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A Letter of E. Ravenshorst, Ommen, to Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte

E. Ravenshorst

John Luidens

Marcelle Luidens

Nella Kennedy

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A letter of E. Ravenshorst, Ommen, to Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, about many people and news items which he considers would be of interest to ACVR. Two people mentioned are Blikman and Bokkel. Ravenshorst is reporting on a Mr. Mansier, Van Raalte's brother-in-law. The letter is a mine of information about family and business matters.

Original owned by Barbara Nugent, a Van Raalte descendant and given to the Holland Museum.

In Dutch; translation by John and Marcelle Luidens. Transcription of the letter by Nella Kennedy along with revisions of the Luidens's translation, April, 2007.

Original in the archives of the Holland Museum.

ACVR papers, Box 1B, folder 21.

The Reverend A. C. Van Raalte

Your letter of October 24 found me in good health on November 17. I hurry to answer it directly. My letter, which accompanied that of your sister, has had the same reception over there as I assumed it would; namely, the recommendation of Mansier to emigrate to America. See how—in one way or another—it all came about. Your sister came to me and told me in strictest confidence that they planned to leave for North America in order to secure a better means of existence if the opportunity would present itself; that she had written to her brother with that purpose in mind; and she requested me to enclose a few lines which might serve in support [of that plan]. She waited for me to write a few lines. I wrote and read aloud to her and my wife what I had written, and [I] gave the unsealed letter to her. After she had gone, my wife asked me whether Michigan would understand that my letter was not much of a recommendation. I answered her that it would be more dissuasive than persuasive to you, Reverend, since you could deduce sufficiently from the whole that it was a letter that I had written under pressure. Thus I see that it has created such an effect.

I have written the truth. That Mansier no longer drinks is definite. Whether this is because he has no means for it, I am unable to say. He has given his divorce notice to his public misdeeds for some time already. Whether this is the result of genuine conversion to God I do not dare to say with certainty. However, to believe all the slander that went around earlier would be too harsh. That much of it is true, and not very nice, is very, very certain. Mansier has been a faithful churchgoer with the Afgescheidenen [Seceders] throughout, an attentive listener, even a champion. I doubt whether he understands the truth, however, and [is] dear to his heart. In short, it is much better that Mansier, with all that he is, remains here, than that he should cause grief to you. And I say this all the more, because I notice in your letter that he would settle with you or in your area. And that must never happen! He must live at a distance from you, and there follow a good occupation, whether [it is] as a miller or something else. What you wrote disturbs me: that you wrote your sister and thereby opened the way. She has had your letter already for 14 days. This I know from the postmaster, [but] she has not mentioned one iota of this to me, although she lives next to us in the house of Kramer. She is open and easy whenever she needs help, but uncommunicative, obscure, enigmatic and unfathomable insofar as she knows how to manage by herself.

However, perhaps in my heat I have already said too much, and for that reason I repeat your words: "Away with the dirty laundry." Certainly, I have written you all this confidentially, so that you know what to do and what not to do.

Now I lay down your letter before me again, starting from the beginning. What a wonder (exclamation mark). Raafje awakened from the dead (double exclamation marks). What electric shock has struck you¹ (question mark). Yes, you were right to be astonished, right to raise that question. And even more –a letter forced out of me by your sister,

¹ It is difficult to decipher whether the word is you [u] or her [ze].

without any value, and without scent or taste. But, oh, dear Dominie, I am devoured by many matters. It is not that I am loveless. I would give one hundred guilders if I could spend half a day to be in your midst to talk together. Oh, write me as often as you can find the time for it. The postage is no problem. Not that I am well-off financially² --far from it. No, I will have to work, and work hard, up to my dying day. To be financially secure probably will never be my lot, although I have a very sufficient income.

On balance, for the last five or six years I have been receiving an income of 1200 guilders a year and can save some of it, for our house remains the same, our living [costs] the same, our clothing the same. But our children are growing up and require more, internally and externally. Moreover, I suffered a hernia³ last year, and since then I walk with a truss, 4 so that I can walk short distances. On greater distances I must ride. Often I am away from home. For some years the roads have been subject to my supervision, and during that time I have contracted for the material for those roads. The roads from Ommen to Zwolle, from Ommen to Hardenbergh, [and] from Ommen to Dedemsvaart must be maintained annually with macadam gravel by which a lot of people earn their bread. I get these materials from a piece of land that I bought, together with my brotherin-law Ten Toorn, J. Kroon and Dr. ter Horst, from the estate of Van der Wijk -the land is 74 bunders⁵ in size [2.471 acres], for the small sum of 1620 guilders. The soil from which the stones and gravel are collected are seeded and planted with trees [to create] woods, and in that I invest my guilders that I save annually. That is interest-free capital. So I increase in possessions, but am constantly poor in money. In that respect I am better off in a small way than you are.

Also, you must know

[2]

that Papa de Moen and I purchased "Linderzand" twelve years ago for 720 guilders –84 bunders in size-- on which we have a farm and already a large forest. Still, I have never received half a penny from it but have always had to put in additional money, so that it has cost us upwards of 3000 guilders. But it already has a present value of 8,000 guilders. I have purchased, along with Dominie Ten Bokkel, several pieces of land, some of which we still have, some of which we sold again with substantial profit. When I appraise the houses and lands at present-day value, then I come to a figure of over 9,000 guilders in property, which is still encumbered by some 4,300 guilders however. So you can understand that I have prospered, but you will understand with me, that at no time in the future will I be able to retire.

And now we go to Lemele. Our planted lanes are still there. The oak trees are growing extremely well. The pine trees planted between the oaks hindered the growth of the oak trees, and so half the pines were cut down two years ago and were sold for wood and

² He used the common Dutch saying for having economic security in "having the cows on dry land."

³ Breuk can mean both a hernia, rupture or fracture.

⁴ Band

⁵ One bunder (or hectare or are) is 100 m².

rikhout. The oak thicket hedges on both sides were started five years ago and have grown so well that in three years' time it will be possible to sell them as good woodland timber. Everything is now woods, with fountains, gazebos, vegetable garden, orchard, etc. etc.

Mr. Blikman has built a nice country house there, a gardener's cottage, stables, carriage house, etc. In addition, Mr. Blikman has bought all the land between the Raalte Road and the Dalmsholter Road, along the canal, so that it is a very nice property. Since 1854 they have used it as their summer retreat. This year they already came in the middle of March, and are staying through the month of November. Mr. Blikman wholeheartedly enjoys living here, but Mrs. Blikman not at all, because Lemele does not lie on the railroad and is isolated. Mr. Blikman is working very hard to get a church at the canal. He probably will be successful in 1861. Until January 1, 1860, I was that gentleman's salaried business agent, and drew 400 guilders per year. Since that time I serve this gentleman gratis, partly because I can well do without his salary, partly because, at the age of 55, it was too difficult to stand in a subservient relationship with respect to Mrs. B. in domestic matters. Since 1854, I had given Egbert, who was the bridge tender, 100 guilders annually from my salary, so that this left me 300 guilders. But in 1859 Egbert coughed up blood, having to lay down the supervision over the workers [before] he died. In January 1860 everything was reorganized. Gerrit Krug was given supervision of the workers [and] a gardener was appointed. By doing this everything was arranged again.

Mr. Blikman finds it hard that I won't accept a salary, but I love him and will, out of my affection, gladly do anything for him that lies in my power. And now it is a completely different environment for me there. Mevrouw restrains herself now from saying to me: "What a miserable place did you provide for us here. Why didn't you advise my husband against going into the factory with Bart? By doing what you did, you have cost us thousands [of guilders]." It is true that Mr. Blikman is having severe reverses of business. In order not to lose out with the Hamburg boat, he had to make the highest bid for the Russian expedition, with a bid of one hundred thousand guilders. Those shares stand now at 50% because the Russian ship is a poor venture. In order to get that amount of money, Mr. Blikman has had to encumber himself seriously. With Mr. Thesin [Thesen?] he has also suffered a considerable loss. Mr. Blikman tells me more now than before about the good and bad ventures, so that Mrs. Blikman, by knowing all these things, is in very fretful humor. The gentleman has seen to it, however, that in my old age I don't need to groan under slavery, but that I can say to her: "I don't need you." Had I sought my own profit in the past, and had I given my resignation to Mr. Blikman completely or in part, I would have been in a much better position. The death of Egbert, however, was for me a suitable time to bring about some change. Now I keep his books, manage his financial administration and advise Mr. Blikman when he needs it, or thinks it necessary.

⁶ The word in the Dutch text is *rikhout*, for which it is difficult to find a translation. A *rikkepaal* is a fencing post.

⁷ Since Ravenshorst is not given to piety in this letter, it is likely that the word *Heer* does not refer to "the Lord."

built a small country estate opposite Mr. Blikman, on the east side of the Raalte Road. He cultivates wasteland. As a result, Lemele is becoming a beautiful place. Mr. Blikman has the most pleasant walks and shady woods there. Shipping is growing busier every year. Every day tow-boats travel from Almelo to Zwolle, and from Almelo to Deventer. Mr. B. has already made many attempts to connect Raalte with Lemele with a gravel road, but up to this point he has not been successful, although he has offered to make a gift of 3,000 guilders for this road, provided there is strong participation for it.

The school at Lemele is going to be removed to the canal in March by order of the City Council of the district of Ommen. At the highest point of the hill, on the south side, Mr. Blikman has built a gazebo in the midst of a planting of growing trees, and from there he has a very beautiful view.

Although the Blikman family has been at Lemele from mid-March to November this year, they haven't been to Ommen so far, most likely because sister Chris has made such a bad marriage. Well, dear sir, I have opened my heart to you, needless to say in the strictest confidence.

About my financial situation I would not wish to be so open everywhere, and if it is of advantage to my children, as far as I am concerned I don't care if people misjudge my wealth. That I have a large annual income is well-known --they can count on their fingers-- but I am not broadcasting my debts. Mr. Blikman also knows in detail my wealth and my debts.

You certainly already know that our Elder Peter Oldeman has died, and Martin Kortman, our Deacon, also. The widow Nijkamp of Arriën died about three weeks ago, as did the wife of F. Mol at Junne. That Hendrik van Straten has died you've known for quite a while, haven't you? Yes, I am still an Elder, and in your estimation an open-minded one, although, on the face of it, I am an elder just as much as another. After all, the teaching of the children is my job from time to time. And every other Sunday evening I have to read a sermon. In addition, I am the organist. We have an excellent organ in our church. My daughter Jansje also leads the congregation from time to time at the organ.

Rev. de Moen has left for Doesburg. My family and I heard his farewell speech. The church could not hold half of the listeners; it was a very moving occasion. Pastor and congregation were torn apart; which was evident in the many tears and sobs that were seen and heard. Dr. Brunemeijer will most probably take his place. I have already received a letter from him [de Moen] from Doesburg. He complains about the high cost of the house (275 guilders), the pressure of the taxes (50 guilders), [and] the high cost of education, etc., etc. And his salary is only 600 guilders without any extras. During 1859

⁸ Someone who was *liberaal* in the 19th century could be someone advocating free enterprise, being generous, or open-minded.

Benjamin stayed with us and attended the Christian school in Ommen. Too bad he was not able to stay here; he worked hard and made good progress in French. My son Eli, too, is beginning to acquire a good knowledge of French, and writes a good script. I almost forgot to mention that Hendrikje van Munster, the widow of W. van Munster, died, and that she has bequeathed 250 guilders to the church; and after the death of her son Hendrik, a tenth of her estate (a total of 1400 guilders).

