

23rd May 1812

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Grammont

Very dear Father

Your letter gave me the greatest pleasure. I will work with much more confidence under your just and equitable conditions and, if the enterprise is unsuccessful, I will comfort myself very easily because we will have done what we needed to and the very Holy Virgin will reward us in another manner. I see, however, that it will hardly be possible, it would not be even something to hope for, to get something if the Curate is not for us. I have therefore written to him to know if he is against us and what are his reasons? You can use this for your conduct. If you can attract him to our party don't discount him, for when all will be won, you might, if a favourable opportunity presents himself, be able to make feel him that it will depend on him, that the objection of private property is not very strong, that I spoke for a long time with important people about this, and it is true what I say etc.

Time does not permit me to tell you more. I ask you, dear Father, to give me your blessing and to very sincerely believe me

Your very devoted son

Gent, 23rd May 1812.

C Van Crombrugghe

