

“ We direct you therefore expressly not to allow or grant any more land to anybody except under the conditions stated above, and keeping Long Island (which we believe to be the most important and best piece) for the company, to be divided upon occasion for the accommodation of farmers and planters, until a rule shall have been made, how much land shall be allotted to each colonist. * * * *

“ It is astonishing that the delegates [who had been sent to Holland from New Netherland] dare spread the report in the community [on their return to New Netherland] that the company owned no other soil in New Netherland than Manhattans Island, while it can be clearly proved that they [the members of the company] have bought vast tracts of land on the South [Delaware] River, on the Fresh [the Connecticut] River, on Long Island, and at many other places in the neighborhood.”¹

After many perplexing doubts and interchanges of opinion regarding the advantages accruing to them and their children by becoming colonists of New Netherland, Tomys Swartwout and his wife finally determined to dispose of their property in Amsterdam and engage in such preparations as were necessary for them to make before leaving Holland.

At the beginning of the month of March, 1652, on the day for the sailing of the ship in which they had taken passage for themselves and their children to the Mauritius River, they sorrowfully parted with their kindred and acquaintances gathered on the wharf overlooking the *Ij*, and embarked, and were borne away from the seat of their first connubial home and early domestic joys. The events of their voyage to New Amsterdam were specialized by no remarkable incidents.

On landing at “ Manhattans Island,” they were cordially greeted by Director-General Stuyvesant, who graciously expressed a desire to assist them in such ways as would enable them to settle speedily and comfortably upon a *houwerij* or farm, which they might select under his direction and approval.

The colonists in the little city of New Amsterdam also hospitably welcomed them, and they were soon provided with a temporary abiding-place and adequate comforts while sojourning there. The rude character of the wooden buildings, stretching across the south end of the island eastward of Fort Amsterdam, ceased in a short time to impress them as a novelty, as also did the dilapidated condition of the fort, partly constructed of stone, logs, palisades, and earth, in which were the church and one or two buildings occupied by the officials of the West-India Company. In their intercourse with the inhabitants they obtained considerable information concerning the growth of New Netherland and the prosperity of the different settlements.

¹ Documents relating to the colonial history of the State of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 132, 133.