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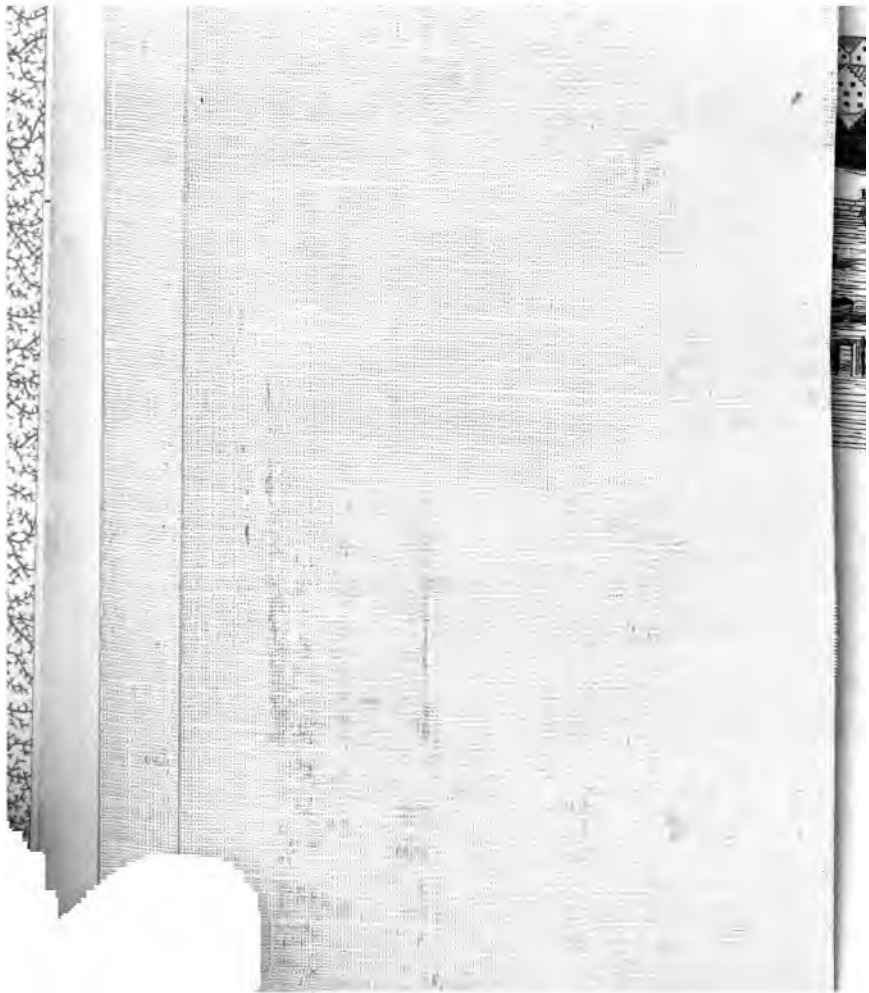






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NEW YORK
170 YEARS AGO:
WITH
A VIEW,
AND
EXPLANATORY NOTES.

BY
JOSEPH W. MOULTON.

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New York in 1673.

SIXTY-FOUR years prior to this date, Manhattan Island on which the City of New York now stands, was discovered by Henry Hudson, and named by the Indians *Man-a-hatta* to denote according to the *Lenni Lennape* or Delawares, not only the landing place of the discoverer, but the effects of the "*mad waters*," which he gave to the natives in his first interview; the literal interpretation of the name being—" *the place where we all got drunk.*"

New Amsterdam was the title by which the Hollanders distinguished their little dorp or village, the nucleus of which had been formed by a few huts erected as early as 1613 for sheltering their fur trade and whale fishery, on the point where it is supposed Hudson had landed. By that name it was known for more than forty years, as the capital, during the administrations (1625 to 1664,) of Minuet, Van Twiller, Kieft and Stuyvesant, the successive Directors or Governors-General of *Novum Belgium* or New Netherland, a province which embraced portions of the present States of Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

The administration of the Governors-General, Stuyvesant, who for seventeen years (1647 to 1664) had ruled the province with singular address and ability, was terminated by his reluctant surrender of the city to an overpowering fleet from England in 1664. The City and Province from that date assumed, and until 1673 retained the name of New York. During the intervening nine years, it was governed as an English Province by Nicolls and his successor Lovelace.

It was during the administration of the latter, while he was devising plans to ameliorate the condition and extend the commercial intercourse of the city, (for he had just ordered the "Great Dyke" or Broad street Canal, to be improved; the

streets to be paved, and the first mail known to the citizens to commence New Year's Day, (1673,) its journey, by a "sworn messenger and sealed bag" *once a month* to and from "Boston, Hartford, Connecticut and places along the road,") that the leading event connected with the above date took place, which ended his authority and suspended for thirteen months the exercise of the English sovereignty over the Province.

THE CONQUEST.

