

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1840-1849

Van Raalte Papers

10-28-1847

Article "Holland Emigrants" from the Christian Intelligencer

Thomas De Witt

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

Christian Intelligencer, October 28, 1847, p. 62.

Recommended Citation

De Witt, Thomas, "Article "Holland Emigrants" from the Christian Intelligencer" (1847). *Van Raalte Papers: 1840-1849*. 271.

https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1840s/271

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.

October 28, 1847

An article, entitled, "Holland Emigrants," by the Rev. Thomas De Witt, which appeared in the Christian Intelligencer, p. 62.

The main part of De Witt's report is on H. P. Scholte's colony at Pella, Iowa.

He also reports that he heard in a recent letter from Albertus Van Raalte who said that about 1700 persons were now in the Holland Colony in three villages.

The new sawmill has been erected and Van Raalte said that "sufficient shelter would be provided by the coming winter."

Another colony of emigrants who arrived in New York planned to settle in Wisconsin.

De Witt claimed that most of the emigrants are "pious."

Oct. 28, 1847

Thu May

name and ignominy w
his sake; and I feel th
single step that I have
avoid those things which
sometimes felt almost
deny.

Previously the calls were principally
to Ohio, Indiana and Illinois—and while
gains much yet to be done for these States,
its are lessening every year.
y years from now, the Western States,
moral wants are now exceedingly great, will
measure have ceased to ask for foreign aid,
has been partially proved heretofore will
conclusively proved then, that for every dol-
has been contributed by the East to the
n will be paid back to the common cause of
benevolence.

HOLLAND EMIGRANTS.

It will be seen by the following article, copied from the
Burlington (Iowa) Hawkeye, that the Rev. Mr. Scholte,
to whom reference has several times been made in our
columns, and who left this city about the middle of June, to
seek a settlement in one of the Western States for the emi-
grants associated with him, already arrived or soon expected,
has located the settlement in the southern part of the State
of Iowa, in the county of Marion. Already, from eight hun-
dred to a thousand have reached the place of settlement,
and the prospects of the colony are most auspicious.

DUTCH SETTLEMENT OF PELLA.—This is the name of
the town located by the colony of Holland emigrants, who
passed through the southern section of the State to their new
home in Marion county. The colony comprises between
eight hundred and a thousand persons, and a large accession
to their number is expected in the spring. They are Pro-
testants, and left their native country on account of political
and religious intolerance. On their departure from the
Netherlands, all political connection with their mother coun-
try was dissolved, and on the 17th inst. most of the men
having declared their intention to become citizens of the
United States, took the oath of allegiance. Of the two hun-
dred, but two made their mark. This speaks well for their
intelligence. Mr. Scholte, President of the Association, is
a gentleman of enterprise and learning. He was a student
of the University of Leyden at the time of the Belgian insur-
rection, and took a conspicuous part in vindicating the rights
of his country. In his zeal in advocating the cause of polit-
ical and religious liberty, he suffered much persecution, and
even imprisonment, at Utrecht. In the broad prairies of the
West, he and his followers have sought that liberty of con-
science which was denied them in their own homes. The
purchase occupies two entire townships, situated in the
northeast corner of Marion county, and extending over that
body of land lying between the Des Moines and Skunk
rivers.

It will be remembered that the Rev. Mr. Van Raalte,
who arrived here last fall, purchased a tract of land in the
western part of the State of Michigan, in Ottawa county, on
Lake Michigan. This settlement of this tract commenced
early in the spring. A recent letter from Da. Van Raalte
states that there are now about seventeen hundred Holland
emigrants, of all ages, collected on the tract, and that three
villages have been commenced at a short distance from each
other. The sawmill, for the erection of which some friends
here contributed aid, was erected, and sufficient shelter
would be provided by the coming of winter. The colony,
the great body of whom are pious, feel their faith strength-
ened, their gratitude quickened, and their hopes encouraged.
No doubt is entertained that both these colonies, led by Rev.
Messrs. Scholte and Van Raalte, will command great interest,
and exhibit growing prosperity. The Rev. Mr. Tonne, who
reached here with a body of emigrants about two months
since, purposes to settle in the State of Wisconsin. Very re-
cently, additional numbers have arrived by vessels from Hol-
land, immediately passing on to some one of these colonies.
Intercourse with them has deepened my conviction of the
pervading excellence and substantial worth of these emi-
grants from Holland. T. D. W.

