

*Les idées pédagogiques de Julie*

*Educational ideas of Julie*





## Educational ideas of Julie

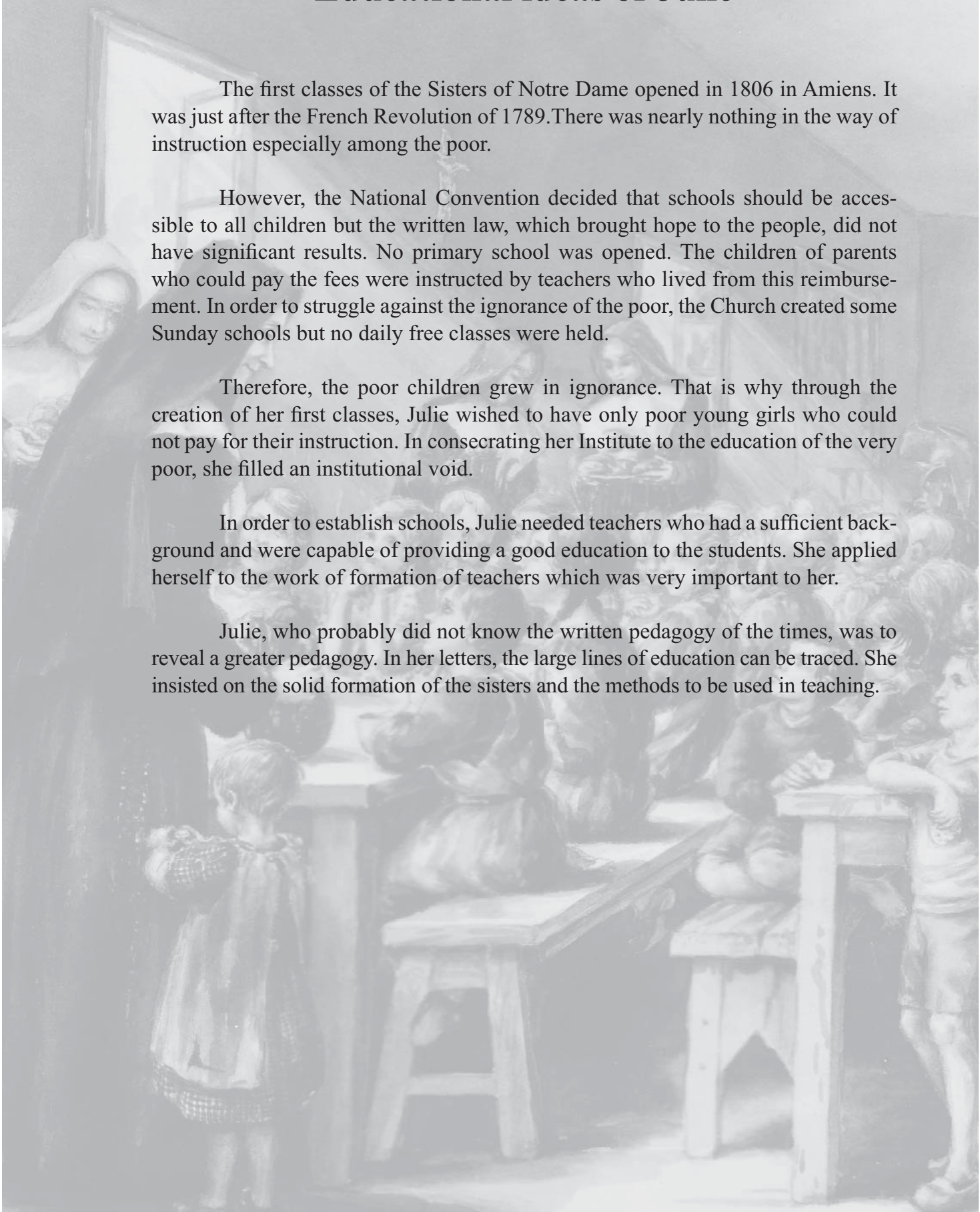
The first classes of the Sisters of Notre Dame opened in 1806 in Amiens. It was just after the French Revolution of 1789. There was nearly nothing in the way of instruction especially among the poor.

