RICHARD NICOLLS

First Governor of New York

1664-1668

BY

MONTGOMERY SCHUYLER

PRESIDENT

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FIRST GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK

In August, 1664, an English fleet of four ships of war under the command of Colonel Richard Nicolls dropped anchor off Staten Island and a few days later the Dutch Governor and garrison of New Amsterdam surrendered to the overwhelming force, the flag of the States General of Holland was lowered on the fort and the red ensign of England was hoisted in its place. Although accomplished without bloodshed and without much unpleasantness, this change was to be of enormous political importance in the history of America. By transferring from Dutch to English hands the strategic center of opposition to the French in Canada and the Northwest, it made possible that later unity of political development in the English colonies from New England on the one side, to Pennsylvania, Maryland and the more southern settlements on the other, which was to bring about the combination of interests and identity of purpose resulting in the amalgamation of those colonies into the United States of America. Such a result certainly was neither thought of nor hoped for at the time. Politics entered less than commerce into the picture and religion less than either.

But in order to have any clear idea of what the English occupation of New Netherland meant or why it was important at the time, we must look for a moment at the European situation and point out why such hostile action was taken at a moment of profound peace between England and Holland. Going back for a moment, we find that under the rule of the Commonwealth and the Protectorate in England, or say from 1649 to 1660, there was a temporary disintegration of the Empire. With the exception of New England, the British colonies in general refused to recognize the established government in England and announced their adherence to Charles II. The Commonwealth government took up the challenge. As soon as freed from its contest with the Crown, the Commonwealth gave serious attention to this situation and began to pay special attention to the colonies and questions of commercial supremacy. The merchant class in England had become apprehensive of the competition of

Holland whose ships were the best merchant vessels in the world at the time and had got control of the carrying trade between Europe and the colonies. In order to put an end to this unpleasant rivalry, Parliament passed the celebrated Navigation Act of 1651 which permitted only English vessels to bring goods to England, unless the goods came in vessels belonging to the country which had produced them. This led to a war between England and Holland, notable as being the first of the commercial struggles between the nations of Europe which were to replace the long series of religious wars. That war was ended in 1654 and a few years of peace, or nominal peace, ensued. During the course of the war an expedition had been planned to attack the Dutch colony of New Netherland but had not been carried out. But the American colonies and especially New England paid little attention to the laws excluding foreign vessels from their trade. The primary purposes of the Navigation Acts had been to develop English sea power which was then as now recognized as being of vital necessity not only to the commerce but to the life of that country. But the position of the Cromwellian government was too insecure to permit the establishment of an efficient machinery for governing the Empire or regulating its commercial activities.

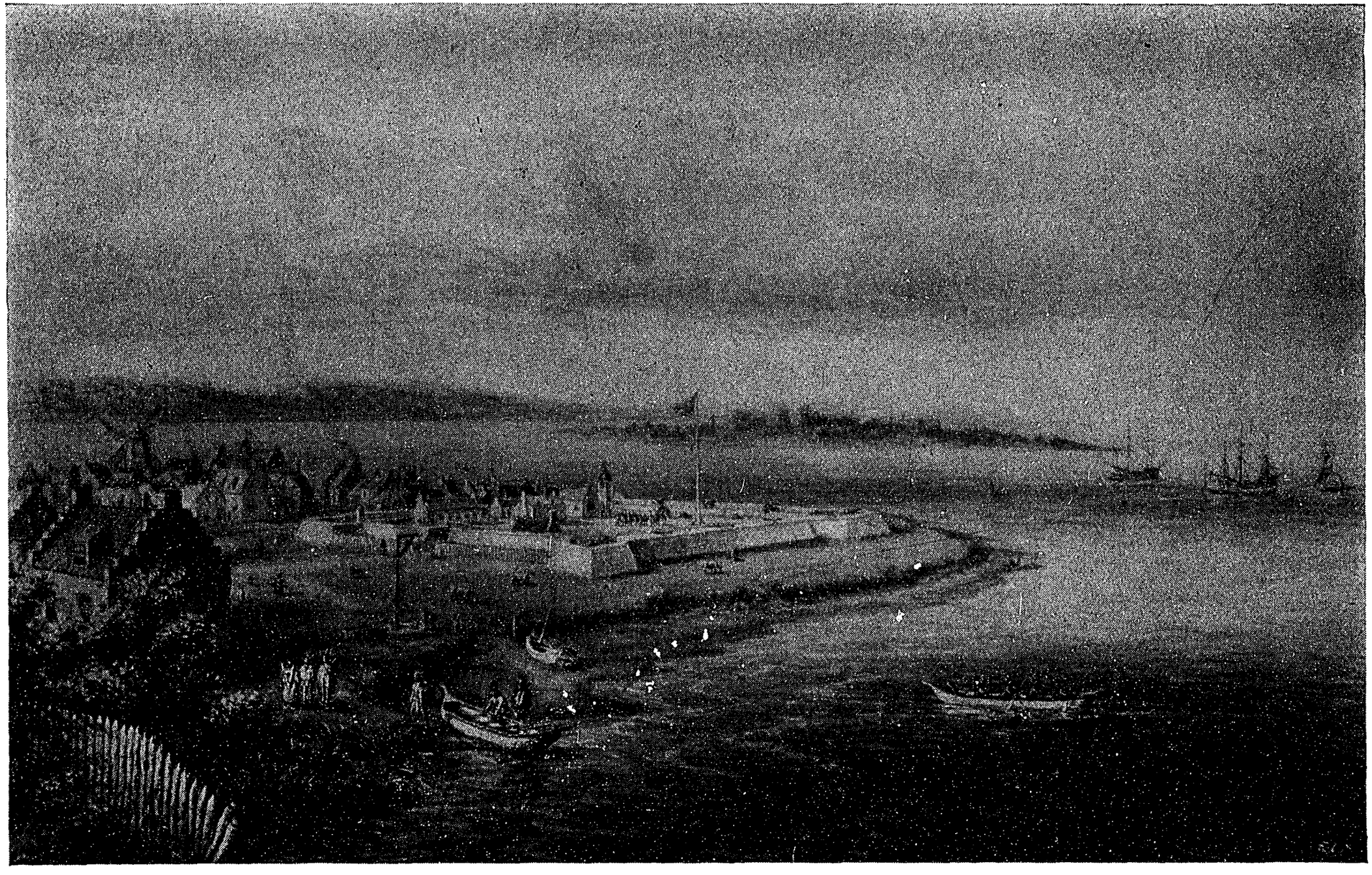
It was not in fact until the reestablishment of the monarchy in 1660 under Charles the Second that the country was sufficiently stable to be able to go forward with vigor. Whatever may be thought of the shortcomings of the Stuart kings of England, it must be admitted that they gave their wholehearted and enthusiastic support to the strong nationalistic movement of expansion and growth, or what we now call "imperialism." The exuberant vitality of the Restoration found in this direction one of its greatest and most profitable outlets. Commercial wars were waged; foreign trade was encouraged, and new settlements and colonies were added. Charles II especially was a clear-sighted and efficient man of affairs with a wide understanding of the fundamental causes of a nation's material prosperity. Prominence has always been given to his less admirable characteristics to the exclusion of his really fine accomplishments, and as a critic has said, "however much he might disregard the sentiments of his subjects, he never played fast and loose with their material interests." He favored wise schemes of internal improvement, supported commercial and colonial enterprises, and in his foreign policy sought to overthrow the commer-

