

The Wayfarer in New York

NEW YORK is a frontier city situated about half-way between San Francisco and London.

Edward Sandford Martin

In the year of Christ 1609 was the country of which we now propose to speak first founded and discovered at the expense of the General East India Company (though directing their aims and desires elsewhere) by the ship HALF MOON whereof Henry Hudson was master and factor.—*Remonstrance of New Netherland.*

THEN the Sunne arose, and we steered away north againe, and saw the land from the West by North, to the Northwest by North, all like broken Ilands, and our soundings were eleven and ten fathoms. Then wee looft in for the shoare, and faire by the shoare, we had seven fathoms. The course along the land we found to be North-east by North. From the land which we had first sight of, until we came to a great lake of water, as wee could judge it to bee, being drowned land, which made it to rise like Ilands, which was in length ten leagues. The mouth of that lake hath many shoalds, and the sea breaketh on them as it is cast out of the mouth of it. And from that Lake or Bay, the land lyeth North by East, and wee had a great streame out of the Bay ; and from thence our sounding was ten fathoms, two leagues from the land. At five of the clocke we anchored, being little winde, and rode in eight fathoms water, the night was faire. This night I found the land to hall the Compasse 8. degrees. For to the Northward off us we saw high Hills. For the day before we found not above 2. degrees of Variation. This is a very good Land to fall with, and the pleasant Land to see. . . .

The eleventh, was faire and very hot weather. At one of the clocke in the after-noone, wee weighed and went into the River, the wind at South South-west, little winde. Our soundings were seven, sixe, five, sixe, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteene, and fourteene fathomes. Then it shoalded againe, and came to five fathomes. Then wee Anchored, and saw that it was a very good Harbour for all windes, and rode all night. The people of the Countrey came aboard of us, making shew of love, and gave us Tobacco and Indian Wheat, and departed for that night ; but we durst not trust them.

The twelfth, very faire and hot. In the after-noone at two of the clocke wee weighed, the winde being variable, between the North and the North-west. So we turned into the River two leagues and Anchored. This morning at our first rode in the River, there came eight and twentie Canoes full of men, women and children to betray us : but we saw their intent, and suffered none of them to come aboard of us. At twelve of the clocke they departed. They brought with them Oysters and Beanes, whereoff wee bought some. They have great Tobacco pipes of yellow Copper, and Pots of Earth to dresse their meate in. It floweth South-east by South within.

The Thirteenth, faire weather, the wind Northerly.

At seven of the clocke in the morning, as the floud came we weighed, and turned foure miles into the River. The tide being done wee anchored. Then there came foure Canoes aboard : but we suffered none of them to come into our ship. They brought great store of very good Oysters aboard, which we bought for trifles. From the Log of

ROBERT JUET, as printed in
Purchas His Pilgrimes.

I

From The Battery To Trinity

Keep your splendid silent sun,
Keep your woods, O Nature, and the quiet places by the woods.
Keep your fields of clover and timothy, and your corn-fields
and orchards,
Keep the blossoming buckwheat fields where the Ninth-
month bees hum ;
Give me faces and streets—give me these phantoms inces-
sant and endless along the trottoirs !
Give me interminable eyes—give me women—give me
comrades and lovers by the thousand !
Let me see new ones every day — let me hold new ones by the
hand every day !
Give me such shows — give me the streets of Manhattan !

Walt Whitman

The Price of Manhattan

THE oldest known manuscript that relates to the local history of Manhattan, and the oldest manifest of a trading vessel cleared from its port, reads thus :—

High and Mighty Lords,

Here arrived yesterday the ship Arms of Amsterdam which on the 23rd September sailed from New Netherland out of the Mauritius River. They report that our people there are of good cheer and live peaceably. Their wives have also borne children there. They have bought the island Manhattes from the savages for the value of sixty guilders. It is 11,000 *morgens* in extent. They had all their grain sown by the middle of May and harvested by the middle of August. They send small samples of summer grain, such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, canary seed, beans and flax.

