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VI.
DESCRIPTION
OF
NEW NETHERLAND.
1671.

Translated from *De Nieuwe en Onbekende Weereld: of Beschryving van America
en 't Zuidland: door ARNOLDUS MONTANUS. Amsterdam, 1671.*

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NEW NETHERLAND.

NEW NETHERLAND bounded on the south west by *Virginia*, stretches on the north east to *New England*, on the north it is washed by the river *Canada*, and on the coast by the *Ocean* : north westerly, inland, it remains wholly unknown. The first who discovered this country was *Henry Hudson*. Engaged by the East India Company to find out a passage to *China* north of *America*, he set sail with the Yacht *Half Moon*, in the year sixteen hundred and nine. In front of *Newfoundland* he took a course directly southwest ; entered a large river ; there [met] two men clothed in Elk skins, and subsequently arrived safe at *Amsterdam*. *New Netherland* being thus discovered, divers traders set about establishing a stable trade here. Wherefore they sought for and obtained a charter in the year sixteen hundred and fourteen, from the States General at the *Hogue*, to trade to *New Netherland* to the exclusion of all others. Earnestly, now, was the trade prosecuted. *Adriaen Blok* and *Godyn* soon discovered here divers coasts, islands, harbours and rivers. Among the rivers is the *Manhattans* or *Great* river, by far the most important, which disembogues into the *Ocean* by two wide mouths, washing the mighty island *Matouwacs*. The south entrance was called *Port May* or *Godyn's Bay* : Midway lies *Statcn Island*, and a little further up, the *Manhattans*, so called from the people which inhabit the mainland on the east side of the river. These are cruel and wicked men, enemies of the Dutch, as well as of the *Sanhikans* who dwell on the west side. Higher up lie the *Makwaes* and *Mahikans*, who are constantly at war with each other : in like manner all the inhabitants on the west bank of the *Manhattan* river frequently make war on those residing on the east side. And the latter in like manner entertain constant animosity against the Dutch, with whom the other nations to the west maintain good friendship. On a little island

Description and
discovery of New
Netherland.

River Manhattans

adjoining the *Makwaes* shore, formerly stood a fort furnished with two guns and eleven stone pieces, but it was finally abandoned. On the *Manhattans* island stands *New Amsterdam*, five miles from the Ocean : Ships run up to the harbour there from the sea with one tide. The city hath an earthen fort. Within the fort, and on the outermost bastion towards the river, stand a wind mill, and a very high staff, on which a flag is hoisted whenever any vessels are seen in Godyn's bay. The church rises with a double roof between which a square tower looms aloft. On one side is the prison, on the other side of the church the governor's house. Without the walls are the houses mostly built by Amsterdamers. On the river side stand the gallows and whipping post. A handsome public tavern adorns the farthest point. Between the fort and this tavern is a row of suitable dwelling houses : among which stand out the ware houses of the West India Company. *New Netherland* hath, moreover, divers remarkable water falls tumbling down from lofty rocks, broad creeks and kills, fresh lakes and rivelets and pleasant springs and fountains, which smoke in winter, are right cold in summer, and, nevertheless, are much drank. Meanwhile the inhabitants are at no time much incommoded by floods, nor by the sea, inasmuch as at spring tide the water scarcely ever rises a foot higher ; nor by freshets (*op water*) which cover only some low lands for a short while and enrich them by their alluvium. The sea coast rises hilly out of sand and clay, wherefore it produces abundantly all sorts of herbs and trees.

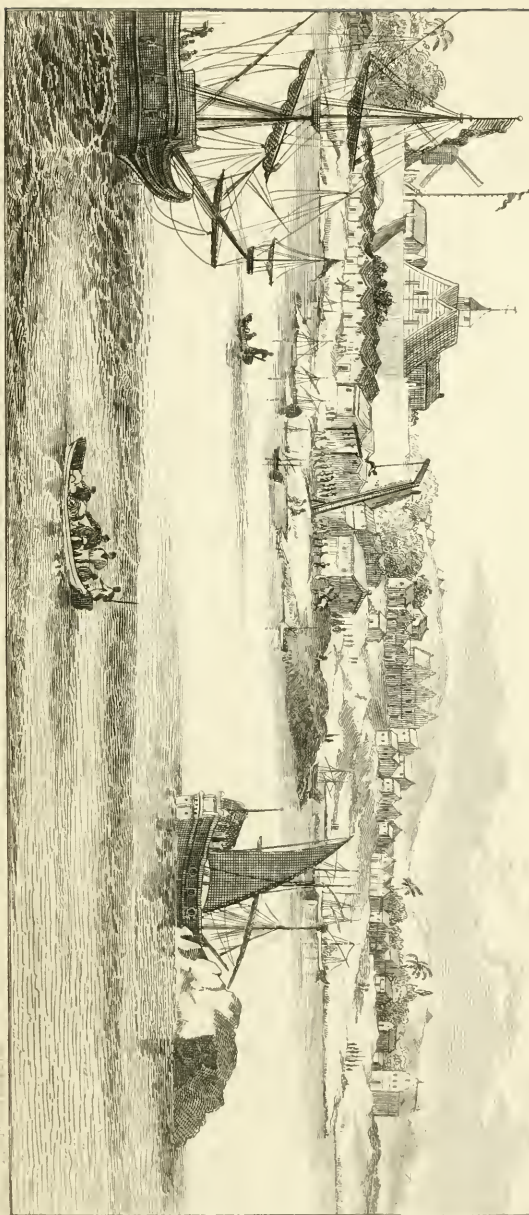
Wholesome waters.

