

duty, loyalty, and affection to us, that we have not the least doubt that you will receive these Commissioners in such manner as becomes you, and || [as<sup>1</sup>] || may manifest your respect and affection towards us, from whom they are sent. They will let you know the resolution we have to preserve all your liberties and privileges, both ecclesiastical and civil, without the least violation, which we [presume will<sup>2</sup>] dispose you to manifest, by all ways in your power, loyalty and affection to us, that all the world may know that you do look upon yourselves as being as much our subjects, and living under the same obedience under us, as if you continued in your natural country; and so we bid you farewell.

Given at our Court, at Whitehall, April 23, 1664, in the sixteenth year of our reign.

By his Majesty's special command.

HENRY BENNET.

## CHAP. LXXVIII.<sup>3</sup>

*The country about Hudson's River, when first discovered and planted; what changes have passed over them, since their first planting to this present time.*

THE most fertile and desirable tract of land in all the southerly part of New England, is that which lieth about the greatest river in all those parts, called Hudson's River, at the first called New Netherlands, from the people that first possessed it.

That great river was first discovered by Captain Hudson in the year 1610,<sup>4</sup> from whom it received its name. The reason why it was not first seized into the possession of the English, seems to be the many sad disasters they met withal, in their first attempts that way in 1607<sup>4</sup> and some years after, which discouraged those of our nation from further prosecuting any design of that nature till the year 1620, when some of the Separation of Leyden, in Holland, put on a fresh resolution to transplant themselves into some part of America. Their intent was to have pitched upon some place about Hudson's River, but they were therein supplanted by some of the Dutch, amongst whom they sojourned, which hired the master

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<sup>1</sup> Supplied from Davis's Morton, p. 313.—H.   <sup>2</sup> LXXVII in the MS.—H.

<sup>3</sup> In September, 1609.—H.

<sup>4</sup> See page 13, *et seq.*—H.

of the ship to bend his course more northward, which, to gratify their fraudulent interlopers, Jones, their mercenary pilot, performed,<sup>1</sup> and forced them in at Cape Cod, having at that time an intent to make a Plantation about Hudson's River themselves, which they soon after accomplished, although their pretence was only to make use of the harbor for a supply of fresh water for their ships, as they passed to and from the West Indies, but took such liking to the place, that they there settled a Plantation; for those that began, 1614, were routed by Sir Samuel Argall, soon after the other began at Cape Cod. On which consideration that Providence is the more remarkable, that hath of late brought it under the English, in the year 1664, having been in the hands of the Dutch above forty years before.

At the first settling of their Plantation, there, they always held a friendly correspondence<sup>2</sup> with the English at New Plymouth, thereby, as it were, proffering them a mess of pottage instead of the birthright of the land, which, by an under contrivance, they had before subtly deprived them of.

It was quietly possessed by the Dutch a long time, till of late, when, beginning to stand upon terms and upon masteries with our Royal Sovereign Charles the Second, (whose royal predecessors had not only been their great benefactors, but their chief upholders, when, casting off the Spanish yoke, they began to set up for themselves,) it was happily surrendered, or surprised, by the English, under the conduct of Colonel Nichols, in the behalf of his Royal Highness the Duke of York.<sup>3</sup> Under the government of the said Colonel Nichols it continued until the year before our last quarrel with the Dutch, when General Nichols, weary of his confinement there, resigned up his place in the government of the Dutch Plantation to Colonel Lovelace,<sup>4</sup> who held it till the year 1673, when, in his absence from the fort and chiefest place of strength, it was unhappily surprised by Monsieur Colve, under a Dutch Commission, who held it for a while, to the no small damage of the English in those parts, till it was again restored to the absolute possession of the English upon their last treaty of peace between the two nations.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See page 51.—H.      <sup>2</sup> See page 99.—H.      <sup>3</sup> In 1664. See page 581; Holmes, i. 334-5; Thompson's Long Island, i. 118-29.—H.

