

Hope College

## Hope College Digital Commons

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Van Raalte Papers: 1870-1879

Van Raalte Papers

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12-5-1871

### **Rev. Albertus C Van Raalte Wrote a One-Line Note to "Rev. Dr. Philip Phelps that He is Too Sick to Pay Any Attention to Business."**

A. C. Van Raalte

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2000  
July 13, 00

Dear Robert, ~~Tennessee~~

This came into our Historical Society archives via Henrietta Cook nee Hospers. She was a saver.

Phelps was as you know, the administrator of Hope College during that period of time.

At our windmill committee meeting tonight we were overjoyed to hear our goal had been reached financially. We formally break ground Aug. 26 I believe. Have to be building soon after to fulfill terms of the big state grant we got. It's a big project - I'll be glad to one day have it all done. So many meetings!

We really enjoyed your lectures. I learned a lot and got out my old battered copy of Albertus C. Van Raalte by Albert Nyman. I think Ralph Haan from Herrick sent it to me when we

Traded some materials — or did I  
get it elsewhere? Anyway, Van Ravelte is  
going to bed with me momentarily so  
I can read more about him. How  
sad that his home bit the dust for  
a soccer field! The same here for  
Scholter's church! It was a skating  
rink in its last days!

Sincerely,

Murt Kooi

Letter reads

Rev Dr Phelps,

Dear Brother,

Please excuse my absence. I  
am too unwell to come down or to  
pay attention to business.

Yours truly,

5 December 1871

Holland, Michigan

Rev. Albertus C Van Raalte wrote a one-line note to "Rev. Dr." Philip Phelps that he is too sick to pay any attention to business.

Original in the Van Raalte papers at Hope College in the Joint Archives, letter no. 81 in the George Scholten gift of Van Raalte letters to Hope College.

Holland Mich.  
Dec: 5/1871.  
Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Phelps.

Dear Brother,

Please excuse  
my absence; I am too  
unwell to come down or to  
pay attention to business

Yours truly

A. C. Van Raalte.

Original letter from Rev A C Van Raalte  
founder of  
Holland Mich

Received this from Dr. Adrian Selstun  
H. C. -

Mar 1963

From the collection of  
Mrs. Ed. S. Cook, Pella, Iowa

81

Holland Mich.  
Dec: 5/1871.  
Rev. Dr. Phelps.

Dear Brother;

Please excuse  
my absence; I am too  
unwell to come down or to  
pay attention to business.

Yours truly

M. Van Pelt.



*The Iowa Association of*  
**PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

442 DES MOINES BUILDING • DES MOINES, IOWA 50309 • PHONE 282-3175

July 26, 1967

Miss Janet Mulder  
Archivist  
Hope College  
Holland, Michigan

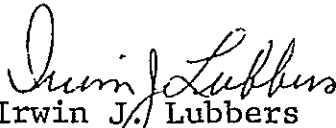
Dear Janet:

The enclosed copy of a letter written by Dr. Van Raalte to Dr. Phelps does not appear to have much significance. I was interested in it because of the beautiful penmanship and the obvious ability of the writer to express himself concisely and to the point in flawless English. In two brief sentences he becomes alive to the reader of the letter a century after writing it.

I borrowed the letter from Mrs. Cook. It is written on cheap paper with ruled lines and the ink is badly faded. This is not surprising after 96 years. However, the ink must have been of unusual quality to show so strikingly in a Xerox reproduction.

Greetings and best wishes.

Cordially,

  
Irwin J. Lubbers  
President

ARCHIVES  
HOPE COLLEGE

Holland Mich.  
Dec: 5/1871.  
Rev. D. Phelps.

Dear Brother,

Please excuse  
my absence, I am too  
unwell to come down to  
pay attention to business

Yours truly

A. Van Rente.

Original letter from Rev A C Van Rente  
founder of  
Holland Mich

Received this from Dr. Adrian Scholten  
H. C. -

mar 1963



81.

Holland Mich

Dec: 5/1871

Revd Dr Phelps

Dear Brother,

Please excuse my absence: I am too unwell to come down or to pay attention  
to bussiness

Yours truly

A. C. Van Raalte

*Geo Schottens'*

*Manuscript, however*

81.

Holland Mich

Dec:5 / 1871

Revd Dr Phelps

Dear Brother,

Please excuse my absence: I am too unwell  
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Yours truly

A.C. Van Raalte

Hope College Collection  
of the  
Joint Archives of Holland

71-12-05

[GS81]

Holland Mich.

Dec: 5/1871

Revd Dr Phelps.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Brother;

Please excuse my absence: I am too unwell<sup>2</sup> to come down or to pay attention to bussiness.<sup>3</sup>

Your truly

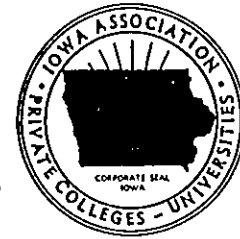
A. C. Van Raalte

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<sup>1</sup> George Scholten made a transcription of the letter and gave it away as was his custom in a few cases. On the envelope in which the letter came was "received this from Dr. Adrian Scholten, H. C., near 1963." This letter came Hope College from Mrs. Ed. S. Cook of Pella, Iowa. Dr. Irwin J. Lubbers acknowledged receipt of the letter in his letter to Mrs. Cook 26 July 1967. At this time, Dr. Lubbers was no longer president of Hope College but on staff of The Iowa Association of Private Colleges and Universities. Dr. Lubbers forwarded this Van Raalte letter to Janet Mulder, retired history teacher of Holland High School who was at this time serving as the first archivist of Hope College.

<sup>2</sup> Both Van Raalte and his wife Christina struggled with ill health. Although Van Raalte was only sixty years of age at this time, he was increasingly suffering from ill health.

<sup>3</sup> Van Raalte gave no clue as to what his business with Phelps was but it may have been issued dealing with the Relief Committee, the executive committee of the Council of Hope College or the Council itself. Van Raalte was also raising money at this time. In an article published in *De Hope* on 16 November 1871, he reported that he was responsible to raise funds to send Rev. and Mrs. Enos Heeren to India next February.



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July 26, 1967

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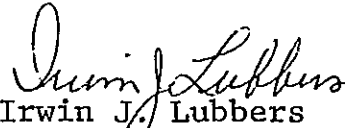
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