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

A. C. Van Raalte

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July 20, 1838

A letter of Van Raalte to his wife, written from Utrecht. He reported that bitter feelings are directed against Scholte. Therefore, he visited Scholte: "I believe it to be beneficial to me and in supervision helpful that brotherly love be revived. I fear that the devil quietly among the brothers is the cause of suspicion and distrust, schism and friction."

Translated.

Calvin College Archives: Van Raalte Collection, Box 8, folder 107.

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Box 8, folder 107

LETTER FROM REV. VAN RAALTE
TO HIS WIFE

UTRECHT
JULY 20, 1838

Dear wife,

Through the Lord's goodness, I'm doing well. This I hope for you too and also for our Albert. I like to share with you a short travel experience. Monday evening having come to the ferry, I found out, dear wife, that your concerns about mockery that I would experience there, were unfounded. I found that because of what the Lord had laid on the consciences I did not experience any difficulty. I don't think there was a minister on the Beurtman, but there was a doctor's wife from Schokland. The wind was and remained contrary. At first it was rather windy (but I slept well with it), later it was quiet so that we could finally get to the city Tuesday evening. Dirk was not at home. This family were the guests at a summer home near Soestdijk. I spoke with Chris, her beloved was again inland, but she had not yet spoken to him, but after a couple days he came to Amsterdam. She sends her greetings to you. She gave me a pair of stockings. She also did reveal a desire to come in the fall.

I found lodging at Mrs. Van Velzen. She was friendly, but I discovered that bitter feelings are directed against Scholte. I also spoke with the elders and that was quite beneficial for me. Early Thursday morning I went to Utrecht. I am pleased that my way led there. Scholte was home. And I have already spoken much with him about church circumstances. I believe it to be beneficial to me and in supervision helpful that brotherly love be

revived. I fear that the devil quietly among the brothers is the cause of suspicion and distrust, schism and friction. Tomorrow morning I hope to go to Brother Van Hale. He must be very ill, with no hope remaining for recovery. I very much long to see him. I cannot get to speak with Buddingh, so I am told. I have decided to go home Tuesday morning. I would like to have the coach pick me up at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning at Schuier. Then if the Lord pleases we can go on our trip Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Van Velzen has written Van Velzen for me that our coming together likely must wait a couple days because of my delay. Scholte and his wife greet you. The Lord comfort you and make you happy. May He be your delight. Greet the brothers, greet the servants, and son Albertus. Your sincere, loving husband,

A.C. Van Raalte