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7-29-1872

### A Letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps

A. C. Van Raalte

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July 29, 1872

No 85

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps about the possibility of appointing his son-in-law, William Gilmore, as principal of the female department.

Original in the Archives of Hope College

Gilmore's call 7

take part in the <sup>general</sup> ~~quarterly~~ ~~interannual~~  
 from Holland I have little hope  
 yesterday I expected the Legation  
 to preach on the subject but  
 they did not mention the ~~quarterly~~  
 annual memorial. I guess they fear  
~~interference~~ <sup>interference</sup> with their projects.  
 on the whole I am not  
 encouraged. Most all are motion  
 left. We have been sickly and  
 slow yet long long.

It is not an ~~easy~~ ~~thing~~ ~~again~~  
 Affairs with ~~them~~  
 M. Van Rautte.

Holland Nishy  
 Rev. D. P. Phelps. July 29/1842.

Dear Brother,  
 (I have) Altho I have  
 written to Gilmore. -  
 I have received from  
 the President of Hope College  
 a copy of a renewal of the call  
 to Holland. thereby signify  
 my joining or agreement with that  
 call.

I am inclined that such a call must  
 be deferred in connection to ~~the~~  
 the circumstances of ~~the~~  
 our school being much ~~stranger~~  
 and because I am in doubt  
 whether the President  
 has

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has in view the position of Min<sup>a</sup>  
equal of the female department,  
ment), lately by me proffered, hoping  
hereby also to secure your  
aid so much needed in the  
practical part of the college;  
being by such a call able to  
point out at least some income  
sources: the interest of \$1000  
Eight percent and the income  
of the fee of that school.  
I will ask Dr Phelps for  
explanations.

And if you are inclined to  
accept or to consider this call,  
it would be well for you to go  
to New York to have a conference  
with the President, and  
on what you both can agree  
I will consent.  
Yours etc

I remark that if a man in such  
a field is not worth thousands  
Dollars it is time that he  
quits. — Mrs S. know I very  
well, <sup>being the beginning</sup> that the old planters  
never can be induced to send  
their daughters to a poor lo-  
cality or schoolhouse, and  
has promised from the begin-  
ning such. — I trust that  
Mrs S. after Gilmore's leaving  
will go on in his own way  
from my daughter's  
Mary Gadsden: that  
Gilmore had the appoint-  
ment to Spring Lake and  
Wood Station: with a salary  
of thousands. — To I fear  
we will lose him here  
also. —  
Last Sabbath I was in  
North Holland. I hope some-  
what that they will in some way

Holland, Michigan

July 29, 1872

Rev. Dr. P. Phelps:

Dear Brother,

Althus I have written to Gilmore. "Having received from the President of Hope College a copy of a renewal of the call to Holland, I hereby signify my joining or agreement with that call. Convinced that such a call must be defined in connection with position, the circumstances of Grammar School being much changed and because I am in doubt whether the President has in view the position of Principal of the female department, lately by me pressed, hoping hereby also to secure your aid so much needed on the financial part of the college, being by such a call able to point out at least some income to wit: the interest of 4 M, eight percent and the income of the fees of that school etc I will ask Dr. Phelps for explanation.

And if you are inclined to accept or to consider this call, it would be well for you to go to New York to have a conference with the President and on what you both can agree I will consent."

Yours etc.

I remark that if a man in such a field is not worth Thousand Dollars it is time that he quits. Mr. S knows very well from the beginning the old planters never can be induced to send their daughters to a poor locality or schoolhouse and has promised from the beginning such. I trust that Mr. S, after Gilmore's leading will go on in his own way.

From my own daughter Mary I did ascertain, that Gilmore has the appointment to Spring Lake and Norris Station with a salary of Thousand. So I fear we will loose him here also.

Last sabbath I was in North Holland. I hope somewhat that they will in some way take part in the quarter Centennial, memorial. From Holland I have little hope. Yesterday I expected the clergymen to preach on the subject but they did not mention the centennial memorial. I guess they fear interference with their projects. On the

whole I am not encouraged. Most all are motionless. We have been sickly and am yet coughing.

It is hot and dry again.

Yours with esteem

A.C. Van Raalte

Holland Mich

July 29/1872

Revd Dr P: Phelps

Dear Brother,

Althus I have written to Gilmore.

