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Letter from A. C. Van Raalte to His Wife Christina Johanna de Moen

A. C. Van Raalte

Harry Boonstra

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December [25] 1846

Kalamazoo, Michigan

"Thursday morning" The letter is postmarked December 25.

A letter of Albertus C. Van Raalte to his wife, Christina Johanna De Moen, to inform her of his travels thus far. He has learned from Judge Kellogg that there is land available at Ada and Ionia and six townships in Allegan are still for sale by the government. Van Raalte is very thankful that he has come into contact with M. I. Colt, Theodore Romeyn, Rev. Ova P. Hoyt and Judge Kellogg all of whom are God fearing men.

"More and more I think that the state of Michigan is the place in which we shall make our home." p. 32. He also admonishes his children to be obedient to Mrs. Van Raalte. He signs the letter as "Your loving friend, brother, and husband."

Published by Leonard Sweetman in *From Heart to Heart Letters from the Rev. Albertus Christiaan Van Raalte to His Wife, Christina Johanna Van Raalte-De Moen, 1836-1847*, Heritage Hall Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1997, pp. 32-35, 67-68, with many editorial and informative notes by Sweetman.

Albert Hyma in his biography of ACVR uses the December 25 date when he discusses this letter on pages 71-72.

Dutch ; translated by Dr. Harry Boonstra, 1994

T 88-0230

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file 1
St Van Rualte call
boy 1

Sonnesdag

Calver(?) Nullemendos December 1846

Staatlyphelyte Groun. Die hier een klein lettertyl om Wonyne overkand
 tot hier mede te deelen. by myn samkomst in het begerent alhier, ging ik
 dadelyk den Heer Coll opzoeken en verhandigde al. den Koningsman den Heer
 Romijn. dadelyk was Hij zeer vriendelyk my tot het Supper te roedigen, in
 een woord ik s'ndt daar de handen ontsloten. Door middel van Mynheer
 Coll ben ik geintroduceerd aan den Heer Kellogg Rechter te Alleghen,
 die Heer doet insgelijksch voor mij al wat Hij kan. Hij wil met
 mij de bevruchte plaats Adai gaan zien. daar en boven wil Hij
 met mij de Streken langs Tona en de grand-river gaan
 zien. Nu neemt Hij mij mede naar zijn huis ^{de stad} in alle gaen
 in Allegan Corontij leggen. er myn Les landshyft voor g'wone
 nemens prijs te koop. ook de dore hoop en wy te gaen be'zien.
 Door Domine Hoijt krijgen wy een juiste afteekening
 van bovengenoemde landshyft. de plaatsen langs de grand
 river moeten wy zoeken in de Stad Tona.
 Door dit be'stuur van Goud voortienigheid zal ik mij in deze
 Streken wel enkele werken moeten o'zwenden. wanneer Hij
 mij dan iets te schrijven hebt dan is myn adres ten huize
 van Domine Hoijt. wanneer g' geen adres weet te schrijven
 dan wil U Mynheer Romijn of Domine Buffield u wel
 helpen. Domine Hoijt is zeer hulpvaardig, hier logeer ik,
 het schynt een alle sin'ts goddalyg g'raen, mynheer Coll insge.

lyksch meest God. De Plichter Kellogg wordt ook algemeen geschat
als een trouw rechtvaardig en verstandig man. Doordat ik alle dinst
leden van danktoef heb aan God van in Zulke handen geraakt
te zijn; - meer en meer denk ik dat deze Staat Michigan wel
de Staat onzer wooning zal worden. bid veel den Heere dat Hy
ons genadig zij en hulpe dat Hy mij kennelyk moge leiden,
en ons dat geve wat goed voor ons is. Ja bid veel. - Gehefte. Miss
gij hebt ik over al het goede dat ik van Houdson ontmoet
ik Leet te ver blijde. Gij moet dus niet droevig en overgenoegd
zijn maar Gij moet God danken, want waerlyft mij
genieten in dat vreemde land vele voor techten. -

