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### Letter from Anthony Brummelkamp to A. C. Van Raalte Published in De Hollander

Anthony Brummelkamp

Henry ten Hoor

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30 July 1856

Holland, Michigan

A letter written to Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte by Rev. Anthony Brummelkamp, his brother-in-law, on 1 April 1856 accompanied the letter written by VR to *De Hollander* which were published on this date. The Brummelkamp letter also included a statistical report of the Separatist church in the Netherlands. The denomination now had 234 congregations and 134 ministers. This pastor de Liefde who reported on the Separatist church is not to be trusted as VR also said on 9 July in *De Hollander*. .

In Dutch; translated by Dr. Henry ten Hoor.

Original in the collection of the Holland Historical Trust at the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College.

April 1, 1856

Translation

**Letter of A. Brummelkamp to ACVR**

**Published in De Hollander on July 23 and 30, 1856**

(A section of the letter had also been published before July 23)

De Hollander, July 30, 1856:

Sequel and final section of the Rev. Brummelkamp's letter to the Rev. A. C. Van Raalte.

Also enclosed is an annual of the separatist congregations, our first edition. It contains a number of statistics about our churches. I discovered in there a total of 234 congregations, 184 ministers, a seminary with 4 ministers as teachers and 38 students, a number which should be increased with 4 new students. Concerning your question as to how the Rev. De Liefde could express himself the way he did in his writings, I can only say that he is following in the footsteps of the men of the National Church and also of our own people. In England and in America it is quite normal that different congregations function next to each other. In our own country almost all churches were in earlier days united for reasons of money and the bayonet. But that time has passed, and often it is difficult for our hearts and emotions to adjust ourselves to the new situation. The difficulty also has a deeper cause for all who fear God, <sup>with</sup> there certainly is the desire to be one in Christ <sup>is</sup> and the dread to say "I follow Paul" or "I follow Cephas". But one day freedom will break through and consciences will no longer be able to bow for human regulations or what we consider to be human regulations, how can we ever expect anything else? You know what is even more remarkable? That everybody seems to work just as hard toward that end, even against their own will. The enemies of Christ have dismissed the first separatist ministers. Groen, Heldring and others have

established their own missionary stations, to work opposed to their own denomination, but also against the separatist churches. Budding, Ledeboek, De Liefde, Van den Oever and others struggle just as much amongst themselves as against us. To live "side by side" is understood in America, God will grant us to grasp it, too. O, if everybody had seen that nothing works so much to our disadvantage and creates so much confusion as a government paying the salaries of the ministers, we would have made so much headway already. But unfortunately, they don't understand this. The only churches who profit from this arrangement are the Roman-Catholic, the only ones who directly lose are the Separatists and some Mennonites who -- to give credit where credit is due -- refuse this as a matter of principle.

That the Rev. De Liefde is unable to work with us, or we with him, makes everybody feel sad, of course. But the Separatists are generally afraid <sup>of</sup> him, because until now he has never been able to show firmness in the reformed doctrines. They are perhaps somewhat too fearful <sup>on that point</sup>, which can be explained as a reaction against the looseness and arbitrariness ~~in the churches~~ of which God has freed us. But I <sup>gladly</sup> eagerly admit that, although I have had a good relationship with him since his first appearance, I do not think that unity would work out well, not only <sup>with</sup> because of Brother de Liefde, but also <sup>with</sup> because of us. But what should this mean for the future? For a number of years he was <sup>merely</sup> preaching everywhere, but did not establish a congregation. This could not continue very long, I spoke with him several times about this, and he himself admitted that it had to change eventually. Recently he went to Scotland, and he was told there that by preaching without establishing congregations he was throwing drops <sup>of wine</sup> in the ocean, and catching fish and letting them swim again. <sup>He saw the trouble of that, and by what he saw in</sup> This, ~~and the congregational life in Scotland,~~ <sup>was</sup> influenced him greatly, so that he now has decided to change his ways and let himself be directed by the Bible, that means: founding congregations! He will now experience that it is easier to cross the Jordan on a dry path, amidst the sound of trumpets,

travel through  
than to purge the land of the Philistines and other riffraff. I trust that, after 20 years of doing the same work we do, he will understand how unfair he has spoken of us among other brothers. For now <sup>But then</sup>

we will gladly forgive him his fumble. May the Lord make him and us and many others useful instruments in his hand. And when flesh and blood encourages us recurrently to say: "Teacher, we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us", <sup>often</sup>

<sup>for bade him</sup> <sup>do not follow you + vs."</sup>  
<sup>probid</sup>  
May the Lord then teach us what it means: "Do not stop him (.) for whoever is not against us is for <sup>us.</sup>"

And with this we leave the matter to the Lord. When I started this letter I thought it would be <sup>good</sup> best to mention some <sup>particulars with</sup> <sup>one acquainted so well as I am</sup> <sup>same</sup> affairs of which you know just as much as I do, but I thought it good to mention them, so that our American friends from the Christian Intelligence of which you have sent me some pieces, might <sup>enable</sup> be able to "audi et alteram partem" (and I guess I should herewith invite you to do so).

