

11<sup>th</sup> October 1808

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Brewer in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut

Very dear Father and Mother

I arrived this morning in Lille where I hoped to take the coach but there was no room so I will leave tomorrow. This morning I went to see Mr Malmazet, who was anxious for me to dine with him, and it is from his house that I write to you. I did not leave Gent on Saturday as we had planned, a mild indisposition, and especially the difficulties that I saw in satisfying my parents with only a short stay, obliged me to delay leaving until Monday. I went with François to Roulers; I was very happy with the method used in the School: it is a copy of ours. François seemed very happy and showed a great desire to work there, there is much competition which will do him good. This morning at half-past seven I was in Menin where Mr Vercruysse offered me a place in his coach which I accepted gladly.

You will find the account of what I paid in Roulers enclosed; the total as you will see is six hundred francs, but I believe that other advantages there will make it no dearer than Montdidier. There is not a fixed price as in France for supplying ink and paper; the pupils buy all these articles themselves. This will not come to more than fifty francs. There is no fixed price for washing and linen; each quarter you will be told the cost and it will not exceed fifty francs, just as at Montdidier. As for the food and cleanliness they are better there, and will contribute not a little to his health. I was very happy to find a large number of my old friends there, of whom three are teachers. I do not doubt that these Fathers will take the greatest care of François. He seemed convinced of it, if I could judge by the satisfactory manner in which he left me and promised me to redouble his efforts to respond to all your sacrifices.

Farewell, very dear Parents; I am far from you in body, but I am close to you in spirit. Do not worry too much, I beg you, about the replacement for my brother Jean, the Lord will provide. Please tell Charlotte and Cecille that they must not forget their brothers, and we will not forget them before God. Rosalie must have been astonished not to see us arrive, it is too long since I have seen her; Thursday morning I hope to see her in good health. Accept, if it pleases you, my feelings of the greatest gratitude that I feel in my heart for all the care that you have for us all.

My very dear Father and Mother

Your very devoted and submissive son

*C Van Crombrugghe*

Lille 11<sup>th</sup> October 1808

