· Sella Taneaster La Nebrusta 16 July 18de Waarde Mueder, Broeders Triolet My syn allen greager hoperde dat her by whetelfee ming were ? My helbers him derens umligh een goed gevas Com is builenge woon weelderig Zoodal men Zelden too ieto rielo Enkele Veldens 2 yno mes sleeple com beplant in later wee weepland betwelk was achterly his My Sielben 37 actor Hiervans is 5 actor out ned Low question neplantino Varile is with your genlas Haver schemens out weelderig, doch down was lange dre lesin legen our Jung is het touch gebleve. The is making out den de dringe Heden merge zon den wy met de have en tarvie an en mess een detake regen van dan

Den 25 Juny hebben wy hier iens devare storm gehad uit het Yourd Wester Se bui kwams meh zult een derbasenden snel heid over dat men by heis zynde make welgher den hy had one in hurs be komen De geheele luch : tal val tand Gelukking mich deel ingelieteten als wat heiden en stallen verschoven Over geheil hebben my hier ears hall doorjaar gehad bygevoly nich deel gras Le hebben hier in Amerika vous lopiq al deel drukke met de der hiering our een cresident By a missehier oak med een homopvolger? me de hweede trom opologer out douch es? wanner de oude Willen tomb to stervery Hopsende dat Challen dere in gerend heid mongs enterange 5 De groche vanonsalle led Brude

Letter from M.M. Nieveen

Pella, Lancaster Co., Neb September 30, 1884

Dear Brother and Nephews!

In my last letter I wrote that we have had an exceptionally dry summer. That draught began on the last Saturday in June and lasted here until September 4. In all of that time we had a little rain only twice, hardly enough to wet the ground. Almost all of the western states have suffered from the draught. In the middle of July the corn looked very good but finally it withered so that there was less than the usual crop. We had previously had such a good and healthy growth that we were able to harvest at least 7000 bushels. Now it will probably be 2500 bushels. In some places the water shortage was so bad, that it had to be brought from a distance of 2 or 3 miles for the cattle. Her in Nebraska we were not short of water. Almost every farm has its own wells which never go dry in the summer. The summer was also very hot, so that with a little more rain there might have been an excellent crop.

I think that Netherlands will be able to profit from the poor crop next year, because the export will not be as great, notwithstanding that poor

. Grain has not gone up in price here yet, but that will follow.

Horses and cows are cheap at present. For around \$100 one can buy a reasonably good horse, and a good cow for \$25 to \$30. For more than a year many hogs have died from a sickness called the cholera. Some people have lost all they owned. One farmer in Holland has only one left out of 120.

In South Carolina the city of Charlestown had an earthquake yesterday and many lives were lost. And other areas have also suffered. You have probably read about it in the newspapers.

The boys are out this evening with some others to extend best wishes to a couple of newlyweds, or to extend their greetings. This is done here right after the wedding. One of them will have an old pan, and another a bell, etc., until they are allowed to come in. Then they are given some money or cigars, or something like that.

Greetings from your brothers,

M.M. Nieveen

Less twants geradincherse nogacht of an pulation being which it is a general word of sure nogacht of the sure of t The heel venilly once is extended on Soyle rections of colors of the second on Soyle rections of colors of the second on the second of the sec Menne Giete en leviele superier En al dien by debourd sind en step. tens er gellet giver in reviee breek you bushel kinden begolington che penico recessiones tenestant of the sound plustic was dan sec Le dice de la francisca de la faction de la i al long gelecten dat di genethe con lest. The survey oreding how histor Minto grown aport and whater was much ge lein hers (1) pen doer de gewasis gewasie. My hastein Roman Cherteren 16 prigose ma la march man guest en gewaning. Grandig eens torrigen let gade my by en malige bestekening. In my landore brief schreet it giospolis Sella Cancaster Co Ver

lyto med she glock wordes to guelo ed segen es annes Sweden Rom ce o horder to of organin of an ich

M.M. NIEVEEN TO HIS MOTHER, BROTHER, AND RELATIVES

PELLA, NEBRASKA
TO THE NETHERLANDS

OCTOBER 2, 1884

Pella, Lancaster Co., Nebraska

Dear Mother, Brother, and other relatives:

We received your letter in good health and also found that you were all still well.

