

**A GUIDE**

**NEW ROCHELLE**

**AND ITS**

**VICINITY.**



The Huguenot Church, erected A. D. 1711.

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TO THE  
DESCENDANTS OF THE HUGONOTS  
(OF NEW ROCHELLE.)  
THIS LITTLE WORK  
DESCRIPTIVE OF THE LOCALITY  
*WHICH THEIR FOREFATHERS PURCHASED*  
In 1689,  
AND HAVE ALSO BENEFITED BY THEIR SOCIAL  
AND RELIGIOUS CHARACTER,  
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
BY THEIR FRIEND,  
THE PUBLISHER.

*New Rochelle, May, 1912.*



## P R E F A C E .

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The moderate distance of New Rochelle from the city of New-York, combined with its other advantages, justly entitle it to the large share of public patronage it now enjoys, and which it is hoped will be still further increased. To those persons who do not wish to enter the gay and extensive circles of fashionable watering places, this delightful spot will afford all the enjoyments of retirement and tranquillity ; while the equestrian, the pedestrian, the artist, and the angler, may here follow their respective amusements, and be equally delighted with the romantic and picturesque forms of nature, aided by the pleasing embellishments of art.



AN  
HISTORICAL SKETCH,  
AND  
GUIDE TO NEW ROCHELLE.

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**NEW ROCHELLE** is a neat and cheerful town in the County of West Chester, State of New-York, 18 miles north-east of New-York, and 10 from the half shire town of White Plains. It is agreeably situated near the banks of Long Island Sound, and commands extensive views of its waters. This town formerly constituted a portion of the Manor of Pelham, till it was purchased by the Hugonots in 1689, through the agency of Gov. Leisler,\* of John Pell, proprietor of the Manor. The tract consisted of six thousand one hundred acres, which they settled, and called **NEW ROCHELLE**, after their native city **La Rochelle** in France, the capital of the department of Lower Charente.

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\* This remarkable man took the lead in a popular movement in 1689, when he assumed the government. He was afterwards tried on a charge of high treason, and executed. His attainder was reversed at a later period, by act of Parliament, and his estates restored to his family.

## THE INDIANS.

The aboriginal proprietors of the soil were the **SIWANOYS**,\* a tribe of the mighty Mohegan nation, originally called Muhhekanew, or the Seven Tribes on the Sea Coast,† otherwise called Mohegans by the English, and Mahicaunders, or River Indians, by the low Dutch.‡ “The country between the banks of the Connecticut river and the Hudson,” says Bancroft, “was possessed by independent villages of the Mohegans, kindred with the Manhattans, whose few smokes once arose amidst the forest on New-York island.”§ Our native Sachems, also, appear to have been closely united to the renowned and warlike Pequots of Connecticut; for, at an early date, we find the Mohegan nation and the Pequots,|| (in a grand council for keeping their land entire,) agreeing to a grand matrimonial alliance between Uncas, a chieftain of the royal blood of the Pequots, and a daughter of Tatobams, a son of the Sachem, Wopegwosit, and there is little doubt that the Mohegan nation, of which our **SIWANOYS** were but a tribe, recognized the supremacy of the Pequots; for in 1774 the government of Con-

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\* N. Y. Hist. Soc., 2d Series, Vol. I., pp. 286, 287.

† Ditto 1st Series, Vol. II., p. 42.

‡ N. Y. Hist., 2d Series, Vol. I., p. 288.

§ Bancroft's Hist. U. S., Vol. III., p. 230.

|| Massachusetts Hist. Soc., Dec.



necticut officially stated that the title of the lands of that state were vested in the Pequots, and that their grand Sachem, Sasacus, had under him twenty-six Sachems, and that their territory extended from Narragansetts to Hudson's river, and over all Long Island, then inhabited by the fierce and warlike Matouwacs.

There is good proof from the quantities of oyster and clam beds to be found along the banks of the sound, that our sea shores and bays must have been favourite fishing grounds with the Indians,\* while our woods and fields attest the existence of hunting grounds by the number of arrow-heads found in every direction.

Since the year 1689, our Indians have been gradually diminishing before the approach of civilization, and are now represented by the Brotherton Indians of this state, and the Mohegans and Stonington Indians of Connecticut;† the only remnant of the mighty Muhhekanew, or the river tribes on the sea-coast.‡ In the year 1687, just after the destruction of the Mohawk castles by the French, Governor Donjon advised§ the five

\* Within a very short period there have been old persons living, who could recollect when Davenport's Neck was covered by Indian villages.

† N. Y. Hist. Soc., 1st Series, Vol. II., p. 43.

‡ See Brooke's Gazetteer, which represents the actual number of these tribes as now existing, Mohegans at 200, Stonington 30, Brotherton 200.

§ Colden's Hist. of the Five Nations, Vol. I., p. 85.

nations to open a path for all the North Indians and Mohicanders, (or river Indians,) that were among the Ottaway and other nations, and to use every endeavour to bring them home. Even as late as 1689 the Indians were in the habit of coming down into the lower part of Scarsdale, from the neighbourhood of White Plains, for a cider frolic; which they considered as a kind of quit-rent for their rights as ancient proprietors of the soil. The late Mrs. Le Count, an inhabitant of the town, who lived to the extraordinary age of 105, recollected, when a girl of eight or ten years old, frequently being frightened by them on going to school.

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#### INDIAN BURIAL GROUND.

THE point of land in Pelham called originally Annhook's Neck, is the ancient burial-place of our native SIWAXONS.

Many graves or mounds are to be found scattered around near the water's edge, on the property of the late George Rapalye, Esqr. This spot is covered by a fine wood, lying nearly at the head of an open creek rendered always accessible for boats at any state of the tide.

At the extreme point of this beautiful neck, overlooking a magnificent bay (which needs no

description to recommend its scenery) are situated the graves of the SIWANOKS sachems ; chiefs of the mighty Mohegan nation,

“ Who, for courage bold ; for things warreegan

“ Were the glory of all Mohegan.”\*

Two graves, in particular, are still pointed out as containing the remains of the two last native chiefs, who lived to an advanced age and held intercourse with their European invaders. The names of these Sachems were Himham and Annhook.

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#### THE HUGONOTS,

Or French Protestants, came directly from England, and were a part of the 50,000 persecuted who fled into that country four years before the revocation of the celebrated edict of Nantes. This is confirmed by the Charter of Trinity Church in New Rochelle, wherein they specify that “they fled from France in 1631.” The point on Davenport’s Neck, called Bauffet’s Point, is said to be the spot where they first landed.

They continued to arrive from England, as far as can be ascertained, till the year 1700, for there is still preserved in the Bonnett family a passport (from the Mayor of Bristol, in England, of this

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\* Epitaph on Sam Uncas, grandson of Uncas, grand Sachem.

date,) to their ancestor Daniel Bonnett, "which certifies the bearer thereof to be very well known to persons of credit and repute of the French refugees in Bristol, a French Protestant himself, of good repute, and who had lived there ten years." On his arrival here he purchased land of Bartholomew Le Roux, one of the first settlers.

For some time all the exertions the Hugonots could make, men, women and children united, were necessary to prepare the land for cultivation, and enable them to pay for its purchase, which their perseverance at last accomplished.

NEW ROCHELLE at an early period was a place of some resort, not only for the acquirement of the French language, but on account of the hospitality and politeness of its inhabitants.

For two generations the Hugonots of this town appear to have preserved, in its purity, the French language; thus testifying their natural attachment to their native land, the sepulchre of their forefathers, and to which perhaps they cherished the hope of a return. But their cause was doomed never to survive the surrender of old La Rochelle, the city that had always stood firmly attached to the reformed interests. This city afforded, in 1572, an asylum for the survivors of the bloody massacre of St. Bartholomew. It was here they issued their famous declaration stating the affair

to be one of unheard of cruelty, and bidding defiance to their enemies, the House of Guise, "and it was here they armed and fortified themselves, trusting in a just cause and to the favour of Heaven. For nine months they fought most gallantly in defence of La Rochelle, killing 40,000 of their enemies, who besieged them with the strongest and mightiest army of France without success. Again in 1627 it made its last and ever memorable stand for the cause of the Hugonots.

"And it may safely be said that this mighty city would never have fallen, (such was the undaunted heroism of the Rochellois themselves,) had it not been for the powerful minded genius of Cardinal Richelieu, who planned and executed such a mighty work against it, that in gigantic extent it has been compared by historians to the similar one executed by Alexander the Great before Tyre. The powerful mind of Richelieu saw at a glance that it was useless to carry on the longest siege against the city of La Rochelle, whilst a free communication remained opened to the sea on which the town was situated. He therefore closed the mouth of their channel by the erection of a prodigious mole 4482 feet across the harbour with a central opening. The frame work of this mole consisted of huge piles, which was filled up with stones, and 60 hulks sunk with the same ma-

terial for the purpose of buttresses. One arm of this immense dyke overlapped the other, so that the entrance instead of being in front was lateral : a stockade of piles interlaced with chains effectually stopped the passage. This work he completed and defended by 45,000 men, while forty pieces of cannon on the one shore and twenty-five on the other flanked the approaches ; and the narrow passage in its centre (of 150 feet,) guarded by a flotilla of vessels.”\*

Their English friends made some strong efforts in their behalf by sea ; but in vain. Yet neither the bitterness of their disappointments, nor the death of their friends, could diminish the constancy of the Rochellois. In spite of disease and famine they declined to surrender ; until the famine, according to their own accounts, began to be horrible,\* and death carried off its three hundred victims a day : their houses filled with ghastly corpses, they were unable to bury their dead. The miserable Rochellois, reduced from 15,000 souls to less than one-third of that number, now beat a parley, and submitted to Richelieu’s terms, October 28th, A. D. 1628. Such was the last and most famous siege of old La Ro-

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\* Smedley’s Hist. of Reform. Religion in France, Vol. III., p. 164. Harper’s edition.

