Bronxville, N.Y. U.S.A. Feb. 5th 1896

Esteemed and Rev. Sir:

Your withholding your approval of my appointment as translator of your great Encyclopedia is just, but not kind.

I. It is Just. — There is a difference between a brochure as I have translated, such as Catechis & Art. etc., and standard works in Masonic themes such as & toto. & the Encyclopedia. In consultation with friends and editors the brochure I have translated, have appeared in our American Magazines in slightly shorter form. Conditions here differ from conditions in Holland. The body of the argument has been faithfully given, in full, each time. Your name has lost no lustre thereby. Have you read my short paragraphs in the Bibliotheca Sacra July 90. I send it to you.

But, from your standpoint as Author and as being in Holland, I do cordially admit: Your withholding your approval of my translation, your censure is just.
With daily mention of you in my prayers for your long continued health and labors in the Cause of the Master so dear to us both. I remain ever faithfully yours.

J. Hendrik de Vries.

The Rev. Abraham Kuyper D.D.
Amsterdam.
II. It is not kind.

In my letter I wrote you: "If this you permit me, it will be done in strict obedience to your dictation. And I must infer from your writing to Bro. Poppen, that you deem me incapable of honor to make and keep a contract. This I feel keenly."

Again. More than two years ago you offered me the work, and offered to lend me the advance sheets, so I might begin it at once. Immediately, you revoked your offer on the plea of your promise to Dr. Von. This was fair. But when Dr. Von withdrew, might I not have reasonably expected the privilege of a refusal before it was pressed upon others?

Entirely unexpected, the offer of the translation was made to me a few weeks ago. This second time the offer comes to me to do the work. Do you wonder I am a bit exasperated at the news to-day from Bro. Poppen and Dr. Kuyper disapproves?....

Believe Sir: Your writings and teachings have been a beacon light to me these many years. These I do not want dimmed. To clear away every suspicion, if possible of a breach of faith, I write these lines with no other desire than the continuance of respect. Which on my part, is love for you, because your noble works for the preserving faith once delicious to the saints. And therefore...