<sup>4</sup> In 1667 or 1668. See Chalmers's Political Annals, p. 578; Thompson, i. 142-3.—H.

<sup>5</sup> See page 611.—H.

When the Dutch first planted that part of the country, they took possession, in like manner, of the westernmost part of Long Island, where they began some petty Plantations with some inhabitants of their own nation.

The remainder of the said Island was possessed by the English, that removed into those parts, for the sake of a more convenient and commodious situation, out of the other Colonies of New England, having obtained the liberty so to do, by some kind of grant from the agent of my Lord Sterling,<sup>1</sup> to whose share or allotment, (either by grant from the Earl of Carlisle, or *in some other way*,) that part of the country fell, upon the resignation of the Grand Patent betwixt the years 1630 and 1635; and also, by a voluntary consent and agreement amongst themselves, || *some* || of the towns upon that part of Long Island put themselves under the government of New Haven, *and* some under Connecticut Colony; under which jurisdictions they remained till the coming over of Colonel Nichols, 1664, who assumed the whole Island into his possession, as part of the Patent granted his Royal Highness the Duke of York, to which it hath been annexed ever since. The towns planted thereon, all, or most of them are moulded, as to their ecclesiastical concernments, after the manner of the rest of the New English Plantations, and are of their persuasion generally in matters of religion; nor have they been abridged of their liberty therein by any of the honorable gentlemen that have presided there, since it hath been reduced into the power of the English.

The towns there seated lie in this order, being about twelve in all.

In a bay, at the easternmost end of Long Island, is that called Shelter Island, a very fruitful and pleasant place, the seat of one Mr. Sylvester,<sup>2</sup> a rich merchant, that purchased it of a New Haven gentleman,<sup>3</sup> and hath there settled his family, which he brought from Barbados.

The next place, on that called Long Island, is East Hampton, at the furthest end eastward; then South Hampton; next, Southhold, where the inhabitants of late have fallen upon the killing of whales, that frequent

|| *and* ||

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<sup>1</sup> See page 245.—H.    <sup>2</sup> Capt. Nathaniel Sylvester, to whom, with his associates, the Island was conveyed by Stephen Goodyear, of New Haven, June 9, 1651. See Thompson's Long Island, i. 118, 155, 364-73.—H.

the south side of the Island in the latter part of the winter, wherein they have a notable kind of dexterity; and the trade that ariseth therefrom hath been very beneficial to all that end of the Island; then Seatocket, Huntingdon, Oister, Jerusalem, Jericho, Hempsted, Flushing, New Town, Bedford, Gravescant. Some of these are Dutch towns, in the first planting or ordering of which there hath not much matter of moment been reported.

After Monsieur Colve had possessed himself of the Dutch Plantations at Manhatos, he made some attempts to have seized the towns of the English on Long Island, but the inhabitants stood resolutely upon their guard, and so prevented his further design upon them.<sup>1</sup>

As for any further discourse of the Dutch Plantations next adjoining, or the description thereof, the reader may take the following relation (with little variation,) in the words of D. D.,<sup>2</sup> some time an inhabitant there, and published in the year 1670.

A Brief Relation of New York, With the Places thereunto Adjoining, formerly called The New Netherlands, &c.

That tract of land, formerly called the New Netherlands, doth contain all that land which lieth in the north parts of America, betwixt New England and Maryland, in Virginia, the length [of] which northward into the country, as it hath not been fully discovered, so it is not certainly known; the breadth of it is about two hundred miles. The principal rivers within this [tract] are Hudson's River, After-Kull, Raritan River, and Delaware Bay River; the chief || [islands are] || the Manahatan's Island,<sup>3</sup> Long Island, and Staten Island.

And first, to begin with the Manahatan's Island, so called by the Indians. It lieth within ||<sup>2</sup> [land] || betwixt the degrees of 41 and 42 of north latitude, and is about fourteen miles long and two ||<sup>3</sup> [broad.] || It is bounded with Long Island, on the south; with Staten Island, on the west; on the north, with [the] main land; and with Connecticut Colony on the east side of it; only a part of the main land, belonging to New York Colony, where several towns and villages are settled, being about ||<sup>4</sup> thirty || miles

|| islands ||

||<sup>2</sup> and ||

||<sup>3</sup> wide ||

||<sup>4</sup> three ||

<sup>1</sup> See Thompson, i. 155-6, 387.—H.

