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### Article Published in the Christian Intelligencer and Republished in the New York Observer and Chronicle

Thomas De Witt

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New York Observer and Chronicle, September 29, 1859.

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#### Recommended Citation

De Witt, Thomas, "Article Published in the Christian Intelligencer and Republished in the New York Observer and Chronicle" (1859). *Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859*. 445.

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29 September 1859

New York City (?)

On this date there appeared in an issue of the *New York Observer and Chronicle* a copy of the article on the Holland Colony written by Rev. Thomas De Witt and published in the *Christian Intelligencer*.

Location of the original is unknown.

# REFORMED DUTCH.

## THE HOLLAND COLONY.

We published last week an account of the Holland Colony in Michigan, from the pen of Rev. Dr. Dewitt. We make some extracts below from his letter in the *Intelligencer* in reference to his late visit.

On Tuesday afternoon, we reached the village of Holland. As we emerged from the forest, the village at the head of Black Lake, already covering a considerable extent with fair edifices, burst upon our view, and produced a pleasant impression.

We were at once greeted by Dr. Van Raalte, and introduced to his interesting family. Having remained with them three days, I cannot but pay a passing tribute to Mrs. Van Raalte. I was deeply impressed with what appeared to me her intelligent and deep-toned piety, and one who was well fitted to be the companion of our brother, in all the sacrifices, toils, and hardships he has been called to encounter. The atmosphere of piety which pervaded the household—well ordered in the habits of devotion and religious instruction—arrested my attention. Arrangement was made for a visit to some of the neighboring congregations. The colony extends several miles around from the village of Holland, which has been brought under farming culture, and five or six churches have been formed. At the time suggested for this visit, I felt considerably unwell, which prevented my leaving the village, and made me feel the expedience of not prolonging my return home. On the review of my visit, I greatly regret that I did not succeed in reaching some of the adjacent settlements in the colony.

In passing round the village, Dr. Van Raalte first showed to me the old log-church, not far from his house, in the upper part of the village, erected in the very infancy of the settlement. This building, some time since, gave way to the present spacious edifice, which is quite a conspicuous object on entering the place. He said there were many precious recollections connected with this old and homely building. In the seasons of their greatest hardships and difficulties, they had found there refreshment and consolation in their communion with their Saviour and each other, tending to the establishment of their faith, and their encouragement in their work.

I have alluded to the Academy founded at the village of Holland. It was the design of Dr. Van Raalte and his associate, from the early settlement of the colony, to direct special attention to the great subjects of religion and education. Hence, early, church-edifices were erected, and the supply of the ministry sought and procured in the different neighborhoods, and a decided tone of religious character has pervaded the extent of the colony. A solicitude was felt, as soon as practicable, to obtain suitable means of education, and gradually to introduce the children and youth into the knowledge of the English language and literature. For this Dr. Van Raalte assiduously labored; and, by the aid and co-operation of the friends of the Reformed Dutch Church here, this object was soon obtained. The Academy was organized and conducted under the superintendence of competent Principals, selected out of our churches here. A very handsome, quite spacious, and convenient brick building has been erected on a most eligible site, which will accommodate, besides the family of the principal, a very considerable number of students drawn from the Holland churches of the colony and adjacent parts. It is quite the ornament of the village. The influence of the Academy in its general bearing is most salutary. It has a special value in raising up and furnishing a supply of ministers for their churches. Besides the churches in the colony, there are quite a number in the western parts of Michigan adjacent, and in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. Several of these churches are now in want of ministers, and there is a difficulty in procuring those of a suitable character from Holland. The pious young men educated in this Academy, will pursue and complete their course in our College and Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, and will go back to the Dutch and

DOMESTIC.

*New York Observer and Chronicle (1833-1912): Sep 29, 1859: 37, 39; APS Online*

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This brief visit to the Holland colony has increased my interest in it, and enabled me to assure all those who have contributed to its interests, that their contributions have been worthily and beneficially bestowed, and to commend these churches of the Hollanders in the West to their continued confidence and kindness. These Hollanders came here, having but small portions of wealth, but pos-

essed of untiring industry, and strong adherence to their Christian faith, and now they have made their way to the position which they occupy in the community, and in the Christian church. Our ancestral recollections, our identity with them in the faith of doctrine, and the order of church government and worship, and the remembrance of the stand which they took, and the sacrifices which they made for the truth, entitle them to our cordial confidence and sympathy.

At a special meeting of the North Classis of Long Island, a call of the church of Newtown, upon Rev. William Anderson, was approved; also a call of the church of Flushing, upon the Rev. W. W. Hallaway; and arrangements were made for the installation of each.