

It was with sweet pleasure, my dear Child, that I received the news of the deed so happily accomplished on the 14th of this month. It would have been pleasant for me to receive your holy promises as the minister of the very merciful God who is raising you to himself and handing you over to my care. We have both of us, made the sacrifice of that legitimate satisfaction, but because of it I shall not be less full of zeal and good will towards you, and you will not give me less proof of confidence and submission to all that my sentiments of paternal devotedness suggest to me for your happiness. May the Lord be a thousand times blessed for the grace he has just granted you, and do you, dear object of the favors of our heavenly Master, accept my congratulations and the very sincere expression of the sentiments of devotedness I have for you, proofs of which, with the help of divine grace, I will give you as long as I live. Always pray for me, and count on my true desire to see you respond to the designs of Jesus, the beloved of your heart.

I joyfully call myself your Father in Our Lord.

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 26th September 1855