<sup>2</sup> See Furman's Denton, pp. 23-7.—H.

in breadth, doth intercept the Manhatan's Island and Connecticut Colony, before mentioned. It is rather an isthmus than an island, being tacked to the main by a shallow stream, fordable at low water.

The town, called New York, is settled upon the west end of the said Island, having that small arm of the sea, which divides it from Long Island, on the south side of it, which || [runs] || away eastward to New England, and is navigable, though dangerous. For about ten miles ||<sup>2</sup> [from New] || York is a place called Hell Gate,<sup>1</sup> which being a narrow passage, there runneth a violent stream, both upon flood and ebb, and in the middle lieth some islands of rocks, which the current sets so violently upon, that it threatens present shipwreck; and upon the flood is a large whirlpool [which] continually sends forth a hideous roaring, enough to affright any stranger from passing further, ||<sup>3</sup> [and] || to wait for some Charon to conduct him through; yet to those that are well acquainted, ||<sup>4</sup> [little or] || no danger; yet a place of great defence against any enemy coming in that way, which a small fortification would absolutely prevent, and necessitate them to come in at the west end ||<sup>5</sup> [of Long] || Island by Sandy Hook, where Nutten Island<sup>2</sup> doth force them within command of the fort ||<sup>6</sup> at [New York] || which is one of the best pieces of defence in the north part of America.

New York is built most of brick and stone, and covered with red and black tile, ||<sup>7</sup> [and the land] || being high, it gives at a distance a pleasing aspect to the spectators.<sup>3</sup> ||<sup>8</sup> [The] inhabitants consist || most of English and Dutch, and have a considerable trade with the Indians for beavers, otter, racoon skins, with other furs; and also for bear, deer, and elk skins; and are supplied with venison and fowl in the winter, and fish in the summer, by the Indians, which they buy at an easy rate. And having the country round about them, they are continually ||<sup>9</sup> furnished || with all such provisions as is needful for the life of man, not only by the English and Dutch within their own, but likewise by the adjacent Colonies.

|| bears || ||<sup>2</sup> from || ||<sup>3</sup> but || ||<sup>4</sup> there is || ||<sup>5</sup> of the ||  
|| \* \* \* || ||<sup>7</sup> which || || \* \* \* inhabit \* \* \* || ||<sup>9</sup> supplied ||

<sup>1</sup> It is hardly necessary to remind the American reader of Irving's inimitable description of this Strait.—H.

<sup>2</sup> The Dutch for Nut Island, the name given to Governor's Island during the "Holland Supremacy." Furman's Denton, p. 29.—H.

<sup>3</sup> See Furman's Denton, pp. 29–32.—H.

The commodities vented from thence are furs and skins before mentioned, as likewise tobacco, made within the Colony, as good as is usually made in Maryland; also, horses, beef, pork, oil, peas, wheat, and the like.

Long Island, the west end of which lies southward of New York, runs eastward above one hundred miles, and is, in some places eight, in some twelve, in some fourteen miles broad. It is inhabited from one end to the other. On the west end are four or five Dutch towns, the rest being all English, to the number of twelve, besides villages and farm-houses. The Island is most of it of a very good soil, and very natural for all sorts of English grain, which they sow and have very good increase of; besides all other fruits and herbs, common in England, as also tobacco, hemp, flax, pumpkins, melons, &c.

The fruits, natural to the Island, are mulberries, possimons, grapes, great and small, whortleberries, cranberries, plums of several sorts, raspberries, and strawberries; of which last is such abundance in June, that the fields and woods are died red, in a manner, with them.

