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11-27-1873

A Letter of A. C. V. R. to His Son and Daughter-in-Law, Ben and Julia Van Raalte

A. C. Van Raalte

Erica D. Heeg

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November 27, 1873 Spring Lake, Illinois

A letter of ACVR to his son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Julia Van Raalte, congratulating them upon the birth of their first child, a daughter. ACVR's piety shines through the letter and he signs his letter, your affectionate father.

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Hope College Archives, Reimold collection.

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November 27, 1873

Spring Lake, Illinois

A letter from ACVR to his son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Julia Van Raalte; it congratulates them upon the birth of their first child, a daughter. ACVR's piety shines through the letter and he signs his letter, "your affectionate father."

Hope College Archives, Reimold collection.

Spring Lake Ill: Nov: 27/1873.

Father Ben & Mother Julia. Dear Children.

I do rejoice in your blessings: O! I remember my joy in mothers gratitude at such occasions: and now I do live over anon my past life in your Joy. Now my children your joy and blessing wil be elevated in accordance: that your hearts are lifted up to God on account of his help and blessing.

My heart and prayer is with you: that the mother may Soon given back in health and strength to her Home Circle and that the Lord may give you both grace for Your new Calling.

Your firstborn is a daughter: I tell you about a firstborn daughter, one of my ideas:

The firstborn child has always When spared a great influence upon the education and formation of the Character of all the Children: but if the firstborn is a daughter be then certain of it that you have in her the greatest influence and power for moulding the destiny of your future family life and the character of the whole family:

I tell you this, that you may be aware of the great importance of the new Comer: if She wil grow up to be strong character than She wil give the Stamp, or the Steady Course and Character to all the Children: that Could not be done by a Boy: a Sisters influence if She is of a Sound disposition and of a God living and a God Seeking Course is of the dearest and sweetest influence:

Pray for the Child, watch her with great interest and surround her Steadily with divine principles, because She wil take out of your hands a great deal of the direction and Control of the family and following children.

Please kiss the young born my granddaughter and give her to read this letter when She is able to read the Same.

Your Brother Gilmore and Lady also Sister Mary Congratulate You. I am Somewhat unfit for writing, having Caught a Cold and feeling unwell.

I left St: Louis two days ago, having in view Thanksgiving Day to spend with my children and to enjoy Home Which I did not find among strangers.

farewell! May the Lord bless you above all with Spiritual blessings in Jesus.

Your affectionate father A.C. Van Raalte

Transcribed by Erica D. Heeg December 1, 2003

November 27, 1873 Spring Lake, Illinois

A letter of ACVR to his son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Julia Van Raalte, congratulating them upon the birth of their first child, a daughter. ACVR's piety shines through the letter and he signs his letter, your affectionate father.

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