168. June 18, 1711. At the request of the Mennonite Committee for Foreign Needs, the Dutch government decided to instruct the Secretary of their legation, Mr. Runckel, to help the departing Mennonites in everything, to accompany them to Basel, and also to send a letter to him of the same import directed to the government of Basel. This is a validated copy from the official register with a copy of the letter.

[folio 1 recto]

Wolfswinkel

Extract from the register of

resolutions of the High and Mighty Lords

of States General of the United

Netherlands.

Thursday, June 18, 1711.

Read at the meeting was the request of the Committee Members from the Mennonites of these lands. They, the supplicants, need the assistance of Mr. Runckel in Bern, the Secretary of the High and Mighty Lords, to carry out the High and Mighty Lords’ commission with respect to their fellow believers there as best they can in their transportation, particularly to Basel. Since the Committee would not want to undertake such a thing without the instructions of their High and Mighty Lords, they request that their High and Mighty Sirs be so kind as to furnish the aforesaid Secretary Runckel with such authority and orders for the Canton of Basel as should be necessary to accompany the aforesaid fellow believers to Basel and to offer them a helping hand in the name of their High and Mighty Sirs in the

aforesaid Canton, as required. Whereupon, after deliberation, it is approved and understood that the aforesaid Secretary Runckel will be written that, if he deems it to be of service, he may accompany the aforesaid Mennonites to Basel and offer them a helping hand with the aforesaid Canton. An authorizing letter in proper form [for this purpose] will be dispatched to the aforesaid Secretary Runckel for the aforesaid Canton.

Signed,

S. L. Goslinga[[1]](#footnote-1)

Corresponds with the aforesaid register,

J. Fagel

[folio 1 verso: blank]

[folio 2 recto]

To the Canton of Basel

June 18, 1711

Honorable Sirs, etc.,

Since the government of the Illustrious Canton of Bern has decided to have their subjects and residents[[2]](#footnote-2) of the Mennonite or Doopsgezinde persuasion depart from their country, we are informing (you) that we have sent our Secretary Louis Runckel to Bern at the request of the Mennonites or Doopsgezinde, residents of our country, to intercede for these unfortunate people with a view to having them allowed to live peacefully in the country, or if this may not be, to further their emigration, with their families and possessions, in the most favorable way.

We have assigned him to accompany these people, whose departure is now imminent, to Basel from the places from which they will now come. We cannot allow this opportunity to escape us to request you, through

the aforesaid Secretary Runckel, with an offer of our sincere greetings and affection, to provide the aforesaid Mennonites coming from the Canton of Bern with all help and assistance to facilitate the passing through your city and lands and their emigration and to give the repeatedly mentioned Runckel [your] full trust in what he will propose to you on this matter, and otherwise, on our behalf. In so doing, you will put us under obligation and find us inclined and willing to show all good friendship in return, etc.

1. 168 See Document 105. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ‘Residents’ rather than ‘citizens’ because the same word is used for the Mennonites of the Netherlands, who did not get citizen status until 1795. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)