The cargo of the aforesaid ship is :

7246 beaver skins, 36 wildcat skins,
178 half otter skins, 33 minks,
675 otter skins, 34 rat skins,
48 mink skins, Much oak timber and nutwood.

Herewith

High and Mighty Lords, be commended to the grace of Almighty God.
At Amsterdam, the 5th of November, A^o 1626.

Your High Mightinesses' Obedient

P. SCHAGHEN

Written from Amsterdam to the States General at the Hague.

Quoted by Mrs. SCHUYLER VAN RENSSELAER in her *History of New York City in the Seventeenth Century*

The First Account of New York Printed in the English Language

NEW YORK is settled upon the west end of the island having that small arm of the sea which divides it from Long Island on the south side of it, which runs away eastward to New England, and is navigable though dangerous. For about ten miles from New York is a place called Hell Gate, which being a narrow passage, there runneth a violent stream both upon flood and ebb, and in the middle lieth some Islands of Rocks, which the current sets so violently upon that it threatens present shipwreck ; and upon the flood is a large Whirlpool, which continually sends forth a hideous roaring, enough to affright any stranger from passing any further, and to wait for some Charon to conduct him through ; yet to those that are well acquainted little or no danger ; yet a place of great defence against any enemy coming in that way, which a small Fortification would absolutely prevent and necessitate them to come in at the west end of Long Island, by Sandy Hook, where Nutten Island doth force them within command of the Fort at New York, which is one of the best Pieces of Defence in the north parts of America.

New York is built most of brick and stone, and covered with red and black tile, and the land being high, it gives at a distance a pleasing Aspect to the Spectators. The inhabitants consist most of English and Dutch, and have a considerable trade with the Indians, for beavers, otter, racoon skins, with other furs ; as also for bear, deer, and elk skins ; and are supplied with venison and fowl in the winter and fish in the summer by the Indians, which they buy at an easy rate ; and having the country round about them, they are continually furnished with such provisions as is needfull for the life of man, not only by the English and Dutch within their own, but likewise by the adjacent Colonies. DANIEL DENTON, 1670

Boy wanted, 1658

HONORABLE, WORSHIPFUL, WISE, PRUDENT GENTLEMEN : In regard to the salt, which your Honors suppose is quite plenty at the Mannhattans, you are mistaken. We have only a hog's-head and a half, and can hardly get any there for money. Hardly a cup of salt can be had for extraordinary occasions ; this causes great discontent and uproar. In well regulated places it happens that scarcity and want occur. Much more is this the case in a colony far distant and newly begun. Such a colony ought to be provided for one year with whatever is not produced there or procured easily from others.

Little or no butter is to be had here, and less cheese. Whenever any one is about to go on a journey he can get hardly anything more than dry bread, or he must carry along a pot or kettles to cook some food. Therefore, as a reminder, I say once more that it would be well if some rye meal, cheese, and such things were sent in all the ships. As horses are required here for agriculture, means should be found of sending a good supply of horses.

In regard to the fort, it is in a great state of decay. I have resolved on building a house of planks about fifty feet in length and twenty in breadth ; also I have had one-third of the house, in which I have been lodging very uncomfortably, repaired, yet the greater part of it is still so leaky that it is only with great difficulty that anything can be kept dry. We shall be obliged to pull down and rebuild the soldiers' barracks immediately.

I had expected, at least, a supply of provisions in the ship which had just arrived. There is a set of insolent fellows on board of her who will not turn a hand to work if there be anything

to do, and there never is any one to be hired for such work. Laborers will not stir for less than a dollar a day. Carpenters, masons and other mechanics earn four guilders ; this amounts to much in extensive works.

There is no reason or plea for refusing to supply the settlers, who have been here some time from our common store, in exchange for their money. There is no merchant's store here, and scarcely any one who has provisions for sale, for the daily supply of the inhabitants ; nay, not even bread, although there are over six hundred souls in this place. Whoever has anything will not sell it, and who so has none, cannot. Things are here in their infancy, and demand time. Many who come hither are as poor as worms and lazy withal, and will not work unless compelled by necessity.

