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A Letter of Dirk Van Raalte to His Father, A. C. V. R.

Dirk Van Raalte

Nella Kennedy

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April 10, 1865 Detroit, Michigan

A letter of Dirk Van Raalte to his father, ACVR, informing him that General Lee had surrendered to General Grant. Dirk hoped that he and Ben would be home in five months. Dirk also mentions some business affairs of ACVR's son, Albertus.

Translated

Calvin College Archives, ACVR collection, box 9, fldr 156.

Detroit, Michigan
April 10, 1865.

A.C. Van Raalte

Dear Father,

Yesterday I received your letter of April 7th, and I was happy to hear that you and mother were somewhat stronger.

This morning there is good news. General Lee has surrendered to General Grant, so the war is as good as over. General Lee's troops have been paroled, and they go home and they may not take up weapons against the United States before they have been properly exchanged.

Soon also General Johnson will reinforce Sherman

[2]
to force Johnson to surrender.

I think that Benjamin and our company will be home before five months have passed.

I am glad that Albertus is in such high spirit. Did he ship all the lumber already? Goodsel is all right, although he may pretend to be in a fix [?]. But Albertus should not pay attention to that because he is all right and will clear enough on that lumber. I can believe that everything is low. Albertus saved himself many troubles with this contract.

You should try to get a boy [to help you] because you cannot do without one.

Greetings to everyone,

Dirk Van Raalte

*[Revised translation: Nella Kennedy,
March 2009]*

Detroit, Mich.
April 10th 65

A.C. Van Raalte

Lieve Vader

Uw brief van den 7d ontving ik gisteren en was blij te hooren dat uw en moeder wat sterker waren. Van morgen hebben wij goed news, Lee heeft gesurrenderd aan Grant, dus de oorlog is zoo goed als over. General Lee troepen worden gearold en gaan naar huis, en mogen geen wapenen op nemen tegen de United States voor dat ze properly geexchanged zijn. Nu zal General Johnson zig ook spoedig in close quaters vinden, want Grant zal Sherman nu wel dadelijk reenforcen, en

[2]

Johnson forcen om te surrenderen. Ik denk Benjamin en onze company zal wel te huis zijn voor dat de vijf maand om is. Ik ben blij dat Albertus zoo op zijn schik is, heeft hij de lumber al geshiped. Goodsels is aal right, hij mag zig zelven houden als of hij er naaw [?] in zit, daar moet Albertus niet na zien want hij is all right and will clear enough om that lumber. Dat alles laag is geloof ik wel. Albertus spaard veel troubles met dit Contrakt. Uw moet en jongen zien te krijgen, want zonder kunt uw niet.

Weest allen gegroet

Dirk Van Raalte

*[Transcription: Nella Kennedy,
March 2009]*

Detroit Mich.

April 10^{de} 65

A. C. Van Raalte

Lieve Vader

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Alles allen gegroet
Dink van Holte

Calvin Call. Arch
Rev. Call
Box 9, flder 156

Detroit, Mich, April 10th, 1865.

To: Rev. A.C. Van Raalte

Dear Father,

Yesterday I received your letter of April 7th, and I was happy to learn you and mother are ^{sounded} ~~better~~ now.

This morning there is some goods news. General Lee has surrendered to General Grant; ^{so} the war is ^{as good as over} ~~about to be finished~~ General Lee's troops have been paroled, and they go home ^{cal} ~~provided~~ they ^{may} ~~do~~ not take up ~~the~~ weapons ~~any~~ more against the United States before they have been exchanged properly.

[2] Soon also General Johnson will find himself in close quarters ~~xxxx~~ because Grant undoubtedly will reinforce Sherman to force Johnson to surrender.

I think that Benjamin and our company will be home again ^{before} within five months. ^{have passed}

I am glad that Albertus is ^{such high spirits} ~~content~~ right now. Did he ship all the lumber already? Goodsel is all right, though he may tend to act as if he is in a bad shape. But Albertus should not pay attention to that because he is really all right, and will clear enough on that lumber. I ^{can} believe that everything is low. Albertus saved himself much trouble with this contract.

Dad, you should try to get a boy [to help you] because you cannot do without one.

Kindest regards, ^{to everyone}
Dick Van Raalte.

Calvin Call. Arch
Rev. R. C. Call
Box 9, fldr 156

Detroit, Mich, April 10th, 1865.

To: Rev. A.C. Van Raalte

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This morning there is some goods news. General Lee has surrendered to General Grant; the war is about to be finished General Lee's troops have been paroled, and they go home provided they do not take up the weapons any more against the United States before they have been exchanged properly.

Soon also General Johnson will find himself in close quarters ~~soon~~ because Grant undoubtedly will reinforce Sherman to force Johnson to surrender.

I think that Benjamin and our company will be home again within five months.

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Dick Van Raalte.

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