



# NOTES AND QUERIES:

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Medium of Inter-Communication

FOR

LITERARY MEN, ARTISTS, ANTIQUARIES,  
GENEALOGISTS, ETC.

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"When found, make a note of."—CAPTAIN CUTLER.

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SECOND SERIES.—VOLUME FIRST.

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[http://books.google.nl/books?id=AUsAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA155&dq=%22Janneken+Eeuwouts%22&hl=nl&ei=QP\\_ITvaPKMr18QOciZ3qAw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CDUQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Janneken%20Eeuwouts%22&f=false](http://books.google.nl/books?id=AUsAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA155&dq=%22Janneken+Eeuwouts%22&hl=nl&ei=QP_ITvaPKMr18QOciZ3qAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CDUQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Janneken%20Eeuwouts%22&f=false)

*per se*. There is *la credenza dell' altare, la credenza del battisterio, la credenza dell' olio santo*, and there is a *credenza* in everybody's chamber." Another correspondent, that "*Credence*, French; *credenza*, Italian; *Kredentz*, German; and *credentia*, Latin, all mean, primarily, a cupboard, press, or pantry, and are probably derived from *credo, credendum*, a place of trust. We find in Baret's *Italian Dictionary*, '*Credenza, armario, dove si ripongono le cose da mangiare*, — a buttery or pantry.' Cotgrave translates '*Credence*, silver plate, or a cupboard of silver plate.' Menage, in his *Dictionnaire Etymologique*, gives us '*Credence*, a buffet or sideboard, on which silver plate is placed; of late, we say in France a *credensier* for a butler, and it is to be found in that sense in *Rabelais*. *Kredentz*, in German, signifies a buffet.' Ducange distinguishes the primary and secondary senses: '*Credentia*, abacus, tabula seu mensa, in qua vasa ad convivia reponuntur, vel etiam mensula quae vasa altaris continet.' And even the *Ceremoniale Romanum* carries the matter no higher: — '*Credentiam* appellat mensam, supra quam vasa argentea sive aurea ad convivium opportuna preparantur: et similiter in divinis, supra quam ad sacrificandum necessaria continentur.'"]

*Discovery of the Safety-Valve.* — In *The Times* of Wednesday, February 6, it is stated that "the safety-valve of the steam-engine was discovered by a boy in his anxiety to get away from his work to play at marbles." Where can I meet with the particulars of this incident? L. S.

[The name of the lad was Humphrey Potter, a *cock-boy*, as he was called. The incident is recorded in Lardner's work, *The Steam-Engine Explained*, edit. 1840, p. 71.]

### Replies.

THE DE WITS: TICHELAER.

(2<sup>nd</sup> S. i. 35.)

Historians dispose of Tichelaer briefly as "an infamous barber," or "un scélérat." I have searched for something more precise of the witness on whose sole, and not uncontradicted evidence, Cornelius De Wit was put to the torture and condemned, and I think a short account of him, taken from original sources, may be acceptable.

Tichelaer's services were amply paid for. The High Court of Holland declared him blameless, and decreed him costs in the prosecution of Cornelius De Wit; and afterwards, on his representation that some persons persisted in calling him hard names — *een notorien vagabond ende en infaem persoon 't welch alsoo het suppliant niet staet te lijden* — certified formally, on the 17th October, 1672, that he had acted as an honourable man; still, as his patriotism was doubted, he published, not on his own account, but for those friends to whom his good name was dear, a statement entitled:

"*Waerchtig Verhael van 't gepasseerde in en omtrent de zaken tusschen Wilhelm Tichelaer, Mr. Chirugen tot*

Piershil en Mr. Cornelius De Wit Ruart van Putten, nopende de conspiratie tegens syn Hoogheijt den Heer Prins van Orangen. 4to. pp. 30., 1672."

On the back of the title-page is a caution that no copies are genuine but those which bear the author's initials, W. T.

He states, that he was born at Old Beyerland, of a good family, and was about thirty years old at the time of writing, well proportioned, above the middle height, a lover (*liebhaber*) of the reformed religion, and a surgeon practising at Piershil. He also practised as a barber, for he says the lord (*heer*) of Piershil owed him five guldens, and the mayor ten guldens, for shaving (*raseren*), and because he asked for his money, they took away his office of surgeon to the poor of Piershil. Probably there was something more than simple dunning, as he was prosecuted and condemned, for insulting the lord and the mayor, to make honourable and profitable reparation, — honourable, in asking pardon on his knees of God and the prosecutors; profitable, in paying a fine of ten guldens to the poor of Piershil, and twenty-five to the Ruart van Putten, with all the costs. He says that to complain of this judgment he sought an interview with the Ruart, Cornelius De Wit, at his house at Dordrecht. He had been before the court of Piershil on charges of rape and fraud. In 1670, he had offered marriage to one Janneken Eeuwouts, but, being rejected, he urged his suit so offensively that she left the town and placed herself under the protection of a widow lady at Dordrecht. Tichelaer sent two men with a forged letter, to the effect that her aunt was dangerously ill, and wished her to return with them. She complied, and they put her on board a boat, and left her with Tichelaer, who used much violence, and was stopped only by a storm, which obliged him to land. For this outrage proceedings were taken, and still pending when he called upon the Ruart.

The fraud was on his maidservant, Cornelia Pleunen, who sued him for her wages. He swore to a set-off to a greater amount, for bleedings and medicines, but was disbelieved, and ordered to pay debt and costs. He was also charged with having forged a certificate of his good morals, attendance at church, and skill as a surgeon; but I do not find that he was prosecuted for this.

