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

A. C. Van Raalte

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Cawker City, Kansas, June 19, 1874

No. 90

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps about business matters and concurs in the appointment of Wm. B. Gilmore as principal of the Preparatory Department of Hope College.

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

Cawker City, Kansas
Box 49
June 19, 1874

Rev. Dr. P. Phelps

Dear Brother,

Your letter of 8th of June written to Rev. ^{Gil}~~W~~ Gilmore I received today.

Convinced of the necessity of the appointment of a Principal for the Preparatory Department of Hope College, I as a member of the Committee to make such appointment concur in the appointment of Rev. W.B. Gilmore for said position with salary as can be agreed upon.

I left the last days in May for Kansas, and though I'm in Kansas City yet was sick two days of exhaustion, yet I did arrive at last in Rotterdam, Kansas where I feel an effect of this climate wonderfull beneficial for my health, by which I am encouraged.

The selling of the 77 Bond to the Eben Haeser fund is disapproved. I have written back to them that they could receive instead, the claim on the lots sold and to be sold of the female property. This would be security on real estate. I suppose they will bring it up.

A few weeks here, some travel, principally among churches, and a short visit at home will be my program. D.V. as my remedy for restoring somewhat my health.

May the Lord bless you, and your work and family.

Yours sincerely,

A.C. Van Raalte

Suggests Gilmore for Savings of Prep. Dept
Dept for Kansas

Lawrence Kansas
Prep. Dept
Rev. Dr. J. Phelps. June 19 1874.

Dear Brother;

Your letter of June
written to Rev. Gilmore I received
to day:

Convinced of the necessity of the
appointment of a Principal for the
Preparatory Department of Hope
College: I, as a member of the
Committee, to make such appoint-
ment, concurred in the appoint-
ment of W. B. Gilmore for said position
with salary as can be agreed upon.

I left the last day in
May for Kansas, and thought
I in-

I in Kansas City, yet was sick
two days of exhaustion, yet I
did arrive at last in Rotterdam
Holland; where I feel an effect
of this climate - wonderful
beneficial for my health, by
which I am encouraged.

The selling of the 11th Nov
to the Eben-Moder fund is dis-
approved: I have written back
to them: that they could
receive in stead, the claim on
the Lots sold and to be sold
of the female property: this
would be security on real
estate. I suppose they will
bring it up.

A few weeks more, some
travel, ^{perhaps equally among churches} and a short visit
at home will be my program -
and D.V. will be my remedy

for restoring somewhat my
health.

May the Lord bless you, and your
wife and family

Yours sincerely

A. Van Raalte

Cawker City Kansas
 Box 49
 June 19/1874

Revd Dr F: Phelps

Dear brother,

Your letter of 8th June written to Revd Gilmore I received today:

Convinced of the necessity of the appointment of a Principal for the Preparatory Department of Hope College: I, as a member of the Committee to make such appointment, concur in the appointment of Rev. A.B. Gilmore for said position with salary as can be agreed upon.

I left the last days in May for Kansas, and though I in Kansas City yet was sick two days of exhaustion, yet I did arrive at last in Rotterdam Kansas; where I feel an effect of this climate wonderful beneficial for my health, by which I am encouraged.-

The selling of the 77 Bond to the Benhaeser fund is disapproved: I have written back to them: that they could receive instead, the claim on the Lots sold and to be sold of the female property: this would be security on real estate. I suppose they will bring it up.-

A few weeks more, Some travel, principally among churches, and a short visit at home will be my programme D.V. as my remedy for restoring somewhat my health.

May the Lord bless you, and your work and family

Yours sincerely

A.C. Van Raalte.

Cawker City Kansas
 Box 49
 June 19/1874

Revd Dr P: Phelps

Dear Brother,

Your letter of 5th June written to Revd
 Gilmore I received today:

Convinced of the necessity of the appointment of a Princi-
 pal for the Preparatory Department of Hope College: I, as a member of
 the Committee to make such appointment, concur in the appointment of
 Rev. W.B. Gilmore for said position with salary as can be agreed upon.

I left the last days in May for Kansas, and though I in
 Kansas City yet was sick two days of exhaustion, yet I did arrive
 at last in Rotterdam Kansas; where I feel an effect of this climate
 wonderfull benificial for my health, by which I am encouraged.-

The selling of the 77 Bond to the BenHaeser fund is dis-
 approved: I have written back to, them: that they could receive in-
 stead, the claim on the Lots sold and to be sold of the female pro-
 perty: this would be Security on real estate. I suppose they will
 bring it up.-

A few weeks here, Some travel, principally among churches,
 and a short visit at home will be my programma D.V. as my remedy
 for restoring somewhat my health.

