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Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859

Van Raalte Papers

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12-2-1859

### Letter to the Editor Published in the Christian Intelligencer

Samuel A. Van Vranken

William H. Campbell

Samuel M. Woodbridge

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2 December 1859

New York, New York

A letter of this date to the editor was published December 8, 1859 in *The Christian Intelligencer* endorsed the Holland Academy. The writers are professors at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. They conclude their letter by saying, "In closing, the undersigned declare their strong conviction, that there have been as few errors of judgment in the management of the Holland Academy as could be expected in any business which fallible men managed." The signers are S[amuel] A. Van Vranken, W[illiam] H. Campbell, and S[amuel] M. Woodbridge.

An additional note is added by Theo[dore] Frelinghuysen, President of Rutgers College: I heartily concur in the foregoing statements, and well merited commendation of Dr. Van Raalte and his sacred enterprise, so richly blessed with God's favor.

Original in the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

The Christian Intelligencer 8th Dec 1859

to meet the necessary expenditures incurred by those increased advantages.  
To the mass of mankind, the whole subject of a collegiate education appeals as a matter of very little consequence. Indeed, there is reason to fear, there is a growing feeling in the community adverse to any other education than *quo* which suffices for the purposes of making money.

There is a far higher consideration which should weigh in the minds of all good citizens of this Republic. It is, that nowhere else can the youth of our country be so well trained for all the purposes of a useful life, as in our colleges. Anywhere else, their training must be inadequate to their own wants, and to the wants of the land in which they live. The time is coming, when questions of momentous interest are to be settled for the woe or welfare of this country. Now is the time to see to it, that the rising generation draw their opinions and principles from the purest and wisest sources.

Where can they find a refuge from demagoguism, on the one hand, and priestly craft, on the other, but in those Protestant institutions which have been the sources of our strength and wisdom? Rutgers College claims no peculiar educational advantages over all others. There is this, however, to be said in its favor: students are not crowded together, as in most colleges; they are under family influence, and a large number of them are pious young men. To what nobler purpose can those whom God has blessed with wealth apply it than to plant it in this field of learning, where it will produce fruit to all coming time? A.

**Imaginary News.**

"BURLINGTON," the New-York correspondent of one of the Boston journals, stated in a recent letter, that Dr. Henry M. Scudder was compelled by the state of his health to remain in this country, and that there was a prospect that he would be called by the Collegiate Church to fill the vacant place among their pastors. It may be well to say, for the information of some of our readers, that this is a ridiculous *canard*. Dr. Scudder has never had any intention of relinquishing his post in the foreign field, nor has he now. On the contrary, it is the expectation of himself and of the Missionary Board, that he will return to India next summer. Of course, it is quite possible that, during the interval, his health may entirely break down, but there is no appearance at present of any such untoward event. And as to the Collegiate Church, we have it from the highest authority, that, however desirable it might be to have Dr. Scudder occupy their vacant pulpit, the subject has never even been mentioned in their Consistory. Ecclesiastical gossip, of the kind we have just exposed, seems to be entertaining and popular. In our judgment, it would be none the less so, were it a little more trustworthy.

**Cui Bonoi**

It is announced that a public meeting is soon to be held in this city, to give an expression of opinion against John Brown. What nonsense this is! Who believes that the people of New-York have any sympathy with traitors, murderers, and incendiaries? What presses have endorsed this folly? What churches, other than the British Mission on Union Square, have exhibited any fellowship of feeling in behalf of the wicked abolitionism of Brown and his kind? There never was an act more universally condemned here by parties and classes, cliques and sects, than is John Brown. If any of our contemporaries wish

trades, which hopeful views of our country, and so well sustained, when many are desponding; such counsels for peace and fraternal union and trust in God—deserve a wider circulation than the *Intelligencer* can give, and a more permanent record than the columns of a newspaper can promise. Can it be secured?  
A PRESBYTERIAN.

[It would be sheer affectation to deny, that the above note from a Presbyterian clergyman of eminent position in this city, affords us sincere gratification.—Ed. OR INT.]

**The Holland Academy.**  
New Brunswick, Dec. 2, 1859.

The undersigned have been acquainted with the history of the Holland Academy since its beginning, and have been deeply interested in its affairs. They regard this school as most emphatically the child of Providence, an institution which God raised up at just the happy moment to subserve many most gracious purposes. They say with gratitude, that they can see the Divine hand in the time and circumstances of its origin, and in all the steps of its progress. It is God's work, and it is precious. In the present managers and teachers of the school they have entire confidence. Dr. Van Raalte's unwearied, self-sacrificing labors will be a cause of thankfulness to future generations of the Dutch Church, as they are now to those who know intimately the history of the school. Rev. Messrs. Phelps and Vandewall are precious friends and devoted servants of Christ, whom it will be a blessed privilege to have helped in their laborious duties.

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**The New-York "Evangelist,"**

Edited by Rev. Messrs. Field and Craighead, issues its prospectus for 1860. From it we copy a paragraph.