You will probably still remember $Vrouw^9$ [Mrs.] de Vries who, when you were here, was an anxious Christian, was led by feelings and visions [gestalte] alone, and wavered between faith and lack thereof, between belief and despair. Now that creature is a firmly-rooted Christian, full of belief and full of trust, against whom Satan shoots his arrows in vain because she knows "It has been written." It is reasonably well with the son of Ten Toorn, although he is definitely insane.

After you have read the contents of this letter, please burn it, so that my confidential letter will not be seen by anyone else. My wife and family are asking me to send their greetings to you and yours. Also receive my sincere and warm greetings.

Respectfully yours, your servant and brother, E. Ravenshorst

P.S. After finishing this letter I went to your sister as agent of the Overijssel Fire Insurance Company, in order to ask for 42 guilders fire damage. She told me for the first time that she had received a letter from you, and that she would like to read it to me, but that she had misplaced it and could not put her hands on it rightaway. She told me, however, that she would be staying with you for a year, and that afterwards Mansier would find his means of support by becoming a strawberry grower. Naturally, I did not say anything about your letter to me, and listened to all this in silence, until I asked her

[in margin on p. 3]

how they could hope to make their fortune in America without any funds [ledige handen=empty hands]. I pointed out to her that I could not see how the mill, when sold, would produce enough money to pay her debts, and that she would not have a cent for passage, much less to start something in America. In that case, she would be entirely dependent on help from her brother, and that he had enough to do to take care of himself and his family. This scared her

[in margin on p. 2]

off somewhat in her intention. And really, if I take into account that this is a mill with few customers, which declines day by day, and which my brother-in-law Konijnenbelt says he does not dare to run because of the danger, as is known all over Ommen......[illegible], what can you sell it for? Nor are they able to pay the fire insurance this year. Last year it was advanced to her, of which 15 guilders is still left. Now it is very likely that because of non-payment she will lose the fire insurance on the

⁹ That Ravenshorst uses the word *vrouw*, rather than *mevrouw*, indicates that this is woman of the lower classes. Note also that she is described as a "creature." Blikman's wife is named *Mevrouw* Blikman.

mill, which had protected her for many years. There is not a chance that anyone will come to her rescue, for they are deep in debt everywhere. When she married, she owed me half a pig for house rent. She also owes me 118 guilders for the cost of postage, costs of her marriage,

[in margin on p. 1]

for drawing the marriage contract at the Notary, etc., etc. She has never said a word about paying me back. Furthermore, as the town treasurer, I have to advance her the "rental land" tax. Rev. Te Bokkel has also helped her many times and has never been paid back. Frankly, it would be desirable for everybody in every way if Mansier could just go to the Transvaal Republic. Or perhaps he could possibly find a job here. There is still a chance for you to avoid much trouble and misery. I really had thought that you would have written to me before you wrote to her. There's still much for you to consider, and to dissuade her, and I do the latter every time I see her. Vale. E.R.

[Envelope addressed to:]
The Very Reverend A. D. Van Raalte
Theological Doctor and Pastor in Holland
State of Michigan
North America

stamped in Zwolle, London and Detroit]

[Translated by Marcelle and John Luidens, Revised by Nella Kennedy, April 2008]

LEMELE

Lemele is a village in the municipality of Ommen, province of Overijssel, at the foot of the Lemelerberg [Lemele hill]. Lemele had 1287 inhabitants on January 1, 2004. The origin of the name refers to the loam found on and around the Lemelerberg. Archeological research shows that already 2000 years before Christ the site was inhabited. The first time that Lemele is mentioned is in 1474.

De Tichelerij [Brick Factory]

In 1840, the Leiden-born Carel Godefroi de Moen bought a piece of land at the Ledeboer Road to begin a brick and tile factory there. "De Moen and Company" (with partners Rev. Van Raalte, Dirk Blikman Kikker and Elias Ravenhorst) could begin. The brick factory, better known as "De Tichelerij," gave work to about 30 people. The location at the foot of the Lemeler Hill was ideal of course, since loam was the most important raw material for the factory. When the Overijssel Canal was constructed in 1855, the factory was relocated to the Kingma Road at this canal.

Over the years the partners left the brick factory one by one. Dirk Blikman Kikkert, as the last remaining partner, sold his share to Marten Kingma in 1862. Ten years later Marten Kingma changed the brick factory into a dairy business, following the invention of centrifuging milk.

The Church

The Commission for the Founding of a Reformed Church of Lemele and Archem was established in 1860. At that time the inhabitants of Lemele traveled about nine kilometers to Ommen—by foot—to attend the church services there on Sunday. After a week of hard work this proved to be too heavy a burden for many people, and the building of a church was deemed necessary. W. G. Leestemaker and B. J. Immink gave the land. Financed by contributions of congregational members, other Reformed churches, gifts and a fund for needy church. In 1865 the domed church was dedicated. First pastor: Foppe Allerd Hingst.

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Lemele

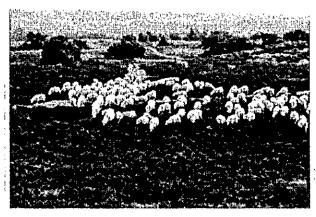
52° 27' NB, 6° 25' OL (http://www.nsesoftware.nl/wiki/maps.asp? params=52_27_8_N_6_24_53_E_type:city_zoom:15_region:NL&src=Lemele)

Van Wikipedia

Lemele is een dorp in de gemeente Ommen in de Nederlandse provincie Overijssel, gelegen aan de voet van de Lemelerberg. Op 1 januari 2004 telde Lemele 1287 inwoners. De naam Lemele is afgeleid van het leem dat vroeger in en om de Lemelerberg werd gevonden. Uit vondsten bij afgravingen is gebleken dat al 2000 jaar voor het begin van onze jaartelling mensen rond de Lemelerberg woonden. De eerste keer dat Lemele wordt vermeld is in 1474.

De Tichelerij

De in Leiden geboren Carel Godefroi de Moen kocht in 1840 een stuk grond aan de Ledeboerweg om er een steenpannen- en tichelfabriek te stichten.



schaapskudde op de Archemerberg nabij Lemele

Onder de naam *De Moen en Compagnons* konden met medewerking van ds. Van Raalte, Dirk Blikman Kikker en Elias Ravenhorst zijn plannen worden uitgevoerd. De steenfabriek, die beter bekend staat als *De Tichelerij*, bood werk aan ongeveer dertig mensen. De locatie aan de voet van de Lemelerberg was natuurlijk ideaal, aangezien leem de belangrijkste grondstof was voor de fabriek. Toen in 1855 het Overijssels kanaal tussen Almelo en Zwolle werd aangelegd, werd de fabriek verplaatst naar de Kingmaweg aan dit kanaal.

In de loop van de jaren traden de compagnons één voor één uit de steenfabriek. In 1862 verkocht Dirk Blikman Kikkert als laatst overgeblevende compagnon zijn aandeel aan Marten Kingma. Tien jaar later besloot Marten Kingma na de uitvinding van de melkcentrifuge de steenfabriek om te zetten in een zuivelfabriek.

De Kerk

Rond 1860 werd de *commissie tot stichting ener Hervormde Gemeente van Lemele en Archem* in het leven geroepen. Op dat moment gingen de inwoners van Lemele nog grotendeels zo'n negen kilometer te voet naar Ommen om daar zondags de kerkdienst bij te wonen. Na een week hard werken bleek dit echter voor vele mensen een te zware opgave, waardoor de bouw van een kerk noodzakelijk werd geacht. De grond voor de bouw van de kerk met pastorie werd geschonken door W.G. Leestemaker en B.J. Immink. De bouw werd gefinancierd door bijdragen van eigen gemeenteleden, andere hervormde kerken, giften en een fonds voor noodlijdende kerken. Op 21 mei 1865 werd de koepelkerk ingewijd. De eerste predikant van de gemeente was Foppe Allerd Hingst.

In 1891 vond de eerste grote verbouwing van de kerk plaats. De koepel werd hierbij afgebroken, omdat deze teveel onderhoud vergde. In 1923 blijkt de kerk te klein te zijn geworden voor de Lemeler bevolking en wordt de kerk uitgebreid met een galerij. Ook deze kerk bleek echter al snel te klein. Eind jaren dertig werd dan ook besloten tot de bouw van een nieuwe kerk. Deze nieuwe kerk werd vervolgens

T 85-10 geft of Barbara Mugut

Ommen, 19 November 1860

The Reverend A. C. Van Raalte

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I have written the truth. Than Mansier no longer drinks is definite; however, whether this is because he has no means for it, I am unable to say: that he has stopped his public misdeeds for some time, now, as the result of his (religious) conversion, I cannot say with certainty. However, to believe all the gossip that went around earlier would be too harsh, it is true. (Never- That theless) much that is true is not very nice but very very certain. Mansier has been a faithful follower of the Afgescheidenen (Separatists), a faithful church-goer, an attentive listener, even a champion, whether, however he understands the truth however and his heart is in it (?) (illegible), I certainly doubt. In short, it is much better that Mansier, with all that he is, remains here, than that he should cause grief to you. And I say this all themore because I notice in your letter that he intends to settle with you or in your neighborhood. And that must never happen! He must live at a distance from you, and there follow a good occupation, whether as a miller or something else. What you wrote disturbs me: that your sister + 50 wrote to open the way. Already now, for some days, she has had your letter alleady This I know from the postmaster, and she has not mentioned one iota of this to me, although she lives next to us in the house of Kramer. She is open and easy whenever she needs help, but uncommunicative, obscure, enigmatic and unfathomable insofar as she knows how to protect herself.

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[cours on dry and]

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About my financial situation I would not wish to be so open, and if it is of advantage to my children, as far as I am concerned I don't care if people misjudge my wealth. That I have a large annual income is well-known, for this they can count on their fingers, but I am not broadcasting my debts. Mr. Blikman also knows in detail my wealth and my debts.

You certainly already know that our Elder Peter Oldeman has died and Martin Korteman, our Deacon, also. The widow Nykamp at Arrian (illegible) died about three weeks ago, as did the wife of F. Mol at June (illegible). That Hendrik Van Straten has died you've known for quite a while, haven't you? Yes, I am still Elder, and in your estimation a poor one, although, on the face of it I'm just as good a one as others. After all, the teaching of the children is my job from time to time. And every other Sunday evening I have to read a sermon. In addition, I am the organist. We have an excellent organ in our church. My daughter Janfje also leads the congregation from time to time at the organ.

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When you have read the contents of this letter, will you then burnit, so that my confidential letter will not be seen by anyone else. My wife and family are asking me to send their greetings to you and yours. Also receive my sincere and warm greetings and highest esteem.

Respectfully yours, your servant and brother,

E. Ravenshorst

(There follows a long P. S., continued in the pages of 3, 2 and one, in that order.)