Send in the spring, or in the ships sailing in December, a large number of strong and hard working men. Should they not be forth coming at the right time, their places can be filled with boys of fifteen, sixteen, seventeen years and over. Bear in mind that the boys be healthy and strong. Whatever is done here must be done by labor.

The children sent over from the almshouse have arrived safely, and were in such demand that all are bound out among the inhabitants ; the oldest for two years, most of the others for three years, and the youngest for four years. They are to earn forty, sixty, and eighty guilders during the period, and at the end of the term, will be fitted out in the same manner as they are at present. Please to continue sending others from time to time; but, if possible, none ought to come under fifteen years of age. They ought to be somewhat strong, as little profit is to be expected here without labor.

'Tis as yet somewhat too soon to send many women or a multitude of little children ; it will be more advisable and safer when crops are gathered, when abundance prevails, and everything is cheaper.

I might enlarge upon this account, but time does not permit, as the sloop by which I send it, is ready to sail.

From a letter by J. ALRICHS (1658) to the Dutch Company

A Schoolmaster's Duties, 1661

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND COUNCIL OF NEW NETHERLAND :—The Schout and Schepens of the Court of Breuckelen respectfully represent that they found it necessary that a Court Messenger was required for the Schepens' Chamber, to be occasionally employed in the Village of Breuckelen and all around where he may be needed, as well to serve summons, as also to conduct the service of the Church, and to sing on Sundays ; to take charge of the School, dig graves, etc., ring the Bell, and perform whatever else may be required : Therefore, the Petitioners, with your Honors' approbation, have thought proper to accept for so highly necessary an office a suitable person who is now come before them, one Carel van Beauvois, to whom they have hereby appropriated a sum of fl. 150, besides a free dwelling ; and whereas the Petitioners are apprehensive that the aforesaid C. v. Beauvois would not and cannot do the work for the sum aforesaid, and the Petitioners are not able to promise him any more, therefore the Petitioners, with all humble and proper reverence, request your Honors to be pleased to lend them a helping hand, in order thus to receive the needful assistance. Herewith, awaiting your Honors' kind and favorable answer, and commending ourselves. Honorable, wise, prudent, and most discreet Gentlemen, to your

favor, we pray for your Honors God's protection, together with a happy and prosper-ous administration unto Salvation.

Your Honors' servants and subjects.
The Schout and Schepens of the Village aforesaid.
By order of the same, . . .
ADRIAEN HEGEMAN, Secy, (translated by H. R. Stiles)

Why the Dutch Surrendered

THE Company now believing that it has fulfilled your Honorable Mightinesses' intention, will only again say, in conclusion, that the sole cause and reason for the loss of the aforesaid place, were these : The Authorities (Regenten), and the chief officer, being very deeply interested in lands, bouweries and buildings, were unwilling to offer any opposition, first, at the time of the English encroachments, in order thereby not to afford any pretext for firing and destroying their properties ; and, having always paid more attention to their particular affairs than to the Company's interests. New Amsterdam was found, on the arrival of the English frigates, as if an enemy was never to be expected. And, finally, that the Director, first following the example of heedless interested parties, gave himself no other concern than about the prosperity of his bouweries, and, when the pinch came, allowed himself to be rode over by Clergymen, women and cowards, in order to surrender to the English what he could defend with reputation, for the sake of thus saving their private properties. And the Company will further leave to your Honorable Mightinesses' good and prudent wisdom, what more ought to be done in this case. . . .

NOTE.—Reply of the West India Company to the Answer of the Honorable Peter Stuyvesant (1666), in *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New-York* (edited by E. B. O'Callaghan, Albany, 1858), II, 491-503 *passim*.

