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6-15-1847

### Letter from John R. Kellogg to the Rev. J. C. Brigham

John R. Kellogg

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June 15, 1847

Allegan, Michigan

A letter from John R. Kellogg, a member of the Executive Committee of the Allegan County Bible Society, to the Rev. J. C. Brigham, Secretary of the American Bible Society, requesting Bibles from the society because in reading the Dutch/English scriptures which the society distributes, proved to be the "most ready, easy and instructive" means of helping the followers of Albertus C. Van Raalte in learning the English language.

Many of the immigrants are able to pay for the scriptures from the society, but others are not. Therefore, Kellogg is asking for help from the society.

The followers of Van Raalte "are (generally) a peculiar people, zealous of good works, and the Bible Cause is that Cause in which their hearts are engaged,..."

"There are at this moment from 6 to 700 souls in the Colony..." The Bibles will be placed in the hands of Van Raalte for distribution. On June 30, the society granted 100 Bibles and 200 testaments for the Hollanders. E. B. Bassett was secretary of Allegan society.

In typescript. Dr. James Z. Nettinga apparently found the letter in the records of the American Bible Society which he was serving in 1962. Nettinga's letter to Dr. Lubbers is dated April 4, 1962. President Irwin J. Lubbers acknowledged the gift promptly on April 11.

Hope College collection in the Joint Archives of Holland, H88-0174.

HISTORICAL MEMO RCA I

Allegan, Michigan  
June 15, 1847

Rev. J. C. Brigham  
Secretary of  
American Bible Society

Dear Sir:

The enclosed resolution of the Allegan Co. Bible Society, will in a measure explain itself, -- nevertheless, it is expedient that I add something by way of information respecting this Colony.

In February last the Rev. Dr. Van Raalte of Holland, came into this country to explore for a location for a Colony of Hollanders.

It was my happy lot to make his first acquaintance and it has been my privilege to be engaged for the greater part of my time since, in promoting so far as I could, the progress of their settlement.

They were of course almost wholly ignorant of our language, but being nearly all of them Protestant Christians (no Romanists among them) they were well versed in the Scriptures, and it was soon discovered that the most ready, easy and instructive way for them to acquire our language was, to put into their hands the Bible in English, for by comparing it with their own, they soon get a knowledge of our language which is very necessary and which they are very anxious for, -- and every man, woman and child among them seem anxious to possess an English Bible.

And now as to their ability to pay, --

Many are able to pay and do it gladly many tho not entirely able, yet they make the exertion and do pay for they do not wish it for naught.

But there are many who cannot pay without taking it from a very, very, scanty portion for their daily bread, -- and these my dear Sir are the persons for whom we ask aid from the Parent Society, --

But even these we trust will in time, with the advantages they will have in this country after one or two of the first years, be able to pay and sure we are they have the heart to do so, -- for they are (generally) a peculiar people, zealous of good works, and the Bible Cause is that Cause in which their hearts are engaged, -- -- yea it is one great cause which brought them to this country, -- persecution and oppression, and the want of labour affording a sufficient return to enable them to subsist, are the causes and the only causes which drove them here, - their settlement is commenced in a new heavy timbered, but rich portion of Ottawa and Allegan Counties, on the Eastern shore of our beautiful Lake Michigan, -- indented at that point with Black Lake and River, forming (when the mouth is improved) one of the best and most

beautiful harbours in all the great West, - yes in all the World, -  
There are at this moment from 5 to 700 souls in the Colony, - many  
more are known to be on the way, and by the close of navigation  
we may reasonably expect over 2,000 -- and this in all probability  
is only the nucleus for many, many thousands to gather around.

I could in truth add more and then comment, but is it necessary?  
May Sir give to this people a Carte-Blanche for what they want, and  
God will supply the Vacuum.

Yours most sincerely,

(Signature)  
John R. Kellogg  
one of the Executive Committee  
of Allegan Co. Bible Society, Mich.

N.B. We propose to put the Bibles into the hands of the  
Rev. Dr. A. C. Van Raalte to be disposed of in his  
discretion.

---

American Bible Society,  
New York City, New York

Committee on Distribution  
June 30, 1847

"The following grants were made:

.....

To the Allegan Co. B.S. Mich. 100 Bibles and 200 Testaments for a  
settlement of Hollanders upon the application of E.B. Bassett,  
Secretary."

April 11, 1962

Dr. James Z. Nettinga  
Secretary  
American Bible Society  
450 Park Avenue  
New York 22, New York

Dear Jim:

What a find! We will put the letter in the archives  
and will make use of it many times over.

Dr. Wynand Wichers <sup>not sent yet</sup> is gathering material for a history  
of Hope College. We shall see that a copy of this  
letter is made available to him. Very probably we  
should also deposit one in the archives of the Neth-  
erlands Museum here in Holland.

I should like to raise just one question. The action  
of the American Bible Society on June 30 indicates that  
the grants of Bibles and Testaments is made upon the  
application of E. B. Basset, Secretary. I assume that  
he is the secretary of the Allegan County Bible Society  
and not a secretary in New York.

Again, many thanks.

Cordially,

Irwin J. Lubbers  
President

IJL:pvt


*Feb. 13, 1963 - one copy sent to Dr. Wynand Wichers.*

ROBERT T. TAYLOR  
EUGENE A. NIDA  
LATON E. HOLMGREN  
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GILBERT DARLINGTON  
INVESTMENT OFFICER

ERIC M. NORTH  
CONSULTANT

April 4, 1962

REC'D APR 6 A.M.

Dr. Irwin J. Lubbers  
Hope College  
Holland,  
Michigan

Dear Irwin:

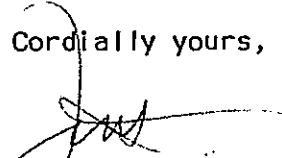
I am enclosing a copy of a letter which was found in the files of the American Bible Society, dated June 15, 1847. It is a request from the Allegan Bible Society to the Bible Society for Scriptures to go to Dr. Van Raalte and his Colony of Hollanders.

At the close of the letter I have added the minutes of the Committee on Distribution of the Bible Society dated June 30, 1847.

I thought you might like to have this for your files and historical purposes.

With all best wishes, I remain,

Cordially yours,



James Z. Nettinga  
Secretary

JZN:ab  
encl.

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