The greatest part of the Island is very full of timber, as oaks, white and red, walnut trees, chestnut trees, which yield store of mast for swine, and are often therewith sufficiently fatted without corn; as also maples, cedars, saxifrage, beach, birch, holly, hazel, with many sorts more.

The herbs, which the country naturally affords, are purslain, white orage, egrimony, violets, penny-royal, elecampane, besides saxaparilla very common, besides many more. Yea, in May you shall see the woods and fields so curiously bedecked with roses, and an innumerable multitude of other delightful flowers, not only pleasing to the eye, but smell, that you may behold nature contending with art, and striving to equal, if not excel many gardens in England. Nay, did we know the virtue of all those plants and herbs growing there, (which time may more discover,) many are of opinion, and the natives do affirm, that there is no disease common to the country, but may be cured without materials from other nations.

There are several navigable rivers and bays, which

put into the north side of Long Island; but upon the south side, which joins to the sea, it is so fortified with bars of sands and shoals, that it is a sufficient defence against any enemy. Yet the south side is not without brooks and ||riverets,|| which empty themselves into the sea; yea, you shall scarce travel a mile but you shall meet with one of them, whose chrystal streams run so swift that they purge themselves of such stinking mud and filth, which the standing or slow paced streams of most brooks and rivers, westward of this Colony, leave lying behind them upon their banks, and are by the sun's exhalation dissipated, the air corrupted, and many fevers and other distempers occasioned, not incident to this Colony. Neither do the brooks and ||riverets|| premised, give way to the frost in winter, or drought in summer, but keep their course throughout the year.

These rivers are very well furnished with fish, as bass, sheepsheads, plaice, perch, trouts, eels, [turtles] and divers others. There is also a black fish, of an excellent taste, not found elsewhere in New England. ||<sup>2</sup> The Island || is plentifully stored with all sorts of English cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, ||<sup>3</sup> [goats, &c., no] place in the north || of America better, which they can both raise and maintain, [by] reason of the large § and § spacious meadows ||<sup>3</sup> [or marches wherewith it is furnished, the Island likewise] || producing excellent English grass, the seed of which was brought out of England, which they sometime mow twice a year.

For wild beasts there is deer, bear, wolves, foxes, rackoons, otters, musquashes, and skunks. Wild fowl there is great store of, as turkeys, heathhens, quails, partridges, pigeons, cranes, geese of several sorts, brants, ducks, widgeon, teal, and divers others. There is also the Red-bird, with divers sorts of singing birds, whose chirping notes salute the ears of travellers with an harmonious discord; and in every pond ||<sup>4</sup> and || brook, green silken frogs, who whistling forth their shrill notes, strive to bear a part in this music, not much unlike the Lancashire bagpipe; while in the meantime the larger sort of them § in the evenings § are bellowing out their sackbut diapason.

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|| \* \* \* island ||

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bars of sands and shoals, that it is a sufficient defence against any enemy. Yet the south side is not without brooks and riverets, which empty themselves into the sea; yea, you shall scarce travel a mile but you shall meet with one of them, whose crystal streams run so swift that they purge themselves of such stinking mud and filth, which the standing or slow paced streams of most brooks and rivers, westward of this Colony, leave lying behind them upon their banks, and are by the the sun's exhalation dissipated, the air corrupted, and many fevers and other distempers occasioned, not incident to this Colony. Neither do the brooks and riverets premised, give way to the frost in winter, or drought in summer, but keep their course throughout the year.

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For wild beasts there is deer, bear, wolves, foxes, raccoons, otters, musquashes, and skunks. Wild fowl there is great store of, as turkeys, heath-hens, quails, partridges, pigeons, cranes, geese of several sorts, brants, ducks, widgeon, teal, and divers others. There is also the red-bird, with divers sorts of singing birds, whose chirping notes salute the ears of travellers with an harmonious discord; and in every pond and brook, green silken frogs, who whistling forth their shrill notes, strive to bear a part in this music, not much unlike the Lancashire bagpipes; while in the meantime the larger sort of them in the evenings are bellowing out their sackbut diapason.