New York in 1679

HAVING then fortunately arrived by the blessing of the Lord, before the city of New York, on Saturday, the 23d day of September, we stepped ashore about four o'clock in the afternoon, in company with Gerrit, our fellow passenger, who would conduct us in this strange place. . . . He first took us to the house of one of his friends, who welcomed him and us, and offered us some of the fruit of the country, very fine peaches and full grown apples, which filled our hearts with thankfulness to God. This fruit was exceedingly fair and good, and pleasant to the taste ; much better than that in Holland or elsewhere, though I believe our long fasting and craving of food made it so agreeable. . . .

24th, Sunday. We rested well through the night. I was surprised on waking up to find my comrade had already dressed himself and breakfasted upon peaches. We walked out awhile in the fine, pure morning air, along the margin of the clear running water of the sea, which is driven up this river at every tide. As it was Sunday, in order to avoid scandal and for other reasons, we did not wish to absent ourselves from church. We therefore went, and found there truly a wild worldly world. I say wild, not only because the people are wild, as they call it in Europe, but because most all the people who go there to live, or who are born there, partake somewhat of the nature of the country, that is, peculiar to the land where they live. We heard a minister preach, who had come from the up-river country, from Fort Orange, where his residence is, an old man, named Domine Schaats, of Amsterdam. . . .

This Schaats, then, preached. He had a defect in the left eye, and used such strange gestures and language that I think I never in all my life have heard any thing more miserable ;

indeed, I can compare him with no one better than with one Do. Van Ecke, lately the minister at Armuyden, in Zeeland, more in life, conversation and gestures than in person. As it is not strange in these countries to have men as ministers who drink, we could imagine nothing else than that he had been drinking a little this morning. His text was. Come unto me all ye etc., but he was so rough that even the roughest and most godless of our sailors were astonished.

The church being in the fort, we had an opportunity to look through the latter, as we had come too early for preaching. It is not large ; it has four points or batteries ; it has no moat outside, but is enclosed with a double row of palisades. It is built from the foundation with quarry stone. The parapet is of earth. It is well provided with cannon, for the most part of iron, though there were some small brass pieces, all bearing the mark of arms of the Netherlanders. The garrison is small. There is a well of fine water dug in the fort by the English, contrary to the opinion of the Dutch, who supposed the fort was built upon rock, and had therefore never attempted any such thing. . . . It has only one gate, and that is on the land side, opening upon a broad plain or street, called the Broadway or Beaverway. Over this gate are the arms of the Duke of York. During the time of the Dutch there were two gates, namely another on the water side ; but the English have closed it, and made a battery there, with a false gate. In front of the church is inscribed the name of Governor Kyft, who caused the same to be built in the year of 1642. It has a shingled roof, and upon the gable towards the water there is a small wooden tower, with a bell in it, but no clock. There is a sun-dial on three sides. The front of the fort stretches east and west, and consequently the sides run north and south. . . .

27th, Wednesday. Nothing occurred to-day except that I went to assist Gerrit in bringing his goods home, and declaring them, which we did. We heard that one of the wicked and godless sailors had broken his leg ; and in this we saw and acknowledged the Lord and his righteousness. . . .

As soon as we had dined we sent off our letters ; and this being all accomplished, we started at two o'clock for Long Island. . . .

. . . We went on, up the hill, along open roads and a little woods, through the first village, called Breukelen, which has a small and ugly little church standing in the middle of the road. Having passed through here, we struck off to the right, in order to go to Gouanes. We went upon several plantations where Gerrit was acquainted with most all of the people, who made us very welcome, sharing with us bountifully whatever they had, whether it was milk, cider, fruit or tobacco, and especially, and first and most of all, miserable rum or brandy which had been brought from Barbadoes and other islands, and which is called by the Dutch kill-devil. All these people are very fond of it, and most of them extravagantly so, although it is very dear and has a bad taste. . . .

We went from the city, following the Broadway, over the valey, or the fresh water. Upon both sides of this way were many habitations of negroes, mulattoes and whites. These negroes were formerly the proper slaves of the (West India) company, but, in consequence of the frequent changes and conquests of the country, they have obtained their freedom and settled themselves down where they have thought proper, and thus on this road, where they have ground enough to live on with their families. We left the village, called the Bouverij, lying on the right hand, and went through the woods to New Harlem, a tolerably large village situated on the south side of the island, directly opposite the place where the northeast creek and the East river come together, situated about three hours journey from New Amsterdam.

