

Prayers

By Emmanuel d'Alzon

Edition: Augustinians of the Assumption — Via San Pio V, 55 00165 Roma - Italia, February 2011

Selection of texts: Secretariate for the Cause of the Beatification of Fr. dAlzon

- Presentation
- To Adore God
- To Seek and Long for God
- To Believe, Hope, Love
- So That Jesus Christ May Live in Me
- To Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life
- To Love Jesus Christ
- Praying to Mary

- To Love the Church
- To Hasten the Coming of God's Kingdom
- To Be Apostles
- To Follow My Calling
- A Friend for Every Day
- <u>References</u>
- Bibliography

Nihil obstat: Fr. Richard E. Lamoureux Superior General

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Layout: Loredana Giannetti

Cover: Portrait of Fr. dAlzon, painted between 1846 and 1853, anonymous. It hangs in the General House, Rome.

Those who receive favors through the intercession of Fr. Emmanuel dAlzon are asked to write to the Postulator General:

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Presentation

No selection of Venerable Father Emmanuel d'Alzon's prayers has existed up until now. The Secretariat for the cause of his beatification is pleased to offer the result of its work in this small volume. We drew from a selection of three hundred and eighty-three prayers of Father dAlzon,

gathered together by Fr. Floribert Ngwese Kombi [1]. From these we chose fifty. We have added the beautiful meditation on the crucifix, which Father d'Alzon called "an intimate friend."

This booklet has been made for those who would like to pray with Father dAlzon's words, but also for those who believe in his intercession before God and pray through him to obtain one or another grace.

These fifty prayers are a good reflection of the spirituality that the founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption and the Oblates of the Assumption wanted to bequeath to his sons and daughters and to those lay people who nourish their faith by drawing from the same source. "What we propose before all else is the coming of the Reign of Jesus Christ, for us and for our neighbor" (Fr. dAlzon, Constitutions of 1865,1, 2). "The spirit of the Assumption can be summarized in these few words : love of Our Lord, of the Blessed Virgin, his Mother, and of the Church, his Spouse." (Fr. d'Alzon, Directory, I,1).

Fr. Julio Navarro Roman, a.a. Postulator

To Adore God

E. d'AlzonGo to God simply, with your heart. [2]

It Is Only Right That I Adore You

Lord, should not the first thing to arise in my heart after awe be adoration?

It is only right that I adore you, in the place of all those who fail to do so. And my adoration should be unceasing!

An Act of Adoration, Every Moment of My Life

Lord, teach me to adore you perfectly and totally, the kind of adoration that your Son will inspire in me.

In his humanity, Jesus Christ is the perfect example of one who adores.

Help me to understand this and to live in a way that each moment of my life is an act of adoration.



Family chapel at Lavagnac, where Father d'Alzon prayed from the age of six and where he celebrated his first Mass.

Teach Me How to Adore Him

Mary and Joseph, you who were the first to adore the Incarnate Word, whether in Bethlehem when he came into this world, or in Nazareth during his hidden life, teach me how to adore him, in humility, in obedience, in love, in prayer, in work, in the fraternal life. Show me how to make my life another Nazareth, where I will find Jesus; where, like you, I will learn to benefit from his dwelling at my side.

To Seek and Long for God

E. d'AlzonWe will find our joy by counting on God alone. [3]

May I Rest Only in You

You who are good without limits, incomparably beautiful, source of unending joy! To you I wish to direct all of my energies, freed from every earthly good.

Give me wings to fly toward you, above the empty lies of this earth. May I rest in you alone.

To You through Jesus Christ

O God,

may I know you through Jesus Christ.

May I serve you through the grace of Jesus Christ.

May I love you eternally in the love of Jesus Christ,

for only through him can I make my way to you.

May I Be Attached to You above All Things

O God, infinite good and my only good, help me be attached to you above all things, loving you with all the love of which my soul is capable, aware that you are all-perfect.

May You Be Present to Me

You are always close to me, O God! And when I especially desire to speak to your infinite mercy, I always find you close at hand, so that I never distance myself from you and always find you close by, as a friend close to his friend.