Towards the middle of Long Island lieth a plain, sixteen miles long and four broad, upon which plain grows very fine grass, that makes exceeding good hay, and is very good pasture for sheep or other cattle, where

you shall find neither stick nor stone to hinder the horses' heels, or endanger them in their races; and once a year the best horses in the Island are brought hither to try their swiftness, and the swiftest are rewarded with a silver cup, two being annually procured for that purpose.<sup>1</sup> There are two or three other small plains, of about a mile square, which are no small benefit to those towns that enjoy them.

Upon the south side of Long Island, in the winter, lie store of whales and grampuses, which the inhabitants begin with small boats to make a trade of catching, to their no small benefit; also an innumerable multitude of seals, which make an excellent oil. They lie all winter upon some broken marshes and beaches, or bars of sand before mentioned, and might be easily got, were there some skilful men would undertake it.<sup>2</sup>

Within two leagues of New York lieth Staten Island. It bears from New York west, something southerly. It is about twenty miles long and four or five broad. It is most of it very good land, full of timber, and produceth all such commodities as Long Island doth, besides tin, and store of iron ore, and the calamine stone is said likewise to be found there. There is but one town upon it, consisting of English and French, but is capable of entertaining more inhabitants. Betwixt this and Long Island is a very large bay, and is the coming in for all ships and vessels out of the sea. On the north side of this Island After-Kull River puts into the main land, on the west side whereof is two or three towns, but on the east side but one. There are very great marshes or meadows on both sides of it; excellent good land and good convenience for the settling of several towns. There grows black walnut and locust as there doth in Virginia, with mighty tall, straight timber, as good as any in the north of America. It produceth any commodity Long Island doth.

Hudson's River runs by New York northward into the country, toward the head of which is seated New Albany, a place of great trade with the Indians; betwixt which

<sup>1</sup> The plain here described is a portion of the celebrated Hempstead Plains. — H. <sup>2</sup> We need only refer the reader to Thompson's History of Long Island, to assure him, at once, both of entertainment and instruction. — H.

and New York, being above one hundred<sup>1</sup> miles, is as good corn land as the world affords, enough to entertain hundreds of families, which in the time of the Dutch government of those parts could not be settled for the Indians, excepting one place called the Sopers, which was kept by a garrison; but since the reduction of those parts under his Majesty's obedience and a Patent granted to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, which is about six years since, by the care and diligence of the honorable Colonel Nichols, sent thither deputy to his Highness,<sup>2</sup> such a league of peace was made, and friendship concluded betwixt that Colony and the Indians, that they have not resisted or disturbed any Christians there, in the settling or peaceable possessing of any lands there, within that government, but every man hath sat under his own vine, and hath peaceably reaped and enjoyed the fruits of his own labors, which God continue.

Westward of After-Kull River before mentioned, about eighteen or twenty miles, runs in Raritan River northward into the country, some score of miles, both sides of which river is adorned with spacious meadows, enough to maintain thousands of cattle; the woodland is likewise very good for corn, and stored with wild beasts, as deer and elks, and an innumerable multitude of fowl, as in other parts of the country. This river is thought very capable for the seat of several towns and villages on each side of it, no place in the north of America having better convenience for the maintaining of all sorts of cattle for winter and summer fodder. Upon this river is no town settled, but one at the mouth of it.

Next this river westward is a place called Newasons, where are two or three towns and villages, settled upon the seaside, but none betwixt that and Delaware Bay, which is about sixty miles, all which is a rich champaign country, free from stones, and indifferent level, store of excellent good timber, and very well watered, having brooks or rivers ordinarily one or more in every mile's travel. The country is full of deer, elks, bear, and other creatures, as in other parts of the country,

<sup>1</sup> One hundred and forty-five by the Hudson River. — H.

