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Letter from Jacob O. Doesburg to Christian Vander Veen

Jacob O. Doesburg

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Recommended Citation

Doesburg, Jacob O., "Letter from Jacob O. Doesburg to Christian Vander Veen" (1860). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 56.

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28 March 1860

Holland, Michigan

In this letter from Jacob O. Doesburg to Christian Vander Veen who currently is a student in the New Brunswick Seminary studying for the ministry, he is writing about political issues in Holland.

He mentions Henry Post, John Roost, Hendrik P. Scholte, Philip Phelps Jr., Giles Vande Wall, and also a reference to an Oggel, whom we assume, is Pieter J. Oggel, a former pastor in the First Reformed Church of Grand Haven who this year moved to Pella, Iowa, to serve as pastor of the First Reformed Church there. Doesburg also refers to Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte in a negative manner: "...His Ex[cellency] Van Raalte wants to force [the Americans who plan to form Hope Reformed Church] to become Dutch Reformed.....His preaching is very dull nowadays; it is as if he wants rather something else to do, Land-Speculator for instance;...

In English but needs to be transcriber.

Original in the Christian Vander Veen collection, the Archives, Calvin College

Coll 285

Holland

Box 1
Folder 5

Christian
VanderVeen

Holland, Mich., March 20, 1860.

Dear Chris. — Just while about all the population of Michigan is excited, I will try to collect or whistle my services together. Last Monday a general Caucus was held in order to have but one general ticket, but there was not much a thing to be done; opposition all around and everywhere; John Roost was nominated candidate for Supervisor there by rogues or cheating; some of them threw but a handful of ballots in the chair man's cap at a time, and so they gained that point. As you probably know, John Roost ~~is connected with~~ ~~the Township Board,~~ although several times kindly asked to, and is now sued and had to appear before the Circuit Court and was then held to bail for the sum of \$4,000, to await his trial in a few days. The Deputy Marshal just arrested him last Monday before the caucus; so you

John Roost
1860 election

f.
V.R. as dull preacher
land, speculator

RE

Pass on to Elton
when finished.

Elton
Michael found
this letter in
the C Van Der Veen
letter collection
at Calum:

Doerberg is
critical of ACUR
as expected. Bob

can imagine if any consternation or excitement prevails in the Black Republican ranks. Henry D. Post is our candidate, and stands a great chance of being elected. Over the whole, as far as my knowledge goes, I think the Republicans will have a great struggle to get that footing what they once had, throughout this State. That Union Party movement is an excellent thing to make the election sure of the Charleston Candidate. Henry D. Schott is elected as delegate for Town, to the Chicago Convention, and will perhaps pay a visit to Wisconsin & Michigan.

About those Academy Buildings I could not tell you one word, while I have not heard a word about it since; and all the gossip ^{now} is based on the coming election. The students just now have their vacation (2 weeks) and some of them are gone home. Clarif will be held at Grand Haven, next Tuesday; and Rev.

Vanderwall will preach. Lygal is expected there within a day or two. Some weeks ago, there was a meeting held here at the Academy, to construct an English Church; now while you know a great many of the Amer. belong to different Churches, they wanted a free English Church, but His Ex. Van Rensselaer wants to force them to become Dutch Reformed & so broke up the plan & adjourned sine die. His preaching is very dull nowadays; it is as if he wanted rather something else to do, Land-Speculation for instance; excuse me Chris, but it does seem strange to you many persons, who are able to track him. Vanderwall & Phelps preach on turn, four or five evenings, and give good satisfaction.

The weather is very fine, birds and bees are busy, grass is making its appearance, ice is gone, ships are rigging up, repairing and fitting out for navigation, farmers are preparing their lands.

Our relations are all well and enjoy-
ing good health. If you have been here
now, we might have had a good time to
go out sugaring, although it is not a
very favorable season for it. Every
sportsman is stirring; the woods is
covered with pigeons. All the other
news you may find in the Hollander;
but when you write, don't you answer
questions as they are put to you, if you do,
why didn't you answer my last questions.

Give my best respects to all the
Hollandische Studenten, and tell
de Pree, not to wait too long. Father &
Mother, &c., wishes you a hearty good-bye.
I hope you will neither wait long
before you write again. ~~By~~ wishing ^{you} all
what is good for you

I remain

Your Friend,

Jacob O. Doerburg.

