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Letter from John Roost to A. C. V. R.

John Roost

C. Greenfield

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September 11, 1858 New York City

A letter from John Roost to ACVR. Roost is apparently selling bonds [for the Holland Harbor?] and discusses business matters with ACVR.

Translated by Rev. C. Greenfield; do not have copy of the original letter.

Calvin College Archives, ACVR collection, Box 8, fldr 123.

Calvin C. Arch
DC VR coll
Box 8, folder 123

Roost to A. C. Van Raalte

September 11, 1858

New York, N.Y.

A. C. Van Raalte

Dear Friend,

Having at present some time and it being too early, I would inform you that up to this moment I have received orders for \$1520 in New York and Brooklyn. I hope Van Rensselaer is home and that with the son of Van Williamson he will defend me (in case Mr. Gerritson comes to the city, he may be good, but work, work!! that is the goal. He is the one who must testify at the banks that I am John Roost) in order to place \$1700 in the Bank of New York. A certificate of that I will immediately send you. I have been at the Consul and he did not have time but next Wednesday is designated for me to meet him. There is treachery but I will find out about it all right. He asked me such questions, in regard to the acceptance, the person and manner of it, that I'm afraid. However, the wickedness of men God will make commendable and for the rest bind that up. Tomorrow night I must again go to Albany because I have to be there Monday. Consequently, I'll be busy today. On my trip from Albany to New York I stopped at Mr. Renolds in Kingston. He promised to write me in Albany or New York. On that same day I was in Poughkeepsie because I had a letter for Dr. Hageman, but I could not speak with him because I could not stay there longer than a night. I did, however, stick a letter in his door, hoping for the best. Mr. Smith, in Brooklyn, would not do anything. He had done enough, yes, more than his share, for the Holland Colony. I regretted that, for a while, on the one hand it was becoming darker; on the other, streams of light were

shining. God is good; whatever frustrates or changes, He remains the same. His father-heart is always open, His eyes are on the righteous, and His ears open to their cries. That is my comfort and my strength and as one reads in Psalm 119, that my soul clings after You. That which Your Word says to me, gives to my heart comfort, spirit, and life.

Also I have sold two hundred dollars worth of bonds to Mr. A. C. van Raalte, Holland, Michigan. The condition: at the payment through a note and mortgage, at present in the hands of Mr. Sydam, they be increased to \$750 minus \$150, leaving a note of \$600 with the remaining fifty dollars as payment for the anticipated interest of the \$600. That was the best that I could do with him. In return, kindly write me as quickly as possible whether you accept that. Then I will see that it is removed from the note and try to get a receipt, leaving you then your debt at \$600 and the interest prepaid for over a year. As your agent, I can sell your bonds all right so that the town will get what is its, and the rest is clear profit for you. Mr. Sydam is afraid he will become poor. ✓ /

I have spoken with Rev. B. B. Campfield, Jr. He had written you in regard to Sunday schools. He read the letter to me. He was surprised that he did not get a reply from you. He brought to my attention an article in the Intelligencer of September 9. Read it for yourself. The letter perhaps gave you the impression that it was intended for getting something. On the contrary, it was for giving something away. There are funds on hand for the Sunday schools and books. He is desirous that a godly man or student who would make it his primary work, establish Sunday schools in Holland and other places and lead them himself. For this, men are willing to pay him a dollar a day, besides the needed books each school would require. I was urgently requested to write this to you.

Do not neglect my family. It grieves me to think that my dear children are as without their father because of my absence. I still have not had a letter. I hope you have received the \$150 from Detroit. Write to New York as soon as possible after receiving this letter. Greet my wife, etc. I don't have time to write more, otherwise I would still write my wife but I will do that Monday. Now then, hearty greetings, faithfully your friend,

John Roost

Translated by Rev. C. Greenfield