My Purpose in Life is to Love You

My purpose in life, O God, is to love you, to love you wholeheartedly to love you with a love that your grace will continually increase in me. Who can say just how far the power of love might go, if it is you at work stretching my heart?



Statuette of Father d'Alzon kneeling in prayer (in bronze by the sculptor, Falguiere)

To Believe, Hope, Love

E. d'AlzonMay your charity be enthusiastic: bold, daring, full of initiative! [4]

Transforming Me Unceasingly

Lord, lead me on a path of unceasing transformation

through faith in your word,

through longing for that home where you will appear to me in your glory,

through a love that will unite me to you in such a way that nothing can separate us.

Believe, Hope, Love

O God, why did I not seek to know you better in your light, to long for you, to entrust myself to you, who are above every other good, to love you, who are my all!

Ah! To believe in you, to hope in you, to love you, that will be my life from now on!

Faith, Hope and Sacrifice

Lord, may I believe in you and may I hope in you so that with faith and hope to enlighten and strengthen me, I may be capable of every sacrifice.

Filial Fear

Lord, fear of you is the beginning of wisdom, but I do not want to fear you as a criminal fears his judge and possible punishment.

I want to fear you like a son who, filled with blessings, fears his father, in the sense that, above all else, he fears displeasing him.

This is the filial fear that faith, shaped by charity, will give me. This is the fear that most of all I ask of you.

So That Jesus Christ May Live in Me

E. d'AlzonJesus Christ! The more you love him, the more you want to imitate him. [5]

I Want to Imitate You

I want to imitate you, Lord, and in your footsteps, I want to follow you as you humble yourself in the Eucharist. I want to carry in my own heart and around me the fire that you have hidden there.

Lord, my God, where else could I find perfection? You have brought it down from heaven to earth and have put it in my reach. May I imitate it and not be too unworthy of you.

Come, Live in Me

Lord Jesus, come!

Come, live in me, become incarnate in me, as you become incarnate for everyone through the Eucharist, as you become incarnate through the preaching of your word, as you become incarnate in your Church, by the grace that is given to all of its members.

Come, Lord!

You Will Dwell within Me

Lord, I want to imitate your mother in the way she submitted herself to all of your designs: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening".

Speak, my God, let me know your will for me.

You will dwell within me by faith; I will make space there so that I can grow with you. Through your example and your strength, I will grow with you in all virtues until in you I have become the perfect man.

May I Become You

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

Jesus, I pray that as your humanity is united to mine, I may become a new man by receiving your sacred body in communion. May I thus become you, as much as that is possible, through my love and through your own.

May You Become Incarnate In Me

Jesus, through you faith is born and comes to perfection. Give me the faith I need to believe that you dwell within me.

May you become incarnate in me in the same way, or in a similar way, as the miracle of your incarnation in the womb of Mary.

I Want to Be Like You

Lord Jesus, poor like you, obedient like you, chaste like you, may I be like you in all things. You know what is my most ardent desire: how much I long to be like you!

To Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

E. d'AlzonWhat is essential is to love our Lord much and everything he loved, i.e. the Blessed Virgin and the Church. [6]

Lord, Light of My Faith

Lord, seeing truth grow dark in the hearts of so many, I pray that you may save me from such a fate.

Do not allow the night descending on so many minds to diminish the light of my faith.

The doubts are great for so many. May I always believe, O Lord, and, attached to the teachings of your Church, may my faith continue to grow unceasingly until I see the full light of your glory in my heavenly homeland.

Lord, May I Understand

Lord, help me to understood divine realities. Give me knowledge of the things of life so that, with the light of faith, I may understand, as much as is permitted, what I must believe, and do what you ask of me.

Lord, Open My Eyes

Lord, I pray: "Open my eyes in such a way that they are never weighed down by death" (Psalm 12:4).

May my sight be true, and when I know what my duty is, may I have the courage to carry it out.

Lord, Give Us Our Daily Bread

Lord, give us today our daily bread, which says it all: the bread of this earth, the bread of heaven, the bread of truth.

No One Goes to the Father, but through You

May I always see you, Lord, as the goal of all my actions!