The oak usually grows sixty to seventy feet high, for the most part free of knots, for which reason it is well adapted to ship building. The Hickory trees furnish a hot and lasting fire, and a curious appearance whenever the bush is cut away either for the purpose of more open hunting or for clearing the ground for a bouwery. Some plants sent hither from *Holland* thrive better than even in *Holland* ; namely, the apple, pear, quince, cherry, plum, currant, apricot, buckthorn, medlar, peach and onion. Vines grow wild everywhere and bear in abundance blue and white muscatels and pork grapes (*spek-druiven*). Some time since, the wine press was successfully

Trees ; what sort.

Vines.

NOVUM AMSTERDAMUM



introduced. The wine was equal to any Rhenish or French Wine. Every vegetable known to the Dutch is cultivated in

Water melons

the gardens. Water melons as savory as they are wholesome, are, when ripe, as large as a cabbage.

The English extract a liquor from them which would be no wise inferior to Spanish wine did it not turn sour too soon. Gourds when cleaned out serve as water vessels. Tobacco produces leaves five quarters long. Pumpkins grow luxuriant and agreeable.

Corn.

Corn sowed in hills six feet apart, sprouts up readily and prosperously if properly weeded. Turkish beans, planted beside the corn, wind themselves around the stalk.

Peas

Grey peas prosper here so well that two crops are gathered in the year from one field. Medicinal plants and indigo grow wild in abundance. The barley can be tied above the head. Furthermore, all sorts of flowers have a pleasant odor and appearance. The hills consist

Nature of the hills.

of fullers earth, or clay, fit for making dishes, pots and tobacco pipes. There is, besides, abundance of rock crystal and Muscovy glass. Other hills furnish marble, serpentine, blue and hearth stone. And although the Dutch have not taken much trouble to dig for minerals, either on account of not being numerous enough, or in order not to make

Gold and Silver mines.

other folks' mouths water, it is nevertheless incontrovertible that the subterranean cavities in the hills conceal gold and silver. When Wilhem Kieft, the governor, employed, in the year sixteen hundred and forty five, the

Kieft's experiment about gold.

Indian interpreter Agheroense, with a view, through him to terminate the difficulties which had arisen between the West India Company and the cruel tribe, the *Makwaes*, he observed that the said interpreter streaked his face with a glittering yellow paint. Kieft suspected some valuable mineral to be concealed in this operation, proposed to satisfy Agheroense; subjected it to the crucible; obtained two pieces of gold worth three guilders. He kept the matter secret; obtained fortunately from the mountain pointed out by Agheroense, a bucket full of the material, for it furnished gold. Kieft now imagined he had made a great discovery & despatched Arend Corsen from New Haven to Holland with the stuff. But

