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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. 7th 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 7th 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. ^{the top of} 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 difficulty,
suddenly, 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
which such an earnest Christian
pastor and leader expired, be called
"A solemn day." ^{excitement} We can imagine
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 lauded and extolled
 by his people, was strikingly managed
 by the numerous tears shed when they
 took the final view of the corpse of the
 worthy father. After this the several
 bodies, which had been invited to attend
 the funeral, were under the direction
 of Dr. Phelps, formed in a pro-
 ceeding 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.
 Faculties of Hope College and Hope
 Academies of the Union School.
 Students of Hope College.

To follow the last hour upon the
 beloved father deceased. Among the va-
 rious 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 before they left
 the house. Thence they proceeded to
 the first church, where the funeral
 sermon was to be delivered.
 The church was crowded with peo-
 ple 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. Seventy six 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 Wanperveen, in the Province Overijssel, 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 ^{memory} 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.