

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869

Van Raalte Papers

6-24-1864

A Copy of the Program of the "Public Exercises at the Laying of the Keel of the NEW MISSIONARY SHIP at Holland, Black Lake, Michigan, Friday, June 24, 1864."

Samuel Zwemer

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s

The original documents are held in The Joint Archives of Holland. This digitized material is intended for personal research/study only. The original documents may not be reproduced for commercial use in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from [The Joint Archives of Holland](#).

Recommended Citation

Zwemer, Samuel, "A Copy of the Program of the "Public Exercises at the Laying of the Keel of the NEW MISSIONARY SHIP at Holland, Black Lake, Michigan, Friday, June 24, 1864."" (1864). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 235.

https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/235

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Van Raalte Papers at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

June 24, 1864

A copy of the program of the "Public Exercises at the Laying of the Keel of the NEW MISSIONARY SHIP at Holland, Black Lake, Michigan, Friday, June 24, 1864."

The original can be found in the Joint Archives of Holland.

Albertus C. Van Raalte gave the invocation or "Voorbede."

The Rev. John Van Nest Talmadge, of Amoy, China, was the major speaker.

This program is found in the pamphlet written by Samuel Zwemer, entitled, "The Ship That Sailed and the Keel That Never Kissed the Sea," pp. 13-14.

Original pamphlet in the archives of Western Theological Seminary, Joint Archives of Holland.

Copy the
facsimile -
preserve the
1908 edition
?

The Laying of the Keel

(Facsimile of Original Program.)

PUBLIC EXERCISES

AT THE

LAYING OF THE KEEL

OF THE

New Missionary Ship.

AT HOLLAND, BLACK LAKE, MICH. FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1864.

- I *Voorgebed*,—REV. A. C. VAN RAALTE, D. D. President for the occasion.
- II *Psalmgezang*, Ps. 72: 3, 4.
- III Reading Scripture, (*Isaiah 60*) by REV. T. ROMEYN BECK.
- IV Address by REV. PHILIP PELTZ, Cor. Sec. of the Board of Foreign Missions.
- V *Vertaling van* DS. PELTZ'S *rede*.
- VI Singing of a Missionary hymn by the children under the leadership of Mr. Cs. DOESBURG.
- VII Address by REV. J. N. TALMAGE, Missionary at Amoy, China.
- VIII *Vertaling van* DS. TALMADGE'S *rede*.
- IX General Singing,—"*From Greenland's Icy Mountains*."
- X *Gebed*.—DS. P. J. OGGEL.
- XI *Aanspraken door* DS. S. BOLKS, DS. JOH. VAN DER MEULEN *en anderen van de Klassis Wisconsin*.
- XII *Psalmgezang*, Ps. 98: 1, 2.
- XIII *Aanspraken door* DS. C. VAN DER MEULEN, DS. J. H. KARTEN *en anderen van de Klassis Holland*.
- XIV Missionary Ode, (*Tune Rockvale*) by the Academy Choir under the leadership of Mr. WM. B. GILMORE,

(WRITTEN FOR THE OCCASION BY REV. PHILIP PHELPS, JR.)

- 1 Hasten on the work of *love*.
Free-will off'rings bring!
Smile upon it, from above,
Thou, our Heav'nly King!
Why to us this haven lent,
Who, the truth, possess?
Let that truth by us be sent,
Other souls to bless.
- 2 Hasten on the work of *zeal*,
Willing hearts and hands!
Here we lay the hallowed keel;
Greet it, distant lands!
Forest! yield thy living oaks,
Sought in God's dear name:
Woodman! consecrate thy strokes;
Thine's a bless-ed fame.
- 3 Hasten on the work of *hope*—
Hope will soon be sight:
In expectant vision's scope,
There is full delight.
See the strong-ribbed sides outstand,
See the masts arise,
See the eager sails expand,
Beauteous to our eyes.
- 4 Hasten on the work of *faith*,
Trust no earthly powers.
Wealth of worlds, our Sovereign hath;
All, by faith, is ours.
We are rich, for rich is He,
And we His receive:
His resources we shall see,
If we but believe.
- 5 Hasten on the work of *prayer*—
Prayer for Jesus' sake:
When we make His cause, our care,
Ours—He, His, doth make.
If in prayer, we do not tire,
Happy then, the end:
God will grant our heart's desire,
Even more, will send.
- 6 Hasten on the work of *joy*:
Give our Lord, the praise:
For He deigns, us to employ,
Then rewards His grace.
Shout for joy, ye woods around!
Joyful be, O lake!
Songs of joy, ye heaven's resound,
Hallelujahs, wake!
- 7 Hasten on the work of *rest*
Worldly care! here cease.
In these labors, we are blest
With our Saviour's peace.
Follow us, such work as this,
When there shall be given
Perfect rest and love and bliss,
Evermore in heaven.

