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## Correspondence of A. C. Van Raalte with Abraham Kuyper

A. C. Van Raalte

Verwey

Henry ten Hoor

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July 4, 1872

Correspondence of A. C. Van Raalte with Abraham Kuyper of this date and July 17 about assisting a Mr. Verwey who has been difficult to deal with.

Originals in the Archives of the Free University of Amsterdam.
Translations by Dr. Henry ten Hoor.

Holland, Michigan July 4, 1872

Rev. Dr. A. Kuiper. Dear Brother.

I have sent Verwey to Grand Rapids, 28 miles from here, where many Hollanders live and which is known as a rapidly growing industrial city and have advised him to take work as a laborer in a factory making furniture or barrels or woodturning. That line of work pays well and offers the prospect of being able to start one's own business once it is learned. I gave him \$30 when he left and sent him 30 more on his request because he had lost his suitcase. Soon after that he comes to Holland to tell me that after a few days the people refused to give him any more instruction, that they had given him the cold shoulder on account of his spectacles and because he was too gentlemanly. But an insurance office wanted to try him out and at the same time he wanted to carry around stuff to peddle and thus earn his daily bread. For this purpose I gave him \$60. The day before yesterday I was in Grand Rapids. I didn't run into him. I became aware that the insurance company was dubiously asking questions about his character of the Hollanders and I learned from all the Hollanders that he had behaved rudely toward a German friend in a tavern, had been arrested and sentenced to pay a fine of \$10 (f. 25) and had been jailed since he could not pay. Mr. Van der Sluis, to whom I had recommended him, became aware of this, paid his fine and got him out of jail.

In this way he hinders his own progress and must expect the cold shoulder.

I gave him no more money lest he should lose it. I don't think he needs it. It is difficult to get started, but if he will try he will be able to make a living. If not, his road will be a hard one. In this busy, practical country he will be trampled under foot and such an experience is perhaps necessary to teach him a lesson.

Apart from that, he shows some signs of determination and spirit which promise success if he will not waste his efforts. His training gives

X

him an advantage.

Sending money goes best by means of a draft from Hope on King's Sons, New York. Be so good as to order and pay for me a <u>Wekstem en Bazuin</u> and also deduct enough for a year's subscription to <u>De Standaard</u> which I have been enjoying by borrowing from someone else. You cannot expect many subscribers from here because everybody is drowning in a sea of periodicals.

Brother, God entrusts you with much. It is worth living for.

I hope that the reality and the majesty of the things of God's kingdom may preserve your heart and make you happy and effective in your work. And although things often seem chaotic within and without, let it strengthen our spirit that Jesus is at the controls and in majesty and repose executes and perpetuates his plan. Although I complimented you on your work, let me say this: don't work yourself to death, don't cripple yourself. Get enough sleep and take a vacation.

Very respectfully, Your brother in Christ, A. C. Van Raalte

met liftage Holland Michigan Her DA Muypers. feliefai Breder in Verwey's brand brief, ter versonoon Van de ver Zending des leetste Veerly Dollard Lonce Well advies, en Lollar Lyllen Hem ook niethelper, Een mendeh Schat Mer, nithau Wat My mee to and, wran handval Hy Lelve much, Lovalsmentier Leigh. Het Spyting als it Will: in liwe. venvachting Zon heb for teleurge Heter? Ecommunitatie is hier Wing: Volhardende Ver Kruent is hier alled : en ook Inyne Wirm mundate skrachtelies geworden:

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dat men Hern naenkele dagen Alghe Dut botalen Kon: de Herbann nich mer had willen onderwy Den der Shis acm Wien it Alm had aant mon had Herr, om Jyn Bril en on deit Hy te heerachty was overal Hen, en hielpton eruis. de Roude Sobronder Gegerly: doch in assuranti Kantvortvilde Hong un bipsour, en le gelifter lygi wille Hy lering Koopman Schap June dragen om Levelvende brood ie Kurren subben, tot de artin= May decer Van gafik Him Jesting Dellard. - Gergistert, wasik in Grand lapids, it on mode Hem mils, Comentate das fiet aspenantie Han love layfelactiling by de Mollan. ile Listener Ly/ n Der Leon Onder Vroca in leasts en links vernamik vande Hollem dend dat Ay Dich Vry Mosling jugens con Morg dials the Mount in line her borg godragende was eg. allesteeril en gestormiset lot eine lock tun lien Dollers 1/28 quiden) en in de gevangosis was geflacts, dans

volen distrone mende betauteler Todoen de Ver Tiper Hy Dyn Wig en Mort Hade Konde Schoules wachter Mage f Horn geen Gold meer ten Ly Gy het gelast: it donk hiet as Hy het rooding heeft. Thegin is hara, duch willy opposten Do Las Hy Touce Vinden: Loo niet, Lyn pad Lat hardlyn, Sy Lac in dit drukke practikale land inter den Volt taken en die die is Ind Jobnie novely on Home le leur for. Olevia Ind Aly Openbrank trikten Van Verthracht en mord welke Successibelove, all His Lich mut moed willy vermonth Lyne geowlene of wording Geef Hom Trobleat. 2-Wo Devider der Gelden Gaatbeil door con little cuntille up

