

30<sup>th</sup> June 1806

To Mr G Van Crombrughe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.  
Amiens, 30<sup>th</sup> June 1806

Very dear Father and Mother

I was very happy to learn from Mrs Byl about the good state of your health, as well as that of all the family. You want to know, my dear Parents, if I am coming home on holiday or not. I do not simply wish to follow my own will in the matter; it would be infinitely more pleasant if you were to let me know your will which is as an order for me. However, since you ask me to tell you my thoughts, after much reflection and after having consulted my Masters, it seems to me that the journey, this year, would be harmful to my studies. Firstly, at my age I don't have time to lose and I intend to work in the holidays as well as at other times; besides, the Fathers have told me that it is not only holiday time that one loses, but also a lot of the time that follows them, because one forgets many of the things which one has learned, especially when one is only beginning, and then one has much pain in getting back to where one was before. So it is clear that it would do me a lot of harm, but if you want me to come and see you, I will gladly deny these reasons in order to follow your will.

As for my brother François, I have learned that he is feels the same away about Latin as I did; Miss Langevin told me that you were inclined to send him to Alost for some time in order for him to learn a little French. Permit me, my very dear Parents, to tell you that the school in Alost<sup>1</sup> is falling apart, and what is more I know from reliable sources that religion is disregarded; this makes me believe that you won't send him there. The Fathers of this School have given me a prospectus of a Boarding School in Roulers; I don't doubt that you will find that is exactly what it is necessary for François, unless you would prefer to put him with me; that would give me a lot of pleasure.

While waiting for your answer I have the honour to be

Your very obedient and devoted son

*C Van Crombrughe*

PS: Please give a thousand best wishes on my behalf to my dear brothers and sisters, and to all the family, particularly to my Aunt Huleu. I read in a letter from Mr. Aranel that my Uncle has been obliged to leave Malines because of his health<sup>2</sup>.



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<sup>1</sup> Is this the school of which Van Crombrughe would later become Principal?

<sup>2</sup> Could this be "my Uncle the Regent"?