\* Smedley’s Hist. Reform. Religion. p. 167.

chelle, which was followed by an edict that for ever annihilated its independence and violated the conditions upon which it surrendered to its enemies. When the heroic Guiton, its governor, heard of the extinction of his dignity, he exclaimed against such perfidy with bitterness ; “ Had I known (he said) that the king would have failed in his promises, he might have entered the city, but not while a single man remained alive within its circuit.”\*

The Roman Catholic religion was now declared the established faith, and the Hugonot Church converted into a Romish Cathedral. With the surrender of La Rochelle were extinguished the chief hopes of the reformed. For a short period they revived under the favourable government of Cardinal Mazarin, prime minister of France ; but on his death in 1661, and the accession of Louis XIV. to the French throne, they finally sunk. To enter into the minute particulars of this disastrous period is not the object of this small work ; suffice it to say, that now commenced a renewal of all the outrageous proceedings of former years. Commissioners were sent into all the provinces to dispossess the reformed of all they held, as citizens ; nothing now awaited them but fines, humiliation

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\* Smedley's *Hist. Reform. Religion*, p. 17.

and poverty. Troops of soldiers were quartered among them, who inflicted the most horrid barbarities, while others scoured the country and dragooned men into false confessions. And not only this, but hundreds were condemned to the galleys and sent to the French provinces in America. One of their own ministers, Jeurieu, informs us that a friend of his saw a great number of men at Arles fastened to the horses, underneath, by means of cords, followed by long carts filled with men and women tied by their waists to the carts ! and these were carried to Marseilles to be sent to America ; others again were sent to the islands of America in the king's ships, to be sold, like slaves, to those who would give most for them.\*

“Now it was, that, despairing of repose around their native hearths, whole families in France sought a foreign asylum, and emigration was encouraged by other Protestant states, who appreciated and sympathized with their misfortunes. England took the lead in this work of charity. King Charles II. granted letters of denization issued in council under the great seal ; assured the exiles that at the next meeting of Parliament he would introduce a bill by which they should be

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\* Jeurieu's Pastoral Letters.



naturalized; relieved them at the moment from importation duties, and passport fees; and encouraged voluntary contributions for their support.”\* The Hugonots of this town were a few of those exiles who accepted this royal offer; and afterwards, under the patronage of that government, purchased and settled here in 1689. Yet amid all the hardships and suffering incident to a laborious life in an uncultivated and strange country, they wrote to their friends in France, expressing their gratitude to heaven for the advantages they enjoyed in this land of liberty.

“There are few historical notices of importance to be mentioned in connection with New ROCHELLE, except that on the 18th Oct. 1776, Gen. Howe, the British commander, united his forces at Pell’s Point, now known as the neck in Pelham, and moved forward with his whole army through Pelham Manor towards New ROCHELLE. Here some skirmishes took place, in which a part of both armies were engaged. The conduct of the Americans, on this occasion, is mentioned with satisfaction by General Washington. On the 18th of the same month, Lord Howe took post in New ROCHELLE, Gen. Washington occupying the intermediate heights between the two

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\* Smedley’s Hist. of Reform Religion, Vol. III., p. 217. This order was issued 25th July, 1691.

rivers. Whilst in NEW ROCHELLE, the British were joined by the second division of Germans, under the command of General Knyphausen, and by an incomplete regiment of cavalry from Ireland, some of which had been captured on their passage. From NEW ROCHELLE both armies moved towards White Plains, where an engagement took place on the 25th of Oct. 1776.\*

The House of Clinton Gilbert, Esq. is said to have been used by the British as an hospital for the wounded soldiery.

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### THE CHURCH

On the left of the main street of the town is the Church, a chaste, Gothic structure of wood, surmounted by a neat tower and spire of the same materials, dedicated to The Holy Trinity.†

On the right of the present edifice stood the second Hugonot Church of stone, long since destroyed. Probably a model of the ancient Hugonot Church of old La Rochelle, which appears to have been destroyed by fire in 1687, on Corpus Christi Day, just two years before the Hugonots

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\* Marshall's Washington, Vol. I., p. 111.

† The first church erected by the Hugonots in this town was built of wood, and stood on the property of Dr. Smith.

nots themselves purchased the present township. Jeurieus, a minister of the Reformed Church, in one of his pastoral letters, addressed to the "Protestants of France groaning under the Babylonish captivity," refers to this event, which he evidently considers a remarkable interposition of God in their behalf. "It is nothing less notorious (says he) than the burning of the great Church of old La Rochelle. This Church was formerly the great Church of the Reformed; they (the Romanists) took it away from them after the siege and taking of the city. Every one knows that the day on which the inhabitants made a bonfire, the fire took hold of this large and fair Church, none knows how, nor where; and that it was consumed, the lead melted, and all the vaults burned, without being able to quench it. There is something singular in the event, the day, and the occasion, and 'tis impossible not to see the finger of God therein."\*

In 1689, we find John Pell, proprietor of the Manor of Pelham, giving one hundred acres of land for the use of the French Church in New Rochelle.

In the rear of the present Church is the old burial ground; where lie, awaiting the resurrec-

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\* Jeurieus's Pastoral Letters, p. 538.

tion of the just, many of the persecuted and exiled Hugonots.

Prior to the erection of the first Church in New ROCHELLE, the devoted inhabitants of this town walked regularly every Saturday evening to New York, a distance, by the road at that time, of twenty-three miles, to attend the Sunday service at the old Church du St. Esprit, in Pine street, and returned on the Sabbath evening to their homes, to be ready for their weekly avocations on Monday. To them the service of the temple was a delight. When they erected the stone church, such was their anxiety and true pious devotion, that the females assisted by carrying stones on their hands and mortar in their aprons.\* The first minister was a Frenchman, the Rev. M. Bondet, whom they supported by voluntary contributions, aided by a small allowance from the state government. At first Mr. Bondet used French Prayers, according to the Protestant Churches of France; but in the year 1709 the congregation, with the exception of two individuals, followed the example of their French reformed brethren in England and New York, conforming to the English Church.† In do

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\* The foundation stone was laid by Governor Hunter, and Queen Anne also made to the Church a liberal donation of plate, etc.

† Hist. Propagat. Sec. by Dr. Humphrey, p. 267.

this, the Hugonots followed the sentiment of their own Church, which, from the beginning of the Reformation to this time, had allowed it to be lawful to do so, and condemned those who made any separation, but from the Church of Rome.\* The Rev. Mr. Bondet preached to his flock, every third Sunday, in English as well as in French. He seems to have been very acceptable, the congregation being large, and the number of communicants 50.

In 1711, the old Church became ruinous, and another was erected by public contribution. The town of NEW ROCHELLE also gave a house and three acres of land to the minister.

Mr. Bondet died in 1722, much lamented: he appears to have been minister of the parish for twenty years.

Mr. Bondet was succeeded in 1723 by the Rev. Mr. Stoupe. This gentleman also proved very acceptable, and the more so, because he could preach in French, which language only most of the people understood.

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\* Beza, one of the most powerful advocates for the Hugonots, wrote to some of them who were discontented in England, conjuring them by all that is good and sacred not to forsake the communion of the Church of England for such indifferent rites and ceremonies as were there imposed upon them. Beza, Ep. xii, p. 105. Calvin, the founder of the French Churches, passes an anathema upon those who forsake the communion of Orthodox Bishops where they are to be had. Calvin de Necessitate Reformationis Ecclesie, tom. xiii., p. 60. See Beza. Resp. ad Sarav., cap. xviii.

In 1743, we find the congregation of this Church addressing a letter to the "Propagation Society," on behalf of their minister, then on a visit to his friends in England. It is curious, as showing who the members of the Church were, at that time, and may be interesting to their descendants, many of whom still adhere to the Church of their forefathers.\*

The present beautiful edifice was erected by public contribution in 1824, and consecrated by the Right Rev. John Croes, Bishop of New Jersey, in the absence of the late lamented Hobart, then on a visit to England.

The Rev. Thomas W. Coit, D. D., is the present Rector.

The officers of the Church consist of two churchwardens and six vestrymen, elected annually, according to the charter, on Tuesday in Easter week.

There is a neat Chapel in the main street belonging to the Presbyterians; also a Meeting-house of the Wesleyan Methodists. The present Presbyterian minister is the Rev. Mr. Sneider.