Then nothing else will matter, whether I am rich or poor, honored or scorned, healthy or ill, young or old.

What will matter to me will be to seek you alone, and since I know that no one goes to the Father but through you, I will also know that you have already shown the way that you want your disciples to follow.

Turn Back to Life

O Divine Teacher, if ever I fall asleep in the death of sin, stop my funeral, if I may speak in such a way. and command my soul, separated from you, to quickly draw close to you and to turn back to the life for which it was created.

I am the Resurrection and the Life

Savior, who brought Lazarus back to life, raise my soul to eternal life. addressing to me these divine words: *Ego sum resurrectio et vita: "I am the resurrection and the life"*

Disciples of the Truth

Lord, may we be sincere disciples

of the truth entrusted to your Church;

may we be disciples who are never satisfied simply to listen to you, but always eager to obey you.

Truth joined to holiness will make us worthy of you.

To Love Jesus Christ

E. d'AlzonI cannot love Jesus Christ without wanting him to be loved by all. [7]

An Ever More Ardent Love

O Lord, I pray that my love, ever more ordent,

draw me closer to you until my very last breath.

May it unite me to you for all eternity.

I Want to Love You Alone

O my Savior, grant me, I beg you, an immense love for you. O font of life, fill my soul; Savior of the world, may your blood flow in my veins.

I want to love you alone, to live for you alone, to give myself entirely to you, regardless of the task or of the part of your field where you ask me to work, regardless of how you want to use me.



Head of the Virgin, above the entrance to the Maison de l'Assomption, Servie Street, Nîmes

Praying to Mary Obedient Love

O Mary, by a great effort of obedient love, you accept us;

with maternal tenderness, you adopt us.

from this day forward may my heart accept as brothers all those that Jesus desires,

and may my obedience in overcoming all that repels me take as a model your obedience to Jesus, who adopted those who put him to death.

Prepare Us for the Struggles of Your Son

O Mary, be our Queen. Watch over us.

Arm us yourself for the struggles of your Son, and give us victory, not for ourselves, but for the cause of God.

May I Have Your Courage and Your Generosity

O Mary, in all of my trials may I have your courage and your generosity.

E. d'AlzonI must have for Mary a trust and a confidence without measure. [8]

Mary, My Model

0 Mary, you will be my model and my teacher. I will study your perfections, and in that way learn to imitate less imperfectly the perfections of Jesus.

In this way, my soul will be formed and merit one day to share in your victories, because I will have more generously tried to walk in your footsteps.

I Want to be Your Son

Mary, Heal me if I am ill, bring me back to life if I am dead;

but most of all pour over me your maternal love, for I want to be your son.



Medallion in bronze, from the workshop of Grand'homme

To Love the Church

E. d'AlzonNothing is more beautiful than to devote oneself fully to the cause of God, of Jesus Christ, of his Church. [9]

Teach Me to Love Your Church

My God, teach me to love your Church

because of Jesus, your Son, who founded it;

because of the relationship it allows me to have with you,

because of its miraculous destiny here on earth,

because of the eternal destiny it promises me in heaven.

My Love for the Church above All Else

My God, help me to place all of my affections, even the most worthy, well below my love for your Church.

Ah, I need to search in the deepest recesses of my soul what rules there, your Church or my own interests and the interests of those close to me. Woe to me if your Church does not hold first place.

Fidelity to the Church

Lord, deign to look upon your Church with mercy, attacked more than ever, with enemies seeking to rip it from its foundations, by separating it from the faith of Saint Peter and of his successors.

Do not allow us to distance ourselves from this center of unity or attempt to face the storm in any other ship but Peter's, or found our salvation on any other rock but the one on which you built your Church.

"To whom shall we go, Lord?" (John 6:68)

To Hasten the Coming of God's Kingdom

E. d'AlzonI must love the world. I must evangelize it. [10]

Give Me Strength to Preach Your Name

My Divine Master, today when so many have no knowledge of you, or deny you, or take your name in vain, give me the strength to confess you at all times, and wherever it pleases you.

May Your Kingdom Come

My God, "may your Kingdom come."