<sup>2</sup> See pp. 577, 581, 667. — H.

where you shall meet with no inhabitants in your journey but a few Indians ; where there are stately oaks, whose broad-branched tops serve for no other use but to keep off the sun's heat from the wild beasts of the wilderness ; where is grass as high as a man's middle, that serves for no other end except to maintain the elks and deer, who never devour an hundredth part of it, than to be burnt every spring, to make way for new. How many poor people in the world would think themselves happy, had they an acre or two of land, whilst here are hundreds, nay thousands, of acres, that would invite inhabitants.

Delaware Bay, the mouth of the river, lieth about the midway betwixt New York and the Capes of Virginia. It is a very pleasant river and country, but very few inhabitants, and their being mostly Swedes, Dutch, and Finns. About sixty miles up the river is the principal town, called New Castle, which is about forty miles from Maryland, and very good way to travel, either with horse or foot. The people are settled all along the west side sixty miles above New Castle ; the land is good for all sorts of English grain, and wanteth nothing but a good people to populate it, it being capable of entertaining many hundred families.

Some may admire that these rich and great tracts of land, lying so adjoining to New England and Virginia, should be no better inhabited, and that the richness of the soil, the healthfulness of the climate, and the like, should be no better a motive to induce people from both places to populate it. Yet some, upon experience, complain of the unhealthfulness of all those places on either side of the Manhatoes, as being flat and low lands, and subject to agues in the summer, which is no small discouragement to them that prize health as they should. To which I answer, that whilst it was under the Dutch government, which hath been till within these six years, there was little encouragement for any English, both in respect of their safety from the Indians, the Dutch being almost always in danger of them, and their beaver trade not admitting of a war, which would have been destructive to their trade, which was the main thing prosecuted by the Dutch. And, secondly, the Dutch gave such bad titles to lands, to-

gether with their exacting of the tenths of all which men produced off their lands, that did much hinder the populating of it; together with that general dislike the English have of living under another government; but since the reducement of it there are several towns of a considerable greatness begun and settled by people out of New England, and every day more and more come to view and settle.

To give some satisfaction to people that shall be desirous to transport themselves thither, (the country being capable of entertaining many thousands,) how and after what manner people live, and how land may be procured, &c., I shall answer, that the usual way is for a company of people to join together, either enough to make a town, or a lesser number. These go, with the consent of the Governor, and view a tract of land, there being choice enough, and, finding a place convenient for a town, they return to the Governor, who, upon their desire, admits them into the Colony, and gives them a Grant or Patent for the said land, for themselves and their associates. These persons, being thus qualified, settle the place, and take in what inhabitants to themselves they shall see cause to admit of, till their town be full. These associates, thus taken in, have equal privileges with themselves, and they make a division of the land suitable to every man's occasions, no man being debarred of such quantities as he hath occasion for. The rest they let lie in common, till they have occasion for a new division, never dividing their pasture lands at all, which lie in common to the whole town. The best commodities for any to carry with them is clothing, the country being full of all sorts of cattle, with which they may furnish themselves at an easy rate.

This as a true description of the country about New York was thought necessary to be published as well for the encouragement of many that may have a desire to remove themselves thither, as for the satisfaction of those that would make a trade into those parts.

FINIS.

[1878.]

teen miles long and four broad, upon which plain grows very fine grass, that makes exceeding good hay, and is very good pasture for sheep or other cattle, where you shall find neither stick nor stone to hinder || the [horses'] || heels, or endanger them in their races; and once a year the best horses in the Island are brought hither to try their swiftness, and the swiftest are rewarded with a silver cup, two being annually procured for that purpose.<sup>1</sup> There are two or three other small plains, of about a mile square, which are no small benefit to those towns that enjoy them.

