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A SKETCH

OF THE

**First Settlement**

OF THE

SEVERAL TOWNS ON LONG-ISLAND;

WITH THEIR

**POLITICAL CONDITION,**

TO THE

END OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

—  
BY SILAS WOOD.  
—

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## ADVERTISEMENT.



A MORE particular history of the first settlement of the several towns, was at first intended ; but several circumstances contributed to render it impracticable.

The records of the Dutch towns, from the manner in which they were governed, are principally confined to transactions relating to their lands, and these are locked up in the Dutch language.

The early records of some of the towns are no longer to be found. In some cases they are wholly gone ; and in others, such as related to the origin of the settlement are lost.

It was impracticable, therefore, to give a minute account of the first settlements in a number of instances ; and this made it necessary to confine the narrative to a general statement of the origin and progress of the several towns, with their political condition at different periods.



# A SKETCH

OF THE

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF LONG-ISLAND, &c.



## STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

AT the time of the first settlement of Long-Island, it appears that the western part of it, if not the whole, was in a great measure bare of timber.

The Indians here, as every where else where they were settled, annually burnt over the woods, in order to clear the land to provide food for the deer and other game.

There are numerous facts to prove, that at the time of the first settlement of the island, the woods were destitute of underbrush, and that the large trees were so scarce, that it was deemed necessary to take measures for their preservation.

The first settlers in every town commenced their improvements without any previous clearing. They generally enclosed large tracts of land, by a common fence, for planting, and also for pasturing such part of their stock as they did not wish to run at large. In 1646, the people of the town of Gravesend, by a vote at the first town meeting held in the town, ordered every inhabitant to make twenty poles of fence, to enclose a common field for corn; and in 1648, voted in like manner to make a common calf pasture.

Similar regulations were made in Newtown, in Hempstead, in Huntington, and probably in most if not all the towns on the island. In 1654, the town of South Old passed a resolution, that no person should cut trees or sell wood from their common lands, for pipe staves or heading, or other purposes, to any person not being a townsman, "without the town's liberty." In 1659, the town of Huntington, by a vote of town meeting, resolved that no timber should be cut for sale within three miles of the settlement, under the penalty of five shillings for every tree. In 1660, they made an exception of oak timber for pipe staves; but in 1668, the magistrates, after stating their apprehensions that the town was in danger of being ruined by the destruction of its timber, ordered that no timber should be cut, for transportation, within three miles of the settlement, under the penalty of five shillings for every

tree, and forbid strangers cutting any timber within the limits of the town under the like penalty.

In 1660, the town of Oysterbay passed a similar resolution.

In 1668, the town of Newtown voted that no one should carry any timber to the water side for transportation, under the penalty of ten shillings a load.

The trees in the woods were so thin and sparse that they abounded with feed, and the settlers depended on them for pasture for their cattle that were not needed for domestic purposes.

In 1658, the town of Hempstead employed a herdsman to attend their cattle. There are various resolutions of this town for a series of years to the same effect. They drove their cattle as far as Cow-neck to pasture, and it is supposed to have taken its name from that circumstance.

In 1665, the town of Huntington, by a vote of town meeting, ordered that all the young and dry cattle belonging to the town, should be driven to Horse-neck to pasture, after the second day of June ensuing.

In 1666, the town of Gravesend employed a herdsman to attend their cattle, that run at large during the summer season.

By neglecting the Indian practice of annual burnings, in a few years, the young timber and underbrush increased so as to injure the feed in the woods.

In 1668, the town of Huntington, at town meeting, voted that every male over sixteen should assemble, when warned by the men who were appointed for that purpose, to cut down brush or underwood when it should be thought a fit time to destroy it, under the penalty of five shillings a day for neglect.

7th October, 1672. The governor and court of assize, by an order, after stating that the feed for cattle and horses in the woods on Long-Island had decayed, by the increase of brush and underwood, directed the inhabitants from sixteen to sixty to turn out four days in every year, under the direction of the town officers, to cut out the brush and underwood, under the penalty of five shillings for every day's neglect.

In 1674, the town of Jamaica, by a vote of town meeting, resolved, that every male upwards of sixteen should go out two days in the year, at the time appointed for that purpose, to cut down brush about the town, under the penalty of five shillings for every day's neglect.

By similar evidence, it appears that the pine plains were also, at the time of the first settlement of the island, in a great measure unincumbered with underwood.

This state of the country was of immense advantage to the first settlers. Had they been obliged to encounter thick forests of large timber, and to wait the tardy returns of heavy clearings, the first emigrants would probably have perished by famine. The openness of the country—the quantity of land left unoccupied by the sparseness of the Indian population, and the rapid growth and nutritive quality of the corn found among the Indians, contributed essentially to the preservation, growth, and prosperity of the first settlers on Long-Island.



### SETTLEMENT OF LONG-ISLAND.

Long-Island was claimed both by the English and the Dutch, on the ground of prior discovery. On the discovery of America, it seems to have been adopted by the maritime nations of Europe as a part of the conventional law of nations, that new discoveries should enure to the nation under whose authority they were made.

North America, from 38 to 68 degrees of north latitude, was very early discovered by Sebastian Cabot, in the service of the English; and according to the usage of nations, the whole of that extent of country was claimed by them. James I. in 1606, granted a patent to two different companies, embracing the country between the 34th and 45th degrees of north latitude. One of these companies commenced a settlement in Virginia in 1607, and the other at Plymouth in 1620.

The North River, Long-Island, and the adjacent country, were visited and explored by Henry Hudson. The Dutch allege that this took place in 1609, that he was in the Dutch service, and that the country belonged to them.

The English contend, that the voyage of Hudson was made in 1608, under their authority—that Hudson afterwards entered into the Dutch service, disclosed his discovery, and sold it to the Dutch, who claimed it in violation of the right of England to it; that if it were true that Hudson was in the employment of the Dutch when he made his first voyage, it would not invalidate the right to the country already vested in the English by a prior discovery. The States General, however, without regard to the claim of the English, in 1614 granted permission to the merchants of that country to trade



here. The first adventurers arrived in 1615, sailed up the North River, and erected a fort on an island a few miles below Albany; and soon after erected Fort Orange, at Albany, on the spot, as is supposed, where the mansion house of Simeon De Witt, esq. the surveyor-general of this state, now stands.

In 1621, the States General granted the country by the name of New Netherlands, to the Dutch West-India Company, who immediately set about colonizing it. According to governor Stuyvesant's letter to the English commissioners at the time of the conquest, the first settlement on Manhattan Island was made in 1622 or 1623. The Dutch also erected a fort or trading house on the Delaware river in 1624, and on Connecticut river in 1628, and they claimed the whole extent of country between those rivers.

The English, on the main, extended their settlements as far west as Saybrook in 1635, and began a settlement at Hartford in 1636, and at New-Haven in 1638.

Charles I. granted a patent to William, Earl of Stirling, "Secretary for the kingdom of Scotland," for Long-Island; and the first settlements of the English on Long-Island seem to have been made under authority derived from him or his representatives.

The two extremities of the island were first settled. The west end was settled under the Dutch, and the east end under the English.

The towns of Hempstead, Flushing, Jamaica, Newtown, and Gravesend, were settled by English people, under the authority and with the permission of the Dutch government; the other towns in Kings county were settled by the Dutch; and all the other towns on the island were settled under the English. The several settlements under the English were nearly cotemporary with those under the Dutch; and all the principal settlements on the island were commenced within the space of forty years.

Both the Dutch and English territories on Long-Island were settled by villages or towns, nor was there any combination of these into counties before the conquest.

The extent of the towns in the English territory, and of the English towns in the Dutch territory, was governed by the Indian purchases; in the Dutch towns, it is supposed to have been regulated by the governor.

In the Dutch towns, the lands were generally granted by the governor. In the English towns in the Dutch territory, the lands were generally purchased of the natives with the consent of the governor. In the towns under the English, the lands were purchased of the natives, originally with the



consent of the agent of Lord Stirling, but in a short time the relinquishment of his claim rendered this unnecessary. In cases of grants to companies by the Dutch governor, the lands were divided by lot. In all cases of purchase, the rights of individuals were deemed to be in proportion to their contribution to the purchase, or to the patent by which the purchase was confirmed.

The first settlement on Long-Island seems to have been made about the year 1625, under the Dutch, in the vicinity of New-York.

From a family record, it appears that the first child of George Jansen De Rapelje,\* was born at the Waale Boght, or Walloon Bay, that year; and it is a tradition among the Dutch that this was the first white child born on the island.

The earliest deed on record for lands in Brooklyn, is a grant to Thomas Besker, for a tract at Gawanus, in the year 1639.

The earliest deed that has been discovered for lands in Kings county, is a patent from governor Van Twiller to Andries Hedden and Wolphert Gerritsen, for a tract of land in Amersfort, or Flatlands, bearing date the 6th June, 1636.

The first settlement under the English was made by Lyon Gardiner, on Gardiner's Island, in 1639, under a purchase confirmed by the agent of lord Stirling.

A settlement was attempted at Oysterbay or Huntington,† and it is not certainly ascertained at which place, but most probably at Oysterbay, in 1640, by certain emigrants from Lynn, near Boston, under an agreement with the agent of William, earl of Stirling. This settlement was broken up by Kieft, the Dutch governor, and the settlers removed to South Hampton, and commenced a settlement there, which was the foundation of that town.

The first settlement of the town of South Old was commenced in October, 1640, on a tract of land which was purchased of the natives by the governor of New-Haven.

\* 4th June, 1633, governor Van Twiller let George Rapelje have two cows for four years, then to be returned with half their increase, with the exception of a heifer which the governor consented to give to his daughter Judith. This seems to have been a common mode of furnishing the settlers with stock.

† 13th May, 1640, governor Kieft sent Cornelius Van Tien Hoven, the secretary, the under sheriff, a sergeant, and twenty-five soldiers, to *Scouts-bay*, to break up a settlement of the English, who had torn down the States' arms and carved a fool's head on the tree. The party set out the 14th, and returned the 15th. They found a company of eight men, and a woman with an infant, who had erected one house, and were engaged in erecting another. The party brought six of the men to the governor. On examination, it appeared that they came from Lynn, near Boston, under Andrew Forrester, a Scotchman, agent for lord Stirling, who had returned to New-Haven. After they had been examined, and signed an agreement to leave the place, they were dismissed.

The English continued to extend their settlements westward, and the Dutch eastward, on the main, until they met at Greenwich, in 1640. The line of division between their respective territories was a constant source of contention. The harmony of the two powers continued to be interrupted by mutual complaints of encroachments, on Long-Island as well as on the main.

It was at length attempted to put an end to these complaints, and to secure peace and quiet on the borders, by definitively establishing the boundaries between their respective territories.

The 19th May, 1643, the four New-England colonies, Plymouth, Massachusetts, Hartford, and New-Haven, formed a union for their mutual security, and the protection of the settlements connected with them. Public affairs were transacted by two commissioners from each colony.

All controversies between the English and the Dutch were, from that period, on the part of the English, managed by the commissioners of the united colonies.

A treaty for the settlement of the boundaries between the two powers, was entered into by the commissioners of the united colonies and the Dutch governor, at Hartford, Sept. 19th, 1650. By that treaty, a line west of Greenwich, four miles west of Stamford, was to be the boundary between the two powers on the main, and "upon Long-Island, a line run " from the westernmost part of Oysterbay, and so a straight " and direct line to the sea, shall be the bounds betwixt the " English and the Dutch there; the easterly part to belong " to the English, and the westernmost to the Dutch." When Oysterbay came to be settled by the English, a dispute arose between them and the Dutch governor respecting the westernmost limits of the bay; and this, with the delay of the States General to ratify the treaty, furnished the Dutch governor with a pretext for not complying with it.

In 1659, the directors of the Dutch West-India company ordered the governor to erect a fort, or to build a block-house, on their east bay, in order the more effectually to resist the encroachments of the English.

In 1661, the governor informs them that he had not begun the fort on Long-Island, near Oysterbay, "because our neighbours lay the boundaries a mile and a half more westerly " than we do, and the more as your honours are not inclined " to stand by the treaty of Hartford." And although the treaty was ratified by the States General, the 22d February, 1656, yet it seems that the governor never wholly relinquished his claim of jurisdiction over that town, or a part of it.

In June, 1656, the commissioners of the united colonies, in answer to a communication of the Dutch governor, reproach him with still continuing to claim Oysterbay, in violation of the treaty of Hartford in 1650.

These disputes involved the people of Oysterbay in much difficulty and perplexity. To avoid offence to one power or the other, and to secure peace and quietness, they were compelled to observe a kind of neutrality between the contending parties.

13th December, 1660, by a vote of the people in town meeting, they resolved that no person should intermeddle to put the town either under the Dutch or English, until the difference between them should be ended, under the penalty of £50 sterling.

25th January, 1662, they seem to have taken a more decisive part. They avowed their allegiance to the king of England, and resolved to defend any one who should be molested for exercising authority among them, at their common expense.

It is presumed that this town, soon after this period, united with the other English towns on the island east of Hempstead, in their voluntary submission to the jurisdiction of Connecticut.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE SEVERAL TOWNS.

The date of the purchases made by the several towns of the Indians, furnishes the best evidence of their original settlement.\*

From the date of the original Indian deeds, and the best information that could be procured, it appears that the first settlement of the several towns on the island was commenced at or near the time, and in the order following :

Brooklyn, - - - - -	1625
Flatlands, originally Amersfort, - - -	1636
Gardiner's Island, - - - - -	1639
South Hampton, - - - - -	1640
Southold, - - - - -	1640
Hempstead, - - - - -	1643
Gravesend, - - - - -	1645
Flushing, originally Vlisshingen, - - -	1645

\* Some confusion exists in the dates of this period. The dates from 1st January to the 21st March, must be transferred to the succeeding year, to make them correspond with our mode of reckoning time. Thus, March the 10th, 1639, will be 10th March, 1640, and was usually written  $\frac{1}{1} \frac{6}{6} \frac{3}{4} \frac{9}{0}$ .

East Hampton,	-	-	-	-	-	1648
Flatbush, originally Midwout,	-	-	-	-	-	1651
Shelter Island,	-	-	-	-	-	1652
Huntington,	-	-	-	-	-	1653
Oysterbay,	-	-	-	-	-	1653
Brookhaven,	-	-	-	-	-	1655
Jamaica, originally Rustdorpe,	-	-	-	-	-	1655
Newtown, originally Middleburgh,	-	-	-	-	-	1656
New-Utrecht,	-	-	-	-	-	1657
Bushwick,	-	-	-	-	-	1660
Smith Town,	-	-	-	-	-	1663
Islip,	-	-	-	-	-	1666

The lands in the several towns in Kings county were purchased by the Dutch government, and it is presumed wholly of the Canarsee tribe of Indians.