cial dominion of the Dutch. His brother, the Duke of York, and later King under the title of James II, was likewise actively interested in colonial and commercial development and is especially known for his work for the upbuilding of the British Navy. In his instructions to his heir, he laid upon him the injunction to "preserve the mastery of the Sea," advice just as significant today as when it was given.

Naturally into this general development of colonial interests all over the world, the American colonies were speedily drawn. According to the English view of the matter, James I had taken possession of the whole American coast between the 34th and 45th parallels when he issued his great charter for the London and Plymouth companies in 1606. From this point of view, later however modified by treaty, any settlements made by the Dutch or other foreigners between those limits owed allegiance to the English crown.

By the time of Charles II there appeared to be good and sufficient reason for taking some action about the Dutch colony of New Netherland. The Navigation Acts could not well be enforced when the settlements of the Dutch cut like a wedge into the middle of the English colonies from which coasting trade could easily be carried on in defiance of the authorities. The Hudson river had for some time been the highway along which the important and lucrative fur trade was borne. Still more important was the fact that this river together with Lake Champlain and Lake George formed the easiest way for French or Indian foes to descend upon the English colonies. So it was certain that as soon as possible an effort would be made to end the independent existence of the Dutch colony. In addition there were other and less creditable influences at work at the court. Adventurers were active and ready to turn their hands at anything which seemed to show the possibility of glory and reward.

Finally from whatever combination of motives it may have been, Charles II was persuaded that something must be done about the situation in New England and New Netherland. Controversies between the New Englanders and the Dutch neighbors had been becoming graver and more critical with the years. That honest and warlike Director General of New Netherland, Peter Stuyvesant, was in charge of affairs and was spending much of his time and energies in trying to stop the encroachments of the Connecticut and Massachusetts men on what he considered Dutch territory. It will be recalled however that although there was this local ten-



OLD FORT AMSTERDAM

(Courtesy of the Title Guarantee and Trust Company)

sion in the New World, there was for the time profound peace between the Netherlands and England which had lasted some ten years. In spite of this fact, Charles II decided to take New Netherland by surprise. According to the English theory it was his already and he was merely expelling intruders from his own territory, a perfectly unobjectionable proceeding. In order to make things easier he bought up a previous grant of Long Island from Lord Sterling and then granted it to his brother James, Duke of York and Albany, with all the rights of a lord proprietary. This grant included the mainland with its rivers west of the Connecticut River and as far as the Delaware.

To carry out the provisions of the grant, an expedition was organized in deep secrecy so that Holland might not have time to send a fleet to hold New Netherland. As we have seen it consisted of four ships of war. On them were some five hundred veteran troops. In supreme command of the expedition was Colonel Richard Nicolls, groom of the bedchamber to the Duke of York, and already appointed governor of the province which was being attacked.

Of the life of Richard Nicolls, outside of his years in this country, we know little. He was the son of Francis Nicolls and Margaret Bruce his wife, daughter of Sir George Bruce, and had at least three brothers, William, who died early, Edward and Francis, and a sister Bruce. Both Edward and Francis, the brothers, were "captains of foot." In the seventeenth century the Nicolls were for many years the lessees of Ampthill Great Park under the Bruces, who reserved to themselves the office of Master of the Game. Richard Nicolls was a graduate of Oxford and an excellent scholar, speaking Dutch and French like a native, fond of Latin and Greek, born, so far as we can learn at Ampthill in 1624. During the Civil War he commanded a troop of Royalist horse and, on the defeat of the king, went into exile where he served under Marshal Turenne and perhaps other commanders. After the Restoration he returned to England and entered the household of the Duke of York. There is no record of his ever marrying. At the time he was chosen to command the expedition to this country, there were associated with him, Sir Robert Carr, George Cartwright and Samuel Maverick, and the object of the expedition was given out to be to visit Massachusetts. In his written instructions which were to be shown to the Massachusetts authorities, Charles declared that, "ye principall end of yr journey is to

remove all jealousie and misunderstandings wch might arise in Us of ye loyalty and affection of our good subjects in those parts towards Us . , . You shall discover att large with confidence to them, all that Wee ourselfe have discovered to you, of reducing the Dutch on or near Long Island to an entire obedience to our government."

In his private instructions to Nicolls, Charles wrote, "Though the maine end of yor employmt is to informe yourselves and us of the true and whole state of those severall Colonies and by insinuateing yourselves by all kind and dextrous carriage into the good opinion of ye principall persons there, that soe you may lead and dispose them to desire to renew their charters. . . . yet you may informe all men that a quiet end of your designe is the possessing Long Island, and reducing that people to an entyre submission and obedience to us and our govt now vested by our grant and commissions in our Brother the Duke of York."

