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Christina Van Raalte Wrote Her Mother, Mrs. Christina J. Van Raalte

Christina Van Raalte

Nella Kennedy

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Christina Van Raalte wrote her mother, Mrs. Christina J. Van Raalte, that she has received the five dollars and was very appreciative of it. She will use the money to buy a locket. She made several comments about her life and work. Mrs. Pijster is her landlady who is very thrifty. The other girls in the shop think that they are superior to the Dutch girls. It was the talk of the town that Rev. Roelof Pieters may have declined a call.

In Dutch (with a smattering of English); translation by Nella Kennedy, December, 2001.

Original in the Van Raalte collection, no. 300, at Heritage Hall, Calvin College.

[stationery with an American star; next to it, upside down:]

This is a note from Mrs. Arcambal. She praises me too much. You know me well, so you will be able to judge in so far as it is good.

Kalamazoo, January 18, 1863

Dear mother.

I received Mary's letter. I was so glad with that, for I do long for home sometimes. I feel the best when I am at the shop for then I am occupied. I also received the five dollars for which I thank you heartily. But, dear mother, I could have waited a little bit longer before buying that locket, because I am afraid that you need it yourself. Well, I will buy a locket for it on Monday.

- [2] I asked Mrs. D'Arcambal if she thought there would be plenty of work so I can continue to learn. She said that it was not as busy now as in the spring, but there still would be plenty of work [from which I can] learn, and it would be only for a couple of weeks. That would not make the trip worthwhile, she thinks, so I think that I will stay until I know my trade [used the English word] and I prefer to do that also. She told the shop girls that if they had to make one or another [item] that they could take it with them to the shop and then they would be allowed to sew it in the shop. She would then instruct them in the same way as if it had been work that had come in.
- So if you were here then I would be able to do some things for you. But when I come home I hope that I will be able to do the sewing for you. I am glad that my boss [?] is better again [because] she has been somewhat ill. Our dress maker is gone and now she herself is teaching us. Last week I had a sleep-over with Miss Scott; she is the upper girl of the shop. She boards here in Kalamazoo; her parents live in Dowagiac. She is a very decent [fatsoendelijk=fatsoenlijk] girl and she feels lonesome [English] and so I went along with her. I don't' go out much but then I am really not interested in going out. I like [uses the incorrect and homonym "lijk"] it at the shop. We thought that it was cheap for two dollars for my board, but it is rather confined. For on Friday evening the teacher meeting is held here and then
- [4] we sit in an other room, but Mrs. Pijster worries then about having to light the fireplace and lamp. The girls are rather nice, but they feel rather superior for they think that they have so much more than other Dutch girls. I am writing this to you, father and mother, and I would not tell it to any other human being. But please keep it to yourselves. Mrs. Arcambal is very good to me otherwise I would be rather homesick [English]. I have not received a letter from the boys and I am longing for one. Mother, is it true that Rev. Pieters has declined? It is the talk of the town here. Kiss father and Anna for me; greetings to everybody. Your loving daughter,

Christina

Dec 2001 trouslator: N. Gennedy incorrect Dutch auglicitus

Calvin DE VIR May par 26 Filten wy in een ander kamed man dan tech Mendigster er al legen of dat de kachel aan moch en un tamp gebrard moch worden de miss por Tim nog al goed man to wellen my al grootsely want to denken dat of two weel meer hebben dande ander Hollands che meis jes main ik schrif dit aan en trader en Moeder en ik Low het tigen geen mensch. anders zeggen dus er most hetmans. voor et eigen horsden asjeblieft. flers Aream bal is had goed tegen mij anders you it nog al is home. sick wegen, it fel van de wak geen bil vande jougens gehad. ik vedlang at ween. Modeler is het war dal Domenie Feeters bedanst heeft dut praatge is heir in omlook. Hus Vader en Anna voor mig degreet and allew Goodbye . Uw liefhebbende . Dochter Christine

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