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\* See Appendix. A.

**POPULATION, STEAM-BOAT LANDING, FISHING,  
&c.**

The advantages presented by the proximity of the Sound are of great importance to the town. Besides the shipping of various market produce on board the sloops, there is the convenience of a daily steamboat to the city during the summer months, and three times a week in the winter. By this means great quantities of produce are sent to the New-York markets, at reasonable rates. There are several hotels which afford excellent accommodation to parties visiting **NEW ROCHELLE** for the amusement of fishing, the salubrity of its air, or the beauty of its scenery.

Comfortable private boarding is also to be procured in the town and neighbourhood.

The **Le Roy House**, in the town of **NEW ROCHELLE**, is an excellent and comfortable establishment, well suited for those who prefer the small stir of a village, while they are not too far removed from the banks of the Sound. Its proprietor is **Mr. Banks**.

There are also two other excellent hotels in the village well managed,—the **Mansion House** and **New Rochelle Hotel**.

The steam-boat landing, about half a mile S. W. of the village, is delightfully situated. It is

approached by a solid causeway of stone, which leads to the dock, and to a well built Hotel called the Neptune House. This establishment is well situated on account of its close vicinity to the water. It stands in the centre of a small wooded island, approached by the causeway above mentioned. At high water the scenery presented in front of the Hotel is altogether unrivalled: the harbour in the foreground—the long surface of the waters, stretching seven miles across to Long Island; the winding streams of the creeks on each side, and Davenport's Neck and Island, around, help to fill up the landscape; and, in addition to the healthiness of the spot, give it advantages which few of our watering places possess. The buildings and improvements on this Island have been erected at the private cost of Philip Underhill, Esq.

Here also the angler and sailor can enjoy their tastes to perfection. The accommodations are on an extensive scale, and the whole is under the excellent management of Mr. Rice.

Here all the luxuries of sea-bathing may likewise be enjoyed, without the inconveniences of a heavy surf or publicity.

Pleasure boats and fishing tackle can also be procured on the spot.

The principal resort for anglers is the East



**Chester Creek Bridge, in Pelham.** On this bridge, when the tide serves, fish of various kinds, and particularly bass of a large size, are to be taken. A streaked bass of 45 lbs. was found dead on the rocks, directly in front of this bridge, in the summer of 1841, where it is supposed to have cast itself. They have also occasionally been taken alive, of nearly that weight.

The erection of this bridge appears to have been commenced by a company of gentlemen of the neighbourhood, some few years ago, who, after sustaining severe losses, relinquished the enterprise, which it was reserved for the late George Rapalye, Esq., to complete. The bridge has since been purchased of his heirs, and is now rented by Mr. Fowler, who bears an admirable character for the manner in which he sustains this favourite haunt of the angler. If it regarded scenery alone, this spot deserves admiration. In every direction the eye is greeted with a most extensive and lovely view. The bay is terminated only by the Long Island shore. Throgmorton's Neck is also distinctly visible, with Schuyler's Fort and Light-house.

In the rear is to be seen East Chester Creek winding away further inland. The village of East Chester, and the high grounds of West Chester terminate the view.

NEW ROCHELLE contains a population of about two thousand souls.

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### THE SOUND SCENERY.

After this sketch of the history of NEW ROCHELLE, a brief view of the Sound will naturally be expected.

These noble waters, swelling as they approach the mighty Atlantic, and bearing on their bosom craft of every size, are well known and justly celebrated for their romantic beauty. In the vicinity of NEW ROCHELLE these waters glide amid numerous Islands clothed in verdure, which give a striking feature to this enchanting spot. Here the eye can command every variety of boundless prospect. The waters occasionally sweep up into some creek, and enliven the scenery, or stretch over to the opposite shore and become engulfed amidst the wooded hills of Hempstead Harbour, while the broad silver channel of the Sound looks like a mirror, and glides on in its course, to the swelling waves of the Atlantic bearing on its bosom the swift steamer, or the country sloop. The verdant shore of Long Island forms another charming addition to the landscape, sprinkled as it is, in all directions, by

neat farm houses and the distant villages of Glen Cove, or Oyster Bay.

But vessels of darker craft once danced its surface: these waters having been the favourite recruiting grounds of the notorious pirate, Captain Kidd. As early as the year 1694, when Colonel Fletcher administered the government of this State, the Sound was occupied by crews of the most lawless and desperate pirates, whose first maxim appears to have been "no prey no pay." The desperadoes flinched at nothing, and, like the western Bucaneers, swept all before them. It is almost certain, on good evidence, that Colonel Fletcher himself sanctioned these robbers of the high seas, although his friends have endeavoured to vindicate his character from the foul stain of encouraging piracy within his own territories. That the pirates were some of his own subjects, and sailed from New-York is, however, pretty clear. These capricious rogues, thus acquainted with their own waters, navigated their swift sail with perfect security. Kidd himself (one of these robbers.) had the audacity to propose to the government, when he visited England in 1695, the fitting out of a frigate, with a full compliment of men, to cruise against his brother pirates in the Sound, and as he was well acquainted with their haunts, he suggested the policy of their employing

him to apprehend them. The result was that Robert Livingston, and three or four noblemen, with the King of England at their head, furnished Capt. Kidd with a frigate of 30 guns and 150 men. Kidd sailed from Plymouth, in England, 1696, turned pirate himself, and made the best of his time in a sweeping voyage of piracy, both in the Mediterranean and also on these shores, where by his cruel extortions he compelled the farmers to yield a levied supply of provisions.

How Kidd so successfully succeeded in bribing so large a crew is a mystery, and can only be accounted for by supposing that they were themselves equal to their master in the art of plundering.

If a person refused to comply with these remorseless exactions, a voyage in the pirate ship soon settled matters.

The grand principle of these hardened rogues was one absolutely needful to their existence, (having the fear of the gallows before their eyes,) and this was mutual fidelity.

To this circumstance we owe the treasures that are said to exist still among the sands on our shores.

Here lie riches which, it is believed, none but the pirates had a clue to; and there they may remain, for the pirates have long since cracked

their necks on the gallows, some at Boston, Kidd himself in London.

For many years after the death of Kidd, many were so infatuated with a notion that the pirates buried great quantities of money along the coast, that there is scarce a point of land, or an island, without the marks of their *Auri Sacra Fames*. Some credulous people have ruined themselves with these researches, and propagated a thousand idle fables, many of which are current to this day.\*

On the opposite shore of Long Island is a small jutting promontory, which runs into the entrance of Hempstead Bay, called to this day Kidd's Rock.

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#### RIDES IN THE VICINITY OF NEW ROCHELLE.

The towns and villages, in all directions around NEW ROCHELLE, are rural and neat.

The roads, in the Summer season, are generally in excellent order, and the objects to which they lead are, for many miles, so delightfully varied that they cannot fail to please.

We shall first direct our readers to the Pelham and West Chester road to New York ; but as this

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\* See Smith's Hist. N. Y., English edit., p. 23

needs hardly any description, most persons being well acquainted with this pleasing and delightful route, we shall proceed to notice the road to **WHITE PLAINS**. This road, as a ride, possesses all the charming diversity which a hilly and finely wooded country can possibly bestow. After crossing the old Boston road, to the north of the town, that formerly led to **King's Bridge**, and leaving the **Yonker's** road to the left, within a mile and a half of the town, you pass on the right, the monument and farm of the notorious **Tom Paine**. This distinguished Infidel deserves a passing notice. He was the son of a Quaker, a stay-maker by trade, and was born at **Thetford**, in **Norfolk**, **England**, in 1737. His mother was the daughter of an attorney, herself a member of the Church of England. In her religious principles the son appears to have been educated, for we find he was confirmed, at the usual age, by the **Bishop of Norwich**.

After leaving school, at the early age of thirteen, **Paine** embraced his father's trade as a staymaker, in which he continued five years. He next ventured on a seafaring life.

In 1759, he again established himself in stay-making, and married his first wife, **Mary Lambert**, who died the next year, in consequence of his bad treatment of her.

Two years after this he obtained a place in the excise, from which he was twice expelled for malpractices. In 1771 he married his second wife, Eliz. Ollive, from whom in three years he obtained a divorce. In 1774 he composed his first production, an election song, for which he obtained three guineas. The great Franklin found him a garret writer in London, and was the first person who advised him to come to this country. In Philadelphia, under the auspices of such men as Rush, Franklin, and others, he prepared and published his "Common Sense," a work which appears to have been well timed, and calculated to rouse the enthusiasm of the brave asserters of Independence. As a work of merit, it was well suited to the times in which it was first published; but, as his own biographer remarks, "it is defective in arrangement, inelegant in diction, with a few exceptions showing little profundity of argument, no facility of remark, no extent of research, and no classical allusion, and cannot be appealed to as authority or government." It owed its popularity entirely to the critical juncture of the times.

He afterwards published his "Crisis." In 1777 he was elected Secretary to the Committee of Foreign Affairs, from which office he was dismissed, two years after, for a scandalous breach of office, and this was done by the assembled

wisdom of the States. New York liberally gave him the confiscated estate of Frederick Davoe, a royalist. This farm consisted, at that time, of 100 acres, with a house.

