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### In the Excelsiora, a Hope Student News Paper, There is a Report of the Death of the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte That Occurred On This Day but Published in Volume VII, Nov. to June, 1877

Rensa H. Joldersma

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[7 November 1876]

Holland, Michigan

2083

In the *Excelsiora*, a Hope student news paper, there is a report of the death of the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte that occurred on this day but published in volume VII, Nov. to June, 1877. The author of the tribute to Van Raalte was R[ensa] H. Joldersma.

The news paper/magazine was not published as such but was hand written. This tribute consists of seven pages.

The original is located in the Joint Archives of Holland.

The

# EXCELSIORA

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY

BY THE

"A" CLASS:  
HOPE COLLEGE.

VOLUME VII.

NOV. to JUNE.

1877.

the shore most madly, the terrible,  
dreadful noise, as of subterranean thun-  
der, struck the inhabitants with horror.  
For two weeks no eruptions were heard  
of, but about the fifteenth day the lava  
had found some other outlet, and  
with a speed of twenty miles per  
hour the torrent rushed towards the  
sea. Death and desolation attended  
this awful occurrence; man hasten-  
ed to escape, but the animals, as  
if fascinated, were swept along.

At last it dashed into the sea, which  
horribly shrunk back.

A new promontory of one square  
mile was thus formed.

This, Mr Editor, is the way in which  
the Sandwich Islands grow.

Truly

Yours

John Van de Lame.

## A Solemn Day.

The election day, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1876, was, a  
day which created great excitement  
throughout our Country, because the  
results were considered to be of the  
greatest importance to the welfare  
of our Republic. Every Village, Town,  
and City was apparently aroused,  
and Holland was not an exception.  
This 7<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. last, will long be  
remembered by this Republic. This  
day will especially be long remember-  
ed by the citizens of Holland.

Because, while they were performing  
their duty as citizens of America,  
by uttering their voice at the polls,  
and, while they were in the midst  
of the excitement which accompa-  
nies election day, the death Angel  
visited their city and smote Dr.  
A. C. Van Raalte.

The man who had been the founder

by the report of his death. The very men  
who, a few minutes before, were eagerly  
discussing some political questions  
stood now quietly together, deploring  
the loss of such a noble and worthy  
man. <sup>the top of</sup> The flag which had been  
hoisted to the spar, were now dropped  
holy-mat.

Dr. A. C. Van Raalte was one of the  
Council of Hope College and its  
interests had always been dear to him;  
when his death was reported to the  
institution, all the slopes were rime  
diately diminished, until after his burial;  
Friday was appointed for his burial;  
and during the intervening days

the church and college were draped  
in mourning. Great was the feeling  
of grief in Holland and in the  
surrounding places. On Friday the  
weather was beautiful.  
Early in the forenoon people came  
from surrounding places, in order

of these colonies, and who had stood  
by them in every trial and struggle,  
singly, from the beginning of these  
colonies till the day of his death.  
Dr. A. C. Van Raalte had preached to  
them the Gospel of Christ for many  
years. He had cheered and encour-  
aged many a downcast soul.  
He had sought both their eternal  
and temporal welfare, with all  
the zeal and earnestness of a servant  
of Christ. He was always ready to  
give them counsel concerning tem-  
poral matters, and whenever they  
were in want, he went to the relief  
colonies of both Holland and Amer-  
ican people, and, sharing their wants,  
pursued such things as were ne-  
cessary, and well may the day be  
referred to as an earnest Christian  
pastor and leader expired, he called  
it "a solemn day." <sup>excitement</sup> The can magazine  
how the world political, was subdued

The funeral service was attended by Rev. Dr. Sellers in the Dutch, and by Dr. J. Phelps in the English language. Upon which he was loved and esteemed by his people, was strikingly manifested by the numerous tears shed when they took the final view of the corpse of the worthy father. After this the several notices, which had been invited to attend the funeral, were under the direction of Dr. Phelps, formed in a few courses, as follows:-  
 City Council and Townward.  
 Rev. Dr. Sellers.  
 Wall bearers.  
 Hearse.  
 Carriages with Relatives and Friends.  
 Ministers and Elders.  
 Vice President of the N.S.  
 President and Council of Hope College.  
 Faculty of Hope College and Hope Seminary of the Union School.  
 Students of Hope College.

To follow the last hour upon the beloved father deceased. Among the various persons who came in from abroad, was the Hon. G. W. Ferry vice President of the N. S. In the afternoon all the business places, and public schools in town were closed. Nearly all the public and private buildings were draped in mourning. It was widely manifested, that the loss of such a man, was felt by the citizens of this town and by all the Scotland people of the West. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Phelps of Edinburgh, in the presence of the relatives and friends they left the house. Hence they proceeded to the first church, where the funeral sermon was to be delivered. The church was crowded with people and a great number had to remain outside, as the church could not contain them all.

Justices of the Peace.  
 Citizens a fool.  
 Carriages.  
 It was the largest funeral ever witnessed in this town. Seventysix carriages, besides the procession which walked; followed to the Cemetery. At the Cemetery they all gathered around the open grave, when Rev. Witenwyk, made a few fitting remarks. As the coffin was lowered into the grave, the youngest student in Hope College laid a wreath of evergreen upon it, "in the name of Hope College." After Dr. Crispell had closed with prayer, we left the Cemetery fully convinced that a great man had fallen. Dr. A. C. Van Raalte was born on the seventeenth day of Oct. 1811. at Wamperveen, in the Province Overyssel, Netherland, where his father was a Minister of the Gospel. He received his Theological education at Leyden, Neth. In 1846 he came to this country, and

and founded this colony. His <sup>memory</sup> is now revered from these earthly duties. He has gone the way of all flesh, but his kind words and noble deeds are still resounding in our ears. Long will he be remembered by those exiles, for whom he has sacrificed and done so much. Let us be thankful to God that He gave us such a man, who was able to manage the affairs of the colony, however, critical and discouraging they were at times. Let his kind advice and worthy lessons attend us through life. And, by giving heed to his lessons, and walking in his footsteps, may we all be enabled to meet him in the home of the blest.

R. H. Joldersma.