England and Holland were at war. The vigilance of that extraordinary people, whose surpassing energy of character, and matchless enterprise and valor, had filled the world's admiration for more than half a century, quickly detected the vulnerable condition of this city. They despatched a fleet of five vessels of war, and trusted the issue of the enterprise to the skill and courage of Commodores Cornelis Evertson, jun., and Jacob Benches; Captains Anthonio Colve, Nicholaes Boes, and Abram Ferdinand Van Zyll. The fleet anchored in July at the outlet of the Narrows, and on the 30th approached the fort in an attitude to enforce their previous demand of a surrender. Manning, who commanded it on behalf of the English government, yielded its keys without firing a gun. He was subsequently tried for his imputed cowardice, and his sword broken over his head in execution of the sentence which disqualified him from any office, military or civil. But it is very doubtful whether resistance would have been available to save the fort from destruction or the city from conflagration.* Besides, the population were, ten to one, **Hollanders**; and Manning might have readily discovered the strong conflict between native feeling and forced allegiance, which would have neutralized any attempt on his part to retain possession of the city. The conquerors now trans-

* Some of the tenements had reed and straw roofs, and wooden chimnies.

ferred their sessions, as a Council of War, from the fleet to the fort; and, assuming the authority of a Supreme Military Tribunal, proceeded at once to organize a new government.

GOVERNMENT.

The name of Fort *Willem Hendrick* was substituted for Fort James. It was situate on high ground, directly south of an open space called the parade, now Bowling Green. It was a regular square with four bastions, had two gates, and mounted forty-two cannon. NEW ORANGE was the new designation of the city, as a compliment to the Prince of Orange; and the province resumed its ancient name of New Netherland. After these nominal exchanges Colve, one of the commanding officers of the fleet, was provisionally appointed Governor General; and Cornelis Steenwyck, whose politics or popularity had sustained his elevation through every public vicissitude, (for he was Burgomaster under Stuyvesant, Commissioner at the capitulation in 1664, Mayor of the city under Nicolls in 1668, and under Lovelace in 1669,) was appointed Counsellor of State.

The City Hall (*Stadt Huys*) was the next place of their meeting. This seat of legislation and justice, memorable in the affairs of the city and colony, was situate on *Hoog Straet* or High street, now Pearl, opposite Coenties slip. Nicolas Bayard was then appointed Secretary of State, or Secretary of the city; and *Geheim Schryver* (Recorder of *Secrets*,) for the Province, auctioneer for the city, and Book-keeper and Receiver-General of the revenues.

The selection of these officers for the general government, was from 'the best' and 'best qualified.' The people therefore were virtually consulted, for they were too single-minded and virtuous to wish any other test of qualification for office. In this and in the direct appeal to them, which will be presently shown, we see that even in presence of a conquering fleet, popular sovereignty—the sovereignty of opinion—was re-

cognized in the very act of organizing a new government over their conquest. It is so in every instance of the formation and administration of government. If tyrannical, it is influenced by popular opinion through fear ; if liberal, through choice. The sovereignty of the people, therefore, as expressed in popular feeling and opinion, lies at the base of every government. If corrupt, it engenders but still controls arbitrary power ; if enlightened and virtuous, it is the conservative strength, as well as origin and paramount authority of the government. In all cases it speaks emphatically, though it speak in silence. In the present instance there appeared to be a strict regard to this primary element of political power, and in the choice of the city magistracy, the people, who were directly interested, were to be directly consulted.

The "Commanders and military council," therefore, invited the citizens to elect deputies to confer with them at the City Hall. They did so. The deputies then notified the citizens to assemble and nominate a list of six *Burgomasters*, (an office similar to Aldermen,) and fifteen *Schepens* (or assistant Aldermen) "of the best and most respectable citizens, of the reformed Christian religion only." The citizens next day assembled in general meeting, and made their nomination by a majority of votes,* viz ; *For Burgomasters*, Cornelis

* All citizens (*burgers*,) were entitled to vote. The suffrage with them was universal. But citizenship (*Burgerrecht*,) was a privilege and a distinction under the Holland dynasty. It was divided into great and small (*Groot Burgerrecht* and *Klein Burgerrecht*.) Merchants, traders, and shop-keepers were obliged to pay a duty for the privilege of becoming small citizens ; (*klein burgers*,) besides a recognition duty, a duty to the public wharf, to the overseer of the weigh-scales, to the store house, (*pack huys*,) and to the weigh master, (*eyck meester*) for marking their weights and measures according to the 'true Amsterdam standard.' In 1673, their privileges were further taxed, for the public defence, by an extraordinary duty of two per cent. on exports of beaver and other furs ; two and a-half on imports of 'friezes and blankets, and five on imports of powder, ball, brandies, and distilled waters."

Steenwyck, Cornelis Van Ruyven, Johannis Van Brugh,† Marten Cregier, Johannis de Peyster,† and Nicholas Bayard.

For Schepens, Jeronimus Ebbingh,† William Beeckman,‡ Egidius Luyck, Jacob Kip,† Gelyn Verplanck,‡ Lourans Van de Spiegel,‡ Balthazaer Bayard, Francois Rombouts, Stephen Van Cortlant, Adolph Pietersen, Reynier Willemson, Peter Jacobsen, Jan Vigne, Pieter Stoutenburg, Coenract Ten Eyck.

Those marked † were appointed burgomasters, and Egidius Luyck, (who had been rector of the Latin school) was super-added as a third burgomaster. Those marked ‡ were elected Schepens, and Anthony De Mill, Sheriff; and took an oath of allegiance “to the high and mighty lords, the States-general of the United Netherlands, and his highness the lord prince of Orange,” to obey their magistrates, who were or might be appointed, administer equal justice to parties, promote the welfare of the city, “defend and protect in every part the sincere and true Christian religion, in conformity to the Synod of Dordrecht, as instructed in the churches of Netherland.”

