

6th June 1808

To Mr G Van Crombrughe, Brewer in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut
Montdidier, 6th June 1808

Very dear Father and Mother

Certain information that I was waiting for from you, and that I have not yet received, has deprived me of the pleasure of writing to you. You know what information I am waiting for: a long time ago you told me that you were considering the choice of School for my dear sister. I am sure you have by now made your decision, and I ask you to tell me.

I received yesterday a letter from my Aunt De Scheppere in Gent; she described to me the celebrations in St Bavon on the occasion of the canonisation of Saint Colette. She told me the result of my brother Jean's journey. I bless God, seeing that his business is in the hands of the Good Father who does all for our greater good, provided only that we wish to consult Him. I confess that I was charmed by his interview, so all will be done without haste and with great perfection. Cécile must have been happy with her trip to Gent; it was, at least, quite long. If she continues to grow she will be the tallest of her sisters, and if she grows in the same way in wisdom she will be very attractive. Is Charlotte still small? She is probably not happy to see that all her sisters are overtaking her in size, but I suppose that she can console herself, as she often tells her dear sisters, that fine herbs are kept in small boxes. I love to imagine all the family; it seems to me that I am there also, that I can hear them speak without being able to answer them. We often speak of you, François and I, and you can be sure that we do not fail to address our prayers to the All Powerful to ask for the graces which you need. François has for a long time had a pain in his foot but it is more or less healed. For the rest he is well and is working harder.

The Feast of Pentecost is such a great day, that I would not be able to let it pass without wishing you all the gifts of the Holy Spirit; may the Good Lord hear me and grant them to you in abundance. I know that is what you would wish for, my dear Parents, since it is the most pleasant thing in the world that I can wish you. Please accept my wishes therefore and very sincerely believe me

Your very devoted and submissive son

C Van Crombrughe

