

Corgemont, 26 January, 1869.

My very dear sister Rosine,

It would be impossible for me to tell you the pleasure I felt when on 28th December I received your kind letter and your photographs. How you must thank God for granting us the immense privilege of being able, in spite of the distance which separates us alas!, to correspond with you, dear far-off ones. How lovely it is to be able to inform one another of the various incidents which happen to us! How nice it is to be able to tell one another of all the feelings we have for one another! How fortunate that the photograph, that wonderful discovery, allows us to know and contemplate the cherished features of our loved ones! How precious it is for the Christian soul to know that if on this earth we do not dare hope ever to see again in person those whom we carry on our hearts, we have the sweet hope of seeing them again in the abode of glory. Yes, dear Rosine, let us be faithful, let us be led by Christ our pilot, and we shall be sure to reach the heavenly port.

We are pleased to learn that your health is good; and we fervently pray that it will be still so when you receive this letter. All your loved ones are well, for which we thank our God. Daddy has greatly aged; his hair has become very white. Age and worries have not passed unnoticed on him; they have dug deep lines on his face. If his body is old, his character is not; our dear father is still bright, alert and gay. Your brother Fritz is still the same good natured fellow. He is devoted to his family, his father his brothers and sisters. Our Hermann seems to have forgotten his family. Poor friend he thinks too much of material things. And yet his heart can be so warm. I shall nothing of Charles; one of his kind letters will precede, I believe this one. Our youngest brother is unfortunately somewhat frivolous still, but he is impressionable and sensitive. His family has been increased by a son now aged two months, whom he will probably call Fritz. Our sister Marie still has a lot of worries. The troubles are perhaps making her slightly gloomy. As for our youngest sister she is still a tender and devoted daughter and sister. She only lives for the happiness of those around her. Her watchword is "devotion". I am glad that she is engaged to Monsieur Gerniquet. By his talent, his modesty, his truly sincere faith and piety, this dear friend endears himself to all those who have the advantage of knowing him. I have no doubt that they will be happy together, for their love is based on Jesus. Jesus will always be the centre of their pains and joys. Together they will turn their eyes towards those mountains whence come help and deliverance.

To finish this brief picture of our family it remains for me to talk about myself, dear sister, of myself who for eight days have been back home in my dear Jura. As you guessed, dearest, my bad eyesight has forced me to resign from my position. The rather harsh climate of Soles, my somewhat difficult duties, have affected my eyes and greatly weakened them. On the advice of the doctor, related to us, and believing that such was the will of God, I resigned. I am far from being sufficiently grateful that the Lord has given me kind and disinterested relatives with whom I can stay and enjoy the rest which my body needs. I like to believe that in a few months, when God wills it, I shall be able to resume my duties. Only I think that it will be wise to obtain a position in a family. For a great number of children we have in our classes tire me perhaps too much. And finally, in all things I place my life in the hands of the Lord, convinced that he will look after me. Yes, those who turn to the Lord shall not want for anything.

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. The year which ends is always a very serious moment for me: when I go over all the benefits with which the Lord has blessed me during these 365 days, compared with my little love and gratitude, I have always reason to feel deeply humble before my God. The renewal of the year is no less solemn in that it holds many mysteries which we would often like to penetrate. What will this year 1869 bring us? God alone knows. May this year be for all the members of our family a time rich in blessings and favours.

I am extremely sorry that the departure of Mr. Birrel, your teacher, is an obstacle to the education of my dear nephew Emile. I understand your fears, dear sister, at the thought of having to be separated from your son, your eldest child. But take courage; if, as I believe you do, you place him in the keeping of the good Shepherd, fear nothing, he will be well looked after. Whatever people may say, remember, my dear friend, that real happiness is found

[Emile]



in Jesus alone ~~xxx~~ found real happiness, peace and joy. I am sending you, dear Emile, this bookmark, the cross and the bible. When you look at it, remember your aunt who loves you tenderly. Above all apply your heart to the symbole it portrays. Finally, here is the card fro my dear niece Berthe. It is not much, but may this little souvenir tell you that you have a friend in your aunt, and that you occupy a large place in her heart. My dear little friends, continue to be the joy of your good parents. In rejoicing their hearts, you also please the Friend of children who contemplates you from up in His Heaven. Thank you, little Hermann, for being good while you were being photographed. You ~~xxxkapped~~ thus helped to have your lovely little face reproduced. Your aunt gives you a big kiss on your nice cheeks. Dear Rosine, when I can place my brother-in-law opposite you in my album, I shall be very pleased. When will it be? Dear sister, would you be kind enough to give me a long description of the country where you spend your days? Do you live in a village? Are the houses like ours? Have you a church? What is your way of life? What does your food consist of, etc.? Excuse all these questions. I am very anxious to know how my loved ones live. We are having a very strange winter for our country. So far we have had very little snow. It rains or else an icy wind blows.

You will no doubt have trouble reading my letter. It is very difficult to write on this fine paper. All your relations in ~~Switzerland~~ Switzerland send you their tender kisses and their warm greetings. In particular, dear sister, brother-in-law, nephews and nieces, receive a million kisses from your devoted sister and aunt

Anna Jung