as the ship never made its appearance—which was
 Why it failed. also the fate subsequently of the fly boat, the
Princess, in which the governor was a passenger, who had a
 supply of the abovementioned mineral, all further exploration
 ceased. The natives divided into various tribes
 Very curious paintings. mutually agree in respect to painting their bodies,
 shields, war clubs and the lath work within their
 huts. For this they use colours extracted either from plants or
 from finely crushed stones. The principal plant is not unlike
 the Orach or Golden herb, except that the stalk has many shoots
 and red-brown berries; the juice of which collected in the inner
 bark of trees, is laid in the sun to dry, and when dried is preserved
 in little pouches. The inhabitants temper the paint with water,
 and then streak the body; it produces the most beautiful purple
 that can any where be found. Their pictures represent canoes,
 trees and animals, but very indifferently executed. Instead of
 Their ornaments. plumes they bedeck themselves with hair tied with
 small bands. The hair is of a scarlet colour and
 surprizing brilliancy which is permanent and ineffaceable by
 rain. The horses in *New Netherland* are brought
 Horses. from England or from the diocese of Utrecht¹.
 Those from the bishopric far excel the English. Both are subject
 Their disease. to a curious disease whereof many die within a few
 hours. The same disease attacks horned cattle that
 are pastured on new ground. But hay grown in salt meadows
 is found to be a remedy against this. Hogs fatten exceedingly in
 the woods; those fed on Indian corn give the sweetest pork.
 Sheep. Sheep, though very thriving, are not numerous,
 because the settlements cannot spare any persons to
 keep watch against the wolves. Besides, venison is so abund-
 ant that the sheep can on this account be the more easily
 dispensed with. Fowls, turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons and
 other feathered game are, also, easily obtained. Lions, whose
 skins the Indians bring to market, are caught on
 Lions. a high mountain, situated fifteen days journey to
 the southwest.² Here, also, are many pitch black

¹ In former times, this diocese included the provinces of Overijssel and Utrecht. See, Martinet's *Beschryving der Nederlanden*, ii., 205, 206

² This animal is doubtless the Panther.—Ed.





Bears, their dangerous attack. bears, shy of men, but which, when attacked, spring

on the hunters ; they first stop the wound with a pledget of leaves, and if the hunter, meanwhile, takes refuge in a tree, climb after and above him, then stick the head between the legs and fall downward. They sleep during winter, lying six weeks on one side and an equal time on the other, sucking their paw. A cripple bush or hollow mountain serves them

Very strange animals.

for a sleeping place. On the borders of *Canada* animals are now and again seen, somewhat resembling a horse ; they have cloven hoofs, shaggy manes, a horn right out of the forehead, a tail like that of the wild hog, black eyes, a stag's neck & love the gloomiest wildernesses ; are shy of each other so that the male never feeds with the female except when they associate for purposes of increase. Then they lay aside their ferocity ; as soon as the rutting season is past, they again not only become wild but even attack their own. South of *New Netherland* are found numerous

Remarkable elks.

elks, animals which according to *Erasmus Stella* constitute a middle class between horses and deer. They appear to derive their Dutch appellation (*celanden*) from *elende* (misery), because they die of the smallest wound, however strong they may otherwise be ; also, because they are frequently afflicted with epilepsy. They have broad, branching horns, a short tail, a shaggy neck, variable hair, according to the difference of the season, wide and long ears, prominent lips, small teeth, a thick hide, which cannot be easily pierced. The females separate from the males, when they have shed their horns. Both can be easily tamed. When hunted they spew hot water out on the dogs. They possess great strength of hoof, so as to strike a wolf dead at a blow. Their flesh, either fresh or salted, is very nutritious ; the hoofs cure the falling sickness. But no game

Deer.

is more abundant here than deer, which browse every where in large herds. When flying before wolves or hunters they oft times head towards streams, betake themselves to the water, where they are taken in great numbers, for whilst swimming across they get frightened by the echo from the mountains raised by the hunters on the opposite bank ; they dare not, consequently, approach land : meanwhile the hunters

tie branches together, by which the deer, after being chased, are sometimes dragged down. *New Netherland* also produces many muskeats, especially in marshy ground. The animals are particularly beautiful; the skin by its black spots has a handsome appearance; the mouth is full of sharp teeth, the tails trail far behind. Many learned men dispute respecting the

Civet; whence it proceeds.

civet, namely, whether it be the seed of the civet cat. *Cardanus* so maintains, but he is thoroughly refuted on this point by *Julius Scaliger Matthiolus*, whose opinions many embrace; he affirms the civet to be the sweat of the cat, inasmuch as it was gathered most plentifully whenever these animals, wearied by excitement, pant for breath. But whilst the sweat dropt from the whole body, yet as it did not impregnate the whole with musk, it cannot be musk. Others consider the civet to be an secretion of the cat. These divide all secretions into unprofitable, such as sweat, pus, excrement; or into useful, as milk, and semen for production. Civet must be classed among the latter, for it is, probably, nothing more than a secretion from the glands in the vicinity of privy parts, generated in the same way as the liver secretes the blood; udders and women's breasts, milk; the ears, wax; and adders produce poison between their fangs. In the meantime cats are embarrassed with their civet, whereof they rid themselves by rubbing against trees, and evince friendship for those who, in the sheepfold, rub it off with a spoon. But in addition to other wild animals *New Netherland* furnishes, according to the ocular evidence of *Adriaen van der Donk*, full eighty thousand beavers a year. *Pliny* relates how these animals castrate

Pliny, lib. 32 cap. 3.

themselves, and leave these parts to the hunters, inasmuch as they are much sought after, being an effectual remedy for mania, retention of the afterbirth, amenorrhœa, dizziness, gout, lameness, belly and tooth aches, dullness of vision, poisoning and rheumatism. But *Pliny* commits a grave error; for the Beavers have very small testicles fastened in such a manner to the back bone that they cannot remove them except with life.

