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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.

Hope College Archives, Reimold collection.

Remond call, Hape C.

Congratulate you.

Jan. Small that  
was it for writing, having  
caught a cold and  
feeling unwell.

I left St. Louis two days  
<sup>ago</sup> before, 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 all with spiritu-  
al blessings in Jesus!

Your affectionate  
father  
M. VanHaelte.

Spring Lake  
Ill.  
Nov. 27/1873.

Father Ben & Mother Julia.  
Dear Children.

I do  
rejoice in your blessing. O!  
I remember very joy in mothers  
gratitude at such occasions.  
and now I do live over anew  
my past life in your joy.  
now my children your joy  
and blessing will 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 be given back in health  
and strength to her Home circle.

and that the Lord may  
give you both grace for your  
new calling. -

Your first born is a daughter.  
I tell you about a first born  
daughter, one of my ideals: -

The first born child has al-  
ways when I spare a great  
influence upon the education  
and formation of the character  
of all the children: but if  
the first born is a daughter  
be then certain of it that you  
have in her the greatest in-  
fluence and power for moulding  
the destiny of your future  
family life and the charac-  
ter of the whole family.

I tell you this, that you  
may be aware of the great  
importance of the new form:  
if she will grow up to be strong  
character than she will 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 loving and a God  
seeking Course is of the dearest  
and sweetest influence.

Pray for the child, watch her  
<sup>with</sup> great interest and surround  
her steadily with divine  
principles, because she will  
take out of your hands a  
great deal of the direction  
and control of the family  
and following children. -

I please to give the young  
born my grand daughter  
and give her to read this  
letter when she is able  
to read the same.

Your Brother Gilmore  
and Lucy also Sister Mary

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 will 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.

Hope College Archives, Reimold collection.

Remold call, Hape C.

Congratulate you.

I am somewhat  
unfit for writing, having  
caught a cold and  
feeling unwell.

I left St. Louis two days  
<sup>ago</sup> before, 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 spiritu-  
al blessings in Jesus!

Your affectionate  
father  
A. Van Sante.

Spring Lake  
Ill.  
Nov. 27/1873.

Father Ben & Mother Julia.  
Dear Children.

I do  
rejoice in your blessing! O!  
I remember very joy in mother's  
gratitude at such occasions:  
and now I do live over anew  
my past life in your joy. -  
now my children your joy  
and blessing will 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 ideals. -

The firstborn child has al-  
ways 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 in-  
fluence and power. God would  
the destiny of your future  
family life and the charac-  
ter of the whole family.

Tell you this, that you  
may be aware of the great  
importance of the new form:  
if she will grow up to be strong  
character than she will give

the Stamp of the Steady  
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children: that could not be  
done by a Boy: a Sisters influence  
if she is of a sound disposition  
and of a God loving and a God  
Seeking Course is of the dearest  
and sweetest influence.

Pray for the child, watch her  
<sup>with</sup> great interest and surround  
her steadily with divine  
principles, because she will  
take out of your hands a  
great deal of the direction  
and control of the family  
and following children. -

Please try the young  
born my grand daughter  
and give her to read this  
letter. When she is able  
to read the same.

Your Brother Elmore  
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  
<sup>ago</sup> before, - 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 all with spiritu-  
al blessings in Jesus!

Your affectionate  
father  
M. Van Ratta.

Spring Lake  
Ill.  
Nov. 27/1873.

Father Ben & Mother Julia.

Dear Children.

I do  
rejoice in your blessing. O!  
I remember very joy in mother's  
gratitude at such occasions:  
and now I do live over and  
my past life in your joy. -  
now my children your joy  
and blessing will 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 be given back in health  
and strength to her Home circle.

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and that the Lord may  
give you both grace for your  
new calling. -

Your first born daughter.  
I tell you about a first born  
daughter, one of my ideas: -

The first born child has al-  
ways when spared a great  
influence upon the education  
and formation of the character  
of all the children: but if  
the first born is a daughter  
be then certain of it that you  
have in her the greatest in-  
fluence and power for moulding  
the destiny of your future  
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ter of the whole family.

Tell you this, that you  
may be aware of the great  
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if she will grow up to be strong  
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The Stamp is the steady  
course and character to all the  
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if she is of a sound disposition  
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and control of the family  
and following children. -

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born my grand daughter  
and give her to read this  
letter when she is able  
to read the same.

Your Brother G. Brown  
and Lady also Sister Mary