P.S. After finishing this letter I went to your sister as agent of the Overijsel Fire Insurance Company, in order to ask for 42 guilders fire damage. Now she tells me for the first time that she has received a letter from you, and that she would gladly show it to me, but that she has misplaced it and couldn't put her hands on it straightaway. She told me, however, that she would be staying with you for a year, and that Mansier would make his living as a strawberry grower. Naturally, I did not say anything about your letter to me, and listened to all this in silence and then I asked her how they could hope to make their fortunes in America without any funds (empty hands. I pointed out to her that I could not see how the mill, when sold, would produce enough money to pay her debts; and that she would hot have a cent for passage, much less to start something in America. In that case, she would be entirely dependent on help from her brother, and that he had enough to do to take care of himself and his family. This alarmed her somewhat, as I could tell from her face. Really! If I take into account that this is a mill with few customers, which declines day by day, and which my brother-in-law says that he does not dare to run because of the danger, as is known all over Ommen. What could you sell it for? Nor are they able to pay the insurance this year. Last year it was advanced to her, of which 15 guilders is left. Now it is very likely that because of non-payment she will lose the fire insurance on the mill, by which for many years her ownership has been protected. There's not a chance that anyone will come to her rescue, for they are deep in debt everywhere. When she married, she owed me half a pig for house rent, as well as postage in connection with her wedding costs to the Notary for setting up of her marriage settlement, etc., etc.

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Translated by Marcelle and John Luders Marcelle and John Luidens

The Reverend A.C. Van Raalte

Your letter of the 24th October found me in good health on November 17. I hurry to answer it directly. My letters, which accompanied that of your sister, have had the same reception over there as I presumed; namely, the recommendation of Mansier to emigrate to America. Look, this is how—one way or another—it all came about. Your sister came to me and told me in strictest confidence that they planned to leave for North America in order to secure a better means of existence if the opportunity would present itself; that she had written to her brother with that purpose in mind; and she requested me to inclose a few lines which might serve in support (of that plan.) She waited for me to write a few lines. I wrote; read aloud to her and my wife what I had written, and gave the unsealed letter to her. After she had gone, my wife asked me whether you, Reverend, would really understand that my letter was not much of a recommendation. I answered her that, to you, Reverend, it would appear more dissuasive than persuasive; and, accordingly, your Reverence could easily deduce that it was a letter which she had pressured out of me (written at her insistence). I said then, also, that it would have such an effect.

I have written the truth. That Mansier no longer drinks is definite; however, whether this is because he has no means for it, I am unable to say; that he has stopped his public misdeeds for some time, now, as the result of his (religious) conversion, I cannot say with certainty. However, to believe all the gossip that went around earlier would be too harsh, it is true. (Nevertheless) much that is true is not very nice but very very certain. Mansier has a faithful follower of the Afgescheidenen (Seperatists), a faithful church-goer, an attentive listener, even a champion; whether, however he understands the truth and his heart is in it? (illegible), I certainly doubt. In short, it is much better that Mansier, with all that he is, remains here, than that he should cause grief to you. And I say this all the more because I notice in your letter that he intends to settle with you or in your neighborhood. And that must never happen! He must live at a distance from you, and there follow a good occupation, whether as a miller or something else. What you wrote disturbs me: that your sister wrote to open the way. Already now, for some days, she has had your letter. This I know from the postmaster, and she has not mentioned one iota of this to me, although she lives next to us in the house of Kramer. She is open and easy whenever she needs help, but uncommunicative, obscure, enigmatic and unfathomable insofar as she knows how to protect herself.

However, perhaps in my heat I have already said too much, and for that reason I say to you now, "away with the dirty business." Certainly, I have written you all this confidentially so that you know what to do and what not to do. Now I lay down your letter before me and begin to read from the beginning. What a wonder (exclamation marks). Raafje awakened from the dead (double exclamation marks). What electric shock has struck you (question mark). Yes, you were right to be astonished, right to raise questions. And even more—a letter forced out of me by your sister, without any value. Without scent or taste. Oh dear Dominie, I am devoured by all this business. It is not that I am insensitive. I would give 100 guilders if I could spend half a day with you and we could talk together. Oh, write me as often as you can find the time for it. The postage is no problem. Not that I have plenty of money—far from it. No, I will have to work, and work hard, up to my dying day. To be financially secure probably will never be my lot, although I have a quite sufficient income.

After all, for the last five or six years I have been receiving an income of 1200 guilders a year and can save some of it, for our house remains the same, our living (costs) the same, our clothing the same; but our children are growing up and require more. Moreoever, I suffered a rupture last year, and since then I walk with a truss,

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died, and that she has bequeathed the church 250 guilders; and after the death of her son Hendrik, a tenth of her estate—a total of 1400 guilders.

You will probably still remember Vrouw De Vries who, when you were here, was a Christian in name--superficially, and who wavered between belief and despair. Now that creature is a firmly-rooted Christian, full of belief and full of trust, against whom Satan shoots his arrow in vain because she accepts "The Word". The son of Ten Toorn is reasonably well, although he is definitely demented.

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De WelEerw heer A. C. van Raalte

WelEerwaarde Heer!

Uwe letteren van den 24 october zijn mij in welstand 17 November geworden. Ik haast mij daarop direct te antwoorden. Mijne letteren die ten geleide van die uwer zuster hebben gestrekt 1?1. hebben dezelfde ontmoeting ten uwent gehad als ik veronderstelde n.l. de aanbeveling van Mansier tot verhuizing naar Amerika. – zie hier hoe zich een en ander heeft toegedragen: Uwe zuster kwam bij mij, en vertelde mij zeer geheim dat zij het plan hadden naar N. Amerika te vertrekken om een beter middel van bestaan te verkrijgen, indien de weg daartoe haar mogt worden geopend dat zij tot dat einde haar broer had geschreven, en mij verzocht om een paar regels te willen insluiten die tot aanbeveling mogten strekken; zij bleef op het schrijven van een paar regels wachten: - Ik schreef, en las het daarna haar en mijne vrouw voor, en gaf het haar open mede. – Na haar vertrek vroeg mijne vrouw mij, of Mich. nu wel zou begrijpen, dat mijne letteren, niet veel tot aanbeveling stichten - ik gaf haar ten antwoord dat het voor UwEw meer ontradend dan aanbevelend zoude strekken, naardien UwEw uit het geheel genoegzaam kondt afleiden dat het een door haar, van mij, afgeperst schrijven ware. – Ik zie dan ook, dat het zoodanig effect heeft ges...... Ik heb waarheid geschreven, - Dat Mansier niet meer drinkt is zeker, doch of zulks is om dat hij daartoe geene middelen heeft, dit weet ik niet: dat hij zijne openbare zonden sedert geruimen tijd den scheidbrief heeft gegeven, ten gevolge eenen opregte bekeering tot God durf ik met geen beslist ja! uit te spreken om echter alles te gelove was om lasteren de wereld vroeger heeft gezegd, dat zou te grof zijn, dat veel waar is, wat niet mooi is, is zeer zeer zeker. - Mansier is bij de Afgescheidenen door alle tijden heen een trouwe kerkganger een aandachtig hoorder en zelfs een voorvechter [geweest]; of hij echter de waarheid verstaat en van zijn harte dierbaar [?] is betwijfel ik wel. – om kort te gaan het is veel beter dat Mansier met al wat hij is, hier blijft, dan dat hij ten uwent smart verwekken; en dit zeg ik te meer daar ik met uw schrijven bemerk, dat hij bij u, of in uw omgeven zoude nestelen; - dat moest nooit! Hij moest op eenen afstand wonen en daar eene conditie hebben, het zij als molenaar of iets anders. Dat u schrijft dat gij uwe zuster weg openend geschreven hebt verontrust mij; - zij heeft nu reeds sedert 14 dagen uw brief ontvangen, dat weet ik van de postmeester en zij heeft hiervan aan mij nog geen jota gezegd ofschoon zij naast ons woont in het huis van Kramer. – Zij is open en vrij voor zoo ver zij hulp noodig heeft, gesloten, duister, raadselachtig en ondoordringbaar voor zo ver zij ziet zelf weet te redden; - doch welligt zeg ik in mijn drift reeds te veel en daarom zeg ik u na, "weg met die vuile was [?]." Vertrouwelijk heb ik u nu wel zoo veel geschreven, dat gij wist, wat te doen, wat te laten. Nu leg ik [?] uwe brief weer voor mij neder, en begin van boven aan te lezen; - Wat een wonder / zie uitroepteeken Raafje uit de dooden opgewekt / dubbel uitroepteeken/. Wat electrischen schok heeft u¹ getroffen / vraagteeken. Ja met regt die verwondering bij u, met regt die vraag: - en dan nog, een door uwe zuster mijn afgeperst schrijven, zonder waarde! zonder reuk of smaak! - Maar och lieve Dominé. Ik wordt door al de drukte verslonden, liefdeloosheid is het niet, ik gaf f 100 als ik een halve dag in uw midden kon

¹The text is not clear enough to determine if the word is "u" or "ze,"

zijn om zamen eens te praten. - Och Schrijf mij toch zoo vaak u de tijd daartoe kunt vinden; de post valt mij niet lastig; verre van daar dat ik mijne koeitjes op het drooge heb; neen ik kan wel werken en hard werken tot aan mijn dood toe; koeitjes op het drooge zal mij wel nooit te beurt vallen ofschoon ik een zeer voldoend inkomen heb, verdien ik sints een jaar of zes p.m. f 1200 's jaars, en kan daarvan overhouden; want ons huis blijft hetzelfde ons leven het zelfde onze klederdragt dezelfde, maar de kinderen worden groot en vorderen, meer in en om het lijf, bovendien heb ik ten vorige jaar eene breuk gekregen en loop sints dien tijd in een band, zoo dat ik kleine afstanden kan lopen, grootere afstanden moet riiden, veel al ben ik van huis, sedert eenige jaaren zijn de kunstwegen aan mijn toezigt onderworpen, en heb sedert jaren het materieel voor die wegen aangenomen, zoo dat de weg van Ommen op Zwolle, van Ommen op Hardenbergh, van Ommen op de Dedemsvaart 's jaarlijks door mij moet worden gevoed [gevast?] met macadam en grint, waaraan een massa menschen hun brood verdienen; ik verkrijg dien voorraad uit een stuk grond dat ik van de erven van der Wijk heb gekocht groot 74 bunders in compagnie met mijn zwagers Ten Toorn, J. Kroon en Docter ter Horst voor de geringe som van f 1620.= al de grond waaruit de keijen en grint zijn verzameld wordt bezaaid en [?] beplant tot boschen en daarin laat ik mijne geld dat ik 's jaarlijks overhoudt en is dus een renteloos kapitaal, zoo dat ik in bezitting toeneem, maar in geld steeds arm ben, en ik dat opzigt slaag ik u in het klein. – Ook weet u

[2] zeker dat papa de Moen ik het Linderzande voor 12 jaare, hebben aangekocht voor f 720.= groot 84 bunder waarop wij eene boederij hebben en reeds een groot bosch; noch nooit heb ik hier een halve cent van gezien maar steeds bijgepast zoo dat het ons nu reeds naar inschat ruim f3000= kost doch thans wel eene waarde van f8000 heeft. – Ik heb veel stukjes grond met Ds. Ten Bokkel gekocht die wij deels nog hebben, deels met grove winst weder hebben verkocht. – Wanneer ik huizen en landerijen tot de tegenwoordige waarde taxen dan bevindt]?] ik mijne bezitting tot een bedrag van ruim f 9000 toch waarop ik van onderscheiden en als bezwaar heb rustende f 4300.= zo dat u kan nagaan ik reeds goed vooruit ben gegaan maar ook met mij zult begrijpen, dat er voor mij geen tijd in de toekomst ligt, dat ik stilletjes zou kunnen gaan leven. –

