

1st May 1807

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.
Mondidier, 1st May 1807

Very dear Father and Mother

I have just received your letter of the 24th of April which caused me great joy. For a long time I was very worried not to receive your news, although I had written to you in the hope of an answer. However, very dear Parents, I beg you not to let three whole months go by again without writing to us; I assure you that it causes great worry to François and me.

I see in your letter that Van Crombrugghe are going into the lottery for the militia next week. I pray with all my heart to the Good Lord, that His holy will be done; that is what we must wish for; because this good Father arranges everything to our greater good. I will also commend the matter to prayers of several very devout people.

I learned with great pleasure that my Uncle Huleu has visited you. I would have been very happy to enjoy the company of such an estimable man, but I hope nevertheless that I will have the happiness of seeing him during the holidays. He wrote to me at Easter in a manner that makes his holiness evident. I pray you, very dear Parents, to tell my dear sisters what my Uncle Huleu said to me in one of his letters. He tells me that after having made a retreat comes the time to execute those resolutions which the Good Lord makes us take in so precious a time; the time will come for them to put into practice the good thoughts that the Good Lord inspired in them at the time of their First Communion.

I am sure that you will judge it right that I should tell you the authors whom we now read in the fourth class. As an ordinary exercise G. Curtius; we explain Virgil and the De Amicitia of Cicero. You will see, dear Father, that we set more store here on translation version than learning by heart.

I am sending you me report for the last month; I hope that you will be satisfied. If not I hope that your opinions will be useful to me.

François is well; he has not seen you for so long.

I have the honour to be

Your very devoted and submissive son

C Van Crombrugghe

When my brother has taken part in the militia lottery, let me know the outcome.

