

ably more than one part in two hundred of the present population of our country.

The Dutch seemed to have firmly established their power in New Netherlands. They exulted in the possession of a territory that needed no embankments against the ocean. They were proud of its vast extent, from New England to Maryland, from the sea to the Great River of Canada and the remote northwestern wilderness. They sounded with exultation the channel of the deep stream, which was no longer shared with the Swedes, and counted with delight its many lovely runs of water, on which the beaver built their villages.

The emigrants to our shores from Holland were of the most various lineage; for Holland had long been the gathering place of the unfortunate. Could we trace the descent of the emigrants from the Low Countries to New Netherlands, we should be carried not only to the banks of the Rhine and the borders of the German Sea, but to the Protestants who escaped from France after the massacre of Bartholomew's eve; and to the earlier enquirers who were swayed by the voice of Huss in the heart of Bohemia.

New York was always a city of the world. Its settlers were the first fruits of the reformation; chosen from the Belgic provinces and England, from France and Bohemia, from Germany and Switzerland, from Piedmont and the Italian Alps. When the the hurricane of persecution swept over the pious Waldenses, the city of Amsterdam offered the fugitives a free passage to America, and a welcome reception was prepared in New Netherlands for the few who were willing to emigrate. When the Protestant churches in Rochelle were razed, the Calvinists of that city were gladly admitted. Troops of orphans were sometimes shipped for the milder destinies of the New World; a free passage was offered to mechanics.

The colony increased; children swarmed in every village; the new year and the month of May were welcomed with noisy frolics; new modes of activity were devised; lumber was shipped to France; the whale pursued off the coast; the vine, the mulberry planted; flocks of sheep as well as cattle were multiplied; and tile, so long imported from Holland, began to be manufactured near Fort Orange. New Amsterdam could in a few years boast of stately buildings and almost vied with Boston. "This happily-situated province," said its inhabitants, "may become the granary of our Fatherland; should our Netherlands be wasted by grievous wars, it will offer our countryman a safe retreat; by God's blessing we shall, in a