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### A Brief Note to Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Van Raalte from Their Son, Dirk

Dirk Van Raalte

Clarence Jalving

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23rd A. C. Hospital, Marietta, Ga., August 30, 1864

A brief note to Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Van Raalte from their son, Dirk, who wrote, "I am doing well. I write with my left hand and Benjamin holds the paper smooth. You must not concern yourselves about me."

This is followed by a letter from son, Ben. "Dirk is a peculiar fellow -- he tells them what they must do for him and whenever his stump is dressed he takes a mirror and examines it, telling them what to do. He has an extensive knowledge of wounds. He has the courage of a lion and doesn't want to be mustered out of the service after he is better....The first three days I was with Dirk continuously so I got no sleep....They say that Atlanta has fallen and I am sorry that I was not there...P.S.

...Dirk says father had better use his own judgment about coming or not. Do whatever he thinks he should do."

Original in the Archives of the Netherlands Museum.

Translated by Clarence Jalving.

Aug. 30, 1864 evening 9 o'clock

Dear Parents:

I am doing well. I write with my left hand and Benjamin holds the paper smooth. You must not concern yourselves about me.

Yours,  
D. Van Raalte

23rd A.C. Hospital  
Marietta Ga. Aug. 30, 1864

Dear Parents:

I am very happy to announce that Dirk is getting along very well. He is improving rapidly and his mouth is healing nicely. He is healthy and has an excellent appetite. Sometimes he has to laugh - the wounded tell so many jokes. He is getting the best of care - anything a person could ask for as the 25th regiment runs the hospital and they are doing all they possibly can for Dirk. Van Lente and an English boy of our company are particularly doing all they can for him. Dirk always took care of the sick and wounded of our regiment in such a way that they now want to repay him. I am opposed to having him moved from here - I think it is more healthful in a field hospital than in large buildings where it is so crowded. Dirk is a peculiar fellow -- he tells them what they must do for him and whenever his stump is dressed he takes a mirror and examines it, telling them what to do. He has an extensive knowledge of wounds. He has the courage of a lion and doesn't want to be mustered out of the service after he is better. Wants to stay until his time is up. Don't worry about him - he is getting along fine and I will take good care of him. The flies are bad here but we keep them off Dirk. I am also feeling fine and in good health. The first three days I was with Dirk continuously so I got no sleep. When we got here I got some sleep and am now thoroughly rested.

I will write every day and yesterday I wrote and requested that Father come down here to get Dirk. It is now nine o'clock in the evening. They say that Atlanta has fallen and I am sorry that I was not there. I have been everywhere throughout the whole campaign but Dirk's needs come first. I hate the Rebels worse than ever now and they need expect no mercy from me. Since Dirk was wounded my hatred has increased and if I ever get my hands on them they will pay.

Best regards to everyone

Your loving B. Van Raalte

P.S. Dirk's address is Marietta Ga. 23rd A.C. Hospital, Section 3, Ward 5. Dirk says father had better use his own judgment about coming or not. Do whatever he thinks he should do.

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Original is missing. Was translated in 1952 when  
Julia Reimold was still alive.

C.L.J.