"Having received from the President of Hope College a copy of a renewal of the call to Holland, I hereby signify my joining or agreement with that call.- Convinced that such a call must be defined in connection with position: the circumstances of Grammar School being much changed, and because I am in doubt whether the President has in view the position of Principal of the female department, lately by me pressed, hoping hereby also to secure your aid so much needed on the financial part of the college: being by such a call able to point out at least some income to wit: the interest of 4 %, eight procent and the income of the fees of that school etc I will ask Dr Phelps for explanation. -

And if you are inclined to accept or to consider this call, it would be well for you to go to New York to have a conference with the President and on what you both can agree I will consent.- "

Yours etc

I remark that if a man in such a field is not worth Thousand Dollars it is time that he quits. - Mr S: knows very well from the beginning the old planters never can be induced to send their daughters to a poor locality or schoolhouse and has promised from the beginning such.- I trust that Mr S; after Gilmore's leading will go on in his own way.

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It is hot and dry again

Yours with esteem

A.C. Van Raalte

72-07-29

[GS85]

Holland Mich

July 29/1872.

Revd Dr P: Phelps.

Dear Brother,

Althus<sup>1</sup> I have written to Gilmore.<sup>2</sup> –

“Having received from the President of Hope College a copy of renewal of the call<sup>3</sup> to Holland: I hereby signify my joining or agreement with that call.---

Convinced that such a call must be defined in connection to position: the circumstances of [the] Grammar School being much changed,<sup>4</sup> and because I am in doubt Whether the President has in view the position of Principal of the female department; lately by me pressed, hoping hereby also<sup>5</sup> to secure your aid so much needed in the financial part of the college; being by such a call able to point out at least some income, to wit: the interest of 4 M eight procent<sup>6</sup> and the income of the fees of that school etc I will ask Dr Phelps for explanations.---

And if you are inclined to accept or to consider this call; it would be well for you to go to New York<sup>7</sup> to have a conference with the President and on what you both can agree I will consent:—“

Yours etc.

I remark that if a man in such a field is not worth [a] thousand Dollars it is time that He quits.- Mr. S:<sup>8</sup> knows very well from the beginning that the old planters never can be induced to send their daughters to a poor locality or scholhouse, and has promised from

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<sup>1</sup> This hybrid word was a combination of the Dutch word *alzo* and the English *thus*. It simply means ‘as’ in this case.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. William B. Gilmore, Van Raalte’s son-in-law, then teaching in the institute in Amelia, Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> Or invitation for Gilmore to come to Holland to head up the Female Institute. The word ‘call’ is used because that is the usual word for inviting a minister to a new position.

<sup>4</sup> This reference may indicate that for the time being primary education at the Holland Academy and the Female Institute would be combined. This decision had already been made by the Executive Committee of the Council of Hope College 4 April 1870. Minutes of the Executive Committee, 4 April 1870, 31. At the 29 October meeting, just three months to the day that Van Raalte wrote this letter to Phelps, Gilmore was appointed principal of the Female Institute and Mrs. Owen Van Olinda was appointed to the primary school division of the Academy, p. 63 of the minutes just cited.

<sup>5</sup> Van Raalte was back to his old habit of adding an extra ‘o’ to also.

<sup>6</sup> The appointment of Gilmore was insufficiently funded. Four percent of Van Raalte’s gift of \$4,000 came only to \$320.

<sup>7</sup> Pres. Phelps was having his usual summer vacation at his parents’s home in Albany, New York.

<sup>8</sup> Namely, Samuel B. Schieffelin, Van Raalte’s wealthy friend and patron in New York City.

the beginning such.-- I trust that Mr. S, after Gilmore's leading will go on in his own way.

From my own daughter Mary<sup>9</sup> I did ascertain: that Gilmore has the appointment to Spring Lake and Norris Station with a salaries of [a] Thousand [dollars].---So I fear we will loose Him here also.—

Last Sabbath I was in North Holland:<sup>10</sup> I hope some What that they will in some way take part in the quarter Centennial memorial from Holland [but] I have little hope. Yesterday I expected the clergymen to preach on the Subject but they did not mention the centennial memorial. I guess they fear interference with their projects. on the whole I am not encouraged. Most all are motion less. We have been sickly and am yet coughing.<sup>11</sup>—

It is hot and dry again

Your with esteem

A. C. Van Raalte

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<sup>9</sup> Maria Wilhelmina Van Raalte, or Mary as she was known, was Van Raalte's daughter, housekeeper, and caretaker after Mrs. Van Raalte died in 1871. Mary, who lived with the Gilmore's for a time in Amelia, Virginia, would likely have been in a close relationship with sister, Christina, the wife of William Gilmore. For information on Mary, see Bruins, et al, *Albertus and Christina...*, 159-163. She married Gerrit J. Kollen in 1879, a teacher at the college who became president of Hope College in 1893.

<sup>10</sup> The local Reformed Church congregation just north of the City of Holland.

<sup>11</sup> Van Raalte again mentions his ill health. Yet during all this time, he is president of the Council of Hope College and closely associated with the welfare of the institution. In this letter, there again evidence that Van Raalte was ready to go out on a limb for the advancement of Hope College before adequate funding was on hand.