Jamaica was principally purchased of the same tribe.

Newtown was purchased in part of the Rockaway Indians, and perhaps some part of the Canarsee tribe.

Flushing was purchased by the Dutch government, probably of the Matinecoc tribe of Indians.

Oysterbay was purchased of the Matinecocs.

Hempstead was purchased of the Marsapeague, Merikoke, and Rockaway tribes.

Huntington was purchased of the Matinecoc, Marsapeague, and Secataug tribes.

Smith Town was originally granted by the Montauk sachem to Lyon Gardiner, who sold it to Richard Smith, to whom it was confirmed by the Nissaquague sachem.

Brookhaven was purchased of the Satauket and Patchogue tribes.

South Old was purchased of the Corchaugs.

Islip was purchased of the Secataugs.

South Hampton was purchased of the Shinecoc tribe.

Easthampton was purchased of the Shinecoc, Corchaug, Manhansett, and Montauk tribes.

Shelter-Island was purchased of the Manhansett tribe, by James Farrett, deputy of lord Stirling, 1640.

#### OF THE DUTCH CHURCH.

The people of the Dutch towns professed the doctrines of the synod of Dort, and were under the ecclesiastical government of the classis of Amsterdam until 1772, when the Dutch church of this country established an independent classis and synods, on the model of the church in Holland.



Each town had its own consistory, but the whole constituted but one church. Their ministers were colleagues, preached in turn in all the churches, and were supported by a common contribution.

The first house for public worship was commenced at Flatbush in 1654, and finished in 1659.

The next was commenced at Flatlands, in 1663.

And the one at Brooklyn in 1666.

14th October, 1654, the Rev. Joannes Theodorus Polhemus, was, by the Dutch governor, permitted to preach at Amersfort and Midwout. He died in June, 1676.

In 1650, Henericus Selwyn was installed at Brooklyn, by the Dutch governor.\*

The regular record of baptisms in the Dutch towns commenced in 1660.

#### CHARACTER OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF THE ENGLISH TOWNS UNDER THE DUTCH.

The original settlers of most of the English towns under the Dutch government, were probably independents, and agreed with each other in their religious opinions.

They took all the precautions in their power to secure good morals, by excluding from their society such as they judged likely to endanger them. No settler could be admitted in Hempstead or Jamaica, without permission of the town meeting.

The Rev. Richard Denton, moved from Stamford with part of his congregation, and settled at Hempstead in 1643 or 1644, and Newtown and Jamaica settled the ministry among them at an early period† of their settlement. A house for public worship was probably erected at Hempstead before 1650.

\* From a manuscript of the Rev. Peter Lowe, deceased, it appears that the succeeding ministers in the Dutch church on Long-Island, settled before 1800, were as follows :

Joannes Megapolensis,	probably died	1668
Casperus Van Zuren,	do.	1677
Mr. ——— Clark,	do.	1695
William Lupardus,	do.	1700
Bernard Freeman,	from 1702 to	1741
Vincentius Antonides,	from 1815 to	1744
Joannes Arondeus,	probably died	1742
Anthony Curtenius,	from 1730 to	1756
Ulpianus Van Sinderen,	from 1747 to	1796
John Caspar Rubel,	from 1760 to	1797
Martinus Schoonmaker	from 1785 to	1824
Peter Lowe,	from 1787 to	1818

† Jamaica settled Zachariah Walker in 1663, who was succeeded by John Prudden in 1668. Newtown settled William Leveredge in 1670—his successors are not known.

16th September, 1550, it was ordered by the court and confirmed by a vote of the town of Hempstead, that if any person neglected to attend public worship, without a reasonable excuse, he should pay five guilders for the first offence, ten for the second, and twenty for the third; and that if he afterwards repeated the offence, he should be liable either to an aggravation of the fine, to corporeal punishment, or banishment.

1659. The town of Hempstead established a house of entertainment, and enjoined it upon the keeper "to keep such order that it might not be offensive unto the laws of God or the place.

#### SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWNS UNDER THE ENGLISH.

The several towns under the English were originally settled by companies of individuals, who emigrated from the New-England colonies, or came directly from England.

Except the town of South Old, which was settled under New-Haven, they were not under the control of any colonial government, nor had they any concert with each other.

Long-Island was not comprised in the grant of any colony. It had been granted by Charles I. to lord Stirling, and the first English settlers seem to have taken possession of it under his authority. It was not long, however, before the grant was relinquished\* by his heirs, to the crown, and the island left free to be made a part of a new colony; and it was afterwards comprised in the grant to the duke of York.

The first settlers in these towns generally purchased their lands of the natives,† and allotted to each settler what was needed for cultivation; the rest were held in common until the conquest, when the purchasers were obliged to take out a

\* The grant of Long-Island to lord Stirling, and the relinquishment of it to the crown by his heirs, is recognized in the patent of governor Nicoll to Constant Sylvester and Nathaniel Sylvester, for Shelter-Island, 31st May, 1666.

† The first purchase of lands in South Old was made probably in 1639, by the government of New-Haven, and they were shortly afterwards conveyed to the first settlers. Shelter-Island was purchased by James Farret in 1640, and by several mesne conveyances in 1666 became the property of Nathaniel and constant Sylvester. The first purchase of lands in East Hampton was made by the governors of New-Haven and Connecticut, in 1648, who shortly after conveyed them to the settlers. The subsequent purchases in these towns were made by the settlers. Smith Town was purchased of Lyon Gardiner, by Richard Smith, who was sole proprietor of the whole territory in 1663. William Nicoll was the original purchaser and sole proprietor of the greater part of Islip. Exclusive of a few large purchases by individuals, the several purchases in the different towns were made by the original settlers in common. The lands in the occupation of the Indians, in East Hampton and South Hampton, belong to those towns respectively, and the Indians have only a usufructuary property therein.



patent to confirm their title to them. The rights of individuals were determined to be in proportion to the amount of their contribution to the expense of the patent.

Being too remote from the mother country to derive any aid from there, and without connections here, the whole powers of government devolved on the inhabitants of each town. Self-preservation rendered it absolutely necessary that they should assume the exercise of these powers, until a change in their condition should supercede the necessity of it.

Thus each town at its first settlement was a pure democracy. The people in each town exercised the sovereign power: all questions were determined by the voice of the major part of the people assembled in town meeting. In this manner they formed such laws and regulations as they judged necessary for the security, peace, and prosperity of their infant settlements.

In 1653, the town of East Hampton sent for a copy of the laws of Connecticut, and selected from them such as they judged applicable to their circumstances, and adopted them; and the uniformity observable in the laws of the several towns renders it probable that the other towns did the like, or made those laws the model for such as they made themselves. To guard against surprise by the Indians or others, they provided the means of defence. Every man was required to furnish himself with arms and ammunition, and to assemble at a certain place when warned, under a penalty for neglect in any of these respects.

To secure the administration of justice, and to prevent and punish crimes, a court was established, it is believed, in every town, with power to hear and determine all causes, civil and criminal. The magistrates were annually chosen by the people at their town meetings. The proceedings of the courts in the several towns were governed by the principles of the common law. The parties were entitled to a jury, if either of them requested it. The jury consisted of seven men, and the verdict was decided by the voice of a majority.

The public expenses were raised by a tax, the amount of which was fixed by a vote of the people in general town meeting, and the rates were made and gathered by persons chosen for that purpose.

#### CHARACTER OF FIRST SETTLERS.

The first settlers of the several towns in Suffolk county were probably, chiefly English independents, and partook of the spirit and temper which at that time characterized that class of men in England.

They had fled from tyranny and oppression, and were ardently devoted to liberty, and zealous for the protestant religion—jealous of their rights, and firm and resolute in their defence.

The several towns in Suffolk, adopted every precaution in their power, for the preservation of good morals and good order in their several settlements.

To prevent the contagion of evil example, they excluded from their society, all such as they judged would be likely to injure it.

For this purpose they prohibited the sale of land to any, but such as were approved of by the people in their town meeting, or by a committee chosen by them, for that purpose.

In 1662, the people of Huntington, by a vote of town meeting, appointed a committee consisting of their minister and six of their most respectable inhabitants, to examine the characters of such as came to settle among them; with power to admit or refuse admission to them, as they judged they would be likely to benefit, or injure the society.

In 1663, the same town forbid any inhabitant to entertain a certain obnoxious individual longer than the space of a week, either gratuitously or for pay, under the penalty of 40s for the breach of the order—"made for the peace of the town."

In 1651, the town of East Hampton ordered, that a lot should not be laid out for a certain individual, and that he should not stay in the town.

They were very vigilant in guarding against the profanation of the sabbath, and profane swearing; and the records of the different towns, furnish a number of instances of convictions and punishment for these and other immoralities.

In 1660, the town of Huntington established an house of entertainment, and to insure good order, made the continuance of the keeper, to depend on the correctness with which he discharged his trust.

The original settlers of the several towns in Suffolk county were united in their religious opinions. They were uniform in their adherence to the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

They also accorded with each other in their opinions on church government. The constitution of the churches in the several towns was originally congregational, and so continued until 1647, when the greater number were prevailed on to exchange the congregational form for that of the presbyterian, which they were persuaded to believe to be better adapted to support purity of doctrine, and an efficient discipline.

In most if not all the towns in Suffolk, a minister accompanied the first settlers, and the establishment of the ministry was coeval with the first settlement.\*

A house for public worship was erected in East Hampton in 1651, three years after the first settlement of the town; and houses for public worship were erected in all the other towns at a very early period of their respective settlements.

#### UNION WITH CONNECTICUT.

The several towns on Long-Island that were settled under the English, were exposed to interruption both by the Dutch and Indians. In order to guard themselves against the perils of their condition, by the power and influence of the New-England colonies, they very early sought a connection with those colonies.

Southold, seems to have been attached to New-Haven from its first settlement in 1640, till it joined Connecticut. The other towns put themselves under the jurisdiction of Connecticut at different times. South Hampton, in 1644; East Hampton, in 1657; Brookhaven, in 1659; Huntington, in 1660; Southold, and probably Oysterbay, in 1662.

\* *A list of the first ministers and their successors, till the Revolution, in the several towns in Suffolk county, as far as could be obtained.*

		SETTLEMENT.	DEATH.	DISMISSION.
SOUTHOLD,	John Youngs,	1640	-	1672
	Joshua Hobart,	1674	-	1717
	Benjamin Woolsey,	1720		probably about 1736
	James Davenport,	1738		do. 1746
	William Throop,	1748	.	1758
SOUTH HAMPTON,	John Storrs,	1763	-	- - - 1787
	Abraham Pierson,	1640	removed to Branford	1644
	[Successors not known except Josiah Fordham, and Mr. White.			[and then to Newark, N. J.
EAST HAMPTON,	Thomas James,	1648	-	1696
	Nathaniel Hunting,	1699	-	1753
	Samuel Buell,	1746	-	1798
HUNTINGTON,	William Leveredge,	1653	removed to Newtown	1670
	Eliphalet Jones,	1677	probab.	1630
	Ebenezer Prime,	1723	-	1779
BROOKHAVEN,	Nathaniel Brewster,	1656	-	1690
	George Phillips,	1697	-	1739
	David Youngs,	1745	prob.	1752
	Benjamin Tallmadge,	1754	-	1786
SMITHTOWN,	Abner Reeves,			
	Naphtali Daggett, afterwards president of New-Haven College			
	Mr. Lewis,			
	Joshua Hart,	1773	removed to Fresh Pond,	1792

In several towns there are parishes in which ministers were very early settled, but they are not generally known so as to be distinctly stated.

Episcopal churches were also pretty early established in several towns on the island, but the succession of ministers, is not ascertained.

The Friends also formed societies in Oysterbay and Flushing at an early period, but at what time does not appear.

The precise terms of this union are not known. It was doubtless their object to become a part of that colony, and to participate in all the privileges of the several towns under the same jurisdiction. In 1662, the town of Huntington chose two deputies to attend the general court at Hartford, in May, 1663, but it is probable that this was on special business as it does not appear to have been a common practice of the several towns at the time.

It might however have been a common privilege to be exercised at the discretion of the several towns, and that they only exercised it on special occasions.

In all affairs relating to the Dutch and Indians, the several towns were subject to the commissioners of the United Colonies.

In 1662, the general assembly established a court, to be composed of the Justices of Southold, South Hampton, and East Hampton, with power to hear and determine appeals from the respective court of each town. This was an incipient step towards the organization of a county, and a court of general jurisdiction, and the only one that was taken before the conquest.

The charter of Connecticut was received in October, 1662, and the liberal provisions it contained, made the several towns on Long-Island, very desirous to perpetuate their connection with that colony. Before the charter was obtained, Connecticut had no pretence to claim Long-Island, and had never exercised any authoritative jurisdiction there--the several towns were received under her jurisdiction on their own voluntary offer, and at their solicitation.

A clause in the new charter annexing the adjacent Islands to that colony, furnished a pretext for such a claim, and it doubtless was with the consent, if not at the instance of the several towns on the Island that had put themselves under her jurisdiction, that she set up a construction of her charter, which, if it could have been sustained, would have embraced them as well as the other towns on the Island.

With this view the assembly at Hartford, May 12, 1664, formally resolved, that Long-Island, belonged to the jurisdiction of Connecticut, by the terms of the charter, and appointed the Governor and two others to go to the Island to settle the English plantations there under the government of Connecticut—to establish quarterly courts, and other courts for the administration of justice—provided their judgments should not extend to life, limb or banishment, and directed capital cases to be tried at Fairfield or Hartford.



These commissioners met at Setauket, in the Summer of 1664, made some decisions on disputed claims, and took some steps towards the object of their appointment, but these arrangements were all frustrated before they could be carried into effect, by the conquest of the Dutch territories shortly after they were made.

Long-Island was conveyed by Charles II. to his brother James, Duke of York, the 12th March, 1664, and he would not suffer it to be dismembered by an extension of the terms of any other charter, or by any agreement of any section of the inhabitants with any other colony.

