



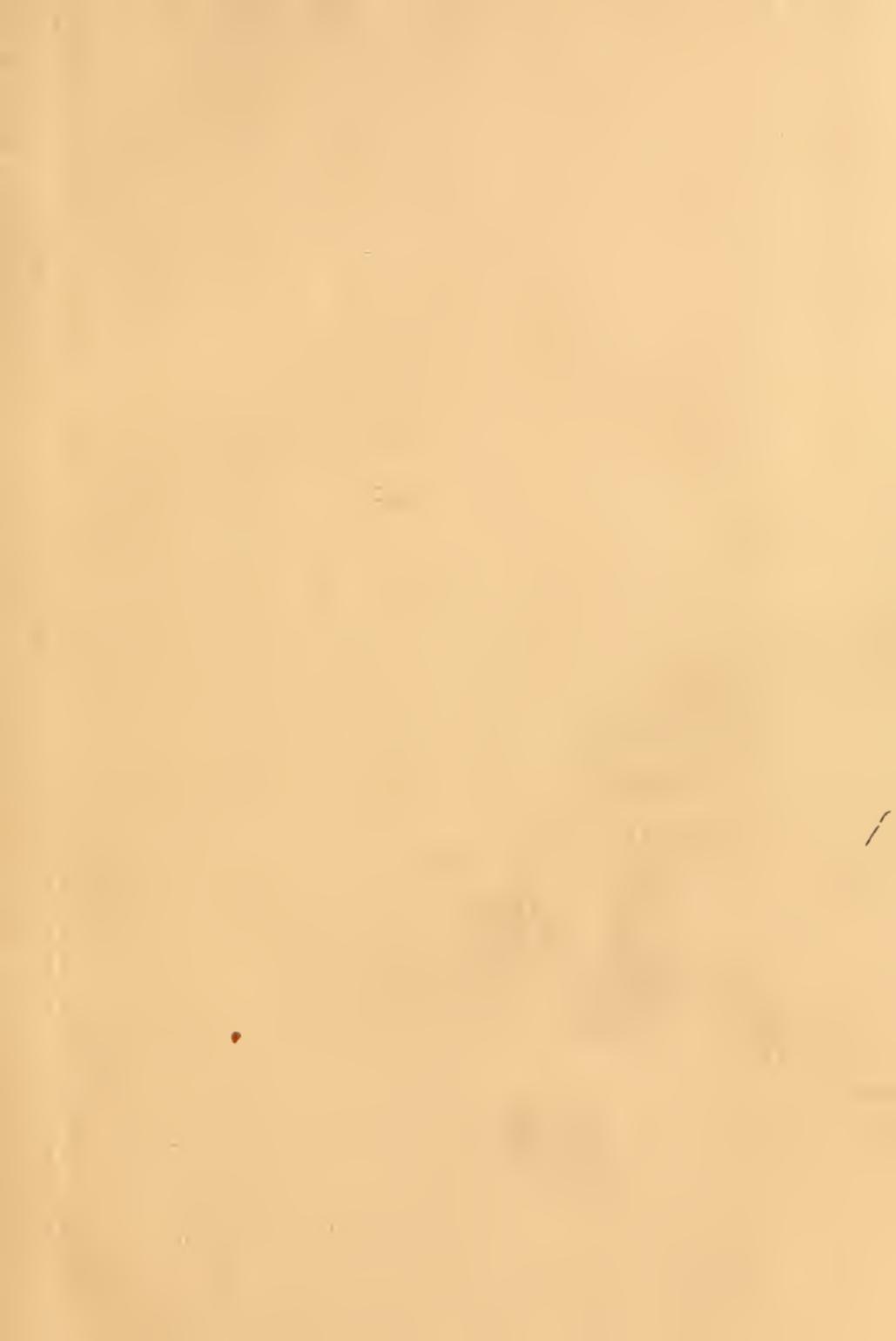
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*New York Colonial Tracts.*

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Number III.

