

31st December 1817

Mr G Van Crombrugghe, in Grammont

My very dear Parents

The excellent custom which permits me once a year to present you with an expression of the sentiments which always animate me is upon us once more! I hasten, therefore, to offer you the homage of prayers that I offer for your happiness: I pray God that He will condescend to grant you His continued goodness; may you taste the sweetness of good health and the of good use that you will make of it the employ of His Divine Providence for the happiness of your children and the consolation of those many poor wretches that you seek to relieve! May you especially enjoy the great consolation of finding in your children sentiments of equity, of application to their duties and particularly to the Religion that you instilled in them and whom age makes more precious to you than ever! I hope on our part that we will not deprive you of the efforts that we owe you for your happiness: it is a sacred debt that we will try to repay and if there is one among us who doesn't feel this gentle duty, may the prayers of his brothers and sisters attract on him God's merciful regard in order to obtain his return thus to these good principles; by this happy miracle may he compensate you for the pains that you had felt up to that moment. Such is, dear Parents, the most ardent prayer that I offer on this day particularly. May the Lord grant it and grant to all of us that we may constantly advance in the love of our respective duties and arrive at that spotless and endless happiness which cannot be in this world.

Accept again the expression my tender and respectful devotion with which I have the honour to be, very dear Father and Mother,

Your all devoted and submissive son

Alost 31st December 1817.

C G Van Crombrugghe

Please give my best wishes to my Aunt Huleu and to Rosalie