Unceasingly and without rest, I need to destroy in myself and around me everything that is opposed to the kingship of Jesus Christ.

I must do everything in my power to restore this kingship.

My King and My God

Jesus, I proclaim you King. From this time forward, I devote myself to your cause, to the struggle of extending your kingdom.

Dear little Child, in this strange palace, in this stable, I acknowledge you as my king, as if you were in the most magnificent palace, for after all as God you are always in heaven.

May Your Kingdom Never Come to an End

Ah, Lord, may this empire never come to an end. May it be eternal and, what's more, may I contribute to extending it to the farthest reaches. Armed with your power, may I work to extend your victories, And as much as I am able, I will everywhere raise the cry: Adveniat regnum tuum! May your Kingdom come! You wished, however, that your grace not accomplish all, but instead sought the support of my will.

To be Apostles

E. d'AlzonFor us, contemplation and action are united in view of the same goal: the extension of the Reign of Jesus Christ. [11]

May I be a Man of Prayer

Lord, help me to be a man of prayer, a man for the mission.

And in my work, may I sanctify myself

and bring about the coming of your kingdom and the salvation of all.

May I Carry On Your Work

Lord Jesus, on earth you sought people out one by one; you waited for Nicodemus during the night, and for the Samaritan woman at the edge of Jacob's well. You entered the homes of those who called you and asked your disciples to seek out the lost. Teach me how to pray for souls that are ill in order to heal them, for souls that are dead, that they may be raised up. Make my prayer like your own so that I may continue your work with the means that you provide!

Give Me the Gift of Apostolic Prayer

Lord, show me how to pray like apostolic men.

And by this prayer, if I am not yet sufficiently apostolic, may I become so more and more each day.

Love the Poor

Lord, give me a heart big enough to welcome all the poor, and enough love to stir up the flame of love in them. Show me how to offer myself up with you for their sake. May they know they are loved, so that in turn they may love you.

For Young People

(a prayer inspired by Luke 7:11-16)

My Lord, among young people, enable me to awaken in your name so many who are no longer alive;

and may people, in admiring your wonderful works, give themselves more fully to your service.

Love for Little Children

My God, inspire in me out of love for your own divine childhood o great love for little children. Seeing in them baptized Christians, may I work hard with the means I have, to make them more like you, O divine Child, who from the cradle were already my Savior.



Eather d'Alzon sending his religious on mission. Statue in bronze by Mother Myriam Franck, To Follow My Calling Give Me the Grace to Follow My Calling

O my God, give me the light to see what is lacking in me; give me the strength to acquire the virtues that I do not have.

Give me the grace to follow my vocation, so that as a true son of the Church and of the Blessed Virgin I may imitate not too unworthily the virtues of Jesus, my Master.

Enlighten My Eyes

Lord, make my intentions as pure as possible and grant me an even greater energy to put them into practice.

Let me see everything I must do and give me the courage to do it. What you ask may not be easy, but what difference does it make as long as I come to my true goal, which is nothing other than you.

To Do the Work Assigned

Give me, O God, in the state in which you have placed me, the grace to be convinced that nothing matters but one thing alone.

Give me the grace to want no other tool except the one you have placed in my hands to do my work,

convinced as I should be that the instrument you have given to me is the best to do the work that you have commanded.

May I Follow You!

"May he carry his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24 and 8:22)

O divine Model! The Christian, the priest, the religious should resemble you, each to a different degree, but that is what must be done. Lord, this will be my life's work, as long as you open my heart to hear this word that so few understand, but that is so full of love: *"Follow me!"*



Crucifix that Fr. d'Alzon held in his hands at the time of his death, as he said: "My Jesus, I love you." Mother Antoinette Fage, the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, held the same crucifix at the time of her death (as reported by Fr. Picard).

Friend for Every Day My Crucifix

Do you have a crucifix, and what is your attitude toward it?

Do not allow it often to leave your sight; organize yourself in such a way that you have access to it at all times.