En nu gaan wij naar Lemele – onze geplante lanen zijn nog in wezen. De eiken groeijen voortreffelijk de tusschen geplante dennen zijn voor de helft voor 2 jaren reeds gehakt om dat ze den groei der eiken belemmerde en zijn toen voor sparren en rikhout reeds verkocht. De akkermaals hagen ten wederzijde zijn voor 5 jaren reeds afgezet en zijn zoo sterker in groei dat ze over 3 jaar als goed akkermaalshout kunnen worden verkocht, alles is thans bosch met waterwerkjes, koepeltjes [?], moestuyn, boomgaard Enz. Enz. De Heer Blikman heeft er een mooi buitentje laten bouwen, eene tuinmanswoning stalling koetshuis Enz. Al de gronden tusschen de Raaltenweg en de Dalmsholter weg langs het Kanaal heeft de Heer Blikman er bij aan gekocht. zoodat het een heele mooije possessie is. – Sedert 1854 houden zij er hun zomerverblijf. In dit jaar zijn ze reeds half Maart gekomen en blijven de maand November uit. – De Heer Blikman woont hier met zijn gansche hart, Mevrouw geensins omdat Lemele niet aan het Spoor ligt en niet in de wereld. De Heer Blikman is ijverig bezig om aan het Kanaal eene kerk te verkrijgen, in 1861 krijgt hij welligt zulks tot stand. Tot op 1 January 1860 was ik voor ZwEd zijn

gesalarieerde zaakwaarnemer en trok f 400.= 's jaars. – Van dien tijd af dien ik ZwEd gratis. – Eensdeels om dat ik zijn salaris wel kon ontberen andersdeels om dat het mij op 55 jarige leeftijd, in dienstbare betrekking te staan, op zigtens Mevrouw in huiselijke aangelegenheden te hard viel. Sedert 1854 gaf ik aan Egbert die brugwachter was, van mijn salaris 's jaars f 100 mede, zoo dat ik f 300 behield. In 1859 kwam Egbert aan eene bloedspuwing te overlijden zoo dat hij het toezigt over de arbeiders er nederlegde Januarij 1860 kwam er eene gehele organisatie. Gerrit kreeg het toezigt over de arbeiders, er kwam een tuinman, en zoo doende was de zaak wederom geregeld.

De Heer Blikman valt het hard geen salaris aan mij te kunnen kwijt worden, doch ik heb hem lief en wil uit liefde gaarne alles voor hem doen wat in mijn vermogen is. - En nu leef ik daar op een geheel ander standpunt. – Mevrouw weerhoudt zich nu aan mij te zeggen "wat hebt gij ons hier ellendig neergeplakt". - "Waarom hebt gij mijn man niet ontraden bij Bart in de fabriek te gaan, daardoor hebt gij ons duizende schade berokkend." De Heer Blikman ondervindt wel een ellendige tegenloop van zaken. – Door de Hamburger boot aan zijn kantoor niet te verliezen, moest hij de hoogste inschrijver wezen voor de Russische expeditie, dit was hij, bij eene inschrijving van honderdduizend gulden, en die actiën staan thans op 50 per cent omdat de Russische boot zoo slecht vaart, en voor dat Kapitaal heeft de Heer Blikman zich zeer moeten bezwaren. – Met de Heer Thesen [Thesin?] heeft hij ook een gevoelig verlies geleden. – De Heer Blikman vertelt nu meer dan vroeger, zijn wel of kwalijk varen, zoo dat Mevrouw bij alle kennis van zaken soms zeer ongemakkelijk van humeur is. – De Heer heeft echter gezorgd dat ik op mijn oude dag niet in eene "Slavernij" hoef te zuchten, maar dat ik tegen haar kan zeggen ik heb u niet noodig: - Had ik mijn voordeel gezocht en had voor jaren de Heer Blikman of geheel of gedeeltelijk mijne taak opgezegd, ik zoude mij zeer bevoordeeld hebben. – De dood van Egbert was echter voor mij een geschikt tijdpunt om eenige verandering daar te stellen. – Nu houd ik zijne boeken aan, beheer zijne geldelijke administratie, en strek ZwEd. tot raad waar hij zulks behoeft of meent noodig te hebben. – De Heer Kouws [?] van Amsterdam heeft

een buitentje tegen over het zijne gebouwd aan de oostkant der Raalterweg. Deze is cultivateur van woeste gronden, Lemele wordt op dat punt mooi. De Heer Blikman heeft er alleraangenaamste wandelingen en lommerijke bosschen. – De scheepvaart wordt van jaar tot jaar drukker. Dagelijks varen er jaagschuiten van Almelo op Zwolle en van Almelo op Deventer. De Heer Blikman heeft reeds veele pogingen in het werk gesteld om Raalte aan de kunstweg te Lemele te verbinden, tot op heden heeft hem dit nog niet mogen gelukken; ofschoon hij f 3000 ten geschenke voor dien weg heeft aangeboden, behalve krachtige deelneming. –

De school te Lemele wordt door het Gemeente Bestuur van het Ambt Ommen in Maart naar het Kanaal verplaatst. – Op het hoogste punt van den Berg aan de zuidzijde heeft de Heer Blikman een koepel gebouwd te midden eener aanplanting van opgaande boomen, van uit dien koepel heeft men een allerheerlijkst gezigt. –

Niettegenstaande de familie Blikman van af half Maart to ultimum November te Lemele is zoo heeft zij dit jaar nog niet te Ommen geweest, hoogstwaarschijnlijk omdat zuster Chris zich zoo zeer heeft mistrouwd. Zie daar waarde Heer! Mijn gansche hart ontlast, het spreekt van zelve in het diepst vertrouwen.

Omtrent mijne finantieéle gehalte wensch ik overal niet zoo open te zijn, en om mijner kinderen wil wederspreek ik mijne gegoedheid niet, moge het tot voordeel van mijn kroost strekken dan moge men zich op mijnen rijkdom misgissen. — Dat ik jaarlijks veele verdiensten heb, dat is eene overal bekende zaak en dit kan men mij op de vingers na tellen; maar met mijne schulden loop ik niet te koop. — ook de Heer Blikman is met mijnen rijkdom en armoede en detail bekend. Het is u zeker reeds ter kennis gebragt dat onze ouderling Peter Oldeman overleden is en Marten Kortman onze diaken tevens. — De wed. Nijkamp te Arrin [Arriën], is voor een week of drie ook overleden als moeder de vrouw van F. Mol [Hal?] te Junne. — Dat Hendrik van Straten overleden is weet u reeds voor lang; nietwaar? Ja ik ben ook nog ouderling en wel naar uwe schatting een liberale ouderling; ofschoon ik uiterlijk wel zoo veel ouderling ben als iemand anders, immers het leeren der kinderen valt mij van tijd tot tijd nog al ten deel en moet om de andere week zondags avonds eene predikatie lezen, overigens ben ik organist. Wij hebben een uitmuntend orgel in onze kerk. Mijne dochter Jansje leid ook al van tijd tot tijd de Gemeente met het orgelspel. —

Ds de Moen is vertrokken naar Doesburg. Ik heb met mijn huisgenoten zijne afscheidsrede gehoord, het kerk gebouw kon de helft der hoorders niet bevatten, het was een aandoenlijk, leeraar en gemeente wierden van elkander gescheurd, dit getuigen de veele tranen en snikken die overal wierden gezien en gehoord. Ds. Brunemeijer zal hoogstwaarschijnlijk zijne plaats in nemen. – Ik heb reeds een schrijven van hem uit Doesburg gehad; hij klaagt over duurte van het huis f 275.- den druk der belasting f.50.= duurte van het onderwijs Enz. Enz. En zijn tractement is slechts f.600 zonder meer. – Benjamin was gedurende 1859 te Ommen, op de Bijz. School en bij ons te huis. Jammer dat hij niet hier kon blijven, hij was fiks aan den gang, en maakte goede vorderingen in het Fransch; ook mijn zoon Eli begint aardig Fransch te leeren, en wordt een schoone schrijver. – Ik zoude haast vergeten u te melden dat de wed. A. W. Van Munster of Hendrikje van Munster overleden en dat deze aan de kerk vermaakt heeft f.250.= en na dood van haar zoon Hendrik eene tiende ter waarde van f.1400.=

UwEw zult toch zeker nog wel kennen vrouw de Vries, die bij u hier zijn, eene zoo zeer benaaude Christin was, die enkel en alleen op gevoel en gestalten dreef, en bij het bezit of gemis geloofde of wanhoopte, nu dat schepsel is nu eene vast gewortelde Christin vol geloof vol vertrouwen, en op wie de Satan te vergeefsch zijne pijlen schiet om dat ze weet "er staat geschreven." – Met de zoon van ten Toorn gaat het tamelijk wel, ofschoon hij nog bepaald krankzinnig is. –

Wanneer den in hand dezer door u gelezen is, wil dan dezelve aan de vlammen prijs geven, op dat mijn vertrouwelijk schrijven niemand te weten kome. – Mijne vrouw en kinder verzoeken mij u en de uwe te willen groeten. Ontvang tevens mijne opregte en hartelijke groete terwijl ik mij hoogachtend noem.

Uw Eerw. Dn. dienaar en broeder E. Ravenshorst

P.Ś. na eindiging dezer letteren, kom ik bij uwe zuster ten einde als correspondent der [?] Overijsselsche brand waarborg Maatschappij f.42 brandschade te vragen, en nu eerst verhaalt zij mij dat zij eene brief van u ontvangen had en dat zij mij dien gaarne zouden voorlezen doch dat zij denzelven verlegt had en niet dadelijk kon vinden. — Zij vertelde mij echter dat zij een jaar bij u zoude inwonen, en dat daarna Mansier in aardbeijen teelt zijn middel van bestaan zoude vinden. Ik weet [?] natuurlijk van uw schrijven aan mij, en hoorde alles zwijgend aan. Tot dat ik haar

[in margin of p.3]

in bedenking begon te geven hoe zij toch in Amerika met ledige handen op eenig fortuin kon hopen. Ik stelde haar voor dat ik niet voorzag dat de molen bij verkoop zoo veel zoude op brengen dat zij hare schulden betalen kon, en dat geen sent voor de overkomst had, veel minder dan om in Amerika iets te beginnen dat zij dan geheel op de hulp haar broeders moest leunen, en dat die voor hem en de zijnen genoeg had te bezorgen. Dit schrikte haar

[continued in margin on p.2]

[continued in margin on p. 1]

kosten, aan den Notaris voor het maken van huwelijksvoorwaarden Enz, Enz. f. 118 schuldig, waarvan ze nog nooit geen woord van terug geven gesproken heeft bovendien moet ik elk jaar als gemeente ontvanger "de landpacht" voorschieten. – Ook Ds. Te Bokkel heeft haar onderscheiden malen voortgeholpen waarvan hij niet heeft terug bekomen. – Och kon Mansier naar de Transvaalsche Republiek gaan, dit was voor alles en tot alles meest wenschelijk of kon hij hier ergens nog voor eene betrekking geplaatst worden. – Nog is er voor U kans om u te vrijwaren voor veel leed en ellende. Ik had echter vast gedacht dat u mij eerder dan haar zoudt hebben geschreven. – Nu er valt voor u nog veel te raden, om haar te ontraden, en ik doe het laatste bepaald zoo vaak ik haar spreek. Vale! E.R.