- XV Laying of the Keel. (*Het Leggen der Kiel*)
- XVI Concluding Prayer.—REV. PHILIP PHELPS, JR.
- XVII Singing by the Academy Choir, —Ps. 117—*Tune, Creation*.
- XVIII *Slotsang*.

*Dat's Heeren zegen op u daal?
Zijn gunst uit Sim u bestrual:
Hij schiep't Heelal zijn naam ter eer
Loof, loof, nu aller Heeren Heer!*

- XIX Benediction.

The exercises will commence at 3 o'clock, P. M.

A. ZWEMER, Sec'y for the occasion.

The Ships That Sailed.

"Dat onze kinderen zullen gevormd worden tot verspreiders van het licht des Evangelies in de duistere plaatsen er aarde."

—Reasons for opening the Pioneer School, Oct. 1851.

(List of the sons and daughters of the Emigration who sailed to foreign shores, most of them graduates of Hope College.)

Safe Home in Port:

Rev. E. J. Heeren,	R. C. A.,	India	1872
Mrs. L. Vennema Heeren,	"	"	1872
Rev. L. Hekhuis, M. D.	"	"	1881
Rev. Peter J. Zwemer,	"	Arabia	1892
Rev. Harry J. Wiersum,	"	"	1899
Mrs. Nettie K. Boot,	"	China	1903

In Commission:

Rev. John A. Otte, M.D.,	R. C. A.	China,	1887
Mrs. Frances C. Otte,	"	"	1887
Rev. Wm. Hazenberg,	Ind'p't,	S. Africa.	1889
Mrs. Visscher Hazenberg,	"	"	1889
Miss Nellie Zwemer,	R. C. A.	China,	1891
Miss Elizabeth M. Cappon,	"	"	1881
Rev. A. L. Warnshuis,	"	"	1900
Mrs. Anna D. Warnshuis,	"	"	1900
Rev. Harry P. Boot,	"	"	1903
Miss Gertrude Wonnink,	"	"	1906
Rev. Henry J. Voskuil,	"	"	1907
Rev. Henry P. De Pree,	"	"	1907
Mrs. Kate E. De Pree,	"	"	1907
Rev. Albert Oltmans, D. D.,	"	N. Japan	1886
Mrs. Alice V. Oltmans,	"	"	1886
Rev. D. C. Ruigh,	"	"	1901
Miss Jennie M. Kuiper,	"	"	1905
Rev. Albertus Pieters, D. D.,	"	S. Japan	1891
Mrs. Emma T. Pieters,	"	"	1891
Rev. Harman V. S. Peeke,	"	"	1893
Rev. Garret Hondelink,	"	"	1903
Mrs. Grace W. Hondelink,	"	"	1903
Miss Grace Thomasma,	"	"	1904
Miss Jennie A. Pieters,	"	"	1904
Mr. Antony Walvoord,	"	"	1905
Mrs. Edith Walvoord,	"	"	1905
Rev. Willis G. Hoekje,	"	"	1907
Rev. S. M. Zwemer, D. D.,	"	Arabia,	1890
Mrs. E. DePree Cantine,	"	"	1902
Mrs. May DePree Thoms,	"	"	1906
Rev. Jas. E. Moerdyke,	"	"	1900
Rev. John Van Ess,	"	"	1902
Mr. Dirk Dykstra,	"	"	1906
Miss Minnie Wilterdink,	"	"	1907
Rev. G. J. Pennings,	"	"	1908
Rev. Gerrit Huizenga,	Am. Baptist,	India,	1897
Mrs. K. Telder Huizenga,	"	"	1897
Rev. Henry Huizenga,	"	"	1896
Mrs. S. Anvelink Huizenga,	"	"	1896
Rev. J. Kruidenier,	Un. Presb.,	Egypt,	1889
Mrs. H. Poel Kruidenier,	"	"	1889
Rev. William Gleysteen,	Am. Presb.,	China,	1904
Rev. J. J. Banninga,	A. B. C. F. M.,	India,	1903
Mrs. M. Damson Banninga,	"	"	1903
Miss Belle Takken,	C. I. M.,	China,	1899

