

12<sup>th</sup> February 1811

Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Grammont

My very dear Father and Mother

I am sorry to tell you that excesses of drink have obliged us to put my Uncle the Regent in a place of safety again. It is only with much pain and forced by his lunacies that I have resolved to take this decision: because everything that one has so often warned the respectable Fr Rykewaert about has come to pass, and his only reward will be the displeasure of seeing that he has put himself to a lot of trouble uselessly. Fortunately he is a man who aims higher and does not work for rewards of this world. After having tried every conceivable means to stop my Uncle, my brother Jean with Mestdag, worried by my delay, arranged the business rapidly, so that when I began this morning to procure the necessary powers for myself I learned with joy that Moerlooze had already been warned and was looking for what he needed to take his man in hand. In brief, this afternoon he came to show me that his rooms were in order and he was now looking for a way to get the Regent home without a lot of uproar. You now see definitely that, with the best will in the world, my uncle is no longer to be trusted; he is certainly brain injured. Without this presumption it would be impossible to understand. He makes a type of amalgam of his piety and the excesses which are entirely incompatible with it. He promises much and produces little. He makes resolutions and then doesn't see that his conduct is in continual opposition to what he has resolved; in a word, there is nothing left except patience and to submit to Divine Providence this cross that it has pleased Him to send us. We must be convinced that He cherishes those that He punishes in this world in order to give them grace in the next. Let us benefit from this easy means (if we want to) of satisfying Divine justice.

Please share my letter with my Uncle the banker Spitaels and my Aunt De Bakker, asking them however to keep his detention secret as far as possible.

I end in asking you, very dear Father and Mother, for your blessing and asking you to assure François, Rosalie, Charlotte, my cousin Lauwers etc. of my devotion. Charlotte will be very happy to know that Sister Beaudemont is in Gent

I call myself very respectfully

Your very devoted and submissive son

Gent 12<sup>th</sup> February 1811

*C Van Crombrugghe*