GERMANS IN THE WEST.—As a preface to the interesting
paragraph below, the Commercial Advertiser thus notices
this energetic class of foreigners among us:—"A very large
portion of the German immigrants who arrive in this coun-
try, immediately proceed to the West; and but a few re-
quire the aid of the commission-

se that these constant appeals in behalf of the
re left unheeded, or answered less promptly
fully than they are now; and it be left to
and reach the mighty stature it will soon
pite of every opposing obstacle, and what
is ultimate result, not only upon itself, but
whole country? That the West is to rule
and that in the course of a very few years,
ertain as that the waters of the Mississippi
ie Gulf of Mexico. Nothing human can
is; and is view of this fact, and more than
d not to prove that it is the best policy—
er term—the policy of the Church, to see
vided immediately with the requisites to
uture development of character whose
e for good, and not for evil.

it, that the West will soon be able to do,
at measure, not only for itself, but for
ok at the sum now contributed by Ohio,
of Foreign Missions, and to home charit-
ut being able to state positively the
ill venture to say, that if the facts could
, it would be shown that she has already
d up her indebtedness, while every day
r ability and willingness to do. This is
t. Take any place in the West, where,
a missionary has planted himself down,
pport wholly from the East, and see if
t may be that his people are poor and
et it will be found that they are doing
ch, compared with others in like cir-
s. Take another place where the gos-
preached—where not even a Sunday-
organized, and what is the state of
A deeper stupidity has fallen upon
e the prospect of their ever doing
mselves or for others is lessening

rs since, an Agent of the American
'nion went into a little settlement in
h there was neither church nor
t of personal application, succeeded
individuals to attend a meeting for
of a Sunday-school. A library
was given to it, and having received
school should be carried on, he
ust one year afterwards he

SYRIA.—A letter
August 10, contains
be very grateful to those
or days in Syria. Our
Iowa:—

You will be interested
Sunday last, seven person-
table for the first time.
animated by this accession
addressing themselves to
zeal and hope. May they
out upon us all, and upon
power!

AHMED NUGGUR.—
says—"Last Sabbath
into the Church. One
the other is a brother-in-law
assistants. They have
character for more than a y-
cations in regard to a num-
not necessary to speak more

SOUTH AFRICA.—Mr. an
Cape Town on the 29th of J
sixty-one days. On the 3
Natal, and reached Port
July 14, in good health.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis
occupied by Doct. Adams
much pleased with the Nata
seen it; and he thinks that
enlarged, with the least possib

AMERICAN HO

In a report, transmitted to or
find the following interesting p
recently held in Boston, in
Missions:—

During the exercises Rev
was an interesting fact, and a
tant influence of Home Missi
in this commonwealth aided b
ty 55 have, within the last eig
independent, but contributors to

Another fact was, that of all
churches in this State, two-fifths
this Society. And in seventeen
York, six-sevenths of all the c
(Congregational) have been aided
ary Society, many of which are
tributors in support of all benevo-
churches, but for such aid, we
existence; and many of them
such aid, a hundred fold.

In the Valley of the Mississ
terian or Congregational church
sionary effort. How much has it
West, but even in our own Sta
social virtue and pure religion.

The American Home Missio
about 1000 clergymen, who pre
The receipts of the Society
\$120,000. The greatest trial o
obliged to say No to applications
churches, who look

Christian Intelligencer

Oct. 28, 1847

p. 62