May the Lord bless you, and your work and famely

Yours Sincerely

A.C. Van Ra lte.

74-06-19 [GS90]

Cawker City Kansas¹
Box 49
June 19 1874.

Revd Dr P: Phelps.

Dear Brother,

Your letter of 8th June written to Revd Gilmore² I received today:

Convinced of the necessity of the appointment of a Principal for the Preparatory Department of Hope College: I, as a member of the Committee to make such appointment, concur in the appointment of Rev: W. B. Gilmore for said position with salary as can be agree upon.³

I left the last days in May for Kansas, and though I'm in Kansas City yet was sick two days of exhaustion, yet I did arrive at last in Rotterdam, Kansas; where I feel an effect of this climate wonderfull beneficial for my health, by which I am encouraged. –

The selling of the r r Bond to the Eben-Haeser fund is disapproved: I have written back to them: that they could received in stead, the claim on the Lots Sold and to be Sold of the female property: this would be Security on real estate. I suppose they will bring it up. –⁴

A few weeks here, some travel, principally among churches, and a short visit at home will be my program in a D. V.⁵ as my remedy for restoring somewhat my health.

May the Lord bless you, and your work and famely.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Van Raalte

¹ Cawker City was located near Rotterdam, Kansas. A congregation was founded there in 1872. The congregation moved to Rotterdam. It was disbanded in 1946. At the time Van Raalte visited Cawker City and possibly would have preached to this congregation, the church did not yet have a resident pastor. *Historical Directory Of the Reformed Church in America, 1628-2000, 627.*

² Rev. William B. Gilmore, son-in-law of Van Raalte.

³ Van Raalte never ceased his efforts to advance the career of his son-in-law. Gilmore had left Holland and the position of principal of the Female Seminary the previous fall. He was now pastor of the Dutch Reformed congregation in Spring Lake, Illinois. *Historical Directory...2000, 146.*

⁴ With the documents now available to the researcher, it is not possible to understand the financial transactions involving the railroad bonds and college finances.

⁵ *Deo volenta* or the Lord willing, an often used term by Van Raalte.

ARTICLE 20

The Revs. D. Broek and J. F. Zwemer were named as a committee to make an investigation concerning the financial situation of "*De Hope*," and to report their findings to the classis.

ARTICLE 21

Rev. R. Pieters was appointed by classis to correspond with the congregation of Rotterdam, Kansas, concerning their relationship to classis.²³⁶

ARTICLE 22

The classis heard and accepted with joy communication from Dr. A. C. Van Raalte concerning his activities among the dispersed Hollanders.²³⁷

ARTICLE 23

At the request of theological students J. Hofman and N. Neerken, it was decided to hold an adjourned session of classis on next July 1, in order that these brothers [may] take the candidate's examination.

Revs. G. J. Nykerk, H. Uiterwyk, and J. F. Zwemer, appointed to regulate the examination, reported as follows, which report was accepted and approved:

Hebrew: Primarius - Rev. H. Uiterwyk; Secundus - Rev. J. F. Zwemer

Greek: Primarius - Rev. P. de Pree; Secundus - Rev. W. Moerdyk

Biblical criticism: Primarius - Rev. D. Broek; Secundus - Rev. B. Van Ess

²³⁶ The young, struggling congregation in distant Rotterdam, Kansas, needed attention; Van Raalte had already been (re)commissioned at the September 1873 session of classis to visit the churches in Kansas and Nebraska. It seems that here Pieters is given the task of communicating with Rotterdam, just in case the ailing Van Raalte would be unable to make the trip (see notes 78, 136, 142, 172, and 213 above). The latter had spent the winter "suffering from nervous debility" at the home of his daughter and son-in-law (the Rev. William B. Gilmore) in Illinois, and was still there when the classis met in April 1874; he was said, however, to be planning to visit Kansas when his health improved; 4 April 1874, *Holland City News*, 5. By early June 1874 he was visiting in Kansas (just outside Cawker City, near Rotterdam); A. C. van Raalte to D. B. K. van Raalte, 4 June 1874, A. C. van Raalte Collection, Calvin College Archives, Grand Rapids (typescript copy at the Van Raalte Institute, Hope College).

²³⁷ The reference to Van Raalte's "activities among the dispersed Hollanders" is rather puzzling, since he was reportedly (see note 233 above) recuperating in Manito, Illinois, where his son-in-law William B. Gilmore was pastor of an Anglophone congregation, not properly described as "dispersed Hollanders." Van Raalte's sojourn in Manito lasted about six months, from November 1873 to May 1874, judging from the letters he wrote from that address; copies of these letters (some in English and some in Dutch, with English translation) are to be found at the Van Raalte Institute, Hope College.