Miss de kinder tyd voor mij, laat Benjamin niet te veel eten, en
Ley hen dat ik de sneek dat zij te willen gehoor Zamen, en dat
te goed willen leeren. Waag aan grooten kind of Hy den dage-
lyksch lees wil gerhen. - Groot Jenuyze Groot huis in Spanna.
Wil ook vooral D^r West en Buffield van mij groeten als med
Wynh Romeijn en Eddele dat brieffe over handigen. -

Wanneer ik mijne onderzoekingen hier geemdigd zal hebben zo
hoop ik te wederom te schrijven. Nu de bare stuit in God nie
af van uwe lieve bedenkingen; onderwey, waerlyft wil, en
verstroud hem. Wat tot toe, lieve. Woud Landel. duagst thur
af tot leren en bodden, ach wad niet loogefraag op uwe werk,
Looz voor uwe Ziele: wantneer Hy verwacht zal al uwe werk
beter gaan. - Staetwel allen wel

Wen hartel. Miss hebbon. Sriend Boeder
en man H. Van Raalte. -

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zeer ziens:³ Buddingh kan ik niet te spreken krijgen naar men mij berigt weshalve mijn voornemen is tegen Dingsdagmorgen weder te huis te koomen gaarne had ik dat tegen 8 Uur de chais bij Schuier mij afhaalde te weten Dingsdagmorgen om 8 uur: dan konden wij zo het den Heere behaagde woensdag morgen op reis gaan Zoo het den Heere behaagde: —

Jufvrouw Van Velzen heeft voor mij aan Van Velzen geschreven dat onze overkomst een paar dagen waarschijnlijk zoude later worden vanwege mijn oponthoud. Scholte en zijn vrouw groeten u.

De Heere trooste en verblijde u en Hij zij uwe verlustiging. Groet de Broeders groet de dienstboden Zoen Albertus.

Uw hartelijk Liefhebbenden Man
A. C. Van Raalte⁴

1. Normally Van Raalte uses the address: "Geliefde Vrouw" or "Hartelijk Geliefde Vrouw." "Gade" is a term used less and less frequently during the later part of the nineteenth century. Literally the term means "consort" and could be used to designate either "wife" or "husband."

2. The "l" in "welke" is missing in the text of Van Raalte's letter.

3. The reading of these last two words is difficult. There has been an editorial change, but it has not proven to be helpful. The sense of the comment is clear. The expression, itself, is not.

4. The envelope is addressed:

Mejufvrouw C.J. Van Raalte
geb: De Moen
ten huize van Ds. Van Raalte
VDM

(= Verbi Domini Minister, Minister of the Word of God)
Genemuiden

The envelope contains a round stamp with the following: "UTRECHT 20/7"

The envelope is sealed with red wax which bears the imprint of Van Raalte's seal: "A.C.V.R."

Hartelijk geliefde vrouw!

Zie hier een klein lettertje om U mijne overkomst tot hier medetedeelen: bij mijne aankomst in het logement al hier, ging ik dadelijk Colt opzoeken en overhandigde ze den Brief van den Heer Romein: dadelijk was hij zoo vriendelijk mij tot het supper te noodigen, in een woord ik vindt daar de harten ontsloten. Door middel van Mijnheer Colt ben ik geïntroduceerd aan den Heer Kellogg Rechter te Alleghan, deze Heer doet insgelijksch voor mij al wat Hij kan: Hij wil met mij de bewuste plaats Ada gaan zien: daarenboven wil Hij met mij de strecken langs Ionia en de grand river gaan zien: Nu neemt Hij mij mede naar zijn huis in de stad¹ allegan in Allegan County liggen er nog zes townships voor gouvernements prijs te koop: ook deze hopen wij te gaan bezien: — Door domine Hoijt krijgen wij eene Juiste afteekening van bovengenoemde townships: — de plaatsen langs de grand river moeten wij zoeken in de Stad Ionia —

