

Pauw, another director, finding the best lands on the Hudson taken, purchased in June, 1630, the territory called Hoboken-Hacking, across the Hudson from New Amsterdam, and the next month Staten Island and the country south of his first purchase, now known as Jersey City. But these purchases, which included the more desirable of the company's lands, aroused the jealousy of the other directors who had secured none, and to appease them four others were admitted to a share in Rensselaerwyck. Settlers, horses, and cattle were soon sent to the latter, and in a few years it was a flourishing village. Pauw founded on his grant a village which he called the "Commune," and which no doubt gave its name to the later Communipaw.

But the company very soon found that the patroons were more intent on trading with the Indians than on clearing and cultivating their lands, and especially that they were buying and selling furs, which trade had been reserved as the exclusive right of the company, and a bitter quarrel arose over the matter which greatly hindered the growth of the colony. So violent did it become that it was carried to their High Mightinesses the States-General, who passed laws restricting the privileges of the patroons. Minuit had ratified the patroons' grants, and, it was charged, had in other ways favored them at the expense of the company, and this, with some minor charges of extravagance, led to his recall. He sailed for Holland in the ship *Veendracht*, in the spring of 1632. He had governed the infant settlement for six years, in general, it must be admitted, with wisdom, sagacity, and prudence.

### III. WOUTER VAN TWILLER.

AND now the directors sat in their great oak-paneled chamber in Amsterdam to choose a new governor. After much debate they fixed on Wouter Van Twiller as the man. You may have read in Diedrich Knickerbocker's "History of New York" that author's famous description of him. "He was exactly five feet six inches in height and six feet five inches in circumference. His head was a perfect sphere, and of such stupendous dimensions that Dame Nature, with all her sex's ingenuity, would have been puzzled to construct a neck capable of supporting it; wherefore she wisely declined the attempt, and settled it firmly on the top of his backbone just between the shoulders. His body was oblong and particularly capacious at bottom. His legs were short, but sturdy in proportion to the weight they had to sustain; so that, when erect, he had not a little the appearance of a beer barrel on skids."

But, burlesque aside, Van Twiller was a grotesque figure, a mountain of flesh, slow and narrow of mind, with a petty spirit, and a burgomaster's fondness for good dinners and sound wine. He owed his selection to the powerful patroon Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, whose niece he had married, and who desired for governor a person attached to his interests.

Van Twiller arrived early in April, 1633. As the ship's boat bore him and his retinue ashore, he saw, collected on the rude wharf, between two and three hundred men and women with stolid Dutch faces, the former clad in baggy, homespun breeches and loose blouses well worn and toil-stained, the latter in kerchiefs and short gowns; behind them a group of Indians looking curiously on; and beyond these crags and the somber forest, with here and there a clearing or cornfield.

The director's party took up its quarters in the fort, in the houses vacated by Minuit. One day soon after his arrival, as he sat with one of the newly arrived patrols, De Vries, on the fort parapet, smoking and chatting, he saw a vessel pass the Narrows and come up the bay with all sail set, round to, and anchor under the guns of the fort. Her straight lines and clean, shipshape appearance would have proclaimed her nationality even if the red cross of England had not flown at her peak. Quickly she dispatched a boat ashore in charge of an officer in resplendent scarlet uniform.

"What ship is that?" growled the director, as the boat grounded.

"The *William* of London, and last from Boston," replied the officer, doffing his hat and making a profound bow.

"Who commands?" continued the director.

"Jacob Eelkens," was the reply.

"I know the varlet," said De Vries, aside; "he was post trader at Fort Orange for the first company, and was discharged for petty thieving. Have a care, your Excellency."

"What doeth he here?" continued the director.

"Prithee, he would trade with the savage," replied the envoy.

Van Twiller frowned. Here was the old vexed question of English rights again; like Banquo's ghost, it would not down.

"He hath sent me to present his compliments," continued the officer, "and to invite your Excellency and the honorable councilors to dine with him to-morrow. He bade me say there shall be no lack of good wine and ale."

"Do not go," said De Vries; but Van Twiller had a weakness for the pleasures of the table, and accepted. Accordingly, next day two boats conveyed him, his councilors, and De Vries to the *William*, where they were received with due state and ceremony. At the dinner which followed, we have it on the authority of De Vries, the songs and mad capers of Van Twiller in his cups did grievously discredit the Dutch government and caused the English to laugh at his authority.

After lying five days before the fort Eelkens coolly announced that he should proceed to Fort Orange and trade with his old friends the Mohawks there. The conduct of Van Twiller on receiving this startling news shows the character of the man. He invited the whole crew of the *William* into the fort, and to overawe them ran up the tricolored flag, and fired a salute in honor of the Prince of Orange. But Eelkens, so far from being frightened, laughed and sent his gunner on board the *William*, with orders to fire a whole broadside in honor of King Charles; then, while the guns were still thun-

dering, he hurried aboard with his crew, weighed anchor, and sailed up the river, his men twirling their thumbs at the Dutch, who stood petrified with astonishment, making no attempt to hinder them. Van Twiller was the first to recover his wits. He called for a barrel of wine, broached it, and invited the entire populace—which had come running to the spot on the sound of the guns—to join him in drinking it; then, made valiant by the wine, he swung his hat and shouted: “All ye who love the Prince of Orange and me, emulate me in this, and aid me in repelling the violence of that Englishman.”