Gifts for Foreign Missions in the Particular Synod of Chicago,
R. C. A., last year \$49,362.00

Western Theological Seminary Collection
of the
Joint Archives of Holland

*From the Author
to Mrs. Otte - 1940.
1941-52*

The
SHIP THAT SAILED
and the
**KEEL THAT NEVER
KISSED THE SEA**



by
Samuel M. Zwemer

*see story of Keel
on back pg.*

*This brochure was written
in year (1731) I believe.
Domestic Board was 100 years old
1931 when the*



The Ship that Sailed and The Keel that Never Kissed the Sea


Board of Domestic Missions
Reformed Church in America



THE story of Domestic Missions has its romance no less than that of Foreign Missions. ¶ Much of it, however, is hidden in musty files of correspondence or in family annals, rescued from some attic in an old manse. ¶ "This year," writes Dr. James S. Kittell, "our Board celebrates its centennial. 1931 We would appreciate very greatly an article regarding Domestic Missions." ¶ As the Arabs say, to hear is to obey, and although my memory does not go back to the earliest

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

chapters of a great centenary record, I would paint a picture and draw a lesson from events of prophetic significance in the middle years of the past century, as I find them recorded in the memoirs of my sainted father Adrian Zwemer.

It is not a landscape, but a seascape, and it is still true that "they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep ¶ They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths, their soul melteth away because of trouble. ¶ They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man and are at their wits end. ¶ Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble ¶ He maketh the storm a calm ¶ He bringeth them into their desired haven!" ¶ "For His way is in the sea and His paths are in the deep waters, and his footsteps are not known."

These words of the Psalmist tell the story of the Pilgrim Fathers of the West, who crossed the Atlantic in 1847 and 1849, and

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

laid the foundations of the Reformed Churches in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. ¶ The sailing ship on which my father and mother crossed was called "The Leyla" and from its name one might conclude she had been on East Indian cruises before leaving Rotterdam for New York.

Dr. van Raalte and his company had sailed in 1847 and were already settled in Michigan. ¶ Those who came in 1849 and later followed in their footsteps and the cause of their emigration was the same, namely, a desire for political and religious liberty, together with the hope for material advancement in a new environment. ¶ At present we can scarcely realize the hardships of the early immigrants on the long voyage, and the price they paid as exiles from home to our shores. ¶ "On the fifth of July, 1849," so I read in my father's diary, "everything was ready and we went on board. ¶ Everything included our personal baggage in boxes and bundles and also enough food and clothing for sixty days, if need be. ¶ A com-

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

mittee had been appointed and their restrictions regarding food supply were strictly followed. ¶ A sort of cabin and kitchen had been arranged on the poop deck where the immigrants cooked their food and every day they received an allowance of fire-wood; water was handed out to each passenger by measure. ¶ By patiently waiting and standing in line, everybody received his share, and the work in the kitchen went forward, but the water supply was very meager, and everyone carefully husbanded his store. ¶ There were one hundred twenty-eight Hollanders in our party, all from the Island of Zeeland, and fifty Germans." ¶ Trouble began early when they discovered a thief among their company, who had been robbing his fellow passengers until *he* was discovered and placed in confinement for the rest of the voyage. ¶ After four weeks of calm weather a storm broke loose which lasted for many days. ¶ Waves dashed over the ship, and carried away the open hearth scattering fire-brands which caused an

