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6-1874

Letter from A. C. Van Raalte to Dirk B. K. Van Raalte

A. C. Van Raalte

Nella Kennedy

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[June, 1874]

Salamon [?], Kansas

In in undated letter to Dirk B. K. Van Raalte, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raatle wrote his son during his trip to Kansas. He has been sick. He also said a few things about the state.

In Dutch; translation by Nella Kennedy, 24 October 2001.

Original in the Van Raalte collection, no. 300, at Heritage Hall, Calvin College.

[June, 1874]

[1]

Monday morning

D.B.K. van Raalte,

I am writing this note from Salamon {?} on the Kansas Pacific [line], a town of 400 inhabitants. They call it the most respectable hotel – well, my mouth is so keen on it that it makes me smile.

At first I became ill – perhaps because of the heat and too much to drink. Also the ride made me nauseated when I could not lie down and benefit from a breeze. When I was in Kansas City I thought I would return to Holland, Michigan, but some remedies and a couple of nights of sleep helped me recover to such a degree that I risked going further. I could sleep a lot today and was not thirsty. Furthermore it is raining today and it is much cooler so that I did not regress today. The comfortable stage [ACVR used the English word] and the promise to have an entire bench for myself to sleep on as well as good halting places [pleisterplaatsen – ACVR misspelled the word, writing plijsterplaatsen] are encouraging

[2]

for the trip tomorrow.

People are complaining – many expect bankruptcies, especially in Kansas City – 60 cents for wheat – eggs 6 cents [possibly a 6 changed to a 2].

Beautiful land, but no buyers, and the farmers have no market. It seems to me that for the Dutch people, who live 90 miles northwest from here, it must be even worse.

Greet everyone most warmly from me. May the Lord be your great joy and aid.

Your father who loves you very much

[uw u zeer liefhebbende vader – a common affectionate closing]

A.C. Van Raalte

Nella Kennedy, Toan
24 Oct 2001

Calvin,
Apr 9, 25

maandag morgen

W. R. Van Raate.

Dit lettertje schryf ik uit Salaman
aan de Kansas Pacific, een stad van twee
inwoners, die wonen in het best meest respectabele
Hotel. Wel myn mond is zoo vreselijk, dat ik
waarslyk glimlachen moet.

Sint begin 21ste de ziekte, mis schien door
zwakte en te veel alcoholen; ook maakte my het
lyden misselyk also ik niet meer liggen kon en welte
ken liggen. In Kansas City meende ik weer te
vry te kunnen gaan naar Holland Sted: doch een
quaal om deelen in een paar nachten
slapens herstelden my zo veel, dat ik van mor-
gen het vrye stad te gaan. Ik
kon van daag veel slapen, en was met de
dag, ook tegent het saterdag en is het wa-
kerder, waardoor ik van daag met veel
indiging. Dit misselyke stagen ende
belofte een heele bank te zullen hebben
om erop te kunnen slapen, alsoe dat er
geen plekje plaatsen Zyn benoemen

my voor de reis op morgen. -

Algemeen is men hier klugende
vele Bankroeten waagt men vooral in Kans.
Las City. - 60 ct de tarwe
lijeren 2 cent.

Schenland heeft geen koopers, en
de boeren hebben geen markt
en my dunkt by het Hollandsche
Veldsp. die van hier 90 mylen Noord
West verren moet het nog slijmer
zyn. -

Goet allen heel liefde van my: -
De Heeren J. Scheerdt & Co. in
Nieuwe en Sultje.

W. J. Scheerdt & Co. in Nieuwe en Sultje

M. J. Scheerdt