Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Never had I thought while still in Zeeland that I would wait so long about writing to you since being here I have often had the intention but am sometimes hindered by work and then again I had no desire I often think of you and am curious to know whether you are still all living and at the same time I am convinced that I must write to you first to make it possible to hear from you it is this then that urges me to take up my pen sometimes I think that some of you too may have longed for a letter yet when I recall the heartless farewell of some of you I cannot assume the longing as exactly true of all of you yes Brothers one finds that temporal matters can break the bonds of the heart while here I certainly have thought of some of you as I was reading God’s word in the Proverbs of Solomon chap 27 the 10th verse middle portion## that with an Alas! I said to myself could I have taken this lesson to heart perhaps love would not have cooled now that matter is closed even though we wished to be of such service to one another now that matter is very likely closed on this side and in Eternity we shall not need each other’s help for there blood relatives will be a nuisance to one another as the tree in the chilly north falls separated from the Lord forever and if it fall in the warm south of God’s loving presence it will prove to be an eternal plenty of joy according to His own testimony in His Holy Word now in this connection I cannot avoid asking you in writing how are these matters with you as each of you individually comes before the Lord with this question hope or fear in his heart what has the upperhand I am not writing this because I think you are obliged to reveal that to me no but may the glory of His grace have become manifest to some of you since our departure from Zeeland since it was then still hidden it would be a joy to my soul for in this matter I can certainly confess feeling that albeit we are separated far from one another I still feel bound to you to that my wife and my two sons are sometimes ear witnesses and this is something we are still ever owing to one another to carry your and our needs to the throne of grace for we are dealing with an omnipresent God who can grant us our prayer here [can grant] you what is asked and also likewise the contrary may He grant this to us exactly as if we were in each others’ presence this I may manifest that you are sometimes the objects of my attention in our public services when I pray with the congregation that the kingdom of Christ may flourish in our land of birth and among our kindred and all that are dear to us

## "neither go into thy brother’s house in the day of thy calamity"
perhaps the last lines on the previous page will arouse your attention be
cause I write 'when I pray in public' for surely the report must be current among you
that there is a minister in our midst and that is true that is one by name
Peter Zonne although he does not radiate the meaning [sun] of his family name
but is on the contrary an example of unfruitful works more I shall
now not mention at this point but in 1849 in the month of July D Budding
was among us and a congregation was then organized and I was then
elected elder along with two others from Gelderland however these
dropped out and in their place two Zeelander were chosen originally
from Kazant likewise from that same island two deacons and one from
groningen we live far apart one week I have to go 3 miles
east from my house and the next week 3 miles south
the place where we meet are the school buildings likewise
also for the catechising of the learners with which I have been charged
that I do Saturday afternoons the Lord grants me I may testify
grace to do this work with joy the attendance at divine services
is quite encouraging the congregation has about sixty members in this I have
given you a short account of our public worship I hope you will understand it
I have heard that there is a rumor current among you
that I am heir to the estate of nephew G Koppels of this I shall
tell you something from which you can conclude who Rev. Zonne
is on the 23rd of May 1849 Koppels came into the region with J kastel
and G Blick nephew's maid and A van boven and J Kleinepelt and wife
On the 29th ditto nephew bought 80 acres forest land from Zonne of which 8
acres were chopped off and cleared and [on which] a house stood for
a sum of 8 1700 guilders nephew paid this and on this all
persons named above went to live in said house and in June
nephew became ill which day I do not know for I was living three miles away
on the 23rd of June he died although I had no tidings of his death
Now I must have you notice that during the time of nephew's illness Zonne
had gone on a trip of 200 miles or 67 hours and
arrived home about two hours after nephew's death all this I
learned later now there were people in my
neighborhood whom I had told that nephew still had a son in holland
these people knew more about the law than I did and urged me
to make work of this then on the 27th ditto I went to the
justice of the peace with some one who knew English there I had to make
declaration that it was true about there being a son and then I got from
said justice of the peace authority to administer then with this instrument and the mayor [burgemeester]
with me I was at the house on the 29th to make a list of the chattels
and then I was referred by said parties to the said Zonne when he
had looked at it [the instrument] he laughed at it and said that he had another instrument
he then read that to us and that was a will written by him
the 27th of June hence four days after nephew's death the content of that
testament was that said C Bliek and J Kastel were to have lifelong
use of the goods and that Zonne was to be executor
and that the rest of that estate after the death of those two peo-
ple Zonne was to turn over to the son at this point I answered
that if he would procure for me a legal discharge I would give up the whole matter
then J kleinepiet showed the above document to the judge and
that was declared null because it was written in the Hollad language and not
by a mayor [burgemeester] as it should be according to this law and
be witnessed by two uninterested persons the thought at once occurred to me that it was false because A vanboven said that he would not swear to it and he
was just the one who understood the whole matter then Zonne kept holding back the deed and
and unfortunately it had not yet been recorded otherwise he could have done no harm with it but now he has tried [hunted through] everything he later wrote a contract of purchase saying that he did sell the land for
the above mentioned sum but to three people G kopmels C Bliek and J kastel
and then for that amount only the usufruct during their life and
that after their death it was to become his land again without needing to
turn over anything to any one else this [information] again I wrested from him and now he has given a deed to another 80 acres of forest land that certainly is
worth less than half as much what is now to become of this I do not know the laws are peculiar here and trying if one does not know the language I have a lot of running to do with the matter I have already made eight trips to the chief town of our district about it and that is as far from us as fortbates is from Goes
I have written three letters to Frederick in Vriesland I have one answer
from him in reply with a summons or authorization to do his business
he writes that he thought his father was still in Zeeland
Hence Nephew kopmels [must have] left without his son's knowledge
he writes too that his father did indeed have that purpose shortly after his mother's death
but that he had advised against it and promised that he would let his father keep his mother's goods until his [the father's] death that seems however to have been of no avail and now he [must have] left secretly at this I stood amazed the more because Zonne told me that the son was so
bad that he was not worthy of having anything from his father
if I had to write you all the crooked tricks of that men
I would certainly have to use four sheets of paper
Dear neighbor cordial greetings from us; our greetings to all your children.