By JASPAR BANKERS and PETER SLUYTER (translated by H. C. MURPHY)

When New York was Like a Garden, 1748

THE streets do not run so straight as those of Philadelphia, and have sometimes considerable bendings : however they are very spacious and well built, and most of them are paved, except in high places, where it has been found useless. In the chief streets there are trees planted, which in summer give them a fine appearance, and during the excessive heat at that time, afford a cooling shade : I found it extremely pleasant to walk in the town, for it seemed quite like a garden.

Most of the houses are built of bricks ; and are generally strong and neat, and several stories high. Some had, according to old architecture, turned the gable-end towards the streets ; but the houses were altered in this respect. Many of the houses had a balcony on the roof, on which the people used to sit in the evenings in the summer season ; and from thence they had a pleasant view of a great part of the town, and likewise of part of the adjacent water and of the opposite shore. The roofs are commonly covered with tiles or shingles. The walls were white-washed within, and I did not any where see hangings, with which the people in this country seem in general to be but little acquainted. The walls were quite covered with all sorts of drawings and pictures in small frames. On each side of the chimnies they had usually a sort of alcove ; and the wall under the windows was wainscoted, and had benches placed near it. The alcoves, and all the wood work were painted with a bluish grey colour.

There are several churches in the town, which deserve some attention, 1. The English Church, built in the year 1695, at the west end of (the) town, consisting of stone, and has a steeple with a bell. 2. The new Dutch Church, which is likewise built of stone, is pretty large and is provided with a steeple, it also has a clock, which is the only one in the town. . . .

Towards the sea, on the extremity of the promontory, is a pretty good fortress, called Fort George, which entirely commands the port, and can defend the town, at least from a sudden attack on the sea side. Besides that, it is likewise secured on the north or towards the shore, by a pallisade, which however (as for a considerable time the people have had nothing to fear from an enemy) is in many places in a very bad state of defence.

There is no good water to be met with in the town itself, but at a little distance there is a large spring of good water, which the inhabitants take for their tea, and for the uses of the kitchen. Those, however, who are less delicate in this point, make use of the water from the wells in town, though it be very bad. This want of good water lies heavy upon the horses of the strangers that come to this place ; for they do not like to drink the water from the wells in the town.

PETER KALM, *Travels into North America* (translated by JOHN REINHOLD FORSTER, Warrington, 1770)

New-York in 1760

THIS city is situated upon the point of a small island, lying open to the bay on one side, and on the others included between the North and East rivers, and commands a fine prospect of water, the Jerseys, Long Island, Staten Island, and several others, which lie scattered in the bay. It contains between 2 and 3000 houses, and 16 or 17,000 inhabitants, is tolerably well built, and has several good houses. The streets are paved, and very clean, but in general they are narrow ; there are two or three, indeed, which are spacious and airy, particularly the Broad Way. The houses in this street have most of them a row of trees before them ; which

form an agreeable shade, and produce a pretty effect. The whole length of the town is something more than a mile ; the breadth of it about half an one. The situation is, I believe, esteemed healthy ; but it is subject to one great inconvenience, which is the want of fresh water ; so that the inhabitants are obliged to have it brought from springs at some distance out of town. There are several public buildings, though but few that deserve attention. The college, when finished, will be exceedingly handsome : it is to be built on three sides of a quadrangle, fronting Hudson's or North river, and will be the most beautifully situated of any college, I believe, in the world. At present only one wing is finished, which is of stone, and consists of twenty-four sets of apartments ; each having a large sitting room, with a study, and bed chamber. They are obliged to make use of some of these apartments for a master's lodge, library, chapel, hall, etc. but as soon as the whole shall be completed, there will be proper apartments for each of these offices. The name of it is King's College.

