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Report in the Christian Intelligencer

Thomas De Witt

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22 September 1859

New York, New York

A detailed report of the visit of Dr. Thomas De Witt, pastor of the Collegiate Church in New York City was published on this date in *The Christian Intelligencer*. The lengthy account of his visit included his stop in Grand Haven where he experienced the hospitality of Rev. and Mrs. Pieter J. Oggel. The drive to Holland took six hours. He enjoyed the hospitality of Rev. Albertus and Mrs. Christina Van Raalte. "Having remained with them three days, I cannot but pay a passing tribute to Mrs. Van Raalte. I was deeply impressed with what appeared to me her intelligent and deep-toned piety, and one who was well fitted to be the companion of our brother, in all the sacrifices, toils, and hardships he has been called to encounter." Van Raalte convinced De Witt about the importance of the Holland Harbor. The report is rich in details and a valuable report on Holland at that time.

On Thursday, 6 October 1859, a translation of this report was published in *De Hollander*.

Both publications are located in the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

see Oct 6, 1859
for Dutch Trans. in De Hope

does of the religious ex- present you with the re: between thy and of their representation of is: reproach them for also illustrated in to ask of be used in some com- out. If you will consent sure you an honorable in this double message, I and for consulting with my acceptance of the being my decision was spual. They went for in Wheeling to preach, as far more remunerative and Wheeling united ends, I was in due timo y expenses to Washing- duties as Chaplain to

the back. The organs of circulation and respiration—the heart and lungs—must be kept from injury. We must enjoy the blessings of salvation, prayer, and yet feel, by prayer in faith and faith in prayer.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath. The Christian's armor is the whickered at the gates of death. He enters heaven with prayer.

So it is with the whole armor of the true soldier. Not one part should be wanting. The sword of the spirit—two-edged, and piercing to the dividing of the soul and spirit—the feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, and every part of the armor kept ready for use.

Do not lay that shield aside. It will become rusty and defaced, and may require much pains and care to burnish it again for use. Do not put that sword in the scabbard. It should be drawn, and in the hand, for constant defence. Be sure that the breastplate is strong, and without any flaw.

The Captain of your salvation has appointed the armor. It is that which is the best suited for the warfare in which you are engaged. He has left no warrant for your making a choice of your own. The Christian army should not be a body of spiritual fanatics, each man equipped according to his own caprice and humor, or convenience, but a well-disciplined army in uniform, marching on under the banners of love.

The weapons grow brighter and stronger by use. The conflict gives strength to the arm, sharpens to the sword, manliness to the shield, breadth to the breastplate, and resistance to the helmet. Other weapons than those appointed will be found delusive and worthless.

With the whole armor, the Christian shall triumph, as in the words of the hymn we so often sing

"Thy saddle is all their glorious war
Shall conquer, though they die;
They view the triumph from afar,
By faith they bring it nigh."

The Rev. J. A. H. Cornell, D. D.

Our readers will remember that, nearly two months since, we apprized them of the severe sickness of this gentleman, and of his consequent withdrawal, for a time, from the active duties of his office as Secretary of the Board of Education. It was then hoped that, after a short season, he would be entirely restored. That hope has been disappointed. After resuming his official functions a week or two since, Dr. Cornell found himself again the subject of a dysenteric attack, and may possibly be compelled to give up entirely the important field of labor in which he has pleased God to bless so remarkably his efforts for the last three years. The members of the Board are very unwilling to contemplate this result, and cannot yet surrender the belief that health will return, and he still continue in their service. However this may be—and both parties are willing, we doubt not, to leave it in the hands of a gracious Providence—for the present, Dr. Cornell cannot fulfill his old appointments, nor make any new ones.

It is to be hoped that the churches will not on this account lose their interest in the Education cause, or relax their efforts for its aid and support. The enlarged expenditure occasioned by the increase of candidates aided by the Board, is a matter which cannot be arrested without causing great suffering to individuals, and serious injury to the Church. Let the good work go forward, and ministers and Consistories see that their annual contributions are promptly sent into the treasury. It would be a great pity to have any falling off now, when affairs are in such a promising condition, and the whole subject stands in a much better posture than it ever did since our Church began its independent existence.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

The session of the Executive Committee of the Board of Domestic Missions, for the present month, occupied four full hours; and this whole time was closely occupied in attending to communications from all parts of the Dutch Church. Several appropriations were made to feeble churches and mission-stations, both East and West; and many pious hearts and households will thus be gladdened by the sound of the gospel, who otherwise must have been wholly, or

both of the Ordinary Particular Synod, and the General Synod, were read. These must of course have been Minutes of a previous meeting. Secondly, it is stated in the records of the General Synod (L. 245) that "the Minutes of the Ordinary and General Synod were read," which it is somewhat probable that by Ordinary is meant Particular, or that the latter word has been accidentally omitted. At all events, in the records for the next year, June, 1794, it is said (L. 257) that "the Minutes of the last General and Particular Synods were read." Hence it is evident that this original Particular Synod must have been in existence as early as 1793, and probably 1792; how much earlier, it does not seem possible for any one now to say.

On the whole, one may reasonably infer that the existence of this Particular body was the reason why the General body in 1794 concluded to sit thereafter only once in three years; and not that such conclusion led to the organization of this body, which seems to be the view of Mr. Corwin.

The matter is not one of over-weighing importance, yet in historical inquiries it is well to cherish the habits of literal exactness, as well in minutiae as in maxims. It would be gratifying to have some authentic information to the manner and reasons of organizing this "Particular Synod for the whole Church," of which the only Minutes extant are from October 1794 down to May 1799.

A VISIT TO THE HOLLAND COLONY IN MICHIGAN.

In the last number of the Intelligencer, a reference was made to this colony, connecting its first commencement in 1840, with the general character, and the state and prospects which it now sustains. The article closed with the promise to give some accounts of a recent visit I paid to the colony.