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**Voyages of the Slavers St. John  
and Arms of Amsterdam.**



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# VOYAGES

OF THE SLAVERS

**St. John and Arms of Amsterdam,**

1659, 1663;

TOGETHER WITH

*Additional Papers illustrative of the Slave  
Trade under the Dutch.*

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS,

WITH AN

**Introduction and Index,**

*Amund*  
*copy*  
By E. B. O'CALLAGHAN.



ALBANY, N. Y.,  
J. MUNSELL, 82 STATE ST.  
1867.

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Edition, 100 Copies.

Darlington



## INTRODUCTION.

**I**N THE Tract now published, we have collected and translated the Papers in the Secretary of State's Office, illustrative of Slavery and the Slave Trade under the Dutch. As the Documents are authentic, they furnish reliable Material for a Chapter in the early History of our State at present unwritten, and hitherto but partially known.

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To the Dutch undoubtedly belongs the questionable Distinction of having introduced Negro Slavery into the Colonies, now the *United States of America*. “About the last

*Smith's General History of Virginia*, Ed. 1627, P. 126, *Richmond* Ed., II, 39.

of *August*” (1619), says *John Rolfe*, the celebrated Husband of *Pocahontas*, writing from *Virginia*, “came in a Dutch man of warre, that sold vs twenty Negars.”\* *Oldmixon* refers to the same Event, but leaves

\* This Event is generally stated to have occurred in 1620; but a careful Perusal of *Smith* shows that it took place in 1619. Mr. *Bancroft*, *Hist. U. S.*, 1st Ed., I, 189, quotes *Beverley* as the original Authority for this Fact. *Beverley* only copied Capt. *Smith*, without acknowledging the Source of his Information; of which Circumstance Mr. *Bancroft* does not appear to have been aware.

the Impression that the Vessel was a Merchantman. “The Merchant *British Empire in America*, Ed. 1741, I, 369. sold 20 Negroes, which were the first Slaves that were brought thither (to *Virginia*) from *Guinea*.”

At this Period a Class of Adventurers, called “*Guinea* Traders,” resorted to *Africa*; another Class, called “*Virginia* Traders,” resorted to *America*. One or other of these, it is supposed, landed the above mentioned Negroes.

In 1621, all the Dutch private Companies trading to *Africa* and *America* were merged into one—the celebrated West India Com-

pany—which, by Virtue of its Charter, raised Troops, fitted out Men-of-War, and made other Preparations for entering the Field against *Spain*. This Power had, at that time, the almost entire Control of the Trade of *Africa*, from which Country it imported into *Brazil*, during the four Years ending 1623, *Fifteen thousand, four hundred and thirty* Blacks, to work its Sugar Plantations.

*De Laet, Jaerlyk Verhael,*  
192.

In 1623, the West India Company commenced Hostilities, which it continued with considerable Vigor for several Years. At first, how-

ever, it placed no Value on the Negroes it captured from the Spaniards; for in 1624, Admiral *Van Dort* having overhauled, off the Coast of *Brazil*, a Spanish Vessel carrying Blacks from *Angola* to *Babia*, took the Skipper and let the Ship and Blacks go, “not knowing,” frankly confesses *De Laet*, “how useful and profitable they could be to them.” Again, in 1627, the Dutch having overcome a Portuguese Ship, coming from *Angola* to *Pernambuco* with 600 Blacks on board, they derived no Advantage from the Capture, as

*Jaerlyk Verhael*, P. 17.

*Ibid.*, P. 120,  
121.

those of *Pernambuco* refused to ransom the Negroes, some of whom were landed afterwards, with the Portuguese, at *Fayal*. And so late as 1631, two Ships from *Angola* with 850 Negroes, having been captured off *Hispaniola* and *Sta. Martha*, the Dutch Commanders not knowing what to do with the Blacks, let them and the Ships go.

*De Laet, Ibid.,*  
P. 230, 270.

It will be seen by the above *Resumé*, that the West India Company having been absorbed in its Operations against the Spaniards, did not, for some Years after it

first came into Existence, place much Value on the Slave Trade; and, as a Consequence, Slavery was not greatly fostered or encouraged in *New Netherland*.