There are two churches in New York, the old, or Trinity Church, and the new one, or St. George's Chapel ; both of them large buildings, the former in the Gothic taste, with a spire, the other upon the model of some of the new churches in London. Besides these, there are several other places of religious worship ; namely, two low Dutch Calvinist churches, one High Dutch ditto, one French ditto, one German Lutheran church, one presbyterian meeting-house, one quakers ditto, one anabaptists do, one Moravian ditto, and a Jews synagogue. There is also a very handsome charity-school for sixty poor boys and girls, a good work-house, barracks for a regiment of soldiers, and one of the finest prisons I have ever seen. The court or stadt-house makes no great figure, but it is to be repaired and beautified. There is a quadrangular fort, capable of mounting sixty cannon, though at present there are, I believe, only thirty-two. Within this is the governor's palace, and underneath it a battery capable of mounting ninety-four guns, and barracks for a company or two of soldiers. Upon one of the islands in the bay is an hospital for the sick and wounded seamen ; and, upon another, a pesthouse. These are the most noted public buildings in and about the city.

Arts and sciences have made no greater progress here than in the other colonies ; but as a subscription library has been lately opened, and every one seems zealous to promote learning, it may be hoped that they will hereafter advance faster than they have done hitherto. The college is established upon the same plan as that in the Jerseys, except that this at New York professes the principles of the church of England. At present the state of it is far from being flourishing, or so good as might be wished. Its fund does not exceed 10,000 *l.* currency, and there is a great scarcity of professors. A commencement was held, nevertheless, this summer, and seven gentlemen took degrees. There are in it at this time about twenty-five students. The president, Dr. Johnson, is a very worthy and learned man, but rather too far advanced in life to have the direction of so young an institution. The late Dr. Bristow left to this college a fine library, of which they are in daily expectation.

The inhabitants of New York, in their character, very much resemble the Pennsylvanians : more than half of them are Dutch, and almost all traders : they are, therefore, habitually frugal, industrious, and parsimonious. Being however of different nations, different languages, and different religions, it is almost impossible to give them any precise or determinate character. The women are handsome and agreeable ; though rather more reserved than the Philadelphian ladies. Their amusements are much the same as in Pennsylvania ; viz. balls, and sleighing expeditions in the winter ; and, in the summer, going in parties upon the water, and fishing ; or making excursions into the country. There are several houses pleasantly situated upon East river, near New York, where it is common to have turtle-feasts : these happen once or twice in a week. Thirty or forty gentlemen and ladies meet and dine together, drink tea in the afternoon, fish and amuse themselves till evening, and then return home in Italian chaises, (the fashionable carriage in this and most parts of America, Virginia excepted,

where they make use only of coaches, and these commonly drawn by six horses), a gentleman and lady in each chaise. In the way there is a bridge, about three miles distant from New York, which you always pass over as you return, called the Kissing-Bridge, where it is a part of the etiquette to salute the lady who has put herself under your protection.

The present state of this province is flourishing : it has an extensive trade to many parts of the world, particularly to the West Indies ; and has acquired great riches by the commerce which it has carried on, under flags of truce, to Cape-François, and Monte-Christo. The troops, by having made it the place of their general rendezvous, have also enriched it very much. However, it is burthened with taxes, and the present public debt amounts to more than 300,000 *l.* currency. The taxes are laid upon estates real and personal ; and there are duties upon the Negroes, and other importations. The provincial troops are about 2600 men. The difference of exchange between currency and bills is from 70 to 80 per cent.

Before I left New York, I took a ride upon Long Island, the richest spot, in the opinion of the New-Yorkers, of all America ; and where they generally have their villas, or country houses. It is undeniably beautiful, and some parts of it are remarkably fertile, but not equal, I think, to the Jerseys. The length of it is something more than 100 miles, and the breadth 25. About 15 or 16 miles from the west end of it, there opens a large plain between 20 and 30 miles long, and 4 or 5 broad. There is not a tree growing upon it, and it is asserted that there never were any. Strangers are always carried to see this place, as a great curiosity, and the only one of the kind in North America.

