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Letter from A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps

A. C. Van Raalte

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No. 17

August 14, 1860

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps, giving general news about Holland. "I see how difficult it will be to battle with ignorance, sectarian spirits, and leaders full of ill-will, who know how to make use of the ignorance and prejudices of the simple-minded but suspicious people."

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

(no missing)

Holland, August 14, 1860

Revd P. Phelps

My dear Brother,

Our Dirk has been very ill on bilious diarrhea. Now he is bettering. We are all well by God's grace and good care. Here is little sickness. The crops are exceedingly fine. Brother Van der Wall did cross the ocean safely. The Methodists are hard to work in Fairbanks Corners. They did organize a church of thirty members on the lake shore and now in Holland also they have a preaching station. Holland will be the central of a new circuit, and Post was hasting to remark to me that the Methodists had such a great time, etc.

Since you left, Dominie Oggel did rebuke the strife and slander against the Hymns of the Dutch church in the Hollander. You know Ploeg had written against the Sabbath School hymns, English language, etc. This writing of rebuke did work like fire in the powder. Ploeg did answer and promises to take up the hymns of the church and Sabbath School to prove they are Arminian, etc. Fire and water is now joining to aid Ploeg in fighting Oggel. I see how difficult it will be to battle with ignorance, sectarian spirits, and leaders full of ill-will, who know how to make use of the ignorance and prejudices of the simple-minded but suspicious people.

The matters are made worse by the running and increasing rumor that the separated church in the Netherlands has acknowledged the separatists here among us and therefore they come here to the conclusion that they can have no connection with us nor with the Dutch Church in America. The truth is that the separated Dominie Bos, with his churches, did ask the Synod of the Separated Brethren to be acknowledged as a church and their answer seems to have been that they did acknowledge those churches who were steadfast in truth, without judging about the merits of their separation. This acknowledgement influences many a mind from being united with the Dutch Church. (Reformed, of course.) I saw the necessity of a friendly intercourse between the Church of America and of the Separated Brethren

in the Netherlands; to bring the mind of the emigrant churches here at rest; but I met expressions of distrust in high and the nobility and the orthodox clergymen in the old church I was too diffident to urge such a step of mutual acknowledgment: disastrous will be the consequences for us. They begin to draw inferences from the consequences for us. They begin to draw inferences from the communion which the Separated Brethren have with churches in France, Scotland, etc. and say if the Dutch Church in America did not side with the heretics in the Netherlands, certainly they would have had long ago a friendly connection with the free church of the Netherlands. I am astonished how the mind is influenced.

The old steam mill of Vander Sluis is bought by a Racine compagne to make of it a pail and sash factory. They talk about a Holland bank. Matters seem to come up though money is scarce. The club had an intention to lift up the district school heaven high! Far above the Holland Academy!!

Mrs. Van Raalte sends her love to Mrs. Phelps. Please remember me to the family.

Your friend and brother.

A C Van Raalte

Holland, August 14, 1860

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Your friend and brother.

A.C. Van Raalte



The American Sugar Refining Company

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Locations of Plants and Offices: GENERAL OFFICE:
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and Philadelphia

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Number of Employees: 5,600

Annual Sales: \$338,000,000

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A.C. VAN NESTLE

THE AMERICAN SUGAR REFINING COMPANY

Degree Required: A. B., B. B. A., B. S., or M. B. A.

I suppose others will write you about the Academy etc
the young ones did supply the lost salt.

Holland, August 14, 1860

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