That the Oosting family went back to the Netherlands does not surprise us. America is not a good place for such people. A good living can be made by working for it, but work has never been their desire. Besides, at first America makes a strange impression upon newcomers.

We thought Cornelia was still in Michigan and wrote her a letter, but it was returned unopened. There is an abundance of work here for servant girls. We invited her to come here from the 8th to the 15th of the month.

As to the weather, it has been very pleasant this summer. It was quite dry during the early part of June, so the oats and flax did not grow well. But the crop was fairly good and of top quality. Summer wheat yielded from 15 to 25 bushels. Winter wheat 24 to 25 bushels. Oats around 40, and flax 10 to 12. Flax is the poorest crop, but the highest in price, around \$1.00. Grains are low in price, especially wheat and oats. Wheat is around 50 cents and oats from 15 to 20 cents. Corn is an exceptionally good crop. Even the older people cannot recall such a yield.

In a following letter we will write about our crops.

Hoping that you will all be in good health when you receive this.

Greetings to all of you from all of us -

Your brother, M.M. Nieveen

Gilla Lancaster Count hen 23 deser den brief dan U in den besten welstand undlange in vok yerien det Wallen nog my elect made merika wouch gentlet do tulke onenvehen illet gived wer Ken rum brods en sleiken is monthair duel squiesde Sauly guft Amerika voor de nieus eunblik My meenden dat Corne him noy in Bickigan was in seen brief gescheden docho ongeopend week berig omboangen ier is orientlued van wer in de maund en hadden hanversicht by ong be tome

Wat het weer belieft, wy helben van Lomer over gehiel pruchtig week gehad In begin - Van Juny wat rum drong e dualdvar is haver en Ilas tou gebleden. De upbrengshiseden. ulel tamelyk gued een puik va qualifeit Zomerfarule dan 15tot 20 bhl. Winderhamile 24 a 25 bo. Haver John 40 en Mas 10 a to Has is het sleehtshe van de opbie which het beat in prego, form Ide Grunen syn hier lang dobal 50 Ch an have van 19 het doch Hurs is een builengewoon qued generas Lelfs vulden mas Julk sen gentas mich hengen En volgende drief ver onse Upbrengste Aufoende dut U allen dere ingerondheir

MARTEN M. NIEVEEN TO ?

ALTON, IOWA TO ?

NOVEMBER 14, 1884

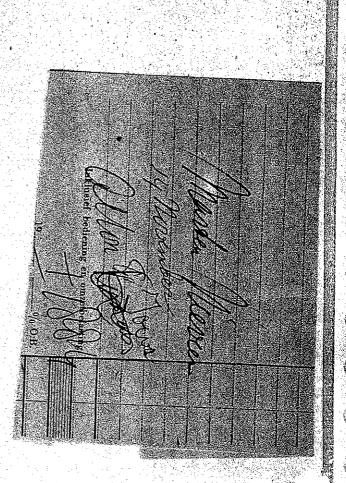
There are places where wheat flour is ground. When the farmers have threshed, they take the wheat to the mills and trade it for flour. They trade a bushel of wheat for 30 to 33 pounds of flour according to the quality of the grain. They do not get the same weight there, but receive the bran to use for feed. That is quite a trip, because it is 16 miles from Alton or 14 miles from here so about a distance of 5 hours. As an exchange service, I had to pick corn for 3 days. I dreaded making the trip for the third time.

When I had my letter ready to mail, Martje said she wished to add a short letter. That took from one day to another, and now it is November 14.

The day before yesterday winter set in, followed by a couple of cold days, until now we have had fine weather. We have our flour for baking in the house for the winter. A neighbor of

We had not gone a half mile when we landed in a deep ditch with steep sides. We had two young horses (5 years old), tame as a rule. Then someone came up from behind us riding horse back. One horse became skittish and jumped so far ahead that the Fortunately, no one got hurt. Only the whippletree was broken. Melle, in his fall, held the reins and got the horses under control. There were six of us: Melle, Nanco, Peter, Anje, Aaltje, and I. The horses did not improve because they have tried it again.

