

GAENSLER FAMILY ARCHIVES

[copied from a Photostat, March, 1959]

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J.M.JThe Convent of the Holy Child Jesus
Jan 11th 1866

My sweetest Neelie

I have heard a great deal about you and would like very much to see you more than I can say, and I should like very much to have a Photograph of the three Sisters standing together – Will you ask to have one taken – I should then feel more distinctly who I am talking to on paper while now I can only love you as my dear little nieces, and think of your father in my imagination of you – You must be very much changed since the photos were taken in the little medallions your dr. father sent some years ago. My darling little Neelie you must miss your dr. father's loving ways – When I was your age I could not bear to be away from him, he used to tease me unceasingly & particularly on one of my finger nails and I used to call him "teazing Rapho" while I loved him all the more for his teasing – Well my sweet little Nelie [sic] I hope I shall see you some day and in the meanwhile I ask our Lord to bless my little name-sake and her two darling Sisters and to make them daily more & more good & docile – devoted to their duties and particularly devoted to the Holy Child Jesus – When you write to your dear father tell him that he is as fresh in my memory as the last day that I saw him, and tell him the greatest consolation I could have wld. be to know that he is a true Catholic before he dies – and we are all growing old, so death will soon come to us all, and

[continued below]

we want to meet in heaven. May God bless my darling Neelie – tell Isabel I will write to her next week –

Ever your affectionate

Aunt Cornelia Rel. H.C.J.

[Addressed] Miss Cornelia Bowen

[Inscribed in another hand on the back]

Keep this for me until I return home.