son since the 29th December. He must be very happy. His wife has completely recovered, I think. My letter is strange, it only contains news of births, but what can one expect, that is how the world is, it seems.

Now only Anna remains, Anna with the angelic heart, devoted and kind as no other. Her poor eyes don't allow her to work. She has been with Charles since November. She spent a month with us before going to Porrentruy, and we would have very much liked to keep her. We expect her soon for she has to come and consult her doctor who lives in Neuchatel. We shall not let her leave again straight away. My husband is very fond of her and she enjoys being with us. I love seeing her. Now I have finished my long letter. My husband has been away for three days. He is coming back tonight, I do not know whether he will add something.

~~xxxxxxx~~ It now only remains for me to commend you all to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, and to send you our best wishes and my affectionate kisses.

Yours Forever,

Albertine Germiquet

We have Anna with us. She is awaiting with great impatience and sends you her affectionate kisses.