Moreover, they live in the water and on land together in troops, in houses built of timber over a running stream. The houses excite

Description of the very remarkable nature of the Beaver.

no common admiration ; they are thus constructed—the Beavers first collect together all the drift wood which they find along the river, and whenever this falls short, they gnaw away, in the next adjoining wood, the sweetest bark all around with the front teeth, of which they have two in the upper, and two in the lower gum, they then cut right around the trunk until the tree falls ; when they also shorten the pieces in like manner, to adapt them to the proposed building. The females carry the pieces on the back, the males support it behind so that it may not fall off. The houses rise ingeniously to the height of five stories ; they are smeared above with clay to protect them from the rain ; in the middle is a convenient aperture through which to dive into the water as soon as they perceive any person. Wherefore, one of the troop keeps watch by turns, and in the winter a second keeps the water open by constant beating of the tail. The tail is flat-tish without hair, and most dainty food which in some places is served up as a rare delicacy. The beavers go with young sixteen weeks ; they bear once a year four young, which cry and suck like young children ; for the mother rises on her hind paws and gives each two a breast as she has only two breasts between the fore legs ; these legs resemble somewhat those of the dog ; the hindmost, like those of geese, lap in some measure over each other. On both sides of the privy parts lie two swellings enclosed in separate membranes. From the privy parts oozes an oleaginous humor, with which they smear all the accessible parts of the body in order to keep dry. Inwardly they resemble a cut up hog ; they live on leaves and bark ; are excessively attached to their young ; the wind-hairs which rise glittering above the back, fall off in the summer, and grow again by the fall ; they are short necked, have strong sinews and muscles ; move rapidly in the water and on land ; attacked by men or dogs, they bite fiercely. The pure *Castor*, so highly prized by physicians, consists of oblong follicles, resembling a wrinkled pear which are firmly attached to the *os pubis* of the female beaver ; the Indians cut up the little balls of the males with their tobacco as they afford no castor. The air of New Netherland abounds with all sorts of birds.

Castor, what.

Birds in N. Netherland.

Besides falcon, sparrow-hawks, fish-hawks, and other birds of prey, there are here numbers of

Eagles differing from each other ; for some are greyish, others browner, except the head, neck, tail and striking feathers, which are of a snow white color. All have a strong body, bones without marrow, claws as long as a man's finger, the bill strong and crooked, the brains dry, the eyes small and hollow, the feathers hard, the right foot bigger than the left, both ill-looking, the blood gross, the excrements highly offensive. They build their nests in old groves where the ground is

Eagles; their nature

clear of underwood ; also beside water ; as they feed on fish and devour all sorts of fowls, and even rabbits, hares, tortoises and other four footed game that sleep in the open air ; yea, when ahungered, they attack each other. Some eagles strike their prey at mid-day, others at the rising of the sun. They fall like lightning on the game they pursue, as the blood of animals serves them for drink. They are excessively lascivious, so that they go together more than thirty times a day, not only with their own kind, but even with the female hawks and she wolves (*wolvinnen*). They hatch out the large eggs in thirty, and the small in twenty days. They usually breed two to three young, whose eyes they turn towards the sun's rays. If these regard the light of heaven without blinking they bring them up, otherwise, those that cannot stand such a test are drove from the nest. The young, as soon as they begin to fly, are taken up into the air and, left there to themselves, are sustained by the old birds, who drive them away whenever they are fit to strike at game. Their sharp sightedness is most remarkable, for lifted up in the clouds far beyond the eye of man, they perceive the smallest fish in the river, and a skulking hare in the stubble. Their breath stinks badly, wherefore the carcasses on which they feed rot rapidly, and though lascivious they are long lived : they die mostly of hunger, as the bill becomes by age so crooked that they cannot open any thing. Whereupon they finally fly to the highest regions towards the sun, tumble down into the coldest stream ; they pluck out their feathers, clammy with sweat, and thus breathe their last. But, besides the enumerated birds of prey, there is