A proclamation was then issued, (August 18,) restoring the form of government of the city to its ancient character of sheriff, burgomasters, and schepens,* as practised “in all the cities of our Fatherland;” and the officers now commissioned and proclaimed were directed in addition to the duties indicated by their oath, to govern the inhabitants, citizens, and strangers, “in conformity to the laws and statutes of our Fatherland.”

The same day a sequestration was ordered, by the military council, of the property belonging to England, France, or their subjects.

Thus in two weeks after the conquest, the government was organized. The office of ‘Mayor and Auditor of the city of New Orange,’ was afterwards created; and *Jacobus Van de Waeter* was appointed by the governor and council to fill that dignity. It was an office unknown to the order of the ancient

* Burgomasters and Schepens were like the English order of Aldermen and Assistants.

magistracy, but familiar to the citizens, who for nine years previously had been accustomed to regard it with deference. It became in the present emergency, a very useful appendage to the government, for the MAYOR was invested with the general military police of the municipality, and as Auditor acted as Secretary to the military council.

POWERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The supreme legislative, judicial and executive authority rested in the Governor General and his Council. His Council on all general occasions were the Burgomasters, associated with the Counsellor of State. The *Schout*, *Burgomasters*, and *Schepens* were invested with subordinate authority and limited jurisdiction. The *Schout* was a high officer; (*de Heer officier*;) being not only High Sheriff (*Hoofdt Schout*) but Public Prosecutor for the city and Attorney General of the province, (*Fiscael und Procureur General*.) The offices of *Schout*, *Burgomasters* and *Schepens* formed the body of the municipal magistracy. But the Governor reserved the right of presiding, in person or by deputy, in their courts and sessions. In his absence the *Schout* presided, excepting when he acted as prosecutor, in which case he retired from the bench and submitted his "conclusion," or opinion, upon which the decision was made, subject to the modification of the Governor and Council.*

As a legislative body they had power to pass municipal

* For instance, in 1673, the *Schout's* "conclusion," in a prosecution against the Lutheran Minister, Jacobus Fabricius, for officiating in the marriage of a couple without authority, and "without a previous proclamation," was: that he be flogged and banished, and pay expenses of prosecution; but the "modification" of the Governor and Council, who were strict Calvinists, was—that "in consideration of his old age and former services," he be suspended from clerical duties one year. The possible object of the prosecution was therefore obtained, without its proposed severity.

laws, to be approved by the Governor, and modelled upon those of the "Fatherland;" but their legislation and semi-judicial and executive action were to be in strict subordination to the supreme laws (*protocols* and *plackards*) of the Governor and Council. In their semi-judicial and executive capacity they had cognizance of all matters touching the "police, security and peace of the inhabitants." Their civil jurisdiction, as a court, extended to the "sum" of "fifty beavers;" a currency which, with *seawant*, or wampum, (Indian shell money,) constituted the circulating medium of the city; the standard value of which had maintained, for more than thirty years, a steadiness which no violent concussion of political policy had deranged; but which fluctuated merely to the quantity of the symbol itself, (compared with its specie standard,) in the production of which a specific quantity of labor was requisite. For in that long period the currency of beaver skins had not become 'inflated' more than 3s. 4d. (41½ cents) beyond its original standard, £1, (\$2 50,) nor seawant "contracted" more than two beads to a stuyver.* In criminal cases their jurisdiction extended to sentence of death, or corporeal punishment; but no execution could take place until the approval of the Governor and Council, provided the culprit thought proper to appeal to them.

Such was the distribution of the powers of government.

* Seawant had become scarce, so as to require a new regulation of its value in June, 1673; when it was decreed in Council that instead of eight white beads and four black beads, six white and three black should pass for a stuyver, or English penny, (two cents.) The scarcity of money, and the depreciation of the currency, were, it seems, inflictions in those days; for Governor Kieft, thirty-two years before, bewailed, in an ordinance, that a "vast deal" of bad seawant, "rough things, imported from *other places*," was in circulation; while the "good splendid seawant, usually called *Manhattan's seawant*, was out of sight, or exported, which must cause the ruin of the country!" Therefore all coarse *seawant*, well stringed, should pass at six for a stuyver only, but the well polished at four for a stuyver; and whoever offered or received the same at a different price should forfeit the same and two gilders to the poor.

Each department had its assigned duties ; and all were bound “to acknowledge their High Mightinesses the States-General of the United Netherlands, and his Serene Highness the Lord Prince of Orange as their Supreme Sovereign, and to maintain their high jurisdiction, rights, and domain in this country.”

THE CRISIS.

To maintain their domain at the present crisis was not so easy a task as that of acknowledging a sovereign, to which they were attached by the powerful impetus of national glory and kindred association. This they were aware of. No one imagined that England who by the treaty of Breda, (1667,) had ceded valuable possessions in exchange for this Province, would suffer its advantages to be wrested from her without a signal exertion to blot out the ignominy of a conquest to which her local government had submitted without a struggle. To prepare therefore, for this demonstration was the cardinal point to which the new government were to direct its attention. By its establishment, the functions of the Supreme Military Tribunal were in a measure exhausted. Nevertheless, their united exertions were directed to place the city in an attitude of entire and perfect defence. They had all made up their minds—first, that an attack was inevitable ; secondly, that it depended on themselves whether it should be successful. There was an obstinacy of valor in the Dutch character which achieved impossibilities. Amid their most trying difficulties, there was a redeeming decision and energy that carried them through all obstacles triumphantly. They were indeed a remarkable people ; honest in purpose ; inflexible in faith ; resolute in self-denial ; calmly brave and judicious ; religious without fanaticism ; and in the administration of justice strictly impartial.

