

Letter 3, page 3, translation

brush wood is cut off next to the ground that one does first and then 1  
one throws that on a pile and then one cuts the little trees of the thickness of 2  
a 'ponger' tree and thicker a little above the ground and then the branches 3  
trimmed (???) off and these in turn put on piles and then next the heavy ones 2 and 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feet 4  
the ground cut off and the topwood put with the preceding and the logs are chopped through 5  
so often that they can be dragged by two oxen and these are 6  
then brought together sometimes 10 12 to 20 or more and then 7  
set on fire and then when all has been burned the ashes are collected if one 8  
wants to sell them and one can get six cents a bushel for them and 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 9  
bushel is a netherlands hectolitre [mud] and a cent is 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cents netherlands so that one 10  
has 40 cents holland for a hectolitre of ashes to chop that log 11  
you would think is hard work but I believe that two men would have to work hard 12  
to saw as much as two chop one stands on the log 13  
and then on each side a cut is made to the middle short handles to the axes 14  
and short axe blades it is fascinating to watch how handily it 15  
goes forward then when the wood has been burnt off the ground one proceeds to fence it 16  
about with split oak rails usually made 10 to 12 feet 17  
long and then one lays these up to 7 and 8 above each other and the lowest cracks are 18  
so narrow that no little pigs can get through and that is necessary for 19  
they all run in the woods and where they want to one accustoms them to come home 20  
with a little feed that is the case too with the oxen and cattle 21  
these one accustoms to come home with salt of that they are especially fond that 22  
is not as it is in Zeeland cattle run at large as well in the winter as in the summer 23  
when one chops wood they come to us and eat all the tops of the branches now I 24  
have gotten a little off the track that way then the first winter we got six acres 25  
ready and on that we then had summer wheat and oats and indian 26  
corn or nicknamed Spanish wheat that crop grows well here also all other 27  
crops of the climate for tickbeans [paardeboonen] it is too hot the summer is short here 28  
and hot when crops are growing growth is vigorous of potatoes 29  
we did not have enough the first year for our use but now 30  
we have many left over they have not been entirely free from 31  
disease so that some were also spoilt in the cellar the house we have 32  
is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide built of 48 logs very 33  
solid against storm here too we learn that all beginnings are difficult 34  
yet we have endured these and have by this time retrieved still more ground 35

LETTER 6

to this point then I wrote at the time and now then we have 36  
1853 the 30th of March so that since that time we have come to know still more about 37  
and are also more at home than then the atmospheric America 38

conditions we are becoming more accustomed to however it is very healthy here 1  
 a thing to wonder at because the range of cold and heat fluctuates here 2  
 sharply this is most striking in spring and fall it has even happened 3  
 while living here that we had a pleasant rain during the day with 4  
 heavy thunder and next night heavy frost and snow the following day 5  
 especially so in late April or early May sometimes we still have 6  
 night frosts in early July and then again in late August 7  
 yet that does not occur every year but yet one must sow wheat quite early 8  
 from the 5th to the 12th of September is considered by Americans to be the best time 9  
 for rye it matters less and in spring one cannot 10  
 sow or plant much with good results before May and still 11  
 in July and August it is harvest time we are quite at home here now and would 12  
 not be eager to go back we now have 16 acres of land cleared of 13  
 which 4 are sown to wheat and 2 to 3 to rye and the rest is 14  
 partly meadow and on the rest we shall put peas, white beans barley oats 15  
 buckwheat indian corn potatoes and carrots yes everything one 16  
 desires we have two oxen to do our work two cows to calve 17  
 one young steer and one bull 16 ducks and 6 hogs that we 18  
 feed a little during the summer nights and during the day they 19  
 go into the woods where they fare fine and if then in September we 20  
 shut them up and feed them indian corn they are big and fat by November 21  
 in things temporal we here have good living because everything 22  
 one makes here is for one's self what [tax] on our 40 acres here 23  
 we have had to raise so far has been at most \$ 5 guilders 40 cents 24  
 a year and for that the children go to school till their 20th 25  
 year during the 4 winter months if one wishes it to get our grain ground 26  
 is indeed somewhat difficult because we live 2½ hours from where 27  
 it has to be ground yet on the average one takes to the mill not less than 28  
 three or four hectolitres [mud] at a time and then one gets that ground and at 29  
 the same time bolted into three kinds first flour then shorts then bran whether 30  
 it is due to that or not I do not know but I believe it is due to 31  
 the way it is separated that it does not become mouldy for we do not find this 32  
 to be the case even after it is six months old the potatoes are good we 33  
 still have 8 or 10 hectolitres to sell they are now very 34  
 cheap one cannot get more than thirty three or four pennies [holland] 35  
 for a hectolitre wheat is 16 shillings rye 11 barley 9 buckwheat 9 36  
 oats 7 butter 1 eggs 10½ pennies per 25 pork a pound 3½ meat 2½ pennies [holland] 37  
 coffee beans 8 pennies the sugar syrup and vinegar we make 38  
 ourselves if we wish clothing prices differ little from yours 39  
 our children are now all home the girls have 40  
 learned sewing so that they are now working for themselves 41  
 and are done with being maids last summer they 42  
 became mebers of church with Rev. Klein in milwaukie 43  
 and have brought their certificates with them the boys have all the time 44  
 been at home they have grown quite a great deal 45

we are all still very well and are especially curious  
 whether you are still all alive  
 write back at once