

Malines, 25th July 1811.

No address.

My very dear Nephew,

It is when all hope seems to have disappeared that a Christian must most exercise his trust: my own hope is not shaken and has never yet been so. I should not be surprised if we were not to have good news soon. The bad news has been exaggerated. Calm has followed the storm. It is not true that the Senate is assembling. We only know of three Bishops being arrested¹. All the Council fathers² remain in Paris and negotiations continue.

If you truly trust me, remain calm, do not believe those who do nothing but lament the loss of religion as if it had already been lost. On the contrary, believe in God, in Jesus Christ, in the protection of the most holy Virgin Patron of the Empire, pray a lot and speak little. Adhere closely to the words of Father Rance who is ending your retreat and you will emerge gloriously from this battle which I see in your soul. Ah! how happy my daughters are having had nothing to do with the good or bad news which has been spread here, but who, in the sweetest calm progress each day in virtue, knowing nothing which is not their concern, and praying with fervour for the success of the Council. I will ask them to pray also for you and I commend myself, along with them, to your devotions.

I have the honour to be, with esteem and affection,

My very dear nephew,

Your very humble and very obedient servant,

JG Huleu

¹ Mgr de Boulogne, évêque de Troyes, Mgr de Broglie, évêque de Gand, Mgr Hirn, évêque de Tournai.

² The National Council opened on the 17th June 1811 at Notre-Dame. There were ninety-five prelates of whom forty-two were Italian.