

“They sailed in the beginning of March, and, directing their course by the Canary Islands, steered toward the Wild Coast [of Africa], and gained the west [trade] wind, which luckily [bore] them into the river, first named River of the Mountains, now the River Mauritius, lying in forty and one-half degrees.

“He [the captain of the ship] found a Frenchman lying in the mouth of the river who would erect there the arms of the King of France, but the Hollanders would not permit him, opposing it by order of the Lords States-General and the directors of the West-India Company. In order not to be frustrated therein, they caused a yacht of two guns to be manned, and with the help of those on board the yacht, the Mackerel, that had lain above, convoyed the Frenchman out of the river, who would have done the same thing in the South River, but by hindrance of the guards there it was prevented.

“This being accomplished, the ship ascended forty-four [Dutch] miles near the Maykens [Mohegans]. Having cast up and completed, on the island by them called Castle Island, a fort with four points, they named it Orange. Immediately thereafter they put the spade into the ground and began to till it, and before the yacht, the Mackerel, sailed away, the corn was nearly as high as a man.”

Writing under the date of “December, 1624,” he speaks of the profitable returns derived by the West-India Company from the trade in furs at Fort Orange :

“As regards the prosperity of New Netherland, we learn by the arrival of the ship of which Jan May of Hoorn was captain, that everything there was in good condition. The colony began to advance bravely and continues in friendship with the natives. The fur, or other trade, remains in the West-India Company, others being forbidden to trade there. Rich beaver, otter, marten, and fox skins are found there. This cargo consists of five hundred otter and fifteen hundred beaver skins, and a few other things, which were in four parcels, [that were sold, on December 20, 1624, at Amsterdam] for twenty-eight thousand, some hundred guilders.”<sup>1</sup>

The eligibility of the “Island Manhates,” accessible to sailing vessels in winter as in summer, and a suitable place for the residence of the director-general in charge of the property of the West-India Company, led to the purchase of it, in 1626, from the Indians inhabiting it. The report of the transaction transmitted in the fall of that year to the Amsterdam directors is

<sup>1</sup> Historisch verhael alder ghedenckweerdichste geschiedenisse, die hier en daer in Europe, als in Duijtsch-land, Franckrijck, Enghelant, Spaengien, Hungarijen, Polen, Seven-berghen, Wallachien, Moldavien, Turekijen, en Neder-land, van de beginne des jaers 1621 : to den Herfs toe, voor gevallen sijn door Doct. Claes Wassenae. 1622. T' Amstelredam. 'T seste deel of 't vervolgh van het Historisch Verhael. \* \* \* Van Octobri des jaers 1623 tot April des jaers 1624, voorgevallen sijn. fols. 144, 146. 'T sevendende deel \* \* \* Van April deses jaers 1624, tot Octobrene voorgevallen sijn. fol. 11. 'T achete deel. fols. 84, 85.