

26th January 1810

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

Very dear Father and Mother

The happy state of your health and the blessings that the Lord is pleased to scatter with so much profusion on all the family fill me with a very gentle joy and inspire me to write to you. What will I tell you about Charlotte and Cecile first? What happiness, what consolation, what hope for the future! How charming these two good children are! I am delighted in advance with the services that you will soon receive from them. The religion with which they decorate their beautiful natural qualities will return those qualities to you in a much more precious form; it will form true children of the sort of which our age only knows the name! Please God that this reversal of sacred duty might go no farther! The letter that Charlotte wrote to her cousin De Bakker cousin is full of happy sentiments and the fruits of piety; she congratulates herself by congratulating her cousin in having in her a real friend who will help her in the world to safeguard herself from the dangers that one meets at every step; she bases what she says on what is strongest and most precious in friendship. She is indeed not mistaken; I believe that these friends will be very useful and very attached one to the other. What sentiments of gratitude this extraordinary gift of God must inspire in us! This is the most precious thing that parents can receive from the beneficent hand of the best of Fathers; may He be always praised, loved and served by all our family, so that He can crown these kindnesses one day by receiving us together into His eternal tabernacle.

I believe that dear François won't give you any less satisfaction, that he remembers the wise advice that he has so often received in his Schools; these happy memories will make him every more attentive to his duties and will make a good son of him. I never cease to pray for this tender friend, and I ask the same thing of him. I would ask you, dear Parents, to send me a few more nightcaps and some canvas slippers at the first opportunity that presents itself.

I end in asking you to give me your blessing, to pray the to the Lord that He might condescend to grant me the necessary graces to remain faithful to Him in all the trials that He is pleased in His Holy Providence to send me. Finally I ask you accept my sentiments of the liveliest gratitude and the most tender love

Gent, 26th January 1810.

Your very devoted and submissive son

C Van Crombrugge