"At the end of these thirty years, the *Evangelist* finds itself an established institution. It has grown up with a whole generation; and to day it is entrenched in the respect and confidence of tens of thousands, who are among the better portion of our countrymen. Never has its circle of readers been so large, nor the marks of public favor so abundant. Thus prospered of God, and finding favor with all the people, it enters on a new chapter in its history, with fresh hope and courage. It has attained its full manhood, and is destined, we trust, to a still more vigorous life for the thirty years to come."

We sincerely hope that our good neighbor may prosper yet more and more. The *Evangelist* is in excellent hands, and is doing a good work. May its present editors continue at their posts through all the thirty years over which their anticipations run.

**NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.**

Missionary Meetings for November,  
APPOINTMENTS FOR REV. DR. SCUDDER.

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"The Day is Breaking" munication to the Fulton a pastor of one of our city The following is an extract

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**The Religious Press**

A gentleman said that in this city published rep- ings, while there were of meetings daily held in Ft. Slip, Cooper Institute, a and from their columns ever know of the existen for prayer. Every week present in these meeti some to tell us what the The work of saving gra- they wot not of it. Sou- are brought to repentanc on earth and in heaven no expressions of thank-

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his death upon the tablets of his grateful memory. Mr. Youngblood was graduated from the New-Brunswick Seminary in 1836. He died of pulmonary disease, in the fifty-sixth year of his age.

**RUTGERS COLLEGE.**

This time-honored institution, which has instructed and sent forth into different departments of science so many useful and eminent men, has lately taken a fresh start in the cause of literature. A new faculty, composed of the most capable men, both as to attainments and facility of imparting instruction, has been added to the old professors, or put in the place of those whose age entitled them to rest. A higher standard of studies is to be adopted, and a careful examination of the progress of the student will, it is believed, secure to parents and guardians of youth the objects they seek in sending their to this institution.

In order to carry out the improvements so happily begun, the Trustees are now soliciting the aid of the friends of the College, and of sound learning generally, that they may be enabled to increase their funds so as to meet the necessary expenditures incurred by these increased advantages.

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Junior, 21  
Total, 57  
In College and Grammar-school, preparing for the Seminary, 61  
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**Columbia College.**—The Annual Catalogue of this institution shows an attendance of 273 students, as follows: Seniors, 43; Juniors, 42; Sophomores, 61; Freshmen, 62; Law students, 62. The trustees have published in a volume of about ninety pages, the inaugural addresses of Professor Dwight and Professor Marsh.

**A Kind Word.**

Mr. Horton:—You must not permit your modesty to refuse a constant reader, though not a Dutchman, the privilege of expressing his hearty assent to the fearless and truthful utterances of the Thanksgiving sermon published on the first page of your last issue.

Such defence of the true and right; such rebuke of the fanatical and wicked; such manly and patriotic sentiments in these times of seditious and treasonable tirades; such hopeful views of our country, and so well sustained, when many are desponding; such counsels for peace and fraternal union and trust in God—deserve a wider circulation than the *Intelligencer* can give, and a more permanent record than the columns of a newspaper can promise. Can it be secured?

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Missionary Meetings for November, APPOINTMENTS FOR REV. DR. SCUDDER.

every accessible place. In the evening, at the Presbyterian Church, thousands went away unable to get in. Last week he preached on three successive evenings, in Rev. Dr. Clarke's church, O. S. Presbyterian, and during the week previous, on five successive evenings, in the Rev. John Chambers' church (Independent). All Protestant Evangelical denominations, except the Episcopalian, open their pulpits to this young Evangelist. His sound doctrinal views (being decidedly Calvinistic), together with his impressive delivery, facility of illustration, simplicity of language, and blood earnestness, qualify him for great usefulness. I understand that many men of the world "have been attracted to his services. Twice he has preached to immense audiences of men only, and with a boldness and fervor which the occasions required. On Wednesday evening next, he preaches to the Brethren, in Concert Hall. His next movement will probably be to your city; applications for his services, especially in the Cooper Institute, having been earnestly pressed."

**THE FULTON STREET PRAYER-MEETING.**

During the last week, the meetings in Fulton street have been full; generally two lecture-rooms have been occupied. The spirit of the meeting is such as no one can doubt is only produced through the agency of the Holy Spirit. A gentleman from Wisconsin said, the other day, that, no doubt, this meeting was raised up in the providence of God to produce a mighty influence for good upon the churches of our land. The good hand of God is seen in the establishing of this meeting, in its influence all abroad.

"The Day is Breaking."—A very touching communication to the Fulton street meeting was read by a pastor of one of our city Dutch Reformed Churches. The following is an extract:—

"An aged mother in this city has a son, who is himself the head of a family, and is now anxious for his soul. His mother feels, therefore, the more encouraged. She believes that the prayers of his deceased father—lately an elder, and very influential member of one of our Dutch Reformed Churches—will be answered. She has, herself, for the last twenty years, three times a day, prayed for the reformation and conversion of her son, and now thinks the blessing is coming. Will the Christians at the Fulton street prayer-meeting help her, as she holds on to the angel of the covenant, while the day is breaking?"

