

27th February 1810

To Mr G Van Crombrughe, Brewer in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut
Gent, 27th February 1810

Very dear Father and Mother

I saw in the letter that my Aunt Schepper received from you that you are well. I give thanks to God and assure you that the air and the food of this region are making me stronger from day to day. I am in perfect health, my cold has gone. Please God that I could give the same testimony for my spiritual side as for the body! However it seems that my circumstances are well designed to resuscitate my devotion; may the Lord divert the storm that is ready to pour on us! May His Holy Will be done nevertheless. He is as much our good Father in the moments when He makes us feel His just anger as when we are at peace, because all is useful to those who love Him. I will not stop addressing prayers to the Heavens for you, especially at this holy time of fasting that we are about to enter. I ask you also to commend me to the One who is pleased to grant the prayers that Fathers and Mothers make to Him for their children.

I pray Jean to receive the assurances of my love and François to be persuaded that a short letter, which would only take him a little time, would give me great pleasure. Please also present my respects to my Aunt Huleu and assure my cousin Lauwers and all the family of my devotion.

My Aunt Schepper and her nice family, Rosalie, Annette De Backer and our other friends are well; permit me to remember them to you and to call myself with the liveliest respectful tenderness

Your very submissive son

C Van Crombrughe

You will not be unhappy to hear that last Sunday I preached for the first time. I began in trembling but was soon reassured, although I could not return to the proper tone that my subject and the French language required.

