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9-1-1856

A Letter of John Van Vleck to A. C. V. R.

John Van Vleck

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Recommended Citation

Van Vleck, John, "A Letter of John Van Vleck to A. C. V. R." (1856). *Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859*. 345. https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1850s/345

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September 1, 1856, Ulsterville, New York

A letter of John Van Vleck to ACVR. Van Vleck purchased some textbooks for the academy and is raising funds for the academy. He hoped to contact [James A. H.] Cornell; he has been in contact with Rev. Garretson of the board. He bargained a bit with ACVR telling him that he, Van Vleck, had a job offer in New Jersey for a salary of \$1200 to \$1500 plus a rent-free home. Therefore, he would like as raise of \$100, asking for \$900 instead of getting \$800.

Calvin College Archives, ACVR collection, Box 8, fldr 12 /

Ulsterville, Sept. 1st, 1856

Rev. Mr. Van Raalte:

Dear Sir, I received your last a few days since, and tho' I have nothing very special to write about yet - I think you will be glad to hear from us.

Lizzie and I are both quite well now. The babe has had an infantile complaint called in the vernacular "the Sprue." It seems to be pretty much over with now. Her bowels have been more or less deranged ever since we left Holland, so that she does not grow much. We have just returned from a two-week visit to N. Jersey.

Mr. Garretson says that in his opinion I will have enough to do in the school without preaching. He advised to preach no oftener than

[2]

I might wish to in order to "keep my hand in." I have procured some books for our Academy Library and hope in the end to obtain many more. I purpose bringing over \$100 worth of text books along with me. I advance the money for them, and, unless I can beg a sufficient amount here, I will have to look to the boys for the pay. Rev. John Dewitt pastor of R. D. Church at Millstone thinks he can raise \$120 a year in his congregation to be applied to the support of a student in our Academy.

I have not been able to see Mr. Cornell yet! But the Executive Committee of Bd. Of Ed. are to meet on Wed. Sept. 10th. It is my intention to be present, in order if possible to stir them up (particularly to stir up Brother Cornell) to greater efforts in behalf of the Academy. At all events, if they will listen to

[3]

me, they shall not remain longer so ignorant of what Holland Academy is, strives, and promises to be.

Mr. Garretson says the Bd. Of Ed. ought to take upon themselves my whole support; and so they ought, and so they could if Mr. Cornell proves to be an efficient man. The Bd. Of Ed. might give me \$800, and the Bd. Of Dom. Miss. \$100. And if you please you may write this to Brother Garretson. You need not state it as my proposal for I intend to say nothing about it myself to any save you. I have been urged to accept a situation as teacher in N. Jersey with a salary of from \$1200 to \$1500, together with the use of a splendid dwelling house free of rent. Would the \$900 be too much in Holland? Do not let the brethren here know that I have proposed to you this increase of salary.

[4]

With a salary of \$800 we cannot afford to come home every year. Traveling with a wife and child who need every attention and who cannot stand hardships is very expensive.

We rejoice that God is dealing so kindly with you and yours. May he bless you more and more, and especially with heart-blessings so that you may ever walk in the light of his countenance.

Yours with Respect and Love,
John Van Vleck

[Transcribed: Cornelia B. Kennedy, December 2004]

Calvin Cull Ash
De V R coll
Box 7, fldr 12

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