2020

Letter from B.D. Dykstra to Nelson Nieuwenhuis, n.d.

B D. Dykstra

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Mr. Parker:—May I supplement this letter with a few comments.

While directed to me, it has a common interest for us both. May I request that it be preserved for eventual return to me. Time enough, I hope, explain that the two oldest sons, Frank and Ralph, were in the first three first groups at the Academy. They are going now with magnificent capacities. You will probably hear from such a family with such high advantage ability. The letter contains the facts about the father. I may add a few traits to put some flesh and blood on the skeleton of a man.

Mr. S. Cogg was a man of somewhat stern aspect, strong in mind and strong in will. What Tomson says of each other applied to him.

"Wherever he laid his heart he set his hand, to do the thing he called and work it through."

He was decidedly very much a politician of the older type, as we now compare. He met opposition and fought hard. There was a fundamental sense of righteousness even if batons colored by personal ambition. Among men I will say this. Beneath a calm exterior he had an irresistible energy and a strong temper. To control these eight boys required these and fostered determination. In the rest of their time as these hungry boys sat about a full table, he would sometimes say, "Boys, swallow chunks." (Fingers stick together)

If they were out of humor with a hired man, he taught for days. They had a very reticent mood — which the hired man usually comprehended with the attitude. When it had lasted long enough, Mr. S. Cogg would break the spell by saying blandly, "This job, the government, is now gone. Dickinson needs. Her job, is a big one, and now, no more nonsense.

For legislative gatherings or in commissions when a premier called.
not be reached, he employed, with the opposition unawares, the diploma make sorts of standing around ciphers. It worked like the Indian "Column."

It was such men as Mr. Le Cong who put themselves behind the acad. my monument. These men are builders. They were mighty in their contention such as we may see their now. There were mysteries and depth in their nature that neither friend nor foe could ever fathom.

I shall send on also a curious collection which the son and me as he says many is now inexpressible. But in your research there may be some bits of curious information in those faking scraps.

I do not know how long you are still at your thesis. I may send along such matter as occurs to me.

With interest on your project
Your Servant

P.D.F.

An old Latin phrase says:

Dr mortis nihil nisi concors.
Concerning the dead, nothing except the god.
Mr. Nieuwenhuis – May I supplement this letter with a few comments. While directed to me, it has a common interest for us both. May I request that it be preserved for eventual return to me. Time enough, I may explain that the two oldest sons, Frank and Ralph, were in that historic first group at the Academy. They were young men with magnificent capacities. You will probably never find such a family with such high average ability. The letter contains the facts about the father. I may add a few [unclear] to put some flesh and blood on the skeleton of information. Mr. Le Cocq was a man of somewhat stern aspect, strong in mind and strong in will. What Tennyson says of Enoch Arden applied

“Wherever he set his heart he set his hand
To do the thing he willed and bore it through”

He was decidedly very much a politician of the older type, as we now compare. He met opposition and fought hard. There was a fundamental sense of righteousness even if betimes colored by personal ambition. Among men it will ever be thus. Beneath a calm exterior he had an irresistible energy and some temper. To control those eight boys required these and fostered determination. In the rush of harvest time as these hungry boys sat about full tables, he would sometimes say, “Boys, swallow chunks” (“Jongens slik broken”)

When out of humor with a hired man, he might for days maintain a very reticent mood – which the hired man usually reciprocated with like attitude. When it had lasted long enough, Mr. Le Cocq would break the spell by saying bluntly, Hier Jan, heb je n sigaar, en nou geen gedonder meer (Here John, is a cigar, and now, no more nonsense)

In legislative gatherings or in commissions when agreement could not be reached, he employed, with the opposition unaware, the diplomatic stunt of handing around cigars. It worked like the Indian “Calumet.”

It was such men as Mr. Le Cocq who put themselves behind the Academy movement. These men we [sic] builders. They were mighty in their limitation such as we may view this now. There were mysteries and depths in their nature that neither friend nor foe could ever fathom.

I shall send on also a curious collection which the son sent me as he says much is now meaningless. But in your research there may be some bits of curious information in those fading scraps.

I do not know how long you are still at your thesis. I may send along such matter as occurs to me.

With interest in your project

Your Servant

BDD [Rev. B. D. Dykstra]

An old Latin phrase says:

De mortuis nihil nisi bonum.

Concerning the dead, nothing except the good

Transcribed by Liesbeth ten Hoeve