In 1787 he formed the design of producing a revolution in England, his native country. At this time the infidels of France were ripening their plots in Paris: Paine joined with them, and viewed with rapture, the rising revolution in England. His infidel and revolutionary principles were opposed by the powerful and eloquent Burke, who, with other noble minded coadjutors, crushed the revolution in that country, and sentenced the malicious infidel Paine as an outlaw.

To promote the "revolution of the world,\*" he published his "Age of Reason," well entitled a complete piece of ribaldry.

Paine's only originality was, that while planning war and bloodshed on earth, he was endeavouring to raise rebellions against that religion which he affected to despise.

With him, ruin only appeared complete, when every good government and religion itself were annihilated.

As a companion of the blood-thirsty Robespierre, we find him next sitting on the trial of the innocent Louis.

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\* This was a toast Paine himself proposed at a public meeting in London



The perjured and outlawed Paine, at this time, had a narrow escape of his life while in the dungeons of Paris; he attributes his escape of the guillotine to a fever with which he was affected.

While in Paris his medical attendant describes his body as in a state of putrefaction, owing to the use of strong drink.

This habit seems to have taken hold of him at an early period of the French revolution. Even while residing under the roof of Mr. Monroe, then the United States' ambassador at Paris, he was noted as an immoderate drinker.

During Paine's imprisonment, the atrocious Robespierre died by the guillotine.

In 1796, while still in Paris, he published his letter to General Washington, which contained a causeless, ungrateful, virulent and useless attack on one of the best of men.

Paine again being imprisoned and expelled from the society of his fellow infidels, now deemed it expedient to fly to America, taking under his charge a married lady named Madame Bonneville, and her three sons; for some time they remained on the farm in New Rochelle, but Paine never remained long in one spot, for we now find him in New-York, renting his farm, and again in the country quarelling with his tenant.

The house in which he lived is now destroyed,

Here he had a small room to himself, the furniture of which consisted of a miserable straw bed, deal table, a chair, BIBLE, and jug of spiritous liquors. His breakfast table is described thus by an eye witness, Mr. Carver: "the table cloth was composed of newspapers; on it was a teapot, some coarse brown sugar, part of a rye loaf, and quarter of a pound of butter."

He appears to have kept, for help, an old black woman by the name of Betty, who appears to have been as great a drunkard as her master. Paine is said to have accused her of stealing his rum, and Betty would then call him a drunkard.

In a drunken rencontre Paine and Betty have been seen on the floor together, and sprawling, swearing, and threatening to fight, while neither the one nor the other had the power to rise.

On Christmas eve, 1804, Paine had a narrow escape of his life. It seems that Derick, an old tenant of Paine's, had rented his farm for a certain period, during a part of which time he had husbanded its produce with care and economy; when Paine suddenly returned from N. York, quarrelled with and discharged him. Derick now determined on revenge; and accordingly, while Paine was sitting near the window of his room having a lighted candle by his side, Derick approached stealthily, and fired the contents of a loaded mus-

ket at him, fortunately for Paine, the load fell harmless between the walls.

In 1809 Paine was seized with a mortal sickness while boarding at Mr. Ryder's in New-York.

From thence he was removed to Mr. Holbron's, in Columbia Street. Here it was that, within a few weeks of the grave, racked by disease and pain, we find him denying his own language in the "Rights of Man"\* where he remarks, "It may, perhaps, be said, that it signifies nothing to a man what is done with him after he, is dead," &c. No man, however, could be more solicitous than Paine about the disposition of his body. Dr. Manly, his own physician, has declared that Paine would cry out frequently, "Oh LORD, help me;" "JESUS CHRIST, help me;" and such was his fear of death, that he could not bear to be left alone for a single moment; and if it so happened, he would scream and hollow till some one came.†

So much for the author of the "Age of Reason," whose boasted philosophy availed him nothing in his extremity. Alas for the consistency of the man who endeavoured to prove before the Theophilanthropist's Society of Paris the existence of a superior being to Him whom all Christendom calls God; the gracious Being who created him

\* See Rights of Man. Part I. p. 53.

† Abridged from Cheetham's Life of Paine.

and whom he now calls on for help in his last moments. On the 8th of June 1869, this drunken, outlawed, and perjured apostle of infidelity breathed his last, aged 72 years and 5 months. His body was buried on his farm: here, however, it was not allowed to rest long; for one of his beloved disciples, Cobbett, disinterred the body a few years after, and from the last accounts, it would appear that at Cobbett's death, his executor "found nothing to act upon as the administrator of his effects but a box of bones."

Continuing on the route to White Plains, you pass through upper New Rochelle, and leaving another cross road to your left, which leads into the mail road from New-York to White Plains, you ascend a small hill, where a fine prospect of the sound, and New Rochelle in the distance, is before the view. A mile further on, you enter the beautiful district of Scarsdale which brings you on to the New-York mail route to White Plains.

Here the views are finely diversified with hill and dale, commanding, occasionally, magnificent peeps of the dark sides of the lofty palisades. In fact, nature seems to have been lavish with all her romantic beauties throughout this picturesque portion of West Chester County. Woods, meadows, and running streams are mingled in the

nappiest manner, and softened by some of her finest touches.

The whole line of this road is also ornamented with neat seats and farm houses.

To the left of this road, within a few miles of White Plains, is the mansion of Major Popham, beautifully situated in a picturesque hollow.

As you approach the town of White Plains you also pass to the left Chatterton Heights, the battle field of 1776.

Returning from White Plains, the ride can be diversified by taking the Tucahoe road and following the course of the Bronx to East Chester, or by that to Mamaroneck.

The ride to Mamaroneck, Rye, and Portchester, is the next excursion which we shall point out.

This road runs nearly parallel with the course of the Sound. To the left, about two miles from New ROCHELLE, is the well built mansion of the late Peter Jay Munro, Esq., which commands a very fine prospect of the Sound and the country around. Two miles further on you arrive at the town of Mamaroneck, which is very much enlivened by an extensive salt water view. Pursuing the main road you pass, on the right, the residence of Peter A. Jay, Esq. This house also commands extensive views of the Sound, sprinkled in the foreground. with groups of picturesque

islands. You now approach the summit of a slight hill; here a beautiful prospect opens before the eye. Directly in front, and situated in a vale, lies the town of Rye. To the left, a fine winding creek stretches into the Sound. To the right, interspersed with woods and pastures, numerous well built farm houses appear in all directions. The town of Rye itself is enlivened with a beautiful fresh water stream, which runs through some small but beautiful pastures.

Continuing the route a mile or two further, you enter the town of Portchester. This place has grown rapidly within a few years, and is likely to rival any on the coast. Another route, which is equally pleasant, may be followed on returning to Rye, by taking the first road to the left, which runs by the new Presbyterian Chapel. This road passing near the banks of the Sound possesses views of great beauty: it ultimately joins the main Boston road.

The road to Yonkers passes through a beautiful portion of the county, and will be found amply to repay the stranger for a morning's ride. Leaving NEW ROCHELLE by the White Plains road, already mentioned, you take the first left hand road; after crossing the Aqueanouncke, the small stream that divides the townships of Pelham and East Chester, the next left hand road brings

you into the stage route from New-York to White Plains; continuing forward, you again take the left hand road called the Yonkers' road. After passing the romantic mill of Lawrence Underhill, situated on the river Bronx, the road turns to the right, and again, after a short distance, to the left; here it winds through wooded hills and neat farms, till you reach a lovely stream called the Saw Mill. Following its banks the road runs direct to Yonkers. The extensive range of well wooded hills, orchards and farm houses, together with the meanderings of the Saw Mill on this line of road, will entitle it to the claim that it holds among all lovers of natural scenery, to be considered as one possessing unrivalled charms.

From the heights above the town of Yonkers, a splendid view is commanded of the bold and rocky palisades, together with the noble Hudson stretching out till it becomes terminated in the distance by Jersey City.

From Yonkers the ride can be diversified by returning through the arch of the Aqueduct, and pursuing the second right hand road. This crosses the Croton Water Works, and affords, as you approach East Chester from Valentine's Hill, extensive views of the Sound, Long Island, and the surrounding country. On entering East Chester,

opposite the Church, you find yourself again in the White Plains road.

The beauty of the ride from **NEW ROCHELLE** to **Tarrytown** is also well deserving of notice, and will be found not to disappoint the greatest expectations that can be raised by the most sanguine lovers of river scenery.

We shall not attempt any description of this road, but merely say, that both at **Tarrytown** and **Yonkers** good accommodations may be obtained for parties at the hotels. We mention this, as the excursion to both these places is longer than any we have before mentioned.

The ride to the **Premium Mills** will also be found well worth an hour's excursion to the East of the town of **NEW ROCHELLE**.

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#### TOWNS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

We shall now proceed to a description of the vicinity of **NEW ROCHELLE**; and as **Pelham** once embraced this township, we shall first notice it.

