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5-24-1866

A Letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps

A. C. Van Raalte

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No. 42b

Kampen, the Netherlands, May 24, 1866

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps, reporting that they arrived safely in the Netherlands. Mrs. Van Raalte was much better. He is feeling much better and eating well. "I hope that you may succeed in keeping the Theological class at Holland. I look upon it as very important for the West."

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

Kampen, the Netherlands May 24/1866

Rev: P. Phelps D.D.

Dear Brother.-

The Lord did bring us over safely and with speed on the eleventh day of May we were here in Kampen. The journey was pleasant except the sickness, Mrs. Van Raalte was on Board much better than I expected: but I myself was grinded to powder by that monster of seasickness during more than eight days; at last I did recover and was delivered out of the death struggle:-this annihilating sickness did learn me good lessons:- and seems to have had a good influence upon my whole system:- I am able to digest my food better than years before.

Mrs. Van Raalte was much exhausted, also by the sensation of meeting their friends and relations: but I see recovering of her strenght:-

Our meeting here is one of the most pleasant experience imaginable. In reality I cannot describe our joy in meeting so many of God's dear children. I think often: How pleasant will be our meeting in Heaven!

I believe this journey is a blessed gift of our kind God and Father: any my heart is filled with thank.

Also I have a strong hope that it will have a very good influence upon the health of my wife: the enjoyment of her dear sister etc: has an excellent influence. I do thank you for your labor of love to open the way for this journey.-

Please do thank in our name your famely in Albany and Mrs Phelps your Lady for all the kindness and excellent nursing during her sickness in Albany.-

I am quite occupied but the change has an excellent influence upon my health: please excuse my writing in haste.

May the Lord give you strength and bless your labors: I hope that you may succeed in keeping the Theological class at Holland. I look upon it as very important for the West.-

My greeting and best wishes to our Church laborers: you know them.-

Your Gratefull Brother

A.C. Van Raalte

Kampen, the Netherlands

May 24/1866

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