Governor Nicolls also declared to the Long-Island deputies at the assembly at Hempstead, in March, 1665, that Governor Winthrop, of Connecticut, made no claim to Long-Island.\*



## OF TRADE.

On the first settlement of the Island, the surplus produce was wanted by the new settlers; during this period they had little trade but among themselves, money was very scarce, contracts were made in produce, and business was carried on by barter and exchange; contracts for the sale of land as well as others were made in produce.

In 1658, the town of Hempstead, agreed to pay the herdsman who attended their cattle, twelve shilling sterling a week, payable in butter, wheat, corn and oats at stipulated prices.

In 1659, the same town allowed six bushels of corn for killing a wolf.

In 1659, the town of East Hampton agreed to give Thomas James, their minister, £60 a year, "in such pay as men raise, as it passes from man to man."

\* The information relative to Southold, was principally derived from Ebenezer W. Case, Esq. the Surrogate of the county, who very obligingly examined the records of that town.

The facts relative to East Hampton, were chiefly obtained from a compilation of the records of that town, made by John L. Gardner, Esq. deceased, and politely furnished by Jonathan Dayton, Esq. one of his executors—and the information relative to Shelter Island, was kindly contributed by Henry T. Dering; the collector of Sag-Harbour.

In 1663, the town of Jamaica contracted with Zachariah Walker, their minister, to give him £60 a year, payable in wheat and corn at fixed prices.

In 1664, the town of Gravesend contracted to give a man and his assistant 600 guilders to guard their cattle that run at large during the summer season, to be paid in "bacon and corn."

In 1670, the people of Newtown agreed to give William Leveredge, their minister, annually, 40 shillings a piece, to be paid "half in corn, and half in cattle."

In 1686, the town of Huntington contracted with a carpenter to make an addition to their meeting house, to be paid in produce at stipulated prices.

Debts were discharged, executions satisfied, and rates paid in produce—the rate at which produce was taken in payment of debts was, the price which the merchant gave for the like articles at the time.

In 1656, the magistrates of East Hampton, ordered that the town rates should be paid in wheat, at 4s 6d per bushel, and in Indian corn, at 3s 6d.

In 1665, the town court of Jamaica, in an action of trespass gave judgment in favor of the plaintiff, for twelve bushels and an half of wheat for his damages.

In 1679 the town court of Huntington, gave judgment that the defendant should pay the debt demanded in "good merchantable pay at the current price."

In 1680, the same court gave judgment for the debt, and the constable sold a house and lot, on execution, for £10 10s, to be paid "in merchantable pay at the current price."

Executions issuing out of the court of Sessions, were also levied in produce, but it was appraised by indifferent men, chosen by the parties, or appointed by the sheriff, when it was delivered to the plaintiff in satisfaction of his judgment.

The prices of produce receivable for county rates were generally fixed by the Governor and court of assize, but were sometimes submitted to the court of Sessions, subject to the revision and approbation of the Governor.

In 1665, the assessors of the several towns were ordered by law to estimate stock at the following rates :

A horse or mare, 4 years old and upward,	£12	0	0
Do. do. 3 and 4 - - -	8	0	0
Do. do. 2 and 3 - - -	4	0	0
Do. do. 1 and 2 - - -	3	0	0
An ox or a bull 4 years old and upwards -	6	0	0
A cow 4 years old and upwards, - -	5	0	0



A steer or heifer between 3 and 4	-	-	£4	0	0
Do.	do.	2 and 3	-	-	2 10 0
Do.	do.	1 and 2	-	-	1 10 0
A goat one year old,	-	-	-	-	0 8 0
A sheep,	do.	-	-	-	0 6 8
A swine,	do.	-	-	-	1 0 0

In 1679, the prices fixed at which produce should be received for county rates were as follows :

Pork,	-	-	-	-	£0	0	3 per lb.
Beef,	-	-	-	-	0	0	2 do.
Winter wheat,	-	-	-	-	0	4	0 per bushel.
Summer do.	-	-	-	-	0	3	6 do.
Rye,	-	-	-	-	0	2	6 do.
Indian corn,	-	-	-	-	0	2	0 do.
Oil,	-	-	-	-	1	10	0 per barrel.

In 1687, the prices of produce receivable for taxes were as follows :

Pork,	-	-	-	-	£3	10	0 per barrel, or 3d per lb.
Beef,	-	-	-	-	1	10	0 do. 2d do
Wheat,	-	-	-	-	0	5	0 per bushel.
Indian corn,	-	-	-	-	0	2	6 do.
Tallow,	-	-	-	-	0	0	6 per lb.
Dry hides,	-	-	-	-	0	0	4 do.
Green,	-	-	-	-	0	0	2 do.

Contract prices of various articles from 1665, to 1687 :

Pork,	-	-	-	-	£0	0	3 lb.
Beef,	-	-	-	-	0	0	2 do.
Wheat,	from	-	-	-	0	4	0 per bushel, to 5s.
Rye,	-	-	-	-	0	3	6 do.
Corn,	-	-	-	-	0	2	6 do.
Oats,	-	-	-	-	0	2	0 do.
Butter,	-	-	-	-	0	0	6 lb.
Tallow,	-	-	-	-	0	0	6 do.
Hogs fat,	-	-	-	-	0	0	6 do.
Board,	-	-	-	-	0	5	0 per week.
Victuals,	-	-	-	-	0	0	6 per meal.
Lodging,	-	-	-	-	0	0	2 per night.
Beer,	-	-	-	-	0	0	2 per mug.
Pasture,	-	-	-	-	0	1	0 for a day and night.
Labour,	-	-	-	-	0	2	6 per day.

The practice of paying in produce continued until about the year 1700; when trade had rendered money more plenty, and introduced it into general circulation.

## OF THE STATE OF THE INDIANS.

When the first settlements were made on the Island by the Dutch and English, it appears from the original Indian deeds, that the principal tribes that occupied it were the following—viz. the Canarse—the Rockaway—the Merrikoke—the Marsapeague—the Secataug, and the Patchogue on the south side, the Matinecoc—the Nissaquague—the Setauket, and the Corchaug, on the north side—the Shinecoc—the Manhanset, and the Montauk, from the Canoe place to Montauk point.

The Canarse, appears to have been the only tribe, or the only tribe of any consequence in Kings county.—It seems from some of the old records, that a few Niacke Indians resided at New-Utrecht, but the principal seat of the tribe was on Staten Island.

The Canarse tribe claimed the chief part of the lands in Kings county, a large part of the lands in Jamaica, and probably some part of Newtown.

The Rockaway tribe, claimed the territory around Rockaway, and part of Newtown, and probably some part of Jamaica.

The Merrikoke and Marsapeague, tribes extended from Rockaway, through Queens county, into Huntington, on the south side of the Island.

The territory of the Matinecoc tribe, extended from Flushing, through Queens county to Cowharbour, in Suffolk, on the north side.

The Nissaquague tribe, claimed from Cowharbour to Stonybrook. The Setauket tribe, claimed from Stonybrook to the Wading river.

The Corchaug tribe, extended from the Wading river to Southold, on the north side.

The territory of the Manhanset tribe, was Shelter Island.

The territory of the Secataug tribe, adjoined that of the Marsapeague's, and extended to Patchogue. The territory of the Patchogue tribe, extended to South Hampton.

The Shinecoc tribe, extended from the Canoe place to Montauk, and that peninsula was the seat of the Montauk tribe.

There are a few other tribes mentioned in the old records, but the place they occupied cannot be ascertained, and it is evident from that circumstance, that they must have been very small, perhaps the mere remnants of tribes which had been destroyed in their wars.

These above enumerated are the principal tribes that occupied the Island when it was first settled by the Dutch and English, and the original purchases of the several towns were made of these tribes.

The Indian settlements were all on the bays, creeks and harbours on the north and south sides of the Island and the territory of those on the one side was divided from that of those on the other by the middle of the Island.

When the first settlements were made on the Island, the Indian population was by no means as great as the facilities of subsistence would have authorised us to expect, nor as great as it probably formerly had been.

The shell banks which indicate the scites of their villages on the western half of the Island are large and numerous, and beds of shells of some size or other are found at intervals of a few miles all around the margin of the Island. From these it would appear that the population of some parts of the Island was once very numerous, or must have been stationary there a long time.\*

At the time of the first settlement of the Island, none of the tribes were large, most of them were inconsiderable in number and some quite small.

The few named in the old records, whose distinct territory cannot be discovered, probably lived on the lands of other tribes and mingled with them, only a small part of the situations favourable to an easy subsistence could have been occupied by them, and the Island was thinly settled as an Indian country. The degraded state of the Indian population at the time of the first settlement, must be ascribed to their perpetual wars, by which they had been diminished.

All savages are addicted to war—hunting and war are their chief employments. From their infancy, they are taught to consider the character of a warrior as the object of their highest ambition, and the habits of their education are all calculated to inspire them with courage, with skill, and an ambition for distinction in war. The highest praise of a warrior consists in destroying as many of the enemy with as little loss to his own party as possible.

The causes of war among them are numerous, and of frequent occurrence. Encroachments on their hunting grounds—a thirst for revenge in case of affronts—the emulation of valour, and the intemperate ardour of young warriors, impa-

\* The shell banks in the western towns of Suffolk county, are much larger and more numerous than in the eastern towns, where shell-fish are as abundant, which proves that the western part of the island had been the longest settled, and that the Indian emigration proceeded from west to east.

tient to try their strength and obtain distinction, are perpetual sources of discord among them. Their manner of conducting hostilities—the cruelty of the victors—the destruction of prisoners, and the national and hereditary feuds which these engender, are unfailing sources of consumption among them.

#### INDIAN WARS.

The confederacy of the Iroquois, or Five Tribes, in the northern and western parts of this state, constituted the most powerful Indian force in the country, at the time of its first settlement. The earliest writers state that they had subdued all the Indian tribes within a considerable distance, in every direction. They had extended their conquests from the Hudson to Connecticut river, and as far southward as Manhattan Island. It seems also that they had passed over to the west end of Long-Island, and subdued the Canarse Indians, who were the principal, if not the only tribe in Kings county.

At the time of the first settlement of the island, these Indians paid their conquerors an annual tribute of wampum and dried clams. There is a tradition among the Dutch, that they discontinued the payment of the tribute on the persuasion of the whites, in consequence of which a party of the conquerors came and destroyed the whole tribe, except a few who happened to be from home.

Some writers have stated that this conquest extended to the whole of Long-Island, and that all the Indians there paid them an annual tribute. There is no tradition in support of this allegation, and it is believed the conquest never extended beyond the territories of the Canarse Indians. This may have been owing to the fact that all the other Indians were in subjection to the Pequots, at the time the Iroquois made their inroads in this part of the country. It is well known that the Pequots never were subdued by the Iroquois, and it would have been a violation of their rules of warfare, to have turned their arms against a tributary people, while they had not subdued the power that held them in subjection.

When an Indian tribe is conquered and subjected to tribute, they have no longer the power of making war—are regarded as women, and it would be dishonourable for a brave people to molest them. If the tribe to which they are tributary should be vanquished and subdued, they then become tributary to the victor, and the refusal of the tribute would be, according to Indian customs, a cause of extermination.

It is also stated by our early writers, that at the time of the first settlement of the island, the Montauk sachem claimed



some authority over the whole country, from Montauk to Rockaway and Matinecoc, in virtue of a former conquest. He certainly exercised some kind of sovereignty over the whole territory. The first purchasers were anxious to have their purchase deeds signed by him, as well as by the chief of the tribe of whom the land was purchased. The confirmation deed of Hempstead in 1657, of Lloyd's Neck, and many others, are executed in this manner. In some of the original deeds, the Montauk chief is styled the sachem of Paumanacke, or Long-Island.

There seems to be sufficient evidence to warrant the belief, that the Montauk tribe was formerly the most powerful and warlike of any one on the island, and that they may have reduced the other tribes to some kind of subjection; but the superiority assumed by the chief of that tribe after the settlement of the country, may at least in part have been derived from another cause.

In 1643, the chiefs of the Montauks and the neighbouring tribes put themselves under the government of the commissioners of the united colonies.

In 1651, the commissioners made a certain chief, who is supposed to have been the sachem of Montauk, chief sachem of the Long Island Indians. The authority attached to this appointment by the commissioners, might have contributed to the ascendancy which he enjoyed with the whites, as well as with the Indians.

There is no doubt, that the Pequots of the eastern part of Connecticut, during the period of their power, extended their conquests to Long-Island. It is also pretty evident, that the conquest of the island by the Montauks, preceded that of the Pequots, perhaps many years.

At the time of the first settlement of New-England, the Montauks were in subjection to the Pequots. The Montauk chiefs, when they applied to be taken under the protection of the united colonies in 1643, assured the commissioners, that they "had been tributaries to the English ever since the Pequot war, and that they had never injured the English or the Dutch, but had been friendly to both,"—which implied that they had been subject to the Pequots, and followed their fate.

The subjection of the Montauks involved the subjection of all the tribes that were subject to them, and the conquest of the Pequots must have embraced all the tribes on the island east of the Canarse territory.



In 1654, a war broke out between the Montauk and the Narragansett and Block-Island Indians, which lasted six or seven years, and proved very destructive to both sides, but most injurious to the Montauks. Their warriors were surprised and surrendered on honourable terms, and were afterwards treacherously massacred. The enemy invaded their territory, and would have extirpated the whole tribe, if they had not found protection in the humanity of the people of East Hampton. They were obliged to abandon their villages, and to flee for refuge to East Hampton, where they were kindly received, sustained, and protected. They continued to reside in that town several years before they deemed it safe to return to Montauk.

It seems that some apprehensions were entertained, that the Narragansetts would pursue the Montauk Indians and attack them in East Hampton.

October, 1660. The Commissioners of the United Colonies ordered the people of East Hampton, in case the Narragansetts came within six miles of the town, to remove them peaceably; but if they pursued the Montauks to the English houses, or within two miles of any town, they authorized them to attack them.

The Indians of Montauk were not insensible of the kindness they had received in their extremity from the people of East Hampton, and have left on record the strongest expressions of gratitude in the preamble to the deed which they gave to the people of that town, for lands on Montauk, the 11th of February, 1661.

In one of their enterprises the Narragansetts, among others, took the daughter of Wyandance, the chief Sachem, prisoner; who was ransomed by the aid of Lyon Gardiner,\* the first pro-

\* Lyon Gardiner was a Scotchman, and had served as a Lieutenant in the British army in the low countries; he came over in 1635, and erected the fort at Saybrook, under lords Say and Seal, Brooke, and others, and had the command of the garrison until the fall of 1639, when he removed to the Island that has since been called after him, which he had purchased of the native proprietors, and was confirmed to him by a deed from James Farrett, "deputy of the Right Honorable the Earl of Stirling, Secretary of the Kingdom of Scotland," bearing date the 10th March, 1639.

