163. June 1, 1711. Letter from Bendicht Brechtbühl and associates to Abraham Jacobs Fries in answer to his communication of May 19. He is sorry to have grieved the Committee. He is, however, ready and at their disposal to come with two brothers in order to investigate matters in Prussia.

[recto]

Dated June 1, 1711

Worthy friends and very beloved brothers in the Lord,

I have received your writing of May 19 safely, and from it I understood on the one hand the untiring labors on the behalf of our brethren who live in Switzerland, and on the other hand that it grieves you so much because they seem fruitless in character. Also concerning my request, that [with it] I troubled you, and yet I wished that you would correctly understand my letter, for it was not my plan to stay up there in the land.[[1]](#footnote-1) It also brought me sorrow that while I had intended not to offend anyone, yet it happened.

I see also in your [letter] that it is requested of me to travel to Prussia along with one or two other brethren. Although to me it seems very difficult, yet I cannot rightly refuse. So I want to undertake it with the help of God. I have chosen two brothers, and we commit ourselves in the name of the Lord. We plan thus on the 1st day of June to start our journey coming to you. Yes, I hope (according to your letter) to obtain companionship and get further advice about what is to be done. You may plan the details according to your discretion so that when we come to you the trip might be prepared all the earlier.

Also note that you should know that I have written a letter to Switzerland according to my best counsel and ability. What will come of it time will tell. I have also sent a copy of it to Mr. Runckel. Thus ends my report.

I remain your warm friend

and brother in Christ

Bendicht Brechtbühl

Tielman Kolb.

Hans Jacob Schnebely

Affectionate greetings and commendation

to the protection of the all Highest

With common counsel, on April 3 we

have sent a letter to Mr. Runckel,

which we [also] have sent or written to ministers

and elders in Switzerland, and which

agrees with your sentiments.

We the undersigned desire that when something is written

to us, that it might come in the German language

if it is possible.

Hans Jacob Schnebely

Tielmann Kolb[[2]](#footnote-2)

[verso: Address]

To

The highly honored Sirs, Mr.

Abraham Jacobs Fries,

Jacob Vorsterman,

Cornelis Beets, prominent mer-

chants

in

Amsterdam

1. 163 That is, in Switzerland. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Tielmann’s son, also Tielmann Kolb, who was later first minister in the Salford, Pennsylvania, Mennonite Congregation, understood Dutch well enough for him and Bishop Henry Funk to monitor the translation of the Dutch Martyrs’ Mirror into German in 1747-1750. Thanks to John Ruth for this information. Cf. Lowry, Martyrs’ Mirror Made Plain, pp. 80-81; Chronicon Ephratense: A History of the Community of Seventh Day Baptists by Lamech [Jacob Garst] and Agrippa [Peter Miller], translated by J. Max Hark (Lancaster, Pa.: S. H. Zahn & Co., 1889; reprint, New York: Burt Franklin, 1972),   
   pp. 209-210. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)