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

alarm of fire. ¶ "The ship continued to toss from side to side on the waves. Although we were below deck, the water leaked in profusely. ¶ There was no danger, but it was disagreeable. ¶ When night came we were forbidden to light the four or five lanterns which were under the poop-decks. This was to prevent the danger of fire. ¶ Most of the immigrants spent the night in prayer. ¶ When morning came we had only the light through one of the portholes near the gangway. ¶ So much water leaked in through the portholes that on the lea side of the ship in the hold, the water stood as high as the lower bunks. ¶ Some said the ship was sinking." Storm at sea, however, was not the only hardship. ¶ "It was easy for us to put a guard against thieves, but not against death. ¶ Seven little children of the Dutch emigrants of the voyagers died during the voyage and were buried at sea. ¶ Sickness, death and burial of dear children are always some of the bitterest domestic trials, but burial at sea means increase of

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

sorrow, and the cry of the mothers when their treasures were consigned to the deep was sometimes too pitiful for our ears.

¶ Most of the children were between one and three years of age, but one was seven.

¶ The funeral was conducted in silence and the usual work on board the ship ceased.

¶ The body properly weighted, lay on a broad plank which rested on the bulwarks of the ship, and was held in balance by one of the sails.

¶ After a short service the plank was lifted and the body slipped into the sea.

¶ Besides those already mentioned of our company there was Elder Lankester, and a school teacher named Huyssoon who were married shortly before we set out from Rotterdam. ¶ Most of the emigrants were from the Province of Zeeland and represented the families of Kotvis, De Pree, Moerdyk, Kolyn and others." ¶ Concerning this company the Rev. J. Van der Meulen wrote some years later in "De Hope"—"No other ship of emigrants sailed which had so many future ministers of the Gospel as this ship, the

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

Leyla." ¶ One of them was already in the ministry and seven of those who crossed over, served the Gospel later on. ¶ On the thirty-seventh day of the long voyage, toward evening a sailor cried from the top mast, "land, land."

In this one ship carrying a small company of Dutch emigrants were represented the future ministry at home and abroad of four members of the De Pree family; four Moerdyks; Reverend Kolyn and eight Zwemers, who served at home and abroad, the descendants of these early pioneers. ¶ The total number of years of service of those mentioned is five hundred and forty. ¶ They labored in every part of the Middle West where our denominational heritage was cast, the fathers, the children and the grand-children all descendants of that one little boat-load of faith and bold adventure. ¶ What a debt Hope College, the Academy at Orange City and the various Boards and agencies of the Dutch Reformed Church owe to the unknown Captain of the Leyla!

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

When we recall those days of hardship and such faith of the fathers it surely is not trivial or irreverent to quote the writer to the Hebrews: "So to say, through Abraham, even Levi who receiveth tithes hath paid tithes; for he was yet in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him." ¶ The hope of future years was in the hearts of the pioneers. *All* the churches founded by them and by their sons, without exception, received needed aid from the Board of Domestic Missions. The strong congregations of the Middle West were not always strong; they grew strong by degrees, because they were nurtured by the prayers and gifts of the older churches in New Jersey and New York. ¶ All of the sons of the West, or nearly all of those trained for the ministry, at Hope College and New Brunswick, received aid from the Board of Education. And is this not a branch of the Home Mission work of the church? Today those churches and pastors are only repaying their debt when they offer liberally to Domestic Missions; for now, as in the days of

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

old, "the strong should bear the infirmity of the weak, and not please themselves." ¶ The Centennial Fund does not merely celebrate a date on the calendar, but the faith and hope and love of those who carried the enterprise forward — *Noblesse oblige*. Let us pay our debt to our predecessors by a Centennial offering of gratitude to Home Missions—which are the basis and the hope of the foreign missionary enterprise. It was so then.