A season of relaxation having been kindly proffered to me by the Consistory, I resolved to appropriate part of it to such a visit. I left about the middle of July, and went by the way of Pittsburg, Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit, making a short stay at these leading places. At Detroit, I took the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad, which has, for its terminus, Grand Haven, on Lake Michigan. The two other railroads—the Southern and the Central—leading from Detroit, and crossing the State, terminate at Chicago. The Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad has not been long completed. It is connected at Grand Haven with two elegant steamboats, crossing the lake to Milwaukee, which is seventy-five miles wide. At Milwaukee, lines of railroad branch out westward and northwest. This will doubtless become, soon, a prominent mart of travel and trade. Grand Haven, now a considerable village, was commenced a few years since, in connection with the lumber business. It is now destined to receive a large onward growth. There is quite a large number of Holland families settled here, and in its vicinity, who are organized into a flourishing church. They have erected a neat house of worship, which has recently been enlarged, and a parsonage adjacent. They are favored with an excellent minister, possessing the most valuable qualifications, and exhorting the most happy and salutary influence, the Rev. P. J. OOUK. He came from Holland three years since. He is just in early manhood, and is fitted to exert an important influence among the churches of our Holland brethren. The church under his auspices has grown, and is found in entire harmony and prosperity. A spirit of liberality to missionary and other objects is cherished among them. A parochial school has been founded by them, and a suitable English teacher from the East has been engaged. It is in a flourishing condition.

I reached Grand Haven on Friday evening, and remained at the following Tuesday morning, enjoying the kind hospitality of Dominie Oysel. On the morning of the Sabbath, I preached in the Protestant Church; and, in the afternoon, enjoyed the privilege of hearing the Dominie in the Dutch language. It was a well-digested sermon, on the Catechism, according to the custom of appropriating the afternoon of every Sabbath to the Catechism. I had previously heard him during the last session of the General Synod, at Albany, of which he was a member, and where, with one well known, Dr. Van Raalte, he attracted the kind regard and confidence of the members. I felt edified and

work remains to be attended to a considerable extent to place it on a securely secure basis, and attain its completion. On the completion, the Legislators of Michigan have voted to donate eleven thousand acres of their unappropriated lands, which will place them in a fine position. Thus the plain laboring Hollanders find the application of the principles employed in the building of a great edifice, that in which the scientific engineers failed.

On Thursday, Dominie Van Raalte made up a small party to sail down Black Lake to the harbor, to witness the works carried on there. Two sailing boats carried our small, pleasant party. The day was more than usually fine and bright, with a balmy atmosphere. The lake is a beautiful one. A gentle breeze carried us swiftly the eight miles to the mouth, where we witnessed, with great interest, the labors of the Hollanders connected with the opening of the harbor. After enjoying a refreshing lunch, carried with them by our friends, we returned to the village.

In the evening, I attempted to preach in the Dutch language. On any way, I had formed the resolution that, while conversing with our Holland friends in their language, I would decline to preach in it, knowing full well my inadequacy to use purity and propriety of language, and to express it in a right tone. The urgency of my friends prevailed on me to break my resolution; and I occupied the pulpit both at Grand Haven and Holland. Surely they extended great indulgence to me in overlooking the defects. I loved to hear from their lips the language which my parents breathed into my ear, and taught my tongue to utter, in infancy. My ancestors came from Holland in 1655, when New-York was a colony of the Netherlands, and the language was handed down, becoming more and more adulterated.

I have alluded to the Academy founded at the village of Holland. It was the design of Dr. Van Raalte and his associates, from the early settlement of the colony, to direct special attention to the great subjects of religion and education. Hence, early, church edifices were erected, and the supply of the ministry sought and procured in the different neighborhoods, and a decided tone of religious character has prevailed the extent of the colony. A solicitude was felt, as soon as practicable, to obtain suitable means of education, and gradually to introduce the children and youth into the knowledge of the English language and literature. For this, Dr. Van Raalte assiduously labored, and, by the aid and cooperation of the friends of the Reformed Dutch Church here, this object was soon obtained. The Academy was organized and conducted under the superintendence of competent Ministers, selected out of our churches here. A very handsome, quite spacious, and convenient brick building has been erected on a most eligible site, which will accommodate, besides the family of the principal, a very considerable number of students drawn from the Holland churches of the colony and adjacent parts. It is quite the ornament of the village. The influence of the Academy in its general bearing is most salutary. It has a special value in raising up and furnishing a supply of ministers for their churches. Besides the churches in the colony, there are quite a number in the western part of Michigan adjacent, and in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Several of these churches are now in want of ministers, and there is a difficulty in procuring those of a suitable character from Holland. The pious young men educated in this Academy, will pursue and complete their course in our College and Theological Seminary at New-Brunswick, and will go forth prepared to preach both in the Dutch and English language, which will soon be needed. Already a few of their young men have been brought into our institutions at New-Brunswick, and this fall five of their promising young men, who have finished their course in the Academy, will enter New-Brunswick. It is believed that, in the future, this Academy will grow in importance, and gather a stronger and more extended influence. It is already greatly auxiliary to the interests of our Church and denomination. The Rev. Mr. Van Vleck, who, for some years successfully conducted the interests of the Academy, recently resigned on account of his health. He is succeeded by the Rev. Philip Phelps, lately pastor of our Reformed Dutch Church at Hastings. The selection is a happy one, and it is believed a more fit-

Intelligencer.

NEW-YORK.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1859.

paper will much oblige the people and resulting by mail be terms which will be found CHARLES VAN WYCK.

who shall send the names of Dr. Chambers' "New Prayer-Book," Dr. Canon's "Pastoral and His," Alfred's "Great Testimonies," Whitcomb's Bible Harmon & Series, or any other

CONTROVERSY.

presenting upon a small portion of a vexed question that the argument was conducted in a very Christian-like manner, his heart made a great impression. Here or crushing? Yet is just. Some people in of the sacredness and of, and discuss the most as coldly and dryly and in mathematics, or a science. Such discussions do generally, however conclusively, and embitter the of the doctrines by the concludes that there must argument, although he is this evil, an unavoidable it has been, conducted like, for example, John is adversaries. He writes sometimes with words that at the axe; yet the good light, his zeal is so plainly rooted and pervading, feel the impression of such an can, we think, carterovsarial writings with- as well as made more reverence, humility, and glory, concern for souls, ever present sense of the of the judgment, and the, that even a reader who usions might well rejoice sake of the spiritual in- em like the doves of Her- ght to be clear-headed and keen, wary; he ought to exclusively; but he ought, of deep and genial piety, may be successful, but his duty of the pastor of every to study the details of the

may be successful, but his duty of the pastor of every town to study the details of the condition, and permit them to the care of the people. It is the character of the people. It is the character of the people. It is the character of the people.