#### P E L H A M .

This township is situated to the south-east of **NEW ROCHELLE**. A small stream called by the Indians, the **Aqueanouncke**, and by the English, **Hutchinson's River**, separates it from **East Ches-**



ter. It appears to have been purchased from the Indians, sometime previous to the year 1666, by Thomas Pell, and by him called Pelham; an old English name composed of Pel (remote) and Ham (mansion.)

By Governor Nichols it was granted and confirmed, in 1666, to Thomas Pell, Esq., of Fairfield, in Connecticut, together with the islands adjacent, and all its privileges, and erected into an enfranchised township or manor, and secured to him and his heirs.\*

The Pells are of English origin, and a family of very old standing in the counties of Norfolk and Lincolnshire in that country.

Thomas Pell, Esq., commonly known as my Lord Pell, the first proprietor of this township, appears to have been an adherent of the popular party during that great struggle, called the civil wars in England, between the Parliamentarians on one side, and the crown and hierarchy on the other. After the restoration of the monarchy, in 1660, he fled from the vengeance of the royalists into France. He afterwards removed to Ouckaway, or Fairfield, in Connecticut, and from thence settled here, where he purchased of the Indians their right to this soil. After his death, which

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\* See Appendix. A.

happened about 1680, the manorial proprietorship descended to John Pell, his nephew, son of the famous Dr. Pell, the celebrated Ambassador of Oliver Cromwell to the Swiss Cantons.\* In 1691 we find this individual on the list of members, returned by the Sheriff, to represent the county of West Chester.†

Since the revolution, the manor has been sold in various proportions to different individuals.

The first object of interest as you enter Pelham, after leaving NEW ROCHELLE, is the "Priory," the residence of the Rev. Robert Bolton. The house, which is constructed of stone, is a mixture of the Gothic and costellated styles, and accords well with its romantic and elevated situation. The views from its towers and terraces, and old fashioned bay windows, are charming, the landscape being finely enriched in the foreground with a rocky declivity, covered with the indigenous cedar, beyond which stretches a beautiful bay interspersed with rocky and wooded islands, and terminated with the shores of Long Island. The grounds are intersected by naturally wooded walks, leading to various points of interest, among which deserves to be noticed "the Rocking Stone." This natural curiosity is a mass of solid rock,

\* See Vaughan's Protectorate of Cromwell.

† See Smith's Hist. of N. Y., p. 72.

weighing, perhaps, more than twenty tons, which can be moved to and fro, at pleasure, by a child.

As you advance on the New-York road, through Pelham, fine water views burst open to your gaze.

After leaving Mr. Bolton's, to the left is the residence of Albert Rosevelt, Esq. The house commands a fine view of the opposite shore of Long Island, and the intermediate Sound. The winding creek now opens close to the road side, and you see before you the woods of Hunter's Island. A stone causeway, and neat bridge erected across the passage of the creek, leads you past a well built lodge to the house, which stands in the centre of the island, and almost encircled by its woods. Here the most extensive views of the Sound meet the eye. To the north-east of the house, looking up the Sound, the waters stretch out into a boundless expanse; to the south-west, a fine open bay extends towards the neck in Pelham and Throgmorton's Point; while in front, fine sweeping meadows skirted by tall woods, bounded by islands, and enlivened by the waters and Long Island, are its principal attractions, and unite to render it one of the most beautiful spots on the river.

John Hunter, Esq., its present proprietor, has for some years represented the county in the State

Senate, and is, ex-officio, a member of the Court of Errors.

The house, which is built of stone, is in the Grecian style. You enter, under a colonnade of the Ionic order, the hall, which contains some choice hunting pieces of Snyder's. The drawing room, dining room, and parlour, are also embellished with some excellent paintings of the first masters, constituting altogether one of the best private collections in this country. Near the house are fine gardens, adorned with hot houses, containing a choice collection of the Cactus tribe.

The adjoining property is that of Isaac Coles, Esq., also beautifully situated near the water, and commanding every variety of fine scenery. But the most to be admired in this situation, is the good taste with which art has added her charms to those of nature, the grounds being tastefully laid out to the water's edge, and embellished with extensive green and fruit houses.

In the immediate vicinity is the estate of Robert Bartow, Esq. This gentleman's family have enjoyed this property for some years. One of the first members of this family was the Rev. Mr. Bartow, a clergyman of some distinction, sent out here from England, in 1702, by the "Propagation Society." The present proprietor has

lately erected a fine stone house, in the Grecian style, which presents a neat front with projecting wings.

Following the mail road to New-York, Pelham continues to the left, on towards the neck called by the Indians, Annhook's Neck, by the English, Pell's Point.

To the right, leading on to this neck, is the residence of Richard Morris, Esq., beautifully situated on a gentle eminence, and commanding fine water views of the Sound and adjacent creeks.

To the left, on entering the neck, lies the "Indian Burying Ground," already alluded to in our description of the Indians. In fact the whole of this neck appears to have been used by them as a burial ground.

It is said that the tribe even brought their dead from great distances, to inter them on this favourite spot.

In proof of this, bodies have been found on every portion of the neck. The largest proportion of mounds are situated, however, on the grounds of the late George Rapalye, Esq., a member of a family of French descent, who settled in King's county, Long Island, in the year 1625. The property is now occupied by Peter Brinkerhoff, Esq. The house, which is built of wood, is

beautifully situated, and embraces many extensive and rich views of scenery on the Sound. It also contains a small but choice collection of paintings. A little further south, is the residence of the late Elisha King, Esq. This house is built of stone, in the Grecian style, and presents a fine columned front to the water. Here the beauty of the scenery is heightened by the close vicinity of City Island, and the beautiful and extensive variety of the choicest trees and shrubs, which afford a striking addition to the grounds.

The neck is terminated by the farm of Mr. Valentine, which appears to connect itself with City Island.

Pelham Creek Bridge having been already noticed, we shall return to the road leading to East Chester. Pelham now continues on to the north-west, following the course of the creek. After leaving the late residence of — Lyon, Esq., the present Sheriff for the county, on the right, to the left a fine view of the higher grounds of East Chester is obtained, together with the winding creek or river, the village of East Chester and its picturesque stone Church. Immediately below the hill, on the verge of the creek, buried among willows and shrubbery, is the house of the late Major George Prevost, whose family was originally from Geneva, in Switzerland, and de-

scended from Major General George Provost, of that country.

Mr. Stephen Pell's residence and store, complete the Parish bounds.

To the west, crossing the main road to West Farms, Pelham again enters the old King's Bridge road. Here the salt and fresh waters of the Aqueanouncke mingle; to the left is the highly improved residence and property of — Hayes, Esq. The house stands on a gentle rise, and overlooks the winding creek and distant village.

Pelham still runs northward, till it is terminated by NEW ROCHELLE and Scarsdale.

The population of this town is computed at 784.

#### WEST CHESTER.

This town is situated on the main New-York and Boston road, at the south-west extremity of West Chester county, on the East River, 12 miles from the city of New-York, and at the head of navigation, on the West Chester creek. Throg's Neck, at the S. E. extremity, is connected with the main by a narrow causeway. This neck originally took its name from Throgmorton, an Englishman,\* who took a grant for it, under the Dutch, in 1643. The name abbreviated since

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\* The Throgmorton's are a family of ancient standing in England, and derive their descent from John de Throckmorton, Lord of Throckmorton in 1100.

from Throgmorton to Throg's, and vulgarly corrupted into Frog's Neck.\*

It eventually became the property of A. Hammond, Esq., whose son lately sold the point to the United States government, upon which they have erected the present Fort Schuyler.

This neck is justly celebrated for its beauty, commanding, as it does, extensive and picturesque views of the Sound, and adjacent country.

It contains also, many beautiful country seats.

Here it was that, on October the 12th, 1776, General Howe landed his troops, after passing through Hurl Gate.

West Chester was formerly a borough town, under a charter of incorporation of King William the III., of England, which consisted of a mayor, two aldermen, and recorder.

It had also the power of sending a member to the Legislature.

This town also embraces West Farms, Morristania, and Fordham.

The Church, which stands to the south-west of the town, is built of wood, and surmounted by a cupola.

A Church was erected here as early as 1702, in pursuance of an act for building five Churches in

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\* See Egbert Benson's *Memoir of State N. Y.*, p. 70.



the county. The first rector of this Parish was the Rev. Mr. Bartow, a very active and zealous churchman, who had also the superintendence of the Parishes of East Chester and Yonkers, but whose principal residence was at this place.

The late Dr. Wilkins was, for some years, also rector of this Parish. His grandson is the present Gouverneur M. Wilkins, Esq., of Castle Hill.\*

The present incumbent is the Rev. W. Powell.

This Parish, in 1702, contained a population of 2000 souls : it now embraces 4154.

#### WEST FARMS,

Which is pleasantly situated at the head of navigation, on Bronx's creek, three miles from the river, and twelve from New-York. This place, from its vicinity to the city, is rapidly increasing. Besides containing many beautiful country seats in the neighbourhood, the town has a post office, and several extensive manufactories.† There is no Episcopal Church here, but Chapels belonging to the Presbyterians and Dutch Lutherans.

West Farms, in 1813, contained a population of between 3 and 400 inhabitants.

