

8<sup>th</sup> October 1811

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Grammont

My very dear Father

The day of your feast is too dear and too precious for me not to benefit from it to renew my sentiments of gratitude towards you. It would be useless for me to make a list of my duties and to express you the desire that I have to fulfil them towards you; suffice it to say that I address my prayers to the Heavens through the intercession of the Saint whose name you carry in order to get all sorts of prosperities, and especially those that will increase the eternal happiness of the one that stands in the place of God for me on earth, he through whom I am who I am and to whom I owe everything. So, dear Father, may your life, so dear and so necessary to your children, be much prolonged and your health become from day to day better for the sake of the family as well as for as the poor and the orphan and for your own satisfaction. In a word, may Heaven fill you with its most distinguished favours and give you a rich crop of virtues for the moment of the final harvest which will be the summit of all our desires. Such are the wishes that I express every day, and that I express especially on this day when everyone hastens to offer you his good wishes according to his own way. Please be persuaded of the sincerity of my sentiments, and believe in the respectful devotion of the one who has the honour of calling himself, very dear Father

Your very submissive and very obedient son

Gent, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1811

*C Van Crombrugghe*

Subdeacon

Please present my respects to my dear Mother.

