

To children in Kalamzoo

September 1862

Mrs. C.J. VanRaalte

Dear Children,

Through the goodness of the Lord I arrived here safely. Everything went well. I am glad that I brought you away. Now my desire and prayer is that God may cover you and protect you, and that he might give you courage and strength to serve him in your calling which he has laid on your hands. Dirk, if you come home, and you would like to have shirts then you must take the goods with you. Then I will make them and also three cotton handkerchiefs and if B. would like it, I will also make a shirt for him or underwear, then you must take the material with you. Otherwise, ask Jan Oggel to take it with him when he goes to Pijsser who will surely make the clothing for you. I'll gladly do it myself if Kirk comes home and doesn't go away too soon. Mr. Pijsser told me that you should be free to go to him at his home. They are friendly people. If you sometime have too much trouble with diarrhea, don't ignore it but tell the doctor. Do take note dear children because in these times it is dangerous.

People say that here there are a hundred or fifty Indians. It is feared that they have evil in mind. I too am somewhat fearful. In Grand Haven there are at least 500. Some say that they are going on a hunt. I hope for the best. Albertus had better ask about that. Oggel will be in Kalamazoo Tuesday or Wednesday, and then you will likely see him. And then if you come here with Albertus you will have opportunity to get your clothing material here - if you could get a leave. Now, precious dear children, seek God, seek deliverance for that never ending eternity, pray much. He is a hearer of prayers.

P.S. Did you get those goodies by way of Willem?

From your loving mother,

C.J. VanRaalte

Wolrad Michigan  
Miss B. Van Raalte Sept: 11/62.  
Dierbare Kinderen.

Wij zijn door Heeren goedheid  
welwariende en behouden te huis gekomen: Wij vin-  
den ledige plekken; doch zijn verheugd dat gij  
opgehuind zijt: - De overheid gesekeindijfje loeft  
en es staan de dierbaarte belangen op het spel, waar-  
voor wy geen offers mogen sparen: -

Albertus wenscht Benjamin naar Chicago te gaan om  
met Wiley een voordelig einde te zoeken: Wij wens-  
den gij hierin te helpen overdenken: dientwijfel ik niet  
of de Captain zal u verlost geven: verzoek dan lulk  
ook in mijn naam: -

Mijn dierbare zongens het vry naar boven, naar  
Uw bond god: Schaam U niet gods woord te bestu-  
deren: ik bed u verdienhet niet: - Wes trouw stipt  
en yverig in uw werk: zoek improvement lende  
Ophouden en wock met elke gelegenheid. -

God ze u genadig, en gert u genadig de vogen van  
U makket en officieren. - Wy behoeve u en stille  
Uten lezen. - Wordt verwacht brieven en bestelling  
Zou gij iets kan doen.  
Zal ik Sturtes Websters kleine Dictionarij en Dishes Arithmetiek?  
Uw lieve Hartelykheid: Vader A. Van Raalte.