Place it on your desk while you are writing,

and on your knees while you are working, so that you can look at it

from time to time and kiss it;

clasp it in your hands as you drop off to sleep. Of course, nothing is more precious than frequent communion or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, but

- we cannot always have the Lord present in his substance in our heart;
- we cannot be constantly at his feet;
- but we can always carry his image with us or on us,
- and this image speaks eloquently.

It Speaks Eloquently

If, when you get up in the morning, you kiss your crucifix lovingly, and you promise to carry your own cross throughout the day, following in the footsteps of our crucified Savior; if during your meditation you hold the cross in your hands and resolve to offer yourself up on this altar of Christ's sacrifice;

if to awaken your fervor, you touch your crucifix from time to time;

if you grasp it more firmly at times of suffering, of sorrow, of struggle and temptation; if, when you are about to perform some good deed, you adore the Lord on the cross reminding yourself that it is Jesus Christ that you will help in the poor;

if, when you are about to perform some act of mortification, you kiss the divine wounds that are fountains of life for the Church and sources of our own purification;

if at night you find yourself at his feet to render an account of your day,

- of your pride, so different from his humiliations,
- of your vanity, so different from his self-effacement,
- of your weakness so different from his great suffering,
- of your laziness in the presence of the sweat shed by this divine body;
- of your self-centeredness in the face of his infinite love;

- of your impatience, of your moods, of your lack of charity in the face of his unfailing gentleness.

Ah, how difficult it is for me to doubt that your crucifix will become your friend and confidant.

Our Transformation in Jesus Christ Crucified

Our Lord will love you, will teach you, will strengthen you by means of his crucified likeness. And in this quiet way, by this unceasing exchange, you will sense that your entire being has been radically transformed.

It will no longer only be the wood and the metal that will portray the Savior's features; they will become more vividly imprinted on your soul.

You will experience the direct action of the one who for your sake was nailed to the Cross.

Your most earnest longing will be to be transformed into him, as Saint Paul writes: *For me, life means Christ!*

Your life will take on a new dimension. You will discover in Christian wisdom new horizons, and you will allow yourself to fall in love.

Every form of life, every degree of knowledge, every form of happiness will be summed up in these words: *Jesus Christ crucified.*

As One Falls Asleep

Let me say in all simplicity that my happiest moment is at night when I am about to fall asleep.

It entails no great effort to turn my mind to this good Master, whose likeness I hold in my hands. I tell him I love him. I ask him to forgive me my foolish mistakes. fill of a sudden I feel overwhelmed by the forgiveness that falls from the height of the Cross. I think of how my sins hove wounded him, of how much time I have lost, of the many graces I have received. I thank him for his blessings. I make impassioned promises to him. I feel ashamed to be resting in such a comfortable bed, when I think that he died, lashed to a cross. I try to love him, to make up for lost time. I adore God the Father by presenting to Him His Son. I call upon the Holy Spirit, whom he sent to us. I pray for the Church, which was born on Calvary. I am ashamed to be such an indifferent Christian.

Then I take courage at the thought of God's infinite love and power, and if sleep has not yet come, time passes quickly when I am in such company. These are just a few thoughts that I hope will help you deepen an intimate relationship with your crucifix.

They will help to make Jesus more present to your mind and heart. What more might you desire?

Ask the Blessed Virgin to teach you how to press your lips to the sacred wounds of her Son, there finding the courage and the zeal that should distinguish those souls who are given entirely to God.

May the cross be your great good, your hope, your life and your reward.

E. d'AlzonMay your heart be truly catholic, as big as the universe. [12]

References Abbreviations:

E.S.: Ecrits Spirituels du Serviteur de Dieu Emmanuel dAlzon, Rome, 1956.

TD: Textes deposes des ecrits du P. d'Alzon, submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, 52 volumes, 1937.