ANDREW BURNABY, *Travels through the Middle Settlements in North-America, in the Years 1759 and 1760*

A Mass Meeting in 1794

In the latter end of 1794, Mr. Jay arrived with the famous British Treaty ; Congress being then in session, it was submitted to their consideration. As Washington and Hamilton, and most of the worthies who had risked their lives and staked their all, and had just achieved their country's independence, thought it was for the good of the nation, it was on the point of becoming a law ; but the hod-men and the ashmen, and the clam men, thought otherwise ; accordingly a meeting was called at 4 p.m. in front of the old City Hall, at the head of Broad Street to settle this momentous question. Having never seen a meeting of the sovereign people in *free country* I was anxious to attend ; and that I might have a fair view, and be out of harm's way, I got perched on a branch of that large spreading tree that graced the corner of Broad and Wall Streets, since the days when the Dutch negroes used to dance and crack eggs in the ferry-house corner of Garden and Broad Streets. Long before the hour the broad space was filled by the motley group ; there was the Irish (patriot) laborer, his face powdered with lime, his shirt sleeves torn or rolled up to his shoulders, he came rattling up with his iron shod brogans ; and the clam men were there ; and the boat men were there ; and the oystermen were there ; and the ashmen were there ; and the cartmen were there and their horses were there—and the horses appeared to have more sense than their masters ; for the horses licked and loved the hand that fed them, but these ignorant cartmen knew not Him in whom they live move and have their being.

The mob filled the large space down Broad as far as Garden Street, down Wall Street as far as the Mechanics' Bank, and up as far as New Street. On the corner (then occupied as a watch house but now by friend Burtzell as a *Blank Book Store*) stood a group, say eight or ten respectable looking characters ; compassion was painted on their face, and pity shone from their swimming eyes. At the time I knew none of them, but afterwards learned that among

them was Gen. Hamilton, Cols. V. G. &c. men who had just sheathed their swords, and wiped the dust and sweat from their brows, after having gained their country's freedom. On the steps of the City Hall (for these men had usurped the place of justice) stood another group of cold calculating sinister looking faces. In their countenances and eyes, you could read deeds, and plans of deep, dark and daring political intrigue. I knew none of them ; but their impression is stamped to this hour upon my memory. A tall fellow got up and called the assembly to order—he might as well have told Bunker's Hill to be removed to the deeps of Montaug Point—he then proposed Mr. —— as chairman ; he then took out a paper and read something which neither he nor anyone else understood ; he then got some one to second the motions ; he then said if anyone wished to speak he might say on. In those days there stood a small house with its gable end to the street (No. 3 or 5 Broad Street) it had a high stoop and was occupied by J. B. who made iron cages wherein to confine tame birds. On this stoop Gen. Hamilton stood up ; his clear full voice sounded like music over the heads of the rabble, and they stood still for some minutes ; he lowered himself from the pedestal of his natural eloquence, and spoke in language simple plain, and suited to the capacity of his hearers. His words were truths, and they understood them ; they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth ; violent hands were laid on him in the midst of his speech ; he was dragged from the stoop and hustled through the street ! You Americans, with all your boasted pride, you looked quietly on and saw your Hamilton, the right hand swordsman of Washington, gagged and dragged through the street. Thinks I to myself what a fine thing democracy is in *theory*. . . . To return ; when the uproar had ceased, Mr. Longfellow roared out : all you who approve of adjourning to Bowling Green to assist in burning the British Treaty will please to say Aye. The sound of the ayes shook the very dungeons of the watch-house—the treaty was burned, while the Irishmen danced the *whiteboys* march, and the Frenchmen sang, Dan sa la Carmanoll ; the boatmen, the clam men, the hod and the oystermen retired to the grogshops around the Whitehall, while the horses and cartmen at the cellar doors around the Coffee-House Slip. Thus ended the first practical lesson I had ever seen of republican simplicity.