However, the National Convention decided that schools should be accessible to all children but the written law, which brought hope to the people, did not have significant results. No primary school was opened. The children of parents who could pay the fees were instructed by teachers who lived from this reimbursement. In order to struggle against the ignorance of the poor, the Church created some Sunday schools but no daily free classes were held.

Therefore, the poor children grew in ignorance. That is why through the creation of her first classes, Julie wished to have only poor young girls who could not pay for their instruction. In consecrating her Institute to the education of the very poor, she filled an institutional void.

In order to establish schools, Julie needed teachers who had a sufficient background and were capable of providing a good education to the students. She applied herself to the work of formation of teachers which was very important to her.

Julie, who probably did not know the written pedagogy of the times, was to reveal a greater pedagogy. In her letters, the large lines of education can be traced. She insisted on the solid formation of the sisters and the methods to be used in teaching.



## The Poor

*“We exist only for the poor, only for the poor, absolutely only for the poor.”*

Julie, L. 86.

*“You can’t imagine how dirty and ignorant are the places where one finds these unfortunate children.”*

Julie, L. 148.

## A pleasant Humor

*“Appreciate your good fortune: to form young souls for the good God.”*

Julie, L. 75.

*“In the world, persons of a cheerful character are chosen to form children.”*

Julie, L. 349.



## Training the Teachers and the Students

*It is for us a duty “not to spare the care, or the difficulty in order to teach well. It would be too risky to teach our young children too quickly.”*

Julie, Instructions.

*“All I ask of the good God is that you may be occupied in improving your minds as much as possible.”*

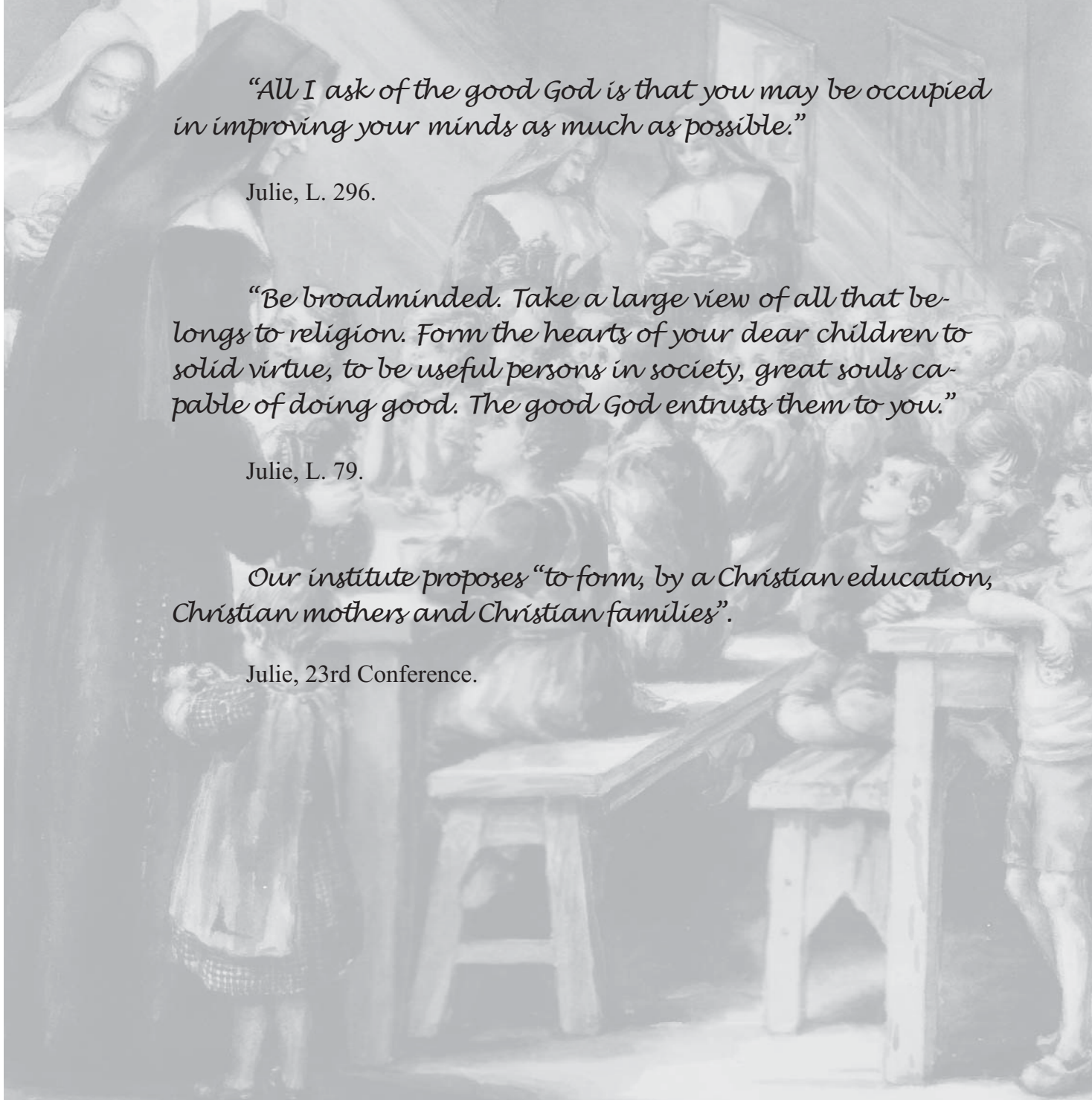
Julie, L. 296.

