118. January 24, 1711. A short report from Runckel of the decision of the Great Council of Bern on January 23 and repeated complaint that the return of certain Mennonite exiles, now Hans Bürki among others, has roused very bitter feelings.

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Bern[[1]](#footnote-1) the 24th of January 1711.

Very worthy, etc.

My especially highly honored Sirs,

My last communication was from the 17th of the present month. With this letter I would report in great haste that finally yesterday the affair of the local Anabaptists was dealt with before the Sovereign Council and that after much debate almost everything accords with what we have desired in favor of these poor people and in particular also the release from emigration tax. The next post will transmit my secret report given today to the government [States General] with the judgment of Great Council here, besides what will further occur. In the meantime [they will] confer more with the Anabaptist Commission about those Reformed persons who want to depart with their own marriage partners, also parents or children, as also about the time of departure and what is connected with it.

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As I previously reported, the Anabaptists secretly stealing into the country again embitter persons here. Among them, as they want to assure me, is said to be the well-known Hans Bürki. The longer it goes, the more is the bitterness, so that I fear the evil, which may come one way or another. If they detect [those who secretly return], they must pay either with life, or galley [slavery], or at the least with life imprisonment, so as to instill so much greater fear into those who now shall leave the country.

With this, besides a mutual commitment into the powerful, gracious protection of God, as always I continue,

My highly honored Sirs’

Most devoted servant,

Johann Ludwig Runckel.

1. 118 This document is translated into Dutch in Vorsterman’s Relaes (A 1392) on p. 120. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)