The say of the said of the sai in allier distance is neck my which there is becomed hande yet was a line of the are destablished to be the with the and the of land and but here to me



Mary make the water the transmit mit hour die rois is une shudstein or 138 H meel mass gelang van qualitat a ferencher year multon his way guard for we del diend i moch it I lager the myl the one that hy kins or have want het is 16 my? van Aland much for de buchet wine hayging sa

clene loen wy en een diepe, Hoe d. i. een vertwakerings laag te geraakte met sleile wallen Wy haddens er i jonge paardensvoor anders altyd make Toen kwam er eens te paard achter ons op ryden het eene paard werd ochieglig en sprong zoos der Joureich dat de gesp Terleden vodrjaar hadden wy 3 veulde merries die oms ieder een bruin merrie veulen hebben ge bracht Afgelopen herfst was er bieldag op een weinig afgelegen plek en maar weinig kooplust.

Joseph Joseph of the myl van und beginnende Alini 2000 of the myl van und beginnende My had den grand varrigh, of seen dag marsch twid van und is een Fort Bendel met voldvende Milibairen. Tan und allen herlijk gegruet.

Chel Brueder Mak Hiller

1

winder skruin vollen aan paarden
en dan hebben wit mog 10 voor
millet voor aanskaande voorjaar
buder werk
Vekle varkens zyn hier niet duur.
De prijs is 3 /4 doller de henderd pend
Varue en vlas 70 ch de buskel

twelk ik sen jaar geleden hele
gekvehl (toen was het mager) voor 25 dl;
Vw is het keelk een beeldseher.
paarbje dat het voor een liefhebber
75 dl waard is, Als keelke ponys!
wat in de smeak vallen als rypoard
word ier soms de dubbele waarde
voor betoots Die is uit Gienober ofsangs!

Letter Lingmente Smit Family paper Circa 1840-1900 From Graningen

Eleen de disfelboom was gebroken en Melle had in kyn dal de lyn ge houders en kreeg de paarden hot staans Wy water er 6 mars up, Malle. Name Tieter Anje Aaltje anite relf.

De paarden zyn er nich beder op geworde want ze helben hel al gred weer probeert.

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MARTIN M. NIEVEEN TO HIS UNCLE

PELLA, IOWA
TO THE NETHERLANDS

FEBRUARY 6, 1885. LETTER FRAGMENT.

Dear Uncle:

It has been a long time since we received your last letter and we have not answered it so it is high time. At first it was postponed and lately it has been due to the fact that we have moved.

We have rented a 160 acre farm, 80 acres being cultivated, 20 acres of woodland, and the rest in clover and grass.

- illegible -

Father, Nanco, Peter and Cornelis are picking corn, and then I have to make work of taking care of it.

We have had a very hard winter, six weeks long. We were always glad when horses and cows

Della den 6 Silvis Marrie Com Het is no very weken fileded dan were. Haa to le beref on hanged hebbed, en nog mich we the sterning gentlimed . The dack has The Transed new honey light, cerest worde thet with with the send of ende leated byil weel du hte, met dichuised, Elig heb bud seen recedering chewit was the acher land So alevent lound, 20 active togethe and hel ove rege swe klever en gras, het is hierais mig and draw, want en mein Alterhunnen mare sein venehl way bringer jante day, The Pas in ey, done, en grand weger heleken get him mit, due un placks pronje vous ele pariden. Valert, Sance Sectionalis Lyso man het manis plusen, en dan moet it man maken dat it het mig wingg Het helft hur een berbaart stange wer And few gewert ser wehend lang, we warred allight- Light als pacreder, en house

Letter from M. Nieveen

Pella, Lane Co. Neb. June 25, 1885

Dear Mother, Brother and Nephews:

Hearty congratulations on your 80th birthday. Even though that is an advanced age, we hope you will be able to celebrate many more in a happy family circle, in good health and happiness in your further life's journey.