Possibly these antecedents were not known to those who arrested the Ruart on Tichelaer's information; but proof of all was tendered to the High Court, while it was deliberating on putting the Ruart to the torture. Tichelaer, in proof of the truth of his charges, offered to be tortured against the Ruart. I do not know whether that was allowable by the practice of the court, but the wife and friends of the Ruart, in their memorial, object to it as unequal, because Tichelaer, being a surgeon, could fortify (*verharden*) himself

against suffering by taking medicine. They might have added that he was twenty years younger than the Ruart. Probably, when he made the offer he knew that it would not be accepted.

Tichelaer's account of his interview with the Ruart is full and precise. He was a perfect stranger. The Ruart was sick in bed, yet at once proposed to him to assassinate the Prince of Orange. I shall not repeat this, as it is to be found in common books. The Ruart's wife, suspecting his purpose to be an attack upon her husband, left the bedroom-door ajar, and ordered a servant to watch. He did so, and swore to a conversation which has the merit of probability. Tichelaer offered to communicate secrets, and the Ruart refused to hear anything that was not good (*indien 't wat goets was*), upon which, Tichelaer, after another attempt, wished him "good day" and departed. This was stated by the servant in the presence of three persons, immediately. The interview lasted less than a quarter of an hour. Tichelaer did not give his information for eight days.

When the mob had surrounded the prison, Tichelaer seems to have gone in and out at his pleasure, and he addressed them from a window, crying, "Courage, mes amis! ce chien et son frère vont sortir tout-à-l'heure. Empêchez-les. Le temps presse, vengez vous de ces coquins, qui ont plus de cent complices."—*Basnage*, ii. 307. I do not find that he took any manual part in the murder, nor that he appeared in public affairs till he applied to the High Court by petition to vindicate his character. It is not surprising that the court which condemned Cornelius De Wit should have treated him favourably. Commissions were issued to enquire into the judgments of the court of Piershil, and they were reversed. Copies are given in Tichelaer's statement, the peroration of which I copy, having tried to translate freely and literally, but finding my English wholly inadequate to represent the original:

"En of nu schoon de bitse Nyd, in haer, alibberig en stinckend hol gedoocken nedersettende, niet en nock rusten haer vuyle tanden stomp te knagen op het lijf van haer eygen gunstigen, en 't nytgeseogen fenyn tegen ons uit te braeken, om onze onnosselheyt verder te bespoeten; so sullen wy ons daer tegen wapenen met het sap van een sincere conscientie vermengt sijnde met de wel rieckenden orangen balsam; en op Cerberus ons quam aen te blaffen, een broeck van 't selva compositum in sijn holle keulen werpen, als so hy daer an borsten, en sullen alsoo al de vergiftige pylen die op ons verder souden mogen afschooten worden door eenich Helsch gedroght, courageusement onder de genade Gods van onse lyve afschudden."

I do not know who were the friends for whose satisfaction Tichelaer published this statement; but I cannot refrain from quoting an anecdote of one who claimed, and certainly deserved, him as a friend. The author of *La Vie et la Mort de C. et*

*G. de Witte*, describing the outrages of the mob on the dead bodies, says:

"Un autre encore, voulant faire voir qu'il étoit un ennemi des De Witte, coups au Ruart un morceau de chair vers la hanche, en disant, 'J'ai résolu de rôtir ce morceau, pour le manger avec mon ami Tichelaer, quand je saurois de crever sur le champ.'"—Tom. ii. p. 250.

Tichelaer enjoyed for a long time the "orange balsam of good odour," which he so handsomely acknowledges. Enumerating the rewarded assassins, *Basnage* says:

"Tichelaer fut partagé plus honorablement. Il eut la charge de substitut au Baillage de Putten, qui lui avoit été promise, et obtint une pension des états, qui lui fut exactement payée pendant la vie du Prince d'Orange; mais après la mort de son altease on la lui ôta. Privé de cette pension, sur laquelle étoit fondée sa subsistance, il seroit mort de faim, si la Diaconie de la Haya ne l'avoit assisté. Il tomba sur ses vieux jours dans la dernière pauvreté, et mourut très misérablement, et d'une maladie affreuse."—Tom. ii. p. 328.

In vol. ii. p. 232. of *Behoofte Historie van 't Vaderland*, Amsterdam, 1786, it is said that Tichelaer, in his old age, was seen on crutches, begging in the streets of the Hague; that he lived in perpetual disquiet (*ongerustheid*), and sometimes confessed in confidence that he had falsely accused the Ruart, and caused the death of the two brothers. He died at the Hague about 1714. The book is anonymous, and gives no authorities, but is well arranged, and seems to be carefully written.

The best history of these affairs is in *Basnage's Annales des Provinces Unies*, 2 tom. folio, La Haye, 1719. It is well condensed in the 7th vol. of the *History of England*, in Lardner's *Cabinet Cyclopaedia*, in which, however, there is one error deserving correction:

"The disfigured remains were hung on a gallows by the heels. The person who acted the part of hangman, observing the pastor of the Hague, said 'M. le Ministre, sont ils assez hauts?' 'Non,' replied the minister of the Gospel, 'pendez ce grand coquin un échelon plus haut.'"

*Basnage* says "un pasteur." The Hague had many pastors. One only ventured to express, in his pulpit, disapprobation of the murders, and he was speedily silenced.

At p. 35. I have stated August 22 as the day of the murder; it should be the 20th; and the *Behoofte Historie*, above cited, describes the torture as severe, and says that it took place on the 19th.

H. B. C.

U. U. Club.

Although the subject of this Note may afford neither interest nor information to some of your correspondents, it will enable me to put a Query. I have in my possession a 12mo. vol. of 296 pages, with an engraved title, *Bibliotheca Wittiana*, Pars 1. A second title, in letter-press, informs us