That the retention of their conquest depended on themselves, was a belief which it required very little persuasion to

inculcate throughout the city. But policy required, at least, that unity of feeling should accompany executive energy. The disaffected therefore, including the *ci-devant* Governor Lovelace and his suit were ordered from the city. There was now but one soul of action. A brave determination pervaded all classes. A calm piety mingled in the deliberations of the magistracy. The Schout, Burgomasters and Schepens, at the City Hall, daily opened their sessions in prayer. The Governor and Council at the fort, instituted a rigid supervision over the morals of the soldiery. A strict police through the city was established. The city became guarded day and night at every assailable point. At the fort, the guard mounted the ramparts upon duty. The sentinels were stationed at the gates. Subaltern officers took the rounds during the night; visited the walls; passed the watch word, and changed the sentinels each half hour. The *reveille* was given each morning at day break. The gates were soon after thrown open until sun set. The *tap toe* was played each evening at nine. It was the signal for retirement.

In the city also, the gates, fortifications and bulwarks were guarded day and night. The principle guard (*Hoofdt-wag,*) was stationed at the City Hall. Hence the Mayor daily proceeded with a guard of armed soldiers to the fort; received from the Governor the keys of the city gates, and accompanied by his guard opened the gates in the morning and closed them in the evening; and having stationed the citizen guard (*burger waght,*) and night watches, returned the keys to the Governor. At the head also, of the city militia (*scuttery*) he each evening held a parade before the City Hall.

Such was the routine of military duty. All was order. Civil regulations were also adopted, which the citizens, at a less perilous period, might have deemed arbitrary. But the Dutch paid homage to the supremacy of law. Private inconvenience for the general good was the patriot's duty. They submitted to direct taxation, to demolition of houses that embarrassed the defence, and to the assumption on the part of

the governor and council of the doubtful prerogative of sovereignty, the power of the *Ne exeat*: for no one was permitted to pass out of the city, nor even be ferried over the river without a license or passport. No one could pass into the island, but through the city gates, and if any one attempted so to do while the gates were locked, death was the penalty. The fort, batteries, redoubts, and fortifications, were prohibited ground from the citizens. And yet no murmurs were audible. They yielded with alacrity to the exigencies of the crisis. They shared the toil of the soldiers on military duty and nocturnal watch. They united in the repairs of the fortifications. Indeed the true element of public defence—popular opinion—was awakened and enkindled. The work of reparation went on with a vigor which the acknowledged poverty of the public treasury had no effect in diminishing. The people persevered until winter, when the commanders pronounced the fortifications a sufficient defence without the presence of their fleet. On their departure, however, to Holland, it was deemed expedient to leave the *Surrinam*, a 44 gun ship, under the immediate command of Governor Colve, and the frigate *Sea Dog* (*Zee Hond*), under Captain Evertson, as an additional guaranty for the safety of the city. The *Surrinam* was moved in the East River in front of the City Hall, and smaller vessels were directed to leave the dock which was in rake of the fort, and take shelter in rear of the *Surrinam* in case of attack. The immediate removal or demolition of between twenty and thirty houses, gardens, and orchards under the ramparts of the fort and outside of the city fortifications, was deemed indispensable. And the Governor and his council, (Steenwyck, De Peyster, and Van Brugh) issued their proclamation for that purpose, and it was obeyed.

Thus passed the first year of the conquest. The whole city, at times, exhibited the bustle of a besieged place. The uncertainty of the time of an attack which all expected, kept the population in a state of excitement. Rumors and incidents occurred to keep up or increase the excitement, and

occasionally to spread dismay among the timid and superstitious.*

The alarm during the winter in a measure subsided. The indomitable passion of the Dutch populace for the amusements of the simple reel, hipseysaw, shuffle shuffle, cards, ninepins, balls, plucking the goose, planting May-trees on Newyears as well as Mayday, and the May-pole surrounded with ragged stockings before the door of the bridegroom, had now a respite for indulgence. Previous events may have interrupted, but nothing in the shape of peril, the demands of public service, witchcraft nor fanaticism, could suppress entirely this passion. The appropriate amusements of the winter therefore passed off without material abatement. In the spring, however, the alarm, and a correspondent activity for defensive operations revived. Captain Evertson, on one occasion, (April, 1674,) was ordered by the Governor and Council, who had received information of some strange vessels having entered "*Sand-pont*," to proceed "*this instant*" with the "*Snouw*," and, without exposing his vessel to danger, return with all possible speed with the result of his reconnoiter. But the alarm was groundless. England and Holland had already renewed their amicable relations. Peace had been

