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4-30-1849

Letter from Thomas De Witt to Albertus C. Van Raalte

Thomas De Witt

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30 April 1849

New York City

A letter from Rev. Thomas De Witt to Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte concerning a financial matter. The handwriting is difficult to decipher. Albert Hyma gives a full transcription of the letter on page 206 of his Van Raalte biography.

Original in the archives of Calvin College, Van Raalte collection, box 10, fldr. 16.

New York April 30. 1849

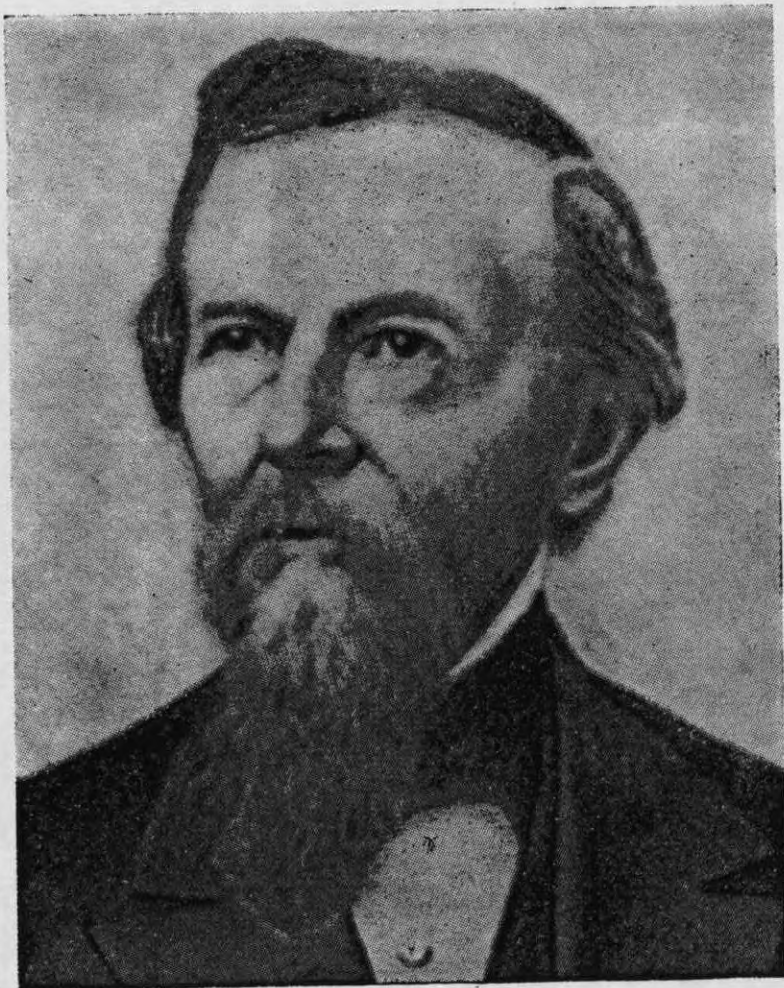
My dear Sir

I enclosed the order upon me in behalf of J. L. Yates, Calvin W. How, and Barnes and Pharo paid out of the draft on Beany & Servon & Co. The endorsement of the several persons to whom the payment was made is sufficient for you in the order state that the draft on Beany & Servon & Co. was sent by me. I shall be pleased to hear from you on the receipt of this

Yours in Christian truth

Thomas De Witt

Rev. A. C. Van Rassel



ALBERTUS C. VAN RAALTE

Albertus C. Van Raalte

AND HIS DUTCH SETTLEMENTS IN
THE UNITED STATES

by

DR. ALBERT HYMA

Professor of History, University of Michigan



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friendly attitude they finally received from Van Raalte and his colleagues. On April 30, 1849, the Rev. Thomas De Witt of the Collegiate Church in New York City wrote Van Raalte as follows: "I enclosed the orders upon me in behalf of F. L. Yates, Calvin W. How, and Barnes and Pharo paid out of the draft on Bourny d'Ivernou & Co. The endorsement of the several persons to whom the payment was made is sufficient for you." One of these orders was for \$223.19, another for \$63.19, and still another for \$35.67. These were all dated April 11, 1849, and signed at Holland by H. D. Post.

We also have a letter by Wyckoff written to Van Raalte, but undated. It tells him that the writer is sending him a draft from New York: "As I was going on my southern journey I have given my own checks for the payment of these bills. I suppose the money will come from New York tomorrow. So all will be right. In the haste of preparation I remain, Ever your friend and brother, I. N. Wyckoff." On the back of this sheet Van Raalte wrote in Dutch: "Account for the Colonial Store, paid by I. Wyckoff." We have also seen that in 1849 Wyckoff and his friends in Albany enabled Van Raalte to borrow the sum of \$1,000 from them. In short, Van Raalte must have been profoundly grateful to the two men in the Reformed Church who tried very hard to have the Classis of Holland unite with the Reformed Church.

It becomes our task to study Van Raalte's thoughts on the eve of the union. He agreed with Wyckoff and

De Witt that the old state church in the Netherlands was thoroughly modernistic, in which respect it differed greatly from the Reformed Church in America. But was he perhaps mistaken in his opinion that the latter closely resembled the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands to which Brummelkamp belonged? Was not the church at Holland merely an American branch of that body? It certainly was until the act of union with the Reformed Church was consummated.

Van Raalte left among his papers a lengthy letter in rough draft to John Garretson, who has just been mentioned above. Although composed in 1852, it throws much light on Van Raalte's attitude to the Reformed Church before 1850, since he explained to Garretson what had happened in the "Colony" during the past five years. His desire was to find true friends and brothers like Garretson who sincerely strove to help the poor immigrants. His large family was in good health, but his wife was feeble. During the past year the crops had failed, and the winter had been very hard for the pioneers. Another crop failure would spell disaster. An unspecified number of persons had to leave the colony in order to support those who must remain. Food for cattle was very scarce and many cows had died for want of feed. The "working cattle" were too feeble to do the spring work. Van Raalte could not deny that the hand of the Lord was chastising the Colony. But the hardships were favorable for spiritual progress, and he was happy to report that good news had come from Washington concerning the forthcoming improvements in the harbor.

New York April 30. 1849

My dear Sir

I enclosed the ~~check~~ upon me in behalf of J. L. Yates, Edwin W. How, and Barnes and Moore paid out of the draft on Beatty & Linnou & Co. The endorsement of the several persons to whom the payment was made is sufficient for you in the order state that the draft on Beatty & Linnou & Co. was sent by ~~them~~. I shall be pleased to hear from you on the receipt of this

Yours in Friendship

Thomas De Witt

Rev. S. C. Van Hook

Rev. A. C. Van Rastten
1366th Street
Holland
Ottawa County
Michigan



Rev. A. L. Van Rast
13 Lake Street
Holland
Ottawa County
Michigan



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ACVR call
Box 8, folder 141

New York April 30. 1849

My dear F

I enclosed the order upon me in behalf of J. L. Yates, Calvin W. How, and Barnes and Pharo paid out of the draft on Beamy & Fenner & Co. The endorsement of the several persons to whom the payment was made is sufficient for you in the order state that the draft on Beamy & Fenner & Co. was sent by Express. I shall be pleased to hear from you on the receipt of this

Yours in Christian love

Thomas De Witt

Rev. S. C. Van Raalte