Door dit bestuur van Gods voorzienigheid zal ik mij in deze strecken wel enkele weken moeten ophouden: wanneer gij mij dan iets te schrijven hebt dan is mijn adres ten huize van Domine Hoijt wanneer gij geen adres weet te schrijven dan wil U Mijnheer Romeijn of Domine Duffield U wel helpen: — Domine Hoijt is zeer hulpvaardig, hier logeer ik, het schijnt een allesints godzalig man, mijnh: Colt insgelijksch vreest God: De Richter Kellogg wordt ook algemeen geschat als een trouw regtvaardig en verstandig man: Zoodat ik allesints reden van dankstof heb aan god van in zulke handen geraakt te zijn: — meer en meer denk ik dat deze Staat Michigan wel de Staat onzer wooning zal worden: bid veel den Heere dat Hij ons genadig zij en helpe dat Hij mij kennelijk moge leiden en ons

dat geve wat goed voor ons is: Ja bid veel: — geliefde vrouw gij hebt U over al het goede dat ik van rondsom ontmoet U zeer te verblijden gij moet dus niet droevig en onvergenoegd zijn maar gij moet God danken, want waarlijk wij genieten in dit vreemdelingsland veele voorrechten: —

Kus de kindertjes voor mij, laat Benjamin met veel eeten en zeg hen dat ik ze smeek dat zij U willen gehoorzamen, en dat ze goed willen leeren: vraag aan Grootenhuis of Hij hen dagelijksch een les wel geven: - groet Jennigje Groothuis en Janna: — Wil ook vooral Ds. West en Duffield van mij groeten alsmede Mijnh Romeijn en Z. Edele² dit briefje overhandigen: —

Wanneer ik mijne onderzoekingen hier geeindigd zal hebben zoo hoop ik U wederom te schrijven: — Nu dierbare, rust in God zie af van uwe eigene bedenkingen, onderwerp U aan zijn wil en vertrouw Hem Uw lot toe, lieve vrouw zonder daags een uur af tot lezen en bidden, ach wees niet zo gejaagd op uw werk, zorg voor uwe ziele: wanneer zij welvaart zal al uw werk beter gaan: — Vaartwel allen wel

*Uwenhartelijklieffebenden Vriend Broeder
en Man A. C. Van Raalte³*

1. "De Stad" has been added above the line.
2. Z. Edele = Zijne Edelheid.
3. The envelope is addressed:

Mrs. A.C. Van Raalte
born de Moen
to the care of Mr. William Witherspoon
of Detroit

There is a round blue stamp on the envelope which reads: "KALAMAZOO DEC 25 MICH."

Dierbare Vrouw!

Gisteren van eene reize naar de Black rivier terug gekomen zijnde alhier ten huize van den Heer Kellog, werdt ik zeer verblijd door uw briefje: ik had kommer in mijn hart over U en de kinderen, ik ben blijde dat God U gespaard heeft: de deelnemende en hartelijke letteren van Ds. Wijckoff waren mij zeer aangenaam ook die van Mijnh: Romeijn: ik hoop ze U tehuiskomende te vertalen: Ik heb het op reis goed gehad en Mijnh: Kellog en vrouw bewijzen mij zeer vriendschap zij laten U hartelijk groeten en hoopen te eenige tijd uw aangezicht te ontmoeten: aan de Black rivier heb ik eenigen tijd in het huis van een leeraar Smith doorgebracht en vond daar ook groote hartelijkheid: mijne reizen langs de ongebaande wegen waren moeilijk doch de Heere heeft geholpen: - op morgen hoop ik naar de stad Grand Haven aan de Grand rivier te reizen, ten einde daar op de kantoren eenige onderzoekingen te doen: van daar hoop ik naar Kalamazoo te reizen wanneer er niets in de weg komt: en dan hoop ik eenige dagen weer bij U in Detroit te komen, tot dat mij door de omstandigheden verder de weg duidelijk wordt: - wanneer ik onverhoopt te Kalamazoo de reis nog niet naar huis kon nemen dan hoop ik U van daar te schrijven: ik zend U ingeslotene letteren opdat gij ze leezen moogt, dan kunt gij meer de loop mijner denkbeeld en de stand der zaken gadeslaan: laat de brief t.w.² de redenen waarom Michigan mij boven Wisconsin weegt door Groothuis copieeren: laat Groothuis voor mij in persoon de brief op de post doen: — zorg dat dezelve goed gesloten wordt: wanneer Mijnh. Romeijn somwylen daar was dat Hij dan die brief leze: doch Groothuis moet hem op de post brengen: — groet Mijnh. Romein hartelijk Hem dankende voor zijne deelneming en veelvuldige vriendschap tijdgebrek maakt dat ik Hem niet

