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A Letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps

A. C. Van Raalte

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August 1, 1870

No. 71

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps about Gilmore's possible appointment and the urgency of getting a teacher for teacher training.

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

Yours
Familiarly

71.

Rev. Dr. P. P. Phelps.

Holland Mich.
Aug: 1/10.

Dear Brother:

To relieve
my mind: I have written to Mr. G. my
impressions, plain and fully; that I fear
that ~~it~~ may become in his position a
cause of friction uncomfortable and un-
profitable: I have given my views more open
and free. That I am in doubt whether
it is not better for Him to withdraw &
to go into any other field: believing that ~~it~~
~~will~~ will be more congenial to the other
Conductor: to select his own Corps.

I have told Him what happened before,
up: and that your conviction is the same,
that his place was here: that I myself
to ripen for action, wanted to know
his mind and views on the subject.

I would have been down to
see you, but I ~~was~~ prevented.

being most of the time indisposed
by Rheumatic fever and its
consequences

Allow me to express my deploring
anxiety about the opening of Infant
and Female School: if we do not
succeed, it may cause an irreparable
hurt to our Institution. if you can only
secure the persons: and can they not
be had by applying to Mount Holy
Yoke Institute? Even if Dr Leeber
did not advance or succeed, it must
not discourage: the main point
is we have an home and a ripe
community. Excuse my urgency,
acknowledging your labors and
glee for this important interest.
My fears may be too much connected
with my disorders.

Yours truly

A. P. Peck

Holland Mich
Aug: 1/70

Revd Dr Ph Phelps

Dear Brother.

To relief my mind I have written to Mr. G: my impressions, plain and fully: that I fear that he may become in his position a cause of friction uncomfortable and unprofitable: I have given my views more open and free. That I am in doubt whether it is not better for him to withdraw and go into any other field: believing that it will be more congenial to the other conductor to collect his own corps.

I have told him what happened between us: and that your conviction is the same, that his place was here: that I myself to ripen for action, wanted to know his mind and views on the subject.

I would have been down to, see you, but I am prevented being most of the time indisposed by Rheumatic fevers and its consequences.

Allow me to express my depressing anxiety about the opening of Infant and female School: if we do not succeed, it may cause an irreparable loss to our Institution. if you can only secure the persons: and can they not be had by applying to Mount Holy Yoke Institute? Even if Ds Ledeboer did not advance or succeed it must not discourage: the Main Point is: we have an House and a ripe community: Excuse my urging, and acknowledging your labors.-

My fears may be too much connected with my disorders.

Yours truly

A C Van Raalte

Holland Mic
Aug: 1 / 70

Revd Dr Ph Phelps

Dear Brother.

To relief my mind I have written to Mr. G: my impressions, plain and fully: that I fear that he may become in his position a cause of friction uncomfortable and unprofitable: I have given my views more open and free. That I am in doubt whether it is not better for him to, withdraw and go into any other field: believing that it will be more congenial to the other conductor to collect his own corps.

I have told him what happened between us: and that your conviction is the same, that his place was here: that I myself to ripen for action, wanted to know his mind and views on the subject.

I would have been down to, see you, but I am prevented being most of the time indisposed by Rheumatic fevers and its consequences.

Allow me to express my depressing anxiety about the opening of Infant and female School: if we do not succeed, it may cause an irreparable loss to our Institution. if you can only secure the persons: and can they not be had by applying to Mount Holy Yoke Institute? Even if Ds Ledebor did not advance or succeed it must not discourage: the Main Point is: we have an House and a ripe Community: Excuse my urging, and acknowledging your labors.-

My fears may be too much connected with my disorders.

Yours truly

A C Van Raslte.

August 1, 1870

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps about Gilmore's possible appointment and the urgency of getting a teacher for teacher training.

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

70-08-01 [GS71]

Holland Mich.
Aug: 1/70

Revd Dr: Ph Phelps.

Dear Brother.

To relief my mind: I have written to Mr. G:¹ my impressions, plain and fully: that I fear that He may become in his position a cause of friction uncomfortable and unprofitable:² I have given my views more open and free. – That I am in doubt whether it is not better for Him to withdraw & go into any other field: believing that it will be more congenial to the other conductor to Select his own corps.

I have told Him what happened between us: and that your Conviction is the Same, that his place was here: that I myself to ripen for action, wanted to know his mind and views on the subject.³ –

I would have been down to see you,⁴ but I am prevented being most of the time indisposed by Rheumatic fevers and its consequences.

Allow me to express my depressing anxiety about the opening of [the] Infant⁵ and female School: if we do not succeed, it may cause an irreparable loss to our Institution. – if you can only Secure the persons: and can they not be had by applying to Mount Holy Yoke Institute?⁶ Even if Dr Ledeboer⁷ did not advance or succeed it must not

¹ Namely, William B. Gilmore, Van Raalte's son-in-law.

² Either Gilmore was not getting along with Rev. Anson Du Bois, the principal of the school in Amelia or Gilmore's being Van Raalte's son-in-law may have been a difficulty for him.

³ Van Raalte made it clear in this paragraph that he is eager to have Gilmore come back to Holland to teach at the Academy, college, or the "female seminary."

⁴ This statement indicated that both Van Raalte and Phelps were in Holland but that Van Raalte was too ill to travel just a few blocks to consult with Phelps.

⁵ This statement may have indicated that Van Raalte wanted to restore parochial education for young children because the parochial or Christian school for children in the 1860s failed.

⁶ By 1850, educational institutions were founding departments for women's education. Rutgers College had a Female Institute that was founded in 1839. Firth Haring Fabend, *Zion on the Hudson: Dutch New York and New Jersey in the Age of Revivals* (Rutgers University Press, 2000), 40. The Michigan Female Seminary was organized in Kalamazoo in 1856. *6th Annual Catalogue of the Michigan Female Seminary in Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1872-73*, "Appendix," 13. Van Raalte and Phelps may have considered Mount Holyhoke College's department for women's education exemplary excellent and a worthy place to recruit a teacher to found women's education at Hope College.

⁷ Dr. Bernardus Ledeboer was a local medical doctor and prominent in the community. He was also active in politics, serving as mayor of the city of Holland for several terms. He was also interested in education, serving as president of the local Board of Education and served on the Council of Hope College. He promoted women's education at Hope College. *The Anchor, Hope College*, v. vi December 1892 no. 3, 46-47.

discourage: the Main Point is: we have an House and a ripe community.⁸ Excuse my urging, and acknowledging your labors and zeal for this important interest. –

My fears may be too much connected with my disorders.

Your truly

A C Van Raalte.

⁸ This statement may have indicated that a building was available for the conduct of women's education and the time was appropriate to advance its cause.