Nicolls' commission read that "we do make ordayne constitute and appoint Coll. Richard Nicolls, Sir Robert Carr, George Cartwright and Samuel Maverick and grant unto them or any three or two of them, or of ye survivors of them (of whom wee will the said Coll. Richard Nicolls during his life shall be always one, and upon equal division of opinions to have ye casting and decisive voyce."

For the Dutch government of New Netherland, the moment of attack could not have come at a more inconvenient time. For years the quarrels between the Dutch and New England communities had been going on and gathering constantly fresh strength and bitterness. In 1635, Charles I had granted Long Island to the Earl of Sterling. His attempts to take possession had always been resisted by the Dutch but there was a slow but constant infiltration of English settlers especially to the eastern end of the island. So acute did the situation between the colonies become that in 1650, Peter Stuyvesant, who in 1647 had arrived as Director General of New Netherland, decided to go to Hartford, to attempt a general settlement of the boundary and other disputed questions. Although at first, Stuyvesant had laid claim to the whole coast from Delaware Bay to Cape Cod, he as a soldier, realized the military weakness of his position as against the New England colonies and their great superiority in both men and supplies. Finally a board of arbitration was agreed upon, and the boundaries were fixed. On the mainland they started four miles west of Stamford

and thence ran northerly but never were to come within ten miles of the Hudson River. On Long Island the Dutch were to have the territory west of a line running from Oyster Bay to the Atlantic, the New Englanders keeping everything to the east. This arrangement is known as the Hartford Treaty. Because he had given up so much from the previous Dutch claims, Stuyvesant withheld the text of the treaty from his home government for a number of years.

By a curious turn of events, most of the early years of the rule of Stuyvesant found him engaged in quarrels of all sorts with the leading Dutch citizens of the colony but supported by the English element. Later this condition changed and in the period from 1655 to 1664 while the colony was undergoing an extraordinary growth in population and wealth, it was politically weakened by constant dissensions among the inhabitants, some of which were caused by general dislike of Stuyvesant's despotic character and military rule but others by the natural inability of Dutch and English settlers to see alike in matters of government.

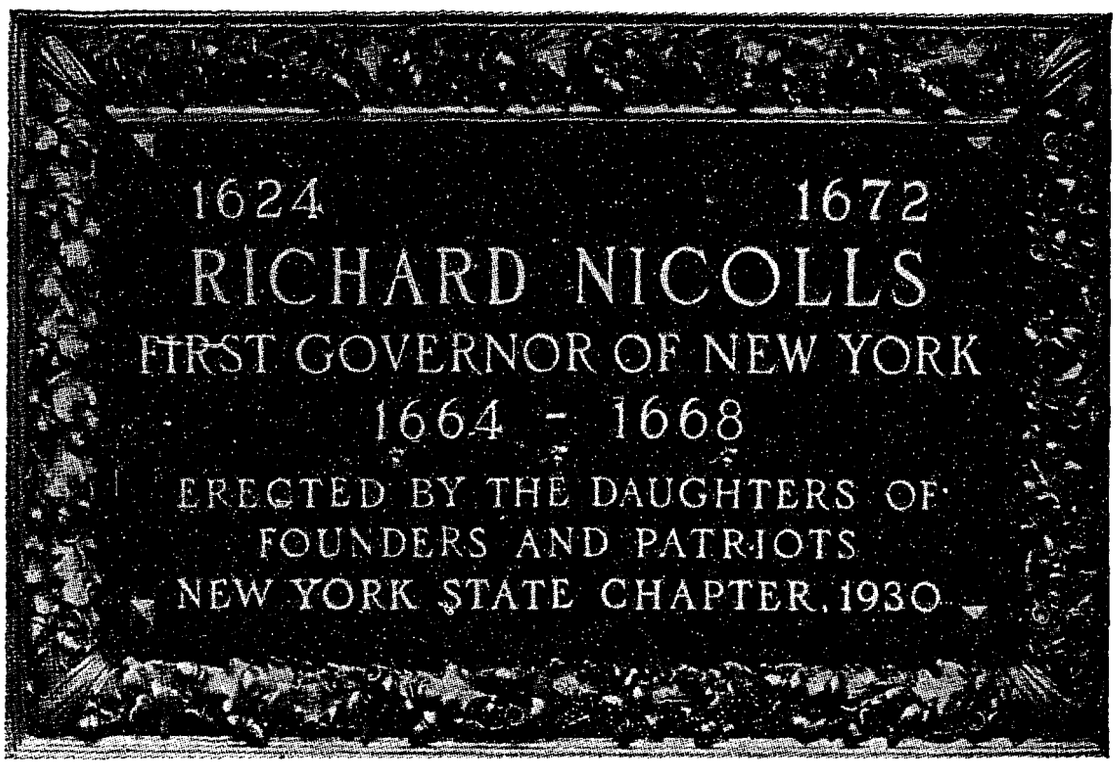
Moreover the military affairs of the Dutch colony had been allowed to get into a very unsatisfactory condition. In 1664 Stuyvesant had at his command only about 150 trained soldiers and twenty guns with very little powder. Both the river banks of New Amsterdam were defenseless against artillery and the fort had been allowed to fall into decay.

So into this state of confusion and dissension sailed the fleet of Governor Nicolls with its large force of well-trained soldiers and plentiful ammunition, supported from the Long Island shores by Connecticut volunteers.

The story is very familiar of how brave old Stuyvesant in vain tried to rally his soldiers and citizens to the hopeless task of repelling the attack which was threatened if he did not promptly surrender the fort and city. We have before our mind's eye a picture of the sturdy old soldier in a rage heaping abuse upon all within hearing and telling them in no complimentary terms what he thought of their refusal to fight. In vain it was explained to him that they had neither enough soldiers nor ammunition to make any headway against the formidable force opposed to them and that to resist meant certain death as well as inevitable surrender. After several days spent in fruitless efforts, Governor Winthrop, Nicolls' representative in the negotiations on shore, handed Stuyvesant a letter from Nicolls which was duly read aloud to those present as follows:

"As to those particulars you spoke to me, I do assure you that if the Manhadoes be delivered up to his Majesty, I shall not hinder, but any people from the Netherlands may freely come and plant there or thereabouts; and such vessels of their own country may freely come thither, and any of them may as freely return home, in vessels of their own country; and this and much more is contained in the privilege of his Majesty's English subjects; and thus much you may, by what means you please, assure the Governor from, Sir, your very affectionate servant,

Richard Nicolls."



TABLET IN HONOR OF RICHARD NICOLLS

Placed on U. S. Customs House, near site of Fort Amsterdam, New York City, 1930.

The reading of this conciliatory and wise document naturally had great effect in influencing the burgomasters present and they wished to have it read to the citizens gathered outside the council chamber. But Stuyvesant imperious to the last, tore it in small pieces. Nevertheless it was pieced together and read to the people with great effect.

The people had tired of Stuyvesant and his dictatorial rule, they felt that the States General at home had left

them unprotected and that it would be wiser to accept the liberal terms offered by Nicolls. Stuyvesant however determined to try one more effort and wrote a long and elaborate argument on the soundness of the Dutch title to New Netherland and sent it to Nicolls, who replied as might have been expected, that he was a soldier obeying orders and that he was not there to argue. To end the matter he ordered his ships and troops up to the city. Still the old governor hesitated. Then the Dutch clergyman, Dominie Megapolensis put his hand on Stuyvesant's shoulder and mildly said, "Of what avail are our poor guns against that broadside of more than sixty. It is wrong to shed blood to no purpose." So the order to fire was not given and instead he was met by a remonstrance signed by about a hundred of the leading citizens including his own son. Finally he said, "Well, let it be so. I had rather be carried to my grave." And so the rule of Holland came to an end, except for a brief few months in 1673, and the rule of England in New York began. Formal acknowledgement of the transfer was made later on in the treaty of Breda in 1667 by Holland and New Amsterdam was exchanged for Surinam.

But enough of general history and politics in Europe. Let us return to New York and the doings of Nicolls.

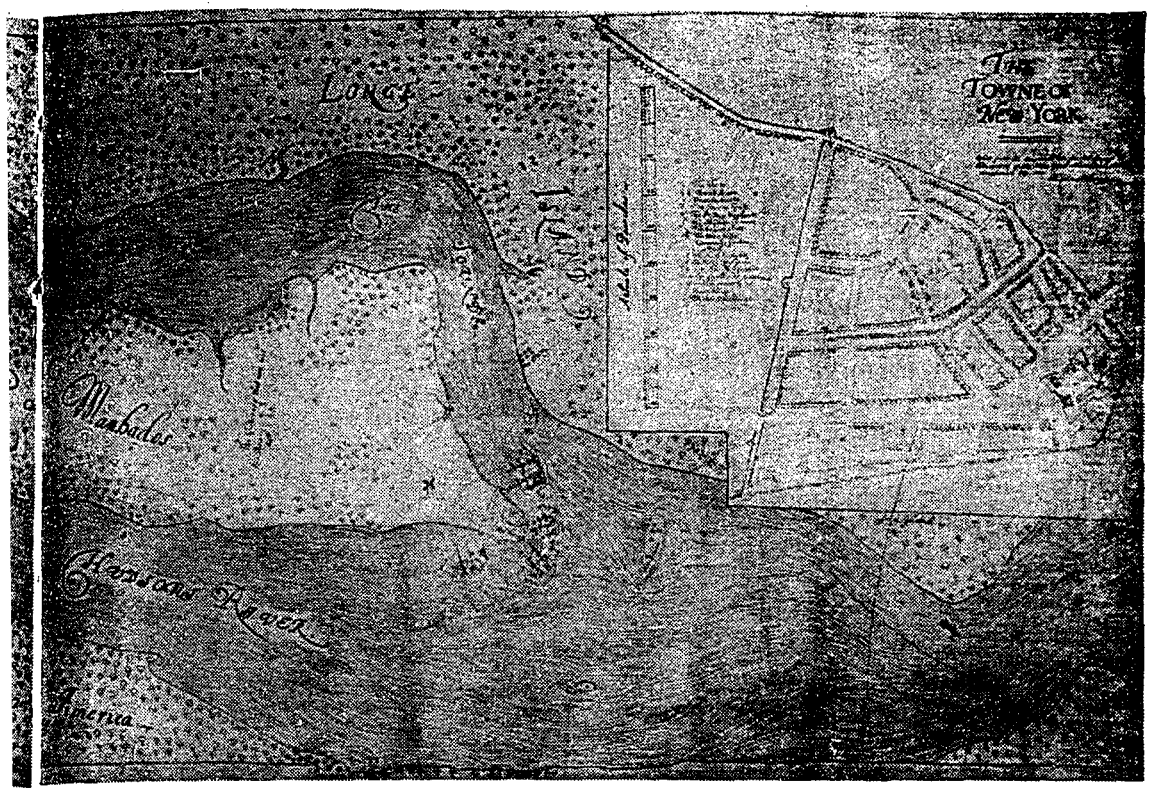
It seems hardly probable that the transfer of New Netherland from Dutch to English rule could have been carried out so bloodlessly and later on with such freedom from serious quarrels or differences of opinion had it not been for the character of Richard Nicolls. This gentleman from his first appearance before New Amsterdam to the day of his leaving four years later, showed himself the possessor of tact and moderation in an uncommon degree. While insisting on following out his orders, he did so in a manner as little unpleasant to the conquered people as possible. And it is a satisfaction to be able to record that in all his subsequent dealings with the people of New York and New England he showed the same traits as distinguished him on his arrival. As soon as Stuyvesant had decided to give up the colony, articles of capitulation of a very liberal nature, considering the time, were signed. They provided that all the people should still continue free denizens and should enjoy their lands, houses and goods wheresoever they might be in the province and might dispose of them as they pleased; that they should enjoy liberty of conscience in divine worship and church discipline, and should retain their own customs

NICOLLS' MAP OF M.
Reproduced from Valentine's Manual, 186.

regarding inheritances. All Dutch grants of lands were acknowledged as valid and possession confirmed to their owners as well as their former power of disposing of them by will.

