

20<sup>th</sup> August 1807

To Mr G Van Crombrughe, Brewer in Grammont, Dept of Escaut.  
Mondidier, 20<sup>th</sup> August 1807

Very dear Father and Mother

I am writing to you in haste to ask you to answer my last letter, because time is short and I will leave here on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month. You know, dear Parents, that it takes five days for me to get your answer. The distribution of prizes will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> and tomorrow the competitions begin. I could have left here on the 26<sup>th</sup> but Fr Le Blanc and Fr Sellier advised me to wait for the Monday after. François is waiting impatiently for the fulfilment of your promise, whose conditions he has satisfied for some time, and I assure you that he has made a lot of effort: every day he has "satisfecits" and often "optimès". For myself, very dear Parents, I wait with no less impatience for you to tell me how I am to pay for the journey: please be aware of how little time there is left and how much this matter of money worries me, I don't doubt, however, that Fr Le Blanc will be kind enough to provide me with whatever is necessary if you considered it right for me to ask him. His Eminence, the Bishop of Gent, will be in Amiens next Sunday or Monday and it could well be that he will come here for the distribution of prizes. That, I believe, is everything that I have to tell you. I only ask you to forgive me this scrawl, but time does not permit to write better. Please present my respects to all the family, to those that will honour you with their presence during the kermesse, and please tell my dear brother Jean that it would please me if he would buy me, at the fair, one of those bottles for teeth<sup>1</sup>; he knows well enough what it is; I don't remember the name.

Farewell, very dear Parents, I kiss you and will always be

Your very devoted son

*C Van Crombrughe*



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<sup>1</sup> Literal translation; meaning unclear