Marinus de Bruijn.

Acquoi, Gelderland - Grand haven, Michigan.

Marinus de Bruijn to relatives.

Acquoi, the 9 October, 1857

Beloved brother and sister,

More than three years passed, without receiving a letter from you; but last Monday while being healthy, we had through God's grace the pleasure of receiving a letter from you and found out about your well being and prosperity. When you were with the sons of the minister (whom we still have as teacher) I sometimes sent a letter along with the minister's letter. Later, I found out that you had left the sons, and since that moment we have not been able to write you because we did not know your address. Maarten de Jong has drowned there. Now that I know your address, I want to write you right away and inform you about some things while hoping that you may receive this in perfect health.

At the moment things are going reasonably well with us; but we cannot say that we found the treasure on earth. We experienced years of adverstiy because we had a flood here on March 7, 1855. The harvest of rye and wheat failed completely here. The water began to sink first in May, so that we were only able to plant potatoes in the beginning of July. Our houses were severely damaged by it and other houses collapsed. You can understand that we struggled for a while then. Everything became terribly expensive.

In 1856 it was more prosperous, although everything remained expensive. On August 11 of this year, we had a terrible hurricane which lasted for 10 minutes. It disrooted many trees and damaged several houses. But thanks to God, ours was saved. On April 26, 1856, we will never forget this, it pleased the almighty Lord, through His wisdom, to take my sister Klasina in to eternal life. She died of influenia. It will be sad to read this probably, but we had to leave this up to the gracious God since everything He does is meant well. mother felt very sad about it, because she was her company in life and did everything for her. Mother is still vigorous and healthy and lives with Gerrit Jan at the moment, who provides her with a living. And five weeks later Truitje from aunt Kaatje in Rhenoij passed away because of consumption.

This year is quite fruitfull in everything, but there are here so many mice this year. The fields are eaten empty. The cows begin to go back to the barn; the potatoes are mostly harvested.

I and Gerrit Jan sail with the barge. I and mother have a cow and a calf together and also each a good pig. Sofar, I have been blesed with five children. I would like to come to you but my wife alsolutely does not want to hear about it. Otherwise, I am not aware of somebody who would like to go. Arie is married and has a child. Maaike is married too and lives in the Haarlemmermeer with Arie Sterk who earns a good living and she is blessed with 2 children. Jan still lives at the water windmill and has 3 boys. When I received your letter your son Peter came to me in the evening right away. At the moment he lives in Rhenoij and has 3 girls and is

working at Doris van Son. Geertje, your daughter, lives in Rhenoij too, with Bart Temmink. They asked me to pass on to you all hearty greetings. I sent the enclosed, little note to Peter Westleenen but I have not heard from him yet.

I do not know better as that the relatives of your first wife are still all healthy, only Arie Kleyn has passed away.

Receive the greetings of Cris van Venlo and his wife, who still holds on to his Christian way of living and goes faithfull to church in Leerdam and he has a good living too.

Willem Rijken who is married with a daughter of the minister left for North America too last year. Two sons of Van Los of whom the oldest one is married to the oldest daughter of the minister and was appointed as bailiff, also left for Paramaribo in South America.

Jenneke, your sister, is married again with a certain Bogert. She lives a little bit farther than Leerdam and has a good living. Receive the hearty greetings from all of them.

Here at the moment is abundant work because Culenburg will have a pump machine which is being build at the Horn in order to drain the fields.

We were surprised to hear that you live there in a community of Dutchmen. Give especially greetings to Johannes Boet from many friends. Tell him that Willem de Kleyn and Meintje van Roden have passed away and that one talks about him quite often on funny occasions.

Write us back soon whether your received the letter. Otherwise, I cannot think of more news. After passing on our greetings to you, I call myself

Your loving brother,

Marinus de Bruijn.

P.S.

There is a rumor here that Johannes Boet was dead. This must have been three years ago already. But happily, this is not the case. He is a good guy. The price of potatoes is here f 1,90 per pound. The Wolkummers which were expensive a while back cost now f 1,60; wheat costs f12, -; rye f 8,-; butter f 0,60; beef f 0,30; bacon f 0,40 per pound; sheep meat f 0,20.

If I get a letter back from you, I hope to write you more.

