

11th October 1809

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

Very dear Father and Mother

I hasten to give you some details of my present situation. I am already settled in the Seminary. I am well and happier than I would have imagined possible. I am entirely at home; up to now I am tolerating the cold weather well enough, but I would not refuse the offer of a jacket of wool or another material. The food here is very good, the bread excellent and the beer that I am obliged to drink four times a day tastes very good. So much for the corporal; as for the spiritual, I am also satisfied. We are forbidden to occupy ourselves with worldly business, that is to say that they do not want such things to occupy the young people's minds; this gives me the greatest pleasure. Besides, the idea that I had formed of this seminary is ungrounded, proof that it is not necessary to judge a body by the conduct of some of its members. I will continue on my way, and if it is pleasing to the Good Lord to use His divine grace I will strive to spend my time at my seminary well, and I know it already to be the happiest, or at least the most peaceful, of a Clergyman's life.

I would be very happy if Mrs Byl could bring me from Paris a dozen small rabats, they are cheaper there and are double the quality of those in this country.

My Aunt Scheppere asked me to ask you to send her her bottle of... the name escapes me, I hope that you will guess what it is, I remember that it is a medicine.

I will be going to see Rosalie tomorrow; as far as I know she is well. Time does not permit me, at present, to write to my dear sisters in Amiens, it will have to wait until the end of the month. In the meantime, please assure them of my love! I ask you the same thing for Jean and my cousin Lauwers, please also present my respects to my Aunt Huleu and my aunt Van Crombrugge whom I believe to be with you at home.

I would ask you to send me the sermons, a rudiment and some other books that you think I might need from those that were in my chest. However there is nothing urgent; you can wait for the next opportunity, but I recommend you to wrap them well.

I finish in assuring you of my respect and asking you to give me your blessing.

Your very submissive son

C Van Crombrugge

Gent 11th October 1809.