\* This family are of ancient standing in the north of England, being descended from Robert de Winton. or Wincentria, temp. of William II.

† The house of Philip M. Lydig, Esq., situated on the margin of the Bronx, was the head quarters of the illustrious Washington.

## MORRISSANIA,

Is the well known country residence of the late Hon. Gouverneur Morris, and is highly spoken of by travellers, and other persons of taste. Its situation is very fine, just in the south-west angle of the township of West Chester, nearly opposite to the beautiful scenery of Hurl Gate, eight miles from New-York, and commanding extensive views of the surrounding country, and the adjacent waters. This place was originally settled by Colonel Morris, an officer of Oliver Cromwell's army, who, after the restoration in 1660, disguised himself under the profession of Quakerism, came out to this country, and bought this extensive property, which he called after his own name *Morrisania*.\*

His nephew, Colonel Morris, was a man of extensive influence, a member of the council in the Province of New Jersey, and a judge of the Supreme Court there in 1692.

This distinguished individual was also nominated Governor of this state, in 1702, in opposition to Lord Cornbury.†

The late proprietor, Gouverneur Morris, was a

\* The Morris's are a family of Welsh origin, and descended from the powerful British Chieftain Elyatar GLODRYDD, born in 523.

† This individual ultimately obtained it, being Queen Anne's nephew.

distinguished statesman and orator, and minister from the United States to France, in 1792.

In 1775, he was a delegate to the Provincial Congress, from New-York, and was employed in the public service, in various capacities, during the revolutionary contest, in the execution of which he appears to have displayed great zeal and ability.\* After the war of the revolution, he retired to this spot, where he enjoyed the society of his illustrious compeers, who took part in that memorable struggle. Louis Philipe, and the celebrated Moreau, were also inmates of his hospitable mansion.

Gouverneur Morris was likewise an active member of the Convention, who formed the present Constitution of the United States.†

This illustrious and accomplished statesman, died in 1816, aged 64.

His son is the present Gouverneur Morris, Esq.

The Church is a chaste Gothic edifice of marble dedicated to St. Ann. It was erected and endowed at the expense of Mr. Morris, and contains a well arranged chancel, and a chaste memorial of marble dedicated to the memory of the late Mrs. Morris, a lenial representative of the illustrious Pocahontas, of Virginia.

\* Blake's Biographical Dictionary.

† See Sparks's Life of Morris.

The Church has been incorporated, and placed in the hands of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Morrissania was incorporated into West Chester in the year 1791.

#### FORDHAM,

Now embraced in West Chester township, was formerly known as the Manor of Fordham. It contains a small village bordering on the New-York and Albany Rail Road.

The Roman Catholics have here a large Seminary, once the private residence of the celebrated Motte.

The whole institution is on an extensive scale, beautifully located, and under the superintendence of Bishop Hughes.

There is also a large Episcopal Boy's School, on the old De Lancey property, conducted by the Rev. W. Powell, rector of West Chester Church.

The heights of Fordham are well known in the annals of the revolution. It was to these hills that General Howe retired from White Plains, and encamped his army for the object of reducing Fort Washington. These hills are also celebrated for their extensive and commanding views of the surrounding country.

#### YONKERS.

This town is beautifully situated on the banks

of the Hudson, and the magnificent views which open themselves on all sides, unite in rendering it one of the finest towns in this interesting portion of West Chester County.

It is 20 miles north of New York, 10 S. W. of White Plains, and about the same distance from NEW ROCHELLE.

This town was originally granted in 1648 to Jonker Vander Donck, familiarly called Jonker, from Jonge Heer, the young lord, the Dutch appellation for the heir of the family.\* We find this land called in the Colonial records, the Yonker's Land. Vander Donck also made other purchases of the Indians, in this neighbourhood, erected mills, and laid out a plantation on the site of the present town of Yonkers. In 1658, Frederick Philips, the founder of the ancient family of the Philipsses,† immigrated to this country, having left his native land, East Friesland, with the consent of the Stadtholder and the States General, to take possession of a large purchase of land he had made in the province of New-York. This purchase contained the present town of Yonkers, which he called, after his own name, Philipsburg, together with another large tract called, by way of

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\* See Judge Benson's Memoir of N. Y.

† This ancient family of Philipsses came originally from Bohemia, having fled thence on the persecutions that arose in the times of John Huss, and Jerome of Prague. Cooper calls them "the Bohemian Philipsses."

distinction, the Upper Patent. This he named Fredericksburg.

He left one son, Frederick, who was born in Holland in 1656.

His great grandson was Frederick Philips, the direct ancestor of the present English Philips, and also of Philip Philips, who, taking no active part in the revolution, secured a full share of the property at Philipsburg, where his descendants still reside. Their sister Mary married Colonel Roger Morris, a staunch royalist, who, after the war, retired to England, where she lived to the advanced age of 96.

Before her marriage with Colonel Morris, she had refused the hand of General Washington, who appears to have been greatly attached to her.

It was also from her character that Cooper founded the heroine of the "Spy," under the name of Frances. An interesting account is also given of her interview with Washington, in the same work.\*

There are many well known spots, connected with revolutionary history, in this town, such as Boar Hill and Valentine's Hill.

The road to Albany, from this place, is well deserving of notice. It extends along the banks

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\* The Spy: vide Preface to the "Water Witch."

of the Hudson, and commands fine views of the magnificent scenery of the opposite shores, sprinkled with distant villages and country seats.

This noble river carries a tide of 170 miles from the city of New-York, and opens a navigation far into the western region of lakes.

Doth Tagus o'er his golden pavement glowing,  
Or cradle-freighted Ganges, the approach of Mothers,  
The storied Rhine: or far-famed Guadalquivir—  
Match they in beauty this great and glorious river?

C. F. HOFFMAN.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Yonkers is the Manor of Courtlandt, named after the Van Courtlandts, one of the noblest Dutch families who first settled the New Netherlands, their ancestors being originally sovereign Lords of Courtland, before their immigration to Holland.

The first proprietor of this manor was the Right Hon. Oliver Stephen Van Courtlandt, a privy councillor, who accompanied in 1629, (as Secretary to the Government,) the first Dutch Governor, sent out by the States General of Holland, to this colony.

As a compensation for large sums of money, advanced to the government of Holland, he obtained a grant of the Manor of Courtlandt, and the lower part of Yonkers, which property is now in possession of his descendant, Courtlandt Van Courtlandt, Esq.

The Church of Philipsburg is delightfully situated in the centre of the town, near the banks of the Hudson. It is built of brick and stone, and has been of late much improved. This Church was originally founded by the services of the Rev. Mr. Bartow, of West Chester, who established a congregation here in 1703.

There is also a Chapel of Ease attached to this Parish, at Tucahoe.

The present rector is the Rev. Henry L. Storrs.

Yonkers contains a population of 2,968 souls ; in 1610, it numbered 1,365 ; in 1704, 239.

#### WHITE PLAINS,

Is delightfully situated, in a fine plain, close by the Bronx's River. It is the half-shire town of West Chester county, 28 miles from New-York, 6 miles east of the Hudson, and 9 from New Rochelle. It contains a fine old court house, prison, and a handsome collection of well built houses. To the south of the town, the surface of the country is broken by a range of hills ; but they only diversify, with a pleasing variety of soil and position, and the lands are duly distributed into portions for meadow, pasture, and tillage. The historic events connected with the name of White Plains, will long live in the pages of American history ; and the autumn of 1776 was



made memorable by a battle on these Plains, October 28th, as well as by a series of disasters of the most portentous import.\*

The battle field lies to the south-west of the village. Nothing remains, however, to mark the spot, rendered interesting by the entrenchments of the patriots, but a small portion of the embankment, on the surface of which rests a mutilated spiked mortar, branded by the brush and white lead of the painter with '76; in addition to which modern economy has supplied this relic of the revolution with a lowly square stand.

The head-quarters of the patriotic Washington, while stationed here, was at a small farm house to the west of the village, situated amid a deep solitude of woods, surrounded by hills and wild romantic scenery.

This house is still standing, and was occupied, in 1836, by a veteran of 1776. Here is shown the table that supported the camp fare of Washington, Lee, and McDougal. The heights around command the most extensive and diversified scenery, from the light blue hills beyond the Hudson, to the broad and distant Sound.

One of these hills in particular, is still marked with the rude embankment of the patriot, from whence, like an eagle, he must have surveyed

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\* Stafford's Gazetteer of N. Y.

from his mountain home the motions of the enemy. This height surpasses, in the variety of beautiful landscape scenery, any thing in West Chester county.

In this neighbourhood is situated the country residence of Major Popham, one of the few surviving aid-de-camps of General Washington, and a descendant of the ancient and honourable family of the Pophams, of England and Ireland. The property is extensive, and beautifully situated on the margin of the Bronx, which supplies a mill seat on the farm.

The Church in White Plains is a neat structure of wood, to which considerable additions have been lately made. It is delightfully situated, near the entrance of the town, and possesses a large parsonage house.

Its present worthy incumbent is the Rev. R. W. Harris, A. M., son of the late Dr. Harris, of Columbia College.

