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Letter from A. C. Van Raalte to Christina de Moen Van Raalte

A. C. Van Raalte

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December 18, 1837

Deventer, the Netherlands

A letter of Albertus C. Van Raalte to his wife, Christina De Moen Van Raalte, stating that he got to Hellendoorn and then went on to Rijssen. On Saturday he preached at Enteren. He preached Sunday at a hamlet south of Rijssen. Today, Monday, he left for Deventer. Since she may be writing him, she should address the letter to Egbertus ten Tooren in Ommen who would know where to forward her letter.

Published in English and Dutch and in translation by Leonard Sweetman, *From Heart to Heart Letters from the Rev. Albertus Christiaan Van Raalte to His Wife, Christina Johanna Van Raalte-De Moen, 1836-1847*, Heritage Hall Publications, Grand Rapids, 1997, pp. 24 and 60-61.

Albert Hyma, in his biography of ACVR, used this letter on pages 36-38.

[please note: Egbert Ralph Post and David Van Vliet also shared in the translation of these letters.]

Hartelijk Geliefde Vrouw!

De liefde Vreeze dienst en gemeenschap Gods zij in ruime mate uw deel! Donderag avond ben ik in welstand onder de gemeente Hellendoorn aangekomen en ben daar die nacht gebleven omrede de Rijze naar Rijssen tever was: Vrijdag morgen had ik nog aldaar iets te verrigten zoodat ik vrijdag avond eerst in Rijssen aankwam: Zaterdag ben ik naar Enteren gegaan en heb daar gepredikt en eenige leden aangenomen en bevestigd, twelk alles ongestoord afliep door 's Heeren goedheid: Zondag ben ik geweest in een Buurtschap onder Rijssen en heb daar gepredikt, ook ongestoord, des avonds heb ik in Rijssen gecathechiseerd: Heden zijnde Maandag morgen ben ik naar Deventer vertrokken met doel om daar het noodige te verrigten: dan wenschte ik naar Almelo te vertrekken maar moet dan weder Rijssen passeeren en hoop daar nog huisbezoek te doen:

Mijn adres kan ik U daarom moeilijk opgeeven weshalve het beste is t geen gij doen dat gij zoo gij¹ mij schrijft mijne brieven adresseerd, ten huize van Egbertus ten Tooren te Ommen, dan zal die brief wel verder koomen, deeze zullen twel weten waar ik ben of kunnen dat nog al gemakkelijk naspeuren: —

Nu lieve vrouw de Heere zij U nabij met zijn ontdekkend licht opdat gij Uzelve de Drieenigen Gods wegen en uwe wegen moogt kennen ter vertroosting beschaming, vernedering en bemoediging: —

Zoen lieve Albertus Groet Da en Mientje de Broeders Kerkenraad Buurman en de gemeente.

De Geest van verootmoediging en de gebeden worde over U uitgestord Amen.

*Uw hartelijk Liefhebbenden Man
Van Raalte²*

1. "Gij" was inserted above the line by Van Raalte as he edited the text to improve the grammar.

2. The envelope is addressed:

Mejufvrouw
C.J. Van Raalte
geb: De Moen
te
Genemuiden

There is a round red stamp on the envelope which is very faint. It reads: "DEVENTER 18 DEC."

The envelope is sealed with wax and the impression of Van Raalte's seal is clearly visible in the sealing wax: "A.C.V.R." There is a faint red impression of Van Raalte's seal on the right side of the envelope, parallel to the right edge of the envelope.

Dearly Beloved Wife,

May the love, fear, service, and fellowship of God in rich measure be your portion.

Thursday evening I arrived safely in the congregation of Hellendoorn, and spent the night there because it was too far to go on to Rijssen. Friday morning I had some matters to take care of there so that it was Friday evening before I reached Rijssen.

Saturday I went to Enteren and preached there, and accepted and confirmed several members, all of which, by the grace of God, took place without interruption.

Sunday I was in a hamlet south of Rijssen and preached there without interruption. In the evening I taught a catechism class in Rijssen. Today, Monday morning, I left for Deventer to take care of some necessary matters. Then I wished to leave for Almelo but I must pass through Rijssen again and hope to conduct house visitation there again. Therefore it is difficult to give you an address. What would be best for you to do if you write to me is to address my letters to the home of Egbertus ten Tooren in Ommen. He will know where I am or will be able to determine that easily.

Now, dear Wife, the Lord be close to you with his revealing light in order that you may know the triune God's ways and your ways to comfort, to shame, to humble, and to encourage you.

Give dear Albertus a kiss for me. Greet Da and Mientje, the consistory, brothers, our neighbor, and the congregation. May the Spirit of humility and prayer be poured out on you. Amen.

*Your loving husband,
Van Raalte*

Dearly Beloved Wife,

I hope you have received my letter sent from Hellendoorn.

Saturday your letter was delivered to me personally. I was surprised and was happy to receive it. That you and Albert are well made me very happy. By the goodness of God I now am well, but have had a bad cold which was very bothersome.

In regard to that bill from the Leyden liveryman, I am certain that I paid that in cash, but I did not get a receipt. So now I can do nothing about it except to be the victim and pay it, although that is difficult. This teaches me to be careful at all times. When that bill arrives just pay it. You need not feel badly about that.

I completed the business in Hellendoorn on Saturday and on Saturday, moreover, I rode to Ommen. I preached in the vicinity of Ommen on Sunday and on Monday. We saw neither the mayor nor the policeman. On Tuesday we walked fifteen minutes farther to a place which is under the authority of another mayor. We did this because the authorities in Ommen were looking for us, and thus they searched for us in vain.¹

Yesterday we had a meeting of Classis² at Stegeren because some seeds of dissension had been sown in the congregations as a result of which some people were led astray in part due to ignorance, but by God's grace all the leaders have been persuaded to stand united, hand in hand, in the attempt to resist as much as possible the seed of divisiveness.

I have read that letter from Zwartsluis and I can well understand that things like this often weigh heavily on you, but, beloved Wife, always remember that Jesus says it is well that offenses come our way in order that the righteous may be revealed. My dear wife, everything is the fulfillment of God's plan, and, in addition, it is written that all things will work for the welfare of those who love the Lord.³