Then followed three very touching, earnest prayers for this poor man—struggling in bondage to sin—praying that he might at once be set free.

**The Religious Press and the Prayer-Meeting.**—A gentleman said that four religious weekly papers in this city published reports of the daily prayer-meetings, while there were others who ignored the prayer-meetings daily held in Fulton street, John street, Old Slip, Cooper Institute, and other places in this city, and from their columns none of their readers would ever know of the existence of these daily convocations for prayer: Every week, we have awakened persons present in these meetings. Every week, we have some to tell us what the Lord has done for their souls. The work of saving grace goes steadily on; and yet they were not of it. Souls are born again; and sinners are brought to repentance; and the Church of Christ on earth and in heaven rejoice. Yet the so share in no expressions of thankfulness and praise.

But let us be thankful that there are those who do speak to the churches all over the land and the world, of the wonders of God's grace which are witnessed in the daily prayer-meeting. The Dutch Reformed *Intelligencer*, the Baptist *Examiner*, the New School Presbyterian *Evangelist*, and the Old School Presbyterian *Observer*, carry to their numerous readers the tidings of the week, and not least, the tidings of the prayer-meeting. The great majority of the readers of religious papers get, through the columns of the above-named, full reports of the meetings, especially of Fulton street. So it has been, and so it probably will be. If any instrumentalities have been honored of God in sustaining the Fulton street prayer-meeting, not least among them has been the influence of the religious press.

More requests for prayer come through these channels to the prayer-meeting than through any other; and with their coming has also come a blessing upon the meeting. These are simple facts, which are well known to this meeting. It is true, probably, that the good which is thus done here is but a small part of the good which is accomplished over the land and world. Every week furnishes proof of this. Churches are quickened to prayer. Sinners are awakened. Souls are converted. The religious press is a mighty

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Mr. Epiton:—England, written Emancipation C for your excellen

Cor. Sec. 23 Bible House

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**Anti-Slavery**

This stated mee Bible House, Ast at half-past four chair, assisted by Francis Hall, and The Rev. F. T. read the 10th Pa Five new auxil are in Kansas, on Communicator Bible, Constantine the Scriptures in Syle, Shanghai, t agent of this Soc Secretary M'N to the South, and of the Bible Soc Some valuable sented.

Grants were m to the Presbyteri school Union of t Methodist Missi Buenos Ayres, S. distribution in po to the amount of for distribution at of vessels, throug languages to be d two volumes for.

**Union Theology**

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Kingston Doc:1.1959

Dear Brother.

I thank you for your kind letter but I hope you will do better in the future and write me oftener. Do (tho) I am getting sympathy as you say enough but you are mistaken. What would be life without sympathy: Sympathy is an immense powerful influence. let us foster it, let us enjoy it.

I am looking with anxiety after your answer about my question which I wrote you. Now I have 9 \$100. subscribers.-. In the beginning of the week Mr. Porter did hand me the half-printed Intelligencer to read that part of the article "The Holland Academy" and did make me write a hasty reply which I would have done somewhat in another manner if I had read the whole. This may be my excuse for saying nothing more in behalf of the teachers and Western churches: I pray you keep cool and do not write any nor V D W. it won't do only harm.- Van Vleck says He did not write it and it is not his doing: but my writing against the letter and collections about and for our famine has caused feelings against me in several quarters. It will not do any permanent harm. The leading men love the institution too well:- It is not a pleasant thing to me, a begging man really has already burden enough to bear: but it does not move me: - Now I will be induced to stay some days or weeks in January, after that I must attend to my taxes and come at home. Now I wish you to do your utmost to convince my wife about the necessity of my staying so long: I pray you convince her and if her mind is quiet I shall feel cheered very much. I feel that this bitter piece will do a great deal of mischief in my family and also in our churches because they will feel the Slander keenly of having cunningly devised the plan to begin a school and to play that school in the hands of Synod. The emigration churches were never up to that, they were too suspicious, they rather thought Van Raalte is building Ear castles: and V Raalte himself was caught himself by that American Spirit of going ahead. Our Friends the beginners of the school did contrive the plan:- Mr. Cornell and V Vleck did plan a removal unless there was build: The Board did teach me to beg:- So it is all Slander:- Several voices I think will come to the paper: but let it not be by us:- the Faculty of New Brunswick was full of indignation they will speak out their sentiments\* out about the institution and teachers next week: Prof Campbell did subscribe \$100... only for giving a disapproval.-

Let the wood matter be taken care of by Winters: and that what the School uses will be paid: I wish to have nothing to do with the Whole then by Winters--

I was among the boys in New B: and I heard with the greatest pleasure that the Boys of the Holland Academy were so much speaking with the greatest affection and love about the teacher.- May the Lord strengthen your hands and cheer your heart and cause you to see great deal fruit: to see the Boys in N B and hear about their standing did do my heart good did cheer me very much:

I think to relieve the deed of Misses V Vleck by this time. Storms make the Sky clear:- Love to your Lady GoodBy

Your friend and Brother

A C Van Raalte