* A female came to the city who was formally accused before the Governor and Council of being a witch; Governor Colve, however, treated the complaint as frivolous. During this troublesome period, a fanatic also entered the city by the name of Fforman, from Oysterbay, who, pretending, like him that spread terror among the eitizens of London during the plague, to be divinely inspired, made, as the record states, "a terrible hue and cry in the streets," crying on the bridge of the *Heeren gracht*, (Broad street,) and before the houses of the Honorable Steenwyck and John Lawrence: "woe! woe! to the crowne of pride and the drunkarts of Ephreim. Twoo woes past and the third cumming, except ye repent, repent, repent—as the kingdom of God is at hand." This fanatic went through the Dutch villages on Long Island, to New England, crying the same words. He came again without consent to the city—entered the church—abused with levity the word of God—interrupted the worship, was arrested, tried, condemned whipped, and banished.

concluded by the treaty of London in February, (1674.) The news was brought, in May, by a despatch from New England. But to many it was more unwelcome than would have been the appearance of an enemy's fleet; for it brought the sorrowful, if not humiliating fact, that "New Orange" was to become once more "New York;" and that the province of NOVUM BELGICUM was forever ceded to the sovereignty of England!

The cession, however, was not consummated by a restoration of the city until October. The administration of Governor Colve therefore continued until that date. In this interval a new election of city magistrates took place in August; and Bæeckman was now elevated to the bench of Burgomasters; Van Cortland, Rombouts, and Hoogland, were among the elected Schepens; and William Knyff was appointed High Sheriff and Attorney General.

CITY DEBT AND WEALTH.

The public defence, including damages awarded to the owners of buildings demolished or removed, over or above the appraised value of the government lots,* and houses given to them in exchange, amounted to 11,000 guilders (\$4,565) at the close of the first year. In the beginning of the next, (February, 1675,) the Burgomasters and Schepens represented, in a petition to the Governor, that, having become greatly indebted by these "excessive expenses," and being vexed by some of their creditors to make payment, they solicited that some expedient might be devised, by which these, and other expected expenses, might be liquidated. The Governor concluded that the most efficacious mode of raising the amount, would be by an equal and equitable taxation of the whole property of the citizens; and that it might be made

* Vacant lots were valued at 400 to 450 guilders (41½ cents per guilder.)

without oppression or partiality, it was proposed that six commissioners be appointed, two from the government, two from the community, and two from the magistracy. The Commissioners immediately entered upon the discharge of their duties, assessed the estates, and reported a list by which it appears that one hundred and thirty-four estates were taxed and valued in the aggregate at £90,000 (\$226,000) which may be regarded as the wealth of the city at this epoch.*

* The lowest taxed valuation was 300 guilders, (3s. 4d. or 41½ cts. per guilder); the highest was Frederick Philipse, 80,000 guilders. The next was Cornelis Steenwyck, 50,000; Nicholas de Meyer, 50,000; Olof Stephensen Van Cortland, 45,000; John Lawrence, 40,000, and so on, from forty to thirty-five, thirty, twenty thousand, &c. The following names appear in the taxation list, viz:

Adolph Peterson, Andrias Jochems, Albert Bosch, Abram Carmar, Allard Anthony, Abraham Jansen, Carpenter, Anthony Jansen Van Salè, Adrian Vincent, Abel Hardenbroeck, Abraham Verplanck, Asser Leevy, Abram Lubbersen, Anthony De, Anna Van Borssum, Barent Coersen, Balthasar Bayard, Boele Roelofsen, Barnadus Hasfalt, Bay Croe Svelt, Balthasar de Haerts House, Claes Lock, Carsten Leursen, Cornelies Steenwyck, Cornelis Van Ruyven, Cornelis Janse van Hoorren, Claes Bordingth, Coenraet Ten Eyck, Christopher Hoogland, Cornelis Chopper, Corel Van Brugges's houses, Cornelis Van Borssum, David Wessels, Cornelis Direkson, from westveen, Cornelis Barentse Vander Cuyll, Dirck Smet, David Jochems, Daniel Hendricks, Dirck Van Cleef, Dirck Wiggerse, Dirck Sieken, Dirck Claesse, Potter, Aegidius Luyk, Egbert Wouterse, Evert Pieterse, Evert Wesselse Kuyper, Evert Duyckingh, Ephraim Harmans, Elizabeth Driseus, Elizabeth Bedloo, Ffrancois Rombouts, Ffredrick Philipse, Ffredrick Arentse, turner, Ffredrick Gisberts, Guiliane Verplanck, Guiliam de Honioud, Gapiel Minville, Gerret Gulleever, Mary Loockermans, Harmanus Burger & Co. Hendrick Kip, sen. Hendrick Bosch, Hendrick Wessels Smit, Hendrick Gillesse, shoemaker, Hendrick Willemse Backer, Hermanus Van Borsum, Hans Kierstede, Hendrick Van Dyke, Hartman Wessels, Harmen Smecmar, Henry Bresier, Johannes Van Brugh, Johnnis de Peyster, Jeronimus Ebbingh, Jacob Kip, Isaacq Van Vlecq, Jan Mleynder se Karman, Isack de Forest, Junan Blanck, Jacob de Naers, Jan Hendrick Van Bommel, Jacob Leumen, Jeremias Jansen Hagenaer, Jacobus Van de Water, Jan

THE VIEW.*

The city at this date was within the present limits of Wall, Pearl, State, and Greenwich streets. Six streets have since been formed into the rivers, and the principal part of the Battery is also an artificial formation. Here ledges of rocks projected from the water that laved the shore of the *Capsey* or dividing point of the two rivers, now State street.