Upon the south side of Long Island, in the winter, lie store of whales and grampuses, [which] the inhabitants begin with small boats to make a trade of catching, to their no small benefit; also, an innumerable multitude of seals, which make an excellent oil. They lie all winter upon some broken marshes and beaches, or bars of sand before mentioned, and might [be] easily got, were there some skilful men would undertake it.<sup>2</sup>

Within two leagues of New York lieth Staten Island. It bears from New York west, something southerly. It is about twenty miles long and four or five broad. It is ||<sup>3</sup> most [of it] very || good land, full of timber, and produceth all such commodities as Long Island doth, besides tin, and store of iron ore, and the calamine stone is said likewise to be found there. There is but one town upon it, consisting of English and French, but is capable of entertaining more inhabitants. Betwixt this and Long Island is a very large bay, and is the ||<sup>3</sup> coming [in] for || all ships and vessels out of the sea. On the north side of this Island After-Kull [River] puts into the main land, on the west side whereof is two or three towns, but on ||<sup>4</sup> [the east side] || but one. There are very great marshes or meadows on both sides of it; excellent ||<sup>5</sup> [good land] || and good convenience for the settling of several towns. There grows black ||<sup>6</sup> [walnut and locust] || as there doth in Virginia, with mighty tall, strait timber, as good as any in the ||<sup>7</sup> [north of] || America. It produceth any commodity Long Island doth.

|| their ||    ||<sup>3</sup> mostly of very ||    ||<sup>2</sup> common \* \* for ||  
|| \* \* ||    ||<sup>5</sup> grass \* ||    ||<sup>6</sup> wa \* ||    ||<sup>7</sup> whole of ||

<sup>1</sup> The plain here described is a portion of the celebrated Hempstead Plains.—H.    <sup>2</sup> We need only refer the reader to Thompson's History of Long Island, to assure him, at once, both of entertainment and instruction.—H.



gether with their exacting of the tenths of all which men produced off their lands, that did much hinder the populating of it; together with that general dislike the English have of living under another government; but since the reducement of it there are several towns of a considerable greatness begun and settled by people out of New England, and every day more and more come to view and settle.

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mile's travel. The country is full of deer, elks, bear, and other creatures, as in other parts [of] the country, where you shall meet with no inhabitants in your journey but a few Indians; where there are stately oaks, whose broad-branched tops serve for no other use but to [keep] off the sun's heat from the wild beasts of the wilderness; where is grass as high as a [man's] middle, that serves for no other end except to maintain the elks and deer, who never devour an hundredth part of it, then to be burnt every spring, to make way for new. How many poor people in the world would think themselves happy, had they an acre [or] two of land, where here are hundreds, nay thousands, of acres, that would suffice inhabitants.

Delaware Bay, the mouth of the river, hath about the midway betwixt New York and the Capes of Virginia. It is a very pleasant river and country, but very few inhabitants, and them being mostly Swedes, Dutch, and Finns. About six miles up the river is the principal town called New Castle, which is about forty miles from Maryland, and very good way to travel either with horse or foot. The people are settled in along the west side sixty miles above New Castle, the land is good for all sorts of English grain and various other things, but a good people to procure it, it being capable of entertaining many hundred families.

Some may admire that these rich and great tracts of land lying so adjoining to New England and Virginia should be so little inhabited, and that the richness of the soil, the beautifulness of the climate, and the air should be no better a motive to induce persons from both places to populate it, than some other countreies. I answer, that these rich and great tracts of land being so far and so wild, and subject to such storms in the summer, which is no small discouragement to the planting of them, and that when it was under the Dutch government, which hath been but within these six years, there was little encouragement for the English, both in respect of their own, and from the Dutch, the Dutch being always very jealous of their own, and their best policy for admitting of a war which would have been destructive to their trade, which was the main thing prosecuted by the Dutch, and

Hudson's River runs by New York northward into the country, toward the [head] of which is seated New Albany, a place of great trade with the Indians; betwixt which [and] New York, being above one hundred <sup>1</sup> miles, is as good corn-land as the world || [affords, enough] || to entertain hundreds of families, which in the time of the Dutch government of those [parts] could not be settled for the Indians, excepting one place called the Sopers, ||<sup>2</sup>[which was] || kept § by § a garrison; but since the reduction of those parts under his Majesty's ||<sup>3</sup> [obedience] || and a Patent granted to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, which is about six ||<sup>4</sup> [years since,] || by the care and diligence of the honorable Colonel Nichols, sent thither deputy to his ||<sup>4</sup> [Highness,] ||<sup>2</sup> such a league of peace was made, and friendship concluded betwixt that Colony [and the Indians,] that they have not resisted or disturbed any Christians there, in the settling or ||<sup>5</sup> [peaceable] || possessing of any lands there, within that government, but every man hath sat under ||<sup>6</sup> [his own] || vine, and hath peaceably reaped and enjoyed the fruits of his own labors, which God ||<sup>4</sup> [continue] ||.

