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6-18-1857

Letter from John Van Vleck to Albertus C. Van Raalte

John Van Vleck

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June 18, 1857, Holland, Michigan

A letter of John Van Vleck to ACVR who is on a trip in the East. The academy building is under construction but rains have held up the making of bricks. The building will not be finished before the first of November. Van Vleck has his troubles but he does not envy ACVR in his fundraising efforts. C. Vander Meulen has preached at First Reformed and Pieter Oggel is preaching next Sunday. "Zwemer, De Lyster & Pieters are to take turns in preaching at Vriesland..."

Calvin College Archives, ACVR collection, Box 8, fldr 121.

Calvin Call Cash
ACV call.

Box 8, folder 121

Holland, Ottawa Co. Mich

June 18th 1854

Dear Dominic:—

Mrs Van Raalte has received two letters from you, one written at Kalamazoo & one at Ithica; & has written to you twice, once to Ithica & once to Albany. I am at a loss where to direct to you now, & will, therefore, send this to 337 Broadway. I was at your house yesterday afternoon. The folks were all well. They have been busy cleaning house. Our folks are well also. Mrs Sabote was taken quite ill last night. The wife of the new tin-man had a child last week, & has since been a maniac. With these exceptions I believe the people are generally well.

We have had a great deal of rainy weather lately. It does well enough for this sandy soil. But I think clay ground must be in bad plight. Every thing around here has grown wonderfully.

Since you left I have been immersed in deep, repeated & continued troubles. I began writing on a large sheet, thinking I would tell you about them. But I have concluded not to trouble you with them. I pity you in the bottom of my heart when I think of the arduous & irksome business in which you are engaged. And I do not wish to add to your troubles, — I wish, were it possible, rather to encourage you, & to strengthen your hands. This is the reason why I conceal for the present my troubles. Some of them you will learn when you return — some of them you need perhaps never hear. All I will say for the present is that you need not envy me my situation, & you must not ill-humored because I have not written sooner.

D. Van Raalte

The building progresses slowly. But owing to unavoidable delays it will not probably be done as early as the first of November. The prospect for getting it done before winter is, however, good. The incessant rains have made both the making, & drawing of brick impossible. But it will not probably rain all summer, unless the guilty comet should conclude not to leave us.

I tremble when I think how utterly we are dependent on your success in begging. If the subscriptions here could have been had we might have gone along a little more smoothly. Not a cent has been paid here yet, & probably not a cent will be paid. They will make hard times an excuse for their not giving, even when they may be able. All depends on you. Be strong, & may God strengthen & reward you.

I have received word from Abraham Thompson that he will be here by the 1st of October. This cheers me very much. I have often wondered if any of my sisters would consent to come. I very much fear to have them come, & I think if one comes—all will. I have not had a letter from any of them since March! Will you please tell them that I am astonished at such treatment.

One of the one hundred dollar drafts you left with me was not written correctly: will you please send me another in its place? Dom. Van der Meulen is to preach here this evening. He preached here week last Sabbath. Dom. Uggel will preach here next Sunday. All goes well in school. We are preparing a little for examination. I wish you could be here then, but I hardly hope it. By arrangement Iwener, de Lijster & Pieters are to take turns in preaching at Vriesland, is it well?

Please excuse the half sheet. If I had nothing else to do, I might fill a dozen. But I have quite enough else on my mind just now.

Yours in true affection & deep dejection —

J. VanVleet