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Van Raalte Commends Wolter Vander Haar, Jan Visscher and His Wife, et al.

Van Raalte

Gerrit W. Sheeres

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28 August 1846

Arnhem, the Netherlands

Written at Arnhem, Van Raalte commends Wolter vander Haar, Jan Visscher and his wife, Evert Jans Visscher and his wife, Hein van der Haar, Elizabet van der Haar en Jannes Vrieze, to the believers in the United States of America. Hyma refers to this document in his Van Raalte biography on page 57.

In Dutch

Original in the Calvin College Archives: Van Raalte Collection, Box 1, folder 3.

Translation on p. 57 of Hyma (enclosed)

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L. S. —

Ondergetekende, Leeraar der Christelijk afgescheidene
gemeente te Arnhem in Nederland, geeft door dezen aan
Wouter van der Haar, Jan Visscher en zijne ^{Ewvot} Vrouw, Jan
Visscher en zijne Vrouw, Stein van der Haar, Elizabeth
van der Haar en Johannes Vriete, getuigenis van die
maatschap der bovengenoemde gemeente: ^{gemeente} En beweelt
dit gezelschap uit alle drang zijns harten aan de
broederlyke raad en welwillende Christelijke hulp-
vaardigheid der geloovigen, ~~want~~ in de Verenigde
Staten van N. Amerika.

Arnhem 28 Aug 1846 A. C. Van Raalte

Leeraar der Christelijk afgescheidene
gemeente in Nederland. —

Greetings

The undersigned, Pastor* of the Christian Secessionist congregation of Arnhem in the Netherlands , hereby testifies that Wolter van der Haar, Jan Visscher and his wife, Evert Jans Visscher and his wife, Hein van der Haar, Elizabet van der Haar and Jannes Vrieze, are members of the above mentioned congregation, and commends this party most sincerely to the fraternal counsel and benevolent Christian helpfulness of believers in the United States of North America.

Arnhem, 28 August 1846

A.C. Van Raalte
Pastor* of the Christian Secessionist
Congregation in the Netherlands.

*the actual word used is, "leeraar" meaning "teacher" which was the common designation of our word "Pastor" or "Minister."

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres, Grand Rapids, Mich., August 2001.

Heyman

The Rev. Wyckoff kindly wrote Van Raalte a letter in which he recommended that three capable men be dispatched to the United States who should go with some American citizens to one of the states in what we now call the Middle West. He promised to do all he could for the immigrants, and through his efforts the Protestant Evangelical Holland Emigrant Society was founded in Albany. A similar body was organized in New York City, named The Netherlands Society for the Protection of Emigrants from Holland. It can be readily understood that this cordial attempt on the part of the Reformed pastors resulted in close ties between the original settlers and the Reformed Church in America.

Before Van Raalte departed from his native land he wrote a letter of recommendation for a number of his followers, dated August 28, 1846, in which he said: "The pastor of the Christian Separatist congregation in Arnhem presents to the following persons a certificate of their membership in the above mentioned church, and he recommends them cordially to the faithful believers in the United States of North America: Wolter van der Haar, Jan Visscher and his wife, Evert Jans Visscher and his wife, Stein van der Haar, Elizabet van der Haar, and Jannes Vrieze.

A. C. Van Raalte, Pastor of the Christian Separatist Congregation in Arnhem."

This was only a short time before Van Raalte left Arnhem himself, and it seems that he had not yet made up his mind definitely on his own emigration. But Wyckoff's