The change from the Dutch to the English system of government was made very gradually. Within a few weeks of the cession all of the former Dutch officials and some three hundred of the inhabitants of the town had taken the oath of allegiance to Charles II and the Duke of York. From that time on the right of soil, the right of domain, the right of jurisdiction and the source of power were vested in the Duke. As the province of New York was looked upon as captured territory, it followed that the right of conquest governed and the King, the proprietory or their representatives could institute such form of government, laws, and institutions as they pleased. But this right of conquest was essentially modified by two things — first the articles of capitulation, and secondly, the rule of the law of nations that the former laws of a conquered people remain in force until changed by the conqueror.

In order to establish a uniform system of legislation for Long Island in the eastern end of which the English element



MANHATTAN ISLAND
1863 (Courtesy of New York Historical Society)

was predominant, Nicolls shortly after becoming governor asked all the Long Island towns to send two delegates each "to settle good and known laws" at a conference. When they assembled, he read the Duke's patent and his own commission, and announced that he had prepared a body of laws similar to those in force in New England, "but with abatement of severity against such as differ in matters of conscience and of religion." The code was in penalties essentially the same, but blasphemy and witchcraft were not included among the eleven capital crimes. There was provision for equal taxation, for trial by jury; the tenure of land was established as held from the Duke; all old patents were recalled and new ones required, the heavy fees for which were among the governor's chief perquisites. It was, in brief, a civil code, a criminal code, a commercial code, a military code and a code of procedure all in one. But as the Long Islanders insisted on more and more freedom, Nicolls told them that if they wished any further share in the government than he was allowed to give by his instructions they "must go to the King for it."

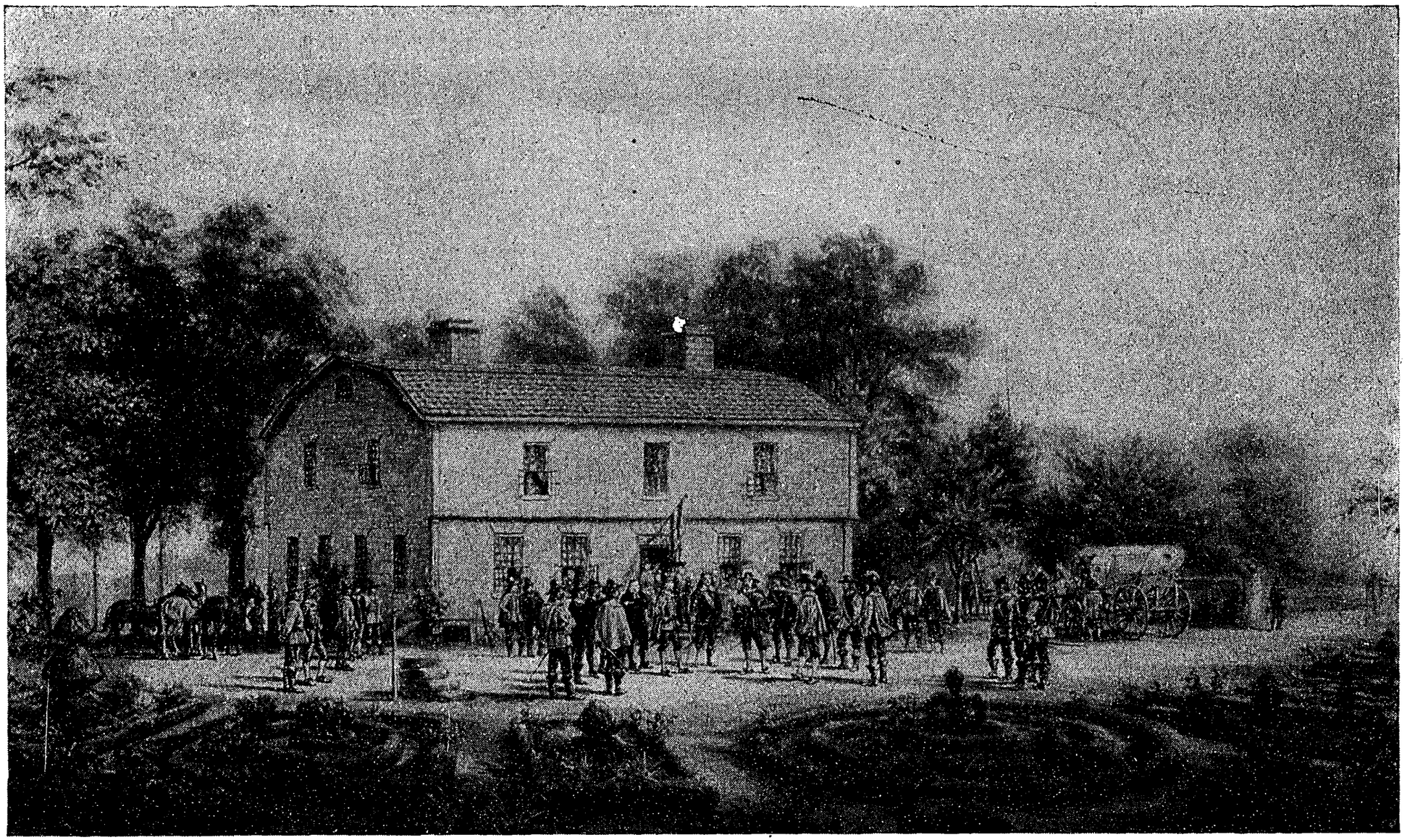
In the Dutch portions of the colony, the local government of burgomasters, schepens and schouts was retained for

about a year. The amended code, known as the Duke's Laws, was promulgated for the entire province and so friendly were the various elements of the population that the Dutch Reformed service was held in the morning and the Church of England service in the same meeting house in the afternoon.

