21. March 22, 1710. A letter of Hendrik Saldenus at The Hague to Cornelis Beets at Amsterdam. He informs him that Clerk Fagel has favorably received the Committee’s thanks for the promotion of their request to the States General, but the request to print the letter of intercession of the States General for distribution among their congregations is not considered suitable. First a report from Runckel needs to be received about how the official letter has been accepted at Bern.

[folio 1 recto]

The Hague, March 22, 1710.

Dear Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your gracious letter of the 21st of this month, in which it has pleased you to report to me that the content of

the dispatches sent to the gentlemen of the Committee, of which you are a member, concerning the oppressed Mennonites in Switzerland, has not been objectionable. I have carried out your orders to thank the Clerk, Mr. Fagel, on behalf of the aforesaid gentlemen of the Committee, not only for his expedition of their letter of request for intercession etc., but also for the stringent statements from the High and Mighty Lords expressed therein.

Furthermore, I have not neglected to ask the honorable Clerk if he would agree to permit you to have the aforesaid letter of intercession printed, with the purpose of providing each congregation with a copy. And my feeling is that the gentlemen of the Committee did well to ask what the sentiment of the aforesaid Clerk, Mr. Fagel, was about this, before having the letter printed, but the aforesaid gentleman, the Clerk, replied that in his view it was not a proper procedure, at least not for the time being, until it was heard what result the aforesaid letter of intercession had produced. Therefore, when any kind of report concerning this matter comes in from Mr. Runckel, I shall not hesitate to request the gentleman Clerk [folio 1 verso] to give me permission to inform you of it. I shall not neglect to send to you, tomorrow or the day after, the two requested authentic copies of the resolution of the High and Mighty Lords made on the 15th of this month. And I remain with great respect, Sir,

your obedient servant,

Hendrik Saldenus

[folio 2 recto: blank]

[folio 2 verso]

To the Gentleman,

Mr. Cornelis Beets,[[1]](#footnote-1) merchant

in Amsterdam.

François Fagel (1659-1746) in his old age. This Dutch statesman was a champion of religious toleration, like his uncle before him, Caspar who had been Grand Pensionary of the States General. Already in 1685 Caspar (Gaspar) Fagel had granted the charter to print the *Martyrs’ Mirror*, certainly a book that cries out for toleration.

1. 21 Cornelis Beets, deacon of the Zonist Mennonite Church. ME I, 262-263. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)