Mr. Harris has, for eight years past, conducted a Select Boy's School for English, Classical, and Religious Education; his chief object being to serve the Church, by training a few of its youth in the old paths of filial obedience, patient industry, and Christian devotion.

The Presbyterians, and Methodists, have also places of worship.

White Plains contains a population of 1,087 souls.

#### M A M A R O N E C K .

The situation of this town is very pleasant, being at the head of a fine bay which forms a harbour for vessels of 100 tons. This place promises considerable increase of population and business, being well situated for mills and factories. There is already an extensive cotton factory, built of brick. At the entrance of this town, is a fine property, formerly belonging to Colonel Heathcote, (descended of the Heathcote's, of Normanton, in the county of Rutland,) who settled here in 1647. In this Parish is also situated the property of the late Peter Jay Munro, Esq. The house is a large building of wood, finely seated on rising ground, and commanding extensive views of the Sound.

The view of the building is concealed from the road, by a fine plantation of fir, which adds much to the beauty of the grounds. Here is a valuable collection of Stewart's Paintings: in particular a full length of the illustrious Washington deserves to be noticed, and one of Governor Jay.

The farm and residence of Alderman William Scott is the adjoining property, and is delightfully situated with regard to water scenery.

De Lancey Neck is also in this Parish, the property of the late Colonel de Lancey, whose family were distinguished members of the State. The first of the family, who settled in this country, was Mr. de Lancey, a Protestant refugee, a native of Caen, in Normandy, who married a daughter of Mr. Van Courtlandt. The Neck is still owned by his descendant, the Right Rev. W. Heathcote de Lancey, Bishop of the Western Diocese of this State. The Church is a neat edifice of wood, to which is attached a parsonage. The rector is the Rev. John M. Ward.

Mamaroneck embraces a population of 1416 souls.

#### RYE,

Is a pleasant town, situated near the Long Island Sound, about 29 miles from New-York, and nearly 7 from NEW ROCHELLE.

The farms in the vicinity are large and highly improved, beautifully diversified with graceful undulations and fine woods. To the south-east is a fine point of land, which stretches out into the Sound, adding much to the beauty of the scenery.

There is also a celebrated and fine beach, called the Rye Flats. The country residence of Peter A. Jay, Esq., is in this town.\*

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\* The present Mr. Jay is the third generation that has occupied this spot. The boyhood of Governor Jay was passed here; and his remains are deposited in the family burying ground attached to the place.

The mansion is a handsome structure of wood, with a lofty porticoed front to the road. It is well located on a gentle rise, and commands extensive and pleasing views of the Sound, Long Island, and the surrounding country.

The Church is agreeably situated, on an eminence, and forms a picturesque object in connection with the scenery around. It was founded by the Rev. Mr. Muirson, in 1707, who seems to have laboured here with extraordinary success, in adding many to his communion.

The late reverend and venerable Richard Channing Moore, Bishop of Virginia, was for some years rector of this Church. Its present indefatigable incumbent is the Rev. Peter S. Chauncey.

The Rectory stands near the Church, in a beautiful situation, commanding a view of a fresh water stream and fine meadows.

There are also places of worship belonging to the Presbyterian and Methodist persuasions.

Rye contains a population of 1,803 souls. In 1703 the population was computed at 800.

#### EAST CHESTER.

About three miles south-west of New Rochelle, and nearer New-York, in a vale, stands the town of East Chester, pleasantly situated on a salt water creek, of the same name, formerly

called Hutchinson's river. In the south-east angle of the town, this creek enters a fine bay.

The earlier inhabitants of this towuship appear to have been principally devoted to the raising of sheep, of which useful animal there must have been extensive flocks.

It is now a fine farming district, the land being, although stony, warm and productive.

This town was distinguished in our early colonial annals, for the active part it took in favour of Governor Leisler, in 1669; for we find Leisler's party strengthened on the 3rd of June, 1669, by the addition of six captains and 400 men in New-York, and a company of 70 men from East Chester, who had all subscribed, on that day, a solemn declaration to preserve the Protestant religion, and the fort of New-York for the Prince of Orange, and the Governor whom the Prince might appoint as their protector.\*

This part of the country suffered severely during the war of the revolution; it was the scene of marches, points of defence, skirmishes, and battles between the two hostile armies.

In October, 1776, a skirmish took place in this town, between the patriots, on their route from King's Bridge to West Chester, and the enemy under Lord Howe.

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\* Smith's Hist. of N. Y.. English edit.. p. 39.

**This township also embraced the neutral ground, where the lawless skimmers and cow boys practised their black deeds of rapine unmolested.**

**The Church is a handsome and spacious building of stone, surmounted with a neat cupola. It was erected previous to the revolution, and seems to have been used during the war as a hospital. It served also as a court of justice, two skimmers having been tried there before a military tribunal, and were afterwards hung at West Chester.**

**The Rev. Mr. Bartow was the first minister in 1713. The inhabitants of this Parish appear to have been of the Presbyterian persuasion, until Mr. Bartow came among them; but in the year 1713 they embraced the principles of the Church of England, and received him as their pastor.**

**This zealous man, after labouring 25 years in the service of the Church, died in 1727. The Rev. Mr. Standard succeeded him in the duties of the Parish. This gentleman presented the bell to the Church, on which his name is inscribed.**

**On the building of the present edifice his remains, and those of his wife, were removed from the old Church, and now lay beneath the chancel.**

**The Rev. Robert Boltou is the present rector.**

**The Church Yard is one of the most extensive**

in the county, and contains many beautiful marble monuments.

There are several saw and grist mills in the Parish, some of them are beautifully situated on the Bronx, a fine fresh water stream that separates this Parish on the west from Yonkers, and so called from a Dutch plauter named Brouck.

East Chester is considered a remarkably healthy situation, many instances having occurred of persons attaining the advanced age of 100 years.

This Parish contains a population of 1,512 souls.



## APPENDIX.

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### A.

NEW ROCHELLE, June 1st, 1743.

DR. BEARCROFT,

*Reverend Sir*—Our minister, ye bearer hereof, having communicated to us his letter to you of ye month of Oct. 1742, wherein he expressed a desire of revisiting his native country, and asked ye Hon'ble Society's leave for that purpose; we took that declaration as if he had resolved to leave us altogether and to serve our Church no longer; and therefore made hold to address ourselves unto ye Hon'ble Society for providing us with another, that we might not remain destitute.

But hearing now from his own mouth that he designs to go no further than London, and is willing to return, with ye Hon'ble Society's permission, for the service of our church: we therefore upon this consideration take ye liberty to declare and acquaint you that our said minister, since his first coming, has constantly resided among us preaching (as directed by ye Hon'ble Society) two Sundays in French and one in English, much to our satisfaction and edification, his doctrine being very sound, and his pronunciation full, clear, and intelligible—upon which account we could have wished, that he had finished his days among us without interruption, and we expected nothing else; but as it happens, a strong desire to hear from his relatives has prevailed with him to take a journey for Europe. However, seeing he now explains his mind, and promises to return among us, we beg of the Hon'ble Society that they would accordingly be pleased to send him again to us, by the first and next opportunity. But if contrary to our expectation it should fall out otherwise, we repeat our

former petition, and beg leave to entreat ye Hon'ble Society not to leave us destitute, but to continue to us their charity in providing us with another in his room, as in their great wisdom and goodness they shall think fit.

Such is ye prayer of us underwritten members of New Rochelle Church, who are with great respect,

Reverend sir,

Ye most obedient humble servants.

And in ye name of all,

JEAN SOULICE,  
PETER BONNET,  
GILLE LIEURE,  
PETER SICARD,  
JOHN BADEAU,  
AMAN GUION,  
ISAAC GUION. Junr.,

BARNARD RYNLANDER,  
PHILIP JACOB RYNLANDER,  
JOSEPH DONALDSON.

JONAS SPOCK,  
DANIEL CICART,  
ISAAC SICARD,

his

PAUL X SICARD,  
mark.

JACQUE PUREOT,  
ISAAC GUION,  
JAINES DE BLEZ,  
MARCEL NE FUELLE.

JOSIAS LE CONTE,  
JEAN SICARD,  
JAQUES BONNET,  
JEAN BONNET,  
WILLIAM RYNLANDER,  
JACQUE FLANDREAU,

her

LA VEUVE X JEAN JUIN,  
mark.

ANNE PALMER,  
MARY ANNE PALMER,  
JOHANN PIETER RITTER,

his

SAMUEL X BERNARD,  
mark.

JEAN ANGEVIN,  
JACQUES P. SICARD,  
ALEDA BOLET,  
PETER BERTAIN,  
J'ANNE NE A FUELLE,  
ROBERT LIVINGSTON,  
ABM. BANCER. Junr.,  
ABRM. GUION,

DANIEL ANGEVIN,  
his

TRUSTUM X SOBY,  
mark.

CATHERINE ANGEVIN,  
AMBRONSE A SICARD,  
DANIEL GIRAUD,  
DANIEL GIRAUD,  
JOHN MORE.

his

FREDERICK X SELURMEN,  
mark.

