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Letter from Auguste Duryee to the Honorable Judge Van de Poel

Auguste Duryee

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April 15, 1847

The Hague

A letter written by an Auguste Duryee, an American ambassador or charge' d' affaires in the Netherlands, to the Honorable Judge Van de Poel: "In consequence of some restraints in the full enjoyment of their religious faith and worship, the Reverend Doctor Scholten [sic], accompanied by most of his congregation, belonging to a Sect called here, Separatists, of wich [sic] he is, at the same time, the founder and the Apostle, have left Holland to seek, in our Republic that unlimited freedom, both of faith and of mode of worship, which [sic] the[y] have long desired in vain....The emigrants whom Doctr. Scholten[sic] leads wo what, for them, is, indeed, a land of promise, are not destitute adventurers. Many are what we would call snug farmers; others skillfull mechanics; all industrious and sober. In their tennets [sic] (ultra-Calvinism) rendered them some what stern and unsocial." The writer asks the Judge to receive these emigrants with kindness.

English

The original in the Archives of Central College, Pella, Iowa.

archives, Central College, Pella, Iowa
to the Honorable Judge Van de Poel.

The Hague, 15th of April, 1847.

My dear Judge,

In consequence of some restraints in the full enjoyment of their religious faith and worship, the Reverend Doctor Scholten, accompanied by most of his congregation, belonging to a sect called, here, Separatists of which he is, at the same time, the founder and the Apostle, have left Holland to seek, in our Republic that unlimited freedom, both of faith and of mode of worship, which they have long desired in vain.

Knowing Doctor Scholten to be no less distinguished by his learning, than he is by his piety and private virtues, I yield, most readily, to the solicitation of his friends that I should make him known to Gentlemen of respectability and literary acquirements in New-York and Boston.

The emigrants whom Dr. Scholten leads to what, for them, is, indeed, a land of promise, are not destitute adventurers. Many are

what we would call, Snug farmers; others
Skillfull mechanics; All industrious and
Sober. In fact their strict tenets (Ultra-
Calvinism) rendered them some what stern
and unsocial.

This is the vanguard of a much larger
emigration, deserving to be encouraged for
their own sake; and which, for the interest
of the country, should be received with
brotherly kindness since, from the account
they will transmit of the country and of
its inhabitants, will depend the action
of the main body of these sectarians.

Will you present me, most respectfully
to Mr. Van de Poel, and believe me
Dear Judge,

Your devoted & faithful friend,

Auguste Barizac
Am. ambassador (chargé d'affaires)