Zon heel New Cama out blood funerally well de benounde Struken van Frieriker antide wolken dur to laten neer legenen tonder belogd! le Lyn dat er cen vang brek Zon om Komen Holland Michigan Geliefai Broccus: Milling in Verwey's brand brief, ter ver Schwoning Van de ver Zending des luette Veerty Dollard Lunces Well advis, en tegers Inyne westinging in .- Vier hunden Dollard Lyllen Him ook nithelps Een Inensel Schal Mer, nichaar wak My mee to and, manihantva & Hy Lelve much X, Lovalo mentic Legy. Het Spy Ing als it Will in time Viwa diting Low heb for telen getteler; Ecommunitatie is hier Wing: Volhardende Verkracht whier alled : en oof Inyne Ulim soundate is drachtelos geworden:

Alls hier len Vreemdeling Low begind dat Ay Aggent on Stant Spreeks My Juista dadely/k in handle vant Gerigt from dut Hy geen amil in Syn brief: dan is het beter dat He vertrekt: - De geleerd huff llut by geen Ewauwer. Sem-gedehreven Wert agerom = Ranchen, aux Hy geen brood Virdie trent vertermently, als of Hy Clove Kan, eladmemand Han helpen wit myn word in Grant Capid ge= endat Sypre Hamilie Him Gelder bonden ware: mittegenstaunde Lal Sturen tovoleterng teis. ik Hen reed IN veret nadnille Low voomt Hty Zym lot. lythe had aunbliviley formethis myn dorMbeeld en land Walston in Grand Haven en Big/lapids lever Hem op School. - Het bestim te Doeller: Hom is verder westwant want to Bothulve dat er in Hern geen gren menseh heef & om of telenne Vetroolmester Lix, Low Zulk author Hem Rivaries beter onder ten 1001 & miet tummen l'herrighn Worte, Will Premide Ithur Mainer; at Molland Mas Hy de int Sprawde nathuf Ley D'Hy bore, het Haofet gelfillier. het Wumen met Loudlumen, don Stany Ny Locht Le mil behalve Geestitiz - Planto gebruikt men mit dan ha Wanters - Trut Hornes to five roun allere Met Vertreyer, le hebbe, (Hund Wrocae) Stet leeven in Theobret braklas Encle growthle cllende is: daxwaas In leaven ten landsten, on ty hat Lewel, owen thy me ra Ken Vertaten. Van hongerete Mesken le hier mit.

To de formande de la faction d Jan Olynde 15 Jel 72 det is man the the Melhow I fel boss In his styll delice very worthy and verente Rommande No brief heeft my geen telens a down het my, qualités servent getteld en vovial door de late wist amongstyh is golf can among entranget is growte morigelighted the vinders, gal ty as getter much & gebracks. We den avoid tock mack my in overcenstammers, dat het beste il myn boardgeld betalen et doar voor my is, gos poedog magelyte mose it gulles me nich har doen, gal is Nederland being Sakeers Migel gonder go ed macken vertrekkers them, als it much own thet peddlen hair en de machte up throat maches Somes, of dit my geen bestoon oplain dooibrengen, door deze boardleeper. west, may mader doorwer whigher geen cent credict greft. Me had en verguetes per belegrant mig gehoogt de mondrege gelden, door es credick be opened ergens voge foch may sem exeduct van 8 40. de Roster von Lerngher, waring ist by thopenshash, he gullers and warms seller necet dat migne famolle zat five. gen, our heden avoid noon sen ander boardinghuis he human gean, heh my wer aan gebrok en hangede dans with it zeeds had of afgeopic has, wh he sheller moon am my ling leans by ear hollandrike mud, doe cartyil bertoon to verschaffe. my althour wet centre tigo of cre . He verwacht per amgaande the anty Koch gon willen handen, ferwigt it. Moved of myn herhand vergoch De bod Il all the made solot in do hall accusted 22 den wares bet averige gold worken

A. C. Van Raalte to Dr. Abraham Kuyper, July 4, 1872

Verwey to A. C. Van Raalte, July 13, 1872

A. C. Van Raalte to Dr. Abraham Kuyper, July 17, 1872

Originals: The Abraham Kuyper Archives, the Free University, Amsterdam

Contents: Verwey attempts to get aid from these men.

Full translation by Prof. Henry ten Hoor, June, 1976

Holland Michigan Jeve DA huiper! 11 Es) 12/1214 en hour aftroor met thel I leel, Dierbare Produce. ier rieX Verweighebill uls beilds met acombeveling D-briever news from den. lapids, 24 mylvan hier, waer beleva and om Hollander Sworden, lene Inel grote = : Willenly M finde Jaboiekstad Verweden: en ge= an fill Vieden handenarbied in de hout; malles in Stoom fabrie Ken als die Van menbelg binnen denten lamen Vacature & Et drauter men. die krimstlyn betaales best en geeft rustly by Kennis Lelve, te kunnen beginnen; derlieg Liel Herki, thed in Mr. Tokeror Bet. my Lollard gafilk mede: doch Lond Welven mit, op Lyp. Sitery ven Dung dertig, down l'acantu. Hy Lyn Koffer William had. in fantal Morteley daws na hornt by near Notherno (m. My meetedeelers: Yuntte.

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Times Sous Newyork - Wes Low Gover bestel en betaal voor my Ecr. With Stens en Baduin; en how er ook een Jaar gang Van af voor de Standaero, die il nu mettlet Genvegen Van. len aonder las, beel deelnemer Shin mentantier mich verwachten, uring allen liggen uls bedole ven under de Floom Von bladen. met aanbeveli Lagrides, 24 myle Diroculer God betroundlevel; Tis wa and on Hollander Two er iver to leven . - Thurnshidad de wedenlys Jande Jaboich's heid in the mattellet der thingen bin fill Victor hunden Haan wir harte Vitty & entirechty matter in Hurth: En land Set, of Blown Form binnen Stoom Jabrie Ke in trans lond on back Chao' is, our Liel Herti. deurin temen dut feluraun Vivir Lixen dat Hy cutty in Ma = yen - die Run longeef & rule Wite the en bush het bester introcity for Bes. te kunnen br Mila Diffli om lew Wer Comin, Verostoof my Lolland gafter te Ziggen: Ulikunietitoro; Vorlan Useli in mit, op Lyn Schry Their Goed and Slage to beam la cantie, Hy Zyn Koffi Inch Hoogadsting / In Boredor in fanshis Morely due Tilan Hautte. Hollemo Or

Behong to brief van Rasilte, a. C. van 840, Juli 17 Jano Obspids 13. Juli 72. Melieno. L' Gol lbeer ( vers The brief heeft my year teleur. under gerfold en voval door de la la ontranget is growte moeijelighteid gebracks. The den avond bock moch netop it myn boardgelt betalen e daar 1 feste 4 moor it gulles me nich has doer, gal is gonder goed mocken vertrekkens The got en lan en de mochte op throat moches oplein doorbrengen, door deze board heeper in ves year cent crediet greft. It had gehoopt de mondige gelden, door how foll mug our credict van 8 40. by Il open stook, be guller on town zis His gen, our heden avoid noon sen ander boardinghuis he human gean, het 19 12 with it reeds had of afgeoproties, al. by eer hollandowher mind, does my althous wet consigen top op cre. doct you willen honder, ferwigl it o anh 600 U der vors let overige geld ware

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to sol fur elbeardog en Dinsong dan hets portoffice por verseme monden wind met the and dogs it het anongenous vind met the end of lung from mynd congelegenhede in ty dat is noor Amerika gungen No het blyth dat dage vers Un broof he worth y much vervald han worden gesteld en voor a door het my, goods it would on tranget is q wist, ommogelyth is, golfs cen aanvong gebroets. The de be vinden, zal by er geher met it major board my in overeenstemmen, dat het beste it zulks nu nie voor my is, goo poedog magelyt moor gonder goed in Nederland berng takeere. A gel en de mochte hem, als it much own het poddlen han doorbrenger, do. Nomes, of dit my geen bestoon oplein year cent cred vert, nug noder doorwer schrijved gehoopt de s en verzoches per selegroof my foch mog oc ee eredret te opene ergens vogens by ll openster de Morten von Lerugheer, wooris Vis gen, om hede Nem mes door hun wil and was. boardinghuis my wen son gebrek en honge det dans well it zeeds te stellen moor am my lighter oby ear hall my althous w early butoon to versahatt deel gon with We verwacht per amgaande to onty der voors be. woord of myn herhoold vergock ed bud It ale let moreligh in dat dot gunsty 39%

Respected Sir!