It was not until the Dutch had reduced *Pernambuco* and other Parts of *Brazil*, and taken *Curaçao*, that they began to derive any Profit from the Capture of Slaves. In *October*, 1636, the *Soutbergh* took a Ship from *Angola* with 230 Negroes, which were sold shortly afterwards at the *Reciff* for 30,000 Guilders. A couple of Months later, another Lot of captured Afri-

*De Laet, Ibid.,*  
P. 528, 529.

cans, 340 in Number, was sold by public Auction at the same Place, and brought 67,000 Guilders. Between the Years 1623 and 1636, the

*De Lact, Ibid.,*  
App. P. 21.

Dutch captured from the Spaniards

*Two thousand, three hundred and fifty-six* Negroes, whose estimated Value was 589,000 Guilders. Finally, in 1641, they reduced *Loando St. Paulo* in *Africa*; and thus, with this Slave Hive on the one Side, and *Brazil* and *Curaçao* for Slave Markets on the other, they obtained complete Control of the Slave Trade. The

*Southey's Bra-*  
*zil.*

Ships of the West India Company now sailed direct from *Holland* to

*Angola* with Articles of Commerce; got Slaves in Exchange, which they carried to *Brazil*, and returned to *Holland* with Sugar and other Produce of that Country.

We now propose to trace the Introduction of Slavery into *New Netherland*.

In 1625 or 1626, six or seven Years after the Dutch had discharged the small Lot of Slaves in *Virginia*, the first Negroes were brought to *Manhattan*. Among them were *Paul d' Angola*, *Simon Congo*, *Anthony Portuguese*, *John Francisco*, and seven other Africans, who were

probably captured at Sea. Their Names denote the Country to which they originally belonged. Two Years afterwards three Negro Women arrived at *New Amsterdam*; and these are the only Instances on Record of the Introduction of Slaves in *New Netherland* prior to the Erection of Patroonships and Colonies in 1629, when the West India Company publicly promised to “use their Endeavors to supply the Colonists with as many Blacks as they conveniently can.”

*Freedoms of*  
1629, Art. 30.

For Causes, already noted, these “endeavors” were not followed, as

far as we have been able to ascertain, by any immediate Increase of Negroes here; and it was not until after the Reduction of *Loando* that the Current of Slavery set northward to any great Amount.\*

By an Edict issued in 1645, no private Dutch Vessel was allowed to trade farther North than *Cape Florida*, nor on any Account to the *Virginias*, *New Netherland*, *New France*, the Coast of *Africa* or *Brazil*. The Trade in these Coun-

*N. Y. Colonial  
Doc., I, 223.*

\* Slavery existed in the Limits of the present State of *New Jersey* as early as 1638.—*N. Y. Col. MSS.*, I, 41.

tries was wholly monopolized by the West India Company.

In the Summer of 1646, the first Slave Ship, of whose Name we have a Record, arrived in *New Netherland*. She was called the *Amandaré*. This Vessel touched at *Barbadoes*, where “three Negro Wenches” were spirited away. The Remainder arrived at *New Amsterdam* in *June*, where “the Negroes were sold for Pork and Peas. Something wonderful was to be performed with them, but they just dropped through the Fingers.” What Number of Slaves were brought in

*Vanderdonck*  
*Vertoogh.*

this Vessel, or whether they were brought from *Brazil* or *Guinea*, is not stated.\*

In *January*, 1648, a Committee of the States General made a lengthy Report on the Affairs of the West India Company, in the Course of which they refer to the Fact, that in Consequence of the unsettled State of *Brazil*, “the Slave Trade hath long lain dormant to the great Damage of the Company.” In order to revive that Traffic,

\* Sugar and Oil were a Part of her Cargo; and these Articles may serve as a Clue to determine her Port of Departure. She undoubtedly belonged to, or was chartered by, the West India Company.

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Attention was turned to *New Netherland*.