As soon as possible three armed vessels were made ready, and, with one hundred and four men at arms on board, the director stood up the river in pursuit. In the meantime Eelkens had arrived at a point about a mile below Fort Orange (Albany), where he raised a marquee, landed his cargo, and began a profitable trade with the Mohawks, who were delighted to meet again their old friend and ally. News of his invasion was quickly carried to Houten, the Dutch official in charge of Fort Orange, and he hastened down in his shallop, “wreathed in green boughs, with a trumpeter making stirring music,” and set up a rival booth beside the interloper’s, and did what he could to disparage his wares and hinder his trade. But Eelkens had new and superior goods, purchased with full knowledge of what the Indians required, and was fast disposing of his cargo when, fourteen days after his arrival, the Dutch fleet, which we left at New Amsterdam, hove in sight.

As soon as its commander could secure the aid of the soldiers in Fort Orange he sailed down to the English

marquee, and commanded Eelkens to take his goods and begone forthwith. But the trader not responding so quickly as he wished, he ordered his men to beat and disperse the Indians who were trading with him; then, unheeding Eelkens’s protests that he was on English soil and had a right to trade there, they pulled his tent about his ears, and hurried his goods on board the *William*, “sounding in their boat meantime a trumpet in disgrace of the English.” Then they escorted the *William* to the mouth of the river, or, to use Eelkens’s words: “The Dutch came along with us in their shallop, and they sticked green bowes all about her, and drank strong waters, and sounded their trumpet in a triumphing manner over us.” Thus a second time the English were defeated in asserting their claim to the Hudson; but in the end they triumphed, as we shall see.

Van Twiller soon had a deeper quarrel on his hands, this time with the English of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay. Both nations laid claim to the Connecticut River and its rich valley lands, the Dutch by virtue of Block’s discovery, the English by grant of their king. To strengthen their claim, the Dutch, in 1632, had purchased of the Indians the lands near the mouth of the river, and Van Twiller now sent his commissary, Jacob Van Curler, to buy a large tract on the upper river, on the site of the present city of Hartford, and further built there a trading post armed with two cannon, calling it the House of Good Hope. The English met this by establishing settlements on the Connecticut, whereupon Van Twiller sent an armed force of seventy men to clear the river; but they returned without striking a

blow, finding the English "very warlike, and the woods full of painted savages." This ended the doughty governor's campaigns against the English on the Connecticut, though both he and his successors continued to assert their claim to the "Great River."

In conducting the internal affairs of his little kingdom Van Twiller was more fortunate. He had some trouble with the powerful patroons, but no serious difficulty; he placated the Indians; he erected many public buildings and works, and he saw new farms and villages springing up about him. The patroon Pietersen de Vries purchased Staten Island and founded a colony there. The Walloon settlement, the first on the present site of Brooklyn, grew apace. Van Twiller completed Fort Amsterdam, and built a substantial dwelling of brick within it for himself, a parsonage and stables also for the Domine Bogardus, a country house for himself on his plantation, a brewery and boathouse, several mills, and dwellings for the smith, cooper, corporal, and other officers, all at the expense of the company. But when his bills were presented the directors objected, and partly on this account, partly because of charges made by De Vries and others that he was diverting the moneys of the company to his own use, the directors removed him, and appointed in his place Wilhelm Kieft, who took the oath of office at Amsterdam, September 2, 1637.

#### IV. WILHELM KIEFT.

AS soon as news of this reached New Amsterdam the people there began to talk about Kieft. They said he had become bankrupt as a merchant in Holland, and had been condemned to have his portrait fixed to the gallows, and when later he had been minister to Turkey he had kept the funds sent him to ransom Christian captives from the Turk, and left them to languish in captivity. They whispered such things as the new governor and his party stepped from the bark *Blessing*, on the 28th of March, 1638. The bystanders saw a little man with sharp, pinched features, a cold gray eye, a furtive, suspicious look and autocratic air; a man of good natural abilities, but undisciplined, of peppery temper, selfish, conceited, and tyrannical; the very man to embroil himself with his subjects, and his subjects with their neighbors. This he proceeded to do with great facility. He made oppressive and vexatious sumptuary laws,—that is, laws directing what the people should eat and what they should drink, and when they should sleep,—and as he enforced them with great rigor the whole colony was soon up in arms against him. Not liking the check imposed on him by the council, he dissolved it by a trick. The directors had given him the power of fixing the number of men in this council,