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

A. C. Van Raalte

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August 7, 1863

No. 26

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps, reporting that the Holland company had a major fight with Morgan's division on the 4th of July, and gave incidental academy, church, and local news.

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

Translated by Clarence Jalving.

Holland, Mich:
Aug: 7/1863

Revd. P. Phelps.

Dear Brother.

Just now I did receive yours and hasten to reply. During the last 12 days the very backward crops are growing very fast: much rain and warm weather. - We have had busy times: Classis did meet: We had School examinations and exhibition: a Clergymen meeting at Grand Haven with Wisconsen about Missionary matters: The clergymen were afraid to injure the Academy by the operation: but those who labor the most for the Academy said: Forward! - Wakker and Keppel seem to be looking in the buildings operations for your instructions. -

The appointment for Professors for Holland Academy seem to be a very heavy operation. -The simple-minded Dutch who know very little about Summer Vacations do not know what to say about it. -The Slowness is life for Pella. -

Our Boys 200 in number had a tremendous fight with Morgan's division on the fourth of July: the fire and 8 charges they had to endure of 2000 men during 3½ hours: Morgan did ask permission to bury his dead, but did not finish his work, (our boys had to bury yet 25 of his men) but left them in haste, jst at the time when another two thousand did cross the river: Col Moore had chosen an excellent position on a Hill with trees and logs: Sometimes they were overwhelmed and they had to back out to be able to use their guns: - In the evening they did get reinforcements 1000 cavalarie & 700 infantry: then they followed Him to Lebanoa all along the road the houses were filled with wounded and dieing rebels. They did call our boys ground-hounds because they fired out of the ground: they said their number wounded and killed were 250: - Morgan did parole one of our wounded soldiers: and said they must make your Colonell General and his boys are all sharpshooters: * 5 of ours were killed en 20 wounded: and yet they were constant under a rain of bullets: The leaves brush and bark of the trees was so abundant it did hinder constant in their eyes: the Colonel's horse and pantuloon was hit. -The Colonel loves very much the Holland Company: they drove them by the tremendous charges to surround them several times. We feel that God's hand did cover them: Morgan's division could have eaten them up: Morgan seem to have been discouraged. on account of that unusual number of wounded and dead: our boys did hit them all in the head or breast. I tell you we have had a very pleasant thanksgiving today. My family has been very well, even Mrs. Van Raalte very unusual: my dispeptic stomach makes me very weak, being able to eat very little.

I foster more contempt than fear for the quarling North: we have business enough to suppress the rebels in arms: and I hope that they may learn how to deal with mobs too: Is the North crazy? very well: the Lord will take care of the insane, He is never hindered nor helped in his great majestic Forward March.

Will you be so kind as to send us some molt coffee and a few pounds black thea: you will do us a favor: I enclose \$10.--.-

Our subscription list goes round for New Brunswick College: it will not be much. - Mrs. V D Wall wrote to my wife: she is the same. He did not write. - Dr. Oggel is somewhat better and is expected here on 1st Sept: - Mrs. Van Raalte sends most especially her love to Mrs. Phelps. -we all wish to be remembered to your Father & Mother and famely. -Anna's mother, Br. & Sisters are all well. Remember me to Mrs. Phelps.

From your Friend and Brother

A.C. Van Raalte

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that they may learn how to deal with us
too? - Is the North crazy ^{very} well: the Lord will
take care of the insane, he is never hindered
nor helped in his great majestic forward march.
Will you be so kind to send us some ^{very} good coffee
and a few pounds black tea: you will do us a
favor: I enclose \$10.00.

Our subscription list goes toward New-
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did not write. - Dr Ogden is some what better and is ex-
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26. About the 11th
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