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DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

The session of the Executive Committee of the Board of Domestic Missions, for the present month, occupied four full hours; and this whole time was closely occupied in attending to communications from all parts of the Dutch Church. Several appropriations were made to feeble churches and mission-stations, both East and West; and many pious hearts and households will thus be gladdened by the sound of the gospel, who otherwise must have been wholly, or nearly, unsupplied. The Dutch Church is earnestly invited into many promising fields. Many interesting localities at the West are saying to us, "Come in, and establish your institutions, and build up among us churches of Christ, of your faith and order." This remark is no pleasing fancy, but sober fact. At this moment, the Board is asked to commission four men for Western fields, with the assurance that three of them will be fully supported, and the fourth nearly so, without drawing upon our general funds. Where are the men? Whom shall we send, and who will go for Christ? Here is a call to earnest laborers. Here is a demand on us as a church. Would that we were able now to respond favorably to the call, and send forth the reapers to those fields white to the harvest.

Rev. J. A. Davenport, who, as is well known, has labored as an itinerant missionary in Wisconsin, has lately asked and received from the Board a commission to preach wholly in Eden and Oaccola, Fond du Lac county. His final report will serve to show the spirit and some of the fruits of his labors.

"In closing my work as an itinerant missionary of the Board of Domestic Missions, permit me to observe that the fruits of a mission to obscure and unfrequented portions of country, on broad prairies, and in dense woodlands, among a sparse population, are mainly visible to him who knoweth the hearts of all men, and from whose eye nothing is hid. The pure gospel, as condensed and explained in our articles of faith, has been faithfully expounded on the banks of the Wisconsin, Rock and Milwaukee rivers, in six different counties, in the school-house and in the cottage; on the Sabbath, and during the week; to those afflicted with earthly bereavements, to the sick, to the destitute, and to poor perishing souls burdened with a sense of sin. That good results have been produced, through the favor of God, is made manifest by the gratitude expressed for ministerial services, by people of all sects and localities; by Sabbath-schools, now in a flourishing condition, located in districts, where the gospel was at first resisted and defamed; by the general desire evinced for the permanent establishment of our Church and Ministry; and by the lively religious feeling which has grown out of these ministrations, eventuating, in not a few instances, in hopeful conversion to Christ, and church-membership.

"In commencing a local mission in Eden and Oaccola the prospect of organizing the first American Protestant Reformed Dutch Church in Wisconsin, is certainly encouraging; and, from this small beginning, may God grant large and glorious results. When I first taught in the locality, religion was in a low state; but the inhabitants have since established, and now sustain two weekly prayer-meetings, and a well appointed Sabbath school. A promising Sabbath-school has also been established at Clark's Mills, in the midst of a population hitherto irreligious and neglected; and, from these small beginnings, four other Sabbath-schools have arisen, and are disseminating, among young and old, enlightenment in God's Word; and most of the Sabbath-schools in this country, formerly established by your missionary proclamer, are this year revived, and placed on a more permanent basis."

This, we see before us an open door which no man can shut, unless we indeed ourselves close it, by failing to enter where God's providence and promise so manifestly invite us.

Corwin's Manual.

Mr. Estroff:—I am not disposed to find fault with the commendation which, on several occasions, you have bestowed on this convenient and useful collection of statistics respecting the assemblies, and ministers, and Boards of the Dutch Church. The marks of care and accuracy are visible on every page, and the work is a rare gratification to an intelligent inquirer into the past.

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At Grand Haven on Friday evening, and remained at the following Tuesday morning, enjoying the kind hospitality of Dominie Oggel. On the morning of the Sabbath, I preached in the Presbyterian Church; and, in the afternoon, enjoyed the privilege of hearing the Dominie in the Dutch language. It was a well digested sermon on the Catechism, according to the custom of appropriating the afternoon of every Sabbath to the Catechism. I had, previously heard him during the last session of the General Synod, at Albany, of which he was a member, and where, with one well known, Dr. Van Raalte, he attracted the kind regard and confidence of the members. I felt edified and pleased with both the sermons.

I had anticipated to find the Academy at Holland in session; but I found the examination had taken place, and the vacation commenced the week previous. I was greatly disappointed in this; but my disappointment was, in a measure, relieved, when I heard that Brother Stryker was present at the examination, and had a very pleasant intercourse with the brethren. In consequence of the vacation, I found Brother Vandewall (who is engaged in the Academy, is preaching at the village of Holland, and is doing valuable service) was at Grand Haven, expecting to preach in a church recently formed among Hollanders, some miles distant. Brother Phelps, now the principal of the Academy, was expected on Monday, on his way eastward. We therefore delayed to proceed to the Holland colony last Tuesday. This is situated twenty-two miles from Grand Haven to the South, on Lake Michigan. In company with Dominie Oggel and Vandewall, we took the open wagon stage. The road runs through a dense, heavy forest, and a deep sandy soil, interspersed, occasionally, with clearings. We were somewhat more fortunate than Brother Stryker. It took his company eight hours to accomplish the journey of twenty-two miles. It took ours but six hours. The journey was useful in enabling us to form some conception of the toil and difficulties encountered by the pioneers and subsequent settlers, in subduing these forests, and preparing the way for the condition in which the colony is now found. On Tuesday afternoon, we reached the village of Holland. As we emerged from the forest, the village at the head of Black Lake, already covering a considerable extent with fair edifices, burst upon our view, and produced a pleasant impression. We were at once greeted by Dr. Van Raalte, and introduced to his interesting family. Having remained with them three days, I cannot but pay a passing tribute to Mrs. Van Raalte. He is deeply impressed with what appeared to me her intelligent and deep-toned piety, and one who was well fitted to be the companion of our brother, in all the sacrifices, toils, and hardships he has been called to encounter. The atmosphere of piety which pervaded the household—well ordered in the habits of devotion and religious instruction—arrested my attention. Arrangement was made for a visit to some of the neighboring congregations. The colony extends several miles around from the village of Holland, which has been brought under farming culture, and five or six churches have been formed. At the time suggested for this visit, I felt considerably unwell, which prevented my leaving the village, and made me feel the experience of not prolonging my return home. On the review of my visit, I greatly regret that I did not succeed in reaching some of the adjacent settlements in the colony.