here an innumerable amount of herons, bitterns, ravens, crows, owls, swallows, finches, king fishers, hedge sparrows, woodcocks, pheasants and wrens. The wood peckers excel the most in beautiful plumage and crests. These Curious wood-peckers. peek large holes in the trees, and thus make a noise as of wood cutters laboring in the forest. The pigeons fly in such flocks that the Indians designedly remove to their breeding places, where the young birds, pushed by hundreds from their nests, serve for food during a long month for the whole family. Pigeons. *New Netherland* hath, moreover, a wonderful little bird, scarcely an inch long, quite brilliant of plumage, and sucking flowers like the bee ; it is so delicate that a dash of water instantly kills it, and when dried it is preserved as a curiosity. But this country particularly abounds in turkeys, whose number excites no less admiration than their rich flavour and their large size ; for they go together in flocks of thirty and forty : they weigh some thirty and more pounds ; they are shot or are caught with a bait concealing the hook. The waters here swarm, in the spring and fall, with swans, geese, wild ducks, teals, widgeons, divers, spoonbills and pelicans, besides another strange species, unknown in Europe. The streams and lakes, rich with fishes, furnish sturgeon, salmon, carp, Fishes. bass, pike, roach, bleak, [N. Y. shiners?] all sorts of eel, smelt, sun fish, which resembles the bull head in taste, and little codfish, which are caught near water falls. The sea provides crabs, both hard and soft shelled, gurnets, sea horses, seals, codfish, shell fish, whiting, herring, mackerel, thornbacks, plaice, flounders, bream, turtles and oysters, some a foot long containing pearls, but few of a brown color. Among the poisonous reptiles which invest *New Netherland* is the dreadful rattle-snake. This is variegated, hath a thick head, four Rattle snake. long, sharp fangs, and a horny tail with joints doubled over each other, more or less according to age, for the tail increases one joint each year. The shaking of the tail causes a hideous drumming preliminary to its biting. The rattle-snake then opens wide its jaws ; the upper one is arched and hath a blue membrane doubled over, from which it shoots

along the fangs a deadly poison. A person wounded by this reptile would be cured with difficulty, did the field not produce a wholesome antidote, which the *Indians* carry constantly with

them. This people is divided into divers nations, all well shaped and strong, having pitch-black and lank hair, as coarse as a horse's tail; broad shoulders; small waist; brown eyes and snow white teeth; they are of a sallow color; abstemious in food and drink. Water

satisfies their thirst; high and low make use of Indian corn and beans, flesh meat and fish prepared

all alike. The crushed corn is daily boiled to a pap called by them *sappaen*. They observe no set time for meals. Whenever hunger demands, the time for eating arrives. Beavers' tails are considered the most savory delicacy. Whilst hunting they live some days on roasted corn carried about the person in a little bag.

A little corn in water swells to a large mass. *Henry Hudson's interest- ing voyage.* *Hudson* relates, that he entered the river *Montaines*

in the latitude of forty degrees and there went ashore; the *Indians* made strange gambols with dancing and singing; carried arrows, the points of which consisted of sharp stones, fastened to the wood with pitch; they sleep under the blue sky on little mats of platted leaves of trees; suck strong tobacco; are friendly but very thievish. *Hudson* sailed up thirty miles higher; went into a canoe with an old *Indian*, a chief over forty men and seventeen women, who conducted him ashore. They all abode in one house well built of the bark of oak trees. Around lay drying more than three ship loads of Indian corn and beans; besides the crop that stood luxuriantly in the field. *Hudson* scarcely had his head under the roof, but he was seated on two mats spread out on the floor. Two men immediately had orders to shoot game. In the twinkle of an eye these brought in pigeons they had killed. A fat dog which had been very expertly skinned with shells, was laid also on the fire. Other preparations were, likewise made for *Hudson's* good entertainment, but as he did not intend to pass the night there, he did not profit by them; notwithstanding the *Indians* broke their arrows and cast them into the fire so that *Hudson* may rid himself

of all fear. The clothing of the *New Netherlanders* is most sumptuous. The women ornament themselves more than the men. And although the winters are very severe, they go naked until their thirteenth year; the lower parts of the girls' bodies only are covered. All wear around the waist a girdle made of the fin of the whale or of seawant. The men wear between the legs a lap of duffels cloth, or leather, half an ell broad and nine quarters long; so that a square piece hangs behind over the buttocks and in front over the belly. The women wear a petticoat down midway the leg, very richly ornamented with seawant so that the garment sometimes costs three hundred guilders. They also wrap the naked body in a deer's skin, the tips of which swing with thin points. A long robe fastened on the right shoulder with a knot, at the waist by a girdle, serves the men and women for an upper ornament, and by night for a bed cover. Both go, for the most part, bare headed. The women bind their hair behind in a plait, over which they draw a square cap thickly interwoven with seawant. They decorate the ornaments for the forehead with the same stuff. Around the neck and arms they wear bracelets of seawant, and some around the waist. Shoes and stockings were made of Elk hides before the *Hollanders* settled here. Others made shoes even of straw. But since some time they prefer Dutch shoes and stockings. The men paint their faces of many colors. The women lay on a black spot only here and there. Both are uncommonly faithful. Their houses are for the most part built after one plan:—they