The condition of crops is as follows: Winter wheat has become somewhat spotty due to the severe winter. In a few places there is a healthy growth. The rest is a little too uneven. The oats and summer wheat look very good and promise a rich harvest. Barley although not much of it is raised, is also good. Corn, the chief crop in this country, leaves much to be desired. Even as late as mid-May we had a great deal of rain, and they who had planted corn just before the rain or still had to plant some of it have lost much of it, and also because weeds get the upperhand. We had planted ours between the 1st and 8th of May, so the rain did some damage but not much.

In all we have 60 acres of excellent corn, and 5 or 6 acres which will yield a half-crop. Flax is also a good crop here. We have about 6 acres of it but this is not doing very well. It is on poorer soil.

A few areas around here have suffered from hail and in others storms have caused a great deal of damage especially in the northern part of Nebraska and Iowa.

We received the letter from you yesterday and are glad you are all in good health.

I am enclosing an article from the <u>Pella Weekblad</u> (Weekly) copied from the <u>Grondwet</u>, which we read. You will see that evil has not yet been removed from the heart of all Hollanders. I have lost the first part.

Three brothers and a , the four of them tried to murder and rob an old grey-headed man, also a Hollander and thinking that he was dead, set fire to the house, seven miles from Pella, Iowa. Just how it turned out was in the other section. The old man was fortunate enough, during the fire, to bite through the cord with which he had been bound. When they were arrested they all confessed their crime.

It will please us greatly to receive a few lines from you.

Receive greetings from all of us.

Your brother,

M. Nieveen

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the last hi dead was the him of the last of the last in the final way the final of the first of The all hellusees her many servery even all hellusees her have and the servery and the form of the country and the country are country and a country are and a country are and a country are and the country are and a country are and a country are a country are a country are a country and a country are a country te kunen og hebben sen gide ypgfull be him de la light of rived use as plained in the men moderate grang Richard State 207. 8.

Pringly And Holes That is we freit you he had bound winder Emble stubber with yes Middle de la cartage has tal quivale - don de stage ugaren findelliger met elen Bo Her eigenden. 1 Que d'in the light Many Hude

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housed down by the middhim em guld vom to land the de Bagolly) stronby is just the usl missing some and is suitemented for the days the suite of the Winder ledert het hech ein hamelyke goed beschot op, de deitgegran, dy teellen het seker noord. Haden deitmendund in gredes doch somaller van, to weten komen, Nee noch eets velee den Auge ook ander lumpen Amerika, yelseffen Een , een inhelen hezh em houden hark en hiek mendshalledens getrock in the endere grove schoof bind, did is de joedtrop ship plantede branken Gibberen heeft hier vok noch en ging Danis et som what 2 man of shawe he binden dustheaple. Autummet de beide beenen onder is er noch een under machine die de thuk Aschorn un weelbirg gewon, Rogge word womand dez gebelen beler dete daad, Die gelolon noch stoor het vehot gedood is zeelt le wen goed engelute place geted. Een remond of de Moor en gaundeutez bindende typ, de eur em de anter hain de une wingen can de andère willende. de vehors low de siblel wegnemende, Torder when als wy, doch de republikeinen dyn Westingseld sign, Oak de Grewbenk con what shak webound, Net was he dun door dan but het wire pashy is when bur de dast grown brand in Michigan heeft cen 2 x 3 or bal- " se daarmede op een hoop eer dat hy de het wieldande wagen twolet beide benun " zelf bind met een dun shert hourties 6 Graid heeft nich die of brenget dan son golde fran Faruse du door de lange winter wat he last is ge-Loyde hier ory voldounds may genound worden

henry in by the re original way any way the grand of the best of the same has been and the formal that the grand was a few from any the grand with the same and t While high by young on the hing gran man Jones.
The hat him you man Jones.

The hat him you my the hours anyman Town was the way the the main of the way the the main of the way the the main of the the way the the the way the w 7 Marseli Muin, Bruchers Carpens October S. Juhn Buke.