FROM HEART TO HEART

*Letters from the
Rev. Albertus Christiaan Van Raalte
to His Wife,
Christina Johanna Van Raalte-De Moen,
1836 – 1847*

Edited by
Leonard Sweetman

Translated by
Egbert Ralph Post
Leonard Sweetman
David Van Vliet

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Dearlly Beloved Wife!

Here is a short letter to inform you of my travels so far. Soon after my arrival at the inn, I went immediately to call on Mr. Colt¹ and handed him the letter from Mr. Romeyn.² Immediately he was very friendly and invited me for supper. To state the matter succinctly, I experienced much cordiality there. Mr. Colt introduced me to Mr. Kellogg³ the judge in Allegan. This gentleman is doing everything he can to help me. He wishes to go with me to visit the place called Ada as well as other regions near Ionia and along the Grand River. He will take me to his house in the city of Allegan. Six townships in Allegan County are still for sale at government prices, and we hope to visit these also. Reverend Hoyt⁴ will furnish us with a correct drawing of the townships I have mentioned: in the city of Ionia we must make inquiries about the places along the Grand River.

Because of this evidence of God's providence, I shall have to stay in this area for several weeks. If you have something to write to me, my address will be the home of Reverend Hoyt. If you do not know the address, Romeyn or Reverend Duffield⁵ will be able to help you. Reverend Hoyt is very helpful, and seems to be a godly man. At present I am staying with him. In general everyone regards Judge Kellogg as a faithful, upright, and understanding man. In this entire matter I have reason to thank God that I have come into contact with these people. More and more I think that the state of Michigan is the place in which we shall make our home. Pray to the Lord that He clearly may lead me, and that He may give us what is good for us. Yes, pray fervently. Beloved Wife, you have much to fill you with joy concerning all the good things which I have encountered in this matter. Therefore you ought not be sorrowful

and discontented. You, rather, ought to give thanks to God because we certainly enjoy many privileges in this strange country.

Kiss the children for me. Do not let Benjamin eat too much. Tell them that I plead with them that they will obey you, and that they will study well. Ask Grootenhuis⁶ if he can give them instruction every day. Greet Jennigje Groothuis⁷ and Janna. Greet the Revs. West⁸ and Duffield for me, and, also, Mr. Romeyn. Turn this letter over, moreover, to His Honor.

When I have completed my investigations here I hope to write to you again. Now, dear one, rest in the Lord. Abandon your own considerations; subject yourself to God's will; and commit your way to Him, dear Wife, with reading of scripture and prayer forming a part of every hour of the day. O do not be so agitated about your own work. Take care of your soul. When your soul prospers all your work will flourish. May all of you prosper.

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

1. Mr. Colt — M.I. Colt — Theodore Romeyn, (cf. below), gave A.C. Van Raalte a letter of introduction to M.I. Colt who resided in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Mr. Colt then presented Van Raalte to the Rev. Ova P. Hoyt, a Presbyterian minister. These two introduced Van Raalte to Judge Kellogg of Allegan. The three men impressed Van Raalte as "God-fearing, upright gentlemen." Cf. Henry S. Lucas, *op. cit.*, p. 75.

2. Mr. Romeyn — Theodore Romeyn lived in Detroit at the time that Van Raalte and the immigrants he led resided temporarily in Detroit while Van Raalte investigated possible locales in which the Colony could be established. He was a Scotch Presbyterian, whose father and brother were ministers in the Dutch Reformed Church in New York. Theodore Romeyn, himself, was a lawyer. His brother informed him by post of the imminent arrival of the Van Raalte party in Detroit and committed this party to his care. Although

Romeyn understood only a few words of Dutch, he sought out a woman who understood Dutch and who served as an interpreter between Mrs. Romeyn and Mrs. Van Raalte.

Mr. Romeyn arranged for a boarding house in which the Van Raalte family lodged for the rate of \$2.25 per day. The rest of the Van Raalte party was assigned a room in a warehouse which belonged to a Scotch baker, William Witherspoon. Later Van Raalte rented an apartment for his family from Mr. Witherspoon for the rate of \$4.00 per month.

Theodore Romeyn's brother indicated that a few thousand people intended to immigrate from the Netherlands, and that this group was looking for a place to settle permanently in "the West." The brother wished to find out what happened to these people whom he had met as they were passing through New York.

As Van Raalte began his trip to the western area of Michigan to investigate all the places which had been suggested as possible sites for the projected Colony, Theodore Romeyn sent a letter of introduction to acquaintances of his such as Mr. M.I. Colt.

Cf. Herbert J. Brinks and Zwanet Janssens, eds., *Voices From North America*, John Dahm, translator. Grand Rapids: Heritage Hall Publications #3, 1992, pp. 27, 32. Cf., also, Henry S. Lucas, *Netherlanders in America*, op. cit., pp. 134, 263, 419.

4. Rev. Hoyt — The Rev. Ova P. Hoyt was a Presbyterian pastor in Kalamazoo. Cf. Note 1, above.

5. Rev. Duffield — This person was a Presbyterian pastor in Detroit who wrote a letter of introduction for Van Raalte as he planned to make a trip to Lockport, Illinois to meet employers there in search of a place to establish the Colony. Duffield impressed Van Raalte enormously: ". . . my heart has been refreshed not only by Rev. Duffield's preaching but by the prayers of some of the brethren on prayer day. I felt that these people were my own. I loved them with the same sweet bonds that bind me to those God-fearing friends I left behind in the Netherlands . . . Rev. Duffield searches and preaches a great deal from the Old Testament prophets, and he interprets them in such a manner that he expects a storm of God's judgment to burst over Europe. He believes that the words 'Leave my people, lest thou be part of their plagues' should also be applied to our times. Many who share this conviction receive us here with open arms. Churches in general, but especially confessionally orthodox groups, are very interested in the migration of religious people." *Voices From North America*, op. cit., p. 26. The Rev. Duffield served Van Raalte as an advisor concerning the matter of determining the place in which the group should settle.

6. Grootenhuis — Bernardus Grootenhuis was dispatched by the Detroit Committee in cooperation with the New York organization which was generated to protect Dutch immigrants from cheats and con men during the process of the movements from shipboard to their final destination in North America. Grootenhuis and his wife, Jennigje, with "four American laborers" preceded A.C. Van Raalte and the rest of the Dutch immigrants to the site of the Colony to make preparations for the new community. They chopped a road through the forest from the Fairbanks and Smith houses at Old Way Mission to the site of Holland near the mouth of the Black River. The band of immigrants arrived at the site on the evening of 9 February 1847. The women and children had been left behind in Allegan. Other families were left in St. Clair because they were "working families." There were even some immigrant families who joined them from New York or New Orleans. All of these people soon assembled at the site of Holland, the Colony.

Grootenhuis also assisted J. Dumont who as the successor of the Allegan County surveyor completed the survey of Holland.

Cf. Jacob Van Hinte, *Netherlanders in America*, op. cit., p. 137.

7. Jennigje Grootenhuis — She was the wife of Bernardus Grootenhuis. Her primary role in the community was to serve as a companion to Mrs. Christina Johanna Van Raalte in the absence of A.C. Van Raalte.

Cf. Henry S. Lucas, *Netherlanders in America*, op. cit., p. 73.

8. Rev. West — A pastor or minister in Detroit who served as one of the advisors to A.C. Van Raalte in determining the location of the settlement, the Colony.

