

27th January 1807

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.
Mondidier 27 January 1807

Very dear Father and Mother

It was with great pleasure that I learned the of happy state of your health, as well as that of all the family. If only I could respond to the tender wishes that you offered me in your last letter! Please believe nevertheless, very dear Parents, that I am some most appreciative. I pray God to repay them, for His greater glory and your own satisfaction.

I received a letter from my Uncle Spitaels (the banker) that made me very pleased. I won't tell you more about it as his goodness is well known to you; besides he surpassed all that I could tell you about him.

I would like to know the present state of my uncle, the Regent¹. I expected to learn something about it by your last letter, and your silence gives me some concern. I hope I am wrong; I would be happy to learn of his restoration to health after everything that I have heard about him from Mr Verhaeghe. François is very well, and I hope that you will have the satisfaction of seeing by his reports that he is fulfilling his scholastic duties better. He was very grateful for your wishes as well as those of his dear sisters.

Please, very dear Parents, convey my expression of gratitude to my dear sisters Charlotte and Cécile, and tell them that I was overjoyed by what our dear Father told me about them; that they are learning well, and that they hope to make their First Communion at Easter; what happy news for a brother who loves his sisters as I love them! I won't cease to pray for them, and I expect the same from them. I ask you to say as much to my dear brother. I will not say much today about him and will do so more comfortably another time.

Farewell, very dear Parents, I have the honour to be

Your very devoted and submissive son

C Van Crombrugghe

Please present my respects to my dear Aunt Huleu and to all the family. I enclose my report for the last month.



¹ This term is an ecclesiastical title which can simply mean a seminary teacher.