*“Be broadminded. Take a large view of all that belongs to religion. Form the hearts of your dear children to solid virtue, to be useful persons in society, great souls capable of doing good. The good God entrusts them to you.”*

Julie, L. 79.

*Our institute proposes “to form, by a Christian education, Christian mothers and Christian families”.*

Julie, 23rd Conference.



# Encouragement

*“Courage, my good daughter, in your thoughts of discouragement because your children are not as exact as you would desire! It is perhaps for a single soul that the good God has sent you to N Oh, my good daughter, how high above ours are the thoughts of the good God!”*

Julie, L. 243.

*“We would like to see more abundant fruit, that would be very desirable but we live in a century which is not favorable. We must also pray for our dear children so that the good God may cause the holy seed to bear fruit in their young hearts.”*

Julie, L. 204.

*“Let us bless the good God for sending us children! Do not forget that your responsibility before the good God grows with the number of children. The formation of young hearts in accordance with religion is not a small work.”*

Julie, L. 168.



## Firmness but not Harshness

*"You must act as you do with children, sometimes shut your eyes; not for grave matter, but for childish failings. However, when one feels a strong need, one ought to be wisely severe."*

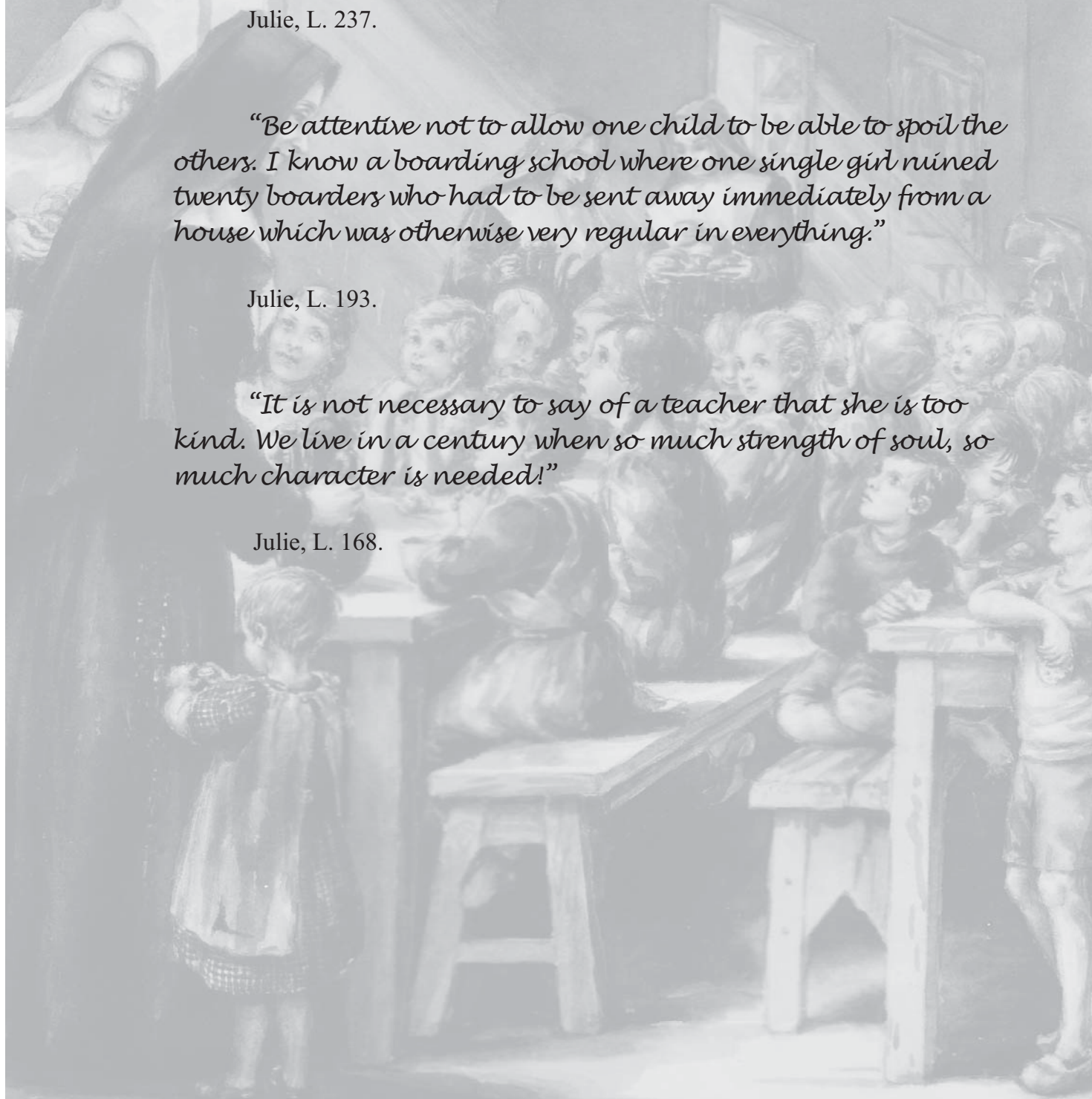
Julie, L. 237.

*"Be attentive not to allow one child to be able to spoil the others. I know a boarding school where one single girl ruined twenty boarders who had to be sent away immediately from a house which was otherwise very regular in everything."*

Julie, L. 193.

*"It is not necessary to say of a teacher that she is too kind. We live in a century when so much strength of soul, so much character is needed!"*

Julie, L. 168.



## Love and respect of the Children

*“Take good care of our little boarders, I beg of you. Keep them happy. Above all, let the cook do her best.”*

Julie, L. 188.

*“We must be patient with the children, we know well that the good God is patient with all of us.”*

Julie, L.420.

*“Be careful to show gentleness toward the children, my daughter.”*

Julie, L. 57.

*“Speak with respect to the children, if you would have them respect and love you.”*

Julie, L.336.