Dec. 25, 1846

Hyman

CHAPTER V

Van Raalte's Scouting Trip

ONE of the most remarkable episodes in the history of Michigan and perhaps also of the United States as a whole is the execution of a plan formed by the Rev. Van Raalte before he left the city of Arnhem in the Netherlands. His aim was to obtain absolute control of a region in western Michigan where he might shape a whole community in accordance with his own concept of a perfect society. With that idea firmly held in his mind he labored until the day of his death in 1876 to bring into being a Christian colony with one main city and around it several villages. Churches and Christian schools were to help his followers to become worthy disciples of John Calvin and the great Reformed thinkers in his native land.

As we study the letter mailed to his wife on December 25, 1846, we see in imagination a wonder scene just as he saw it. He was the creator, and the other immigrants were fellow-workers. Hundreds upon hundreds of Separatists in the Netherlands chose to become his assistants in an adventure of enormous scope. Even today, one hundred years after the founding of the first Dutch settlement in Michigan, we have by no means witnessed the culmination of his scheme. All that we have seen is

Hyman

merely the first hundred years of progress, with each successive decade adding many more thousands of persons to the people of Michigan who are here because of this one man.

As the Reformed and Christian Reformed churches in Michigan gather within their folds ever larger crowds of children, we observe clearly what Van Raalte had in mind. Grand Rapids has become the Holy City for all members of the Christian Reformed Church, scattered though they are throughout North America. Not only Hope College, which was founded by Van Raalte, but also Calvin College in Grand Rapids, is the fruit of his thoughts. Van Raalte labored in the spirit of the early Christian Church, as he ministered to the poor and the sick, and brought children to the house of God. Grand Rapids and Holland produce an immense amount of religious literature, far out of proportion to the size of these cities. Perhaps the average tourist has overlooked this important development, but he might pause some day and ask why one of Van Raalte's admirers in Grand Rapids has printed a statement on the front page of his catalog to the effect that he publishes the largest number of religious books in the United States. He does that because Van Raalte has inspired him with his vision of a new Jerusalem along Calvinistic lines of thought and action.

At the end of December 1846 we find Van Raalte setting forth on a daring adventure. Far more pleasant would have been a scouting trip in late spring or early

Dec 25, 1846

to connect Lake Erie with the canal that goes from Chicago to the Illinois River, and also with the Mississippi. This line will become important, for it will provide the best opportunity to get to the markets in all directions. That will enable the colonists to obtain ready cash for their wares."

Although Van Raalte in his letter to Brummelkamp made it clear that he spent the first two weeks of December 1846 in Detroit and wrote an account of his residence there on December 16th, it was believed for many years that he "returned East, to consult with friends in New York, Albany, Rochester and other points, and proceeded thence to Washington, where through the agency of friends in Detroit he made the valuable acquaintance of Gen. Cass, then United States Senator from this State." It was also believed that "from there he traveled westward, stopping at Racine, Chicago, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, St. Louis and several other points in Illinois and Iowa."²

The letter which Van Raalte finished in Detroit on December 16, 1846, was followed by another after he had returned from a trip to the present site of Holland, and it was dated "Detroit in Michigan, January 30, 1847". It was published by Brummelkamp in the month of March

2. This was the opinion of Hon. Gerrit Van Schelven, the author of an influential article entitled "Michigan and the Holland Immigrant of 1847," published in *Michigan History Magazine*, Vol. I (1917), pp. 72-108. The quotation given above is from p. 75. Since Van Raalte was still in Detroit on December 16th and wrote his wife from Kalamazoo on December 24th or 25th, it is obvious that he could not have taken that extensive trip mentioned by Van Schelven, except at a later time.

Hegma

1847.³ We shall give copious extracts below from this important document, but first we must examine a letter written by Van Raalte in Kalamazoo and addressed to his wife, then living in the home of Mr. William Witherpoon in Detroit. The letter, having as yet no envelope to go with it, was postmarked Kalamazoo, December 25, 1846. Van Raalte's own super-subscription reads: "Thursday morning Kalamanzoo, December, 1846."

