113. January 10, 1711. From Runckel to the Mennonite Committee in Holland in answer to their letter of December 23. He is pleased with what the representatives in the Netherlands and the States-General have worked out and presses again for a statement from them because without one the matter cannot be advanced.

[page 1]

Bern[[1]](#footnote-1) the 10th of January 1711

Very worthy, etc.

My especially highly honored Sirs,

My last communication was from the 31st of the previous month. Since then I have received your valued communication of the 23rd of the said month in good order and learned from it with the greatest pleasure that my letters dispatched to you under the dates of the 10th and 13th of the said month have arrived nicely, and what measures my highly honored Sirs have taken in the matter. It has been especially agreeable to me to learn that my highly honored Sirs have made a report at their own initiative of all events both to his excellency the Lord Grand Pensionary[[2]](#footnote-2) and to the other gentlemen from the High and Mighty Lords’ illustrious assembly through two gentlemen deputies, and that the report has been received and accepted favorably by the said honored gentlemen. [It is also good to learn] that the said gentlemen deputies have also spoken at length with the royal [page 2] Prussian minister, the Lord Baron von Schmettau,[[3]](#footnote-3) and informed him about everything and that he takes responsibility for reporting all related details to his royal Majesty of Prussia; and, finally, that my highly honored Sirs immediately after the then-approaching Christmas holidays would solicit the required official writing from the High and Mighty Lords to the illustrious Canton of Bern and submit it to me promptly.

Since the dispatch of the above-mentioned letter of the 23rd of the past month, I hope my letters of the 17th and 31st of last December will have

had regular delivery. From them my highly honored Sirs will have learned that all my soliciting, remonstrating, and pleading on behalf of the poor local Anabaptists is disregarded. Persons here wish neither to proceed nor to settle anything previous to and before either a final decision of his royal Majesty of Prussia or, at the least, the required letter from the High and Mighty Lords [of the States General] to the illustrious Canton arrives. So matters now rest, especially highly honored Sirs. Because in the meanwhile the poor imprisoned Anabaptists have estimated and handed to me their perhaps required bail and [page 3] security so that, as far as this is accurate, I await only the often mentioned letter from your High and Mighty Lords to put the final touches on the work. Presently there is very little probability that the royal Prussian decision will arrive very soon. So I anticipate the said letter from your High and Mighty Lords so much the more—and from one postal delivery to the next. Since the Christmas holidays, seventeen days have already elapsed; and since the time which the poor Mennonites should and could employ in preparation for their complete removal gradually steals past, it is lost, so to speak, for them and for me.

The payment of 300 rixdollars in cash, which is being transmitted by my highly honored Sirs for the aid of the poor people, to date has not yet occurred. I am made yet to hope that the amount will arrive on the coming Monday. In the interim, I wrote Messrs. Fäsch, Ryhener, and Socin[[4]](#footnote-4) at Basel last Wednesday to learn what the holdup actually is. Tomorrow, if God permits, I will have an answer.

Meanwhile, besides a mutual commitment [page 4] in the gracious

protection of the Most High and a most kindly commendation

of myself and mine into your devout prayer, I remain constantly,

My highly honored Sirs’

Most devoted servant,

Johann Ludwig Runckel.

1. 113 This document is translated into Dutch in Vorsterman’s Relaes (A 1392) on pp. 113-114. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In Dutch this is the raadpensionaris, who was the first magistrate of the province of Holland and Zeeland in the Netherlands (1619-1794), presided over the legislature, and was permanent deputy to the States-General; as such he had had great influence. See the Oxford English Dictionary under “pensionary.” Cf. WP Encyclopedie (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1977), II, 1728. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A representative of Prussia in Den Haag. Anna Brons, Ursprung, Entwickelung und Schicksale der altevangelischen Taufgesinnten oder Mennoniten in kurzen Zügen übersichtlich dargestellt. (Gronau i. Westf.: Elisabeth van Delden, 1912), p. 251. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mentioned also in Documents 60 and 98. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)