[envelope addressed to:]
Den WelEw Heere A. C. Van Raalte
Theol. Doctor en Predikant te Holland
Staat Michigan

Noord Amerika

Over Liverpool franco

[stamped in:]
Zwolle, London, and Detroit

[Transcription: Nella Kennedy, March 2007]



Curryen den 19 v) oven, bes 1800 de Wellen han Sign, Marthe -· Mathemarda Mes. the letters was don the orther Lynning in well and it formber growthen . It hast my dear of direct to an thorned you bligge letter die tingelied van die our that helber gethekt helber die lift ontonating his most what all it wanderstille with do and beating on Mantistil within they new America -Send de nam De Smeritie & virtuelites ou en detra middle son bestar te un higger, in die de weg dantar han might wender gropende, dat by tot dat einde how Brown had gedeliners, in my vertocht on ein fran rigels to willer in shirts die let am bently may to sticklis; by blest on het detry very van een je aar regeld weekles - The Selming . Las het stanina haar en regne voor, in gafthet have gren mide The worked very my we crowd my, of Mithe mi wel son begrapping dat royan letter, mut well Develored toute thether granding Mulis sich hit ge had genang take, hendt af beiden, dat het en down have, vin my, ofgenest School, wand - It in die out dat het zoo daning offect huft gestinten The hel wouther godding, - Dat Mandie mit me Linkt is ze her, doch of zulle is on dat hij dante were mid dely hat dit met it mit; dut by Time grantere Lander Sedent graining tigh de Their bring Last region with mentioner ground to be treening tot God dury it met gen bestist ja milte sprette on the selles to gelen, wat our laster, de mild orner huft geteget, dit ton to graf by middet ved wien is root mitudes is is zeen ten liker . Mandin is by de Afgetchiedming doon itt to day how en traine hertiganges an and declity horder in 21/10 in vor vertition, of by collar de nous hid existen wet by is heart de dat by to sumet short workhay in dit to you de to men, down the mit and Solingen bemorte dat his by u, of in my ongive Zende mestely , - dat most rivert! My migus of win a fortands wering in door end and the hebbir, het zo ats Moderand freits and des . Doch tes Johng ft, dat go in tasty was opened getelwers, hebt, verentoust my , will heaft our reeds delist the days and haif outside you, dit must it wen de post mister, on by haift him san my may gun jota get egel of them by most ond weart in het hais van homen - by is opin in ony one Do on to help mordey huft, jestote, deniste, rand selectity in ou down ding bein on to get by til telf wee At medding - dick welligt by it is ong a drift redo to vech a dear in lay it to men, my met die will to I townlike hit it to me out too vel gedelier, dut go west , wat to day, met to laty. North by the sein haif were on my made in begin our owner, and to lote - Wat en wonder the trans take I formit post the second deing by the mest vest which some on the sury en down now the star my of great Schoger, Linder would ! Tinder rock of Smart . - Mounded lime Domine . Howalt down Lyn om lamen und to proton with Jeday my toch Zov vack to de ty & dante Kent vinden; de foot with ony mit lasty some van dann dot it myne theitis or het drage Sub; met ite tim well weeking in hard wer the tot own vign dood the ; touities of het drage tol my wel near to beint 1. h. 1200 I jans, in the dancial orichards; want so I have the ft hetre for int lever but left cute telederday t deletile, main de this it on sendon great on venday, men in in on hat lift, borns helich tur verring jame om breutt attingen in leg die to den light in ein band tor dat ite the state of the stand to the total from the van hair said to and to any stand to the said to t of de Deden downant 's was higher down my most words great mut more adaing an grant, warrant in the man and the grant that grant that grant that grant that grant that grant that grant the stand of the de kige it great tign was ameld would behavide on by lant tol borch in dearin last the ing geld dat it it jour lifted over handt in is due in rent los tagital, to dat it in better to

Zeker dut papa de Mour in it het Lindertande voor 12 june, heb bin ange kocht voor / yla = groot 84 Ben der waary my eens boarding hobben en reeds een groot bouch nooit heb it heir een halm fort vange sim man the by good to det het one me need um in dehot rein 3000 = 1 last doch then I med une weards van Doco huft. The heb veel stoling grand met de to, I solether get doch then I med une weards van Doco huft. The heb veel stoling grand met de to, I solether get doch their my dule may heb berg dule met grow windt weeks heb berg ver tocht. Manner it hanken in Panday of tot de tegen woordige waarde tagen dan bevin dhich my me butting tot in bedray was mine / good dock warry it was to due between als between the present being egan miner ich fub pustin he fusion & too het to how sungan it reads qued vorent being egan miner ich fub pustin he fusion to be find the stille fire tou mut my kull beginging, dot an one gray good tight, in de lac hond to light, dut it Stille fire tou - Li me gean my name Levelex - on the gip lante land, Lyn nay is, well ? De within groups vantaffilite de tustelen agrante dans Ejn vour de helft voor 2 jain reids gehalt om dut it die grow der eilen belanmache in Egn ton vom Isant in vit hont reeds virkicht om dut it die grow der eilen belanmache in Egn ton or Isant in Egn to States i grai De aktions in the hongen to wedne 27 de Ejn voor & jam, reide afgetet in Egn ton States is thank freih dat te orie 3 juan als god ut hiermante hout him in nowher to the he alles is thank freih mut water wito pir keyeller must have boomy and Int. 9. 2. 40 Her Blokman heeft or en musi buiter be later burning sent ting mand woring Stalling houte his late Al de given der ties foting de Hartter way on de Falm & hetter way long that Hannal huft de Han Istiken as en by nan getweekt. Too det het een heele morigan possessie is - Sedent 1854 houder, 250 home from to blot I I'm ild your lyn to reads helf Mont getionen on bloom de monde Novemy wit. De Heer Sliken, we had form het sprom het stand het sprom het sprom het stand het sprom het sprom son het stand het sprom het sprom son h ik voor Will Zige gesalariender Kankersernemen in troto floor I jais . - Way die ty to af dein the Evolt grates - Lend dels on dat it type Salonis wel how ontheren and dels dels om dat het my op 55 parise lieftyd, in diend bane betweeting to stany of the name by best Mission handly the sangelega, had to the vill death 1054 gof the name by best die brug mach to mad un may salonis of jacos from med, too dat the soo behalf the brug mach to mad un may salonis of jacos from med, too dat the part tooking to so so behalf our soon by best and so behalf our soon be arbeidy of a made by deer faming to book the overly day, two dat his het tooking to over de arbeidy of a made by deer faming to book the owner and get will organist attended over de arbeidy of a made by deer faming to book the owner and get will organist attended over the track, to our de arbeidies, en hours en their many on los does de faming to de talk prederous generalle. De then Blikman was to the total and talkens was de talk wederping genegelit. De then Blikma, wast het hard gen Jalais and de talk wederping genegelit. De then Blikma, wast het hard gen Jalais ear my te time nie hay to woody, dook it his him his fin with with liftle granne alles vor her den hat in my verniger, ile - E. in lefit down go en gehiel ander Handprint - Mivionio wearhoudt teil nin gan my to toppen "wat held ond him allending recognitation " " Wanton hely of min mit on trady by Bart in de fatrick to gan, dans down hebt gy on denten de Schack beroblen De Her Blokman onder indt wel eine ellendige tegen loog was taken. Door de Han burger book now tym han toon sout to exclude, much hay de hour the indelinger welly vion de Mustiche expedition, dit was to by one in the going va, houter duite gulder, on die action that the so for fut midst de Res siche book los gulder, on die action that the heat of buft to them take man tick to a mostly that want, on won dat high track huft to them take man tick to a mostly - Met de Hen Theder huft by oak an georely vistas gelede. De Hen Blikman vertelt nom mich dan vroegen, Egn wet of havely the vain, too let Merrous by alle Kinnis i'm taking Sound her on gone he hilly the van humen is De Him heeft celeting tongile dat iking ninger onde day nist in some Having hast to Zuchten mer det ik toger han him, togget he hele is net modified had the mint modelthing to Mad it my worked of what one for he ken Bloken of gehal of gedelthight my tack opigetight, it timber my ten bewonder the helby. Deduct var, Eglash my tack opigetight, it timber my ten bewonder the helby. must est to a vor ing en of Schiket today out on eenge veran daring dann le Stelle. The was est to some one to the tot of the south of the hold of the administrate, in the total tot range wanty to help to be the South of must needly to helber . De Heis Rowerd Van Son to to dan truft

weeste granden, Lembe wordt ge dat junt mori. De Her Blikman huft er alle namen det wandelinger or low morifile besteln, - De schup vant wordt ven jaar tot jaar druklish. Dage lyks some or jang telmiter var Almet go Kurthen van Almelo go Devento. De thea 18 litera, heaft rends Weals froging in het wish gestelle om Realte um den himsting to Lande to verbinde, tot op heelen Shoft him dit now nicht inogen gelakte, aftelwon hij p 3000 ten gestelen he voor die weg huft ann gebreden, behalve tinkt hije deel neming. De tehvil te Lemek wordt door het Gemen te Bestun Ave. Let Sult our, in Most now het hanant orgetantit - of het hog ste point ou, du King son de builty de heaft de the Blikman en hogsel gebound to middly ener son planting van or grande boomen, the with die how rel huft men un aller her by that gatigt in her huft with leger Stand de familie Bloking or and fulf Mant the Withing Horis his too her huft mintion by higher form may need to come gomest, how stransverlight would track the Chris his too her huft mintions of his day of manufact the diepht vertening of his day of manufact the diepht vertening of the day of inautical challe would be overall to open to by, on our suggest his dien, will media from he she she migne finautical challe would be overall to open to by, on our suggest blakete, don't media from he she migne geged his neit, mage het tit verdeal von my house the heb, dut I moge men tick go mynen of hidem mis gisten . - Dut ite and fit veele verdin the heb, dut is come over al beken de Land en det han som my op de vringer sen tellen, man met myne Schulely lay it niet to loger . - ook de Her Blikme, is met nyme, og tiden en armouch en detail blim Helit a teter weeks tim themis gelingt dat on te ouderling Leter Olden an overled, is ... Marti A hartman oute diation terms. De weed Dig Kamp to Arin, is wor an week of die ook over ledy at much de vrouw va, I' Malte finim - Dat Handrick van Shoten overlede, is west the reeds voor lang, ofther it with his wel to will onder ting ben als consend ander, in must bet lever, der tim de well my van tijd til lijd nog al to deel en meet om de andere week landag I aven de com fredi : hatales, or igno buile organist. Wy hebber en within the orgal in oute lack. Myne dochter jansje laid ook at van hijd tot high de Gamente met to to orgetspel . - Di de Morm is ten de holft der honstert mit bevatter, tekwat ein and dranlight are, harran en Gunante wierde, van elkander ge Schaued, det getingen de veele tormen en Juileten die overal wie den getien en ge hord. D' Horning a zal horge twow dehy or lift kyon plants in news ... It hab reeds en though 150 = doubte ving het ondering & fait fait on tyn timberment is theath flow lender incer Bujamin was gednow, de 1059 to commy, of de Bij 2. Lebel en by ond to his. Januar Not by next him tim blyon, by was files and don going, in wordt goods vorelingen in fet Thank has, ook myn toon the begint andig Franch te learn, in wordt ein Schoone Solvejour - The londe horst vergeti, so to sould det be sond. A. IV. van Mon. stor of Hendritige van Man Ster overleder en dat dite aan de took vermaatet heeft 1250 = en na dooch van hum Low Hendrick eine tien de to warde van filow = Hule Kult toch Elir neg wel Kennen vrouw de vivies, die by It heir tyn sene too ten benaande Phristis, was, the entire on after go govored in gestables dones, in beginet betit of genies gelosples virtumen, en op mie de datan te vergeefsch zigne siglen Sebiet om dad te weet "er Staat geschown, - Met de som un, ten Some, gaat het tamelijk wel, ofschown, hij men beganled the Meximing is ... Wannes down in hand deter down the golden is, wil day thethe same do vlammen frige geven, or dat rugar vertoonwolgh seling in michigant to weter flowing. It is a de come to willing growing. On trong towns . Myne werene en finisher, vertocker, rug the on de come to willing growing. On trong towns my ne opragte ... her to by he growthe twenty like my toogach tout mous . I. I. na win diging deler letter, tim it by some start I stort le to dein an en brock of the inde all correspondent to origing file the brand more by the attribute of Anoral hard)