For Van Raalte, Van der Meulen and the rest left a large legacy of high ideals and missionary vision to those who followed after. ¶ It is good to recall one particular episode of those early days, for it links together the winning of the West with the winning of the world for Christ. ¶ It is the story of a ship's keel that never kissed the sea, but was left to lie and rot where it had been hewn from the forest giants. Truth is stranger than fiction. ¶ About the year 1850 the Dutch Colony on the shores of Black Lake purchased a sailboat which they named "The Knickerbocker." ¶ It carried supplies from

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

Chicago to Holland, Michigan. ¶ They secured an appropriation from Congress for their harbor. ¶ And then their missionary enthusiasm suggested the building of a ship to carry the Gospel beyond the seas! ¶ As early as 1851 they had resolved "to use fifteen per cent of Church money for Foreign Missions and fifty per cent for Home Missions," and this while they were also establishing a college for the training of preachers!

The London Missionary Society had its "Morning Star" carrying the good tidings in the South Seas, and the American Board also used this agency. ¶ The idea therefore of the immigrants, among whom were artisans and sailors to build a ship, was not unique. ¶ Their faith was. ¶ They planned the very route for the ship that was to carry missionaries and missionary supplies to all parts of the world. ¶ On June 24, 1864 the keel was laid with elaborate exercises as shown by the following program. We give it verbatim, except for the omission of the ode:

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

"PUBLIC EXERCISES

at the

Laying of the Keel

of the

NEW MISSIONARY SHIP

at Holland, Black Lake, Michigan

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1864

- I. Voorgebed—Rev. A. C. Van Raalte, D.D., President for the occasion.
- II. Psalmgezang, Ps. 72:3, 4.
- III. Reading Scripture, (Isaiah 60:) by Rev. T. Romeyn Beck.
- IV. Address by Rev. Philip Peltz, Cor. Sec. of the Board of Foreign Missions.
- V. Vertaling van Ds. Peltz's rede.
- VI. Singing of a Missionary hymn, by the children under the leadership of Mr Cs. Doesburg.
- VII. Address by Rev. J. V. N. Talmage, Missionary at Amoy, China.
- VIII. Vertaling van Ds. Talmage's rede.
- IX. General Singing—"From Greenland's Icy Mountains."
- X. Gebed.—Ds. P. J. Oggel.
- XI. Aanspraken door Ds. S. Bolks, Ds. Joh. Van der Meulen en anderen van de Klassis Wisconsin.

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

- XII. Psalmgezang, Ps. 98:1, 2.
 XIII. Aanspraken door Ds. C. Van Der Meulen, Ds. J. H. Karsten en anderen van de Klassis Holland. *written by Dr Phelps*
 XIV. Missionary Ode. (Tune, Rockvale) by the Academy Choir under the leadership of Mr. Wm. B. Gilmore. *From President of Hope College, (Missionary Meetings)*
(written for the occasion by Rev. Philip Phelps, Jr.)
 XV. Laying of the Keel. (Het Leggen der Kiel).
 XVI. Concluding Prayer — Rev. Philip Phelps, Jr.
 XVII. Singing by the Academy Choir—Ps. 117—Tune, Creation.
 XVIII. Slotzang.
 Dat's Heeren zegen op u daal,
 Zijn gunst uit Sion u bestraal;
 Hij schiep 't Heelal zijn' naam ter eer
 Loof, loof, nu aller Heeren Heer!
 XXI. Benediction.

The exercises will commence at 3 o'clock, P. M.
 A. ZWEMER, Sec'y for the occasion."

The exercises began at 3 P. M. June 24, 1864, but the ships that sailed from Hope College after the Keel had decayed are still

THE SHIP THAT SAILED

leaving port every year. More than sixty graduates of this one institution went out for service abroad, and many times that number to the Churches of our denomination, East and West, and on the frontier.

When we call to mind those days of yore, the faith of our fathers not only, but their faithfulness and sacrificial obedience to the call of God, we are reminded of Longfellow's poem on the Building of the Ship:

"We know what Master laid Thy keel
 What workmen wrought those ribs of steel
 Who made each mast and sail and rope,
 What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
 In what a forge and what a heat
 Were shaped the anchors of Thy hope . . ."

which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast, for the work of missions at home and abroad. ¶ For the whole enterprise is anchored fast to the unfailing promise and presence of Christ until the Kingdoms of the world are His and our own land is Immanuel's land.