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11-4-1869

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

A. C. Van Raalte

George Scholten

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New York City, November 4, 1869

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps, pressing with urgency the need to keep raising money for Hope College: "We must keep to work: constantly to work for years to come with force and perseverance, else we will make bad work. We must have buildings."

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

(Note: George Scholten make several additions to the Phelps letters. I am not sure that all of the data is them is correct.)

For years to forme; let must get peanned begand me need buildings. Exfore Syrived What as much as is possible Jewyork Karyly Es and we must have Sound and Solid Neva De P Phelps pland lefore Syrud in found the with Frilding .- I know in Some Corners Dar Brother, they day yet; that we were too fast that Yesterday Twas Men I musurch would have answered ete Present at the organisation of the sete ete thefore we must brup and Vew Brunswich Particular Syned: it Elving, we must you head; well humble was all done in a hurry: no bulliney Ex not grundling but inflepable per lis was done every one wanted by home lent and alway in the field: 1 the Dame day: the hurricans of tie bring young men in the field, we buffinely distrois bulfinely-Smust make them Known by the In. as every Where I found there the fin = Flelligencer: and demand this abour only Churchfrapel. mittees appointed to poparate with Dr Jam very an your that our leid es late formell to Gothrough the Churches Hargine Schoold be free from debby if you the clerypmen feel themselves to frush There friends work at them firthat up that work . - So I will go or perhaps ? Justole . - May God bley Mysefellege! may meet an individual with pity for Formatte and the Profestors Il Mulatelles

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posed to do So: - But Theel well the clined to electore trufelfible todo now the with for the Endowinens but to Stay in the field for Myse follege in General to Reef the machinery going: Ided put the question to De Van Cleek What todo Will the current expenses and the clebt acrued by those findingent lependes: the Laid better Reep begging to Keep of going; till formell has benationed The Same question, Tdid fut to DE Lee. and his answerwas: that the founded had to Judge about this. and now as amember of the fundely before that the teachers must Luffer, before indire duals must forme burdened by clebs, we will folled and Spent Sofar as it is neces fary to keep alive, and give accounted it to the General Synod, It is not need-Sary to do this in an offenlive manner, but we have to doct as a phistian duty Who are entrusted with the Special Care for that institution _

If Mr. Suydam Giver mongy and if He demends koresy; then let the money if possible be used to clear the Elal estate debs .-Sarther DE Ja thinks also that it is necessary nor to leave the field but He thought it to be good that you theuld fine in the field alson - The Board However fould not give an invitation, maccount the Whole affaire belong Ito the foundel. The thing is this " Movedy will have july on Hope follege if we don't have it. Noted, well pick up the money if we don't doit. Nobody will find failt for get miney: We must not expect any thing then Synochical We Solutions: and the founded must do the work . - Getting the money is the thing to keep us alive, to make us despectable popular etc. etc. therefore ome and get the money: Even Twented like to See young dominal trained in the with It will be a hard

New York Nov. 4 / 69

Revd Dr P: Phelps

Dear Brother,

Yesterday I was present at the organisation of the New Brunswick Particular Synod: it was all done in a hurry: no bussiness was done every one wanted to go home the same day: the hurricane of bussiness destrois bussiness.

As every where I found there the committee appointed to cooperate with Dr Cornell tp go through the churches. Therefore the clergymen feel themselves pledged to finish up that work. -So I will go on seeking openings perhaps may meet an individual with pity for the West: at least I intend to go on even by making loans to defraying my expenses as I was already obliged to do:

Many advise to do nothing on account the present claims in the field: I feel not desperate to do so: -But I feel well inclined to declare it impossible to do now the work for the Endowment, both stay in the field for Hope College in general to keep, the machine going:-

I did put the question to Dr Van Cleef what to do with the current expenses and the debt acrued by the contingent expenses: He said better keep begging to keep it going; till Cornell has been around.

The same question I did put to Dr See and his answer was: that the Counsel had to judge about this. and now as a member of the Counsel, try: before that the teachers must suffer, before individuals must come burdened by this debt, we will collect and spent so far as it is necessary to keep alive and give account for it to General Synod. It is not necessary to do this in an offensive manner, but we have to do it as a Christian duty who are entrusted with the special care for that institution. -

If Mr Suydam gives money and if he demands secresy: then let the money if possible be used to clear the real estate debt. -

Farther Dr See thinks also that it is necessary not to leave the field: but he thought it to be a good thing that you should come to the field also; -The Board However could not give an invitation on account of the Whole affaire belongs to the Counsel. -

The thing is this: Nobody will have pity on Hope College if we dont have it: Nobody will pick up the money if we dont do it. Nobody will find fault if we get the money: We must not exspect anything than Synodical resolutions: and the Counsel must do the work. -Getting the money is the thing to keep us alive to make us respectable popular etc, etc. therefore come and get the money: Even I would like to see young dominees trained in the work: It will be a hard work for years to come: We must get before Synod as much as is possible and we must have sound and solid plans before Synod in connection with buildings. -I know in some cases they say yet: that we were too fast, that New Brunswick would have answered etc etc etc therefore we must be up and doing, we must go ahead; well humble not grumbling but inflexable persistant and always in the field: if we bring young men in the field we must make them known by the Intelligencer: and demand this as our only church paper.