Their houses.

differ only in the greater or smaller length: the breadth is invariably twenty feet. The following is the mode of construction. They set various hickory poles in the ground according to the plan of the size of the building. The tops are bent together above in the form of a gallery, and throughout the length of these bent poles, laths are fastened. The walls and roof are then, covered with the bark of elm, ash, and chestnut trees; the bark is lapped over each other as a protection against a change of weather, and the smooth side is turned inward. The houses lodge fifteen families together, more or less, according to the dimensions. Each knows its propor-

their lives. Their farms stand mostly on steep mountains, beside a stream of water. The entrance is only on one side. They are built in this wise. They set heavy timbers in the ground, with oak palisades on both sides, planted cross-wise one with another. They join timbers again between the cross-trees, to strengthen the work. Within the enclosure they commonly build twenty or thirty houses, some of which are a hundred and eighty feet long, some less. All are crammed full of people. In the summer they set up boats along the rivers, in order to pursue fishing. In the winter they remove into the woods to be convenient to the hunting and to a supply of fire-wood. Placidity of wives is not in vogue here, except among the Quakers, who take three or four as themselves. And such harmony exists among these, that they are never at variance. Minors do not marry, except with the advice of their parents or friends. Widowers and widows follow their own inclinations: regard is only had to each other's condition and children. The bride-groom must make a present to the bride. On the slightest misunderstanding, the wife, paid right off, is put by the husband out of doors, and she marries another. Thus some of them have a fresh wife every year. In cases of separation, the children follow the mother, after whom the offspring also are called. They consider adultery, especially if committed in the open air, to be sinful. Fornication, however, is invalid for young women, provided it be for money. Wherefore, no person objects to marry such persons. Yea, the married boast of the numbers they slept with while unmarried. Whoever is inclined to marry, covers the whole body, and thus hemmaged sits on the way side. A passer by ere long releases the ply in the poke. When pregnant, the woman takes great heed, in order that the embryo may not be injured. On the approach of the birth of the child, which she precisely knows, she retires to a lonely place in the woods, even in the severest cold, erects a hut of moss, separates the child without any noise and wishes it in the water, and wraps it around with mallow. In a few days she turns homeward, and brings

their lives.

Removing.

Manners.

Divorce.

Fornication
invalid and
unmarriageable.

Known custom of
pregnant women.

the suckling carefully up, a child is never put out to nurse. As long as a woman suckles, or is pregnant, she abhors of all connection. The comments do not appear. In sickness they are very kind to each other. The next of kin closes the eyes of the deceased. After being washed for a few days,

After preparing the tomb

they are thus interred. The body hath a stone under the head; it is placed in a sitting posture; they place beside it a pot, handle, a platter, spoon, money, and provisions, to be made use of in the other world. They then saw wood all around, which they cover with planks; on the planks, which are covered with earth and stones, gallies are destined in such a manner that the tomb resembles a little house, to which they pay divine reverence; wherefore they consider it a great profanation to violate such places. The men make no noise over the dead, but the women carry on mournfully; they strike their breasts, tear their dresses, call the name of the deceased day and night.

The mothers make the loudest lamentations on the death of their sons. They cut off their hair, which they burn on the grave in the presence of all the relatives. Wives

Wives sometimes mourning for the tomb

do the same on the death of their husbands, in addition to painting the face pitch black; and thus in a deer skin jerkin they mourn the dead a whole year, notwithstanding they sometimes lived unhappily together. On some occasions they have meetings for devil-worship. Here conjurers act a

Strange behaviour of the conjurers

wonderful part. These humble, with strange contractions, head over heels; beat themselves, jump, with a hideous noise, through and around a large fire. Finally, they all raise a tremendous uproaring, when the devil (as they say) appears in the shape of a crepusculous or harmless animal: the first breaks something bad; the other good. Both give information respecting coming events; but obscurely, which they attribute to their own ignorance, not understanding the Devil's right meaning when matters run out differently. They, moreover, bewitch some in such