for brondschade to origing a in our early ver healt by my dat by some a constant of the brand overless a. Anoral hard)

brief row It ortoons, had a dat by my dein start worden vinden or the start of the start of

weste granden, Lembe wordt ge dat junt movi. De Her Blikman heeft er allerangen som to wandelinger, er loverning the bosfelog. — De Scheyward wordt van jaar tot jaar drukket. Dayelyks vale jogingen in het werke gestelde om Rualte aun den hundting to Zamele to varbeide, tot op feeden Short him dit may nicht magin gelatithen, afterson, by 3000 ten geschen the voor dien way truft non geborden, behalve tirachtige deel neming. De tehool te Zemest wordt door het Ginen te Beston Ava, het Swilt ormy in Mant now het then and orgitantite of het hog ste point ou, du King sand twidlyde heeft de Her Blikman en housel gebound to middy en any lanting van of goande boomer, van ciet die Robin hopel huft men een aller heerly test getigt - het Switchen. Stande de familie Blotim on van af hulf Mant tel William Storm her te Lemelie to huft misteriore to kind familie to her the strange of her the transfer to the test with the transfer to the transfer of the day it verticans. I had an made the transfer grante to the transfer of the tymestet van teles in het die die der will. weder french ik myne gegedhied niet, mage het tet voordeel van myn hiovot Stocklen, dan Inoge men tick og mynen af lidem mis gisten - Dut ik jaarlyks veele verden sta heb, dut is come over al bekende Laak en dit han som mig og de vringers som tellen, maar met myne Ichalden, de log ik niet to høyen. - ook de Her Blikma, is met mynen sig hidem en armoede en detail bekens Il Statis a rate reeds to Samis gelragt dat on he orderling Later Olden on overled, is on Martin of hatman oute diator tound. De wed. De flamp to Sining, is wor an week of dire oak over ledy ale M. much de vrouw va, J. Malte Jimine. - Pat Handrik van Straten overlede, is west the reeds voor lang, nint war ? In it but ook my ousterling in wel near sure Schatting em Seberale on that his den, of schoon it witholy to wel to well onder ting but als iens and and are with tenday I avends een sweet : valt my van tijd til tijd nog al tim deel in most om de andere week tenday I avends een sweet : hatelete, oringers built organist. Wy hebben en witnemter orgal in oute tak. Myne I dochter fantje leid och at om tiget tet tyd, de Gemeente met tot orgelspel. Di de Morn is ten de holft der horrstut mit bevatter, hekovat ein and dvarligt over, herenen en Gemente wierde van el han der gedelieurt, det getieigen de viele tosinen en Trilitin die overal wienden getien en ge hond. De Mouninger tel hongs twandelign light kyne plant, in name. It heb reeds un telinger, wen han wit Darstung gehand, by telangt over downto use, but his 1270 = don doubt der belasting 150 = dunte very het onderwys fuit fuit en lyn trustement is that flow Kinden meen -Benjamin was gedown, de 1859 to Olim, of de Bij L. Selvel en by on of to hais. Januares dat by niet him ton bly on, by was files and dunging, in makete goods voveleringen in fut Frankling ook myn toon the begint and I Franklite learn, en wordt een Schwine I Strigerer. - The Renele harst vergete, so to modely dat de sond. A. W. von Min. Store of Hendritije van Mundten overliede, en dat dette aan de turke vermaaket heeft 1250 = en I ha door very ham Love Thendrick en tunde to marche van 11400 = Haber Kult toch This may wel Kennen voouw de vries, die by It heir tyn some Loo Zeer benaande Phristing med die en kel en alleen og, gevoel en gestable, doeef, en bejiket betit et gemis geloefde, og wan havyte, me dat schiptel is now enne vast gewantelde stristin vol geloof vol, i vertrouwe, en op nic de tata, te vergeefech Zijne jeglen Teliet om dat Ze weet "er Staat get howy, - Met de tous on to Toom, good het tamelyte wel, ofther, by my begaald from texining is ... Warmen du, in hund dates down It geleter, is, wil dan thethe same de Vlavarien gring of gevery of dat mign virtuesmolyte deling in minima and te weter home Myne vreme en tim der verkocker, mig U en de eine te willen groeten. On time testus
mig ne opwegte en hartelyte groete timiglisk mig hoogach tand mong I. I. na windiging Lever letter, him it by envertest 2110/1 formal som dein am en brouch V. J. na sindiging deter cover, nom one of the brand meanting that chappy of the indu all coverage and the orange flat brand materially on and to some the stranger, and not be sure to the health of the brand to oranger hach on dat to my mit dadlight him vin den. I have the stranger that in mit dadlight him vin den. I have the stranger that in method deep dat by writely to the form of the town of the stranger of the town of the town of the stranger of the town of the stranger of the strange

Zeker dut papa de Mour in it het die destande voor 12 june, heb hin ausge kocht voor / 720 = groot 84 Ben der waarp my eines bourding hobben en meds ein groot breeks noch noch heb ik Tuin ein haber fort vange kin maar thid by gapant too dat het vind nu meed um in dehat rein 3000 = Root doch than I well sure was to var floor hit. The heb weel Staling grand met De ten I solches getacht die ing dule nog hab being dule mit grow windt weden heb bei ver Hocht Monney the hearting in the deal property of the legen wooding was and taken dan bearing all between the heart for grand man ask between the heart for grand man ask feel the heart for the flat of the Heart for the human gang lam. - In my gam song name Legale . - on the giplante lama top in weth; De inters W around want totalled to the state of groupe vontreffiljte de tusklen gyslante danne. Egn voor de helft voor 2 jann reeds gehalet om den traisen en rither treeds vickeshte om dut the den growe den eiten belemmende in tyn toen vom traisen en rither treeds vickeshte. De at time in the hongen to weder by de tijn voor to jum, reide afgetet in tijn to statisty of given, dat the over 3 june als good ute him nate hout him non worden ere thout alles is though bout met water bitigs koyellys must been boomy and Sal. S. t. We Her Blokenan heeft er en more builter by later burning seem tring mand woring Stalling trusts his late to the state of the de Maalter way in de Dalon & hollen way lange het than out huft de Man 18 liker ay en ly nun getwekt. Two dat het in heile mangarfrosteethe is - Sedent 1854 honden; 2 gran home on bly f. In ilet pair lyn is needs helf Minet getienen in bloom de mand Noveman nicht aus het Spran ment his met zige gradike hart, Mennen geendred omdet familie nicht aus het han auf eine Kierke ligt in nicht in de werelde De Shin Blikman is gerieg betig som aus het han auf eine Albert meist ligt in nicht in de werelde De Shin Blikman is gerieg betig som aus het han auf 1860 meist to ording gu, in 1861 light by welly to xeelles tot thinks to far in farming -1860 west ik voor Krish Zyn gedalarienden Kaadewaarnemen en troto fle out I jaar. - Hay die ty de af dien it with grates _ Lendolels on dat it ky. Salarie wel how enther an dien deels om dut het my op 55 javige luftyd, in dien Ilban betrefiling te staan, og Lightend Meiraine in hisofily the van gelegen hider to haid viel de New 1854 get ite nan Eglant die brig wechtes werd, von nogen Salaris Sjaars 100 mede for dat it 100 behall in Si 100 hours Eg best and em bleedspring the overly day two dat high hit tooking to over de arbeiday su med leg den formand for the owner and geheele organistation over de arbeiday su med leg den formand for the formand en los does de la formation de arbeidas, en teurem est tuis many en los does de la formation de arbeidas, en teurem est tuis many en los does de la formation de was de zach weder on genegelit. De their Blikman vast het hard gen Talaris can my te hanning hay to wooden, doch it has him the fin with with liftle gaverne alles wor have down but in mayor verminger, ide - L. me left to draw as em gether and the tip you "wet held and standfront. Mission was her det tick new and mit tip you "wet held and go one him allending recognished, - " Wanton held go my fleiten de Schack berokthen by Bart in de Johnsh to gang dans down held gy and fleiten de Schack berokthen by Bart in de Johnsh to Joon de De Her Blikman omdagni dt wet eens ellendige tegen look van Laken. Door de Hamburgen book nais lyn han toon sout to exclude, mouth by de hoos to indisting on weter, won de Anasische expedition, dit was try, by ene in tehnywing va, hondrichen weter, won de to Rus sides book for gulden, en die action Strain thank of so few the the the test man tick to a smooth, Slicht want, on wood dat Kapitane, huft de their 18th kinen tick to a most of the State between that de Hen Theday hufting oak an genocky visites geleding De then Blakman vertelt new mich dan vroegen, tyn wet of hwaly the vain, to that Merrow by alle Kinnis way taking Sound Tier on going 12 liky to the fearn eners. 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The school at Lemele is going to be removed to the canal in March by order of the City Council of the District of Ommen. At the highest point of the hill, on the south side, Mr. Blikman has built a summer house in the midst of a planting of growing trees. And from it he has a very beautiful view. Although the Blikman family is at Lemele is at Lemele from mid-March to the end of November this year, they haven't been to Ommen so far, most likely because sister Chris has made such a bad marriage. Well, dear friend, I have opened my heart to you, needless to say in strict confidence.

About my financial situation I would not wish to be so open, and if it is of advantage to my children, as far as I am concerned I don't care if people misjudge my wealth. That I have a large annual income is well-known, for this they can count on their fingers, but I am not broadcasting my debts. Mr. Blikman also knows in detail my wealth and my debts.

You certainly already know that our Elder Peter Oldeman has died and Martin Korteman, our Deacon, also. The widow Nykamp at ______ (illegible) died about three weeks ago, as did the wife of F. Mol at ______ (illegible). That Hendrik Van Straten has died you've known for quite a while, haven't you? Yes, I am still Elder, and in your estimation a poor one, although, on the face of it I'm just as good a one as others. After all, the teaching of the children is my job from time to time. And every other Sunday evening I have to read a sermon. In addition, I am the organist. We have an excellent organ in our church. My daughter Jantje also leads the congregation from time to time at the organ.

Dominie de Moen has left for Doesburg. My family heard his farewell speech. The church could not hold half of the listeners; it was a very moving occasion. Teacher and congregation were torn apart; this was witnessed by the many tears and sobs that were seen and heard. Dr. Braunmeyer (?) will most probably take his place. I have already received a letter from him from Doesburg. He complains about the high cost of the house--275 guilders, the weight of the taxes--50 guilders, the high cost of education, etc., etc. And his salary is only 600 guilders without any extras. During 1859 Benjamin stayed with us and attended the special school in Ommen. Too bad he was not able to stay there; he worked hard and made good progress in French. My son Eli, too, is beginning to acquire a good knowledge of French, and writes a good script. I almost forgot to mention that the Hendriekje Van Munster, the widow of W. Van Munster, died, and that she has bequeathed the church 250 guilders; and after the death of her son Hendrik, a tenth of her estate--a total of 1400 guilders.

