

## THE DOREMUS FAMILY.

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FAMILY tradition asserts that the Doremuses were originally from France, in which case the name may be a corruption of de Rheims, signifying that they came from that ancient town. Whatever may be the remote origin of the family, certain it is that the first settler hereabouts and his children were all called Doremus, with very little variation in the spelling. This is evidently a Latinized form of the original name, which is said to have been Doré. Goetschius and Marinus are familiar instances of the kind. The earliest mention that has been found of the name Doremus is under date of April 11, 1687, in the church records at Bergen, when Thomas was baptized, son of Cornelis Doremus, of Middelburg, and Jannetje Joris, of Elsland. That is absolutely all we know about the origin of the father and mother of the numerous Doremus family of this region. Doubtless they had come to this country very soon before the date mentioned, and brought with them two children—Cornelis and Johannes—both born in Middelburg.<sup>1</sup> This famous town, the chief city of the Province of Zeeland, situated on the island of Walcheren, in the southwestern part of Holland, has a history dating back at least nine hundred years, and in its long annals there figure sieges in 1217, 1288, 1574 (by the Spanish), in 1809 (by the English), and in 1814 (by the French). Fire, as well as the sword, has been its portion. In the year that Columbus sailed across the Atlantic ocean to the new world, Middelburg was for the most part laid in ashes. The rivals of Columbus, the East India Company, had here great ship-yards, and the commerce of the town exceeded even its extensive manu-

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<sup>1</sup> There is a family tradition that a third son died on the voyage and was buried at sea.