May I in this epistle also greet in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ all the people who love <sup>De Hope</sup> <sup>who</sup> the Hope and seek atonement of our debts in the blood of the Lamb. We desire your prayers and <sup>for</sup> <sup>our</sup> seek community with you.

Recently I read in the newspaper that some people in America are thinking of sending a committee to us to <sup>get acquainted with our people [?]</sup> ..... (part of text not copied), please, tell our brethren that we look forward to receiving them. Homes, hearts, churches and schools are open to welcome them. Perhaps you will be one of the committee members to honor us with a visit, that would be most wonderful.

Your brother and fellow warrior who most dearly loves you and commends you to the Lord, sends you, together with his family, his cordial greetings.

A. Brummelkamp  
Kampen, 1 April 1856

Continuation and Conclusion of Rev. A. Brummelkamp's letter to A. C. van Raalte.

I am sending you herewith a yearbook of the Separatist Church, the first one we have. You will find in it a statistical report of what we are. I have counted in it 234 congregations, 134 Ministers. One theological school with four instructors as lecturers and 38 students attending, which total, however, is recently increased by 4. And what concerns the question, how could Rev. de Liefde possibly write as he did; about this I can only answer that it happens to de Liefde as it happens to all the other men in the National Church and to ourselves. In England, and especially in America it is usual that different churches are near each other. By money and bayonet almost everything was one here, too. That time is past: the heart, the feelings, cannot accustom themselves to it. And this, no doubt, has an outstanding reason for each one who fears God. The unity in Christ; the fear for "I am of Paul; I am of Cephus" is surely the reason; but freedom having once broken through and the conscience no longer willing to bow before human limits or whatever man considers, so it speaks for itself that we have nothing else to expect -- and what is the most remarkable -- all work against their own desire and will -- really with equal energy. The enemies of Christ have therefore deposed the first Separatist Ministers. Groen, Heldring and such like established evangelism stations against their own denomination and also against the Separatists -- Budding, de Liefde, Ledeboer, van den Oever and others; also against others and against us.

The "near each/other" is understood in America; the Lord will give us to understand it here, too. If we could only get everyone to understand that there in those circumstances no notion works so adversely and causes more confusion than that the government pays the ministers, then we would have come a long way, but alas! They don't understand this. The only ones that have an advantage from that are the Roman catholics, the only ones at a disadvantage, the Separatists and some Mennonites, those, honor to whom honor is due! refuse this out of principle.

That de Liefde can't work with us or we with him, whom would this hurt? The Separatists are generally afraid of him because he has never yet shown any steadfastness in Reformed doctrine. If they are perhaps a bit too scared on that point, this is possibly so because of the reaction to the lawlssness and arbitrariness by which we are made free by the Lord. But I will gladly confess how much I agreed with de Liefde's first sermons: I could even fear that our argument would not last and that the reason would be found as easily in de Liefde as with us. But what must come of this? For some years he preached without forming a congregation, but after a while that did not last. I spoke to him about this and he saw for himself that this could not last. Recently he has been to Scotland and he has now been called there that he, not working through the church, casts a drop pof wine into the Ocean and catches fish to be released later, he feels the truth of it too deeply

[some sentences left untranslated. Tr.]

He will, however, also find out that it is easier to cross Jordan

with trumpet blasts and on dry ground than to purify the entire land of the Philistines. I am sure that when he has spent 20 years at it as we have that it will become clear to him how unwisely he had misunderstood his stranger brother. From experience we will be glad to forgive this misjudgment. May the Lord make him and us and many others useful instruments in His hand. And as flesh and blood often suggest that we say: Lord, we have seen someone who was casting out devils in Your name and we forbade him because he didn't follow you or us; then teach us to understand what it means: forbid him not, for who is not against me is for me.

And with this we submit the matter to the Lord. After I started this letter I thought it would be good to include certain particulars which you know as well as I, but which might be good to mention when you <sup>e</sup>~~u~~<sub>A</sub> my writing to inform your American friends in the same Christian Intelligencer from which you have sent me something to fill out the audi et alteram partem.

Bring this letter with my cordial greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ over to all the folk that love the Lord and seek forgiveness of guilt in the precious blood of the Lamb. We even ask for intercession and fellowship.

Recently I saw in the newspapers that in America a Committee is being considered to be sent to us to become acquainted with our circumstances. Encourage that idea as much as you can, and say to our Brothers that we will happily welcome them. Home, heart, church and school are open to them. Perhaps you yourself will come with such a Committee, which is not the least



that we could wish.

With hearty greetings from my family also, I commend you to the Lord. Your most closely bound Brother and Fellow striver.

