167. June 17, 1711. Letter from Runckel to the Committee. He reports that Daniel Grimm has escaped his pursuers, that Bendicht Brechtbühl appears not to be in the country and that the earlier rumor was mistaken, but through this investigation Hans Bürki, who was exiled earlier, has come into custody and has worsened his position greatly because of the resistance of relatives and others at the time of his arrest. While earlier he would have been sentenced to the galleys without a doubt, there exists at present some hope that he will be permitted to depart with the others.

[page 1]

Bern,[[1]](#footnote-1) June 17, 1711

Very worthy, etc.,

My especially highly honored Sirs,

In hope that my last letter of the 13th of the present month has safely arrived, pursuant to that I again bring up the needed passports, and at the same time should inform my highly honored Sirs how that, in accordance with the agreement made with the Anabaptist Commission here, it was arranged to seize and then to take to prison those men, who, as I previously reported, contrary to the desire of the government and their promised word, had stolen into this land. Under these circumstances Daniel Grimm succeeded in escaping[[2]](#footnote-2) the hunters who were sent out, but Hans Bürki was captured, who is known to my highly honored Sirs, in that he was included among those who rendered an account of their faith before the highly estimable government of Amsterdam a year ago, who was already for a long time suspected and sensed to be in the country. [page 2] However, Bendicht Brechtbühl, praise to God, is not in the country.

Bürki was captured and on last Saturday evening was brought here into the prison and is kept until now in severest confinement, especially since his sons and Daniel Grimm’s with additional men and women had the impudence to resist the government’s servants at the time of his capture, so that it almost came to blows. This, then, as is easy to suppose, did not improve the man’s matters in the least, but excessively worsened them in that it brought the government to force of arms, so that the prisoner has to thank God greatly that he was captured in the time of amnesty, not after its expiration, as was the plan of the Anabaptist Commission. But in this last plan, without any mercy or any regard to his age, he would have been sent

to the French galleys; in place of this, there is yet hope again that he can be banished with the others.

With this, besides a mutual commitment to God’s strong, gracious protection, and the best [commendation] of myself and mine to your devoted prayer, henceforth remaining,

My highly honored Sirs’

Most devoted servant,

Johann Ludwig Runckel.

1. 167 This document is translated into Dutch in Vorsterman’s Relaes (A 1392) on p. 199. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Müller refers to this on p. 318 (p. 350 in the English translation). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)