

the command of Fort Orange by order of Director Minuit. There was eight families there, and ten or twelve seamen in the company's service. The fort was to remain garrisoned by sixteen men without women, and the families were to leave there this year in order to strengthen with people the colony near the Manhates [Indians], who were becoming more and more accustomed to the strangers."

Under the date of "October, 1628," Wassenaer further remarks: "There are now no families at Fort Orange, situated higher up the river among the Maykans. They are all brought down. They keep as traders there five or six and twenty persons. Sebastian Jansz Crol is under-director there. He has remained there since the year 1626, when the others came down."

Concerning the growth of New Amsterdam, Wassenaer observes: "In the year 1628 there already resided on the island of the Manhates two hundred and seventy souls, men, women, and children."¹

In order that the colonists might enjoy the preaching and religious instruction of a minister of the Reformed Church, the West-India Company induced the Classis of Amsterdam to send the Reverend Jonas Michaelius to New Netherland. Arriving at New Amsterdam, in April, 1628, he began organizing the first church established within the limits of the province.

In a communication, dated at New Amsterdam, on August 11, 1628, and addressed to the Reverend Adrianus Smoutius, dwelling on the *Heerengracht* (Lords' Canal), in Amsterdam, not far from the house of the West-India Company, he details with evident gratification the success of his initial efforts to better the spiritual condition of the people of the small settlement:

"We have first established the form of a church (*gemente*); and, as Brother Bastiaen Crol very seldom comes down from Fort Orange, because the directorship of that fort and the trade there is committed to him, it has been thought best to choose two elders for my assistance. * * * * One of those whom we have now chosen is the Honorable Director himself, and the other is the store-keeper of the company, Jan Huyghen, his brother-in-law, persons of very good character as far as I have been able to learn, both having been formerly in office in the church, the one as deacon, and the other as elder in the Dutch and French churches, respectively, at Wesel.

"We have had at the first administration of the Lord's Supper full fifty communicants -not without great joy and comfort for so many—Walloons and Dutch. * * * * The Walloons and French have no service on Sundays otherwise than in the Dutch language, of which they understand very little.

¹ *T' twaelfde deel* of *T' vervolg van het Historisch verhaal*. fol. 38; *T' sestiende deel*. fol. 13; *T' achtende deel*. fol. 94.