

Town Holland August 30 1852

Dear Children

1 experience teaches that to postpone a matter seldom comes out right just
2 as now is the case again about writing you we have
3 received your letter dated the 14th of July on time at any rate inside 4 days it
4 came to me by M H Muller he had advanced 5 cents on it which
5 seemed strange to me and upon inquiry at the post office they told me it had been wrongly sent
6 and therefore the 5 cents additional but I think it was because that paper
7 was in it so I advise you not to send me paper in such a way any more and
8 a clear address on the letter and that you tell me whether you received the former letters
9 franco for I regularly paid 3 cents your letter was a joy
10 to us still on reading it it proved distressing and that because Janet
11 continues to ail we all long for you to be home and in the hope that you
12 might be healthier I would advise you not to postpone this too long for the nearer to
13 winter the less pleasant travelling is and especially if you are weak we are longingly looking
14 forward to your coming and are ready to welcome you yet would naturally
15 long for word beforehand how you are thinking to make the journey whether with bag and baggage as
16 people say you are expecting to come if you should come by boat you must at any rate find out
17 whether it touches at the pier of our town for if we must go to [Port] Washington
18 it ought to be at full moon since parts of the
19 night will have to be added to the day or if you wish that I should come for you
20 to Milwaukee and we should board the boat there together I will do that
21 if you will set the time beforehand all that is in your choice
22 we are curious what result your new doctoring is having I don't
23 expect much from it still I hope the outcome will be otherwise yet you must experience
24 what we read Mark 5 verse 26 and Luke 8 verse 43 second part I hope that you
25 both may have found that chief physician or may find
26 for your souls and that your membership and bond to his church may
27 lead you to what you write us about and that the symbols
28 in remembrance of his suffering partaken of by you may have enabled you to look
29 upon the significant reality namely to have discovered through faith that your
30 sins too have cost him that suffering and at the same time that out of love for you he was
31 to do that it is at times my prayer when I think of you 'I hope it will be [willing
32 answered' I think of you often yet not always in prayer for that is a work
33 of the spirit if rightly understood but in this respect that we are becoming so far apart
34 and estranged while in the Netherlands I had not imagined anything of the kind if this
35 is the will of the Lord and we are reconciled to it in faith all goes well but
36 otherwise I cannot always feel at rest about it although I must surrender to it
37 you write of bringing store goods but that again is difficult although we are becoming
38 interested in wearing apparel I haven't bought anything for myself yet but I will have to
39 shed the Zealand farmer costume your mother has need of chemises but
40 what on the whole is scarce is woollens for the feet still such things
41 I cannot expect from you for I must pity you when I think how
42 much they take from you for a piece of goods when I consider what those coats of the boys
43 cost the most important other need in the family is snuff and tobacco

Letter 4, page 2, translation

1 for your mother and the boys coffee and tea and soap possibly in these there may be some
2 advantage to be had but the distance is too great I can give little
3 advice in this and we are under the impression that you may be need your own
4 you ask about our crops and cattle in regard to the former we may
5 be thankful and have abundant reason to be so because they are reasonably good
6 for the amount we have but we cannot count many acres as
7 some can as for the cattle we still have the same oxen and two milk
8 cows one fat cow one pregnant heifer two calves of
9 each gender one four big hogs we believe for they do not come home and
10 four smaller sized now one year old and then also a sow with 7
11 pigs so 16 in all ducks 8 growing up 9 cats 2 dogs 2
12 no pork so that without trouble we can live from the eggs of our chickens
13 we are hoping for something better and have a hog in the pen
14 we are all well now Isaac has suffered for six weeks
15 from rneumatism he was so stiff at times that only with great effort could he
16 bend over for three or four weeks he wore that rope warped flag cloth
17 about his abdomen and under it his abdomen developed little sores
18 and now he is better he sometimes didn't know what he was ailing from
19 sometimes he thought it was because he had no pork James has grown less
20 than Isaac he is becoming right engaging he says he is beginning to think of girls
21 this summer on a Sunday evening he [approached] a daughter of
22 wolfer and offered to see her home from Lefrouw's
23 but she became ashamed [to accept] because [she thought] he is such a small boy
24 sometimes we get a great deal of news from the paper from the island
25 Goes there they are very busy digging a canal
26 from Amszwest to Wemeldingen so that it [the island] will now be in halves
27 of uncles and aunts we know nothing
28 things are going here quite their old way I know of no special
29 news except that Traas has fented his farm so that he
30 is giving up farming and two weeks from next Monday
31 I have to appear again in court in Sheboygan for
32 Mr. Zonne that case is not yet disposed of what now
33 is to happen is dark to me Janet, I was
34 in the beginning of my letter somewhat brusck of expression
35 but I am really convinced that you did it with the best of intentions
36 you will notice no doubt that my sentences
37 are beginning to be broken we hope this
38 may find you in good health Greet from
39 us all good friends

Your loving father

G : Brandt