

26th July 1807

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of Escaut.
College of Mondidier 26th July 1807.

Very dear Father and Mother,

Yesterday I received the sheet that I was expecting from you. I am very satisfied with the colour; but that is not very surprising since it was chosen by someone who knows what I like better than I know myself. I am very grateful to you for it, my very dear Parents, and I will strive to respond to your kindness by a renewed application to my duties.

With great joy I see approaching, very dear Parents, the time that our long separation will end; only one month and, if it be pleasing to the Good Lord, I will already be on my way. We have already finished most of our prize compositions. The Good Lord knows if I will win or not: all I know is that I should accept His will. If I do win, it will be so that I can thank Him for it, if the opposite happens it will be to tame my proud character. In short, whatever happens it will always be by God's will. Please pray, dear Parents, to the Good Lord that I may conform myself to His will.

François is well, and wants to deserve his holiday by his conduct. He has great difficulty in speaking Flemish; in truth I know more than he does, but we will always strive to make ourselves understood.

I will enquire about the coaches to Lille and Valenciennes and will let you know. It is likely that I will take the route to Roie and not to Amiens because I hope to acquire some books there and therefore the price will be more moderate. For the rest, dear Parents, I will tell you what I find out and then you will tell me what you want me to do.

I have the honour to be very sincerely

Your very devoted and submissive son

C Van Crombrugghe

PS: Please present my respects to all the dear family; to my Aunt Huleu, and embrace my brother and my dear sisters for me until I can do so myself. Farewell.

