215. December 3, 1711. A letter from Runckel, to accompany his accounting and a request for the payment of the balance which is still coming to him. He also appeals to the Committee to watch out for his advancement. Some more Mennonites, specifically named, have been captured and imprisoned in Bern, but their sentences have not yet been pronounced.

[page 1]

Schaffhausen[[1]](#footnote-1) December 3, 1711.

Very worthy, etc.

My especially highly honored Sirs,

Your very valuable and welcome communication with the date of the 6th of the past month I received safely on the 18th upon my return from a short trip, and from it with joy and to my very great consolation learn most thankfully how my highly honored Sirs through your past deputation to The Hague wish to employ your good offices both in person and in writing in my favor. May it be the will of Almighty God to bring this to fruition and to flourishing, and also to bring to my hand a later occasion to actually acknowledge, in fitting return, a gracious testimony toward my highly honored Sirs and your beloved members.

Herewith, moreover, I am transmitting my bills with enclosures having the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, in which the travel allowances earned at Bern [page 2] are not mentioned, according to the counsel and advice given by his Nobility, Mr. Clerk [Fagel], to the gentlemen deputies [Committee members], who had been in The Hague. Accordingly, then, my highly honored Sirs, 1840 rixdollars, 10 batzen, and 2 kreutzer remain due in order to settle all the receipts, as will become evident from several bills and that my highly honored Sirs’ purse has been very exactly managed in everything. This remaining amount should be paid immediately to be fair, and our entire bill thus liquidated.

However, since on the one hand I receive an extremely small salary, [I am] not able to present such in cash immediately, and on the other hand, as is known, all my daily allowance earned at Bern as well as travel expenses and other costs with the government remain as yet [unpaid], and [are] indeed higher than the said sum.

So I would wish to hope that my highly honored Sirs will delay the complete payment and liquidation until then and not be displeased with this coaching. [The reasons are two:] Because on the one side, wisdom

necessitates that in the intervening time when their High and Mighty Lords [of the States General] are being solicited for an increase of [their] payments to me, I submit no bills, and certainly no large bills, especially since four years ago I learned that such solicitation did not help me in the least. And because on the other side, I have firmly believed that it would be approved [page 3] that my highly honored Sirs put my daily allowance on their account. Then they would also have much less hesitation to handle the funds, such as are partly needed for the negotiations undertaken (which besides great trouble, work, care, and weariness certainly on indirect and varied occasions cost me not a little) and partly to use for the special needs of myself and my family.

As soon as my pending solicitation with the help of the Almighty and good friends reaches its goal (however it may turn out), my bills will be submitted to the government in the customary manner and according to the advice of his Nobility, Mr. Clerk, and handed over to my lawyer in The Hague, Mr. Leonhard Vermeulen, Jr. He then will deliver the monies submitted to my highly honored Sirs immediately upon a receipt and thus pay off and liquidate my bills down to the last heller so that each and every matter may come to its full settlement. Meanwhile I say to my highly honored Sirs that for both what they already have actually done in my favor, and what they still wish to do according to their hearty wish and blessing as mentioned in their postscript, I am most obliged and return such [sentiments] in every respect, most fervently entreating God from [page 4] the depth of my soul that He fulfill this for [us] both.

Otherwise I have this much to report from Bern: that since my last dutiful letter, some unfortunate Anabaptists have again been brought into

the prison of that place, namely, Peter Spaar, a preacher from Langnau, who is one of them, who with and beside Peter Habegger has put into the head of the Emmentalers the idea that they should not leave the country. Accordingly, besides Hans Gerber, they have to expect a bad repayment, if the dear God does not intervene and turn embittered feelings to mercy. [Concerning] Hans Jacob Burkhalter,[[2]](#footnote-2) also from Langnau, and Christen Luginbühl [Loganbil][[3]](#footnote-3) from the parish of Höchstetten: the former is alone in the Island; the other two [sic] are in the Upper Hospital.

Besides these, Margaret König, captured with Samuel Räber, also deported with him besides the other prisoners, and who ran away again during the journey, has allowed herself again to enter the country and is also at Bern in the prison. Although she is rather advanced in years, she has unexpectedly pursued a young fellow of eighteen or twenty by the name of Kräyenbühl from Lauperswil and wants to marry him, and accordingly alleges that she wants to leave the Anabaptist faith [page 5] and again go to church with the Reformed people. I do not doubt that the [governmental] Anabaptist Commission will consider this and receive her with open arms as a so called straying sheep, but I very much doubt whether the real Anabaptists will lose much thereby since they have always been suspicious of her for apparently relating improperly to old Samuel Räber, who, to all appearances, is nothing less than a genuine Anabaptist.

The case of Hans Gerber has not yet been settled; but I hope that God will yet create some moderation [of punishment].

This I wish from the depths of my soul, and meanwhile besides a mutual commitment to God’s all-powerful, gracious protection and the best commendation of myself and mine to your devoted prayers, also a cordial greeting, I am continually and remain,

My highly honored Sirs’

Most devoted servant,

Johann Ludwig Runckel.

1. 215 A translation of this into Dutch appears in Vorsterman’s Relaes, pp., 244-246. (A 1392). In the Relaes the place is mistakenly given as Bern instead of Schaffhausen. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Hans Jacob Burkhalter was married to Katharina Gerber (Kirchenbuch Langnau 24, 101); they lived on the Nieder-Langenegg farm in the Langnau parish. In 1707 his farm was confiscated because he was an Anabaptist (Staatsarchiv des Kantons Bern, Bezirk Trachselwald A 989, 53v). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. North American spelling. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)