

Lafayette, 1st November, 1865

My Dear Sister,

It is I who will largely be responsible for our letters not reaching you for the beautiful day of Christmas. For a fortnight I have been thinking of writing you, and I have only been able to begin now. It is not so much my activities as my laziness which I must accuse for this delay; I beg you however to forgive me, and I hope that our letters will not give you less pleasure and joy even if they arrive a few days late. It is not as if we have particularly joyful things to communicate to you; we are, God be praised, all in perfect health in regard to the body, but as for the soul, alas, there is still much spiritual death in our family, much lack of love for God; we live in general still exclusively for this earth. We forget Heaven, we forget the heritage that Jesus Christ has earned us with his blood. But I have faith in God; we have conversions in our family, Albertine has belonged to the Saviour for a long time, Anna gives herself more and more to Him, Mother is becoming more and more ~~serious~~ serious and God has also opened my eyes since I wrote you; we therefore should thank him and hope for all the others. I rest in confidence on this word of the Scripture spoken by Paul and Silas to the jailer of Philippi, "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your family (Acts 16,31). There are members of our family who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; therefore they are saved and moreover the whole family will be saved, when it pleases God. But for this we must pray a lot, and I ask God that you join us in beseeching him each day to grant the conversion of those we love and to whom we are attached by bonds of blood and affection. Oh! Pray, what a grace it is of God's to us sinners! What a grace it is also to have his word and be able to learn from it to know this good and merciful Father who has loved us so much that He gave his only Son so that by believing in Him we shall not perish but shall ~~eternally~~ have eternal life. May God grant that we love more and more this good and holy word, that we merit it each day with more faith and be enlightened by it for the salvation of our souls.

My dear sister, it is ~~possible~~ possible, probable even, that we shall never see one another again on this earth; it is so far from you to us! But if we are faithful, if we believe in Him who died for us and who expiated our sins on the cross, in Him who has been given to us by God ~~and~~ wisdom, justice, sanctification and ~~redemption~~ redemption, oh then by the grace of God and the help of His Holy Spirit we shall see one another again one day in Heaven, where there will no longer be any tears or cries or anything similar, and where the redeemed shall delight in contemplating the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and shall sing eternal praises in honour of God and the Holy Trinity. Yes, my sister, our motherland is neither in Switzerland ~~nor~~ nor in Australia, it is in Heaven; the only treasure which can give us peace and joy and satisfy the needs of our immortal soul, is neither gold nor silver, but Jesus Christ who died for us. Let us then have our eyes always turned to Heaven, so that by our faith we may one day be admitted ~~there~~ there and may rejoice eternally there in our Saviour; let us above all seek the pearl of great value and let us only consider the things of the earth as mud compared with the ~~heavenly~~ heavenly and incorruptible heritage which Jesus Christ has granted us. This is my consolation; if I never see you again on this earth, nor your husband, nor your children whom I have never seen except for one, well, I shall ask God to grant that we shall see one another again in the next world. But for this we must belong to Him as from this world, we must give ourselves to Him without reserve, as He gave Himself to us in the person of His beloved Son; we must take Him to us and glorify Him in our body and our soul which belong to Him. My dear sister, do you belong to your Saviour? Do you know Him? Are you sure that you are saved and that whatever happens nothing will be able to take you from His hand or separate from the ~~love~~ love of God ~~in~~ in Jesus Christ? Oh if you are certain, if you have the witness of the ~~Holy~~ Holy Spirit, you are blessed, and I give thanks to God that He has brought you from darkness to His wonderful light, and I pray to Him to keep you by His Holy Spirit so that you may persevere to the end and merit the crown of life. If on the other hand you were still immersed in the darkness of doubt and ~~unbelief~~ unbelief, if you did not feel in your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and ~~did~~ died for you, oh I beseech you, my sister, my dear sister, turn to God, tell him to enlighten you, pray to Him to convert you to Him, to give you eternal life. And God will grant your prayers; you will be saved and in ~~saving~~ saving yourself you will save your husband, your children, your dear children and you will leave them an infinitely more precious heritage than all the treasures of this ~~worldly~~ earth, a heritage that the world does not know, cannot give and cannot take away. Yes, my dear ~~Rosine~~ Rosine, I continually pray for you and your