The city comprised probably not more than three hundred houses, and three thousand inhabitants, including the garrison. The Province contained, it is asserted in one of the early records, not over six thousand, of whom there were not more than one New Englander to fifteen Hollanders.

Dirckse Meyer, Isaac Van Tricht, in his brother's house, Jacob Abrahamse, shoemaker, Jan Van Bree Steede, Jonas Bartels, Jan Herberdingh, Jacob Teuniss Key, Jan Spiegelael, Jan Jansen, carpenter, John Lawrence, James Matheus, Jan Reay, pipemaker, Jan Coely Smet, Jan Schakerley, Jan Joosten, barquier, Jacob Leyslaer, Jan Vigne, Jacob Varrevanger, Laurens Jan sen Smet, Luycas Andries, barquier, Laurens Van de Spiegel, Lammert Huybertse Moll, Laurens Holst, Luyckes Tienhoven, Marten Kregier, sen. Marten Jansen Meyer, Matheys de Haert, Nicholas de Meyer, Nicholas Bayard, Nicholas du Puy, Nicolas Jansen, backer, Olof Stevensen Van Cortland, Peter Jacobs Marius, Peter Nys, Paulus Richard, Peter de Riemer, Paulus Tureq, Pieter Van de Water, Pieter Jansen Mesier, Philip Johns, Reynier Willemse, backer, Stephanus Van Cortlandt, Simon Jantz Romeyn, Sibout Claess, S'ouwert Olp heresse, Thomas Leurs, Thomas Lodwerss, backer, Wilhelm Beeckman, Wander Wessels, Willem Van der Schueven.

* This view was copied from a manuscript copy of one which was originally published in Holland, and which copy was made in 1769, by Du SIMTIAZ, a French gentleman of antiquarian research, taste, and learning, who resided and died in Philadelphia. His manuscripts were preserved in the Loganian branch of the library of that city; and by the liberality of the officers of that institution, the writer was permitted to transcribe freely, such documents, as he deemed useful, for the illustration of the History of New York. Satisfied of its authority, as a correct delineation immediately prior to the conquest in July, 1673, upon various

VIEW.—A. The vessels lying on the North River side of the Capsey, (*fig. 1.*) were Fort Orangiensche oft Albanische Jachten: Fort Orange or Albany sloops.

Fig. 1. The Capsey, or dividing point between the North and East Rivers.

The first row of buildings from *fig. 1* to **S**, were near State street, and extended to White Hall street. The next row near the fort, formed Pearl street, or Parrell street as it is called in one of the records of 1673, which then extended only to White Hall street. Between Pearl street and the fort, stood the large wooden-horse ten or twelve feet high, with an edged back, on which the culprit was seated, and his legs fastened with a chain to an iron stirrup, and sometimes a weight was fastened to the foot.

B. *Vlagg-Spil daer de vlag wordt opgehaelt als er comen Scheepen in dese Haven*, the flag-staff whereon the flag was hoisted upon the arrival of vessels into the harbor.

C. *Fort Amsterdam, genaamt James Fort by de Engelsche.* Fort Amsterdam, otherwise called James Fort by the English. The name officially given to the fort in 1673, was "Fort Willem Hendrick." It was first erected and finished in 1635, by Gov. Van Twiller, neglected by Governor Kieft, repaired and surrounded by a stone wall by Governor Stuyvesant, and demolished, and the ground levelled in 1790 and '91.

D. *Gevangen Huys.* The prison-house or goal. It was of stone and built by Governor Kieft.

E. *Gereformeerde Kerck.* The Reformed Dutch Church was erected within the fort, by Governor Kieft, in 1642. It was of stone, and covered with oak shingles, which exposed to the weather, soon resembled slate.

The contract for the erection of this church is upon record. It was made in May, 1642, before the Secretary of the New

grounds in the recapitulation of which it is not necessary to occupy the readers attention, the writer caused this interesting relic to be engraved, and has added the following notes in explanation of the names of edifices, streets, &c. appended to the original map.

Netherlands, between "William Kieft, Church Warden, at the request of his brethren, the Church Wardens of the church in New Netherland, and John Ogden, of Stanford, and Richard Ogden, who contracted to build the church of rock-stone, 72 feet long, 52 broad, and 16 feet high above the soil, for 2500 gilders (£416 13 4) "in beaver, cash or merchandize, to wit, if the Church Wardens are satisfied with the work, so that, in their judgment, the 2500 gilders shall have been earned—then said Church Wardens will reward them with one hundred gilders [£16 13 4] more," in the mean time assist them whenever it is in their power, and allow them the use, for a month or six weeks, of the Company's boat, to facilitate the carrying of the stone thither.

The church was not completely finished until the first year of Governor Stuyvesant's administration. In July, 1647, he and two others were appointed Kerk Meesters, [Church Wardens,] to superintend the work, and complete it the ensuing winter. The town bell was removed to this church.

Between the church and goal, was the *corps de garde*.

F. Gouverneur's Huys. Governor's house. The "big house" was built by Van Twiller, partly of logs and brick, but a much superior one of stone erected by Kieft, 100 feet long, 50 wide, and 24 high, with two outside walks the length of the house, the one nine, and the other ten feet broad; entry 50 feet long, and 20 broad, with a partition and double chimney, with cellars, windows, doors, &c.