Married and unmarried and be kind as to greet from me the brethren serving the church.

This I must tell you about it yet that I fear that Frederic will not have much

of his mother's estate. I have also been told that there is a rumor

in circulation among you that I am living in adultery or in other words in divorce

at any rate such information has reached here, whether this is true or not about this

I could again write a great deal to establish its untruth yet will not

but advise you to inform yourselves about this through Cornelia and his

wife, former shoeing-smith at Kloetinge, they get news from her

and her brother, Transe who also lives in this place, then my wife will

do also put her name in the letter as well as my two sons, but

[as for] the girls that will not be possible for they both live at Milwaukee

and that is 45 miles from us, the last word we have had from them

that was 8 days ago, they were then still well. Katie

earns two guilders and 50 cents Holland a week above her board and

Janet one guilder and a half. Janet in the last summer had

like wages with Katie, but she is suffering some now and there-

fore has to favor herself some should they enter your house now you would

not know them. With all I have no peace but what shall I say

my prayer is often that the Lord may protect them in the month

of August they were home 14 days they already speak fairly good

English they would be in a position now to direct us

should we now have to travel through America, in this they are far ahead of the boys

although they are also present getting lessons every evening in

English from Pietier Lavrou of Cosburg from Kazantz be so

good as to let our former neighbor, D. S. tailor, G. Deelder

in Wijngaard street read this letter and then I request him

that he give ten katers, smith in the Scheerhenrikkindersche gateway the compliments

from that Lavrou and all his family. Those people's friendship I enjoy especially much he and his mother

and his brother live near us and his three sisters live

15 miles from us in Sheboygan one is married to

Quant who publishes the Holland paper and the other two

with German gentlemen, these last lines will not interest you much

but I do that to accommodate Lavrou the slander

I mentioned at the top of this page no doubt originates

with that good rogue, [Keesejans] that I made the voyage with my

above mentioned neighbor has told me only a little dot about

those good people from him you could find out whom I mean.