

on the mainland toward the Iroquois, a little above the said island. Second, a colony sent here by this Rensselaer, who is the patron. This colony is composed of about a hundred persons, who reside in some twenty-five or thirty houses, built along the river as each one found most convenient. In the principal house lives the patron's agent; the minister has his apart, in which service is performed. There is also a kind of bailiff here, whom they call the seneschal, who administers justice. Their houses are solely of boards and thatched, with no mason-work except the chimneys. The forest furnishes many large pines; they make boards by means of their mills, which they have here for the purpose. * * * *

“This settlement is not more than twenty leagues from the Agniehrorons [or Mohawks], who can be reached by land or water, as the [Mohawk] river, on which the Iroquois lie, falls into that river [named the Hudson], which passes by the Dutch [at Fort Orange], but there are many low rapids [on the Mohawk], and a fall [at Cohoes], where the canoe must be carried a short half league.”¹

On the death of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, in 1646, Johannes, his eldest son, became *patroon* of Rensselaerswijck. He was then a minor, and the management of the affairs of the manor was intrusted to Brandt van Slechtenhorst. The first member of the Van Rensselaer family that took personal charge of the New-Netherland estate was Jan Baptiste, the third son of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, who arrived in 1651, at Fort Orange.

As the site of Fort Orange began to be regarded about this time by the Van Rensselaers as a part of Rensselaerswijck, some of their colonists erected dwellings around it. The knowledge of this false impression having reached Director-General Stuyvesant, the circumspect official concluded that it would be well to efface it. He therefore, in 1652, peremptorily ordered the colonists to transfer the buildings beyond the range of a ball fired from a cannon on the ramparts of the fort. As a consequence, an area of ground six hundred paces north of Fort Orange, bordering the river, became in April, that year, the seat of the village (*dorp*) of Beverswijck (Beaver-district), which name was changed twelve years later to that of Albany.

At that time the office of the secretary of the colony of Rensselaerswijck was held by Antoine de Hooges, who, not long after his arrival in New Netherland, on November 29, 1641, succeeded Arendt van Corlear, who had been long and actively identified with the affairs of the manor. Not many years after his appointment to the responsible office of secretary of Rensselaerswijck, Antoine de Hooges married Eva, daughter of Albert Andriessen and Annetje

¹The Jogues papers, translated and arranged, with a memoir, by John Gilmary Shea. New York Historical Society's collections. Second series, vol. viii., pp. 217, 218.