22. March 24, 1710. A letter from Hendrik Saldenus at The Hague to Cornelis Beets with a statement of costs of the Committee’s petition. He reports that the States General has refused the request of Bern to allow 50 Mennonites to be sent to America on Dutch ships and that the provincial government of Utrecht has supported the case of the Mennonites with a definite proposal.

[recto]

The Hague, March 24, 1710

Dear Sir,

With reference to my communication of the day before yesterday, I have the further pleasure of sending you the two requested authentic copies of the resolution of their High and Mighty Sirs of the 15th of this month concerning the persecuted Mennonites in Switzerland; further, I have paid the dispatched money to the general account of the secretary, Mr. Fagel, which amounts to 14 guilders and 13 stivers. I will communicate further to you, as one of the representatives of the Mennonites, what may occur in the matter, though not without the permission of my superior, the secretary, Mr. Fagel.

But he must tell you beforehand (nevertheless requesting you to keep quiet about it) that the Lords of Bern, through their deputies, last Saturday requested their High and Mighty Sirs to provide a passport allowing fifty Anabaptists, through a certain Mr. Ritter, to be sent to America on their High and Mighty Sirs’ ships, but their High and Mighty Sirs have politely rejected the request, providing reasons, and taking their reasons from their previous letter of intercession, of which the Committee members referred to shall receive a copy as information, with the request to support the content of the High and Mighty Sirs’ letter of intercession.

Tomorrow I shall make a point of requesting the Mr. Secretary mentioned to allow me to send you a copy of the response of their High and Mighty Sirs; if indeed this is permitted me, I will not neglect to send it to you. The Lords of the Province of Utrecht [verso] have also indicated that

they support the good behavior and conduct of the Mennonites; as a result they have presented a motion in the assembly of their High and Mighty Sirs. To this I have nothing to add, except that I will gladly be on the alert to ascertain what is happening further in your affairs,

remaining,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

H. Saldenus