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Van Raalte Papers

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Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte Received a Letter of Gratitude from a Person Named Visscher

Visscher

Erica D. Heeg

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26 April 1871

Holland, [Michigan]

Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte received a letter of gratitude from a person named Visscher. The person's first initial is written with such a flourish that it is indecipherable. Visscher expressed thanks for having had Van Raalte for his/her catechism teacher. This person will always regard him as his/her "beloved & honored pastor." The writer is also very aware of the great suffering of Mrs. Van Raalte.

In English.

Original in the Van Raalte collection, no. 300, at Heritage Hall, Calvin College.

Holland Apr. 26 1871

Beloved pastor

Permit me to thank you for the reception of this handsome token of remembrance from him who shall ever be my most beloved & honored pastor. No one can ever fill your place in my heart.

Can "kindness" ever repay the debts I owe you? Can words or actions ever express the love & gratitude which has filled my soul towards you ever since I have been brought to a knowledge of myself, and which has increased ever since?

How often do those lessons recur to my memory, which I received from week to week, when now I peruse a work on Theology or ancient history or converse on any of those subjects. How often has my soul been stirred by words spoken for your Savior and again been quickened to do the work which you showed us to be our duty.

What would have become of me had I not repeated by heard those warnings, listened to those pleadings & seen those tears of compassion shed for us?

Dearest pastor I again ask can any kindness ever repay all I owe you? Forever in this world will it be revealed, but in that home where we shall know & understand each other, I pray that I may be called worthy to be a gem in your crown of rejoicing to cast before the feet of Him who has brought us.

My constant prayer is, that that Savior for whose cause you have been called worthy to suffer & labor so long may abundantly reward you, in that mansion which He has prepared for us.

P.S. Please remember me to Mrs. v.R. who is ever in my thoughts in her sufferings, and for who I think is a favor to do anything.

Yours in Christ
H?. Visscher

Transcribed by Erica D. Heeg
October 17, 2003

26 April 1871

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Calvin
ACWR
Box 10, pdr 14

Holland Apr. 26 / 71.
1871

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P.S. Please remember me to Mrs. R. who is ever in my thoughts in her sufferings, and for who I think it a favor to do anything.

Yours in Christ
A. Vischer.

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P.S. Please remember me to ~~Mrs. B.~~ who is ever in my thoughts in her sufferings, and for who I think it a favor to do anything.

Yours in Christ
L. Visscher.