Lyon Gardiner's son David, born at Saybrook, 29th April, 1636, is supposed to have been the first white child born in the bounds of Connecticut; and his daughter Elizabeth, born on the Island September 14, 1641, may have been the first English child born within the territory of New-York. Lieutenant Gardiner carried several families with him to the Island, probably for security, as they removed to East Hampton as soon as that town was settled. He seems to have been in great estimation, both with the English and Indians. Wyandance in 1659, presented him a deed for the territory which now forms the town of Smith Town, in gratitude for the favours he had received from him, and he and his son were by him appointed the guardians of the young Sachem, Wiancombone. He removed to East Hampton in 1655, and was frequently if not uniformly chosen to the magistracy of that town till his death, in 1663.

prietor of Gardiner's Island, in gratitude for which the chief in 1659, presented him with a deed for the territory which now forms the town of Smithtown.

These various and successive general wars, with such as may have taken place between separate tribes, must have contributed greatly to reduce the numbers belonging to the several tribes, and to render the whole Island much less populous than it would otherwise have been at the time of the first settlement of the country.

It may not be improper to add, that it was a tradition of the Indians in some part of the Island, that the natives had been greatly diminished by a raging pestilence a few years before the arrival of the whites among them.

Of all the tribes that were found on Long-Island, there remain only a few families of the Montauks and Shinecoocs, with a few scattering ones at different places, on the south side of the Island.

#### STATE OF SOCIETY AMONG THE INDIANS.

The Indians on Long-Island raised corn and vegetables, and these with the deer, wild fowl, and various kinds of shell fish, and other fish that abounded on the Island, must have afforded them easy and ample means of subsistence; yet notwithstanding these advantages, they still continued in the hunter state, and had made no advances in the arts, which are usually first cultivated in the infancy of society. They were not distinguished by their dwellings, their clothing, their domestic utensils, or weapons from the natives of the interior. Except their canoes of which those that belonged to the chiefs were very large, and their arrow heads, which were curiously wrought out of the hardest stone—the only materials of art among them, seem to have been some rude vessels of earth hardened in the fire, and these are sometimes found in their shell banks.\*

The same causes that diminished their numbers and prevented their increase, contributed to retard their progress in improvement and civilization.

Gardiner's Island, which at the death of Lyon Gardiner in 1663, was appraised at 700*l*, now pays about one sixth part of the taxes of East Hampton. It has continued entire in the family, and now belongs to David Gardiner, the eldest son of the late John Lyon Gardiner, Esquire, the eighth lineal descendant from Lyon Gardiner.

\* The Indians had a substitute for money, called wampum, which passed currently among them; it was made out of the shells of different species of shell fish, in the form of beads—and shows that some standard of value is essential to social intercourse in the rudest state of society. The Dutch and English both, either from necessity or convenience, resorted to the use of this Indian money, and the value of it was regulated by law. Belts made of wampum were exchanged at the treaties between different tribes, as symbols to perpetuate the memory of the transaction.

The Indians had certain festivals, in which it was supposed they worshipped evil spirits, and by the Duke's laws of 1665, it was enacted that "no Indian should be suffered to pawaw, or perform worship to the devil in any town within the government."

The language of the Montauk Indians was probably the same, or nearly the same as that of the Pequots, and differed but little from that of the Narragansetts, the Massachusetts, and other New-England tribes, and is supposed to have been the common language of all the Long Island Indians.\*

\* It is supposed that there were only two original Indian languages in the United States, north of the Roanoake, viz. the Delaware, and the Iroquois.—The languages of the different tribes in New-England, and of most of the Indian tribes from the Mississippi to Nova-Scotia, are only different dialects of the Delaware language. The structure of the Indian language is different from that of all known languages, ancient or modern, and there is a great analogy in this respect between those that are radically distinct. The Indian languages have no substantive verb, and have no distinction of genders.—The nouns are not varied to distinguish between male and female, but between animate and inanimate things.—They admit of prefixes and suffixes, and sometimes blend several words together, so as to make a whole sentence of a single long word. These languages are made up of these combinations; not only pronouns, but adjectives, conjunctions, and adverbs, are combined with the verb and produce a great variety of forms of expression, and render them peculiarly copious and expressive.

The following Indian words are taken from a manuscript of the late John Lyon Gardiner, Esquire, deceased, who took them down from the lips of the Montauk chief, and is the only specimen of the language that could be obtained.

Massakeat mund	great good spirit		
Machees cund	evil spirit		
Saunchem	king		
Seaunskq	queen	nucqut	one
Wonnux	white man	neeze	two
Wonnuxk	white woman	nisk	three
Inehun	an Indian	ynaw	four
Wewauchum	Indian corn	nepaw	five
Mausquesects	beans	conma	six
Ausgoote	pumpkins	nusus	seven
Quauhaug	a round clam	swans	eight
Suxawang	a long clam	phycoacon	nine
Tobaugsk	tobacco	paunck	ten
Cheaganan	a hatchet	cheesk	small
Niep	water	chiauk	large
Keagh or cage	land	weegan	good
Mashuee	a canoe	muttadeaio	bad
Machaweekst	a little child	wedaums	roast corn
Yunskquask	young woman	cat daus	boiled corn
Squashecs	little girl	seamp	pounded corn
Weenni	old woman	yeokeheag	roast corn pounded
Massakeat Mund sumaua Inshun wewanchum.	—Great Spirit, give Indian corn.		

At the time the above words were taken down, there were no more than seven persons among them who could speak the language, and it may now be considered as extinct.

MEASURES ADOPTED TO PRESERVE PEACE WITH THE  
INDIANS.

The Indians on Long-Island, at the time of the first settlement of the country, seem to have been less troublesome to the whites than the Indians north of the sound, and in the interior.

It does not appear that they ever formed any general combination against the first settlers, or interrupted the progress of their improvements.

There is no reason to believe that this exemption from Indian hostilities was owing to a better disposition, or milder character of the natives of the Island.

Individuals and small parties were often troublesome to the whites, and in some instances took their lives. An individual was murdered at Southold, in 1649, and several murders were committed by them in the towns under the Dutch, in 1652.

The towns sometimes apprehended danger from them. In 1647, and again, in 1655, the town of Hempstead was alarmed, and sent to the Dutch governor to apprize him of it.

In 1651, the town of East Hampton ordered the inhabitants to bring their arms with them to meeting on the Lord's day, under the penalty of 12d. for every neglect.

The Indians sometimes committed depredations on the property of the whites.

In 1657, they did considerable damage to the people of South Hampton, and in 1681, four Indians plundered a store in Huntington, and threatened the lives of the family.

The first settlers in every part of the Island, were in the practice of guarding their cattle which run at large, and it might have been to prevent the depredations of the Indians as well as the wild beasts. The number and character of the Indians rendered it prudent for the first settlers to guard against surprise, and to be prepared to resist any attack by them. The several towns required every inhabitant to furnish himself with arms and ammunition, and to assemble at an appointed place in case of an alarm. In some of the English towns a block house, or small fort was erected as a place of security in time of danger.

The people of Gravesend, in the infancy of the settlement, enclosed their village with palisadoes.

In 1656, the Dutch governor ordered Flatbush to be placed in a state of defence, by being enclosed with palisadoes.

In 1660, he issued a similar order with regard to Brooklyn and Utrecht, and ordered the farmers in the neighbourhood



to concentrate themselves within the villages under the penalty of confiscation.

It also appears, that the first settlers in the several towns generally settled near each other, so as to insure concert and mutual assistance in time of danger.

The first settlers used every precaution to preserve peace with the Indians. They endeavoured to conciliate the friendship of the natives by kind usage and an exchange of good offices.

In 1643, the Dutch governor, and in 1665 or 1666, the English governor, prohibited the sale of spirituous liquors to them.

In 1656, Jamaica imposed a fine of 30 guilders on any one who should sell strong drink to an Indian; and other towns adopted similar resolutions.

The Dutch governor in 1645, and the English in 1665, forbid the sale of arms and ammunition to the Indians.

In 1650, the town of East Hampton resolved, that whosoever should sell powder, lead, or shot, or sword, or flint, to any Indian, he should be liable to a penalty of 20 shillings; and if any one should sell a gun or pistol to one, he should pay £10.

The English and the Dutch both endeavoured to secure uninterrupted peace with the Indians by treaty. In 1643, the commissioners of the New-England colonies made a treaty with the Montauk chief, and either then or soon after made him grand sachem of the Long-Island Indians. This appointment must have augmented the influence he before possessed over more or less of the Long-Island Indians, and must have enabled him to curb any disposition manifested by them to disturb or annoy the whites.

In 1643, the year before the Dutch war with the Indians north of the Sound, the Dutch governor made a treaty with Pennowits, sachem, as is supposed, of the Matinecoc Indians.

In 1656, the Dutch governor made a treaty with Tackapausha, the sachem of the Marsapeague Indians, and the representative of five other tribes.

These were the most powerful tribes on the west part of the island, and the Dutch governor must by these means have secured peace with the Indians on Long-Island during the war with the northern Indians, as well as after that period.

Thus, the Dutch on the west and the English on the east end of the island, maintained a constant friendship with the Indian tribes in their respective neighborhoods; and while they were friendly with each other, the Indians from one end of the island to the other were friendly with both. It may



have been partly in consequence of the destruction of their warriors in their recent wars, and of their military spirit being broken by their subjection to successive conquerors—but was principally by cultivating the friendship of the chiefs, and particularly of the grand sachem of the whole—by uniform justice and kindness—by preventing excitement by artificial means—and by rendering success hopeless by withholding the means necessary to insure it, that the whites were exempted from any hostile combinations of the Long-Island Indians.

In 1655, Gravesend was surrounded by Indians, and was relieved from an attack by aid from the city: but it is evident that these were a detachment from the great body of northern and Raritan Indians, who had attacked the settlements on Staten-Island, and destroyed upwards of sixty of the inhabitants.

The fortification of the villages in the vicinity of New-York, by enclosures of palisadoes, was to secure them against the same Indians, who, from 1640 to 1663, committed many acts of hostility on the Dutch settlements.\*

That the Long-Island Indians were not concerned in these depredations is evinced by the fact, that the town of Hempstead, which was at a distance from other white settlements, in the midst of the Indian population, and more exposed than any other settlement, though sometimes alarmed, never suffered any attack by them.

There is no evidence that the Indians on Long-Island ever manifested the least inclination to unite with the northern In-

\* The statement of the text is supported by the authority of the Dutch records.

15th August, 1640. Several planters were massacred at Staten-Island.

1642. The governor ordered an attack on the savages.

26th February, 1643. The governor complains of the insolence of the savages for two or three years past—that they came in droves of 50 in sight of the fort—that they had taken horses, cows, hogs, and geese, and had murdered seven persons, and refused to give up the murderers, and ordered preparations for an attack.

1644. A general war was commenced with the savages.

5th September, 1655. A body of Indians landed near the fort at New-Amsterdam, in 64 canoes, containing from 500 to 900 warriors, on an expedition against the Indians on the east end of Long-Island. Some of them broke into a house, which provoked an affray. The Indians were attacked by a detachment from the fort, and compelled to embark; but they continued in the neighborhood three days, killed 50 persons, and took 100 prisoners—burnt 48 houses, and destroyed cattle, and did much damage. They landed on Staten-Island, massacred 67 persons—crossed the Narrows and surrounded Gravesend, which was relieved by aid from the city.

19th December, 1656. The Dutch governor proposed a league with New-England against the savages.

1658. The great massacre took place at Esopus.

7th February, 1660. The governor states that during his administration of twelve years, upwards of twenty persons, (meaning in time of peace) had been killed by the Indians.

7th January, 1663. Complaint is made that the Indians had killed 18 persons, and taken 10, and had burnt and destroyed houses and other property.

dians, against the Dutch. There is reason to believe that they would much more readily have united with the Dutch than with them. There is no evidence of any friendly intercourse between the Long-Island Indians and the Indians north of the Sound.

It is also admitted in the Dutch records, that the horde of northern and Raritan Indians, to the number of from 500 to 900, who landed near the fort in New-Amsterdam, or New-York, in September, 1655, and did so much injury there, had originally no hostile designs against that place, but were then on their route to the east end of Long-Island, to make war on the Indians there.

This belief is corroborated by the fact, that in the treaty made by the Dutch governor at Hempstead, the 12th March, 1656, with the great Marsapeague sachem, Tackapausha, who represented six tribes, the governor stipulated not to make peace with those Indians who did the damage at Manhattans, the 5th September, 1655, without including them; for which no other reason can be given that they were the enemies of the Long-Island Indians.

#### OF THE BATTLE AT FORT-NECK.

The only rencounter of any importance between the whites and the Indians on Long-Island, of which we have any account from history or tradition, is one that took place at Fort Neck, on the south side, in Oysterbay, which seems to have been the principal seat of the Marsapeague Indians.

The war in Europe between the Dutch and English, which continued from 1652 to 1654, excited a hostile spirit in their respective colonists. In the spring of 1653, it was believed that the Dutch government contemplated the expulsion of the English from the territories which they claimed, extending from the Delaware to Connecticut river, including the whole of Long-Island. A Dutch fleet was expected from Europe, and the Dutch governor was suspected of tampering with the Indians, to procure their co-operation.

The Indians in every direction, for a great distance, suddenly began to manifest a hostile carriage towards the English. Nine chiefs on Long-Island sent a messenger to Stamford, to inform the English that they had been offered guns, swords, ammunition, and clothing, by the Dutch officers, if they would join them to destroy the English.

Captain John Underhill was sent for from Flushing to New-Amsterdam, and subjected to an examination, for re-

peating what the Indians had declared respecting the attempts of the treasurer to enlist them against the English. The fact was proved, and the governor coolly "ordered the captain to depart"—meaning probably that he should leave the Dutch territory—which it is supposed he immediately did.

May 24th, 1653, captain Underhill wrote to the commissioners of the United Colonies, and represented to them that all the English were in extreme danger, and stated\* "that he had put his life in his hand to save English blood—that he was waiting their orders with loyalty to them and the parliament, to vindicate the rights of the nation."

The English towns on the island, as well those which had been settled under the Dutch as the English, were alarmed for their safety. The people of Hempstead wrote to Connecticut, representing the danger they were in, and solicited a supply of arms and ammunition.