There was of course no vestige of constitutional government provided in the Duke's laws and no legal check upon Nicolls' will. Nevertheless the people soon realized that owing to the uprightness and honesty of the governor they had a better and a kinder government than ever before. Each important matter as it came up was settled upon a basis of firmness tempered by justice and honor. The boundaries of the province were determined and the problems with the Indians were studied and in so far as possible settled.

One of the most far reaching results of the administration of Governor Nicolls was the system inaugurated by him of granting large tracts of land to prominent citizens of the colony with manorial rights and privileges. It may be recalled that under the Dutch rule patroonships had been granted to certain people who would agree to colonize tracts of lands with a certain number of settlers in a prescribed number of years. Under the English these patroonships were confirmed as manors and new manors were granted to others. There seems little doubt, although I can find no direct evidence of it in the records, that these manors were granted for specific and strategic regions to men whom the governors hoped and expected would on account of the privileges so granted be on their side in controversies either with the government at home or with radical elements of the colony.

So we find that of the new grants of land with manorial rights made by Nicolls, three were on eastern Long Island and one at Pelham, all on the boundaries of the Connecticut settlers from whose democratic principles and restless spirit the Stuarts feared opposition and perhaps attack. Succeeding governors followed the same line of conduct and manors were granted along the Hudson and in Westchester County. It is not possible here to go into these rights or privileges or to take up in detail these enormous and profitable grants. This work has been undertaken and is being carried out in a series of authoritative monographs by the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors. It must suffice here to say that the aristocratic system thus begun was continued in New York



THE SURRENDER OF NEW AMSTERDAM, 1664

(Courtesy of the Title Guarantee and Trust Company)

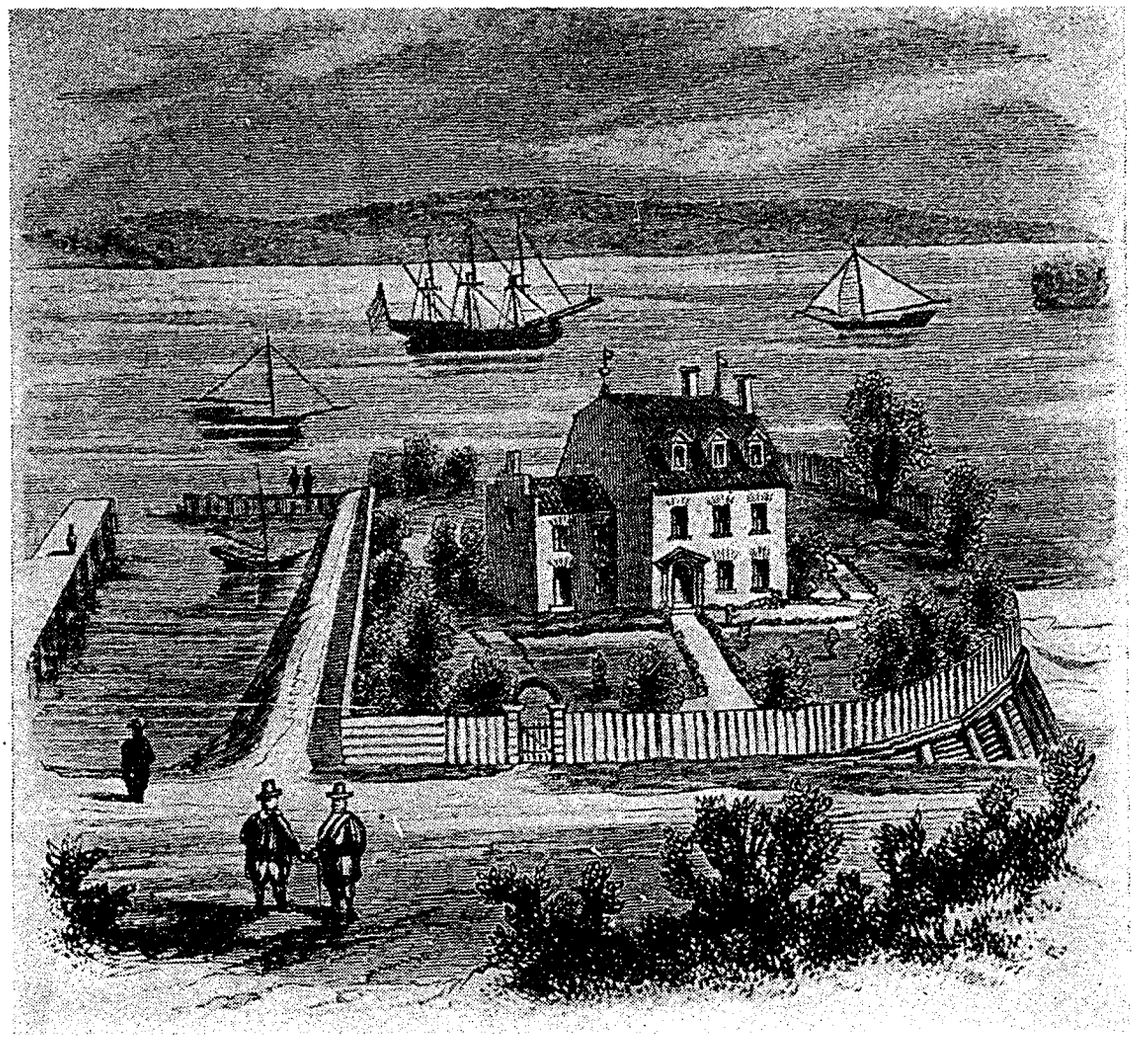
until the Revolution and indeed to some extent in so far as leases and quit rents are concerned until the so-called anti-rent riots of 1839-46, and exercised a profound influence upon the growth of the colony. It was found that settlers preferred in almost every case to obtain a deed to any land which they had cleared and lived on rather than to lease, no matter how low the rent or how favorable the terms. Nevertheless the system in the earlier days of fear of invasion from the French, trouble from the New England colonies where as Nicolls once wrote, "Democracy hath taken so deepe a Roote in these parts, that ye very name of a Justice of the Peace is an abomination," and terror of the Indians was very real, was perhaps successful in quieting the apprehension of the government. By the terms of the Duke's Laws the system of colonial defense was based upon the theory that the town was primarily responsible for the training and maintenance of the militia. In constituting the border manors, townships as well as manors, Nicolls was placing upon them the same obligations of defense which the towns had. Tenures of land based upon military service had been abolished by a statute of Charles II in 1660 but the same object was accomplished in a quiet way by the tactful Nicolls in New York, although there is no record of the manors as such having been called upon to furnish troops for defense of the colony.

Soon after his arrival Nicolls took over as his official residence the house known as "Whitehall," formerly occupied by Stuyvesant while Director General. The latter had returned to Holland to make his report to the States General and had been triumphantly vindicated of any blame for the surrender of the colony by the testimony of many trustworthy witnesses. He duly returned to pass his last years at his Bouwerie in New York. It is related that an intimate friendship sprang up between Nicolls and Stuyvesant and they frequently dined together at the Bouwerie.

Nicolls remained as Governor of New York until the arrival of a successor in 1668 although he had frequently asked for his recall on the ground that private affairs demanded his presence in England and that he had been forced to spend much from his private purse to maintain his establishment. Finally the Duke accepted his resignation and he went home to England. In New York there was universal sorrow at his departure for he was much loved.

In 1672 in the third naval war between Holland and England, Richard Nicolls served in the fleet and was killed on May 28th in the naval battle of Southwold Bay.

His will was dated May 1st, 1672, on board the "Royal Prince" at Nore. In it Nicolls describes himself as Groom of the Bedchamber to the Duke of York and desires to be



GOVERNOR STUYVESANT'S HOUSE

Erected 1658, afterward the residence of Governor Nicolls, and called "Whitehall."

(Courtesy of the New York Historical Society.)

buried at Ampthill. Alms are to be given to the villages through which his funeral must pass. A marble monument is to be erected at Ampthill and mention made of his father and mother and brothers, the executors to add what they pleased about his own employments in America and elsewhere. He leaves his eight mares to the "olde Countesse of Northampton" and numerous rings of £100, £50, and £10 to many nobles and gentlemen. Legacies of various amounts

from £1000 to £100 are given to relatives. This will was proved by the executors named Andrew Newport and Henry Coventry in June and July, 1672, at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.[1]

In the church at Ampthill in accordance with his wishes, a marble mural monument was erected with a long inscription in the Latin of the time. It is of white marble about eight feet high at the east end of the chancel. Into the pediment is built the cannon ball which killed him and on the moulding on each side are the words "Instrumentum mortis et Immortalitatis." The arms at the top are "azure a fesse *or* between three lions heads erased of the same." Crest "a tiger sejant *argent* tufted *or*." This epitaph with some account of the monument may be found in a work entitled "Select Illustrations Historical and Topographical of Bedfordshire," by the Reverend I. D. Parry.

In 1931, the New York State Chapter of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots unveiled a tablet to the memory of Richard Nicolls on the wall of the United States Customs House at the Bowling Green, New York City, almost on the exact site of the old Dutch Fort Amsterdam, on which occasion I had the honor of making the address. This tablet, placed so near the activities of Nicolls, brings back the memory of the man who stands out in the long succession of colonial governors, for the importance of his service here in taking the first great step in the unification of the English speaking colonies thus making possible the future line of demarcation between the Catholic, French and Royalist civilization of Canada on the one hand, and the English, Dutch, Protestant and democratic forces on the other, which led ultimately to the United States.

Not only is Richard Nicolls memorable for the historical importance of his rule at a period of crisis, but for the outstanding rugged honesty, directness and tactfulness of his character. In the long line of colonial governors his is the figure we linger over with sympathetic interest and admiration. In the present crisis through which we are passing we

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[1] A portrait supposed to be of Richard Nicolls, now in the possession of Mrs. Margaret Auchmuty Beekman, of Paris, is reproduced at page 74 of "The Auchnuty Family of Scotland and America," by Annette Townsend (N. Y., The Grafton Press, 1932) where much interesting information regarding Nicholls and Nicolls may be found.

look back to Nicolls and feel that it would be well for us if we could have at this time in our government, whether national, state or city, more men with his admirable characteristics. We need and especially at this time in positions of trust and responsibility men who are not swayed by every breath of personal advantage, who are not afraid of every sign of opposition and who will stand firm by their principles and beliefs at no matter what cost to their personal or political futures. Trying times have come upon us and we can only come out of them with credit and satisfaction to ourselves, with added prestige in the opinion of the world, and with advantage to our country if we face them with the same quiet courageous honesty as did Richard Nicolls.

BAYARD HOMESTEAD AT ALPHEN, HOLLAND
Portraits of Samuel Bayard and Anna Stuyvesant,
his wife, sister of Peter Stuyvesant.
(Courtesy of New York Historical Society)

APPENDIX[1]

THE NICOLLS' MAP OF MANHATTAN ISLAND.

BY D. T. V.

1664-1668

The map entitled as above, which is this year presented to the readers of the MANUAL, is one of the most interesting memorials of our city which has yet been discovered. For its discovery, the public are indebted to George H. Moore, Esq., the indefatigable and accomplished librarian of the New York Historical Society, who, at his personal sacrifice of labor and expense, has, within the last few years, rescued from European archives (which had previously escaped the researches of our antiquaries and historians) several illustrations of our early history of equal interest with that now presented.

