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### A Brief Note of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps, About a Letter with \$500 Which May Have Gone Astray

A. C. Van Raalte

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New York, November 6, 1869

No. 58

A brief note of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps, about a letter  
with \$500 which may have gone astray.

?

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

New York Nov 6 / 69

Revd Dr P: Phelps

Dear Brother.

The letter with the \$500.--was directed only Revd Dr P: Phelps Hope College Michigan: anstead of Holland Michigan: -I suppose they know Hope College: -We have written to the Postmaster od Detroit about it. -If the letter did not arrive, Please let us know and write about it to the Postmaster in Detroit. -

Yours etc

A C Van Raalte

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A C Van Raelte

69-11-06

[GS58]

New York Nov 6/69<sup>1</sup>

Revd Dr P: Phelps

Dear Brother.

The letter with the \$5000.--was directed only Revd Dr P: Phelps Hope College Michigan: anstead<sup>2</sup> of Holland Michigan: - I suppose they know Hope College: - We have written to the Postmaster of Detroit about it. - If the letter did not arrive. Please let us know and write about it to the Postmaster in Detroit. -

Yours etc

A. C. Van Raalte

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<sup>1</sup> The original is no longer extant. Rev. George Scholten copied the letter and was in the collection he made of Phelps letters to Hope College.

<sup>2</sup> The misspelling of this word may have been done by the copyist although Van Raalte often had trouble with spelling words correctly as can be seen in many previous letters.

69-11-16 [GS59]

Newyork Nov 16/69

Revd P Phelps

Dear Brother:

Your letter of 11<sup>th</sup> November I handed over to Mr. Suydam<sup>1</sup> for reading: The gentleman Who wrote the letter has written to the Postmaster of Detroit and to the Dead letter office in Washington. The money however is safe: they have informed the bank.

I think you better write to Mr. Suydam and keep writing: Dr Cornell<sup>2</sup> will read them also. – Unfavorable rumors about the Hope farm did made it necessary to explain that the Hope farm certainly and all the other property by this money would be free from incumbrance.<sup>3</sup>

I am satisfied He is again under very unfavorable impressions:<sup>4</sup> different kind[s] of objections I have to meet. – Today He was in New Brunswick on the Her[t]zog Hall<sup>5</sup> Committee. I could perceive the influence. – I think He has given Himself up, if the Collegiate Consistory fails, to make it up t.w.<sup>6</sup> a \$3000,” yearly income. – and expressions as the following are explaining the drift of his<sup>7</sup> mind. –

“For What can you sell the farm?”

“I believe you are gone too far. “ “You ought not to have begun with the Semenary.”<sup>8</sup>

“Then What will it help you, this can not go on always[;] there is nobody going to help you.

“Your being here is time wasted.” “They<sup>9</sup> will give you a five Dollar [bill] but that is nothing” “You may apply to the Coll: Consistory but I can not help you: but New Brunswick Semenary must have it[,] they must give it or I have to raise in Some way.”

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<sup>1</sup> This reference to James Suydam indicated that the large gift of \$5,000 did come from him.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. James A. H. Cornell, fund-raiser for New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

<sup>3</sup> Hope College and Dr. Van Raalte seemed to have had their share of detractors!

<sup>4</sup> This seems to be a reference to Suydam who apparently may have had doubts about his gift to Hope College for the Hope farm.

<sup>5</sup> The Peter Hertzog Theological Hall was dedicated 23 September 1856. Most of the cost of the building was contributed by Mrs. Ann Hertzog. Up until 1856, the New Brunswick Seminary was located in the old Queens building on the Rutgers College campus. The Standing Committee on the Peter Hertzog Theological Hall was responsible for the building and served under the Board of Superintendents of the seminary. For detailed information on Hertzog Hall, see *A Digest of Constitutional and Synodical Legislation...*, by Edward Tanjore Corwin, (1906), 508-510. In 1869, the members of the Standing Committee were James A. H. Cornell, William J. R. Taylor, James Suydam, William Wood, and David Bishop. One seminary professor, chosen by the faculty, was also a member of the committee. *Acts and Proceedings...*, 1869, 645.

<sup>6</sup> To wit.

<sup>7</sup> Suydam's mind.

<sup>8</sup> Namely theological education at Hope College.

<sup>9</sup> [to whom is this a reference?]

With such thoughts, He is filled When coming in contact with the Her[t]zog Hall Committee: of which Dr Taylor Jr,<sup>10</sup> Dr Cornell, Proff: Demarest<sup>11</sup> are members. —

To meet such objections over and over is exhausting: his liberality in the \$5000, -- I think increases the opposition under cover. It seems to me that my presence in the eye of most all is a perfect absurdity: and sometimes I fear it increases reactions.

If I conclude to go to Amelia<sup>12</sup> then it will be only for a few days, but with the intention to write to Mr. Suydam from there.—

The pressure from Home is: that I should come Home during the Holy days: I can scarcely deny this in the present position of sickness and danger[.]<sup>13</sup> But I have not made up my mind.

My mind is not changed: that besides me, you and Ds C. Oggel<sup>14</sup> should come into the field: the Church can come only to a clear understanding of her Western Work by our constant applications: not that we will get the money now: we may narrowly be able to cover our expenses: but yet we must keep on, keep to work to get rooted, to bring matters to an earnest end.

May God accept us and our work!

Your friend & Brother

A. C. Van Raalte.

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<sup>10</sup> Dr. William James Romeyn Taylor, who served as the Corresponding Secretary of the American Bible Society until 1869 when he became pastor of the Clinton Avenue Reformed Church of Newark, New Jersey. Corwin's *Manual...*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 775-779. At the time of his death in 1891, he was a member of the Council of Hope College.

<sup>11</sup> Dr. David D. Demarest was professor of Pastoral Theology and Sacred Rhetoric at New Brunswick Seminary, 1865-1898. Corwin's *Manual...*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 411-413. He would have been the faculty representative on the Standing Committee of the Peter Hertzog Hall.

<sup>12</sup> Van Raalte's second colonization effort. He and his family had left Amelia, Virginia, in August of 1869.

<sup>13</sup> This is a reference to the serious illness of the Van Raalte's son-in-law, Rev. Peter J. Oggel whose life ended 13 December.

<sup>14</sup> Rev. E. Christian Oggel, the younger brother of Rev. Pieter J. Oggel.