19. March 21, 1710. A letter from the Committee for Foreign Needs to Secretary Runckel at Schaffhausen as a further encouragement in the instructions given to him by the States General, with a roster of names of the Anabaptists imprisoned at Bern.

[folio 1 recto]

Mr. Ludwig Runckel Amsterdam, March 21, 1710.

Worthy Sir, etc.

Copy

Since it brought very great satisfaction and even relief to our Society to see the copy of what the High and Mighty Lords have written, at our request, concerning the prisoners who share our religion in Switzerland, principally in the Canton of Bern, we perceive that the promoting of this highly important matter has come into your hands. Therefore we judged it to be our duty to give you more information. To that end, we hereby enclose copies of the edict published by the Lords of Bern against the Anabaptists and of our opinion and response to it, from which you will undoubtedly see that we are obligated to come forward on behalf of our brethren when fundamental truths are at stake. And since it is supported by such eminent compassion, we ought not be silent in the case of great differences among the children of God, who lets His sun rise over the good and the evil, etc.

We want to inform you, who have knowledge of this matter, and in particular concerning those persons of whom we know that

they already are imprisoned in Bern, namely: Klaus Wassermosser, Thors Raker [Rohrer],[[1]](#footnote-1) Rutgert Statler [Rudolf Stettler], Hans Buk [Bürki],

[folio 1 verso]

Daniel Grimm, Bendicht Brechtbühl, Peter Hofer, Isaak Baumgartner, Christian Steiner, Hans Gasser, Christian Kreyenbühl, Peter Kohler, Heinrich Wenger, Ulrich Salfinger, Jacob Salfinger, Peter Salfinger, Nikaus Blaser, Christian Frankhauser, Niklaus Hagi,

Jacob Neuenschwander, Hans Jaggi, Christian Berger, Uly Fahrni, Peter Thönen.

These are the sisters: Elisabeth Gerber, Elisabeth Steiner, Elisabeth Krieg, Anna Shenck, Barbara Fahrni, Margreth Engel, Elisabet Mann, Katharina Ellenberger, Katharina Aebersold, Barbara Frutiger(?). The brethren are in one prison and the sisters in another prison in the Hospital; the ministers or preachers are in Rischel, in a high tower called Thusu,[[2]](#footnote-2) which none of them [the brethren] can visit in the quarters where several are imprisoned. It will no doubt come to your ears, via one or the other of the same brethren, and we will receive it as an act of friendship in hearing [from you] of their patience and in learning what has happened. For we know that our congregations here will recognize the benefit that you will be achieving in this matter. Therefore we send you all our humble and submissive greetings,

[folio 2 recto]

Signed by:

Wilhem van Maurik

Jan Willink Janz

Frans van Aken

Jacob Vorsterman

Cornelis Beets

Abraham Cramer[[3]](#footnote-3)} of

Jan Fredrix } Deventer

Please address your answers

to Doctor Hermannus Schijn in Amsterdam

[folio 2 verso]

The heading was:

The honorable, pious, our dear

faithful Ludwig Runckel,

Secretary on behalf of the States

of the United Netherlands

in the Swiss Cantons

at Schaffhausen.

1. 19 Spelling of names here have been supplied by Hanspeter Jecker. See also the study by Lavater, pp. 104-117. For Daniel Grein see note in Document 37. The list of names in the present document was apparently copied from Document 6, a letter from Mannheim, dated January 21, 1710, signed by five Mennonite ministers there. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For these prisons in Bern see notes in Document 6 n. 27 and Document 67. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Steven Abrahams Cremer (1660-ca.1733). See Dop and Cremer, p. 95. But he regularly signed his name as Cramer. Piet Visser, “Amischen in Nederland: Enkele haken en ogen van Zwitserse bergbewoners op sompige veengrond,” DB (1993), p. 111. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)