This map is the earliest known to have been compiled with reference to the configuration of Manhattan Island. It is obviously made from a survey, as it is so entirely correct and conformable in its outlines to the present condition of the island, as to render it familiar to the citizen of the present day, at the first glance. There can be little doubt that this map was transmitted to the Duke of York, soon after the conquest by the English, in 1664. Not only well-known localities, the dates of whose existence and progress are ascertained, indicate the date of the map at about the period above mentioned, but the designation as to Governor Stuyvesant's farm, "The Governor's *that last was,* his Bowry," dispel all reasonable doubt on the subject. Whether or not this map was compiled from a survey made under English or under Dutch authority, is not entirely certain, but we believe it was under the former. This conclusion is arrived at from the different orthography used in designating localities from that used by the Dutch, showing that, although the names of localities were adopted by the English from the Dutch, they had not copied any method of spelling formerly used by the Dutch, and generally found in their records.

(1) Reproduced from Valentine's Manual, 1863. (Courtesy of New York Historical Society.)

It cannot fail to be remarked that, not only Manhattan Island, but all the country, on opposite shores of the river, was, with little exception, at the period of the compilation of this ancient map, still in a wild condition, the settlements being few and small.

To guide the reader in going over the map, we shall point out its noticeable features, and, in so doing, will commence at the right-hand side of the map, and proceed towards the northern extremity of the island.

The island in the Bay is that which is now called Ellis' Island. In the times of the Dutch, it was called Oyster Island, being the rendezvous and eating place of the oyster catchers from New Amsterdam. Oysters, as the early records inform us, were then so plentiful on the Jersey flats, near this island, as to furnish the most economical sort of food. So bountiful and cheap was the supply of this edible, that it was unfashionable to eat them. They had the reputation (certainly a false one) of being unwholesome, and they were mostly used by the poorer classes. Even the Indians preferred clams as food, though to obtain them much greater time and labor was necessary than to obtain a supply of the finest oysters.

The next locality to be pointed out is the little cluster of dwellings designating the site of "Gamoenepa," the name of which is not given on the map, but which will be readily recognized as situated on the Jersey shore, on the present site of Communipaw. This was one of the earliest settlements on the shores opposite New Amsterdam.

Following along the same shore, northerly, will be found designated the settlement then called "Pavonia," now Jersey City. Beyond that point, on the Jersey shore, the country was in its primitive condition of a wilderness. The jutting point, near Hoboken, then called after the Indian title of "Hoboken Hackingh," is plainly designated on the map.

Before proceeding to point out the localities on Manhattan Island, those upon the "Longe Island" shore will be noticed. The first settlement designated on that shore is that marked as "The Ferry." The precise locality of this point was that now known as the ferry landing at the foot of Fulton street, Brooklyn. Half a dozen houses, together with the ferry house, constituted the settlement. About a mile in the interior were a few houses constituting the settlement called "Breuckelen."

Next beyond the ferry, the "Walbout" is designated by name. The principal settler at which place was Jan Joris Rapelje. The inhabitants were few in number, and were engaged in farming in that vicinity.

At the creek, called "Norman's Kill," now called Bushwick creek, was the plantation of a settler named Jansen, generally called the Norman.

"Mashpack Kill," as designated on the map, was known among the Dutch as "Mespatt's Kill." The plantation pointed out on the map was known as "Domine's Hook," it having been granted, at an early period, to Domine Everardus Bogardus, the Dutch clergyman at New Amsterdam. Beyond that point, the island lay in wilderness.

The designation of "the Sounde" given to the East River, on this map, is the first which we have found so applied, although that was a common appellation in subsequent years. In the times of the Dutch, the title of "Oost River," or East River, was that commonly applied to this stream, and which has survived the name given it by the English.

The title of "Hudson's River" given on this map, seems also to have, at this period, been adopted by the English, in preference to that previously in common use among the Dutch of "Noordt Revier," or North River. These two titles still dispute popularity in the common designation of the river, although upon modern maps, and in modern history, the English title has obtained supremacy.

The city of "New York," then recently changed from "Niew Amsterdam," is plainly laid down, with its streets and fort. "Copsie rocks" jut out at the southern extremity of the island. The canal through the "Heere Graft" is indicated. Wall street, with its line of palisades, and block-houses at its extremities, is indicated; and further on the curved road called "Maagde Paatje," or Maiden lane, is laid down. Beyond the latter road, on the East River shore, is to be observed a house and a dock. This was the store-house of Isaac Allerton, a New England trader. Next beyond, on the shore, is a house, which was near the ferry landing, the site of which may be indicated as the present Peck slip.

Still further onward is shown the "old mill" at the mouth of the "Fresh Water," a brook leading from the Kolck pond, with a branch traversing Wolfert's meadows, which then covered Roosevelt and adjacent streets. The Kolck pond is also indicated on the map, though not by name.

The windmill, which stands forth conspicuously, was situated on the commons, near the present park.

The house and inclosure delineated on the North River shore, west of the Kolck pond, was on the plantation of Domine Bogardus, called the "Domine's Bowry."

Next, north of the Governor's Bowery, but situated on the shore of Hudson's River, is pointed out the settlement known among the Dutch as "Sapokanicar," an Indian title, which has, by some, been supposed to indicate the principal Indian village on the island, and the residence of the Sachem of the tribe of Manhattans. This locality was, a century after the date of this map, called by the English "Greenwich." Its site was near the present foot of Gansevoort street.

Little more respecting settlements north of the place last mentioned is indicated on the map. The whole island, south of the Harlem flats, is apparently covered with forest. The only exception is found at Turtle Bay, or "Deutel Bay," as called by the Dutch. At this place was a tobacco plantation, established by George Holmes and Thomas Hall, two English refugees, about twenty years previous to the date of the map; its site is pointed out on the map.

"New Harlem" appears distinctly indicated on the map. The village had been established but three or four years previous to the conquest of the country by the English.

The islands in the "Sound" are indicated by the following titles: That now known as Blackwell's Island, is called "Hogg Island," and appears to have been inhabited. The present Barn Island is called "Great Barnes Island," and the present Randall's Island is called "L (Little) Barnes Island." Hell Gate, also, figures conspicuously upon the map.