The Secretary's office was at the north gate, at the north-east bastion of the fort. It was built in behalf of Cornelius Tienhoven, who was Secretary of New Netherlands under Van Twiller and Kieft.

The buildings within the fort were burned during the famous negro plot, in 1741.

S. Stuyvesant Huys. Governor Stuyvesant's house or dwelling was built about four years before he surrendered his government to the English.

Fig. 2, 3. The public wharf (2) and harbor or dock, (3) were built by the burgomasters of the city about the year 1658. Here vessels loaded and unloaded, and a wharfage

duty was exacted at first of eight stivers* per last.† The harbor (3) was constructed to accommodate vessels and yachts, in which, during winter, the barques stationed there might be secured against the floating ice; for which large vessels paid annually "one beaver, and smaller in proportion, to the city, to keep it in order." This wharf and harbor are now a part of Whitehall street, Whitehall slip having since been formed into the river.

H. De Waegh. The weigh, or balance. This was erected in 1653, by Governor Stuyvesant, and the standard weight and measure kept in the balance house, was according to those of the city of Amsterdam. To this standard merchants were obliged to conform, and to pay the *eyckmeester* for marking their weights and measures. Goods were here also brought in bulk and weighed, before they were stored in the public store house (G.)

G. 'T *Magazyn*. The magazines or public store houses, or *pack huysen*, formerly of the Dutch West India Company, the "lords patroons" of this city, were situated in *Winckel straet*, (Store street) now Stone street, which then extended from the now Whitehall street to Broad street.

Between Winckel street, and the dock (3) and the wall along the harbor, and in the direction across the bridge (6) at the foot of Heeren gracht (see I.) was the *Brug straet* (now Bridge street,) and between this and the dock or wall was that portion of the present continuation of Pearl street, which was after this view called Dock street, on the border of which, between de waegh and bridge a small market house (5) was erected in 1656, and a market established every Saturday on the shore.

In rear of Winckel street, and between that and *Beever gracht*, now Beaver street, was an open space called *marktvelt*, where a market had been held, and an annual fair or cattle-show exhibited, before the market house on the shore was erected. It embraced the plain before the fort, and a lane

* A stiver was two pence.

† A last 81½ bushels.

reaching from Marketfield (4) to Broad street, and called Marktvelt-steegje, Marketfield lane, is now Marketfield street.*

The most westerly buildings in this view bordered on the east side of *Brede-weg*, or the Broadway, which on the west side was carefully left open for the range of the cannon of the fort. Along the west side from the fort, as far as the present Trinity Church, was formerly the West-India Company's garden, and thence beyond the city walls was the Company's farm, afterwards the King's farm, and extending to the present Duane street.

I. *Heeren-gracht*. Gentlemen's, or Lords' canal, now (Broad street.) It was called the *Moat* in the time of Governor Kieft, and the *Great Dyke* at the close of the English Governor Lovelace's administration, (1672,) when it was ordered to be contracted and cleaned, and when also the streets of the city were paved. The Dutch called it *Brede-gracht* as well as *Heeren-gracht*; and the street, *Gracht-straet*, or Canal street; and after, *Brede-straet*, or Broad street. Three years after this view, (viz., 1676,) the gracht (canal) was ordered to be filled up, and the street levelled and paved. Beaver-gracht entered the Heeren-gracht from the west, and *Prince's-gracht*, or *Prince straet*, (now a continued part of Beaver street,) extended eastward, and terminated in a *Sloot*, or ditch, whence has been derived the name of Sloat lane.

In the vicinity of the Heeren-gracht was the *Schapen-wey*, or the sheep pasture, sometimes called the sheep valley.

From the Heeren-gracht to the *Stadt-huys* (K) inclusive, was *Hoog straet*, (High street,) that is, from a point a little north-west of the corner of the present Pearl and Broad streets to the south of the lane leading from Coenties slip into the present Stone street.

K. *Stadt-huys*, State House, or City Hall, denominated also *Stadt-herberg*, or City Tavern, was situate opposite the

* Benson's Memoir has aided the writer of these notes in locating some of the streets.

first half-moon (R. 1) at the corner of *Hoog-straet*, (which afterwards was called Little Dock street, and now Pearl street,) and the lane running from Coenties slip westward into the street which is now a continuation of Stone street.

The *Stadt-herberg* was built by Governor Kieft, and finished in 1642, for the purpose, in part, of relieving himself from the burden of hospitality with which he had been taxed while his New England neighbors tarried at the "Manhatoes" on their voyages to Virginia. It was built at the expense of the West India Company, and called the Company's Tavern. It was afterwards, upon application of the Burgomasters granted to the city for the purposes of a *Stadt-huys*, City House, as well as the "Great" or "Public Tavern." This celebrated building is supposed to have been standing opposite Coenties slip, and though afterwards divided into two departments or buildings, is the same that was formerly owned or occupied by Brinckerhoof and Van Wyck; in 1806 by Abraham Brinckerhoof, and afterwards by his heirs.

The first *Stadt-huys* was a three story house, with a *schroef-ringe*.*

In front of the City Hall, Jacobus Van de Water, the Mayor, with the guard of the citizens, is represented as upon the evening parade. In 1673, at the beat of the drum, half an hour before sun-set, the militia (scuttery) of the city, then on guard held their parade before the City Hall. The Mayor then proceeded to the city gates and locked them at sun-set, and at sun-rise he opened them.

