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A Letter of A. C .V. R. to His Son and Daughter-in-Law, Ben and Julia Van Raalte

A. C. Van Raalte

Erica D. Heeg

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March 9, 1874

Spring Lake, Manito Co., Illinois

A letter of ACVR to his son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Julia Van Raalte. The letter accompanies a document on infant baptism, which ACVR is sending to his relations.

Calvin College Archives, ACVR collection, box 5, fldr 83.

Spring Lake
Manito P.O. Ill:
March 9, 1874

Mr: & Mrs B Van Raalte.

Dear Children.

Please accept from a parents loving heart, the inclosed manuscript: "on infant Baptism"; Blessings can not be received without responsibilities: this paper may aid you to know them, and to Seek to Comply with them: It is a great pleasure to me, to be instrumental hereby, to a higher valuation and to a hearty and often renewed acceptance of your own Covenant relation. And to the increase of a prayerful instruction of your offspring on the privileges and duties of God's Covenant sealed to them: So that my children's children hereafter in generations, may be lovers of the truth, and faithfull to the Church of their God on earth.

By rereading I trust the import will be clear to you: Though unaccostumed, yet I wrote in the English language, to Secure the reading of the Same by the Childrens Children hereafter.

I am greatly desirous, that your posterity may read from my own handwriting, a few of those very precious, to me so dear, great Bible or revelation truths.

Your acceptance of this token of love, is to me your Solem pledge of binding yourself, by the help of God, to a faithfull delivery of this manuscript (and those which may follow) to your children.

If time and health shall not permit me to provide a copy for Dirk, Helena, Mina and Anna; please lend then the Same for Copying. May the Lord graciously make You a family rejoicing and Strong in the truth.

Your very affectionate Father
A:C: Van Raalte.

Transcribed by Erica D. Heeg
December 3, 2003

Calvin Coll. Arch.
ACVR coll.
Box 5, flds 83



Springlake
Maine N. B. M.

March 9 1844

Mrs. M. B. Van Hook.

Dear Madam.

I have accepted
from a parent to living church,
the inclosed manuscript, for
infant Baptism. - It is my
opinion not to be received without
responsibilities: - this paper may
aid you to know them, and to
to comply with them: - It was
a great pleasure to me, to be instru-
mental hereby, to a higher intelli-
gence and to a hearty and often laudable
acceptance of your own (own) relation
And to the increase of a prayerful
instruction of your offspring in
the privileges and duties of

God's favour and sealed to them:
So that my children's children
hereafter in generations, may be
lovers of the truth, and faith-
ful to the (word) of their God
on earth.

By returning I trust the imprint
will be clear to you though I
~~was~~ unaccustomed, yet I wrote
in the English language, to save
the reading of the same by the
children's children hereafter.

I am greatly desirous, that your
posterity may read from my own
handwriting, a few of these very
precious, to me so dear, great Bible
or revelation truths.

Your acceptance of this token of
love, is to me your solemn pledge,
of binding yourself, by the help of
God, to a faithful delivery of this
manuscript, and these words
my (love) to your children.

If time and health shall im-
perish me to provide a copy for
Helen, Miriam, Anna; please
send them the same by copying.
May the Lord graciously make
you a family rejoicing and strong
in the truth.

Your very affectionate Father

A. Van Raalte

Calvin Coll. Arch.
ACVR coel.
Box 5, flds 83



Spring Lake
Manila N.H.

March 18th

Rev. Mr. B. Van Hook.

Dear Sir,

I have accepted
from a parent's loving hands
the enclosed manuscript, from
infant Baptists, - the signing
can not be received without
responsibilities: - this paper may
aid you to know them, and to seek
to comply with them: - It was
great pleasure to me, to be inspi-
red by a heart, to a higher vocation
and to a purity and often a more ac-
ceptance of your own personal relation.
And to the increase of a prayerful
instruction of your offspring in
the privileges and duties of

God's favour is rich to them:
So that my children's children
hereafter in generations, may be
lovers of the truth, and faith-
ful to the (word) of their God
on earth.

By retaining I trust the imprint
will be clear to your thoughts &
~~an~~ unaccustomed, yet I wrote
in the English language, to show
the reading of the same by the
children's children hereafter.

I am greatly desirous, that your
posterity may read from my own
handwriting, a few of these very
precious, to me so dear, great Bible
or revelation truths.

Your acceptance of this token of
love, is to me your solemn pledge
of binding yourself, by the help of
God, to a faithful delivery of this
manuscript, and these words
may (shall) be your children.

If time and health shall not
permit me to send a copy to
Helena, Minerva Anna, please
send them the same in copying.
May the Lord graciously make
you a family enjoying an strong
in the truth.

Your affectionate Father

A. C. Carter

29 September 1998

Mr. Geoffrey Reynolds
Joint Archives of Holland
Hope College

Dear Geoff:

In response to your e-mail message of the 23rd, I have checked my Van Raalte collection and found one letter sent to Ben Van Raalte from his father, dated 9 March 1874.

Father Van Raalte wrote this letter in English surprisingly and sent it along with his lengthy discourse on infant baptism. Ben and his wife apparently just became parents. As long as I am sending you a copy of the letter I will also send you a copy of the discourse on baptism and my transcription of it for your files. This discourse is one of the very few theological statements produced by Albertus C. Van Raalte. The discourse is cast in sermonic form.

This letter is faint unfortunately so it may be necessary to go back to Calvin to get a better copy but at least you can add this to your Van Raalte files.

Regards,

Elton J. Bruins