

18th November 1811

To Mrs Van Crombrugghe, Grammont

Very dear Mother

If I am deprived of the sweet pleasure of being amongst my brothers and sisters to present our bouquet together on the day of your feast, and to renew together the sentiments which you know we have for you, I will put myself close to you at least in spirit, and share in their demonstrations of the most sincere filial love, and ask you in particular to receive the good wishes that I make to you at this time which is so dear to our hearts. May the Heavens, very dear Mother, grant that our wishes are granted; that you can for a long time make your family's happiness, and that after this life you may enjoy the happiness which this famous Virgin, this noble Roman, made greater by her Christian virtues than by her high birth, and whom you have the happiness to have for a Patron, already enjoys without fear of ever seeing an end to her happiness. This is my one desire; may it please the Lord to grant these wishes which are so in tune with His eternal intentions! This is the most ardent vow of one who calls himself with as much sincerity as of respect:

My very dear Mother,

Your very humble and very obedient son

Gent, 18th November 1811

C Van Crombrugghe

Subdeacon

PS: I would be very happy to have back shortly the linen that you will receive by coach; several things that you will find there must be sent back to me immediately. I will make a separate list of them. I would be happy to learn how my Uncle the Regent is, and the Curate of Zegelsem whom someone told me is ill in Grammont.

I will need other trousers unless I am sent the velvet ones that I have at home.