In passing round the village, Dr. Van Raalte first showed to me the old log-church, not far from his house, in the upper part of the village, erected in the very infancy of the settlement. This building, some time since, gave way to the present spacious edifice, which is quite a conspicuous object on entering the place. He said there were many precious recollections connected with this old and homely building. In the seasons of their greatest hardships and difficulties, they had found there refreshment and consolation in their communion with their Saviour and each other, tending to the establishment of their faith, and their encouragement in their work.

Black Lake, at the head of which is the village of Holland, runs up about seven or eight miles from Lake Michigan. At the mouth of Black Lake, the harbor is impeded by the gathering of sand, so as to prevent vessels, of any depth to pass up through the lake. This causes a very great hindrance to the prosperity of the colony, from the difficulty of transporting the produce. For a length of time, Dr. Van Raalte has been very solicitous on the subject of the opening of the

our College and Theological Seminary at New-Brunswick, and will go forth prepared to preach both in the Dutch and English language, which will soon be needed. Already a few of their young men have been brought into our institutions at New-Brunswick, and this fall five of their promising young men, who have finished their course in the Academy, will enter New-Brunswick. It is believed that, in due time, this Academy will grow in importance, and gather a stronger and more extended influence. It is already greatly auxiliary to the interests of our Church and denomination. The Rev. Mr. Van Vleck, who, for some years successfully conducted the interests of the Academy, recently resigned on account of his health. He is succeeded by the Rev. Philip Phelps, lately pastor of our Reformed Dutch Church at Hastings. The election is a happy one, and it is believed a more fitting one could not have been made from the bosom of our Church.

This brief visit to the Holland colony has increased my interest in it, and enabled me to assure all those who have contributed to its interests, that their contributions have been worthily and beneficially bestowed, and to commend these churches of the Hollanders in the West to their continued confidence and kindness. These Hollanders came here, having but small portions of wealth, but possessed of untiring industry, and strong adherence to their Christian faith, and now they have made their way to the position which they occupy in the community, and in the Christian Church. Our ancestral recollections, our identity with them in the faith of doctrine, and the order of church government and worship, and the remembrance of the stand which they took, and the sacrifices which they made for the truth, enable them to our cordial confidence and sympathy.

Brother Stryker's visit to the village of Holland, and his attendance at the Examination of the Academy, made a gratifying impression there. His lively and interesting account of his journeyings to the West, in which he gives an account of his visit to the Holland Colony, inserted in the *Intelligencer*, made me feel, at the time, as if it might be needless for me to give any account of my short visit, but, after some delay, I have furnished these notes, in the hope that they may not be without some beneficial influence in regard both to the colony and our Church at large.

T. D. W.

The Sabbath—German and Jewish—in Town and in the Country.

The Devil sometimes does capital service to the cause of truth. He did so a few evenings since when he summoned a "mass meeting" of his followers to extinguish the Sabbath Committee of this city. Had he have secured a respectable hall on Broadway or the Academy of Music—had he then invited some political magnate, or some white-gloved nabob who sips his "Heidelberg" after his luxurious Sunday dinners, to preside at the meeting, there might possibly have been some temporary mischief done by the convocation. Especially if some reader of the *Westminster Review* had been called on to re-hash the ingenious and plausible arguments of that rationalistic organ against the "revival of the Jewish Sabbath." Then perhaps a few converts might have been made to the side of Hatch and the "Herald."

But instead of this, he baits his trap with lager-beer—a shockingly vulgar drink and one mainly in vogue with a single description of foreigners. The meeting is called for the "Volks-garten," a huge circular "drink-hall" opposite the old Bowery theatre. The place is consecrated to pipes and beer, to roasting and revelry, to "High Dutch" songs and low Dutch stories. This immense dram shop—which rings with profane merriment on every Lord's day evening—is selected as the arena for a handful of obscure orators to hold forth before a few hundreds of listless yawning auditors. A failure, more disgraceful to its abettors, and more encouraging to the friends of righteousness has not been witnessed in this city since the failure to re-instate Fernando Wood in the Mayoralty. It will strengthen the hands of our resolute Sabbath Committee immensely.

No one can have listened to the outcry now made in certain quarters against the right observance of the Lord's day without observing the attempts made to stigmatize it as an "attempted restoration of the Jewish Sabbath." Well—even granting all that our opponents charge, we frankly confess that we would infinitely prefer a Jewish Sabbath to a German Sabbath. To the ancient Israelites the day of rest was a goodly day, and by no means a melancholy one. Its morning dawned in peaceful stillness; and when the sun

The Christian Intelligencer Sept 22, 1859

...the inscriptions of
...the effacing fingers." None
...to resist this popular
...of religion. They are in-
...and others. They deal with
...and future, but it is by
...records, their institutions,
... Besides, they look upon
...of events, not as casual, not
...like of cause and of con-
...developments of individuals and
...comprehensive control of one
...hand. He who sits in the
...from the beginning, is edu-
...designs out of the conflict,
...and ever changing actors on
...And, while there is infatig-
...in the successive generations
...and ecclesiastical relations,
...principles of God's providential
...more illustrated. "The thing
...their hath been." He who best
...ris paribus, best understand
...are for the future.

IRON ARMOR.

