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Folder 1: Gymnasium (High School) Certificate (test 2)

Albertus C. Van Raalte

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L. S.

~~Præfatus~~
Egregium juvenem Albertum Christianum
van Raalte per duos annos principis Latine
Græcæque lingue æque ac Mathematicæ Geographiæ
Historiæ et modernæ et Antiquæ Indutiæ
non exigua incumbit bona indole honestissimis
moribus semper a me cognitum fuisse attes-
tor.

Bergee

An. Meji

CLXII CCCXXIX

J. C. Heunwald
Gymnasii Bergeensis Rector

Gymnasium (High School) certificate

Gallery 5

Spijkman, Anton, Pioneer Preacher
Hunting-Hall Publications, 1976

VAN RAALTE: A "MODERN MOSES"

On October 17, 1811 a son was born into the parsonage of the Dutch Reformed Church of Wanneperveen, in the province of Overijssel, the Netherlands—one of seventeen children born to Albertus and Christina Van Raalte. At his baptism the boy was named Albertus Christiaan Van Raalte. His father was a well-established minister in the Hervormde Kerk, at that time the state church of the Netherlands. Little has come down to us from the young Albertus' boyhood years. During his adolescent years he attended the "gymnasium" in Bergen-op-Zoom, in the southern Dutch province of North Brabant, where his father was then serving the nearby congregation of Fynaart. After a two year course of study there he graduated in 1829. The rector of the "gymnasium" submitted the following certificate of achievement:

The excellent youth Albertus Christiaan Van Raalte studied with us in the gymnasium for two years, applying himself chiefly to Latin and Greek, but also to mathematics, geography, and history, both modern and ancient. He was industrious, and a young man of excellent morals.¹

Van Raalte later confessed that he had grown up rather aimlessly, without a clear purpose in his life. In 1829, however, at the age of eighteen, during the height of liberalism's ascendancy in the Netherlands, Van Raalte enrolled at Leiden University to pursue advanced studies. Two years later he enrolled in the

¹ Hyma, A., *Albertus C. Van Raalte and his Dutch Settlement in the United States*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1947, p. 28.