26th March, 1653, the town of East Hampton resolved, that no person should sell any kind of provisions to the Indians, "during the time of the neighbour's plantation being in this posture."

15th April, they ordered "that there should be a watch and ward—that two men should watch every night, and one is to ward every day."

26th April, they resolved "that no Indian should come to the town unless on special occasion, and that no one should come armed, because that *the Dutch have hired Indians against the English*, and because the Indians had cast off their sachem."

6th May, they agreed to send to Connecticut for a firkin of powder, and shot equivalent, and ordered, "that every man on any alarm should appear forthwith at the meeting-house, and that no man should go from the town to work, or stay in another town, under the penalty of 40s. for every day's absence."

The commissioners of the United Colonies, with the exception of those of Massachusetts, were for declaring immediate war against the Dutch.

Captain Underhill in July went to Rhode-Island, for assistance, as is supposed, against the Indians on Long-Island, and "with such Englishmen as he could obtain, made the best defence in his power."

The records which we have been able to inspect furnish no further light on this subject. We are compelled therefore to

\* See Trumbull's History of Connecticut.

resort to tradition to learn the result of the state of things that then existed, in relation to the English and Indians on Long-Island.

The tradition is, that a considerable number of Indians collected at Marsapeague, with hostile intentions towards the English—that they resorted to a fort, the remains of which are said to be still visible, which they then constructed for their defence, or which had been erected on some former occasion for the like purpose—that they carried their women and children to some islands in the adjoining bay, which from that or the like circumstance are still called the Squaw-Islands, in like manner as the neck, where the fort was erected, has been distinguished by the name of Fort-Neck from that day to the present—and that captain John Underhill\* led a party against the savages, that he attacked them in the fort—destroyed a number of them, and took the fort, which he afterwards held to prevent the reunion of the Indians, and to enable him to watch their movements, and to guard the English settlements against their incursions.

16th April, 1663. In a communication of the Dutch governor, he complains that governor Winthrop, of Connecticut, had not, according to agreement, delivered up Fort Solomon, on Long-Island, to the Dutch.

It is presumed that Fort Solomon was the one on Fort-Neck. It was in Oysterbay, to more or less of which the Dutch laid claim, and was the only fort in possession of the English, within the territory which the Dutch at that time pretended to claim.

Whether captain Underhill received orders from the commissioners of the United Colonies, to go against the Indians,

\* Captain John Underhill came from England to Massachusetts. He had served as an officer in the British forces in the Low Countries, in Ireland, and at Cadiz, and he acted a distinguished part in the war with the Pequots, during the years 1636 and 1637. After the termination of that war, he removed to Connecticut, and settled at Stamford. He was a delegate from that town to the general court at New-Haven, in 1643, and was appointed an assistant justice there. During that year he was sent for by the Dutch governor, to take a command in the war which the Dutch were about to commence with the Indians, situated north of the Sound and west of the Connecticut settlements—which lasted till the summer of 1646, and was terminated by a great battle at Strickland's Plain, in Horseneck, in which the Dutch with difficulty obtained the victory. After the conclusion of this war, in which he acted a principal part, he settled at Flushing, on Long-Island. He had some agency in detecting and exposing the intrigues of the Dutch treasurer with the Indians in 1653. He wrote to the commissioners of the United Colonies, tendered them his services, and may have acted under their orders in attacking Fort-Neck. In 1665, he was a delegate from the town of Oysterbay to the Assembly held at Hempstead by governor Nicolls, and was appointed by him under sheriff of the North Riding of Yorkshire, or Queens county. In 1667, the Matinecoc Indians gave him 150 acres of land, which has remained in the family ever since, and is now in possession of one of his descendants that bears his name. It is supposed Captain Underhill died in 1672, at Oysterbay.



is not known. The measure seems to have been warranted by the state of things at the time, as it probably involved the preservation of the English settlements from massacre and devastation.

It is probable that the Indians had been gained over by the Dutch governor, or his officers, and had assembled in order to aid him in the projected enterprise against the English, and that the transaction took place in the fall of 1653.

The project of the Dutch governor miscarried by the defeat of the Dutch fleet, and the subsequent peace; and the Indians, being no longer excited by the same influence, became peaceable.

The colonists resumed their friendly relations, but the impression made on the minds of the English by the sanguinary project of the Dutch governor, was never effaced but by the conquest in 1664.

11th June, 1666. The English governor held a treaty at Hempstead, with Tackapuasha, the Marsapeague sachem, and the other tribes which had thrown off the authority of their grand sachem, and joined the Dutch; by which they made peace with the English and submitted to the government.

We have no further account of any difficulty with the Long-Island Indians until the time of King Philip's war. This was the most destructive Indian war in which the New-England colonies had ever been involved. This was commenced in June, 1675, and lasted till August, 1676; and during its continuance was attended with great destruction of property, and the loss of many valuable lives. From the proximity of the Narragansetts to Montauk, it was apprehended that the Long-Island Indians might be seduced by the Narragansetts, to aid them in their hostilities against the whites. To prevent this, the government determined to cut off all intercourse between them.

13th December, 1675, the governor ordered all the canoes east of Hell-gate, to be seized and delivered to the constables to be laid up and secured within three days; and also ordered that all such canoes as should be found in the Sound after that time, should be destroyed. This measure deprived the Indians of the means of crossing the Sound, and effectually prevented their lending any assistance to the hostile Indians.

Since that period, no danger seems to have been apprehended from the Indians on Long-Island; and from that time they have gradually diminished and disappeared, save their own few families are left.

, the governor.



OF THE  
POLITICAL CONDITION .

OF THE

*Several Towns on Long-Island, at different times.*



OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT.

The States General of the united Belgic provinces, in their grant to the Dutch West India Company, in 1621, reserved to themselves the power of commissioning the governor whom they should appoint.

The first governor, mentioned in the Dutch records, is Wouter Van Twiller, who arrived at New Amsterdam, (now New-York,) in June, 1629.

It is intimated in a letter of Governor Kieft, that Peter Minuit preceded Van Twiller, and possibly Minuit might have been preceded by some other.

William Kieft succeeded Van Twiller in March, 1638, and he was succeeded by Peter Stuyvesant in May, 1647, who continued in power until the conquest by the English, in 1664.

All the powers of government, executive, legislative, and judicial, were vested in the governor and council.

The governor, in concurrence with his council, directly or indirectly, appointed all public officers—framed all the laws, and decided all important controversies, heard appeals from subordinate magistrates, and required them to send such cases as were pending before them, to the council, to be decided as he thought fit.

12th April, 1660, the governor ordered the magistrates of Rustdorpe or Jamaica, to refer a certain cause then depending before them, to the council to be determined.

26th April, 1660, the magistrates of Middleburgh or Newtown, were ordered to do the same.

The governor and council had the sole prerogative over the public lands.

The Indian title was extinguished either by the governor  
In the . . . individuals, with his consent. Several treaties were ve-  
family ever s  
name. It is supposed c

ry early made for this purpose, with the Indians on Long-Island.

In 1635, the governor made a purchase of Flushing, and probably of other lands of a Chief, supposed to be the Sachem of the Matinecoc Indians.

In 1639, he made a treaty with Mechowit, the Sachem of the Marsapeague Indians, it is supposed for the like purpose.

In 1652, the governor annulled a purchase made of the Indians on Long-Island, by individuals, without his consent.

The governor, by letters patent, granted such lands as had been purchased of the Indians, to individuals or companies, for settlement.

These grants were usually, if not uniformly, made subject to a reservation or quit rent, of one tenth of the produce to become payable ten years after the date of the grant.

From the complaints of the delegates who met in 1653, to lay their grievances before the governor and council, it appears that the governor exercised his prerogative in a capricious manner, sometimes refusing lands to settlers, and at other times making large grants to favorites.

#### OF THE DUTCH TOWNS.

It appears that the Dutch towns were settled by the casual concurrence of individuals, without any previous regulations relative to their organization, or the administration of justice among them.

They were not made bodies politic, nor was there any general law on the subject.

In the infancy of the settlements, the governor appointed magistrates in the several villages with more or less power, as he judged proper, without any uniformity as to their number or title of office.

In 1660, on a petition of the inhabitants of New-Utrecht, he appointed a scout or constable, a secretary, and an assessor, with power to divide the land that was held in common, by lot among the proprietors—to see that the fields were fenced—to open a common street through the village—to erect a block-house in the centre, with a mill in it, and a well by it, at the common expense, and to decide all differences, “and to do as all other subaltern village courts are accustomed to do.”

From this it appears that the first magistrates in the several villages had full power to regulate the police, and provide for the security of the village.

After the settlers had become more numerous, and the towns were enlarged, they were permitted to choose their own magistrates, subject to the approbation of the governor.

It would also seem that the powers of the magistrates were then enlarged, but were not defined by any general law, and were in a great measure, discretionary.

In 1646, Brooklyn was permitted to choose two magistrates, who were authorized "to give judgment in all events as they should deem proper, not contrary to the charter of New Netherland," and to give complete effect to their authority, the governor ordered that if any one disobeyed the decision of the magistrates, he should forfeit his right to the lands within the village.

In 1661, the governor enlarged the powers of the magistrates, or rather established a new court, with larger and more definite powers than he had before granted. The magistrates who were chosen and allowed for this court, were authorized to decide all controversies between master and servant—master and apprentice—buyer and seller—landlord and tenant, and also to take cognizance of breaches of the peace, and other misdemeanors.

The Dutch towns seem to have been governed by the orders of the governor, the ordinances of police enjoined by their magistrates, and their judicial decisions made according to the rules of the civil law, which was the Dutch common law.

#### OF THE ENGLISH TOWNS.

In 1641, the governor and council consented that certain Englishmen with their minister, might settle within the Dutch territory—that they might hold land—enjoy liberty of conscience, and choose their own magistrates; subject to the approbation of the governor; on taking the oath of allegiance to the States General, and to the Dutch West-India Company.

It was in conformity with this resolution, that the towns of Hempstead, Gravesend, and Flushing, were incorporated, and that the towns of Jamaica and Newtown were settled. Hempstead and Gravesend were incorporated towns, and were authorized to nominate their own magistrates, who were to be presented to the governor for his approbation, and were respectively authorized to hold courts, civil and criminal, with a limited jurisdiction, and to establish ordinances for the welfare and good government of the town.

Flushing was also partially incorporated, but was by its charter, only authorized to elect a scout or constable with power to preserve good order, heal differences, and report all cases of importance to the governor.

It is probable that the people of Flushing were afterwards indulged with the power of choosing magistrates like the other towns.

The other English towns were permitted to elect their own magistrates, subject to the confirmation of the governor. It was the practice in all the English towns, to choose double the number to which they were entitled; out of which, the governor named those that should serve.

In all the English towns, the people chose a certain number of men, whom they called townsmen, to superintend the civil concerns of the town—they co-operated with the magistrates in the incorporated towns, and in other towns, made all such regulations as they judged proper, (except such as related to the admission of settlers and the granting of lands,) which were to be submitted to the town meetings, and might be annulled by them.

The English towns under the Dutch government, seem to have been governed, principally by the regulations prescribed by their magistrates and townsmen, with such as were adopted at the town meetings, and their courts seem to have proceeded, at least in the latter part of the time they were under the Dutch jurisdiction, if not uniformly, according to the rules of the English common law.

1st December, 1663, the town of Jamaica resolved by a vote of their town meeting, that the magistrates of that town "should proceed according to the laws of England, as near as they could."

It seems that the governor claimed the power of rejecting such magistrates as were obnoxious to him, and of removing such as had offended him, from office.

This arbitrary exercise of authority, was very unacceptable to the people and to the magistrates of the several villages, as well as to those of New Amsterdam.

It would also seem that the laws were not adequate to the exigencies of the times, nor adapted to the state of the colony. There was no general code of laws—there was no court of general jurisdiction established, and the governor and council were not competent to supply the defect.

The courts of the several towns were limited in their powers, and there was a great defect in the administration of justice.

Public insecurity produced general discontent—the people became dissatisfied with the existing state of things, and languished for the blessings of good government.

They at length determined to lay their grievances before the governor and council.

On an invitation of the burgomasters of New-Amsterdam, a convention of delegates from several towns, met in that city



the 26th of November, 1653, and adjourned to the 11th of December, ensuing, when delegates appeared from the City, Brooklyn, Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend, Newtown, Flushing, and Hempstead. They agreed on a remonstrance to the governor and council on the subject of their grievances, which was well drawn and couched in strong and spirited, but decent language. They remonstrated against the exclusion of the people from all share in legislation—against the operation of old and obsolete laws—against withholding grants of land to settlers—and against extravagant grants to particular individuals—against the appointment of magistrates without the consent of the people, and against the neglect of effectual provision for the defence of the country.

To this the governor and council gave no answer to the deputies, but entered a reply on their minutes, denied the right of some of the towns, particularly Brooklyn, Flatbush, and Flatlands, to send deputies, and protested against the meeting. In their observations on the remonstrance, the governor and council reflect much on the English, as the authors of the public discontent, and particularly on George Baxter, one of the deputies from the town of Gravesend, to whom they evidently impute the draught of the remonstrance.

The 13th of December the deputies presented another remonstrance, in which they declared, that if they could not obtain redress or protection from the governor and council, they must appeal to their superiors in the Netherlands. This so irritated the governor, that he ordered them to disperse, and forbid them to meet again.

At this period the country seems to have been overrun with robbers, and that there was no adequate authority to redress the evil.

April 7th, 1654, the magistrates of Brooklyn, Flatbush, and Flatlands, united in forming a military company against "robbers and pirates," and agreed that there should be a sergeant in each village.

April the 8th, 1654, the governor issued a proclamation against certain robbers, who (as he states) had been banished from New-England, and were wandering about on Long-Island.

In 1654, the governor refused to confirm the election of George Baxter\* and James Hubbard, who had been chosen

\* George Baxter had been an ensign, and James Hubbard a sergeant in the British service, and are so named in the charter of Gravesend. They both seem to have been men of considerable capacity, and were generally entrusted with the management of the public affairs of that town. Baxter seems to have been a man of talents



magistrates that year for the town of Gravesend. These two men were among the original patentees of the town, had been frequently chosen magistrates, and had uniformly enjoyed the confidence of their fellow-citizens.