*N. Y. Colonial  
Doc., I, 246.*

“That Country,” says the Report, “is considered to be the most fruitful of all within your High Mightinesses’ Jurisdiction, and the best adapted to raise all Sorts of this Country Produce, such as Rye, Wheat, Barley, Peas, Beans, etc., and Cattle; and that in more Abundance than can be done here, were it suitably peopled and cultivated. The granting of Freedoms and Privileges, hath indeed induced some Patroons and Colonists to undertake Agriculture there; but

as the Produce cannot be sold any where except in the adjacent Places belonging to the English, who are themselves sufficiently supplied, those Planters have not received a Return for their Labor and Outlay. With a View, then, to give greater Encouragement to Agriculture, and consequently to Population, we should consider it highly advantageous that a way be opened to allow them to export their Produce even to *Brazil*, in their own Vessels, under certain Duties, and subject to the Supervision both of the Director in *New-Netherland*, and the Supreme

Council in *Brazil*; and to trade it off there, and to carry Slaves back in Return; which Privilege of sailing with their own Ships from *New Netherland* to *Brazil*, should be exclusively allowed to Patroons and Colonists, who promote the Population in *New Netherland*, and not to the Interlopers, who only carry Goods to and fro, without attending to Agriculture. By this Means not only would *Brazil* be supplied with Provisions at a cheaper Rate, but *New Netherland* would by Slave Labor, be more extensively cultivated than it has hitherto been,

because the agricultural Laborers, who are conveyed thither at great Expence to the Colonists, sooner or later apply themselves to Trade, and neglect Agriculture altogether. Slaves, on the other Hand, being brought and maintained there at a cheap Rate, various other Descriptions of Produce would be raised, and by their Abundance be reduced in Price, so as to allow, when Occasion would offer, of their advantageous Exportation hither and to other Parts of Europe.”

The Trade to *Africa* was opened, in 1652, to the Colonists, who

*N. Y. Colonial MSS., IX, 53.*

were permitted to import Slaves directly from that Country, within certain prescribed Limits. No immediate Action, however, followed this Permission; and it was not until the Year 1655 that Slaves began to be regularly imported into *New Netherland*.

It is to be borne in Mind, however, that during the War with *Spain*, Privateers swarmed among the *Caribbean Islands* and along the Spanish Main. These Vessels occasionally brought Prizes to *New Amsterdam*. After the Peace between the *United Netherlands* and

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*Spain*, Hostilities were carried on between the latter Power and *France*. To the Privateers under the French Flag *New Amsterdam* was a neutral Port, where some of them occasionally came and disposed of their captured Negroes and other prize Goods.\*

It has been asserted that Negroes were imported into *New Netherland* “often directly from *Guinea*.” This Allegation is based on the Despatch of 7th *April*, 1648, and on the

\* In 1642, the Privateer *La Garce* brought in a few Negroes, and in 1652 a Lot of *Forty-four* Negroes were brought in by another Privateer who had captured them from a Spaniard.

*N. Y. Colonial  
Doc., I, 577,  
578.*

*Bancroft's  
U. S., 1st Ed.,  
II, 303.*

mere Draft of a Contract in 1660 (*Infra*, P. 101, 169). But there is no Evidence that any Action followed the Permission of 1648, and the Remonstrance (*Infra*, P. 171), proves that the Contract not only had never been executed, but that the Parties declined executing it. The Records contain Instances of the Arrival of only two Vessels at *New Amsterdam* “directly from *Guinea*” with Slaves. These were the *Wittepaert* and *Gideon*. All other Importations of that Character were from *Curaçao*, except perhaps those of the *Amandaré*, which most

probably were brought from *Brazil*.

The Ventures and Vessels in this nefarious Commerce, belonged either to private Parties in *Holland*, or to the West India Company. "We have resolved," write the Directors at *Amsterdam* in 1661, "not only that Slaves shall be kept in *New Netherland*, as we have heretofore ordered, but that they shall moreover be exported to the English and other Neighbours." The Spirit of Avarice and Greed deadened Conscience and smothered all Feeling of Humanity; and "the Pro-

motion of Agriculture, Trade, and Population” was the thin Covering which glossed over the Infamy of the Trade.

In *November* 1661, the City of *New Amsterdam* became the Owner of three Negroes, which it obtained as a Present from the Director and Council. In 1664, “the City of *Amsterdam* did not blush to own Shares in a Slave Ship, to advance Money for the Outfits, and to participate in the Returns.” But to the Credit of *New Netherland*, it is to be recorded that no Ship nor Merchant belonging to that Colony,

*Bancroft's U. S., 1st Ed., II, 303.*

had ever been engaged in the African Slave Trade. An Effort had, it is true, been made in *New Amsterdam* to embark in it, but the Project, fortunately for the Honor of the Country, fell through.

“Of a direct Voyage from *Guinea* History U. S.,  
3d Edition, III,  
to the Coast of the *United States* 405.  
no Journal,” says Mr. *Bancroft*,  
“is known to exist.” The Papers  
now published will supply this  
Defect in some Degree; and the  
Journal of the Slaver *St. John*,  
though that Vessel was not destined  
for the Coast of *North America*,  
will give some Insight to the

Horrors of the Middle Passage. *One hundred and ninety-five* human Beings were crammed into the Hold of that Vessel. Bad Food, short Allowance, Want of Water, foul Air, and Bloody Flux, were the Attendants on the Passage; and as a Consequence, *fifty-six* per cent of the wretched Beings perished on the Voyage. Of the Balance, only one Negro eventually accrued to the Benefit of the Dutch; for, as a retributive Fate willed it, a Privateer, or Pirate, swooped down in the Vicinity of *Curaçao*, plundered every thing, and carried off the

surviving Negroes “towards the Main.”

No better Fortune awaited the Slaver, *The Arms of Amsterdam*. This Vessel brought *One hundred and one* Slaves from *Angola*, but on her Voyage to *Curaçao*, was overhauled by some English Privateers among the West India Islands, captured and carried into *Virginia*.

*Curaçao* was, under the Dutch, what *Barbadoes* was subsequently to the English—the Slave Emporium to which Guineamen brought their Cargoes of human Flesh, to

be thence distributed throughout this Continent. And in the following Pages, the Reader will find ample Information regarding the active Trade in Slaves, which was carried on between that Island, *New Netherland*, and the Spanish Possessions on the Main previous to 1665.



JOURNALS

OF THE

Voyages of the *Slavers* *St. John*  
and *Arms* of Amsterdam.





# JOURNAL

OF THE

## SLAVER ST. JOHN.

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**W**E Weighed anchor, by <sup>1659.</sup>  
order of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> <sup>Mar. 4.</sup>  
Director, *Johan Valcken-*  
*borch*, and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Di-  
rector *Jasper van Heussen*, to  
proceed on our Voyage from  
*Elmina* to *Rio Reael*, to trade  
for Slaves for the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Com-  
pany.

A

<sup>1659.</sup>  
<sup>Mar. 8.</sup> } Saturday. Arrived with our  
ship before *Arda*, to take on  
board the Surgeon's mate and  
a Supply of Tamarinds for the  
Slaves; failed again next day  
on our Voyage to *Rio Reael*.

17. Arrived at *Rio Reael* in  
front of a village called *Bany*  
where we found the Compa-  
ny's Yacht, named the *Peace*,  
which was sent out to assist us  
to trade for Slaves.

April. Nothing was done except  
to trade for Slaves.

May 6. One of our seamen died;  
his name was *Claes van Die-*  
*men*, of *Durgerdam*.

22. Again weighed Anchor and

ran out of *Rio Reael* accom-<sup>1659.</sup>  
 panied by the Yacht *Peace* ; <sup>May.</sup>  
 purchafed there *two hundred*  
 and *nineteen* head of Slaves,  
 men, women, boys and girls,  
 and proceeded on our courfe  
 for the High land of *Ambofius*,  
 for the purpofe of procuring  
 food there for the Slaves, as  
 nothing was to be had at *Rio*  
*Reael*.

