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3-31-1865

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

A. C. Van Raalte

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March 31, 1865

No. 33

A letter of A. C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps. He encourages Phelps in his fund raising efforts. He then adds some personal notes: "I am growing old and stiff and dull. By keeping me in the harness I will be finished up and soon obliged to retire. Old men have to learn to die by inches." ACVR is now 54!

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

Holland Mich
March 31/65

Rev. P: Phelps, D.D.

Dear Brother!

Yours of the 26th are received: They contain great cause of thank to God: -

To get Counting Subscriptions in the beginning is essential to Success. And that you have the beginning of Subscriptions and well such counting ones fills my heart with joy and hope.

Your proposal I did not think would succeed: but if it does take against my expectation; then it is just the thing to place the cause on a right footing.-

I must acknowledge the cause is more popular than I expected: and if your opponents even begin to favor the cause; then I will this a perfect triumph; and a strong proof of a very strong undercurrent in favor of Western education. -

Certainly you have to go through much hard and disagreeable work: but the Lord will cheer you up by his Spirit and by every kind of ministering angels. - and a good beginning will make the thing popular: The first giving to the Academy will make many willing to give more seeing the growth of their planted tree.

I think the extreme selfishness of your opponents works out for you a blessing it causes reaction. - and after having suffered through your wrestling soul-agonies, the usual preparation for important works, I trust you will find a better prepared path than we have expected: The Lord is merciful.

I think it is well for Mrs Phelps to be somewhere in the East during your work.

Mr. Talmage has given the people a pointed sermon.- Do not forget to seek for a pastor: it is a crying want. Rev. Ferris will not do his time is taken up: I believe that a soul-seeking American pastor, a man given to the work in simplicity is the great desideratum even if he has no splendid talents. Let the Hollanders see an American faithful laborer; this will have a very excellent effect: and the Americans cannot sympathise with a pastor who is too much Dutch.

cannot sympathise with a pastor who is too much Dutch: this side of the question gets with me again the upperhand.-But still I give only my opinion for what it is worth: it is none of my business: -perhaps I am a little too officious: and I learn that the Lord does not rule according to my wishes.

Mrs. Van Raalte can not be induced to leave for Clifton Springs: she is somewhat better: But she is not a day without a slow fever.-

I am growing old and stiff and dull. By keeping me in the harness I will be finished up and soon obliged to retire: Old men have to learn to die by inches.- Do work brother but do it moderate, and you will keep out longer than I did do. -

We have lost Mrs. Venneza: the old Colonists are dropping off: I wish the young ones did supply the lost salt.

I suppose others will write you about the Academy etc.

May the Lord sustain and prosper you my Friend and Brother

A.C. Van Raalte

is somewhat better; but she is not
adequately without a slow fever.

I am growing old ~~and~~ stiff and thick;
By keeping me in the harness, I will
be finished up, and soon obliged
to retire: Old men have to learn to move
by inches. — So work Brother, but
do it moderate, and you will keep
out longer than I did do.

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lost salt. — I suppose others will
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May the Lord sustain and prosper
you

Your Friend & Brother

A. C. M. Peck

The cause is being supported by subscription
Get a good pastor, & an efficient

Holland Nether
Rev: P. Phelps, D.D. March 31/68.

33.

Dear Brother!

Yours of 25th
are received: They contain great amount
of thank to God: —

To get printing subscriptions in the
beginning is essential to success. And
that you have the beginning of sub-
scriptions and well such printing ones
fills my heart with joy and hope.

Your proposal I did not think would
succeed: but if it does take against my
expectation; then it is just the thing to
place the cause on a right footing. —

I must acknowledge the cause is
more popular than I expected: and
if your opponents even begin to favor
the cause; then I call this a perfect
triumph; and a strong proof of a very

Strong undercurrent ~~of~~ in favor
of Western education.

Certainly you have to go through ^{much}
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Lord will cheer you on, by his Spirit
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pastor who is too much Dutch?

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But still I give only my opinion
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officious: and I learn that the Lord
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