MICHAEL CROESNY,  
JEAN PARCOT,  
ISAAC COUTANT,  
JOHN ALLEE,  
JOHN FLANDREAU,  
ISAAC DAAS,  
WILLIAM RODMAN,  
JAM. BARTAIN,  
JACQUE SICARD,  
JOHN CHADEAYNE,  
GIDEON FLORANCE,  
DANIEL SICARD,  
GUILLEAUME LANDRIN,  
JANNE BONNIN,  
OLIVER BESLY.

## B.

*Copy of the Grant from James, Duke of York, (by) Richard Nicholls, Governor of Pelham Manor, to Thomas Pell, 1666.*

Richard Nicholls, Esq., Governor under His Royal Highness the Duke of York, of all his Territories in America, To all to whom these presents shall come, sendeth greeting: Whereas there is a certain Tract of Land within this Government upon the Main situate, lying and being to the eastward of West Chester bounds, bounded to the westward with the river called by the Indians *Aqueanouncke*, commonly known by the English by the name of Hutchinson's River, which runneth into the Bay lying between Throgmorton's Neck and Ann Hook's Neck, commonly called Hutchinson's Bay, bounded on the east by a brook called Cedar Tree Brook, or Gravelly Brook, on the south by the Sound which lieth between Long Island and the main land, with all the islands in the Sound not already granted or otherwise disposed of, lying before that tract of land so bounded as is before expressed, and northwards to run into the woods about eight English miles in breadth as the bounds to the Sound, which said tract of land hath heretofore been purchased of the Indian proprietors, and ample satisfaction given for the same. Now Know YE, That by virtue of the commission and authority unto me given by His Royal Highness, James, Duke of York, &c., upon whom by lawful grant and patent from His Majesty the proprietary and government of that part of the main land as well as of Long Island as all the islands adjacent, among other things is settled, I have thought proper to give, grant, confirm, and ratify, and by these presents do give, grant, confirm, and ratify unto Thomas Pell, of Onckway, alias Fairfield, His Majesty's colony of Connecticut, gentlemen, his heirs and assigns, all the said tract of land bounded as

aforesaid, together with all the lands, islands, seabays, woods, meadows, pastures, marches, lakes, waters, creeks, fishing, hawking, hunting and fowling, and all other profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments, to the said tract of land and islands belonging with them, and every of their appurtenances, and of every part and parcel thereof; and that the said tract of land and premises shall be for ever hereafter held, demand, reputed, taken, and be an enfranchised township, manor, and place itself: and shall always from time to time, and at all times hereafter, have, hold, and enjoy, like and equal privileges and immunities, with any town, enfranchised place, or manor within this government: and shall in no manner of way be subordinate or belonging unto, have any dependancy upon, or in any wise be under the rules, orders, or directions of any riding township, or township place, or jurisdiction either upon the Main or upon Long Island; but shall in all cases, things, and matters, be deemed, reputed, taken, and held as an absolute, entire enfranchised township, manor, and place of itself in this government, and shall be ruled, ordered, and directed in all matters as to government, accordingly, by the Governor and his Council, and the general Courts of Assizes: only always provided, that the inhabitants on the said tract of land granted and aforesaid shall be obliged to send forwards to the next towns all public packets and letters, or hue and cries coming to this place or going from it, to any other of His Majesty's Colonies: to have and to hold the said tract of land and grant, with all and singular the appurtenances, premises, together with the privileges, immunities, franchises, and advantages herein given and granted unto the said Thomas Pell, his heirs and assigns, to the proper use and behoof of the said Thomas Pell for ever, firmly, freely, and clearly, in as large and ample manner and form, and with such full and absolute immunities and privileges as before is expressed, as if he had held the same immediately from His Majesty the King of England, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c., his successors as of the Manor of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, in free and common soccage, and by fealty, only yielding,

rendering. and paying yearly and every year, unto His Royal Highness, the duty for ever, and his heirs, or to such Governor as shall from time to time be by him constituted and appointed. as an acknowledgment, one lamb, on the first day of May, (if the lamb shall be demanded.)

Given under my hand and seal, at Fort James, in New York, on the Island Manhattan, the sixth day of October, in the 18th year of the reign of our sovereign lord, Charles the Second. by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith. &c., &c., &c., and in the year of our Lord God 1666.

{RICHARD NICHOLLS.



## WILLIAM LEGGETT.

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Associated with NEW ROCHELLE is the name of *William Leggett*, the friend of liberty and truth.\*

For some years Mr. Leggett was the able conductor of the "Evening Post," an office he was compelled to resign in 1835, on account of ill health. He afterwards established the "Plain Dealer" in 1836. Within two years after, he received an appointment to the Guatemala Mission, from the then President, Mr. Van Buren; but declining health had by this time broken down his constitution, and his friends were shortly afterwards called upon to deplore and grieve over his loss.

To his friends he appears to have been ardently attached. In politics he was always a vigorous, eloquent, and independent leader. In his religious opinions, he declared to a friend, "that *in religion* he was an inquirer, not a doubter." In private life he was distinguished for the mildness of his disposition and the courtesy of his manners.

To perpetuate his public career, the Democratic young men of New-York have raised to his memory a chaste monument of marble, which is placed over his remains in the Episcopal Burying Ground of New Rochelle.

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\* Mr. Leggett's father was a native of New Rochelle, and actively engaged in the revolutionary struggle.

# **LIST OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, &c.**

**For the Year 1842.**

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## *Supervisor,*

**LAWRENCE DAVENPORT, Esq.**

## *Town Clerk,*

**Mr. BENJAMIN H. CARPENTER.**

## *Assessors,*

**Mr. R. WOOD, Mr. MICHAEL McKEEL, Mr. J. B. UNDERHILL.**

## *Commissioners of Highways,*

**JAMES P. HUNTINGTON, Esq., Mr. N. PURDY,  
Mr. JOHN SOULICE.**

## *Commissioners of Common Schools,*

**Mr. GEORGE CASE, Mr. J. LE COUNT, Mr. J. UNDERHILL.**

## *Inspectors of Common Schools,*

**Mr. E. W. VORIS, Mr. G. CASE.**

## *Overseers of Poor,*

**Mr. JOHN HOPKINS, Mr. JOHN SECOR.**

## *Constable,*

**Mr. THOMAS RICHE.**

## *Justices of the Peace,*

**JAMES P. HUNTINGTON, Esq., PROSPER LE FEVRE, Esq.,  
JAMES BARTON, Esq., ANDREW A. COUTANT, Esq.**

## *Physicians,*

**Dr. SMITH, Dr. MOULTON, Dr. VORIS, Dr. DAVENPORT.**

## *Attorneys,*

**DAVID HARRISON, Esq., WILLIAM McCLELLAN, Esq.,  
GEORGE CASE, Esq.**



## LIST OF COACHES, STAGES, &c.

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**COX'S SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.**—The Tally-Ho (Daily) Line, to East Chester, New Rochelle and Mamaroneck, *via* Harlem Rail Road, starts from the Mansion House, New Rochelle, every morning (Sundays excepted) at 7 o'clock A. M., through East Chester to the Rail Road, Fordham.

Cox's second Coach leaves the Mansion House, New Rochelle, every afternoon (Sundays excepted) at 4 o'clock P. M., through East Chester to the Rail Road, Fordham. Passengers by this line must leave the city by Rail Road at 9 o'clock A. M., and at 4 o'clock P. M., for Fordham, where Post Coaches are in readiness to convey them to East Chester, New Rochelle, and Mamaroneck.

The Proprietor has located his office at the West Chester House, corner of Broome Street and the Bowery, where a suite of Private Rooms has been recently fitted up by Chas. S. Mathews, Proprietor of the West Chester House, No. 21 Bowery.

**HAWKES' Stage** leaves New Rochelle every Monday and Friday, at 9 o'clock A. M., for New-York, returning the following day.

**GAILLAUDET'S Stage** leaves New Rochelle every Tuesday and Friday, at 8 o'clock A. M.

**J. BONNETT'S Stage** leaves New Rochelle every Tuesday and Friday, at 8 o'clock A. M., for New-York.

The **NEW YORK and NEW HAVEN Mail Line** leave the West Chester Hotel, No. 21 Bowery, New York, every morning at half-past 7 o'clock. (Sundays excepted,) when it leaves at 1 o'clock A. M., passing through Harlem, West Chester, Pelham, New Rochelle, Mamaroneck, Rye, Port Chester, &c. to New Haven; returning, will leave the Ton-tine Hotel, New Haven, every day at 8 o'clock. Passengers by this line can take the Rail Road to Boston.

## **THE POST-OFFICE, NEW ROCHELLE.**

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**Letters and Newspapers delivered from this Office every morning and afternoon (Sundays excepted) throughout the year.**

**The Mail from New York arrives at 11 o'clock A. M. ;  
from the East at 6 o'clock P. M.**

**Letters to go the same day to New York. must be put in before 5 o'clock in summer, and 6 in winter ; if put in after those hours, a day's post will be lost.**

**Letters for the Eastern Mail must be deposited by 1 o'clock A. M**