

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1840-1849

Van Raalte Papers

6-10-1847

Report to the General Synod About His Trip to the Netherlands in the Christian Intelligencer "Dr. De Witt's Visit to Europe"

Thomas De Witt

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1840s

Christian Intelligencer, June 10, 1847, p. 191.

Recommended Citation

De Witt, Thomas, "Report to the General Synod About His Trip to the Netherlands in the Christian Intelligencer "Dr. De Witt's Visit to Europe"" (1847). *Van Raalte Papers: 1840-1849*. 270. https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1840s/270

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Van Raalte Papers at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Van Raalte Papers: 1840-1849 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

June 10, 1847

A record of the report of the Rev. Thomas De Witt to the General Synod about his trip to the Netherlands from which he had recently returned, as printed in the Christian Intelligencer, p. 191.

Rev. H. P. Scholte is in New York City just at that time.

De Witt speaks positively about the emigrants out of the Afscheiding who are coming to America in considerable numbers.

of the Church.
 previous arrangement by the Synod, the
 all of the benevolent institutions of the
 at this evening, in the Reformed Protestant
 Franklin street. The President presided,
 mus, and announced the speakers. The
 commenced by singing the 99th hymn—
 "are their feet," &c. Prayer was offered
 Fisher, the Corresponding Delegate from
 Reformed Synod. An address was then deliv-
 J. C. Sears, on the subject of Foreign Mis-
 sions upon the practicability—the means of ac-
 cording duty of engaging in, and the motives to
 pursue. After this, a collection was taken up in
 aid of Missions. The Rev. David Murdock
 addressed the audience on the subject of Domestic
 Missions, and well upon the importance of this work—
 that of Foreign Missions—spoke of the
 Dutch Church in this service—mentioned
 the work, and the vast importance of its
 progress, especially in this country.
 The 2d book was then sung—"Salva-
 tion." &c. After this, the Rev. J. B.
 addressed on the subject of Beneficiary
 Missions, and the importance and necessity of an
 in the West as well as the East, in view
 of various forms of infidelity, and of the
 spread of Romanism. The addresses
 and interesting, and the entire exercises
 such as were calculated to advance the
 object of which the meeting had been held.

At 8 o'clock A. M.
 commenced with prayer by the President.
 members of the Classis of Rensselaer, ap-
 peared to take their seats. The Elder Peter G.
 of Uster, took the seat of his prede-
 cessor, Mylerson.

By Rev. John H. Van Buren.
 consideration of the unfinished busi-
 ness, which was the complaint against the
 in relation to their declension in the
 against the Rev. Dr. McLean. The
 purpose of giving the members an
 opportunity of giving their opinions, was continued. All
 members of the Synod of Albany, were called.
 and till 12 o'clock, when the roll was
 read and then made and seconded that the
 An amendment was offered, which
 contained in the charges against Dr.
 the discussion the simple question
 was put. On taking this question
 up in the affirmative. It was then
 committee was appointed to prepare a
 report of the several grounds of the
 of the Classis of Montgomery in-
 stated the following as the Commit-
 tee by the house: Rev. B. Q. Taylor,
 Mansford Wells, and the Elders
 &c.

Communication.
 presented to the Synod from Mr.
 on to his republication of a work
 entitled "It was proposed by some
 school board, with discretionary
 powers, to refer it to the Committee

...journey had now arrived, and the Synod
 was closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Elliot.

Dr. De Witt's Visit to Europe.

A meeting was held in the evening, in the Re-
 formed Dutch church, corner of Broome and Greene
 streets, according to the previous arrangement of the
 Synod, for the purpose of hearing from the Rev. Dr.
 De Witt a statement in relation to his recent trip to
 Europe—he having been commissioned by the Synod
 to visit Holland, and renew and promote the friendly
 intercourse with the mother Church. A large assem-
 blage was gathered to hear this statement. The
 exercises were introduced with prayer by the Rev.
 Mr. Holmes. The Dr. then commenced his address,
 which occupied about one hour. He detailed the
 particulars of his journey; spoke of his attendance
 upon the sessions of the Evangelical Alliance, the har-
 mony of which had been in some degree interrupted
 by the introduction of the question of Slavery. His
 stay in Holland was quite brief. Still he was able
 to gather much information that was interesting.
 He dwelt upon the beauty of the country, and en-
 tered somewhat into detail upon its history, both
 before and subsequent to the era of the Reforma-
 tion. He showed how the principles of civil and
 religious liberty had been early cherished and long
 maintained in Holland. He spoke of the language as
 used in Belgium and in Holland, and related on this
 subject some interesting incidents in relation to his
 preaching and speaking in that language. He then
 passed to the manners of Holland, on which he dwelt
 with much interest. He then spoke particularly of the
 happy intercourse which he had had with some of the
 leading evangelical men in the country, and particu-
 larly with the Netherlands Missionary Society. The
 General Synod was in session during his visit in Hol-
 land, but from its constitution he could not be
 admitted to its sessions. The state of religion is low.
 The confessions of faith are received and maintained,
 not because they accord with scripture, but only so
 far as in the opinions of those who receive them
 they are in accordance with the word of God. Great
 corruption has crept into the Church. He adverted
 to the secession from the Established Church, its
 origin, present state, members, &c. A part of these
 are emigrating to this country, and the spirit of emi-
 gration is increasing among them. The Rev. Mr.
 Scholte, from Utrecht, now in this city, is one of them.
 Great numbers are coming. The Dr. closed his
 address with an earnest admonition in relation to the
 responsibility and duty of the Reformed Dutch
 Church in this country, who now have the truth.
 He adverted to the state of the Church in Holland as
 a warning, and urged upon all to be faithful. But
 we cannot give anything like a full or satisfactory
 report of this address. It was listened to by the
 audience with deep interest. We hope to be able to
 present a more extended account of it at some future
 time. The exercises of the evening were closed with
 prayer by the President of the Synod.

regions of the Synod,
 energy and unparal-
 tendency of Puseyism
 many able testimonies
 of truth. The Reform
 But no able, soul-stirring,
 moral movement had been
 his magic pen, thrilled these
 sketches of its causes
 His voice has awakened
 and various histo-
 produced. The assem-
 that of Thomas Gaillard
 W. Dodd, of New York
 this work, that although
 edly handled, it is by
 given us the opening of the
 and exhibited its progress dur-
 centuries. Religion was
 associated with the civil affairs
 establishments were so
 almost impossible to give
 the distracting details
 incorporated so much of
 nations to which the de-
 gained access, as is neces-
 understood fully their res,
 to this great revolution.
 constant presentation of incidents
 ner, which, to those not familiar
 of those countries, becomes
 chosen and exhibited the prom-
 with his history. These
 while he throws in a sufficient
 dents to give interest to
 of the Reformation has left
 work, we conceive it to be
 familiar with all the incid-
 men and the scenes of which
 his readers to be as familiar
 self. Hence he alludes to them
 times, that the uninformed reader
 ing from them, or he dwells upon
 great interest and importance, whe-
 jority of American readers, who
 appreciate them as such. He
 much ground as his, and
 degree of minuteness must
 some degree of its interest.
 Mr. Gaillard has given a
 Yet he has touched it with
 minuteness. One of his excell-
 which he has presented the history
 the Church of England. He shows
 political nature, its Romanistic state
 and that for all the reformation
 possess, they were indebted to
 Reformers afterward erected
 Church establishment was
 tolic succession has been too
 the name. This history will be
 ing, as comprising the whole

Chr Intell.

17 (June 10, 1847) 191