

of *Handelaarsstraat*, about five hundred feet north of *Jonkersstraat*. The patent or ground brief for it, given him, on October 25, 1653, in the name of the West-India Company, by Director-General Stuyvesant, describes the lot as having a breadth of four rods and a length of nine. After New Netherland had been surrendered to the English, Governor Richard Nicolls, on May 14, 1667, confirmed to him the proprietary right and title to it, and to another lot, for which he also had a ground brief dated October 25, 1653, which describes it as lying in Beverswyck and being four rods and nine feet in breadth and six rods and nine feet in length.¹

On the first-described plat of ground, the energetic colonist either reseeded his former dwelling or erected a new one, prior to the date of the letters-patent given him by the West-India Company.

The distance of the village from the fort and the church suggested the construction of a large block-house, which, should the Indians at any time become hostile, could be a convenient and defensible place of refuge, and while they remained friendly could be used for a church. Moved by these considerations the people of Beverswyck and Rensselaerswyck unitedly undertook the erection of the desired structure. To provide the money needed to defray the expenses of the undertaking the *patroon* and the co-directors of Rensselaerswyck subscribed one thousand guilders (four hundred dollars) and the magistrates of the court of Fort Orange and Beverswyck fifteen hundred more, from moneys received for fines. On the tenth of March, 1656, the officers of the court addressed a letter to the director-general and council of New Netherland, petitioning them "to solicit and influence the inhabitants of the city of New Amsterdam for a liberal contribution" to assist them in the construction of the block-house church, "inasmuch as on similar and other occasions, especially to the church there," they and the people of Beverswyck and Rensselaerswyck had given and contributed according to their ability.

"Receiving no reply to this request, the magistrates wrote on the eighth of April a second communication to the officers of the provincial government, in which they said: 'We are much surprised that no answer to our last letter,

¹ "A Confirmation Granted unto Jochem Kettlehuyn for two Lotts of Ground & House at Albany.

"Richard Nicolls, Esq., &c., Whereas there was a Patent or Ground breife heretofore Granted by the Dutch Governour Petrus Stuyvesant unto Jochem Kettlehuyn for a Certain House and Lott of Ground lying in Beverwyck at Albany having to the West North & East the Highway & to the South Wm. Hosmeyrs Conteyning in Breadth foure Rod & in Length nine Rod together with another Lott of Ground & Garden lying in the Towne aforementioned abutting to the East on the Highway to the South of Arent Gerritsens to the West Goosen Geritsens & to the North Arent Jansens having in Breadth four Rod and Nine foot & in Length six Rod and Nine foot which sd. Patent or Ground breife so Granted as aforesd beares date the 25th day of Octob. 1653. Now for a Confirmation &c The Patent is dated the 14 May 1667."

Book of patents, No. 2, p. 218 (p. 39), in the office of the secretary of State, Albany.

Vide: Collections on the history of the city of Albany. By J. Munsell. Albany, 1871, vol. iv., p. 202; vol. iii., pp. 71-73, 186, 187.