family, I pray God to reveal Himself more and more to your souls, to console you by His Spirit to glorify you by His grace and to make more and more firm in you hope, faith and charity. Oh! May God bless you bountifully both for the things of this earth and above all ~~xxxxxx~~ in regard to the eternal salvation of your soul!

Please forgive me, my dear sister, for what I have just said; I had to speak thus and I did so because I love you and because I know that what should interest us most is our salvation. For what would it serve a man to gain the whole world, if he should lose his soul.

For the rest, I have not a great deal to tell you. Albertine has written you a long letter about the family and herself, so that I am afraid of only repeating what she has told you. To speak to you ~~fx~~ of myself is hardly worthwhile. I have been the minister (pastor) at Laferriere for a year; I am happy there, for I see that God blesses my ministry in spite of all my infidelities. I shall add that it is only 15 months since I finished my studies at Berne after spending 7 long years there. I must bless God for granting me the means of ~~xxxxxxx~~ becoming minister of His word; it is the finest vocation there is, when God does you the grace of realizing its fearful responsibility and grants you the faith to carry out the duties it demands. I would not change my position for anything in the world, although it is rather meagre with only 1800 ~~fx~~ francs a year; I have peace of mind and am at peace with my God, and every day I realize more that nothing more is needed to be happy. Anna is with me. She looks after the house. For a number of years she was a teacher at St. Imier; a year ago she became a teacher at Laferriere, but her health (weak chest) have forced her to resign. She is now ~~ixx~~ in turn my cook, my housemaid, my lady of honour and always my kind and dear sister. We live alone and in peace in my little lodging, and what above increases my joy is to see that Anna is better since she has left her school and had a cure (treatment) of 5 weeks at Interlaken with a change of air etc. Anna is not writing you today, because the letter would become too voluminous. On the other hand she is sending you her photograph and Albertine is ~~ix~~ likewise sending hers. Another time we shall try to send you those of our dear parents, and we shall arrange for Fritz, Oscar, Marie and Anna to each write you a few pages. But you must first have acknowledged receipt of the present letter. Please do not be long doing so. We impatiently await more detailed information than what you have already given us. We hope that you will tell us freely how you are, in a word that between you the ~~xxxxxxx~~ Australian and us the Swiss there will once more reign those feelings of affection and mutual trust which should exist between the different members of each family. Oh! Let us pray to God that we may be able to love one another more and more; that these long years of separation and silence may not have filled our hearts with ~~ixx~~ indifference and coldness to one another, and above all let us be grateful to Him for having allowed us to find one another again and ~~xxxxxxx~~ be able to communicate and correspond with one another. The more I think of it, the more I recognize how good God is with respect to us and how much we should thank Him. It is He who has given us back to one another.

Since Albertine wrote her ~~ixx~~ letter, she has applied for the position of schoolteacher at Corgemont and obtained it. So she will soon leave ~~xxxxx~~ Cormoret to take up her new position, which is more advantageous than the one she held up to now. Apart from that nothing new has happened here, and accordingly I have nothing further to add except that we all send you our best wishes and our tender kisses, for you and your husband and children. And finally I commend you to the protection of our Heavenly Father and I pray to Him to bestow His blessings upon you. May He grant that this letter will not go astray, but will find you all well and happy. May the love of God the Father, the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the ~~xxx~~ communion of the Holy Spirit be ~~wixhxxxx~~ with us all and our families. Amen! ~~xxxxxxxvstxixkrakxxxx~~

Your devoted brother,  
C. Jung  
Pastor