Leer Geliefde Broeder en Luster. 2 % Priim drie soven waren verlopen dat mij geen brief van wont. vingen; maar gepasseer de maandag 5 October halden wij het genoegen door's Heeten gredheid een torief van win ons aller welstand te moyen ontrangen en quarecit met bligdschap waller melstand en overspeed gernomen Toen gij bij de koons van den Domine dis my nogal secrearcheben maart, had it by home heens cen brief ingestoten, naderhand vernomen dat gij run hen maant vertrost sed shebben mij u sinds die bijd niet kunnen schrijven man The ite is acted week wil it is aconstands schryven en it het constant ander mededeelen, højende dat gij allen deten in eene franch. The Het het tydelyke goal het ond redelijk wel; maar wit kunnent niet-gelyk als gij reggen dat mij het rette der aa de hebbent mij hebben jalen ran tegenspoed gehad; grant in 1855 dent yet Mourt to. gent orij alhier de rloed van de rogge en tarwe oogst koram heer nich teregt. Het begon in their blanepter to the tratition tood at my in het besin van Judy eerst aardoppelen konden pooten bre har jes werden daar book knaar beschadigd en anderen ingestort leis kunt segrejper met my toen af gesiekkeld hebben Alles merd nea, sennekkelijk deiser. nog oficer. In dit jaar kregen wij abheer en verschrechtelyke orcom die sommerten aanhielt op den Westigustus maardoor rele boomen ontworeself en verscheeden heines beschadiget mad de sonte Contact Ly danks Speek, Ip den 26 April 1056 det zullen my movit seres. For behangele het den Algoede Guet miento doen evijohend mijneitero ter Blots na nuar de leurig heid aan eene denim die tenke koorte op te nementellet zal mel trewing dit te rernement mand moeten dit aan de goode God over laten frant del mat hy doct is nel gedaant Moeder mas en date zeer om demigl zij de gesellin habrs bevers was en alber rook haar deed Molder is nog deer vlugen gerend en huis thans met Eferrit Jan men roor haar de kostmin nor is. Truetje nan Kaat je moce to Orhenog is ryf weken daarna nan to ten Det jaar is ook zeer brucht baar in aller; maar heer regulet faar Too reel meinen de treclanden morden verschickkelijk be rotin. De koeijen beginnen al reel naar stat te gaan! De aand

Ok en Griet Jan raren met den aak Ek en moeder hebben Lamen een koe en kalf en water een goed voorken! The ben thous me 5 kinderen geregend The hel mel gentegenheid om lot ute komen maar myne echhgenote will er toldtrekt niets nan weten. Gerderes meet it niet datemand genegenheid heeft trie is getround en heeft en kind Maaike is ook getround en moont in het Blacklemmer, meer met bree sterk en heeft goed zign brood en is geregend mes I kenderen fan moont nog op de makermolen en helef 3 jongene Toen ik den brief van wondring van et den brief van word vint mas ein Zoon Se ser 's aronds al bij mij Hij mont thang he Alhenoij en heeft 3 meisjes en is arbeider bij Doris van Con Geertje une dockter woont ook to Ichenois bij Bart Temmink Ty rehvocken mij wallen de hartelijke groete toe be brengen ik the het inlegginie trufije aan Veter Frest eenen gerond maas han hem Aby neets vonnomen. Nick beter to meten of de bloed resmanten rantume eerste monen alle non gesone all trie Kleijn is orewleden tel de grocte van Cris van Venlo en rijne rain melle al. tyd nog signe Christelijke mandel handt en brachte Leardam the Kerste good on heeft goed suns brood Willem Origkon welke met eene dockter non den Domine is getround Kijn rerleden Jaar ook nuar Noord Amerika vertica ken Three doon van vanctos alheer rethe out the ench eene dochter gan den Domene is getround als Landdront augentelle naar Jaramare to in Luca - Amerika restruction & Jenneko une Leuter in weder getroums met eener Bogont hy moont achter Leordan on heeft goed have brook the soit. In hartelijke andete van hen elle Olier is tegenmoordig werken over loed mant lectonding laat een Pileer machiem aande Hoten boursen om het veld droog te valen. My hoorden nieum op dat gij daar met eene gemeente Hollanders mont en naral Johannes Boet doet hem van rele reenden en bekenden de hartelyke groete Leg hem eens dat Willem de Kleeps en Meentje van Roden es overledens. en dat by grappinge gelegenheden nug rell over hem wordt gepraat one spoedig horing of gy den brief heb ontranger derden meet ik geen nedern meer sa er allen one aller hortelij ke groete te hebben toegebragt naeme ik my eur befor broeder Maisines de Breijn.

y hier dut Johannes 1, maar gelikking dat dit too nies most al melldrie gement is grant De aardappelen gelden hie mer die troes the harme I 122 rundrleeres ; Spapenvleetch Der seining ontrang houp Endien ik een ik so na der on