From GRANT THORBURN'S *Forty Years' Residence in America*

Fashions in New York in 1797

NEW YORK, *May* 28th, 1797

MY DEAR SISTER : The enclosed packet was intended to be sent by General Floyd, but he went away before it was given to him—I have forgot what I wrote in it, but shall send it along & perhaps there may be something entertaining in it—Lucy I believe most of the commissions from you & sister Hannah have been attended to by Brother George or myself—I have bought two bands which are the most fashionable trimings for beaver hats, a white one for the blue hat, & a yellow for the black one, they should be put twice around the crown & fastned forward in the form of a beau knot. Brother has got each of you a pink silk shawl which are very fashionable also—Many Ladies wear them for turbans, made in the manner that you used to make muslin ones last summer, George has given me one like them, The fine lace cost 10 shillings a yard, & I think it is very handsome, there is enough for two handkerchiefs & two double tuckers, the way to make handkerchief's is to set lace, or a ruffle on a strait piece of muslin, (only pieced on the back to make it set to your neck,) & put it on so as to show only the ruffle, & make it look as if it was set on the neck of your gown, many Ladies trim the neck of thier gowns with lace & go without handkerchiefs but I think it is a neater way to wear them—with fashionable gowns it will not be necessary to have much more than half a yard in the width of your tuckers—I send a doll, by Brother George which I intended to have dressed in a neater manner but really could not find time—it however has rather a fashionable appearance, the cap is made in a good form but you would make one

much hand-somer than I could, the beau to Miss Dollys poultrice neck cloth is rather large but the thickness is very moderate—I think a cap crown & turban would become you—I have got a braid of hair which cost four dollars it should be fasten up with a comb, (without plating) under your turban if it has a crown &. over it, if without a crown—Brother has got some very beautiful sattin muslin, & also some handsome “ tartan plad” gingham for your gowns, there is a large pattern for two train gowns of the muslin, which should be made thre breadths wide two breadths to reach to the shoulder straps forward, and one breadth to be cut part of the way down before, to go over the shoulder & part of it to be pleated on to the shoulder straps, meeting the back breadths, & some of it to go around the neck, like the doll’s—the pleats should be made pretty small,& not stitched to the lining, but you should wear binders over your shoulders—an inch & a half should be the width of your binders. (I must have done writing this pretty soon, the last sentence if you observe is quite poetical—but let me stick to my text Fashion). It is the fashion to have draw strings fastned on the corners of the shoulder straps by the sieves on the back, and have a tack large enough for them to run in, made to cross on the back, run under the arms an inch below the sieves & tie before—I should advise you to have your gingham one made in that way, with draw’d sieves for sister Hannah & I have seen as large Ladies as you with them, & I think they would look very well for you. Sieves should be made half a yard wide & not drawd less than seven or eight times, I think they look best to have two or three drawings close together &a plain spot alternately — Some of the ladies have thier sieves coverd with drawing tacks, & have thier elbows uncover’d if you dont like short sieves, you should have long ones with short ones to come down allmost to your elbows, drawed four or five by the bottom — if yo(u) want to walk with long gowns you must draw the train up thr’o one of the pocket holes, I have bought some callico for chints trimings for old gowns, if you have any that you wish to wear short they are very fashionable at present, & gowns that are trimed with them should be made only to touch the ground, there is enough of the dark stripe for one gown, & enough of the light for one there should be enough white left on the dark stripe to turn down to prevent its ravelling. I gave lo shillings for the callico & have been laughed at for my ‘ foolish bargain’ but I am not convinced that it is foolish. The William Street merchants ask three shillings a yard for trimings like the wide stripe & two for the narrow—I guess you will like the narrow—the kid shoes are of the most fashionable kind, & the others of the best quality Brother George keeps enquiring for my letter — & as I have fill’d up my paper I’ll leave the improvement for you to make With love to sister Hannah & Benjamin I am my dear sister yours, most affectionately

R Huntington

Miss Lucy Huntington

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