

11th November 1809

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Brewer in Grammont, Escaut

Very dear Father and Mother

The small packet that you had the goodness to send me arrived the day before yesterday. I hoped it might contain my sermon books but I see that you did not send them. I would ask you to send me a rudiment and "Theology of the Christian" in one volume. I also need tobacco, and if you think it necessary, another blanket for Rosalie as she told me she really needed one. For the rest she needs nothing, although she always asks for things. Sister Venaranda told me that no boarder is better provided for than my sister. I told her that we would make do the laundry at home in Grammont every four months; she believes that she can not wait so long, but I answered her, because I treat her very tactfully, that we would do it whenever necessary, even if it were every two months. I hope, however, that she will become more thrifty. She is doing well in her studies; our cousin Annette will be useful when she is more settled at the school.

Mimie Van Crombrugghe is going to live with Sister Venaranda for fifty florins a year, more or less for nothing, but it will be difficult for her Parents, so it will be necessary for my Aunt Huleu to exercise charity to this effect. I tell you this in the greatest secrecy, as there could be some aggravation if the matter came to be known about. The three eldest children of my Uncle Van Crombrugghe have the measles and are very sick, but Mimie is better.

I received a letter from François in which he makes me some fine promises; I dare to believe that his efforts will achieve them and that he will give you more satisfaction this year.

I have to finish, dear Parents, this rambling letter as I am very short of time. I cannot give myself entirely to what I am doing, and you would not believe how much having to go out removes from me all the precious moments that would I like to dedicate to conversing with you. But things will improve as I will not always be at the beginning of Logic so it should not occupy me always as seriously. I will not be always be new to knowledge, but I have to abandon my precious time to it, just as now.

Receive, if it pleases you, my respectful sentiments and believe me sincerely to be

Your very devoted and submissive son

Gent, 11th November 1809.

C Van Crombrugghe

PS: Please assure our cousin Lauwers, whom I believe to be healthy, since you say nothing about her, of my devotion. My cousin Vandenhende also asks you to receive his respects.

A major distraction made me forget to start my letter by telling you about the prayers I addressed to the Heavens for you in this octave of All Saints. I ask you to forgive me this oversight and to believe that I didn't fail in my duty to God and His Saints, for the Parents who hold me in this world, and who would not wish to be rewarded for their care for us except by eternal rewards, after having enjoyed here below the fruit that the plants which they tended with so much care have borne.