Med in hier die fair von de fair Kanells in July wielen the haben in forming the was to we so with the way to be and the w dan de geringe den dan 192 de , Vance 3 de in de serente general he Lyon My halen en to gestivese, na consider help well and home 3, others in The de all all all he had been the anong homes in your properties and he was help on the second of the properties and he was a large of the second of the properties and he was a large of the second of the properties and he was a large of the second o an- Breeder ile Marie Megan is hele de verjassalez en ban on elle "ggreet. can Mary's a Value een by hander proche muije negelflast voussellense in Jours deeder puit land, en hel is es mich soon bound als En halvery land gely the yest of it en theng induiten med een Melle is an dark by the Ground emys hatyer ryd wing De blue. Melle view dienty his de par day

maus Muschieg hebben ung in der bester des gegensches mich keing le zeinzuge der gester gegensche mich aus gegen und gegen und gegen und gegen und geben debten de imm gedules eine En meg nich minder den dunk um de gigt grud 5 Gl aan Sieuwere Met wearen friest by his entwuger van dien briest by h Mulder on Anje Taen ikshen hyn precenje venlees de kon hy miet slapen dien was het were render ou 14 U.C. en tel my direct her arear went mer gen gach hy you des push. On her harlely hen dank von levele The week mile fair meer de day onceils met de geldhaker, alomede Solla (John a. Cha Wassele Braseler & Vert (Ston) en meaker alles les planners schioring Waar on Wanneer by hels ageld bein in head on wand hels by in cen benty shaw goon got is he werdienen. By much hick wildlichenel by de Jasmen being lang hel geweelt met och von man hy muss who 3 cf the heron cen farm vew 5 facts. housdan andas dawn geen Jabrick hiery Jehringen Helle hup wyn gekude in hier is Robery mu mee aen praisie breken Bil is do rependent it seems you whenly paarden kepen con had gelaleng Ver was it mening undrænge en mege die by men eins
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boreken De gruese ver en fleiendet war Hepende ded Al dere in germbles omwest Mello Tal van dare usech can dish hyplane of in Nede"

My ligger House, knielelyk als Heeleis Franje) Com skad legenwowdig howg in prys, yo Cy Joselelen four on een faar le venen van 16 tok 26, Jacksons tryn wek queed aan Wasen De menshen dragentier ly de kumer allys maar een hunder brezereen teggen wy kunder iets meer, Dal hun by U le kund Weren, duch Un much retener dat usy of he graden N: Holigger en My its lynes 53, dus dik macht Neelong anaar Ho Unesagemen Dit much its the week nader ver has dad Neeling show med gel con sessebil can plui, are Men 2h schrifts can in & blecks hem blo vetten be verkupen. Ik had aan Welle geschreven Mello schreez, my herry dato pryo, Huenout 5 dellar de hunder) pois levenoi My helben may de deux in reunin hansehveren hansehveren ann vier dez en avends by de hairen is hier den hannen Den vienjeer tees als wy het nied gewonn kyn in Amerika, Gewounlyke Lillen un half thei "deends voor . De backen handen de daak, dat-De hyp uses even vanew beedenn. flink demueraken, doch in dersch al heel spreedig down den derse mister van Mei seel ragais be deel in is huch gived aggelapen, doch helaes, de kleinste - Herman, maesten ze De tweekenish van Nickorg an Vilina is het weertenden miets meer waard gelyk U wak wel at hulb weden, My hadden hier sen expres him geheelen maand hunden ung a capiel seed beginnen! le pluggers

MARTIN M. NIEVEEN
TO HIS BROTHER AND NEPHEW

PELLA, NEBRASKA TO THE NETHERLANDS

MAY 28, 1888

Dear Brother and Nephew!

I do not remember the exact day, but we received your letter in the best of health. I have waited a few days too long in writing back, mainly because I had been asking Melle for some information. Not having received an answer, my patience is spent, and I sit down at once because tomorrow this will be mailed.

Our hearty thanks for all the trouble you have taken in connection with the money matters, and also for the \$14. And no less, thanks for the 5 gulden gift to Sieuwke. When we received the letter we just happened to be visiting R. Mulder and Anje. When I read to him about his present he could not sleep that night

Nieberg and Eilina arrived safely, but they soon lost their youngest son, Herman, through death, as you probably know.

The pipe was intended to be for Nanco, and Melle has already sent it to him. They will keep the books because they are not worth sending.

