

quantity of tobacco, for which he had exchanged beads, knives, hatchets, and other things of little value, with the Indians, with whom he had friendly intercourse while his ship lay at anchor at different places in the Great River.¹

The high commercial value of the furs brought in the little vessel to Amsterdam influenced a number of merchants to send several ships to trade for peltry to the Great River, on which the Hollanders had bestowed the name of *Mauritius*, in honor of Prince Maurice of Nassau.²

By a plea of having discovered "certain new lands situate in America," lying "between the fortieth and forty-fifth parallels of north latitude," called by them New Netherland (*Nieu Nederlandt*), and delineated on a map, a copy of which is preserved in the General Library of the State of New York, at Albany, these adventurers obtained a special license from the Lords States-General of the Netherlands to trade in New Netherland during a period of three years, beginning "on the first day of January, 1615, or earlier."

The commercial advantages of opening a number of distant fields of traffic, particularly in North and South America, having been perceived by certain Holland merchants, they obtained, on June 3, 1621, a charter incorporating the Dutch West-India Company, by which they secured the exclusive jurisdiction of New Netherland, and the privilege of solely enjoying all rights of trading with the natives and future settlers of that country. To them was also granted the liberty of supporting and paying bodies of troops to be provided by the Lords States-General of Holland to garrison the forts and protect the property of the company.

The administration of the affairs of this guild of wealthy Dutch merchants was intrusted to five chambers of managers, represented by a college of nineteen directors, of which number, eight were from the Amsterdam Chamber, four from the Zeeland, two from the Maas, two from the North Holland, two from the Friesland, and one from the government of the United Netherlands.

The successive steps taken by the Dutch West-India Company to advance its interests in New Netherland were, between the years 1622 and 1633, substantially set forth in a series of annually printed compilations, entitled: Historical account of all memorable events here and there in Europe (*Historisch*

¹The Discoveries of America to the Year 1525. By Arthur James Weise. 1884, pp. 318, 319.

²Belgische ofte Nederlantsche Oorlogen ende Gheschiedenissen beginnende van't jaer 1598 tot 1611 mede varvatende einge haer der gebuere handelinge. Beschreven door Emanuel van Meteren. By hem voor de leste oversie verbeteret ede vermeerdert na die Copie. Gedruckt op Schotlant buyten Danswyck, by Hermes van Loven, voor den Autheur. Anno 1611, fol. 346.

Beschryvinghe van der Saymoyeden landt in Tartarien. Nieulijcks onder 't ghebiedt der Moscoviten gebracht. Wi de Russche tale overghest, Anno 1609. Met een verhael van de opsoeckingh ende ontdekkinge van de nieuwe deurgang ofte stract in't Noordwesten na de Rycken van China ende Cathay. Ende een Memorial gepresenteert aan den Coningh van spaengien, belanghende de ontdekkinge ende ghelegghent heyt van't Land ghenacmt Australis Incognita. T'Amsterdam by Hessel Gerritsz, Boeckvercooper, opt Water, in de Pascaert. Anno 1612.