The rejection or removal of these magistrates excited so great a ferment in Gravesend, that the governor found it necessary to go there to appease it. The 23d November, 1654, he accordingly went there, and to effect his purpose, he was obliged to avail himself of the influence of Lady Moody, a connection of Sir Henry Moody, one of the original patentees. He conceded the nomination of the magistrates that year to her, and her popularity reconciled the people to the measure and produced submission to the arbitrary act of the governor.

November, 1663, the governor, under the apprehension that it was the design of the English to invade the Dutch territories, convened a meeting of the magistrates of most of the Dutch villages at New-Amsterdam. The meeting was composed of the magistrates of New-Amsterdam, Rensselaerwick, Beverwick, Harlaem, Bergen, Staten-Island, Flatlands, Flatbush, Brooklyn, Utrecht, and Bushwick.

This convention, after hearing what the governor had to communicate, adjourned without doing any thing. The government had become unpopular; the Dutch were disgusted with it, and the English were anxious for a change.

The English towns under the Dutch jurisdiction, had for some time determined to withdraw themselves from the Dutch government. They had held a meeting at Hempstead the preceding winter, and had agreed to put themselves under the jurisdiction of Connecticut; in consequence of which, the general assembly of that colony, the 10th of March, 1663, appointed two commissioners "to go to Long-Island to settle the government, on the west end of the Island, according to the agreement at Hempstead in February last."

and education. In 1642, Governor Kieft appointed him his English Secretary, to write his letters, with a salary of 250 guilders a year, in consideration of his talents and knowledge of the English language and of the law. He was appointed by governor Stuyvesant himself, one of the commissioners, who negotiated the treaty of Hartford, in 1650, by which the boundary between the Dutch and English territories was established. He was one of the deputies to the convention that met in 1653, to lay the grievances of the country before the governor and council; and it was to him that the governor ascribed the spirited remonstrance which gave him such offence, which probably was the cause of his rejection and that of his colleague, with whom he had long been intimately associated. Baxter had been educated in the principles of English liberty, and could not endure the tyranny of the Dutch governor; his opposition to it made him the victim of his persecution, and it is supposed that he was obliged to leave the colony to escape his resentment.

In November, 1663, the English embodied at Jamaica in such force, that the governor with the deficient means in his power, and the feeble support to be expected from the Dutch whom he had disaffected, deemed any attempt to disperse them, to be in vain.

The colony continued in this perplexed and unsettled state till the ensuing year, when the English vessels arrived, and on the 27th August, old style, 1664, a treaty was signed, by which the colony of New-Netherlands was surrendered to the crown of Great-Britain.



## OF THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.

By the conquest the whole of Long-Island was incorporated with the colony of New-York, and became subject to the duke of York. The people of the English towns on the Island rejoiced at the conquest, and anticipated great benefits from the change.—They flattered themselves that they should be admitted to the common privilege of British subjects, of participating in the formation of the laws by which they were to be governed; but it was not long before they discovered that they had been too sanguine in their expectations.

Richard Nicolls, the deputy governor under the duke of York, on the first of March 1665, convened a meeting at Hempstead of two deputies from every town on the Island, and two from West Chester, for the purpose of organizing the colony government, and of adjusting disputed boundaries, and settling the limits of the several towns.

At this meeting it is presumed that Long-Island and Staten Island were erected into a shire, by the name of Yorkshire, and divided into three ridings.

Staten Island\* and Newtown, with the several towns in Kings county formed the west riding. The towns of Jamaica, Flushing, Hempstead, and Oysterbay, formed the north riding—and the towns in Suffolk county formed the east riding.

The governor appointed a high sheriff for the whole shire, and a deputy sheriff or high constable for each riding, and also a justice of the peace for each town.

\* By an order of the governor and court of assize 1645, Staten-Island was detached from Long-Island, and permitted "to have a jurisdiction itself;" and in 1683 was erected into a separate county. Newtown continued attached to Kings county until the organization of the counties by the first general assembly in 1683, when it was annexed to Queens county.

At the same meeting the governor promulgated a code of laws which were principally compiled from those of the other English colonies, and which he had caused to be framed for the government of the colony; which laws with the alterations and additions made to them from time to time, by the governor and court of assize, continued to be the laws of the colony until October 1683, when the first colony legislature met, and the people were admitted to a share in the legislative power.

These laws which are called the Duke's laws, authorized the several towns to elect a constable and eight overseers, who were the assessors of the town, and with the constable were empowered to make regulations respecting matters that concerned the welfare of the town.

The principal courts established by these laws were the town court, the court of sessions, and the court of assize. By subsequent amendments the town court was composed of the constable and two overseers, and had cognizance of all causes under five pounds. The justice of the peace was authorized but not required to preside in this court.

The court of sessions was established in each riding to be held twice a year, and was composed of the justices of the peace of the several towns in the riding, each of whom was allowed £20 a year, and had jurisdiction of all criminal causes, and of civil causes over £5.—The judgments of this court for sums under £20, were final; but from such as were for more than that sum, the parties might appeal to the court of assize; causes were tried in this court by a jury of seven men in civil causes, and in criminal cases not capital, and the verdict was determined by the voice of the majority, but in capital cases, the jury consisted of twelve men, and they were required to be unanimous.

By an order of the governor, the members of the council, the secretary of the colony, and the high sheriff, were authorized to sit with the justices in the court of sessions.\*

The court of assize was composed of the governor, and such magistrates as he chose to call to his assistance by warrant, and was held once a year in the city of New-York. Suits for

\* Kings county is the only one in which the records of the court of sessions at this early period are to be found. There is a regular series of the records of this court for that county, in the clerk's office, from 1663 to 1711. It appears from these records to have been a common practice for the secretary of the colony, a member of the council, or the high sheriff, to sit and act with the justices. In the records of the court, 13th December, 1671, Matthias Nicolls, the secretary, is styled president of the court. The court was held at Gravesend from its origin till 1686, when it was removed to Flatbush, by virtue of an act of the colony legislature. The clerk's office of Kings county is also the only place I have been able to find the acts of the first assembly for 1683, and 1684 entire, with one at least, which must have been passed in 1685.

demands exceeding £20, might be commenced in this court by permission of the governor, so that it had original as well as appellate jurisdiction, and it was a court of equity as well as of common law.

#### TYRANNY OF THE DUKE'S GOVERNMENT.

The Duke's laws made no provision for a general assembly, nor did they give the people any voice in the government.—The governor possessed unlimited power; he was commander in chief; all public officers were appointed by him, and held their offices during his pleasure; he retained the exclusive power of legislation, could make what laws he pleased, and alter or repeal them when he pleased.—He presided in the court of assize, which by appeal had the control of all inferior tribunals. The judgments and decrees of this court, were in fact those of the governor, his assistants not being colleagues, but merely advisers. In this court the governor united the character of both judge and legislator—he interpreted his own acts, and not only pronounced what the law was, but what it should be—all laws subsequent to the code first promulgated, except in one or two instances in which the governor acted alone, are stated in the caption or preface to have been made at the court of assize.\*

The court of assize was calculated and probably intended to lessen the responsibility of the governor, and to afford him a shelter from the reproaches of an injured people. There are various orders emanating from this court at different periods, altering the old laws or enforcing new ones, and some of them are partial and arbitrary, as is usually the case where the people have no share in legislation.

#### PUBLIC DISCONTENT.

The people considered some of the laws established by the original code as arbitrary and oppressive, and they deemed some that were afterwards published, still more exceptionable.

The English commissioners on their arrival here, and before the surrender of the colony by the Dutch governor, issued a

\* Smith, in his history of New-York states that the association of magistrates with the governor in this court, was an expedient of Lovelace. This seems to be a mistake—it was the case from its origin. Within a year after the publication of the original code, Nicolls sent some alterations to the several towns, which he states, "I have thought fit to communicate to you, and to advise you to act therein as by virtue of this my special warrant, until such time as they may be further enacted and confirmed at the next general assizes. Given under my hand, this 26th day of February, 1665-6."

"RICHARD NICOLLS."

There are also a variety of laws or orders in the several towns made at the court of assize, in September 1665-6, during Nicolls' administration.



proclamation in which they engaged that the inhabitants should not only be protected in their persons and property, but should enjoy "all other privileges with his majesty's English subjects."

The people contended that a participation in legislation was one of the privileges of an English subject, and that the faith of the government was pledged to grant them this privilege, and that a denial of it, was not only a breach of faith, but a violation of their constitutional rights.

This arbitrary exercise of authority resembled the tyranny of the Dutch governors, and produced the same excitement among the people.

They resolved to represent their complaints to the governor and court of assize, and solicit a redress of grievances.

On the 9th of November 1669, the towns of Hempstead, Jamaica, Oysterbay, Flushing, Newtown, Gravesend, West-Chester and East-Chester, severally petitioned the court of assize for redress.

They enumerated the defects in the existing laws, which they wished to be remedied—stated the provisions which they wished to be adopted—remonstrated against the restrictions which had been imposed on trade, and reprobated the exclusion of the people from any share in legislation. The court received the petition, granted some of their minor requests, but in the most important cases, refused any redress.

By an act made at the court of assize, 8th October 1670, a levy or contribution was ordered to be made in the several towns on Long-Island, to repair the fort at New-York.

The English colonists on Long-Island, even at this early period, held the doctrine that taxation and representation were inseparable—that the power of disposing of their own money was one of the elementary principles of British liberty, and that taxes could only be imposed with the consent of the people, by their representatives in a general assembly.

The governor had already subjected trade to some impositions, and was now undertaking to raise money by a direct tax, for general purposes without the consent of the people. Several of the towns were alarmed at the precedent about to be established, as dangerous to their liberties, and determined not to obey it until the great grievance of which they complained, was redressed.

The towns of South Old, South-Hampton, and East-Hampton, in a joint meeting by their delegates at South Old, agreed to contribute to the repairing of the fort, "if they might have the privileges that other of his majesty's subjects in these parts have and do enjoy."

24th June, 1672.—The town of East-Hampton, to whom the proceedings of the delegates were communicated, approved of the decision of the deputies, and agreed to comply with the order “if the privileges may be obtained, but not otherwise.”

The towns of Huntington, Flushing, Hempstead, and Jamaica, by votes of their respective town meetings, refused to comply with the order, and communicated the reasons of their refusal in writing, to their respective constables and overseers, to whom the order was sent.

The people of Huntington assigned this among other reasons, for their refusal, “because they were deprived of the liberties of Englishmen,” intimating that they deemed it a violation of their constitutional rights, that their money should be taken from them without their consent, by their representatives in a general assembly. The people of Jamaica, in justification of their refusal, alledged that a compliance with the order, would be contrary to the king’s instructions, which forbid any law to be enforced on the country that “was contrary to the laws of the nations.” That on the same principle that this order was imposed, they might “be required to maintain the garrison, and whatever else we know not, till there be no end; but if it may appear to us that it is the king’s absolute order to impose the said burdens, and disprivilege us contrary to his former good intentions and instructions, and contrary to the liberties his majesty’s subjects enjoy in all his territories and dominions, we shall with patience rest under the said burdens, until address be made to the king for relief.”

The votes of Flushing and Hempstead cannot be found; but it is supposed were to the like effect.

The constables of Flushing, Hempstead, and Jamaica, laid the resolutions of these towns before the court of sessions of the north riding, held at Jamaica; but it seems that the court did not act on them. They then laid them before the court of sessions of the west riding, which met the next week, December 21st, 1670, at Gravesend. That court, assisted by the secretary of the colony, and one of the council, after examining the writings containing the proceedings of the said town, “adjudged that the said papers were in themselves scandalous, illegal, and seditious, tending only to disaffect all the peaceable and well meaning subjects of his majesty, in these, his Royal Highness’s territories and dominions;” and further ordered “that the said papers should be presented to the governor and council for them to proceed on as they shall con-

“ceive will best tend to the suppression of such mischief as may arise by the impression of false suggestions and jealousies, in the minds of peaceable and well meaning subjects, in alienating them from their duty and obedience to the laws.”

Agreeably to this illegal order, the papers were presented to governor Lovelace, and were by him laid before the court of assize; and that arbitrary tribunal adjudged them to the flames, and ordered them to be publicly burnt by the common hangman.

#### RE-CONQUEST BY THE DUTCH.

During the war between the English and Dutch, which continued from 1672, to February, 1674, the Dutch attempted to recover their authority in this country. For this purpose they sent a small squadron with troops to re-take New-York, which on the 30th July, 1673, was most cowardly and treacherously surrendered to them by the commander of the fort, without firing a gun or making any kind of defence.

The commanders of the expedition appointed captain Anthony Colve governor of the colony, who immediately set about reinstating the Dutch government.

The magistrates of most, if not all the towns on Long-Island were summoned to New-York. The new governor sent orders, with instructions to the several towns, requiring them to take the oath of allegiance to the States General, and the prince of Orange.

The people of the Dutch towns, and of the English towns, that had been settled under the authority of the Dutch, submitted to the new government.

The governor sent William Kniff into Suffolk, with a commission and instructions, requiring the people there to take the oath of allegiance. The several towns in Suffolk consented to submit to the Dutch government, and to maintain a neutrality, but declined taking any oath that would bind them to take up arms against the crown of England.

The governor appointed new officers, and sent to Isaac Arnold, the new sheriff, and magistrates in Suffolk, propositions of accommodation, to gain over the people to his wishes. Among other things, he offered them liberty of conscience; security of property; the choice of their officers in the same way, in which the like privilege was enjoyed by the English towns under the Dutch government; the same share in government as the Dutch inhabitants; and consented that the

oath of allegiance should be so modified as to accommodate their scruples. It does not appear, however, that the people of Suffolk accepted of the propositions, or submitted to the governor's wishes.

The people of East Hampton, South-Hampton, and South Old, who probably had enjoyed the benefits of a participation in the legislative power during their union with the governments of New-Haven and Connecticut, could with difficulty endure the tyranny of the duke's government. They dreaded a return to it, and determined to attempt a renewal of their union with Connecticut. They appointed delegates to meet together to concert measures for that purpose, who applied to Connecticut to take them under her jurisdiction.

17th November, 1674. The town of South Old, in town meeting, declared themselves "to be under the government of his majesty's colony of Connecticut, and that they would use all lawful means so to continue."

18th December, 1674. The town of East-Hampton instructed the committee of that town, who had the management of the business, "to see that all lawful endeavours be put forth to the utmost, for our continuance under that government." Their attempts were unavailing, and they were obliged, however, reluctantly to continue under the duke of York.

The war terminated the 7th February 1674, and put an end to the authority of the Dutch governor.