This document is the first contemporary source revealing what had made Van Raalte decide to found his colony ✓ in Michigan, as it precedes the letter addressed to Brummelkamp by about four weeks and the famous Van Raalte lecture of 1872 by 25 years. It has been very well preserved. Van Raalte writes as follows: "Cordially Beloved Wife! Here you have a short letter to inform you about my arrival here. Immediately upon my arrival at the boarding house I went to Mr. Colt, and I presented him with the letter from Mr. Romeyn. He was at once so kind as to invite me to supper. In short, I found there the hearts opened. Through Mr. Colt I was introduced to Mr. Kellogg, the judge at Allegan, and this gentleman is also doing all he can for me. He wants to go with me to see the place called Ada. Furthermore, he wishes to study with me the country along the Ionia and Grand rivers. He is now taking me along to his house in the city of Allegan. In Allegan County there are still six town-

3. The letter appeared in a pamphlet entitled, *Holland in Amerika of de Hollandsche Kolonisatie in den staat Michigan, medegedeeld door A. Brummelkamp* (Arnhem: J. W. Swaan, 1847). ✓

ships that can be bought at government prices. We also hope to see these.

"Through the Rev. Hoyt we shall obtain a correct description of these townships; the places along the Grand River we must look up in the city of Ionia. Through this providential guidance of God I shall have to spend a few weeks here in this region. If you wish to write me you can send the letter to the home of the Rev. Hoyt. If you don't know where to address me, Mr. Romeijn or the Rev. Duffield will help you. The Rev. Hoyt is very helpful. I am living with him, and he seems to be a godly man. Mr. Colt also fears God. Judge Kellogg is generally respected as a true, righteous, and intelligent person. For this reason I have cause for gratitude that I have fallen into such good hands.

"I believe that the state of Michigan will be our home. Pray much to God that He will help us mercifully and that He may guide me in such a way that I will know it and that He may give us that which is good for us. Yes, pray much. Dear wife, you have good reason for rejoicing in all the good things I have experienced all around me. So you must not be dejected and dissatisfied, but you must thank God, for truly we enjoy in this foreign land many privileges. Kiss the children for me. Don't let Benjamin eat too much, and tell them that I urge them to obey you, and that they will study hard. Ask Grotenhuis if he will teach them each Sunday a lesson. Give my best regards to Jennigje Groothuis and Janna; also the Rev. West and Duffield, and Mr. Romeijn."

Who those children were that Mrs. Van Raalte was to kiss for him can be gathered from a letter written by one of their cousins in Arnhem. This was a boy named Benjamin Brummelkamp, who dated his letter Arnhem, September 25, 1846; and on the reverse page he put the following address: "To Master A. C. Van Raalte on his trip to North America, at Rotterdam." He wrote: "Dear Albertus! I could not refrain from asking Father if I might write you. I hope that the Lord will be with Uncle, Aunt, Stina, and Benjamin, and the whole family. I care so much for them, and they surely also for me. I am so sorry that you had to leave us, and that perhaps we shall never see you again. Give my best regards to Uncle, Aunt, Stina, Benjamin, and Jennegi Tanmy. Tell them that I love them dearly."

Fortunately we need not rely too much on this letter from a mere child, but we are happy to have found it in the old Van Raalte home, neglected by historians for more than a century, as is also true of thousands of other Van Raalte documents. In the year 1945 the Netherlands Museum at Holland, Mich., acquired a photostatic reproduction of the passenger list from the company that used to own the *Southerner*. This list shows that the captain was Tutly Crosby, and the bark's port was Boston. One hundred and ten passengers were on board, all from the Netherlands. Each was numbered, and the only cabin passengers were the members of the Van Raalte family, numbered as follows: 103 Albertus Christiaan van Raalte, 104 Johanna Christina van Raalte, for Christina Johanna, 105 Albertus van Raalte, 106 Johanna Maria van Raalte.