In front of the City Hall were the stocks and whipping-post. The docking-stool, or rather cucking stool, was not yet erected, notwithstanding the Lutheran Minister, in 1673, pleaded in bar to a public prosecution against him for striking a female, that she "provoked him to it by scolding."

R. 1. *Rondeel*, redoubt, or half-moon, was also in front of the City Hall, and is now a part of Coenties slip, or *Coen and Antye Ten Eyck's slip*.

* Moat, ditch, or canal, lined with planks, to prevent the earth from tumbling.

In the rear of the City Hall was *Slyk-steeg*, Mire lane; and a tannery extended from the north corner of the lane, passing from Coenties slip to Mire lane, on which a bark mill stood. Hence the present Mill street. In rear of this was elevated ground, and near it was *de Warmoes-straet*, (Street of Vegetables,) now Exchange place; near which were the Citizens' Guard House, and the Lutheran Church, (L) or *Luthersche Kerck*. From the City Hall, following the curvature of the shore to *Smet-straet*, (fig. 7,) that is, from Coenties slip along Pearl street as it winds into William by Hanover square, was the *Cingel*, Encircling, or Exterior street. Thence from Rondeel, or Half Moon, (R. 2,) now a part of Old slip, towards the Water-poort, (M) was the *Burgers'* (or Citizens') *path*, between the row of buildings (fig. 10) and the wall along the shore.

These buildings were situated on the ground, now the western side of Pearl street, along Hanover square towards Wall street. At the southern end of the row, near the *Cingel*, commenced *Smeer-street*, (Greese street,) or *Smet-straet*, afterwards called Smith street, and now the lower end of William street.

(R. 3.) This *Rendeel*, or half-moon,* is now a part of Coffee House slip.

(T) The East River, running between the Island Manhattan and Yorkshire, or Long Island.

The Block House, at the Water Gate, (M) was at the north-east corner of the present Pearl and Wall streets.

The City Wall was of earth, thrown up from a moat dug in 1653 from the East to the North River, at first four or five feet deep and ten or eleven broad, somewhat sloping at the bottom. On the top of this wall was a closely connected line of palisades, extending a like distance from the Water-gate along the north-east side of the present Wall street (fig. 10) to the North River. Hence was derived the name of the present Wall street, which coursed along the southern base of the moat.

* Literally, a "round bulwark."

(M) *Water-poort*. The Water port, or Gate, sometimes called the East River Gate, was connected with the Block House at the east end of the wall.

(O) *Land-poort*. The Land-port, or City Gate, was in the Broadway; thence the wall and palisades extended to a fortification in the rear of Trinity Church, which was not built till eighteen years after the date of this view.

(Fig. 11.) The Lady's Valley, a fashionable resort in the days of Governor Kieft, was probably the same place which was denominated, in the period of his successor, *Maagdepaelje*, (the Virgins' path,) now Maiden lane.

(N.) *Smidt's Valey*, abbreviated to *Smet*, or *Smee's Vly*, was a marsh, extending from the rising ground, a little north of the city walls, along the East River, or shore of the present Pearl street, to the rising ground near Fulton street.

(P.) *Weg na't versche water*. The way to the fresh water, or fresh water pool or *de Kolck*, north of the rising ground, filled up within a few years, and Collect street and others laid out in this part of the city.

(Q.) *Wint Molen*. This wind-mill was erected in 1662, outside of the "City land port," (O) in Broadway, between the present Liberty and Courtlandt streets.

CONCLUSION.

Such was the City of New York under the denomination of New Orange, one hundred and seventy years ago. Not a vestige remains of its ancient structure or character. Where now its proud fortress? Its *stadt huys* and *stadt herberg*? Its lords' canal? its gardens, orchards, and shade trees? its Burgers' path, where patriotism infused its public spirit, as it mused over the fancied imperishability of the city? its Ladies' Valley, where the impassioned strain was whispered by the gallant of the day in the ears of his inamorata? All have disappeared. New Orange lies buried beneath the superstructures of modern magnificence. Is it possible that in the

short space of two lives, such a total wreck, such an oblivion of an entire city, should have occurred? Even so. Nay, further, the very language, customs, costume, amusements, government, laws, and currency, have vanished with those who held authority, swayed fashion, and fretted their brief day as the opulent burgers of the city! What a comment on the pride of family wealth and power! Why, the very names sound strangely in modern ears; and yet among them, there were virtues, which gave lustre to humanity, mingled with follies and vices and crimes. Such is the mixed character of human nature in every age and clime.

But the predominance of virtue over vice depends from the influences of the social condition. Without inquiring whether those of the period we have reviewed were more congenial to virtue than the present, it will be admitted that modern New York is a proof that the present age surpasses any former in mere invention and external improvement. The extraordinary progress of New York within half a century must be ascribed to modern commerce, cherished by, and cherishing liberal institutions. The armed commercial monopolies of Holland, and that undefined liberty which the Prince of Orange battled for, and the United Belgic Provinces feebly represented and conceived, have been succeeded in this, their transatlantic scene of operations, by an unrestricted commerce, and a code of constitutional liberty. These are the causes which have precipitated the total annihilation of New Orange—by an effort almost as sudden and complete as if some convulsion of nature had swept away an entire city, and entombed it as a mystery of the past.

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