

28th November 1807

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of Escaut.
Mondidier, 28th November 1807

Very dear Father and Mother

I received with great joy your letter of the 16th of this month. The family's good state, the recovery of my cousin Albert; all this surprised me pleasantly in my concern that always tends to anticipate the worst. The death of Miss Anne Beyhqu(?) is a new trial for me at a moment when there are many trials to endure. May it please God, dear Parents, that we young people should benefit from these examples, to remain always ready to appear before the judgement of this supreme Judge, where even the just appear trembling. You tell me that my dear Father has been nearly unable to sleep; I hope that the baths will be beneficial, and I believe as you do that it was an overheating of the blood. Only I should say to you that you waited too long: because remember, dear Father, the precept of Ovid: "principiis obsta". The letter which you mention, as well as the remedy from Mr De la Marre, did not arrive here. If it were possible to benefit from the opportunity of Mrs Byl's visit to send me a small box of it I would very grateful, not that my eyes hurt but they are not entirely healed.

We have just learned that all our old teachers will remain, with the exception of the priests; this is a great comfort. Farewell, very dear Parents, I will strive, with God's grace, to satisfy your wishes concerning François. It is true that for some while he has lost some of his good will; I am very pained to see it, because he never comes to me to speak about himself. I believe that it would not be useless for you to write him a little letter. More recently he has been better and he makes me the most beautiful promises.

I finish in commending us to your prayers, whilst embracing you as well as all the family.

Your very devoted son

C Van Crombrugghe

PS: Please present my respects to my Aunts Huleu and De Bakker. I benefit from this opportunity, very dear Mother, to wish you a happy feast: it is true that duty requires that I should have written to you, but you know well that I don't have the time, and besides, you know my feelings towards you. Do not doubt that I asked Saint Cécile for the graces you need. I know, very dear Mother, that this is the best thing I could do for you.

