

13th June 1811

Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Brewer in Grammont

Very dear Father and Mother

You are probably astonished by my silence. You won't be astonished for long when I tell you that since the ordination I haven't had one moment so to speak, to myself; the recitation of my Office takes up a considerable part of my free time and other works take up the remainder of the day. Around the Feast of Pentecost, particularly, I was overwhelmed so that it was impossible for me to present you my customary wishes. It was the time of the departure of His Eminence the Bishop and I had a lot of writing to do here concerning the business that called him away, and all had to be ready for his departure. You know what the object of his journey is; please God that this worthy Prelate will be returned to us, and that we may be allowed the peaceful exercise of our Holy Religion. I hope that God will have pity on His Church.

I will not say anything of the sad disaster that happened to your maid, you know everything and time does not permit me to enter into details. She is better; I think she has been taken to his village.

You would give me great pleasure if you would tell me if I am to have Fr Vanhoorde's breviary... As for the business of the Regent, all will go well, but we need to wait until the court in Audenarde is well established. He escaped a few days ago, did many stupid things and was taken back by coach to his usual residence. This circumstance will not be unfavourable to us as I had a statement taken.

Please give my respects to my Aunt Huleu and Aunt De Bakker and assure François, Charlotte and our cousins De Baker and Lauwers of all my devotion, all my friendship.

I have the honour to call myself very respectfully

Gent, 13th June 1811

Your very humble and very obedient son

C Van Crombrugghe

Subdeacon

If the breviary I mentioned is older than the year 1760 or 70 and in 8° it is not necessary to send it; if it is in 12° or smaller it needs top date from at least 1780; older would not help me much.

Tell me what I should do with my dirty linen. I can keep it a certain time. My brother Jean asks that François says where he left his wife's umbrella. He will be annoyed if it were lost.

