

*verhael alder ghedenckwoerdichste geschiedenisse die hier en daer in Europe*), by Doctor Nicolaes à Wassaenaer; the first volume of which was published at Amsterdam, in 1622. The well-informed writer of this rare and valuable work, describing that part of New France, in North America, called "Virginia," says: "It was first peopled by the French," and that "the Lords States-General, observing the large number of their [Holland] people as well as their desire to plant other lands, allowed the West-India Company to settle that same country. Many from the United Provinces did formerly and do still trade there; yea, for the greater security of the traders, a castle, Fort Nassau, had been built on an island [now within the corporate limits of the city of Albany], in forty-two degrees, on the north [west?] side of the River Montagne, now [in 1624] called *Mauritius*. But as the natives there were somewhat discontented and not easily managed, the projectors abandoned it, intending now [February, 1624] to plant a colony among the *Maikans* [Mohegans], a nation lying twenty-five [Dutch] miles on both sides of the river upwards.

"This river, or the bay, lies in forty degrees, running well in, being as broad or as wide as the Thames, and navigable fifty [Dutch] miles<sup>1</sup> up. \* \* \* \*

"This country, now called New Netherland, is usually reached in seven or eight weeks from here. \* \* \* \* The trade of the natives consists mostly in peltries. \* \* \* \* In exchange for peltries, they receive beads, with which they decorate their persons, knives, adzes, axes, case-knives, kettles, and all sorts of iron-ware which they require for housekeeping. \* \* \* \*

"Among these almost barbarous people, there are few or none cross-eyed, blind, crippled, lame, hunch-backed, or limping. All are well-shaped people, strong in constitution of body, well-proportioned, without blemish."

The circumspect author, under date of "February, 1624," further observes: "To plant a colony near these natives, a ship is fitted out by order of the West-India Company, freighted with families."

The vessel did not depart from the port of Amsterdam until March, that year, in order not to arrive at the Mauritius River before it was clear of ice and navigable. Wassaenaer, under the date of "April, 1624," remarks:

"The West-India Company, being chartered to navigate these rivers [the Mauritius, and the South or Delaware], did not neglect so to do, but made ready in the spring a vessel of one hundred and thirty lasts [about two hundred and fifty English tons], called the *Nieu Nederlandt*, of which Cornelis Jacobsz May, of Hoorn, was captain, with thirty families, mostly Walloons,<sup>2</sup> to plant a colony there.

<sup>1</sup> A Dutch mile is about equal to three English miles.

<sup>2</sup> French refugees.