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Letter from Cornelius Vander Meulen and A. C. Van Raalte to the General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church

Cornelius Vander Meulen

A. C. Raalte

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22⁹ September 1855

Holland, Ottawa Co. Mich.

In a letter signed by Rev. Cornelius Vander Meulen and Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte to the General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, reported the Rev. Cornelius van der Meulen and elder Van der Luyster would not be able to attend the special session of the synod in October. However, the delegates wished to go on record that the application of "some sister churches in the South" [the North Carolina Classis of the German Reformed Church] not be allowed into the denomination because of their position on slavery. The letter is not in Van Raalte's handwriting.

Original in the papers of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Jersey, and on microfilm at the Joint Archives of Holland, W88-250a.

Holland, Ottawa Co. Mich.
Sept. 20th 1855

To the President of Gen. Synod:
Rev. and Dear Sir:

We regret that it will be impossible for the delegates from our Classis, viz. Rev. Mr. Van der Meulen & elder Van der Luyster to attend the meeting of Synod at its coming session in October. The undersigned however feel called upon through you to give the Synod an expression of their sentiments regarding the application, made by some sister churches of the South, to be admitted into our denomination. Should said application be again renewed at your approaching session, we would most heartily concur with those who think that such application ought **not** to be granted. We cannot but think it would be inexpedient & highly improper to admit into our number churches which would perhaps bring among us such an element of

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discord as the slavery question. We think it far better, now that we are free from any difficulties on this subject, to use every endeavor to keep clear of this exciting matter.

May the God of all wisdom direct the reverend body over which you preside to proper decisions on this, & the various other topics which may come into consideration.

We are with great Respect

Your brethren in Christ:

In the name of the Classis of Holland

[signed} C. Van der Meulen

A. C. Van Raalte

Holland, Ottawa Co, Mich.

Sept. 20th 1855

To the President of Gen. Synod;—
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reverend body over which you preside to
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topics which may come into consideration.

We are with great Respect,
your brethren in Christ.

In the name of the Classis of Holland

J. Van der Meulen.
H. Van Raalte.

Letter from
Rev. A. C. Van Raalte
of Grand Marais
~~Michigan~~

Recd. Oct. 1855

Very truly
yours,

**Gardner A. Sage Library
New Brunswick Theological Seminary
New Brunswick, New Jersey**

**Reformed Church in America Archives
General Synod Papers**

“1849 Particular Synod Organizational Changes”

W88-250a

Microfilm Roll, 3P-1

At the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College, Holland, Michigan

[General Synod Papers, 1849-1859]

to be
transcribed