We had an exceptionally cold spring, such as we are not accustomed to in America. Usually by mid-May we are out-of-doors in the evening in a bare shirt. Now we sometimes need an overcoat and mittens during the day and in the evening we sit by the stove. Sowing did not begin until April 2. We

were able to work all of the month, but in early May we had too much rain to be able to plow.

I wrote about a shirt. I must explain that more fully. In the summer people here wear only one shirt, a boezeroen we call it, with nothing else. That would be too cold for you. But you must remember that we are located at 40 degrees, and you are at 53 degrees, so that amounts to about 250 hours. We are as far south as Madrid (Spain).

Corn is high priced at present, 45 cents. Last year and a couple of years earlier it was 16 to 20 cents. Hogs are also selling at a good price, about \$5 per hundred pounds, live weight. We still have 16 fatted ones to sell.

I had written to Melle about Nieberg's money matters and Melle wrote back that Nieberg had taken only 40 gulden with him, and that he had left 1000 gulden in the Netherlands. Then I was curious to know where and when he could get that money because he is in a part of the country where he can not earn anything. He will have to keep busy with the farmers exclusively because there are no cities with factories. Then I thought Nieberg would buy oxen or horses and rent a farm for five years. Then they could cultivate their land.

This is the reason I have waited so long before writing. Because he would also have to have 3 or 4 milk cows. I hope Melle will write about this matter this week. Melle has purchased oxen and now Nieberg is busy breaking the prairie.

I hope you will receive this in good health, and may it be that you might honor us sometime with a visit. Remember, the fatted calf will be killed and a delicious glass of wine will not be wanting.

Greetings from all of us. Your brother and family, $\label{eq:M.M.Nieveen} \text{M.M. Nieveen}$

loss hien den late who head Called to Pella Vil den 21 Min. combrak. work the to to be on Waarde Braeder & Neef. 1. ed. Vh weel nich juist meer de day maar Uwebrief hebben wy in den besten 7 heh Welstands ont dangen & Helselenige dage L Region te lang gewacht met berng be schryden n geli uithoutde ik senige inligting had ge lich vruage aan Melle Hierop nog geen and y being woord hebbende is myn geduld wit Chick. en tek ning direct her neer want mar Vielong gen gaak hy up de pust. en cen Onhen harledy ken dank voor tevele aur mæile met de geldraken alsmede ere ken vous het weersenden van de 14 ale En nog niet minder den dank von hrylla de gift grund 5 Egl aan Viewoke Hours My waren juist by heb undvangen van dien brief by to Mulder in Anje Suen ik-hem hyn frecentje voorleesde kan by nich slapen dien

De vækomst dan Neetorg, en Eilina it seh is buch qued afgelapen, duch het aux Dit me de kleinste Herman, musslen 1.e. Elaren al heel spreeding down den doort mister. try de in gelyk U wok wel at rulk weten? - Chere De fryp was vou Nanco besterni icho meer ien ekelle heegh hem he at wergeren Weren due den. De baeken handen de daar, dat wy of go is het overlenden niet meer waar? My up to Wy hadden hier een ettra koud cen verse voorjaar 160 als wy het niet gewoon kyn in Amerika. Gewoonly to Wy liggen (Thanje) Liklen wy half Mei avends over hove in de deur in blacke herrie Nu muest faar en ce cer soms een belegas en hanschur. Lat 20, aan belle dag, ien alloweds by de pan led kachel Het rainen is hier den 2 April eerst begonnen Den 16 dethen geherlen maand kunden men The had flink downers here duch in reersh has dal dan Mei veel regen, he veel, om (Helle se le folkegens Melong

, en Eilina. et behryts van in blocke hem. the heture Dit much it to wat nader der mushen he Klaren De menschen dragen tier doese miste. teg de komer alheje maar een hem. Le weten? Chereraen leggen wy sonder · laes lamo iets meer, Dat kun by U te kand at wer geren weren duch U much rekenen dah dawn, dah wy of to graden N. Bliggen en er waar? Ly up byna 53, dees did mankle a kun den verschil van plmi. 25alleren nich gewonn Wy liggen House midely to als Mudrie (Spanje) (com skad legenwardig vounty k and over havy in prys, 45 Ex Verleden i Nu muest jaar en een jaar be varen van 16 hanschur, e. Lak 20, Varkens zyn ook goed aun try de foreys, Toward 5 daller de hunder? uer den pani ledend Wy helben may n' Nen. 16 dethen he verkapino · my The had aan Melle geschreven h in learth has dad Neeting stand and geto veel om (Helle schreet my lering dat Nedera maar to Moneganine

