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A Letter of A. C. V. R. to His Son, Dirk B. K.

A. C. Van Raalte

Nella Kennedy

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February 7, 1861, Pella, Iowa

A letter of ACVR to his son, Dirk B. K., admonishing him about faithful religious practices and urging him to do his schoolwork. Dirk is now 16 years old. Apparently ACVR is visiting his daughter and son-in-law, Pieter J. Oggel, who are serving the First Reformed Church of Pella. ACVR also makes mention of other Oggel family members who are living in Pella. ?

Translated; translator?

Calvin College Archives, ACVR collection, Box 8, fldr 124.

~~copy~~
revised

Pella, Iowa, February 7, 1861

Mr. Dirk B. K. Van Raalte, Holland

Provisional Account [or: and
following pages]

Dear Dirk,

Here we are in that beautiful, cold, and distant Pella and although there is no lack of activities here, yet our spirits hover much in your midst. You as well as the others can sweeten our absence by writing often, and, for example, in the form of a daily diary, for then we could occasionally look around the corner. Then we could see you sitting around the table, then we know how late you get up, then we see you go to school with your stack of books under the arm, then we see you give the girls a sleigh ride, then we see you study your lessons. Now, do us the pleasure of sharing with us the daily run of things. Heintje and Ko Oggel write regularly to Rev. Oggel. I wish you would follow that example.

I am sitting now in the southwest upstairs room. This room is for mother and me, the northwest room is

[2]

for Helena and Dina. These two upstairs rooms are separated by a wide passageway from the other two upstairs rooms, opposite from ours. The southeast one is the bedroom of Dominie and Mina, and the northeast one is the study. You see, we live high and dry, but often cold. Much frost and wet wood, but I can still stoke a fire. The wetness will not be good for our Oggeltje. My room is the warmest. Often I have little Albertus with me and Annatje [Anna'tje] for help or assistant nursery maid. At the moment she is writing a letter in all seriousness to Mietje, and the little one is walking around, for Lena is writing and therefore she makes me a nursery maid.

Late to bed, late getting up, that is here the unfortunate rule. I trust that all of you will hold to the opposite course. During my absence it is for me a joy to realize that my children in the meanwhile have good opportunities for schoolwork. Any loss of time in this would be very painful for me. I hope that you and Christina and Mietje will make good use of it. Sound study is more than capital. The opportunity to avail yourselves of such capital won't come again.

I have heard that Rev. Brown has been there and has also preached. Share with me a few things about that. You ought to arrange it in such a way that you can be present at the Thursday evening prayer meeting. God is a

[3]

hearer of prayers. Godly light, conversion is the one continuing necessity: the necessity that rectifies all things and gives wisdom.

Tell me how it is with Frank and whether you sometimes go sleighing with the girls.

How is it with Hekhuis. Do greet him for us.

Especially greet Rev. Phelps and Lady,¹ as well as Rev. Vande Wall.

Heartily greet everyone in the family from us. Our coughing is about over. We long for you all. Dirk, you must concern yourself with reading through the Sabbath School books.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and what a person loves and seeks forms his character. We expect several letters from you.

Your father who loves you,

A. C. Van Raalte

[Revision of an earlier translation:
Nella Kennedy, May 2006]

¹ ACVR wrote *ladij*.

Pella, Iowa, Feb. 7, 1861

Mr. Dirk B. K. Van Raalte, Holland

V V¹

Geliefde Dirk,

Nu zitten wij in het mooie koude verre Pella en ofschoon geen gebrek aan bezigheden, toch zweeft onzen geest veel in uwliedder midden: Gij zoowel als de anderen kunt de afwezigheid verzoeten door veel te schrijven, en wel in den vorm van dagverhaal: dan kunnen wij als eens om het hoekje zien: - dan kunnen wij U zien zitten rondom tafel, dan weten we hoe laat ge op staat: dan zien we U naar school gaan met uw stapel boeken onder den arm: dan zien we U de meisjes een sledetourtje geven: dan zien we U de lessen bestuderen: Nu doe ons het genoegen ons de dagelijksche loop van zaken mee te deelen. Heintje en Ko Oggel schrijven staag aan Ds. Oggel, ik wenschte dat gij dit voorbeeld volgde. Op heden zit ik op de Zuidwester bovenkamer: deze is de kamer van Moeder en mij: de Noordwestkamer is die

[2]

van Helena en Dina: deze twee bovenkamers zijn door een brede gang afgescheiden van de twee andere bovenkamers: die tegenover ons, de Zuidooster is de slaapkamer van Domine en Mina en de Noordooster is de studeerkamer: - Gij ziet we huizen hoog en droog maar vaak koud: Veel vorst en nat hout: evenwel ik kan nogal stookken: dat natte komt onze Oggeltje d'uur te staan: - Mijn kamer ligt het warmste: Vaak heb ik de kleine Albertus bij mij en Annatje tot hulpe of onder kindermeid: Op het oogenblik zit zij in alle ernst een brief aan Mietje te schrijven. - en de kleine loopt rondom want Lena schrijft en daarom maakt zij mij kindermeid. Laat naar bed, laat op is hier de ongelukkige orde. Ik hoop dat gijlieden de tegenovergestelde koers zult houden. Gedurende mijn afwezigheid is het mij eene verblijding er aan te denken, dat mijne kinderen intusschen goede schoolgelegenheden hebben: alle tijdverlies hierin zou mij zeer pijnlijk vallen: ik hoop dat Gij en Christina en Mietje er een goed gebruik van maken zult: Goede studie is meer dan Kapitaal. - De gelegenheid om U zulk kapitaal te verzekeren keert niet weer. -

Ik heb vernomen dat Ds. Brown er geweest is en ook gepredikt heeft: deel mij eens het een en ander ervan mede. - Gij moet het zoo schikken dat gij Donderdagavond Biduur bijwoont: God is een

[3]

Hoorder der gebeden: Godlijk licht Bekeering is het eene het blijvende noodige: Het noodige t welk alle dingen regt zet: en wijsheid geeft. --

Vertel mij eens hoe het met Frank is: en of Gij met de meisjes wel eens uit sleeën gaat. Hoe is het met Hekhuis. Groet hem eens van ons.

¹ V.V.=*voorlopig verslag* (provisional account) or *en volgende (bladzijden)* (and following pages)

Vooral moet gij ook groeten Ds. Phelps en Lady almede Ds. VandeWall. –

Groet alle de huisgenooten hartelijk van ons. Ons hoesten is wat over. – Wij verlangen naar U allen. – Dirk gij moet zorgdragen de SabbathSchool boekjes door te lezen. –

Vreeze des Heeren is het beginsel der wijsheid. – En 't geen men mint en zoekt vormt het karakter. Wij verwachten van U onderscheidene brieven. –

Uwent U liefhebbenden Vader.

A.C Van Raalte

[Nella Kennedy, transcriber:
May 2006]

VAN RAALTE, A.C.
VAN RAALTE, DIRK B.R

FROM: PELLA, IOWA
TO: HOLLAND

FEBRUARY 7, 1861

Dear Dirk,

Here we are in that nice, cold, distant Pella and although there is no lack of busyness, yet our soul floats much in your midst. You as well as the others can sweeten our absence by writing often, and in the form of a daily diary, for then on occasion we could look from around a corner. Then we could see you sitting around the table, then we know how late you get up, then we see you go to school with your stack of books under the arm, then we see you give the girls a sleighride, then we see you study your lessons. Now, do us the pleasure of sharing with us the daily run of things. Heintje and K~~op~~^{Rev.} Oggel write regularly to D. Oggel. I wish you would follow that example.

I am sitting ^{now} in the south west upstairs room, this room is for mother and me, the northwest room is ^(page 2) for Helena and Dina. These two upstairs rooms are separated by a wide passage way from the other two upstairs rooms, opposite from ours, the south east one is the bedroom of Domine and Mina, and the north east one is the study. You see, we live high and dry, but often cold. Much frost and wet woods, however I can still stoke a fire. The wetness ^{will not be good} is difficult for our Oggelje. My room is the warmest. Often I have little Albertus with me and Annatje for help or assistant ^{nursery maid} child=maid. At the moment she is writing a letter in all seriousness to Mietje, and the

little one runs around, for Lena is writing and therefore provides me a child ^{she makes me a} nursery ^{maid} maid.

Late to bed, late getting up, that is here the unfortunate procedure. I trust that you folks will hold to the opposite course. During my absence it is for me a ¹⁰⁴ pleasure to realize that my children in the meanwhile have good opportunities for school work. Any loss of time in this would be very painful for me. I hope that you and Christina and Mietje make good use of it. Good studies is more than ^{than capital} riches. The opportunity to assure you of such ^{capital} riches won't come again.

I have ^{learned} noticed that ^{Rev.} Dr. Brown has been there and has also preached. Share with me a few things about that. You ought to arrange it ^{in such a way} that you can be present at the Thursday evening prayer meeting. God is a ¹³² hearer of prayers. Godly light, conversion, is the one continuing necessity, the necessity that rectifies all things and gives wisdom.

Tell me how it is with Frank and whether you sometimes go sleighing with the girls. How is it with Hekhuis? ^{Do} Greet him for us. Especially greet Dr. Philips and his lady, as also Dr. Vander Wal. ^A Heartily greet ^{everyone in the family} all ^{from us} ~~the families for us.~~ ^{Our longing} East-west, is about over. We long for you all. Dirk, you must concern yourself with reading through ^{the} Sabbathschool books. ⁹ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and what a person loves and seeks forms his character. We expect ^{several} letters from ~~each of~~ you.

Your loving father, ^{who loves you}

A.C. Van Raalte

Pella Jours Feb: 7 1861.
 Mr: Dirk W. van Raalte. Holland

Y Y

Geziede Dirk

Nu zitten wij in het
 uwijf konde verre Pella: en ofschoon geen gebrek
 aan beghieven, toch zweeft onze geest veel in
 uwieder midden: Gij zoudt als de anderen kunt
 de afwezigheid verzoeten door veel te schrijven, en
 wel in den vorm van dagverhaal: dan kunnen
 wij als eens om het heekje zien: dan kunnen
 wij u zien zitten rondom tafel, dan weten we
 hoe laat ge ops staat: dan zien we u naar school
 gaan met een stapel boeken onder den arm: dan
 zien we u de meijer eendled twistje geven: dan
 zien we u de lesjen bestudeeren: Nu doet ons het
 genoege om ons de dangelijfische loop van zaken mee-
 te deelen. - Heintje en Ko Oggel schrijven staag
 aan D. Oggel, ik wenschte dat gij dit voorbeeld volgde.
 Osheden zit ik op de Zuidwester bovenkames: daer is de
 kames van Noordwester mij: de Noordwestkames is die

van Helena en Dina: de twee bovenkamers zijn door
een bree gang afgescheiden van de twee andere boven-
kamers: die tegen over ons, de Lindoort is de Slaapkamer
van Dornien en Mina en de Noord Oort is de Studie-
kamer: - Gij zult we kunnen hooren droog maar vaak koud.
Vul voorst en nat hout: evenwel ik kan nog al stoken. Dat natte
koudt onze oogen te droogen te staen: - Mijn Kamer heeft het warm-
ste: vaak heb ik de kleine Albertus bij mij en annatze tot
hulpe of onderkundermeid: Op het oogenblik zit zij en alle
crast een brief aan Mietje te schrijven. - en de kleine heeft
want de een schrijft en de andere maakt of zij mijn kundermeid.
Windom. - Laat nader bed, laat op is hier de angelische orde.
Ik hoop dat gyliden de tegenoverigstelde hoers zult worden.
Gedurende mijn afwezigheid is het mij een verblinding er
aan te denken, dat mijne kinderen intusschen goede
Schoolgelegenheden hebben: alle tijdsverlies hierin zou
mij zeer spijlyk vallen: ik hoop dat gij en Christina en
Mietje er een goede gelegenheit van maken zult:
Goede Studie is meer dan Kapitaal. - De gelegenheit om
te zulk Kapitaal te verzekeren keert niet weer. -
Ik heb vernomen dat D^r Brown er geweest is en ook
gepredikt heeft: deel mij eens het een en ander er van
mede. - Gij moet het zo schrijven, dat gij Dorn-
iederer woord Biedum bijvoort: God is een

Hoorde de gebeden: Godlyk licht & bekeering
is het een het blijvende vordige: Het w-
dige & welk alle dingen beyt het: en
wijtheid geeft.

Vertel mij eens hoe het met frankis en of
gij met de Meisjes wel eens ^{steeën} vint ^{den} geent.
Hoe is het met Heekhuis. Groet hem eens van
ons. - Vooral moet gij ook groeten D^r
Phelps en Luetj alsmede D^r Van de Wall. -
Groet alle de huisgenooten hartelijc van ons.
Oorkwesten is wat over. - Wij verlangen naar
U allen. - Dink gij moet looy dragen de
Subbath school boekjes door te leeren.
Veel de Heeren is het beginsel der wijsheid: -
En'tyeemen vrinten zekt voort het karakter.
Wij verwachten van U onderscheidene brieven.
Uwen U liefhebberden Vade.

A. Van Raalte.

*Calvin Call Arch
AC VR Call
Box 8, folder 124*

**VAN RAALTE, A.C.
VAN RAALTE, DIRK B.R**

**FROM: PELLA, IOWA
TO: HOLLAND**

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