And while bewitched

wise that they hang at the mouth, throw themselves in the fire and scold themselves unmercifully; and as soon as they whisper any words in the ear of the bewitched

the enchantment ceases. The language of this
Language of the New Netherlanders. people is very various, but they can be classed into

four principal tongues, namely, *Mahatans*, *Wappanoo*, *Siavanoo*, and *Minquaes*; they are very difficult for strangers to learn, as they are spoken without any principles. Their

Zeawant. money consists of *zeawant*, [wampum] which is nothing more than the inside little pillars of the conckshells, which the sea casts up twice a year. These pillars

they polish smooth; drill a hole through the centre; reduce it to a certain size, and string the pieces on threads. The strings fill the place of gold, silver and copper coin. Great faults, as

well as virtues, are remarked in the inhabitants;

Nature of the New Netherlanders. for besides being slovenly and slothful, they are also found to be thievish, head-strong, greedy and

vindictive. In other respects they are grave, chary of speech, which, after mature consideration, is slowly uttered and long remembered. The understanding being somewhat sharpened

by the *Hollanders*, they evince sufficient ability to distinguish carefully good from evil. They will not suffer any imposition. No wise disposed to gluttony, they are able patiently to endure

cold, heat, hunger and thirst. They are remarkably addicted to the use of sweating baths, made of earth and

Singular hot bath. lined with clay. A small door serves as an entrance.

The patient creeps in, seats himself down, and places heated stones around the sides. Whenever he hath sweated a certain time, he immerses himself suddenly in cold water; from which

he derives great security against all sorts of sickness. Though this people do not make such a distinction between man and man as other nations, yet they have high and low families; inferior and superior chiefs, whose authority remains hereditarily

in the houses. The military offices are disposed of only according to the valorous prowess of each person. The commander

Mode of war. does not divide his soldiers into regiments, companies or files, but leads them on merely to overreach

the enemy from an ambuscade. They undertake the most of their expeditions in the night. They do not maintain their position long against a sudden onslaught, unless surrounded, then they fight to the last man. Whenever they anticipate any

danger, the women and children are placed in a secure hiding place. Their weapons used formerly to be the arrow, bow and war club. They now use the snap-haunce at which they are very expert. A square shield covers the body up to the shoulders. A snake skin is tied around the head from the centre of which sticks up a fox's or bear's tail. The face is not recognizable on account of its variety of colors.

Prisoners' lives are rarely spared, unless that of women and children, who are treated by the conquerors in the same manner as their own, in order thus to recruit their numbers. If, however, a prisoner be not put to death immediately after the battle, but handed over to some person whose relative had been formerly killed by the conquered party, he is roasted three days long before he gives up the ghost. It excites uncommon admiration if the sufferer

constantly sing in the midst of his torture. Notwithstanding misdemeanors are not punished, wicked acts are of rare occurrence. Stolen property, whenever discovered, is ordered by the Chief to be restored. The next of kin of the murdered man may kill the murderer, if he overtake him within four and twenty hours. But if he avenge himself later, he is subject to be slain by the relative of the second victim, within the limit of the stated time.

All obligations acquire their force from the acceptance of presents. They proceed thus : They take as many little sticks as there are conditions in their proposals. If they agree on all, each party, at the conclusion, lays his presents at the feet of the other. They sometimes hang up the presents, whilst they deliberate earnestly on the proposal during three days. If the present be accepted, the negotiation is firmly concluded ; but if not, they proceed no further in the matter, unless the applicant change the conditions and the present. On occasions of importance, a general assembly

is held at the house of one of the chiefs; in order that the sachems there assembled, may explain what has been concluded. Then the most eloquent rises and endeavours to render the determination popular with the masses. It some-

times happens that a ringleader will admit of no reasoning, whereupon some of the chiefs strikes the mutineer on the head with an axe. No one is so bold as to dare to mutter a

Worship

word in such a case. No trace of divine worship can hardly be discovered here. Only they ascribe great influence to the moon over the crops. The Sun, as all seeing, is taken to witness as often as they take an oath. They pay great reverence to the Devil, be-

Devil worship.

cause they fear great trouble from him when hunting and fishing: wherefore the first fruits of the chase is burnt in his honor, so that they may not receive injury. If they experience pain in any part, they say—*A Devil*

Ideas of God, very ridiculous;

lurks in there. They fully acknowledge that a God dwells beyond the stars, who, however, gives himself no concern about the doings of Devils on

earth: because he is constantly occupied with a beautiful Goddess, whose origin is unknown. She once came down from heaven into the water (for before the creation all was water,) and would have sunk, unless land had suddenly bubbled up under her feet. The land waxed bigger, so that

As also of the creation.

erelong a whole globe was perceptible, which quickly produced all sorts of vegetables and trees.

