

27th July 1810

Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Brewer in Grammont

Very dear Father and Mother

It has been a long time since I have spoken with you, but it will only be a few weeks before I can talk to you face to face. Having taken every possible step for our uncle, with the President of the civil court and with the Imperial District Attorney who had him arrested, and who put all this business in motion, it has finally been decided that the business will be pursued in Audenarde. It is the only way; it is absolutely impossible to proceed in any other manner. It would be much too long to tell you all the reasons here. Please believe that I have informed myself sufficiently about it. In the meantime our Uncle will remain in Gent where he is, and it will also be there that he will be questioned. I went to see him, excited by a letter that he had written to me; I hoped to find a change in him and I found this to be the case, and I became his great friend, but for the rest he is vivacious in manners and voluble in language in a manner quite inappropriate for those with whom he speaks, and when in talking he comes to the name of a person of his family in Grammont then he gets angry and says to me in Latin that we must work to convert them etc. He only cares for the foundations and other good works that he claims he is going to make: the seminary will have two scholarships and the Spitaels of Alost will be the first possessors of them etc. Mr Haek is named his receiver in place of my Aunt De Backer who is much too weak, he says, to force the issue... The watch that he had here and that Jean sent back belongs to Mr Damst who was to repair my Uncle's ... With the key that he sent by Mr Blondel you will find all his other keys and will be able to send him some urgently needed linen. For the rest I will write when he needs it. You can be perfectly calm and await the result of this business with confidence.

Finally I ask you to accept my sentiments of devotion and filial tenderness through which I call myself in all sincerity

Your very devoted and very obedient son

Gent, 27th July 1810

C Van Crombrugghe

PS: Please remember me to my cousin Vandenhende, François and my cousin Annette. I think it would be a good idea to invite the Misses Langevin to come and see you.

