

7th December 1813

Mr G Van Crombrughe, Businessman in Grammont, Escaut

My very dear Father and Mother

I am so happy with my little journey that I cannot stop myself from renewing my thanks for all your goodness and the marks of kindness that you showed me. I was sensitive, more so than usual, on my departure from home, of our separation; but I make with pleasure a sacrifice of my most legitimate affections. Today that the Good Lord is pleased to punish us all in order to be able to forgive later. I am much better more than before my journey, for it is true that a journey, in refreshing one's ideas, calms the mind and thus considerably influences all one's being. I hope that my dear Father's indisposition will not have any consequences. If he feels the need to rest, from time to time, the fibres and muscles that too monotonous and too lengthy work has tired, I will hope more often enjoy seeing him in Mouscron.

I had the consolation of seeing several of my old friends in Gent, and their company increased my enjoyment of my little journey out of this region. They confirmed in me the comforting and pleasant hope that our troubles will not last long.

I received from my friend's Father 200 florins for this term's school fees and 25 francs for the washing of his linen for six months. I did not have the least difficulty in getting this sum, and indeed there was no reason to think that I might. If I am paid at the end of the month the 275 francs that I am promised, my affairs will be in good order and I will be able to proceed without being a burden on anyone.

Farewell, very dear Parents; receive, I beg you the assurance of my filial submission and the sincere respect with which I call myself

Your very devoted son

7th December 1813

C Van Crombrughe

My respects, please, to my Aunt Huleu and my regards to my dear sisters Rosalie, Charlotte and Cecile; also to François and his wife. The piece of cloth that I sent you cost me at least 32 florins the piece.