...the whole of it, Christy
...aid a part when you are
...In the mean time you are to
...of God," and with such an
...to fight until the conflict
...ory.
...It serves to protect the head
...your reason, your judgment,
...right and duty. The con-
...guarded. A clear and in-
...Divine truth, a true percep-
...tender and enlightened con-
...the Christian. Many have
...not keeping their heart cool,
...their mind pure. False reason-
...glittering philosophies, and
...to ear, and the pride of the
...millions. The helmet was
...or it was cast aside.
...out a shield. The blows of
...and fast around you. If you
...preserve you in the contest,
...at any moment. Let that
...and polished. If Paul could
...that strengthened him, so
...open times more than falls to
...ers. In prison, in bonds, in
...shipwreck, in the dungeon,
...magistrates, governors, and
...Captain of his salvation was
...ays at hand. He carried his
...a blow that was ever struck
...with the truest sound. But
...stle is only the same shield
...you will. If you go to battle
...and, if an enemy should find
...wayside, and it is not on your
...time to deal a deadly blow.
...on. It should cover the vital
...thing can destroy. It should
...every thrust of the foe. Those
...nature so earthly, and those
...arm, are to be kept out of the
...the sacred temple of the emo-
...on the altar, and peace, and
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...ministerial services, by people of all sects and localities;
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...permanent establishment of our Church and Ministry;
...and by the lively religious feeling which has grown out
...of these ministrations, eventuating, in not a few in-
...stances, in popuful conversion to Christ, and church-
...membership.

"In commencing a local mission in Eden and Osceola
...the prospect of organizing the first American Protest-
...ant Reformed Dutch Church in Wisconsin, is certainly
...encouraging; and, from this small beginning, may God
...grant large and glorious results. When I first taught
...in the locality, religion was in a low state; but the
...inhabitants have since established, and now sustain two
...weekly prayer-meetings, and a well appointed Sabbath-
...school. A promising Sabbath-school has also been es-
...tablished at Clark's Mills, in the midst of a population
...hitherto irreligious and neglected; and, from these small
...beginnings, four other Sabbath-schools have arisen, and
...are disseminating, among young and old, enlighten-
...ment in God's Word; and most of the Sabbath-schools
...in this country, formerly established by my minis-
...trary preacher, are this year revived, and placed on a
...more permanent basis."

This, we see before us an open door which no man
...can shut, unless we indeed ourselves close it, by failing
...to enter where God's providence and promise so mani-
...festly invite us.

Corwin's Manual.

Mr. Estlin:—I am not disposed to find fault with
...the commendation which, on several occasions, you
...have bestowed on this convenient and useful collection
...of statistics respecting the assemblies, and ministers,
...and Boards of the Dutch Church. The marks of care
...and accuracy are visible on every page, and the work
...is a rare gratification to an intelligent inquirer into the
...past.

But has not the industrious compiler fallen into an
...error in relation to the original Particular Synod? On
...page 105, he makes the organization of this body as
...occurring in 1704, and, p. 139, he appends a note in
...these words, "A Particular Synod was in this year
...[1704] appointed for the whole Church, and transacted
...much of the business before done by General Synod,
...and hence General Synod, for a time, met only once in
...three years."

Now it is true that 1704 was the last year in the
...preceding century in which the General Synod held
...an annual session, the next session being in 1707, and
...the next one in 1800. But the original Particular
...Synod was constituted prior to 1704; for, first, its own
...Minutes for that year (which will be found in the Ap-
...pendix to the forthcoming volume I, of the Minutes of
...the General Synod, to be issued in a few weeks by the
...Board of Publication) expressly state that "the Min-

...Brother Stryker was present at the examination of
...had a very pleasant intercourse with the brethren. In
...consequence of the vacation, I found Brother Van-
...dowall (who is engaged in the Academy, is preaching
...at the village of Holland, and is doing valuable service)
...was at Grand Haven, expecting to preach in a church
...recently formed among Hollanders, some miles distant.
...Brother Phelps, now the principal of the Academy, was
...expected on Monday, on his way eastward. We there-
...fore delayed to proceed to the Holland colony last
...Tuesday. This is situated twenty-two miles from
...Grand Haven to the South, on Lake Michigan. In
...company with Dominie Oggel and Vandowall, we took
...the open waggon stage. The road runs through a dense,
...heavy forest, and a deep sandy soil, interspersed, occa-
...sionally, with clearings. We were somewhat more
...fortunate than Brother Stryker. It took his company
...eight hours to accomplish the journey of twenty-two
...miles. It took ours but six hours. The journey was
...useful in enabling us to form some conception of the
...toil and difficulties encountered by the pioneers and
...subsequent settlers, in subduing these forests, and pre-
...paring the way for the condition in which the colony
...is now found. On Tuesday afternoon, we reached the
...village of Holland. As we emerged from the forest,
...the village at the head of Black Lake, already covering
...a considerable extent with fair edifices, burst upon our
...view, and produced a pleasant impression. We were
...at once greeted by Dr. Van Raalte, and introduced to
...his interesting family. Having remained with them
...three days, I cannot but pay a passing tribute to Mrs.
...Van Raalte. I was deeply impressed with what ap-
...peared to me her intelligent and deep-toned piety, and
...one who was well fitted to be the companion of our
...brother, in all the sacrifices, toils, and hardships he has
...been called to encounter. The atmosphere of piety
...which pervaded the household—well ordered in the
...habits of devotion and religious instruction—attracted
...my attention. Arrangement was made for a visit to
...some of the neighboring congregations. The colony
...extends several miles around from the village of Hol-
...land, which has been brought under farming culture,
...and five or six churches have been formed. At the
...time suggested for this visit, I felt considerably unwell,
...which prevented my leaving the village, and made me
...feel the expedience of not prolonging my return home.
...On the review of my visit, I greatly regret that I did
...not succeed in reaching some of the adjacent settle-
...ments in the colony.

In passing round the village, Dr. Van Raalte first
...showed to me the old log-church, not far from his
...house, in the upper part of the village, erected in the
...very infancy of the settlement. This building, some
...time since, gave way to the present spacious edifice,
...which is quite a conspicuous object on entering the
...place. He said there were many precious recollections
...connected with this old and homely building. In the
...seasons of their greatest hardships and difficulties, they
...had found there refreshment and consolation in their
...communion with their Saviour and each other, tending
...to the establishment of their faith, and their encourag-
...ment in their work.

