To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Brewer in Grammont, Escaut Amiens 28 October 1805

Very dear Father and Mother,

I received your kind letter of the 17th of this month, but it is with great joy that I am replying in a completely opposite sense to what you might expect. Fr Sellier will be kind enough to teach me about trade and epistolary style so that I can remain with him. I am very pleased because the arrangements in this School please me a great deal and we are led by sweetness and affability.

Please, my very dear Parents, accept my sincere wishes for the imminent feast of All Saints, and believe that I will not cease to address my poor prayers to the heavens in order always to be able to call myself,

Your very humble and very obedient son

C Van Crombrugghe

PS Give my best wishes to Aunt Huleu and my dear brothers and sisters. I enclose my School bill which has been settled except for "extras" which are 200 francs.