A. Brummelkamp

Kampen, 1 April, 1856

*Tr: A. ten Hoop*

COPY

DE HOLLANDER

WOEDT, IEDEREN WOENSDAG, CUM SABBATO IN DE HOLLANDER

DE PRUIZEN VAN INTERESSEN... De Pruisen van Interessen zijn \$50 Dollar in het jaar...

Prijzen van Advertenten... 1 square 1 week... 1 square 1 jaar...

De voorzijde van de Advertentien bij het jaar... 17 Geboren... 17 Overleden...

ADRESKAARTJES, 1856.

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. KOOPLIJDEN LV

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. TIMMERHOUT, LATTEN, SHINGLES...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. EENREKEND EN AANSTEN VAN EEN STROM-LIJK...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. H. D. POST, OFFENBAAR NOTARIS EN OVERDRAGER...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. OOK... Koopt en verkoopt bij oud goud en zilver...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. J. BINNEKANT, Brood-, Beend- en Koekbakker...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. B. VAN DER VEEN, Koopman in Koek-, Kamer- en Kantoor-Kagchels...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. A. PLUGGER, Koopman in Staven, Shingles enz...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. L. SCHLADDELEE, Koopman in Staven, Shingles enz...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. C. P. MARSH, Genees-Heel- en Verloekundige...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. W. VAN DEN BERG, Genees-Heel- en Verloekundige...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. HENRY HOSPERS, NOES A. CLARCK, HOSPERS & CLARCK...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. PELLA; MARION CO., IOWA, Doon-Uitloosing van Geld onder verpanding...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. GENERAAL ADVENTSCHAP, ONROERENDE GOEDEREN...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. B. STEUNENBERG, LARREN- en BODENKUNDE...

1856. FERRY & ZONEN, 1856. Vervoer en Commissie Handelaars. B. STEUNENBERG, LARREN- en BODENKUNDE...

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VERMOEDEN EN SLOOT VAN D. A. BRUMMELKAMP'S BRIEF AAN

Dr. A. C. VAN RAALTE. Ik zend U hierbij tevens een jaarboekje voor de Afgescheidenen...

Ik zend U hierbij tevens een jaarboekje voor de Afgescheidenen gemeente, juist het eerste dat wij hebben. Hij vindt daar in een statistiek opgave van 4 jaren...

Maar wat moet hier uit voortvloeien? Eenige jaren stond hij slechts te prediken zonne en gemeente te vormen, maar hij gevoelt, op den duur ging dat niet...

Maar ik wil het gaarne bekennen, hoe veel ik ook van zijn eerste optreden af met de Liefde opgehoud heb: ik zou zelfs vreezen dat het zamenwonen niet zou gaan...

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Maar wat moet hier uit voortvloeien? Eenige jaren stond hij slechts te prediken zonne en gemeente te vormen, maar hij gevoelt, op den duur ging dat niet...

DE DENKBEELD AAN, ZOOVEEL GY KUNT, EN ZEG NAUWZINNIG BROEDEREN DAT WIJ HEU ZEER GAARNE WILLEN ONTVANGEN.

Met hartelijke groete, ook van al de mijnen, noech ik mij U den Heer aubeveldende, U op U'innigst aan U' verbonden Broeder en Medestrijder.

Met hartelijke groete, ook van al de mijnen, noech ik mij U den Heer aubeveldende, U op U'innigst aan U' verbonden Broeder en Medestrijder.

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DE HEER DE BRUYN VOED DE VOLGENDE RESOLUTIE AAN:

Resolutie. Dat het Dagboek der Board in de "Grand River Times" en "de Hollander" worden gepubliceerd. Aangenomen.

Resolutie. Dat de Heer De Bruyn de afgevaardigde van de Noordelijke Know-Nothings. Aangenomen.

Resolutie. Dat de Heer De Bruyn de afgevaardigde van de Noordelijke Know-Nothings. Aangenomen.

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De Hollander July 30 1856

Holland Historical Trust Collectie of the Joint Archives of Holland

DAGBOEK

Van de Board der Supervisors van Ottawa County, Maandag, 9 Junij, 1856.

De heer Hazelton bood de volgende resolutie aan: Resolutie. Dat de ambten van Clerk en Register van af en na den eersten Januarij aanstaande worden gescheiden worden.

De heer Angel stelde voor om bovengenoemde stemming op nieuw te overwegen, en bood de volgende resolutie aan: Resolutie. Dat des Clerk's salaris worde bepaald op twee honderd dollars, en terstond in werking te brengen.

De heer Angel stelde voor om den heer Hopkins tot loon \$280 toe te staan. Niet aangenomen.

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Wordt Verolegd Grand Rapids, Julij 15, 1856.

Landgevoeten! Het wordt thans door de postenijgers der zoogenamde Republikeinse partij hard tegengevoerd, dat hare partij in verband staat met de Noordelijke Know-Nothings.

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