You will probably still remember Vrouw De Vries who, when you were here, was a Christian in name--superficially, and who wavered between belief and despair. Now that creature is a firmly-rooted Christian, full of belief and full of trust, against whom Satan shoots his arrow in vain because she accepts "The Word". The son of Ten Toorn is reasonably well, although he is definitely demented.

When you have read the contents of this letter, will you then burniit, so that my confidential letter will not be seen by anyone else. My wife and family are asking me to send their greetings to you and yours. Also receive my sincere and warm greetings and highest esteem.

Respectfully yours, your servant and brother,

E. Ravenshorst

(There follows a long P. S., continued in the pages of 3, 2 and one, in that order.)

P.S. After finishing this letter I went to your sister as agent of the Overijsel Fire Insurance Company, in order to ask for 42 guilders fire damage. Now she tells me for the first time that she has received a letter from you, and that she would gladly show it to me, but that she has misplaced it and couldn't put her hands on it straightaway. She told me, however, that she would be staying with you for a year, and that Mansier would make his living as a strawberry grower. Naturally, I did not say anything about your letter to me, and listened to all this in silence and then I asked her how they could hope to make their fortunes in Ameria without any funds (empty hands. I pointed out to her that I could not see how the mill, when sold, would produce enough money to pay her debts; and that she would hot have a cent for passage, much less to start something in America. In that case, she would be entirely dependent on help from her brother, and that he had enough to do to take care of himself and his family. This alarmed her somewhat, as I could tell from her face. Really! If I take into account that this is a mill with few customers, which declines day by day, and which my brother-in-law says that he does not dare to run because of the danger, as is known all over Ommen. What could you sell it for? Nor are they able to pay the insurance this year. Last year it was advanced to her, of which 15 guilders is left. Now it is very likely that because of non-payment she will lose the fire insurance on the mill, by which for many years her ownership has been protected. There's not a chance that anyone will come to her rescue, for they are deep in debt everywhere. When she married, she owed me half a pig for house rent, as well as postage in connection with her wedding costs to the Notary for setting up of her marriage settlement, etc., etc.

She owes me 118 guilders and never has said a word about paying me back. In addition, as City Treasurer, I have to advance her the land tax. Dominie Te Bokkel has also helped her many times and has never been paid back. Frankly, Mansier could go to the Transvaal Republic and that would be desirable for everybody in every way; or he could perhaps be found a job here. There is still a chance for you to avoid much trouble and misery. I really had thought that you would have written to me before you wrote to her. There's still much for you to consider, and to dissuade her, and I do—every time I see her. Vale. E.R.

Translated by Marcelle and John Luideres

Jeft of Borbara Meigent 85-10

Ommen, 19 November 1860

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Mr. Blikman finds it hard that I won't accept a salary, but I love him and will, out of my affection, gladly do anything for him that lies in my power. And now I have a completely different point of view. Mevrouw restrains herself from saying to me: "What a miserable position you have put us in. Why didn't you advise my husband against gointy into the factory with Bart? By doing what you did, you have cost us thousands (of guilders)." It is true that Mr. Blikman is having severe reverses of business. In order not to lose out with the Hamburg boat, he had to make the highest bid for the Russian expedition, with a bid of hundreds of thousands of guilders. Their values stand now at 50% because the Russian ship is a poor venture. In order to get that amount of money, Mr. Blikman has had to seriously encumber himself. With Mr. Thesin he has also suffered a considerable loss. Mr. Blikman tells me more than before of the good and bad ventures, so that Mevr. Blikman, by knowing all these things is in very fretful humor. Mr. (Blikman) has seen to it, however, that in my old age I don't need to groan under slavery; but that I can say "I don't need you." Had I sought my own profit in the past, and given up my job completely or in part, I would have been in a much better position. The death of Egbert, however, was for me a suitable time for some change. Now I keep his books, manage his financial affairs, and advise Mr. Blikman when he thinks it neccary.

Mr. Kouws (?) of Amsterdam has built a small country estate opposite Mr. Blikman, on the east side of the Raalte Road. He is cultivating raw land. As a result, Lemele is getting to be an attractive place. Mr. Blikmanhas pleasant walks and shady woods there. Shipping is growing busier every year. Every day tow-boats travel from Almelo to Zwolle and from Almelo to Deventer. Mr. B. has already made many attempts to connect Raalte with Lemele with a gravel road, but up to this point he has not been successful, although he has offered to make a gift of 3,000 guilders for this road, in addition to strong financial participation.

The school at Lemele is going to be removed to the canal in March by order of the City Council of the District of Ommen. At the highest point of the hill, on the south side, Mr. Blikman has built a summer house in the midst of a planting of growing trees. And from it he has a very beautiful view. Although the Blikman family is at Lemele is at Lemele from mid-March to the end of November this year, they haven't been to Ommen so far, most likely because sister Chris has made such a bad marriage. Well, dear friend, I have opened my heart to you, needless to say in strict confidence.

About my financial situation I would not wish to be so open, and if it is of advantage to my children, as far as I am concerned I don't care if people misjudge my wealth. That I have a large annual income is well-known, for this they can count on their fingers, but I am not broadcasting my debts. Mr. Blikman also knows in detail my wealth and my debts.

You certainly already know that our Elder Peter Oldeman has died and Martin Korteman, our Deacon, also. The widow Nykamp at ______ (illegible) died about three weeks ago, as did the wife of F. Mol at Junce (illegible). That Hendrik Van Straten has died you've known for quite a while, haven't you? Yes, I am still Elder, and in your estimation a poor one, although, on the face of it I'm just as good a one as others. After all, the teaching of the children is my job from time to time. And every other Sunday evening I have to read a sermon. In addition, I am the organist. We have an excellent organ in our church. My daughter Jantje also leads the congregation from time to time at the organ.

Dominie de Moen has left for Doesburg. My family heard his farewell speech. The church could not hold half of the listeners; it was a very moving occasion. Teacher and congregation were torn apart; this was witnessed by the many tears and sobs that were seen and heard. Dr. Braunmeyer (?) will most probably take his place. I have already received a letter from him from Doesburg. He complains about the high cost of the house--275 guilders, the weight of the taxes--50 guilders, the high cost of education, etc., etc. And his salary is only 600 guilders without any extras. During 1859 Benjamin stayed with us and attended the special school in Ommen. Too bad he was not able to stay there; he worked hard and made good progress in French. My son Eli, too, is beginning to acquire a good knowledge of French, and writes a good script. I almost forgot to mention that the Hendriekje Van Munster, the widow of W. Van Munster, died, and that she has bequeathed the church 250 guilders; and after the death of her son Hendrik, a tenth of her estate--a total of 1400 guilders.

You will probably still remember Vrouw De Vries who, when you were here, was a Christian in name--superficially, and who wavered between belief and despair. Now that creature is a firmly-rooted Christian, full of belief and full of trust, against whom Satan shoots his arrow in vain because she accepts "The Word". The son of Ten Toorn is reasonably well, although he is definitely demented.

When you have read the contents of this letter, will you then burnitt, so that my confidential letter will not be seen by anyone else. My wife and family are asking me to send their greetings to you and yours. Also receive my sincere and warm greetings and highest esteem.

Respectfully yours, your servant and brother,

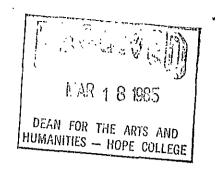
E. Ravenshorst

(There follows a long P. S., continued in the pages of 3, 2 and one, in that order.)

P.S. After finishing this letter I went to your sister as agent of the Overijsel Fire Insurance Company, in order to ask for 42 guilders fire damage. Now she tells me for the first time that she has received a letter from you, and that she would gladly show it to me, but that she has misplaced it and couldn't put her hands on it straightaway. She told me, however, that she would be staying with you for a year, and that Mansier would make his living as a strawberry grower. Naturally, I did not say anything about your letter to me, and listened to all this in silence and then I asked her how they could hope to make their fortunes in America without any funds (empty hands. I pointed out to her that I could not see how the mill, when sold, would produce enough money to pay her debts; and that she would hot have a cent for passage, much less to start something in America. In that case, she would be entirely dependent on help from her brother, and that he had enough to do to take care of himself and his family. This alarmed her somewhat, as I could tell from her face. Really! If I take into account that this is a mill with few customers, which declines day by day, and which my brother-in-law says that he does not dare to run because offthe danger, as is known all over Ommen. What could you sell it for? Nor are they able to pay the insurance this year. Last year it was advanced to her, of which 15 guilders is left. Now it is very likely that because of non-payment she will lose the fire insurance on the mill, by which for many years her ownership has been protected. There's not a chance that anyone will come to her rescue, for they are deep in debt everywhere. When she married, she owed me half a pig for house rent, as well as postage in connection with her wedding costs to the Notary for setting up of her marriage settlement, etc., etc.

She owes me 118 guilders and never has said a word about paying me back. In addition, as City Treasurer, I have to advance her the land tax. Dominie Te Bokkel has also helped her many times and has never been paid back. Frankly, Mansier could go to the Transvaal Republic and that would be desirable for everybody in every way; or he could perhaps be found a job here. There is still a chance for you to avoid much trouble and misery. I really had thought that you would have written to me before you wrote to her. There's still much for you to consider, and to dissuade her, and I do--every time I see her. Vale. E.R.

Translated by Marcelle and John Sunders



303 Falcon Road Whispering Pines NC 28327 March 14, 1985

Dr. Elton J. Bruins 2-12020 Dean for the Arts & Humanities Hope College Holland, Michigan 49423

Dear Elton.

Your nice letter was waiting for me when we returned from Michigan. I do apologize for being so long in replying, but it has taken me some time to ferret out the documents of which I spoke to you.

I am enclosing Xerox copies of items I thought you might be interested in. The three-page letter is obviously to my great grandfather and as nearly as I can make out it is dated November or December 1860. It is going to be difficult to decipher - will need somebody who knows the language and has a good, strong magnifying glass. The reason for the "bleeding" on the first two pages is because these are the two sides of one sheet of quite thin paper, and the ink-pen of the writer showed through. I will be most interested in receiving a translation of this letter if you are able to obtain such.

> The other documents seem to pertain to the purchase of some land by my great grandfather, dated 1847, and I will be very interested to know what land it is - it looks like it is the South half of Section 33, Township 5, North, Range 15 West, Ottawa county. am wondering if this is the land on which he built the homestead.

This is all that I recall ever seeing among the things from my mother - I hope you will find them of interest. I am undecided what to do with the originals - whether to keep them in the family for the children, or whether to donate them to the Museum. Perhaps you will have some thoughts on this.

I am going to Florida next week for two weeks vacation with Kit, and will also see Lil on the way back as she and Andy are in Winter Garden. I will discuss it with them too.

I thank you very much for the Van Raalte Memorial edition of the Reformed Review - it is of great interest to me. Also, thanks for putting my name in to the Hope News which I have now begun to receive.

Thank you again for your inspiring and comforting words at Mother's funeral. I hope we meet again sometime and can talk more about our family history.

Barbara Nugent

Mrs. S. Perry Nugent 303 Falcon Road Whispering Pines, N.O 28327

Dear Mrs. Nugent:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 14. It was a pleasure to hear from you. I hope that you have enjoyed your vacation in Florida.