Westward of After-Kull § River § before mentioned, about eighteen or twenty miles, runs in Raritan ||<sup>7</sup> River [north]ward || into the country, some score of miles, both sides of which river is adorned with [spacious] meadows, enough to maintain thousands of cattle; the woodland is likewise ||<sup>4</sup> [very good] || for corn, and stored with wild beasts, as deer and elks, and an innumerable ||<sup>4</sup> [multitude of] || fowl, as in other parts of the country. This river is thought very capable ||<sup>4</sup> [for the erecting] || of several towns and villages on each side of it, ||<sup>8</sup> no place in the north of [America having better convenience for the maintaining of all sorts of cattle for winter and summer food. Upon this river is no town settled, but one at the mouth of it. Next this river westward is a place called] Newasons, where [are] || two or three towns and villages, settled upon ||<sup>4</sup> [the sea-side, but none] || betwixt that and Delaware Bay, which is about sixty miles, all which is [a] rich champaign country, free from stones, and indifferent level, store of excellent good timber, and very well watered, having brooks or rivers ordinarily one or more in [every]

|| affords, and able || ||<sup>2</sup> which is || ||<sup>3</sup> rule || ||<sup>4</sup> \* \* \* || ||<sup>5</sup> peaceful ||  
 ||<sup>6</sup> his || ||<sup>7</sup> river westward || ||<sup>8</sup> No place in the north \* \* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup> One hundred and forty-five by the Hudson River.—H.

<sup>2</sup> See pp. 577, 581, 667.—H.

mile's travel. The country is full of deer, elks, bear, and other creatures, as in other parts [of] the country, where you shall meet with no inhabitants in your journey but a few Indians; where there are stately oaks, whose broad-branched tops serve for no other use but to [keep] off the sun's heat from the wild beasts of the wilderness; where is grass as high as a [man's] middle, that serves for no other end except to maintain the elks and deer, who never devour an hundredth part of it, then to be burnt every spring, to make way for new. How many poor people in the world would think themselves happy, had they an acre [or] two of land, whilst here are hundreds, nay thousands, of acres, that would invite inhabitants.

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1 || \* \* \* \* \* || \* \* \* \* years ||

secondly, the Dutch || [gave] such bad titles to || lands, together with their exacting of the tenths of all which || [men] produced off || their lands, that did much hinder the populating of it; together || with that general || dislike the English have of living under another government; || but since the reducement of it || there ||<sup>2</sup> are || several towns of a considerable greatness begun and settled by people out of New England, and every day more and more come to view and settle.

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These associates, thus taken in, have equal privileges with themselves, and they make [a] division of the land, suitable to every man's occasions, no man being debarred of such quantities as he hath occasion for. The rest they let lie in common, till they have occasion for a new division, never dividing their pasture lands at all, which lie in common to the whole || town. || The best commodities for any to carry with them is clothing, the country being full of all sorts of cattle, with which they may furnish themselves at an easy rate.

*Thus* a true description of the country about New York was thought necessary to be published *as well* for the encouragement of ||<sup>7</sup> many || that may have a ||<sup>8</sup> desire || to remove themselves thither, as for a [satisfaction to others that would make a trade thither.]<sup>a</sup>

|| \* \* \* \* \* ||  
||<sup>a</sup> that \* \* ||

||<sup>b</sup> were ||  
||<sup>c</sup> is ||

||<sup>d</sup> less ||  
||<sup>e</sup> any ||

||<sup>f</sup> tract ||  
||<sup>g</sup> mind ||