

it all comes down on my shoulders, and as far as I can see there is not much profit in it either. When I busied myself only with my own affairs I always had money and was content, but now I always sit with empty hands and, as is shown, can not even pay you for the goods which I ordered. One may think oneself to be a great lord, but it does not amount to much, as you well know.

I had hopes that you might have been able to secure for me the lease of the farm of Broer Cornelis. I quite counted on it and had already warned the farmer. If the opportunity should still present itself, I should still like to rent it, for I must now content myself with a place which involves nothing but expense, to wit, as I have written to you before, the farm of Evert Pels, of which neither the barn nor the house is worth living in.⁵⁹² As I dreaded the expense of repairing the house, because it would have been very great, I built a small house there, 20 feet long and 22 feet wide, and leased the other house for 6 years to Willem Bout, to whom the saw mills of Evert Pels belong, on condition that all expenses were to be borne by him, but he complains daily that he does not care to live in it for the cost of the repairs, although the house is very conveniently located for him on account of the mills.

I also wrote you last year about selling some farms and I request once more that some plan to that effect may be adopted by the honorable masters, for this country is getting poorer and poorer and, as for me, I see no chance of [sending] any returns for two or three years, and according to what I hear there may easily be war with England, for [

], but I hope that the good Lord [may prevent it] and let us live long in peace.

[32] In the ship *S^t Jan Baptist*, Jan Bergen, master, I shipped and consigned to you a case with beavers, marked as in the margin, which contains for your account 151 whole beavers and 2 half-beavers, which I received as you will see from the account. In the case, at the top, down to the paper, lie the beavers which

⁵⁹² *daer schuer noch huys niet Bewonnen waert is.*

I received and send over; then, down to the other paper, follow 48 whole beavers from van Bael, which the arbitrators accepted, as he offered me still worse ones; under these there lie 39 whole beavers and 2 half-beavers which Volckert sends to you; on top of these there are 3 beavers which Hendrick Ruer is sending to his brother and which are marked with his name, and then 5 more for account of Jan Theyse, marked I T. You must see that the expenses are paid to you.

Jan Theysz asks you to be kind enough, after the beavers are sold, to use the money to hire for him one or two farmhands, if they can be obtained; otherwise, to send linen for it, of 13 or 14 stivers a yard. Whether you know him, I do not know. He married the widow of Claes Wip, deceased, and is a diligent man who takes good care of the farm. Had he, this summer, not been struck by the calamity of the high water, in which he was one of the worst sufferers, he would this winter have paid off a good part of the old debt.

Jan Barentsz Wemp asks whether you will be pleased to see if you can hire for him a boy of 10 or 11 years, and if you could get one like that for me also, you would do me a favor, for I need one badly on the farm. The men sent over behave thus far very well, keep away from company and attend diligently to their work.

Cornelis Wyncoop and Seeger Cornelisz have also asked me whether you [could] hire a farmhand for them. They would gratefully have paid you for them and also have paid the 5 beavers, if they could have collected the [money] for the wheat which [Stuyvesant?] bought.

[33] I could again use some more goods, which I shall have to buy here anyway, but I dare not trouble you any more, because I remain so behind in my account. However, you would do me a favor by sending me as much rope [harness] (*touwerck*) as one needs on a farm, for one can not get that here very well; therefore, I should like to have it of the best quality. Also 2 pairs of gray shoes, 1 pair of Spanish leather [boots], 1 pair of short sayette stockings, and a serge cloth suit, but somewhat styl-