

9571
G 358
1898

PHILIP GEREARDY OF NEW AMSTERDAM,
LANDLORD OF THE CITY TAVERN,
AND HIS RHODE ISLAND DESCENDANTS.

By CHARLES KNOWLES BOLTON, A.B., Librarian of the Boston Athenæum.

In early colonial times settlers along the coast of Rhode Island carried on a considerable trade with the Dutch at the mouth of the Hudson. At New Amsterdam there were many well-known English and New England merchants. But on the shore of Narragansett bay few Dutchmen became permanent residents, although occasional marriages occurred. Through one of these marriages many New Englanders may claim descent from an interesting figure in old New York.

Philip Gereardy and his son Jan were perhaps not of the stuff from which some men would choose ancestors, but they were picturesque in a manner which was in harmony with their environment.

1. PHILIP¹ GEREARDY was an early inhabitant of Manhattan, where he contracted with Juriaen of Osnaburgh for a house. It seems that Juriaen did not build the house in the time agreed upon, for in the spring of 1641 two witnesses swore to the agreement and Philip obtained a judgment in his favor on the 13th of June. In a year or two he received a grant of a house lot on the north side of the first road from the fort to the ferry, on the present Stone street between Whitehall and Broad streets. This was known first as "the road," later a part of it as the Brouwer strait; it was the first street paved with stone, and the place of residence of the wealthy people of the town, such as Frederick Philipse of Philipse manor. Here Philip, his wife Marie Pollet, and their son Jan lived. May 24, 1644, Philip received by patent a double lot on the common highway, "on the east side of Broadway between Beaver Street and Exchange Place, 110 feet front by 230 feet deep."

In 1642 a stone tavern for the accommodation of travellers was erected, fronting on the East river. It was south of the road to the ferry "in the present north-west corner of Pearl street and Coenties alley," wrote Valentine in 1853. As landlord of this tavern Gereardy became a conspicuous man in New Amsterdam. Prize money was often left in his hands for safe keeping. In January, 1642, he was in trouble for selling beer at a higher rate than that allowed by the ordinance, but was permitted to escape punishment. Not so three months later when he was again in trouble, this time for being absent from guard duty without leave. There is a fine irony in the sentence which couples his two vocations: "To ride the wooden horse during parade, with a pitcher in one hand and a drawn sword in the other." Philip had been released from this undesirable position scarcely a twelve-month when he was seriously wounded while conducting Jan Jansen Damen home one night—probably after an evening spent at the tavern. Damen, a wealthy man and part owner of the privateer La Garce, defended Stuyvesant in Holland in 1649-50, and died upon his return in 1651.

Meanwhile Philip did not always pay his debts, and Augustyn Herrmans in October, 1644, complained of Philip's lack of attention to bills for wine. Little by little, however, he prospered; and when the city authorities, March 13, 1653, drew up a "list of the persons who shall provisionally

THE LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS