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Meeting Notes on the Classis of Holland

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Nella Kennedy

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7 April 1859

Zeeland, Michigan

Meeting of the Classis of Holland during which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte was welcomed back "joyfully" from his trip to Pella, Iowa. VR also makes a report on the situation in Pella: 'He tells of a good consistory. The congregation has been freed from several debilitating elements. There is firmness in Reformed principles. The congregation has a good church building.' The congregation just called Rev. Donner in the Netherlands to come and be the pastor at First Reformed Church.

In Dutch; translation by Nella Kennedy.

Minutes of the Classis of Holland, volume I, pp. 228-238 [excerpts].

Original in the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College.



HOPE COLLEGE

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
Joel C. Bouwens, Chairperson
Elton J. Bruins, Executive Secretary

*Minutes of the Classis of
Holland, Vol I* (7)

Sermon of this morning

Art. 3. Following a proposal it is decided that the classis request of the Rev. Oggel that this morning's sermon be published, stipulating that if debts were to accrue that classis will pay, and if profit were to be made that the money would benefit the Academy.

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Adjournment of meeting

Art. 4. Since the time, set aside for the morning session, had passed it is decided to stop the work until tomorrow at eight o'clock. The Rev. Nykerk closes with prayer.

Afternoon

At two o'clock in the afternoon the brethren gather together with the congregation, and interested others, for a worship service. The Rev. van der Meulen opens the meeting by reading God's Word, by giving a sermon and prayer. The Revs. Klyn, van de Wall, Zwemer and Nykerk speak a word of edification successively, with singing by the brethren in between. The elders pray for the needs of the classis, for the congregations represented here and for all matters concerning the Kingdom of God.

**Thursday, April 7
Morning session**

Opening of session

Art. 5. The morning session is opened by singing Psalm 25:4 and with prayer by the Rev. Klyn.

Delegates

Art. 6. Dr. A. C. van Raalte, who has just returned from a trip to Pella, is welcomed by the brethren joyfully. J. Spykerman of Noordeloos is seated also.

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Minutes

Art. 7. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and signed

Report and Resolution concerning Houbolt

Art. 8. Having met between the sessions of classis, the committee, appointed to deal with the matter, reports on various procedures concerning the Rev. W. A. Houbolt, called by Grand Rapids. Having seen the attestation of the consistory in Kampen, and one by the professors of the university there, and considering that the church in the Netherlands had permitted the said brother to preach the gospel, the committee decided to allow the brother to preach here also for the edification of the congregation. The decision is approved and it is proposed and ratified by classis to request dispensation at the next Synod to examine W. Houbolt, and when this has been granted to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, June 29, to give an examination.

Minutes concerning Polkton

Art. 9. The committee, appointed in Art. 22, reports on its work in Polkton. After several negotiations the brethren there are united. Brother van Tubbergen was chosen elder. Also two deacons were chosen. These, with the elder L. Elbers, make up the consistory there.

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Sabbath Schools

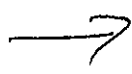
Art. 10. The Rev. van de Wall reports that brother Pieters, student at the Seminary at New Brunswick, has been chosen to advance the work of the sabbath schools during the next summer vacation, whereupon the brethren commend the consistories to cooperate with him whenever that seems necessary.

Appointments

Art. 11. The report of the nomination committee is approved. It lists as follows:

- a. Delegates for particular Synod are:
 Dr. A. C. van Raalte. G. van de Wall, alternate
 The Revs. P. J. Oggel. A. Zwemer, alternate
 Elder J. Mieras. E. Takken, alternate
 Elder T. Keppel. P. Heyboer, alternate

- b. For General Synod:
 The Rev. P. J. Oggel. G. J. Nykerk, alternate
 Dr. A. C. van Raalte. A. Zwemer, alternate
 The Rev. H. G. Klyn. G. van de Wall, alternate
 Elder A. van Bree. A. Borgers, alternate
 Elder J. Labots. G. J. Hekhuis, alternate



- c. As member of the Board of Trustees of the seminary in New Brunswick, representing classis Holland, the Rev. P J. Oggel

young men. Several of them, and also others who lived with their parents, were provided with books and clothing.

These burdens are carried in times of scarcity. The reaction to the latest crisis and the bad harvest dried up many of the sources for a livelihood. But God helped us through and enable His people to

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promote His cause with self-sacrificing love. We mention these things to remind ourselves that we are who we are by God's grace. "Not to us, not to our name, but to His Name be glory." Knowing however that God says: "One who waters will himself be watered" and "a liberal man will be enriched" we have reason for genuine thankfulness in these circumstances.

We desire a generous outpouring of the Spirit, resembling the joy taking place in other locations, in order to ban from our midst whatever still remains of coldness and worldliness, and that we may give ourselves, our children and our possessions wholly to the Lord.

Presented sincerely,
was signed: G. van de Wall, President

Report of Dr. van Raalte concerning Pella

Dr. van Raalte, who has just returned from his journey to Pella, is requested by the aforementioned committee to give a short report regarding the situation of the congregation and his labors there. He tells of a good consistory. The congregation has been freed from several debilitating elements. There is firmness in reformed principles. The congregation has a good church building. The Rev. Donner has been called and five hundred dollars has been sent to him. They need a pastor

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especially in light of opposition of various parties. There has been a spiritual revival since last summer. God's great deeds are seen and evidence of this is shared. There is a general desire to hear God's Word and the gravity of eternal things is felt. There is love and peace in the congregation. The almighty work of the Spirit, the sovereignty of God's grace and the peaceful character of God's Kingdom is evident. The people delight in working for this Kingdom. A Bible society has been set up. They have their own Sabbath school. They are united in laboring for missions. Apart from their normal collections they have opened a monthly subscription. They hope that we will set an example in sending out our own missionaries. They see their loss with regard to education. They work hard to get a parochial school. They will begin with higher

education and make great sacrifices to that end. They have applied for a minister of our confession who would preach and educate in English.

Keokuk

In addition to the aforementioned, his Reverence also gives a short report regarding the Dutch in Keokuk, from which appears that there is much division due to orientation and lack of knowledge. There is some rapprochement; they will try to meet together again. There is much work to be done in St. Louis and Muscatine.

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SOWER

After all reports have been given, the committee of reports remarks that little has been communicated about monthly prayer meetings. The overseers state they are generally held. The discussion about this gives rise to the resolution that the supervisors should be alerted through DE HOLLANDER to promote the reading of the SOWER among the membership of the church in order to be informed of the latest news about the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

Publication of Classical Reports

Since reports in one way or the other are often incomplete, it is reported that it is possible to publish 200 copies for six dollars and 300 for \$ 7.50. Resolved therefore that Classis will have 200 copies printed and that the Revs. Van de Wall and Oggel will carry this out.

Taking of books

Obligated by the Constitution to take minutes to classical meeting, the brethren are reminded to do so at the spring meeting. The decision is made that also the membership and baptismal books be taken and to lay it before the brethren for examination.

Church visitor

The proposal is made that a new church visitor be appointed, replacing the Rev. C. van der Meulen. An amendment that the Rev. A. Zwemer be elected as such does not pass. Another proposal, namely to nominate the Rev. Oggel. The proposal is then formed into a

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resolution.

Rebuke to the consistory of Grand Rapids