

25th May 1806

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.
Amiens 25th May 1806

My very dear Father and Mother

The feast of Pentecost provides me with the opportunity of renewing my sentiments of respect and gratitude. I pray continually to the All Powerful that He will condescend to send you the same inspiration that He sent to the Apostles.

I hope that you will be satisfied with the progress that I am making in Latin. The Fathers have had the goodness to give me a private tutor which will be a very big advantage to me, and with the principles of French that I already possess I will advance very quickly. Besides, we work a lot here, because when one has ten and a half hours a day of study and class, you can be persuaded that time is used well and consequently you can judge the advantages we have here without even taking into consideration the spiritual advantages. If I had to describe to you happiness that you have given your son in sending me here I would never come to an end, and I don't doubt that the best way of showing my gratitude is to thank the Good Lord; it is also this road that I strive to follow. I embrace you, my very dear Parents, with all my heart. I often speak to you in my imagination, so that I often imagine myself to be in Grammont, and I assure you that we are never very distant in the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your very loving son

C Van Crombrugghe

PS: Please present my good wishes of the season to all the family, but particularly to my Aunt Huleu to whose prayers I commend myself.