The Prayers

- 1. Meditations supplementaires, E.S., p. 627.
- 2. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 203.
- 3. Meditations supplementaires, E.S., p. 628.
- 4. Sixieme Meditation : La vie surnaturelle, E.S., p. 363.
- 5. Meditations supplementaires, E.S., p. 622.
- 6. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 2, p. 378.
- 7. Meditations supplementaires, E.S., p. 627-628.
- 8. Meditations pour une retraite, p. 100
- 9. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 222.
- 10. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 2, p. 400.
- 11. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 2, p. 435-436.
- 12. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 2, p. 425-426.
- 13. Seizieme Meditation : Eucharistie, E.S., p. 453.
- 14. Incarnation de Jesus-Christ, E.S., p. 918.
- 15. ID, vol. 47, p. 347.
- 16. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 502.
- 17. TD, vol. 47, p. 347.
- 18. Mon portrait (1831), E.S., p. 744.
- 19. Onzieme Meditation : Lafoi, E.S., p. 403.
- 20. Onzieme Meditation : Lafoi, E.S., p. 404.
- 21. Huitieme Meditation : De la purete d'intention, E.S., p. 378-379.
- 22. A Henri Gouraud, 21 November 1830, Lettres, vol. A, p. 162.
- 23. Retraite commencee a Saint-Eusebe (30 November 1834), E.S., p. 760-761.
- 24. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 275.
- 25. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 281.
- 26. Le Pelerin, U72,18 May 1878, p. 323.
- 27. Treizieme Meditation : La charite, E.S., p. 418.
- 28. Retraite commencee a Saint-Eusebe (5 December 1834), E.S., p.765.
- 29. Sermon sur la Compassion de la Sainte Vierge (31 March 1871), E.S., p. 1013.
- 30. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 346.
- 31. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 312.
- 32. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 345.
- 33. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 344.
- 34. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 2, p. 310.
- 35. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 21.
- 36. TD, vol. 42, p. 109-110.
- 37. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 82.
- 38. Conference sur le Couronnement d'epines (27 November 1870), E.S., p. 932.
- 39. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. I, p.II.
- 40. Incarnation de Jesus-Christ dans Tame religieuse, E.S., p. 910.
- 41. Meditations supplementaires, E.S., p. 618.
- 42. Meditations supplementaires, E.S., p. 625.
- 43. Meditations supplementaires, E.S., p. 626.
- 44. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 2, p. 319.
- 45. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 275-276.

- 46. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 1, p. 19.
- 47. Di recto ire, De la vie interieure, priere finale, E.S., p. 123.
- 48. Huitieme Meditation : De la purete d'intention, E.S., p. 378-379.
- 49. Retraite commencee a Saint-Eusebe (30 November 1834), E.S., p. 760-761.
- 50. Meditations sur la perfection religieuse, vol. 2, p. 280.

L'Amis de tous les jours, aux Adoratrices, 21 June 1857, E.S., p. 1229-1232.

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- Jean-Paul PERIER-MUZET, *Praying 15 Days with Emmanuel d'Alzon*, Founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption, Assumptionist Publications, Rome, 2009.

- Andre SEVE, *Christ is My Life: The Spiritual Legacy of Emmanuel d'Alzon*, New City Press, 1988.

- *Father d'Alzon Day by Day*, Compiled and edited by Fr. Jean-Paul PERIER-MUZET, Rome, 2007 (second edition).

Prayer

To obtain a favor by the intercession of Venerable Father Emmanuel d'Alzon and so that the Church might recognize his holiness:

Lord Jesus Christ,

you called Emmanuel d'Alzon to the service of your Kingdom. So that the Church might recognize the holiness of Father d'Alzon, grant us by his intercession the favor that we now ask... You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

For a novena (during which communion is received and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated), add to this prayer an "Our Father", a "Hail Mary" and a "Glory be."

Notes

[1] Prier a la suite d'Emmanuel d'Alzon, Kinshasa-Roma, 2007, 147 pages.

[2] p. 8 Lettres, vol. II, p. 327.

[3] p. 14 E.S., p. 504.

[4] p. 22 E.S., p. 713.

[5] p. 28 E.S.,p.316.

[6] p. 36 E.S., p. 722.

[7] p. 46 E.S.,p.l23.

[8] p. 53 E.S., p. 32.

[9] p. 58 ES,617.

[10] p. 64 Lettres vol. A. p. 376.

[11] p. 70 E.S., p. 79.

[12] p. 78 Lettre a Louise Chabert, 30 November 1869.