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Letter from Louise Arnaud to Antonie and Mrs. Brummelkamp

Louise Arnaud

Henry ten Hoor

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30 December 1846

Boston, [Massachusetts]

A letter of Louise Arnaud to Rev. Antonie and Mrs. Brummelkamp in Arnhem, the Netherlands, giving an update on her family's life in Boston. Derk has the same job and is paid much better; they are living well. However, they do miss the fellowship of Christians in Arnhem. She knows that Rev. and Mrs. Van Raalte have arrived in New York. The Arnolds had heard that Van Raalte had met with Rev. Isaac Wyckoff in Albany. On 3 December, a shipload of Dutch immigrants arrived in Boston including a family by the name of van Doornik. A "brother Mensing" was also in the group. (Is this the Mensing or Mensink who went to Alto?) She also pleads with the Brummelkamps to come to America: "Dear Dominie and madam, hasten to leave Sodom with Lot and come to America..."

The letter appeared in the pamphlet published by Brummelkamp, *Stemmen uit Noord-Amrika, met Begeleidend Woord*, Amsterdam, 1847, pp. 93-96.

In Dutch; translation by Dr. Henry ten Hoor.

Original in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek te 's Hage and acquired by me during my sabbatical in 1973.



HOPE COLLEGE

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VOICES
FROM
NORTH AMERICA
with a
FOREWORD

by

A. BRUMMELKAMP
Minister of the Divine Word

Conyten Hoar,
translator

AMSTERDAM
HOOGMAKER & COMPANY
1847

Boston, December 30, 1846

Dearly beloved Pastor and spouse! Beloved brother and sister in the Lord Jesus Christ! Grace and peace be given and multiplied to you from God our Father and from His Son Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit who has regenerated us to a living hope!

Yes, dear Dominie, if that faith did not remain, how bad things would be for us, a naturally sinful people who sin every moment and from day to day become worse instead of better. If I look within myself I cry out with Paul, "Miserable wretch that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" But at the same time I exclaim with the same apostle, "I thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have redemption through His blood, even the remission of our sins."

I hope that these letters may find you in good health. We are all well. The Lord has blessed us, especially with regard to physical needs. My husband still works for the same boss who seems to be a religious man. My husband thinks he attends the Orthodox church, of which there are many here. We would have sent money by now, but are waiting for an answer from you. Since Rev. van Raalte is in America, we don't know whether or not he is getting the money and so perhaps it is not necessary to send it overseas.

This is a completely different kind of winter from that of last year when our eyes looked to the Deacons. If your reverence approves, we will send the money to Rev. van Raalte. We have saved something more than 100 guilders, and if we must send the money to New York, we will wait until we have 200. We hope for a quick answer. We have already bought the furniture we need, but Oh! in spite of all these physical blessings I am often unhappy when I remember the means of grace which we left

and of which we have deprived our children. After Solomon had enumerated everything that can give a man pleasure in this world, he exclaimed, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!" And now I see what he meant. When I think of what I used to enjoy and what I enjoy now, then I hang my harp on the Arnhem willows and I cry out with the Jews in Babylon, "O Jerusalem, before I forget thee may my right hand forget itself!" Then often the Lord answers our prayers through the revival of our spirits, especially by the news that Rev. van Raalte had been to see Rev. W. in Albany. On December 3 I learned from our baker that a ship carrying Hollanders had arrived. When my husband came home he went there immediately and found it to be true.

That afternoon we could not eat for joy. In the evening we had van Doornik with us; my husband had called for him. What I felt when I first spoke to that man I cannot express. How good the Lord is! The next day my spirits were lifted in the Hotel where many of these people stayed when I spoke heart to heart with people I had never known before.

Yesterday we were overjoyed to receive a letter from brother Mensing in Albany; this morning we enjoyed letters which Jan had received from Jelis van der Wal and which he read to us, letters from Father and others which tell how the Lord is visiting the Netherlands. This does not surprise me; those who forsake God will be forsaken by God. Things will become even worse.

Dear Dominie and madam, hasten to leave Sodom with Lot and come to America which I see as a Zoar for the preservation of his people who are not guilty of its defilement. But Oh that we may give thanks for our escape as we have until now.

When you reply, send your letter to this address:

M. Hubbackman

65 Seat Street

Forward to Derk Arnaud,

Cabinet maker, Boston

Forgive us, dear Dominie and madam, for sending you such a long letter because of the postage, but you must repay us in kind and then I will be doubly satisfied. Van Doornick said that you should allow the postage for this letter to be paid by Rev. Wildenbeest of Varsseveld. Van Doornick is living in with us and he and his children are all busy working. His daughter is in ~~the~~ service with a gentleman from the Hague. He asks that you kindly send the letter to Varsseveld. O dear Dominie, answer soon. I hope that madam will not forget to write, or Madam Mientje or the aged grandfather Brummelkamp. Van Doornick told us that Madam had been delivered but I don't know anything more. Give Father and Mother cordial greetings from us all and congratulate Father on his birthday, January 31, if you live to see it. Again give our greetings to the entire congregation. My husband and children send greetings. Pray for us and give thanks for us without ceasing. Zientje suffers bitterly, as she has written you. Again we thank you all cordially for your constancy and love. I cannot forget you. The Lord bless you all.

Yours,

Your loving brother and sister in Christ,

(signed:) Derk and Louise Arnaud.

In haste. Do not forget us.

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This letter, along with the first one, shows us how little time it takes for industrious workers, blessed by God, to rise out of the poverty to which they had sunk here due to lack of work, by emigrating to America. This family came to Boston in July and by December have already bought furniture, etc., and have saved over 100 guilders -- almost 200 -- for repayment of their borrowed travel-money!