

Nichols den 19 Nov 1888

Geachte Broeder en Kinder

Wij hebben uw Brief in goede Omlustand ontvangen en daar uit vernomen dat gij ook gezond zijt het welken verblijd ons Kinder zijn ook allen wel Pasen ook allen goed op Jantje is 23 jaar oud woont bij Sijma achter Kommerzijl. Jan is 21 jaar woont bij Klaas Bakker op de Plaats van W. van Dijkten Grietje is 19 jaar woont bij Cize Kuiterna oude boer van 87 jaar Jantje is 16 jaar woont bij Jakob Schuringa op Krietum Gerritdiena is 13 jaar die hebben de magin huis dat mijn Persoon aangaat ik heb den 15 dezer 59 jaar geteld ik ben nog goed kras en vleg ik ben tegenwoordig al den dag aan 't slootgraven het Lande is veelal door mij het valt mij ook nog niet Ende ar, mijn gezigt word minder mijn vromen ik moet Savonds Brillen het genas is niet best beslagen het Laad is licht en brengt ook niet best aan Hardappels zijn totaal mislukit ende er zijn ook slegt van deugd ende nog Redelijk goed zijn deuren zij worden verhoogt voor 1/2 fl de meer dus als er en lange adentor komt dan zou ik zeggen dat het wel van belang is om worden kere want de verdiensten zijn ook maar klein en vlas is er ook naac weinig heert woont aan de D. de meer waart dat gult g' zehers wel weten ik en mijn Soan Jan wij hebben Tenksterdient naar hem toe geseest hij heeft het Redelijk goed hij heeft in huis met 4 Bunder Grond hij is voor de 2 maal Weder Lukas <sup>vroon</sup> in de Brugstraat te Groningen in een kelder hij moet 2.50 cent huur in de week geven hij is oeverwerk maker en handeld er ook in hij heeft wel drukte en ook wel Brood zegt hij Lukas is bij de Tenken dat verduker ik en hij heeft en vrouw met 4 Kinder en en onder weg Gerrit woont op de Waarden onder Grijpsherk die heeft en vrouw met 7 Kinder de oudste is 12 jaar de jongste is deuk of tien



Niehove, November 19, 1888

Dear Brother and children,

We received your letter in good health and learned from it that you are all healthy, too, which pleases us. Our children are all well, too, and take good care of themselves. Janke is 23 years old and lives with Jelte Sikema beyond Kommerzijl. Jan is 21 years old and lives with Klaas Bakker in the place of W. van Kijken. Grietje is 19 years old and lives with Eize Reitsema, an old farmer of 87 years. Jantje is 16 years old and lives with Jakob Schurenga in Frietum. Gerritdiena is 13 years old and we still have her at home. As far as I personally am concerned, I counted 57 years on the fifteenth of this month. I am still healthy. Lately I have been digging ditches all day long. The heavy work is mostly for me. It isn't too much for me yet. My sight is declining. My wife and I have to use glasses at night. The crop is not good. The seed is light and doesn't produce very well. The potatoes are a total failure. The produced ones are mostly bad and if they are passable, they are expensive. They are being sold for 5 guilders per bushel. So, if we will get a bad winter, people will become very poor because the wages are low and flax is very scarce, too. Geert lives at the Dedemsvaart; you probably know that. My son Jan and I have visited him at Pentecost. He is quite well. He has a house with 4 acres of land. He is a widower for the second time. Lucas lives in a cellar in the Brugstraat in Groningen. He has to pay 2.50 guilders rent a week. He is a watch-maker and deals in them, too. He has quite a few customers and earns a living,

so he says. Lucas is smart; I can assure you of that fact. He has a wife and 4 children, and they are expecting their fifth. Gerrit lives in the Waarden under Grypskerk. He has a wife and 7 children. The eldest one is 12 years, and the youngest is around 10 weeks. Gerrit has a lot of trouble keeping his family fed. He has a good farmer now, so it is somewhat better, but otherwise, I think they are very poor.

Yes, brother, I am glad for you that you are back in Grand Rapids, although I can't judge America. But, from my point of view, it is better for you and primarily for your children to study and receive an education in the service of the Lord. Harm already told us something about it, although it wasn't anything bad. Now, Brother Klaas, my hope and wish is that you may always live as a true Brother in the Spirit. If you have something against someone, then you have to give in. We are brothers and are still in the land of the living, but we are growing older, and every day is one closer to death. If you would visit us again, you would say that everything has changed so much in every area. For example, the farms: in earlier days one hardly ever heard about a tenant-farmer, but nowadays, one hears about it often. As soon as a farm is for sale, one can say quite certainly that it is another one for Mr. Scholte from Groningen, and he rents them out again, so this is disadvantageous to the general interest. The threshing is being done by machine nowadays, either with steam or also with horsepower. Haaije Hoekstra is expecting a person from Nierzijl every day. Maybe you don't know him. I work with his father quite often because we are both working for the widow of Kornelis Gaaikema.

Sincere greetings from us and from our children.

Your brother and sister,

Pieter Datema and wife

A present from our Gerritdiena -- Sunday School card for your Jantje.

Send our greetings to Brother Harm and the children.