I am very anxious that our real estate schould be free from debt: if you have friends work at them for that purpose. -

May God bless Hope College:

Your friend and Brother

A. C. Van Raalte

N.B. I hope the Executive Committee and the Professors will see the necessity of your coming, and also that coming of a young man as Ds Ch. Oggel: You and a domine who can preach the English are better fitted for the work: I myself have no intention to leave the work but I urge your coming and the coming of a young domine. We must keep to work: constantly to work for years to come with force and perseverence, else we will make bad work. We must have buildings.

Note: Ch Oggel was Rev. E. C. Oggel, born 1841; Hutgere C. '65: N.B.T. s 1866 of De Hope and Tres of Hope College '69 - '71: New Palts 1896-1908: died 1910.

Dr Pieter y Oggel died Dec. 15, 1869, a month after the above letter was written. Husband of Nina Van Raalte.

Rovd Dr P: Phelps

Dear Brother, Yesterday I was present at the organisation of the New Brunswick Particular Synod: it was all done in a hurry: no bussiness was done exery one wanted to go home the some days the hurrical of bussiness destrois bussiness. underlined by V.R. - nejmal

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I did put the question, to Dr Van Cleef⁴ what to do with the current expenses and the debt ac[c]rued by these contingent expenses: He said better keep begging to keep it going; till Cornell has been around.

The same question I did put to Dr See:⁵ and his answer was: that the Counsel⁶ had to judge about this. and now as a member of the Counsel,⁷ I say before that the teachers

¹ See Corwin's *Digest of Synodical Legislation* for a history of the formation of Particular Synods in the Dutch Reformed Church. The Particular Synods of Albany and New York were organized in 1800. The Classes that now made up the Particular Synod of New Brunswick were formerly in the Particular Synod of New York. (485-490). The General Synod of the RCA changed the name of these synods to "regional" in 1992. *Acts and Proceedings....1992*), 39-40.

² Dr. Cornell's effective fundraising on behalf of New Brunswick Seminary made Van Raalte's work very difficult.

³ Even though Van Raalte was needed to be with his family at a very difficult time due to the illness of Rev. Pieter J. Oggel, he was so dedicated to Hope College that he neglected family obligations.

⁴ Dr. Paul Duryea Van Cleef was the pastor of the Second Reformed Church of Jersey City, a congregation he served from 1849 until 1896. He was elected a trustee of Rutgers College this year. He served as a member of the Board of Domestic Missions for forty-seven years. *Acts and Proceedings...*, 1903, 527-529. The prominence of Van Cleef in the ministry of the Reformed Church must have led Van Raalte to consult with him.

⁵ Dr. John L. See, often mentioned in these letters of Van Raalte to Phelps, was the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education, 1861-1884. Corwin's Manual...., 4th ed., 1902, 729.

⁶ Van Raalte was never able to master the correct spelling of 'council.' Prior to its incorporation in 1866, the governing board of the Holland Academy and Hope College was the Board of Superintendents. After 1866, the governing board was the Council of Hope College of which Van Raalte was a member and the

must suffer, before individuals must come burdened by this debt, we will collect and spent so far as it is necessary to keep alive, and give account of it to the General Synod. It is not necessary to do this in an offensive manner, but we have to do it as a Christian duty Who are entrusted with the special care for that institution. —

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first president of the Council. Preston J. Stegenga, in his history of Hope College, *Anchor of Hope*, ..., (1954), discusses the early administrative system of Hope College, 73-76.

⁷ As far as it can be determined, Van Raalte was a member of the Council of Hope College and served as its first president. First Catalogue and Circular of HOPE COLLEGE..., 1865-66 (1866), 5.

⁸ The denominational weekly.

⁹ Rev. Engelbert Christian Oggel was at this time serving the college as editor of *De Hope* and treasurer of the college. Corwin's *Manual*..., 4th ed., (1902), 442. He was the younger brother of Rev. Pieter J. Oggel

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May God blown Hope College

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Your friend and Brother

Auda Von Smalte

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Note: di Ungol was hev. E. C. Oggel,berg 1841; Rutgare C. '85; E 2'2 s 1886 24 of De Hope & Treas of Hope Callege '68-'71; New Palts

Dr. Pister & Oggol died Dec.15,1869, a mouth after the above letter.

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