Black Lake, at the head of which is the village of
...Holland, runs up about seven or eight miles from Lake
...Michigan. At the mouth of Black Lake, the harbor
...is impeded by the gathering of sand, so as to prevent
...vessels of any depth to pass up through the lake.
...This causes a very great hindrance to the prosperity of
...the colony, from the difficulty of transporting the pro-
...duce. For a length of time, Dr. Van Raalte has been
...very solicitous on the subject of the opening of the
...harbor, as essential to the welfare of the colony. Peti-
...tions were presented to the United States Govern-
...ment for an appropriation for this purpose. Our Gov-
...ernment has been disinclined to make such appropria-
...tions. Once they appropriated, however, ten thou-
...sand dollars to be spent under the direction of
...United States engineers. The money was spent in
...works which proved wholly inefficient and worthless.
...At last, the Hollanders determined to apply the prin-
...ciple and means employed in Holland for the construc-
...tion of dikes, if money could be raised. For this end,
...they obtained an act from the Legislature of Michigan,
...empowering them to mortgage their lands for the pur-
...pose of issuing bonds, and securing the payment of in-
...terest, and eventually the principal. They have dis-
...posed of bonds, mainly alive, at the last, to prosecute
...the work so far as to secure the opening and deepening
...of the harbor for vessels of adequate depth. The

...landers in the West to their continued confidence and
...kindness. These Hollanders came here, having but
...small portions of wealth, but possessed of untiring in-
...dustry, and strong adherence to their Christian faith,
...and now they have made their way to the position
...which they occupy in the community, and in the
...Christian Church. Our ancestral recollections, our
...identity with them in the faith of doctrine, and the
...order of church government and worship, and the
...remembrance of the stand which they took, and the
...sacrifices which they made for the truth, entitle them
...to our cordial confidence and sympathy.

Brother Stryker's visit to the village of Holland, and
...his attendance at the Examination of the Academy,
...made a gratifying impression there. His lively and
...interesting account of his journeyings to the West, in
...which he gives an account of his visit to the Holland
...Colony, inserted in the *Intelligencer*, made me feel, at
...the time, as if it might be needless for me to give any
...account of my short visit; but, after some delay, I
...have furnished these notes, in the hope that they may
...not be without some beneficial influence in regard both
...to the colony and our Church at large.

T. D. W.

The Sabbath—German and Jewish—in Town and in the Country.

The Devil sometimes does capital service to the
...cause of truth. He did so a few evenings since when
...he summoned a "mass meeting" of his followers to
...extinguish the Sabbath Committee of this city. Had
...he have secured a respectable hall on Broadway or the
...Academy of Music—had he then invited some political
...magnate, or some white-gloved nabob who sips his
..."Heidelberg" after his luxurious Sunday dinners, to pre-
...side at the meeting, there might possibly have been
...some temporary mischief done by the convocation.
...Especially if some reader of the *Westminster Review*
...had been called on to re-harsh the ingenious and plausible
...arguments of that rationalistic organ against the
..."revival of the Jewish Sabbath." Then perhaps a few
...converts might have been made to the side of Hatch
...and the "Herald."

But instead of this, he baited his trap with lager-
...beer—a shockingly vulgar drink and one mainly in
...vogue with a single description of foreigners. The
...meeting is called for the "Volks-garten," a huge circus-
...like "drink-hall" opposite the old Bowery theatre.
...The place is consecrated to pipes and beer, to royster-
...ing and revelry, to "High Dutch" songs and low Dutch
...stories. This immense draw shop—which rings with
...profane chatter on every Lord's day evening—is
...selected as the arena for a handful of obscure orators
...to hold forth before a few hundreds of listless yawning
...auditors. A failure, more disgraceful to its abettors,
...and more encouraging to the friends of righteousness
...has not been witnessed in this city since the failure to
...re-instate Fernando Wood in the Mayoralty. It will
...strengthen the hands of our resolute Sabbath Commit-
...tee immeasurably.

No one can have listened to the outcry now made
...in certain quarters against the right observance of the
...Lord's day, without observing the attempts made to
...stigmatize it as an "attempted restoration of the Jew-
...ish Sabbath." Well—even granting all that our op-
...ponents charge, we frankly confess that we would in-
...finitely prefer a Jewish Sabbath to a German Sabbath.
...To the ancient Israelites the day of rest was a goodly
...day, and by no means a melancholy one. Its morn-
...ing dawned in peaceful stillness; and when the sun
...rose out of the bleak and dreary desert, its rays illu-
...minated the ascending cloud that poured up from the
...brazen altar before the tabernacle. Not a fire was
...lighted in a single tent; not a stroke of labor was
...heard through all the silent camp. At the appointed
...signal of trumpets, the Sabbath offering is brought
...forth in presence of the people congregated from every
...tent; two lambs of perfect purity are chosen from the
...fold and laid beside the altar. The waving priests
...light the shining and fragrant incense. While the
...sweet white cloud is ascending, all the multitude bow
...in silent prayer until the lamb is laid upon the altar.
...Then the dark cloud of smoke is seen to pour forth,
...the priests in loud voices pronounce a blessing on the
...people; while from myriads of happy voices rises up
...one overwhelming burst of praise. "Blessed be the
...Lord God, the God of Israel from everlasting to everlast-
...ing!" When the solemn services are concluded, the

both of the Ordinary Particular Synod, and the General Synod, were read. These must of course have been Minutes of a previous meeting. Secondly, it is stated in the records of the General Synod (L. 245) for 1793, that "the Minutes of the Ordinary and General Synod were read" while it is almost probable that by Ordinary is meant Particular, or that the latter word has been accidentally omitted. At all events, in the records for the next year, June, 1794, it is said (L. 257) that "the Minutes of the last General and Particular Synods were read." Hence it is evident that this original Particular Synod must have been in existence as early as 1793, and probably 1792; how much earlier, it does not seem possible for any one now to say.

On the whole, one may reasonably infer that the existence of this Particular body was the reason why the General body in 1794 concluded to sit thereafter only once in three years; and not that such conclusion led to the organization of this body, which seems to be the view of Mr. Corwin.

The matter is not one of overwhelming importance, yet in historical inquiries it is well to cherish the habit of literal exactness, as well in minutiae as in main facts. It would be gratifying to have some authentic information as to the manner and reason of organizing this "Particular Synod for the whole Church," of which the only Minutes extant are from October 1794 down to May 1799.

A VISIT TO THE HOLLAND COLONY IN MICHIGAN.

