39. May 11, 1710. Letter from J. L. Runckel, representative of the States-General at Bern. With it he includes a copy of the brief cover letter for an answer from the Bernese government to the States General dated April 26, 1710. But the Bernese forgot to include the answer itself, and so Runckel cannot send that.

[page 1]

Schaffhausen May 11, 1710

Worthy, etc.

My especially highly honored Sirs

Your worthy letter of April , last, I have indeed properly received some time ago, but other important matters have prevented me up to the present from answering. From it I have learned of several matters—what happened in the case of the poor Mennonites banished from Bern on their journey and in the Netherlands as well as what occurred in the conference with Lord St.-Saphorin. The latter gladdened me not a little, but the former troubles me greatly. For by experience, I do not doubt that the Lords from Bern are stiffening more and more as time passes in their determined ill will against these people [page 2]. With the result that any who return to the country might indeed pay for their disobedience with their life.

In the meantime, my highly respected Lords, please learn from the enclosed copy, what the Illustrious Canton of Bern wants to communicate both to the High and Mighty Lords of the States General as well as to me as a response to our writing. These letters were in fact dated the 26th of the past month, but arrived just eight days ago today and actually in an incomplete form. Because they forgot to enclose the original reply[[1]](#footnote-1)

to the High and Mighty [Lords] and up to this hour it has not arrived, in anticipation of its receipt I can send nothing other than this copy.

From the said writing it becomes clear that in the Illustrious Canton of Bern for the present the [officials’] opinion remains firm with respect to these poor people and the officials do not consider deviating a hair’s breadth from it. [page 3] Setting that aside, however, I do not believe that they must be banished, but am much more of the opinion that finally, with time, something might be obtained from the said Canton in favor of these poor people if one could only be a little patient, and in the meanwhile one tries to direct the means[[2]](#footnote-2) previously employed by me for the work.

With this, besides a mutual commitment in the strong and gracious protection of God, also a recommendation to devout prayer for me,

I remain as always

My highly respected Lords’

Most obedient servant

J. Ludwig Runckel.

[page 4]

Copy of the reply of the Canton of Bern to that [communication] which I have had the honor of writing to [the canton] to apprise [the canton] of that [communication] of the High and Mighty Lords.

Noble, firm, honored Sir, to whom is offered our ready service and greeting at the beginning.

That the gentleman was willing and pleased to hand on to us the

honored letter from the High and Mighty Lords of the States General on behalf of the Anabaptists, for this we are hereby saying the appropriate thanks. We are requesting the gentleman again to forward without trouble the enclosed letter to their High and Mighty Lords. Accordingly, the gentleman also will learn from the subjoined copy what we are having delivered to their High Mightinesses concerning the Anabaptists, with our petition to accompany it with your good offices. Additionally committing the gentleman to God’s protection. Dated April 26, 1710.

the gentleman’s

affectionate,

Sheriff and Council

of the city Bern

A paragraph and closing of a letter in the characteristic hand of Johan Ludwig Runckel, representative of the States-General of the Netherlands living at Bern. A transcription these eleven lines is found in the middle of page 214.

1. 39 This letter turned up elsewhere and is A 1771 of the De Hoop Scheffer Inventaris. See Document 34 of the present volume, dated April 26, 1710, where also an English translation from the Rotterdam Archives appears. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Perhaps he means authority or finances, or simply that he could keep on working on the matter. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)