149. April 2, 1711. A letter from Steven Cramer of Deventer suggests measures to save expenses on the journey of the Swiss to Holland and reports that Hans Rupp and Peter Thönen have departed to Laupen (about four or five hours from Bern) to speak with Runckel there and give him 800 rixdollars.

[recto]

Cornelis Beets, and other friends, etc.

Worthy friends,

When we came home on the evening of the day before yesterday, we found our two Swiss friends to be ready to travel up [to Switzerland] and after speaking with them about our dealings in Amsterdam, they declared that they needed neither rowers nor Mr. Ritter, since they can row themselves if they have an experienced skipper on each ship, namely the same skipper who transported them. His name is Niklaus Schneider, living near Bern, having completed his fourteenth or fifteenth journey at the time. He has indicated that he is willing to transport them again and that he can do everything mentioned above. They also know of two other persons who are sympathetic to them and are capable for that undertaking.

Further, they consider it advisable that Mr. Runckel be given the freedom to arrange for three or four ships, but should wait to contract with the people and with further equipping of the ship until our Hans Rupp and Peter Thönen [Teune] or other representatives can speak with him about it. For this reason it is agreed with them that they with a few of the most experienced among them will meet with the aforesaid skippers as soon as possible in the Freiburg territory, across from Laupen[[1]](#footnote-1)—or as they call it, Loopen—and then to request Mr. Runckel to join them there and arrange everything together; this would be a saving on expenses.

For this reason [I] would regard it as a good thing if the friends were to inform Mr. Runckel of this; also trust that this will win their approval, since the city of Laupen is about 4 or 5 hours away from the City of Bern.

I have instructed them to give Mr. Runckel 800 rixdollars quickly and to keep the rest with them until further instructions, the rixdollar here having the same value [as there].

They have undertaken the journey today and greet the friends warmly, thanking them heartily for all their good deeds. Wherewith commending

the friends to the gracious protection of the Most High, sending wholehearted greetings, [I] remain your obedient servant and friend,

Steven Abrahamsz Cramer.

Deventer

April 2, 1711.

[verso]

To the honored

Cornelis Beets

Brewer in the Star

in Amsterdam

**Steven Cramer (born 1660), leader of the Groningen Old Flemish Mennonites, writes in a clear seventeenth-century Dutch Gothic hand. This is the closing of his letter transcribed at the bottom of page 836 and top of page 838.**

1. 149 Laupen is 8 miles (around 13 kilometers) west of Bern. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)