In the last number of the INTELLIGENCER, a reference was made to this colony, connecting its first commencement in 1846, with the general character, and the state and prospects which it now sustains. The article closed with the promise to give some accounts of a recent visit I paid to the colony.

A season of relaxation having been kindly proffered to me by the Consistory, I resolved to appropriate part of it to such a visit. I left about the middle of July, and went by the way of Pittsburg, Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit, making a short stay at these leading places. At Detroit, I took the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad, which has, for its terminus, Grand Haven, on Lake Michigan. The two other railroads—the Southern and the Central—leading from Detroit, and crossing the State, terminate at Chicago. The Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad has not been long completed. It is connected at Grand Haven with two elegant steamboats, crossing the lake to Milwaukee, which is seventy-five miles wide. At Milwaukee, lines of railroad branch out westward and northwest. This will doubtless become, soon, a prominent mart of travel and trade. Grand Haven, now a considerable village, was commenced a few years since, in connection with the lumber business. It is now destined to receive a large onward growth. There is quite a large number of Holland families settled here, and in its vicinity, who are organized into a flourishing church. They have erected a neat house of worship, which has recently been enlarged, and a parsonage adjacent. They are favored with an excellent minister, possessing the most valuable qualifications, and exerting the most happy and salutary influence, the Rev. P. J. COUPEL. He came from Holland three years since. He is just in

work remains to be extended to a considerable extent to place it on an entirely secure basis, and attain its completion. On its completion, the Legislature of Michigan have voted to donate eleven thousand acres of their unappropriated lands, which will place them in a fine position. Thus the plain laboring Hollanders, by the application of the principles employed in the building of this church, that in which the scientific engineers failed.

On Thursday, Deonise Van Raalte made up a small party to sail down Black Lake to the harbor, to witness the works carried on there. Two sailing boats carried our small, pleasant party. The day was more than usually fine and bright, with a balmy atmosphere. The lake is a beautiful one. A gentle breeze carried us swiftly the eight miles to the mouth, where we witnessed, with great interest, the labors of the Hollanders connected with the opening of the harbor. After enjoying a refreshing lunch, carried with them by our friends, we returned to the village.

In the evening, I attempted to preach in the Dutch language. On my way, I had formed the resolution that, while conversing with our Holland friends in their language, I would decline to preach in it, knowing full well my inadequacy to use purity and propriety of language, and to express it in a right tone. The urgency of my friends prevailed on me to break my resolution; and I occupied the pulpit both at Grand Haven and Holland. Surely they extended great indulgence to me in overlooking the defects. I loved to hear from their lips the language which my parents breathed into my ear, and taught my tongue to utter, in infancy. My ancestors came from Holland in 1655, when New-York was a colony of the Netherlands, and the language was handed down, becoming more and more adulterated.

I have alluded to the Academy founded at the village of Holland. It was the design of Dr. Van Raalte and his associates, from the early settlement of the colony, to direct special attention to the great subjects of religion and education. Hence, early, church edifices were erected, and the supply of the ministry sought and procured in the different neighborhoods, and a decided tone of religious character has pervaded the extent of the colony. A solicitude was felt, as soon as practicable, to obtain suitable means of education, and gradually to introduce the children and youth into the knowledge of the English language and literature. For this, Dr. Van Raalte assiduously labored; and, by the aid and cooperation of the friends of the Reformed Dutch Church here, this object was soon obtained. The Academy was organized and conducted under the superintendence of competent Principals, selected out of our churches here. A very handsome, quite spacious, and convenient brick building has been erected on a most eligible site, which will accommodate, besides the family of the principal, a very considerable number of students drawn from the Holland churches of the colony and adjacent parts. It is quite the ornament of the village. The influence of the Academy in its general bearing is most salutary. It has a special value in raising up and furnishing a supply of ministers for their churches. Besides the churches in the colony, there are quite a number in the western parts of Michigan adjacent, and in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Several of

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I reached Grand Haven on Friday evening, and remained till the following Tuesday morning, enjoying the kind hospitality of Dominie Oggel. On the morning of the Sabbath, I preached in the Presbyterian Church; and, in the afternoon, enjoyed the privilege of hearing the Dominie in the Dutch language. It was a well digested sermon on the Catechism, according to the custom of appropriating the afternoon of every Sabbath to the Catechism. I had previously heard him during the last session of the General Synod, at Albany, of which he was a member, and where, with one well

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In passing round the village, Dr. Van Raalte first showed to me the old log-church, not far from his house, in the upper part of the village, erected in the very infancy of the settlement. This building, some time since, gave way to the present spacious edifice, which is quite a conspicuous object on entering the place. He said there were many precious recollections connected with this old and homely building. In the seasons of their greatest hardships and difficulties, they had found there refreshment and consolation in their communion with their Saviour and each other, tending to the establishment of their faith, and their encouragement in their work.

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But instead of this, he baited his trap with lager-beer—a shockingly vulgar drink and one mainly in vogue with a single description of foreigners. The meeting is called for the "Volks-garten," a huge circus-like "drink-hall" opposite the old Bowery theatre. The place is consecrated to pipes and beer, to roystering and revelry, to "High Dutch" songs and low Dutch stories. This immense dram shop—which rings with profane merriment on every Lord's day evening—is selected as the arena for a handful of obscure orators to hold forth before a few hundreds of listless yawning auditors. A failure, more disgraceful to its abettors, and more encouraging to the friends of righteousness has not been witnessed in this city since the failure to re-instate Fernando Wood in the Mayoralty. It will strengthen the hands of our resolute Sabbath Committee immensely.

No one can have listened to the outcry now made in certain quarters against the right observance of the Lord's day, without observing the attempts made to stigmatize it as an "attempted restoration of the Jewish Sabbath." Well—even granting all that our opponents charge, we frankly confess that we would infinitely prefer a Jewish Sabbath to a German Sabbath. To the ancient Israelites the day of rest was a goodly day, and by no means a melancholy one. Its morning dawned in peaceful stillness; and when the sun rose out of the bleak and dreary desert, its rays illuminated the ascending cloud that poured up from the brazen altar before the tabernacle. Not a fire was lighted in a single tent; not a stroke of labor was heard through all the silent camp. At the appointed signal of trumpets, the Sabbath offering is brought forth in presence of the people congregated from every tent; two lambs of perfect purity are chosen from the fold and laid beside the altar. The waiting priests light the shining and fragrant censers. While the sweet white cloud is ascending, all the multitude bow in silent prayer until the lamb is laid upon the altar. Then the dark cloud of smoke is seen to pour forth, the priests in loud voice pronounce a blessing on the people; while from myriads of happy voices rolls up one overwhelming burst of praise. "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting!" When the solemn services are concluded, the

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procured. It is in a flourishing condition.