I was pleased to receive copies of the Van Raalte material in your possession. It is historically significant material. The note of Peter Schermerhorn cast light on Van Raalte's business dealings. The other better is difficult to decipher but it comes from a gentlemen in Ommen, Overisel, where Van Raalte was pastor of the church from 1838 to 1844. I visited the town in 1973 and took slides of several buildings. There is mention of a Mr. Blikman who is a relative of Mrs. Van Raalte. Van Raalte's first son was named Dirk Blikman Kikkert Van Raalte.

Would you be willing to loan me the use of that letter? I have a good friend, Dr. Harry Boonstra, who is proficient in Dutch. I would like to ask him to make a transcript of the letter and to translate it. In the long run, we would be pleased to receive your materials for the archives of the Netherlands Museum, but I am more concerned now simply to see the letter and to get it translated. It is athrill to have more Van Raalte material come to light. It would be a good addition to what we already have in Holland and at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. The next time you come, I would be happy to show you the Van Raalte papers extant around here.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Elton J. Bruins

303 Falcon Road Whispering Pines NC 28327 May 6, 1985

Dr. Elton J. Bruins 2-12020 Hope College Holland, Michigan 49423

Dear Elton,

I apologize for the lengthy delay in answering your letter.

Kit and I went through some old photograph albums of my mother's, and found one picture we thought might have some interest for you. The pictures on the back had already been removed, and I removed the one at the bottom, of my Uncle Dick, to send to Jean Klomparens. But Kit thought you might like to have the picture of East 16th St., dated 1911, and so I am sending you the entire page from the album because of the date on it. I don't want this back.

I am also sending you the other material you asked for. I have been in a real quandary as to what to do about it, but Lil and Kit and I seem to have come to an agreement that it probably should be in the little museum there in Holland.

I am sending you the two notes pertaining to the purchase of property - I thought these were particularly interesting and will be interested to know what property they describes.

I am also enclosing the letter written by someone in Ommen, Overisel and when Dr. Boonstra has had a chance to translate it I surely would like to get a copy of it. Hope it will be of interest to you and find its place in the museum.

I have implicit faith in the U.S.P.O., but am sending this Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested anyway - sort of like wearing both suspenders and a belt!!

Sincerely

Barbara Nugent

Mrs. Barbara Nugent 303 Falcon Road Whispering Pines. N. C. 28327

Dear Mrs. Nugent:

Thank you so much for your letter and packet of materials of the Van Raalte family. All of the items are of great interest to us and we are very pleased to receive them as a gift for the Museum from you.

The archivist of the Museum and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. John Luidens are now in the process of reading the Ravenshorst letter and translating it. When that is done, I shall see to it that you receive a copy of the translation. I am eager to see that myself because this letter seems to contain so much information. All three Van Raalte items are very important. The other two items relate to very early property transactions in the Kolonie. That material is very rare. The picture of East 16th Street is also interesting. The road is quite different today!

Enclosed is the form which needs your signature. It is the routine document for receiving gifts by the museum. Your can return it to me and I will give it to Dr. Luidens.

I saw illian briefly Sunday morning. She looks well and both seemed to have had a good winter south.

With very best wishes.

Elton J. Bruins

303 Falcon Road Whispering Pines N⊠ 28327

Dear Elton,

Thank you for your letter of May 21st. I'm glad to know the material arrived safely. I'm looking forward to receiving the translation of the letter.

I am enclosing the form you requested me to sign for the Museum.

Yours truly

Barbara Nugent



February 20, 1986

Mrs. Parbara Mugent 303 Falcon Road Whispering Pines, Morth Carolina 28327

Dear Barbara:

At long last I can send you a copy of the Van Raalte letter you gave us last year. Dr. John Luidens, our museum archivist, and his wife spent much time on and have produced this translation. It is a very personal letter and gives us insight into family problems. The author even wanted Van Raalte to destroy the letter. But I'm glad it was saved because it adds some more details to Van Raalte's life. I appreciate very much the fact that you gave the original to the museum archives. It is a nice addition to our Van Raalte collection.

Since you have given us some materials, will you please sign the gift sheets and keep one for yourself and return one to us, please. This makes your gift official.

You may be interested in knowing that next month, work begins on the new Van Wylen Library. A fine new archival facility will be placed in it. It is my hope that the museum, college, and seminary will join their archival programs and placed their important papers in the new library when that is finished. I am working on that project with a committee now.

We have also just chosen a new director for the museum. He will continue the good work of Mr. Wichers who is completing his duties after 49 years of service.

T hope everything is well with you and your family.

Flton J. Pruins

December 14, 1995

Mrs. S. Perry Nugent 303 Falcon Road Whispering Pines North Carolina 28327

Dear Mrs. Nugent:

It is eleven years ago yesterday I wrote you last. I assume and hope that you are still at the same address. I tried to get in touch with Lillian and Andrew for your current address but they may have left for the south already.

Since corresponding with you several years ago, I have retired from fulltime teaching and now serve as director of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute for Historical Studies. My major project is working on a biography of Dr. Van Raalte. A person working with me is translating many of his writings.

In the process of my studies, I came across the translation of a Van Raalte letter by John Luidens which is in your possession. It proves to be a very crucial letter so much so that my assistant would like to see a copy of the original. I am sure that Dr. Luidens did a good job with his translation but now that I am working on the biography it would be very helpful to see the original.

Would you be willing to make a copy of that letter, please? The letter is from E. Ravenshorst of Ommen to Van Raalte and dated November 19, 1860. I would appreciate receiving a copy of the original very much. If you happen to have other Van Raalte documents, I would also like copies of them. I will be happy to reimburse you for any costs you incur.

I hope that you are well. Have you been to Holland in recent years? I would like to meet you again and also show you my collection of copies of Van Raalte documents that I have collected which I have collected over the years. Last fall, I discovered twenty five Van Raalte letters in New Jersey, a very good find.

May you enjoy the holiday season.

Sincerely,

P.M. Dec. 30,1995

4 Falcon Road Whispering Pines, NC 28327 December 29, 1995

Dr. Elton J. Bruins Hope College P. O. Box 9000 Holland, Michigan 49422-9000

Dear Elton,

I begin this letter by apologizing for the delay in my answering your letter of December 14, 1995.

There is one change in our address: Our Village re-numbered every lot, so although we still live in the same house on the same street, the house now bears a new number: "4" instead of "303". You are correct that Lil and Andy had already left for Florida, and I am happy to report they had a safe trip and arrived in good time, and good health. My sister Katharine flew to Florida and spent Christmas with them. I believe she arrived just in time for the extremely unseasonal cold weather we are all experiencing.

Referring to the letter to my great-grandfather, Dr. A. C. Van Raalte, written to him by E. Ravenshorst of Ommen on November 19, 1860, I am enclosing a copy of a letter you wrote me on February 20, 1986. In the first paragraph of your letter you mention my giving the original to the museum archives.

I am also enclosing a copy of what you refer to as a "gift sheet". I assume that "Accession number" is the Museum's method of locating material.

This gift sheet lists four items I sent to the Museum, including the Ravenshorst letter of 19 November, 1860.

I notice that on this gift sheet, dated 10 May 1985 there are two different "accession numbers" 85-9 and 85-10. I trust you will find the letter you are looking for without difficulty.

At the end of this letter I am listing the names and addresses of our children for your files, since they are direct descendents of Dr. Van Raalte, being his great-great-grandchildren. They are both interested in the history of Holland and our family, and if you ever have any particularly interesting information, I think they would appreciate hearing from you.

I'm sure you are enjoying your work as director of the A.C.V.R. Institute for Historical Studies. I wish you great success in your new undertaking, and I know that all of us as his

descendents are greatly appreciative of your work. I have no other material to send you that I know of - if I come across anything I'll let you know. Again, I apologize for taking so long to write you, and I wish you and yours all the best for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Barbara V. Nugent

Mr. Patrick Nugent 1675 N. May Street Southern Pines, NC

. 28387

Mrs. Scott Cronk (Leeann) 153 Holly Springs Road Holly Springs, NC 27540 January 15, 1996

Mrs. Barbara V. Nugent 4 Falcon Road Whispering Pines, NC 28327

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for your letter postmarked December 30 and jogging my memory that you had already contributed the original Ravenhorst letter to Van Raalte, dated November 19, 1860. I appreciated hearing from you very much. That letter is proving to be so important in our Van Raalte research. Now that we know we have the original and I have gotten a copy of it from the Joint Archives, my researcher/translator, Ms. Elisabeth Dekker, will review it in the original. Ravenhorst's handwriting is difficult to read so we need to be very careful that we know exactly what he wrote Dominie Van Raalte.

Thank you also for giving information on your address so that I address you correctly.

I was delighted to know that your children are interested in their Van Raalte family history. I hope that you and they will visit Holland soon so that I can show you what I have collected on Van Raalte. Ms. Dekker and I are now beginning to work on the ACVR biography fulltime since the second edition of my history of Third Reformed Church was published last week. I also have a student working on gathering information on the second and third generation Van Raalte descendants.

It is good to know that Andy and Lillian got to Florida. I am concerned about Lillian's health and hope that they will have a good stay there.

About the first of March, our Institute is moving into new quarters near Hope's campus. By the end of the spring, there will be four of us working in the Institute doing research, translations, and writing. We are doing our best to keep the Van Raalte name before the public.

With sincere best wishes,

155 Blake Blvd., Apt. #223-C Pinehurst. NC 28374 October 27, 2000

Mr. Elton Bruins
A. C. Van Raalte Institute
Hope College
P. O. Box 9000
Holland, MI 49422-9002

Dear Mr. Bruins,

Yesterday I mailed to you, 'via Parcel Post, the book my sister, Lillian Lampen said you were interested in, "Hollanders Who Built America".

I don't know who originally owned this book, but it came in to our hands almost fifty years ago. My husband, Perry, was in Chicago on business in May of 1952, and noticed it in a used book store one evening when he was strolling down State Street. Knowing that I was a descendent of A. C. Van Raalte, he purchased it for me. It has followed us around during all these years, from one location to another, in one or another of our bookcases. At one time a number of years ago, I believe we "loaned" it to Lil and Andy, who eventually returned it to us. As you can see, the cover is pretty well demolished, but I thought you would like to see it anyhow, tattered though it is.

I am glad to see it go into your hands, knowing your great interest in the history of the Van Raalte family, as well as other people whose biographies are included in this book.

Enjoy.

Sincerely,

Barbara Van Raalte Nugent

CC: Lillian Lampen

Mrs. Barbara Van Raalte Nugent 155 Blake Blvd., Apt. #223-C Pinehurst, NC 28374

Dear Mrs. Nugent:

The book you sent us, *Hollanders in America*, arrived safely this morning. Thank you very much for your gift to the Van Raalte Institute. It is a fine addition to our growing research library. The book contains a wealth of information about many Dutch-Americans. We appreciate your generosity.

I hope that you and your husband are doing well. Upon the few occasions I am able to speak with Lillian and Andy at church, Lillian gives me an update on her family. It was my pleasure to see Kit Davis at the Van Raalte reunion in August.

Our institute is hard at work on the Van Raalte genealogy project. It has been a long, laborious and tedious project but the end result will be on high quality, I believe. Meanwhile, I continue to search for Van Raalte documents and now have copies of more than 1,300 of them in my files. You must be proud to be a descendant of such distinguished ancestors.

Thank you again for your gift.

Sincerely,

Elton J. Bruins

Letters: Nugent10