#### RESTORATION OF THE DUKE'S GOVERNMENT.

The colony was surrendered to the English the 31st of October, the same year, and again became subject to the duke of York, who took out a new patent for it, appointed a new governor, and reinstated his former system of government.

The new governor, sir Edmund Andross, pursued the same arbitrary course as his predecessors; by a proclamation 26th November, 1674, he suspended a term of the court of sessions, in Suffolk county, and ordered the towns of Huntington and Setauket, to have their business for that term transacted at the ensuing court of sessions at Jamaica, in Queen's county; because the towns of East-Hampton, South-Hampton, and South Old had not returned the accounts of the constables and overseers of those towns to him according to his orders.

In April, 1682, the same governor arbitrarily summoned several of the inhabitants of Huntington to New-York, and imprisoned them without trial, and without being chargeable



with any legal offence, but as is supposed merely for having attended a meeting of delegates of the several towns, for the purpose of contriving the means of procuring a redress of grievances.

#### COLONY ASSEMBLY.

The arbitrary measures of the duke's governors, produced so much discontent, that he was at length compelled to admit the people to a share in the legislative power. The first general assembly met in October, 1683.

That assembly adopted a bill of rights; repealed some of the most obnoxious of the duke's laws; altered and amended others, and passed such new laws as they judged the circumstances of the colony required.

The innovations made by this assembly on the duke's laws for the administration of justice are contained in the act, published in the appendix to the second volume of the revised laws of 1813.

The assembly met again in October, 1684; abolished the court of assize; made further alterations in the duke's laws; and enacted several new ones.

A new Assembly was chosen in September 1685,\* and probably met in October ensuing, but we have very little knowledge of their transactions. No other assembly was chosen till after the revolution in 1691.

#### ARBITRARY ACTS OF THE GOVERNORS.

After the organization of the colony legislature in 1683, the governor still retained many prerogatives which he exercised in an arbitrary manner. He retained the whole power over the public lands, no purchase could be made without his license, and no purchase was of any avail unless confirmed by patent, and for this he extracted such sums as his avarice dictated.

The expense of the third and last patent of Huntington amounted to £56, 18s. 3d. of which sum, £50 were paid to the governor and public officers.

\* "East-Hampton, September 21, 1685, at a town meeting, warned by special order from the governor, for the choosing of Assemblymen for the county of Suffolk; and this town, having made their choice, &c." they proceeded to appoint a committee to unite with the committees of the other towns, to draw up a statement of their grievances, to be laid before the assembly, &c. An act recorded in King's county, without date, directs that after the first of December next ensuing the date thereof, the court of sessions of that county, should be removed from Gravesend to Flatbush, and from the records of the court, it appears that the last court at Gravesend was held 7th October, 1685, and the first court at Flatbush was held 6th April, 1686, from which it is evident the act must have been passed in the fall of 1685. This is the only decisive evidence of the meeting of this assembly, that has been discovered in the public offices on the island.

The fees of patents constituted the principal perquisites of the governor, and the quit rent charged on them, formed no inconsiderable part of the public revenue. The interest which the governor had in these, operated as an inducement to multiply the patents, and to enlarge the quit rents as much as possible.

Most of the towns on the island, not excepting those settled under the Dutch government, whose lands were secured by the treaty of surrender, were induced by one pretext or another, to take out new patents from time to time, and in cases where the quit rent had been fixed in the original patent, it was sometimes, if not uniformly enlarged in the subsequent one.

In 1685, Governor Dongan issued a patent for lands in the town of Huntington, which in 1675, had been adjudged by the court of assize to be within the limits of the original patent of that town. The quit rent charged on the second patent of that town, was 20 shillings a year, and in the third patent it was enlarged to 40 shillings.

The same arbitrary spirit pervaded the administration of the colony government, after the duke of York had succeeded to the throne, in 1685, and had become king James II.

In 1686 Governor Dongan ordered the people of Huntington to purchase the lands within their patent, which had not then been purchased of the Indians, in order that they might be compelled to take out a new patent.

In 1686 or 1687, the same governor seized their patent, and before he would consent to grant a confirmation of it, they were obliged to raise £29, 4s. 7d. which he chose to exact for the price of a new patent, and for the favour of their former exemption from quit rent.

#### OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1688.

These, and the like arbitrary proceedings of the governors disgusted the people with the government, and prepared them to welcome the revolution of 1688, in favour of William and Mary, which promised to introduce a new era in favour of civil and religious liberty, and which terminated in the expulsion of James II. from the throne, and forever put an end to his authority.

The news of the proceedings in England, in favour of William and Mary in 1688, prompted certain persons in New-York, to endeavour to take the government out of the hands of the representatives of James II.

Captain Jacob Leisler, in June, 1689, put himself at the head of the party, and succeeded in seizing the fort; and as the first orders received from England were directed to such person as was in authority here, in the absence of the lieutenant governor, he immediately assumed the reins of government. He wrote to the several towns on the island, requiring each to send two men to aid in guarding the fort. The people in Kings and Queens submitted to his authority. The towns of Huntington and Brookhaven acknowledged him as lieutenant governor, but sent him no aid.

The eastern towns were jealous of his intentions, and at first refused to acknowledge his authority. East-Hampton even made some preparations to resist him, but on better information, these were abandoned; and after the failure of their negotiation with Connecticut, they all submitted to his authority. The towns of South Old, South-Hampton and East-Hampton, deemed the crisis favourable to a dissolution of their union with an arbitrary government; and while those transactions were taking place, which distracted the colony for several years, and laid the foundation of future divisions; they seized the occasion to open a negotiation with Connecticut, and made another unsuccessful effort, to put themselves under the jurisdiction of that colony, the laws and institutions of which were more congenial with their ideas of good government than those of any royal province.

#### OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT.

The royal governors, after the revolution of 1689, with a few honourable exceptions, resembled their predecessors in many respects. They manifested the same disposition to get what they could from the people, and the same inclination to rule without control, although they had less power to gratify their wishes. They still retained the sole prerogative over the public lands, and so exercised it as to subserve their own interests, and to gratify their favourites.

It was their constant endeavour to have a revenue established, independent of the control of the assembly, and to make the power of the council concurrent with that of the assembly, in bills relating to money matters. On these subjects, as well as others, they were frequently at strife with the assemblies, and often harrassed them by prorogations and dissolutions in order to worry them into a compliance with their favourite measures. The whole colony administration exhibits a constant conflict between the claims and encroachments of power on the one hand, and the spirit of liberty struggling to defeat them on the other.

The office of governor was usually bestowed as a reward for implicit devotion to power, or as a provision for the necessities of a favourite, whose sole object was his own emolument and that of his friends; and the whole history of the colony government evinced, that it was in vain to expect a patriotic devotion to the public welfare, from men who were not bound to the country by any ties of personal interest, or responsible to the country for the faithful discharge of their public trust; and that subserviency to the crown, and a disregard of the people, were vices inherent in the very nature of colony government.

The arbitrary conduct of the colony governors taught the people to investigate and to understand their rights, and seasonably to appreciate the danger of the measures of the mother country to their liberties, and prepared them for the revolution, which terminated in the independence of the country.

OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, AND SUFFERINGS DURING  
THE WAR.

The powers of the colony governor were suspended at the commencement of the revolution, and the government was administered by a provincial congress, aided by town and county committees. Public spirit supplied the place of authority, and gave the recommendations of those bodies the force of law.\*

The island was evacuated the 30th of August, 1776; and in October following, the county committees and the committees of the several towns, were by force or fear, prevailed on, by written declarations, to revoke and disannul all their proceedings, and to renounce the authority of the provincial and continental congresses; and the members of the several committees and the people generally, were obliged to take the oath of allegiance.

From 1776 to 1783, the island was occupied by the British troops. They traversed it from one end to the other, and were stationed at different places during the war. The whole country within the British lines was subject to martial law—the administration of justice was suspended—the army was a sanctuary for crimes and robbery, and the grossest offences were atoned by enlistment.

\* After the formation of the state constitution in 1777, the convention passed an ordinance for the organization of the government, in which provision was made for a representation of those parts of the state that were within the possession of the British, in the senate and assembly, by persons who had retired within the American lines, which continued during the war.



The massacre of General Woodhull, in cool blood, after he had surrendered, was a prelude to what others were to suffer who had taken an active part in favor of the revolution.\*

Many of those who had served as officers in the militia, or as members of the town and county committees, fled into the American lines for safety. Some of the most active of those that remained at home, were taken to New-York, and suffered a long and tedious imprisonment; others were harrassed and plundered of their property, and the inhabitants generally were subject to the orders, and their property to the disposal of the British officers.

They compelled the inhabitants to do all kinds of personal services—to work at their forts—to go with their teams on foraging parties, and to transport their cannon, ammunition, provisions, and baggage from place to place, as they changed quarters, and to go and come on the order of every petty officer who had the charge of the most trifling business.

In 1781, the town of Huntington was compelled to raise £176 by a general tax, as a commutation for personal labor, towards digging a well in the fort on Lloyd's Neck.

The officers seized and occupied the best rooms in the houses of the inhabitants. They compelled them to furnish blankets and fuel for the soldiers, and hay and grain for their horses. They pressed their horses and wagons for the use of the army; they took away their cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, and seized without ceremony and without any compensation, or for such only as they chose to make, for their own use, whatever they desired to gratify their wants or wishes.

In April, 1783, Sir Guy Carleton instituted a board of commissioners for the purpose of adjusting such demands against the British army, as had not been settled. The accounts of the people of the town of Huntington alone, for the property taken from them for the use of the army, which were supported, by receipts of British officers, or by other evidence which

\* General Nathaniel Woodhull was a distinguished citizen of Suffolk county; he was a delegate from that county to the provincial congress, and was president of the "convention of the representatives of the state of New-York," which ratified the declaration of independence on the part of this state, and afterwards framed our original state constitution.

General Woodhull, very soon after the meeting of the convention, left his seat to take the command of the militia of Long-Island, on the invasion of the British army.

After the retreat of the American troops, the militia dispersed and set out for home. The general remained in the rear, waiting, as is supposed, for the return of a messenger, whom he had sent to the conventioo, and was overtaken alone by a troop of British horse, accompanied by some ruffians, as pilots; he immediately surrendered, but in defiance of the laws of war, the rules of honour, and the principles of humanity, he was suffered by the officers to be so cut and mangled, that he died of his wounds a few days after his capture.

were prepared to be laid before the board, amounted to £7249 9s. 6d. and these accounts were not supposed to comprise one fourth part of the property which was taken from them without compensation.

These accounts were sent to New-York to be laid before the board of commissioners, but they sailed for England without attending to them, and the people from whom the property was taken, were left (like their neighbors who had no receipts,) without redress. If the other parts of the Island suffered half as much in proportion, the whole Island must have sustained actual losses by the war, exceeding \$500,000, besides innumerable other injuries. The inhabitants suffered great abuse from the British refugees, who, whenever they could shelter themselves under any color of authority did all the injury in their power; many of these devoted themselves to robbery and pillage, and if they were detected, they enlisted, and this arrested the arm of justice, shielded them from punishment, and enabled them to bid defiance to those whom they had robbed and abused.

During the whole war, the inhabitants, especially those of Suffolk county, were perpetually exposed to the grossest insult and abuse; they had no property of a moveable nature that they could, properly speaking, call their own. They were oftentimes deprived of the stock necessary to the management of their farms, and were deterred from endeavoring to produce more than a bare subsistence, by the apprehension that a surplus would be wrested from them, either by the military authority of the purveyor, or by the ruffian hand of the plunderer.

Besides these violations of the rights of person and property, the British officers did many acts of barbarity for which there could be no apology; they made garrisons, store-houses, or stables, of the houses of public worship, in several towns, and particularly of such as belonged to the presbyterians.

In the fall of 1782, at the conclusion of the war, about the time the provisional articles of the treaty of peace were signed in Europe, colonel Thompson, (since said to be count Rumford,) who commanded the troops then stationed at Huntington, without any assignable purpose, except that of filling his own pockets, by its furnishing him with a pretended claim on the British treasury for the expense, caused a fort to be erected in Huntington, and without any possible motive, except to gratify a malignant disposition by vexing the people of Huntington, he placed it in the centre of the public burying ground, in defiance of a remonstrance of the trustees of the town, against the sacrilege of disturbing the ashes and destroying the monuments of the dead.

## HARDSHIPS IMPOSED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Much however as the people of Long-Island had suffered from the injustice, cruelty, and oppression of the common enemy, they were not suffered to taste the cup of liberty, until it was in some measure embittered by the unkindness of their friends.

It was their lot to be abandoned by their country, and left in the power of the enemy. It was their misfortune, and not their fault, that they were not within the American lines ; that they were disarmed and in subjection to their enemies, instead of being in the tented field and in arms against them.

By an act of the legislature of the state of New-York, passed the 17th March, 1783, in actions for damages to the property of persons within the American lines, those who had been compelled by military orders, and even by military force, to contribute to the damage, were prohibited from pleading the same in justification, or from giving the same in evidence on the general issue.

By another act, passed 6th May, 1784, a tax of £100,000 was imposed on the southern district, £37,000 of which was assigned to Long-Island, as a compensation to the other parts of the state, for not having been in a condition to take an active part in the war against the enemy.

Both these acts were violations of public law, were partial and oppressive in their operation, and fully proved that an abuse of power was not peculiar to the British parliament, but a common infirmity of human nature, and in conflicts of local interests fomented by local jealousies, might sometimes occur under the freest forms of government.

# APPENDIX.



## *Population of Long-Island at different periods.*

<i>A. D.</i>	1731	1771	1786	1790	1800	1810	1820
Kings,	2150	3623	3986	4495	5740	8303	11187
Queens,	7995	10980	13084	16014	16983	19336	20519
Suffolk,	7675	13128	13793	16440	19444	21113	24272
<hr/>							
Total—	17820	27731	30863	36949	42167	48752	56978

## *Population of the several towns.*

KINGS COUNTY.		1810	1820
Brooklyn,	-	4402	7175
Bushwick,	-	798	930
Flatbush,	-	1159	1027
Flatlands,	-	517	512
Gravesend,	-	520	534
New Utrecht,	-	907	1009
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		8303	11187
QUEENS COUNTY.		1810	1820*
Newtown,	-	2437	-
Jamaica	-	2110	-
Flushing,	-	2230	-
North Hempstead,	-	2750	-
Hempstead	-	5084	-
Oysterbay,	-	4725	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		19336	21519
SUFFOLK COUNTY.		1810	1820
East Hampton,	-	1480	1646
South Hampton,	-	3899	4229
Shelter Island,	-	329	389
Brook Haven,	-	4176	5218
Islip,	-	885	1156
Huntington,	-	4425	4935
Smithtown,	-	1592	1874
Riverhead,	-	1711	1857
Southold,	-	2613	2968
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		21113	24272

\* The Deputy who took the last census, omitted to distinguish the population of the several towns in Queens county.