Meanwhile, the goddess brought forth a deer, bear and wolf, and again cohabited with these animals: She thus became pregnant, and lay in of divers sorts of creatures at one birth.

From this arises the variety not only of animals, but also of men, which in color are either black, white or sallow; in disposition either timid as the deer, revengeful as bears or rapacious as wolves. After she had thus acted the Universal mother returned up to Heaven, where she enjoys perfect bliss with the Sovereign Lord, whom they know not nor ever saw; wherefore they will be held less responsible than the Christians; pretending to acknowledge him a punisher of all wicked deeds which they commit notwithstanding, and it is with more difficulty that they can be brought from these adopted vices to christianity.

Belief regarding the soul.

Regarding the souls of the Dead, they believe: that those who have done good enjoy every sort of pleasure in a temperate country to the South,

where the bad wander about in misery. They believe the loud howlings which wild animals make at night, to be the wailings of the ghosts of wicked bodies.¹

The fertility and situation of *New Netherland* induced the Burgomasters of Amsterdam to send a colony thither. Wherefore they agreed with the West India Company with the approbation of the States General at the Hague. In the year sixteen hundred and fifty six, they shipped accordingly over to *New Netherland* seventy families, to which they added three hundred *Waldenses* who had been driven out of *Piedmont*. These embarked on the fifteenth of December by beat of drum.² Colonization prospered. Meanwhile, when the war between the English crown and the United Netherlands broke out, the Dutch found themselves, after ten years possession, so powerless against the English that they surrendered to this nation. *New Amsterdam* obtained consequently the name of *New York*. The conquered inhabitants experienced great inconvenience inasmuch as Trade was suddenly brought to a stand.

FIRST EMIGRANTS TO NEW NETHERLAND.

[From Baudartius.]

Inasmuch as the multitude of people, not only natives but foreigners, who are seeking a livelihood in the United Provinces is very great, so that where one stiver is to be earned there are ten hands ready to seize it, especially in Holland which is the reservoir of divers kingdoms and countries. Many are obliged, on this account, to go in search of other lands and residences where they can obtain a living more easily and at less expense. Accordingly, in the year 1624, as in previous years, divers families went from Holland to Virginia in the West Indies, a great portion of them being English, called Brownists, whom King James will not permit nor suffer to live in his land, because they hold and maintain divers points of religion improbated by the present church of England.

¹ The preceding part of this article seems to have been borrowed from Van der Donck's *Beschryving van Nieuw Nederlandt*, published in Holland in 1656. ED.

² They settled in what is now the State of Delaware. ED.

A ship arrived in August from that part of Virginia called New Netherland, which had conveyed some families from Holland thither. This vessel brings many and various letters from private individuals, each written to friends and acquaintances, whereof this is mostly the tenor—

“ We were much gratified on arriving in this country ; Here we found beautiful rivers, bubbling fountains flowing down into the valleys ; basins of running waters in the flatlands, agreeable fruits in the woods, such as strawberries, pigeon berries, walnuts, and also *voor labrusten* or wild grapes. The woods abound with acorns for feeding hogs, and with venison. There is considerable fish in the rivers ; good tillage land ; here is, especially, free coming and going, without fear of the naked natives of the country. Had we cows, hogs, and other cattle fit for food (which we daily expect in the first ships) we would not wish to return to Holland, for whatever we desire in the paradise of Holland, is here to be found. If you will come hither with your family, you will not regret it.”

This and similar letters have roused and stimulated many to resolve to emigrate thither with their families, in the hope of being able to earn a handsome livelihood, strongly fancying that they will live there in luxury and ease, whilst here on the contrary, they must earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. BAUDARTIUS' *Gedenkwaardige Geschiedenissen zo kerkelyke als wereldlyke*. 2 vols. fol. Arnhem. 1624.

We translate the above from the Sheboygan *Nieuwsbode* of 15 Sept. 1851. Gulielmus Baudartius (or Baudart) the author of the work from which it is borrowed, was Minister at Zutphen for a period of thirty six years. He was originally a native of Deinse in Flanders, and was selected at the Synod of Dort as one of the translators of the Old Testament—so great was his reputation as a Hebrew Scholar. He died at Zutphen in 1640, at the age of 66 years. A list of his works will be found in the *Biog. Universelle* ; *Biog. Dict.* Watts &c. The *Gedenkwaardige Geschiedenissen*, or Remarkable ecclesiastical and political Events, from 1603 to 1624, is represented as a sort of Supplement to Van Meteren's History. Ed.

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