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CLASSIS OF AMSTERDAM.

Correspondence from America.

1657, July 31st.

J. T. Polhemus to the Classis of Amsterdam.

Reverend, Learned and Esteemed Gentlemen, the Preachers of the Classis of Amsterdam, and dearly beloved Brethren in the Lord:—

With respectful salutations and hearty thanks for all the favors shown to my wife in my absence, I am glad to inform you herewith, that she arrived here safely and in good health on the 4th of September. For this the good God be praised above all, and then your Reverences, who have helped her. I wrote to you, to her, and to others, in the year 1655, and am very sorry to learn, that these letters have been kept back. But as I requested then, so I entreat your Reverences now, that you will not interpret, to my disadvantage, the circumstance that I had not written sooner. The reason was, that I was uncertain about my remaining here, and I was in doubt, whether I should not carry my news myself. I had no idea, that there could be any dissatisfaction with myself or my service. I also sent over my dismissal (from Brazil) and my testimonials. Now, Reverend Brethren, please not to give too much credence to backbiters; they are but human. With God's help I shall give satisfaction to those who watch here, as well as to your Reverences and to all pious people. May the merciful God help us all. Herewith I commend your Reverences, collectively and individually, to God's Almighty keeping.

Your Reverences faithful and sincere servant,
J. T. Polhemus.

Midwout in New Netherland,
Ultimo July, 1657.