*Proportion of white males to females.*

	Males	Females
Kings, - -	5096	4514
Queens, - -	9643	9040
Suffolk, - -	11761	11250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	26500	24804 as 13 to 12

*Employment of males over 16 years of age.*

	Agriculture	Commerce	Manufactures
Kings, - -	840	81	713
Queens, - -	4130	102	1119
Suffolk, - -	4642	342	1099
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9612	525	2931

Total males over 16,	-	-	-	14180
Employed in agriculture, commerce and manufactures,	-	-	-	13068
Unemployed,	-	-	-	1112

*Proportion of population of Long-Island to the city of New-York.*

	Long Island	City
1731 -	17820	8628 as 2 to 1
1771 -	27731	21163
1786 -	30863	23614
1790 -	36949	33131
1800 -	42167	60489
1810 -	48752	96373 as 1 to 2
1820 -	56978	139000 as 1 to 2½

*Proportion of population of Long-Island to the state of New-York.*

	Long-Island	State
1731 -	17820	50291 as 1 to 3
1771 -	27731	163338 as 1 to 6
1786 -	30863	238896 as 1 to 7
1790 -	36949	340120 as 1 to 9
1800 -	42167	586141 as 1 to 14
1810 -	48752	959049 as 1 to 19
1820 -	56978	1372812 as 1 to 24

*Proportion of population of the State of New-York to the United States.*

	New-York	United States
1790 -	340120	3950000 as 1 to 11
1800 -	686050	5305666 as 1 to 9
1810 -	959049	7230514 as 1 to 7
1820 -	1372812	9654415 as 1 to 7

*Valuation of the several towns in the counties of Kings,  
Queens, and Suffolk, in 1823.*

KINGS.—	Brooklyn,	-	\$2389899
	Flatbush,	-	422523
	Flatlands,	-	196704
	Bushwick,	-	257378
	New Utrecht,	-	304954
	Gravesend,	-	196047
			<hr/>
			\$3767505

QUEENS—	Oysterbay,	-	\$1575550
	Hempstead,	-	1017000
	North Hempstead,	-	1165250
	Flushing,	-	993200
	Newtown,	-	890780
	Jamaica,	-	698800
			<hr/>
			\$6340580

SUFFOLK—	East Hampton,	-	\$464060
	South Hampton,	-	960305
	Shelter Island,	-	105640
	South Old,	-	534920
	River Head,	-	267380
	Brook Haven,	-	969500
	Smith Town,	-	320078
	Huntington,	-	811480
	Islip,	-	279349
			<hr/>
			\$4712712

*Proportion of the valuation of Kings, Queens, and Suffolk, to  
the State, 1821.*

Kings,	-	\$3513164	
Queens,	-	5876775	
Suffolk,	-	4889474	whole state
		<hr/>	
		\$14279413	\$241283532 as 1 to 16

## OF THE CLIMATE OF LONG-ISLAND.

The influence of the sea which surrounds it, renders it more temperate than places in the same parallel of latitude in the interior. In the summer, it is regularly fanned by a sea breeze, which generally rises in the afternoon, but sometimes before; and extends more or less across the Island, according to the strength and continuance of the wind. These breezes have become so common in the winter, as to prevent the snow from covering the ground for any considerable length of time.

The west and south-west winds predominate in more than half the months in the year—the thermometer seldom sinks below zero in winter, and seldom rises higher than 90 degrees in summer. The mean temperature is about 51 degrees, which is the temperature of the springs and deep wells, and the weather is clear more than half the year.\*

\* The temperature of places in the same latitude, is modified by the elevation of the land, the state of cultivation, by their proximity to the sea, or large bodies of water that do not freeze, and by the courses of the predominant winds.

The temperature of the air decreases in the same latitude one degree, for about every 590 feet of the elevation of the place above the level of the sea. The elevation of Mexico, which is 7217 feet above the level of the sea, in latitude 19°, 18, reduces the temperature to that of places in latitude 33 30, on a level with the sea.

The United States are not as elevated above the level of the sea as Europe, and the difference is in favour of a milder temperature in the United States.

The climate of the United States has been estimated to be from 10 to 15 degrees colder, than the corresponding latitudes in Europe. From the description of the climate of France and Italy, by the Roman writers a few years before the christian era, the temperature of those countries could not then have been materially different from that of the United States at present. Their rivers were frozen solid, and the earth was covered with snow, more or less of the winter. Experience proves, that rivers do not congeal with any considerable solidity, until the thermometer is as low as 20; and in the United States, in the latitude of Italy, the thermometer at present is seldom below 20, more than a few days together during the winter. To produce the effects described, must have required quite as severe frost, as now prevails in the same latitude in the United States, if not more severe; and the same causes that have produced the change in the climate there, will have the same effect here, so far as they are common to both countries.

The clearing and the cultivation of the country, is the most powerful cause that has contributed to this effect, and will have great influence in meliorating the climate of the United States.—The timber which covers an uncultivated country, shields it from the rays of the sun, and deprives the earth of the heat derived from that source. It is proved by experiment, that the temperature of cleared land is 10 degrees greater than that of land covered with timber.

Evaporation and rain are sources of cold, and are more abundant in a country covered with timber, than in a cleared country—more moisture is supposed to evaporate from the leaves, or a given quantity of green timber, than from the same extent of water. Great evaporation produces frequent rains, and these again produce evaporation; and the reciprocal operation of these causes contribute to cool the earth, and reduce the temperature of the atmosphere. The influence of these causes is lessened by cultivation; the earth becomes drier and warmer, and the temperature of the air is increased. The air from the sea also has a powerful effect on the climate—the sea is 8 or 10 degrees warmer in winter, and cooler in summer than the earth; and in proportion as the country is cleared, the air from the sea penetrates further into the country—moderates the heat in summer, and the cold in winter, and operates to render the temperature of the seasons more mild and uniform. The air from the great lakes

The temperature at Huntington, which lies in latitude about 40d. 52m. midway between the latitude of the east and west ends of the island, will give pretty nearly the average temperature of the whole island.

The mean temperature of the several months in the year,

	From 1st Sept. 1821, to 1st do. 1822.	From 1st Sept. 1823, to 1st do. 1824
September,	69	62
October,	54	51
November,	42	39
December,	31	35
January,	26	34
February,	29	32
March,	42	36
April,	49	49
May,	63	57
June,	65	69
July	75	74
August	71	70
	51.20	50.40

<i>Greatest Heat, and</i>		<i>greatest Cold, at Huntington.</i>	
1822, July 4th	94	1822, Jan. 5th,	5 below zero.
do. 20	94	do. 14,	4 do.
1824, July 10	90	do. 24,	at zero.
18		do. 25,	2 below.
31		1824, Dec. 18,	11 above zero
Aug. 22	90	Feb. 5,	3 do
Greatest Range of the } thermometer, }		1822	- 98
		1824	- 94

must have a corresponding effect on the adjoining country—must modify the temperature of the opposite seasons of heat and cold, and meliorate the climate.

The climate is also affected by the course of the winds; formerly on Long-Island, the north-west was the predominant wind in the winter months, and the north-east wind generally prevailed in the spring, and sometimes in the fall; at present the west and south-west winds are the predominant winds, more than half the months in the year. These winds either come from the sea, or blow over a country less cold than that traversed by the north-west and north east winds, and are more temperate than those winds were. The climate is evidently undergoing a change and becoming more uniform; the winters are not as cold, nor the summers as hot as they formerly were.



*Predominant Winds at Huntington.*

From 1st Sept. 1821, to 1st Sept. 1822.		From 1st Sept. 1823, to 1st Sept. 1824.	
September,	west	September,	east
October,	west	October,	south-west
November,	west	November,	do.
December,	west	December,	west
January,	south-west	January,	west
February,	do.	February,	south-west
March,	do.	March,	east
April,	east	April,	south-west
May,	south-west	May,	do.
June,	west	June,	do.
July,	south-west	July,	west
August,	do.	August,	south-west

Courses of Winds.		Courses of Winds.	
North,	14	North,	18
North-west,	24	North-west,	60
North-east,	36	North-east,	36
East,	48	East,	52
South-east,	21	South-east,	22
South,	26	South,	25
South-west,	102	South-west,	91
West,	94	West,	61
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	355		365

State of the weather for 455 days from the 1st September. 1821.

Clear,	270
Cloudy,	113
Rainy,	51
Snow,	21—455

Temperature of wells in Huntington, 15th August, 1823, water from 4 to 6 feet deep.

Depth.	Temperature at bottom.		Surface.
10	-	65	- 66
16	-	57	- 58
25	-	53	- 54
43	-	50	- 51
Boiling springs,	-		51*

\* For the meteorological observations of the town of Huntington, I am indebted to the kindness of Christopher Meng, esq. of that town.

The mean temperature of the following places was ascertained to be as follows, a few years since :

Latitude.			Mean temperature.		Range of therm.
44	-	Vermont,	-	43	- 120
43.57	-	Sackett's-Harbour,	48.48	-	86
43.39	-	Portland,	-	45.05	- 112
42.40	-	Detroit,	-	50.31	- 116
42.22	-	Boston,	-	47 30	- 100
41.25	-	Newport,	-	50.03	- 96
39.57	-	Philadelphia,	53.32	-	98
39 <sup>o</sup> 6 30"	-	Cincinnati,	-	54.25	- 100
37.16	-	Williamsburgh,	59	-	104

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS ALLUDED TO IN THE TEXT.

*The original social contract of the people of East-Hampton, adopted in 1655.*

Forasmuch as it has pleased the Almighty God, by the wise dispensation of his providence so to order and dispose of things, that we, the inhabitants of East-Hampton, are now dwelling together ; the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people, there should be an orderly and decent government established, according to God, to order and dispose as occasion shall require ; we do therefore associate and conjoin ourselves and successors, to be one town or corporation, and do for ourselves and successors and such as shall be adjoined to us at any time hereafter, enter into combination and confederation together, to maintain and preserve the purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we now possess ; as also the discipline of the church, which according to the truth of said gospel, is now practised among us ; as also in our civil affairs, to be guarded and governed by such laws and orders as shall be made according to God, and which by the vote of the major part, shall be in force among us. Furthermore, we do engage ourselves, that in all votes for choosing officers or making orders, that it be according to conscience and our best light. And also we do engage ourselves by this combination to stand to and maintain the authority of the several officers of the town in their determinations and actions, according to their orders and laws, that either are or shall be made, not swerving therefrom. In witness whereof, &c.\*

\* The first settlers of the several towns in Connecticut seem to have entered into formal contracts of this nature. The preceding is said to have been taken from that of Windsor, and it is probable that the several English towns on Long-Island in their origin, more or less formally adopted similar compacts.

*A list of the deputies from the several towns on Long-Island, and from the town of Westchester. which composed the general assembly, convened at Hempstead by Richard Nicolls, the 1st of March, 1665.*

<i>New-Utrecht,</i>	Jaques Cortelleau, Younger Hope,
<i>Gravesend,</i>	James Hubbard, John Bowne,
<i>Flatlands,</i>	Elbert Elbertson, Reloffe Martens,
<i>Flatbush,</i>	John Striker, Hendrick Gucksen,
<i>Bushwick,</i>	John Stealman, Gisbert Tunis,
<i>Brooklin,</i>	Hendrick Lubbertzen, John Evertsen,
<i>New-Town,</i>	Richard Betts, John Coe,
<i>Flushing,</i>	Elias Doughty, Richard Cornhill,
<i>Jamaica,</i>	Daniel Denton, Thomas Benedict,
<i>Hempstead,</i>	John Hicks, Robert Jackson,
<i>Oysterbay,</i>	John Underhill, Matthias Harvey,
<i>Huntington,</i>	Jonas Wood, John Ketcham,
<i>Brook Haven,</i>	Daniel Lane, Roger Barton,
<i>Southold,</i>	William Wells, John Youngs,
<i>South-Hampton,</i>	Thomas Topping, John Howell,
<i>East-Hampton,</i>	Thomas Baker, John Stratton,
<i>Westchester,</i>	Edward Jessup, ——— Quimby.

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT,  
RELATIVE TO LONG-ISLAND.

At a session of the general assembly at Hartford, March 10th, 1663.

This court have voted Mr. Wyllys and Mr. Matthew Allyn, to go over to Long-Island to settle the government on the west end of the Island, according to the agreement at Hempstead, in February last, and those gentlemen are desired to issue the matter twixt I. Scott and Bloomer, and they are further desired to take in with them the assistance of the commissioners in those towns, for the regulating of any disturbances as occasion is presented.

A true copy from the public records of the colony of Connecticut. Examined this 8th day of August, 1764, by

GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secretary.*

At a general assembly held at Hartford, May the 12th, 1664, for election.

Whereas, his Majesty hath been graciously pleased to confirm unto this colony, by charter, all that part of his dominions in New-England, bounded, as in the said charter is expressed, with the Islands adjoining.

This court doth declare, that they claim Long-Island for one of those adjoining Islands, expressed in the charter, except a precedent right doth appear, approved by his Majesty.

This court doth desire and request the worshipful governor, Mr. Matthew Allyn, Mr. Wyllys, and Captain Young, to go over to Long-Island, and to settle the English plantations on the Island, under this government, according to instructions given them.

The aforesaid committee are hereby authorized to erect and constitute quarter courts, or appoint other fit seasons for the keeping of court, for the administration of justice, that all cases may be tried according to law, (life, limbs, and banishment excepted,) and to do their endeavors so to settle matters, that the people may be both civilly, peaceably, and religiously governed in the English plantations, so as they may win the heathen to the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by their sober and religious conversation, as his Majesty our Lord and King requires in his gracious letters patent, granted to his subjects here, in this colony; and in case of crimes of a capital nature, they are to have liberty to take the opportunity of the courts of Fairfield or Hartford, the like liberty they have in case of review. They may also give oath to those who are accepted by this court for freemen on the Island, and to do what else they judge may conduce for the good of the colony.

A true copy from the public records of the colony of Connecticut. Examined this 8th day of August, 1764, by

GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secretary.*

*M W*















