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Van Raalte Papers: 1870-1879

Van Raalte Papers

7-9-1874

A Letter of A. C. Van Raalte to His Son, D. B. K.

A. C. Van Raalte

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JULY - DEC 1974

FILE NAME

Cawker City, Kansas, July 9, 1874

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to his son, D. B. K., wanting to make sure that Dirk knew that Congress passed a law that Civil War veterans who lost limbs can receive a pension of \$24 a month. He chides Dirk for not telling him more about what he is doing.

Original in the Archives of Calvin College.

*asked Geoff
to get a copy
of original
at Calvin
4 Dec 98*

A.C. VR to D.B.K.
letter you requested
from me via
Calvin.

Gealt

12/21/98

the provisions of this act (ain secure benefits of the same) without the intervention of the attorney. -

A power of attorney will not be recognised in an application for an Increase of Pension provided by this act.

A letter from a pensioner addressed to the Commissioner of Pensions, enclosing his certificate and giving his post-office address, will be sufficient presentation of his claim.

Je Schryft me niets van je goed meint, ~~de~~ daarom schryft het n.

Dan by de training van uw jong paarad had je u lin away, en een verdwilt enkel; alweer zeg ik: waarom mag ik als vader toch niet leven in het lot myner zonen: Wat kwaad heb ik toch gedaan: - Glocit, ergens het symphonie tutech levey, die grootste schand der menscheid, dan is het Sinder in het vaderhart, waar van ik een zeer groot aantal besit, als een specialiteit myner schepping.

Waarom mocht ik dan nietten met familiaar levig?! dat leven in elkaas!?

Het is geen Kroon, hoe een mensch het man nelyst dwygen, zo vaak beroden, meent te moeten Sinder in de thuytstelling en af stunting van de koude leven losse ysklomp. Dit leg ik niet om te horen

ten, mees om die menscheid te leren kennen; het leven te leren gemisten, by u door mijne meedere kennis te baten.

Wt hebben het hier nu draog van zondag krygen te legen: van naech meende ik dat wy er ook wak van kregen, doch het bleef bijeen betje leggen en een blide kanten kregen te weer: entoch soms kan het hier zeer swaer legenen: my dunkt als de niet spocclig leges krygen, dan sul het vrom flien: Het Buffels gras is vromst, behalve in die la agten die als water gaten het land govend maken: ik sta verwonderd hoe de koeyley op dit gras het blyven en goed melk geven als de maas goed gewaterd worden op tyd.

Cawker City, Kansas

July 9, 1874

D.B.K. Van Raalte

Dear Dirkt

I read the following in the paper - "Washington: July 1, The act approved June 18th entitled, An Act To Increase Pensions In Certain Cases, provided that all persons who are now entitled to pensions under existing laws and who have lost either an arm at or above the elbow, or a leg above the knee, shall be rated in the second class and shall receive \$24.00 per month; provided that no artificial limbs or Communication therefor shall be furnished to such persons as shall be entitled to pensions under this act. This act by its terms was to take effect from and after June 4th, 1873.

General Baker, Commissioner of pensions, announced that persons embraced within the provisions of this act can secure benefits of the same without the intervention of the attorney.

A power of attorney will not be recognized in an application for an increase of pension provided by this act.

A letter from a pensioner addressed to the commissioner of pensions, enclosing his certificate and giving his post office address, will be sufficient presentation of his claim."

You write nothing about your good news, and therefore I write it to you. Then too, in connection with the training of your young horse you had a runaway and sprained an ankle. Again I ask, "Why may not I as your father share in the life and lot of my sons? What evil have I done?" If sympathetic life, the great treasure of human nature, glows anywhere, it is in the heart of a father: I possess this in large measure as a specialty of my creation.

Why then must I be excluded from the intimate life? It is no glory to a man if he thinks he must keep manly silence (otherwise so highly recommended) in withdrawing and rejecting like a cold, lifeless iceberg. I do not say this to complain, but to teach you humanity; to teach you to enjoy life and to benefit you by my greater knowledge.

It is still dry here. It rained Sunday. Last night I thought it rained too but the rainfall was minimal and we had a lot of wind. Around us there was rain. Yet at times it rains very heavily here. It appears to me that if it does not rain soon the corn crop will be a failure. The buffalo grass is withered except in the low spots - which makes the land seem like huge waves. I am amazed that the cows remain fat on this grass and produce much milk from it, if they receive adequate drinking water on time.

I read so much about the little baby that I am almost impatient to see the little tike. May she grow up to the glory of her God and Creator and to the joy of the parental heart. I am very eager to see her.

Next Tuesday or Wednesday, the Lord willing, I resume my trip to Hastings, Nebraska, eighty miles from here. And then via Lincoln, Nebraska, to Rev. Te Winkel in Holland, Nebraska. I do not have much to do there other than to preach for him as I promised. Hence nothing will fascinate me in this place. I should not have by-passed Pella, but my physical, financial and spiritual condition urge me to go home.

Since I have to do a lot of writing and am too weary to travel by horse in this hot weather I consider it feasible to go home. I miss my easy chair, etc. The people here are very good to me, but they need a parsonage here.

Hearty greetings to all from me, not forgetting the children - also Anna of Kalamazoo. From Spring Lake I learn that there is illness. Christina

had ague. People here know nothing of this. The heavy wheat harvest is too much for the people in this hot weather.

The Lord, my child, be your joy.

Your loving father,

A.C. Van Raalte

- P.S. 1. I thought I already had a hay rake. Am I wrong?
2. By the goodness of God we received a refreshing rain. Before leaving I hope to write you once more. Maybe also from Holland, Nebraska.

Chick

Cawker City, Kansas

July 9, 1874

D.B.K. Van Raalte

Dear Dick:

I read the following in the paper - "Washington: July 1, The act approved June 18th entitled, An Act To Increase Pensions In Certain Cases, provided that all persons who are now entitled to pensions under existing laws and who have lost either an arm at or above the elbow, or a leg above the knee, shall be rated in the second class and shall receive \$24.00 per month; provided that no artificial limbs or Communication therefor shall be furnished to such persons as shall be entitled to pensions under this act. This act by its terms was to take effect from and after June 4th, 1873.

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(3)

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A.C. Van Raalte

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