I reached Grand Haven on Friday evening, and remained till the following Tuesday morning, enjoying the kind hospitality of Dominie Oggel. On the morning of the Sabbath, I preached in the Presbyterian Church; and, in the afternoon, enjoyed the privilege of hearing the Dominie in the Dutch language. It was a well digested sermon on the Catechism, according to the custom of appropriating the afternoon of every Sabbath to the Catechism. I had previously heard him during the last session of the General Synod, at Albany, of which he was a member, and where, with one well known, Dr. Van Raalte, he attracted the kind regard and confidence of the members. I felt edified and pleased with both the sermons.

I had anticipated to find the Academy at Holland in session; but I found the examination had taken place, and the vacation commenced the week previous. I was greatly disappointed in this; but my disappointment was, in a measure, relieved, when I heard that Brother Stryker was present at the examination, and had a very pleasant intercourse with the brethren. In consequence of the vacation, I found Brother Vandewall (who is engaged in the Academy, is preaching at the village of Holland, and is doing valuable service) was at Grand Haven, expecting to preach in a church recently formed among Hollanders, some miles distant. Brother Phelps, now the principal of the Academy, was expected on Monday, on his way eastward. We therefore delayed to proceed to the Holland colony last Tuesday. This is situated twenty-two miles from Grand Haven to the South, on Lake Michigan. In company with Dominie Oggel and Vandewall, we took the open waggon stage. The road runs through a dense, heavy forest, and a deep sandy soil, interspersed, occasionally, with clearings. We were somewhat more fortunate than Brother Stryker. It took his company eight hours to accomplish the journey of twenty-two miles. It took ours but six hours. The journey was useful in enabling us to form some conception of the toil and difficulties encountered by the pioneers and subsequent settlers, in subduing these forests, and preparing the way for the condition in which the colony is now found. On Tuesday afternoon, we reached the village of Holland. As we emerged from the forest, the village at the head of Black Lake, already covering a considerable extent with fair edifices, burst upon our view, and produced a pleasant impression. We were at once greeted by Dr. Van Raalte, and introduced to his interesting family. Having remained with them three days, I cannot but pay a passing tribute to Mrs. Van Raalte. I was deeply impressed with what appeared to me her intelligent and deep-toned piety, and one who was well fitted to be the companion of our brother, in all the sacrifices, toils, and hardships he has been called to encounter. The atmosphere of piety which pervaded the household—well ordered in the habits of devotion and religious instruction—arrested my attention. Arrangement was made for a visit to some of the neighboring congregations. The colony extends several miles around from the village of Holland, which has been brought under farming culture, and five or six churches have been formed. At the time suggested for this visit, I felt considerably unwell, which prevented my leaving the village, and made me feel the expedience of not prolonging my return home. On the review of my visit, I greatly regret that I did not succeed in reaching some of the adjacent settlements in the colony.

In passing round the village, Dr. Van Raalte first showed to me the old log-church, not far from his

needed. Already a few of their young men have been brought into our institutions at New-Brunswick, and this fall five of their promising young men, who have finished their course in the Academy, will enter New-Brunswick. It is believed that, in due time, this Academy will grow in importance, and gather a stronger and more extended influence. It is already greatly auxiliary to the interests of our Church and denomination. The Rev. Mr. Van Vleck, who, for some years successfully conducted the interests of the Academy, recently resigned on account of his health. He is succeeded by the Rev. Philip Phelps, lately pastor of our Reformed Dutch Church at Hastings. The selection is a happy one, and it is believed a more fitting one could not have been made from the bosom of our Church.

This brief visit to the Holland colony has increased my interest in it, and enabled me to assure all those who have contributed to its interests, that their contributions have been worthily and beneficially bestowed, and to commend these churches of the Hollanders in the West to their continued confidence and kindness. These Hollanders came here, having but small portions of wealth, but possessed of untiring industry, and strong adherence to their Christian faith, and now they have made their way to the position which they occupy in the community, and in the Christian Church. Our ancestral recollections, our identity with them in the faith of doctrine, and the order of church government and worship, and the remembrance of the stand which they took, and the sacrifices which they made for the truth, entitle them to our cordial confidence and sympathy.

Brother Stryker's visit to the village of Holland, and his attendance at the Examination of the Academy, made a gratifying impression there. His lively and interesting account of his journeyings to the West, in which he gives an account of his visit to the Holland Colony, inserted in the *Intelligencer*, made me feel, at the time, as if it might be needless for me to give any account of my short visit; but, after some delay, I have furnished these notes, in the hope that they may not be without some beneficial influence in regard both to the colony and our Church at large.

T. D. W.

The Sabbath—German and Jewish—In Town and in the Country.

The Devil sometimes does capital service to the cause of truth. He did so a few evenings since when he summoned a "mass meeting" of his followers to extinguish the Sabbath Committee of this city. Had he have secured a respectable hall on Broadway or the Academy of Music—had he then invited some political magnate, or some white-gloved nabob who sips his "Heidsieck" after his luxurious Sunday dinners, to preside at the meeting, there might possibly have been some temporary mischief done by the convocation. Especially if some reader of the *Westminster Review* had been called on to re-haak the ingenious and plausible arguments of that rationalistic organ against the "revival of the Jewish Sabbath." Then perhaps a few converts might have been made to the side of Hatch and the "Herald."

But instead of this, he baits his trap with lager-beer—a shockingly vulgar drink and one mainly in vogue with a single description of foreigners. The meeting is called for the "Volks-garten," a huge circus-like "drink-halle" opposite the old Bowery theatre. The place is consecrated to pipes and beer, to royster-