Lames I small There of his on there is wooden hup mules Mup Mella sal dan desse useski moltonion techon of the tunk Den deer my ma Lang hab gineacht mak sikryisa. ju mg Dit is de ! Externo date it sine dan Kinden 40. haar land. beeken show h Theren som farm Hour of Jues. march Grober The works by paced dan to experience the dun Eyn; Me duthe it Madery gan gan Thursday anded deen geen fabrish can tak ىلەرىرىل wildlustland by de Jasonsony being wungs is he exceleenen thy mass hich is in usen benefing alow geen yele wither gelel. Hen entilunger went he welste Tetheoring Walls son warmous hy had had gelaken Mu was it mound en dit hyplungt m Ned! 12 Hopende dat de dere in gerun kendmuge unherangen en mugh die hyd mag cens aanbreken dat li und nog eens mich een. betvek kulaame (ile isere treken er ap, het gemeste kalt war gestacht en een iekker fles worm ial et nich by ont breken de groete van op alle with vaile

MARTIN M. NIEVEEN TO HIS BROTHER, NEPHEW, AND NIECE

CASTALIA, CHARLES MIX COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA TO THE NETHERLANDS

NOVEMBER 25, 1890

Dear Brother, Nephew, and Niece:

The work being finished and the winter being at hand, there is time again and news to write about. The summer has brought us many joys but also disappointments. A person is not always treading a path of roses. There are often some disappointments, even though some people have more and others less.

We have had exceptionally favorable weather here in May and June. Although we did not have abundant rains, there was enough to cause everything to grow well, and in mid-July there was as much as one seldom sees. Wheat, oats, and flax all did well. We had our last rain in mid-July. Then a drought set in, and since that time we have had only a little rain two times, which settled the dust a bit, and accompanied by a warm wind. The corn, the main crop, began to wither gradually, and on a few fields it was so bad that it was hardly worthwhile harvesting. There was about one-fourth of the usual crop. Wheat and flax which were almost ripening also suffered. We had a fine growth of corn on 145 acres. We fattened about 20 old hogs on it and fed 90 young ones this fall and now we have no more than 1300 bushels left for the winter and next summer. We have by far the most per acre of anyone else in the vicinity. Marten de Boer has

no more than 400 bushels and also has 90 young hogs, and farther north they have nothing at all.

This drought has prevailed in all of the western states, more in some and less in others, and as a result the prices of corn and grains have gone up, but now a law has recently been enacted to raise import duties on what is shipped in from other countries.

We have had no hogs this year. Horses are high priced. An average horse will cost as much as \$120.

There re quite a few Indians here. They sometimes come along the road in groups.

Dakota was recently divided into two states, South and North. Of course, we live in South Dakota, and even in the southern part. There has been a vote on the question of abolishing alcoholic beverages, beer, wine, etc. The advocates of abolishment have won at the polls, so on January 1 all saloons will be closed. I would rather have had beer and wine excluded. But a large number of accidents are caused by whiskey, and it would be a good thing if it were banned from the world. That law seems to have been a detriment to farmers.

In the last election on November 9, the people, that is, the farmers and laboring class, who make up 70% of the population, have declared themselves opposed to that law last week by electing only men who are against it in 35 of the 39 states.

Potatoes are scarce here due to the drought. Cows are cheap. We did not have a fat cow but an ox, 1 1/2 years old. We traded it for a fat cow and a dollar to boot. That cow weighed 649 pounds and just below 100 pounds of fat. We have also purchased another ox at least as good as the other one

for \$11 and one dollar to boot, for \$12, with \$2 off for the hide, so the meat cost us at most $7 \ 1/2$ cents.

I will now close for this time, informing you that we are all in the best of health.

Hoping that you may be well when you receive this.

With greeting from all of us, Your brother and family,

M. Nieveen

A photograph of Peter is enclosed.