Your letter disappointed me greatly especially since the latest receipt has brought great trouble. Tonight I must pay my board bill, and since now I cannot do that, I will have to leave without my belongings and spend the nights in the street because this boardinghouse keeper doesn't give a cent of credit. I had hoped to receive the necessary money since I still have \$40 of credit with you which would allow me to go to another boarding house tonight, which I had already arranged with a Dutch friend who would be willing to keep me for a while on credit while I could have bought wares with the remaining money to peddle on Monday. And now this chance to earn my bread is also lost. I can find no work because I have no trade and I am considered, rightly, unfit for heavy work on the railroad or anything like that especially at my age and because I am unaccustomed to heavy work. What I must do now I don't know. Very likely I can get a little food here and there from various people, and I can get along without any for a couple of days, but I will have to spend the nights out of doors until I have saved enough to pay my debt and get my clothes back. So I beg you again, if it is at all possible, to send by money order the remaining creditvI have standing with you so that I can give this last chance of making a living a trial.

As concerns my departure from here, if I had been given such advice and had been told where to go, I would certainly have done that; now, hoever, I felt that without knowing your opinion about it, I should not leave Grand Rapids where you sent me.

Concerning my return to the Netherlands I must say this: Rev. Kuyper and I were both of the opinion that it was impossible for me to get started here by myself; he said that he fully expected that you would find me some work. Without this firm expectation neither he nor I would ever have considered my going to America. Now that it appears that this expectation cannot be fulfilled and that, therefore, as I always knew, it would be impossible for me to start on my own, he will very likely agree with me that it is best for me to re-

turn to the Netherlands as soon as possible. If I cannot get to peddling or cannot make a living at it, I will write him more particularly about this and request that a credit account be opened for me somewhere to defray the expenses of my return trip, which I know my family will approve since their intent was never to expose me to poverty and hunger but to give me a chance at an honest livelihood.

I expect your answer to my repeated requests by return mail, and beg you, if it is possible, to respond favorably. Monday and Tuesday I will go to the post office and 10k for a letter for me, because I find it unpleasant to discuss my business affairs with Mr. van der Slużs since we would have to discuss the matter of money in the presence of his workmen.

Respectfully, Your servant,
\_\_\_. Verwey

Holland, Michigan July 17, 1872

Rev. D. A. Kuypers. (910)
Dear Brother,

I enclose Verwey's fiery letter to justify my sending the last \$40 without your honor's approval and against my own conviction that even forty dollars would not help him. A person doesn!t value what he brings along but what he himself produces, as the saying here goes.

I am sorry if I have disappointed you. Recommendation doesn't count for much here; hardy endurance is everything and my recommendation has become useless. If a stranger here behaves himself in such a way that he immediately falls into the hands of the police, then it's better that he leaves. He pays no attention to the hint I gave him about this as if he were bound by my orders to stay in Grand Rapids, notwithstanding the fact that I had already strongly suggested that he look for connections in Grand Haven and Big Rapids.

Besides, he has no aptitude for teaching and would be unable to secure such a position because he lacks the accent and would not be able to pass the examinations.

Clerks are selected on the basis of reputation and character.

His learning a trade in the factory stopped after an affair with a woman. As a result of this and of his beer drinking the insurance company dismissed him notwithstanding the fact that the company really wanted a qualified Hollander and were willing to give him a trial. And the greatest difficulty is that wherever he goes he acts and talks just as he does in his letter: that he has not learned a trade, that he is unable to do heavy work, that he can't earn his daily bread, that no one will help him and that his family is sending him money for the trip home. Thus he determines his own lot.

My opinion and advice is what it was before: leave him in school. It's best for him to move farther west where he can't depend on anyone

else. This dependence on others isn'ttgood for him: better to be among completely strange Americans. He has taken a condescending attitude toward the Hollanders. He considers them merely congenial companions.

With highest respect,

Your friend and brother, A. C. Van Raalte.

P.S. Don't worry yourself over his complaints. We who are here know that it is difficult for this kind of people, but they finally learn and get along fine. However, he must leave these parts.

No one dies here from hunger, etc. I would dare to let the whole of the destitute Netherlands rain down from the clouds all over the inhabited areas of America without being concerned that one person would perish from poverty.

VR