Monday. Arrived under the <sup>26.</sup>  
 High land of *Ambofius* to look  
 there for Victuals for the Slaves,  
 and fpend *seven* days there,  
 but with difficulty obtained  
 enough for the daily con-  
 fumption of the Slaves, fo that

1659. we resolved to run to *Rio*  
 May. *Cammerones* to see if any food  
 could be had there for the  
 Slaves.

June 5. Thursday. Arrived at the  
*Rio Commerones* and the Yacht  
*Peace* went up to look for pro-  
 visions for the Slaves. This  
 day died our cooper, named  
*Peter Claessen*, of *Amsterdam*.

29. Sunday. Again resolved to  
 proceed on our Voyage, as but  
 little food was to be had for  
 the Slaves in consequence of  
 the great Rains which fell  
 every day, and because many  
 of the Slaves were suffering  
 from the Bloody Flux in con-

sequence of the bad provisions we were supplied with <sup>1659.</sup> <sub>June.</sub> at *El Mina*, amongst which were several barrels of Groats, wholly unfit for use.

We then turned over to *Adriaen Blaes*, the Skipper, *One hundred and ninety five* Slaves, consisting of *Eighty one* Men, *One hundred and five* Women, *six* boys and *three* girls for which Bills of lading were signed and sent, one by the Yacht *Peace* to *El Mina* with an account of, and receipts for, remaining Merchandize.

Arrived at *Cabo de Loop de* July 25. *Consalvo* for wood and water.

1659.  
July 27. Our Surgeon, named *Martin de Lanoy*, died of the Bloody Flux.

Aug. 10. Arrived the Company's Ship *Raven* from *Castle St. George d'el Mina*, homeward bound.

11. Again resolved to pursue our Voyage towards the Island of *Annebo*, in order to purchase there Supplies for the Slaves. We have lain *Sixty* days at *Cabo de Loop* hauling wood and water. Among the Water barrels, forty were taken to pieces to be refitted, as our Cooper died at *Rio Cammerones*, and we had no other person capable of repairing them.

Arrived at the Island *An-*<sup>1659.</sup>  
*nebo* where we purchased *One*<sup>Aug. 15.</sup>  
*hundred* half tierces of little  
 Beans, *twelve* Hogs, *five thou-*  
*sand* Cocoa nuts, *five thousand*  
 Oranges, besides some other  
 stores.

Again hoisted Sail to prose-<sup>17.</sup>  
 cute our Voyage to the Island  
 of *Curacao*.

The Skipper called the<sup>Sept. 21.</sup>  
 Ships officers aft, and resolved  
 to run for the Island of *Tobago*  
 and to procure Water there;  
 otherwise we should have per-  
 ished for want of water, as  
 many of our Water casks had  
 leaked dry.

1659. Friday. Arrived at the Island  
 { Sept. 24. of *Tobago* and shipped Water  
 there, also purchased some  
 Bread, as our hands had had  
 no ration for three weeks.

27. Again set sail on our Voyage  
 to the Island of *Curacao*, as  
 before.

Nov. 2. Lost our ship on the Riffs  
 of *Rocus*, and all hands im-  
 mediately took to the Boat, as  
 there was no prospect of saving  
 the Slaves, for we must aban-  
 don the Ship in consequence  
 of the heavy Surf.

4. Arrived with the Boat at the  
 Island of *Curacao*; the Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
 Governor *Beck* ordered two

floops to take the Slaves off  
 the wreck, one of which floops <sup>1659.</sup>  
 with *eighty four* slaves on <sub>Nov.</sub>  
 board, was captured by a Pri-  
 vateer.

## LIST OF THE SLAVES

*Who died on board the Ship  
St. John from 30<sup>th</sup> June to  
29<sup>th</sup> October in the Year  
1659.*

1659.	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Children.</i>
June 30	3	2	
July 1	2	1	
3		1	
5		2	1
6		1	
7	1		
8	2	1	
9	2		
10		2	
12		1	
13	2		1
14	1		

1659.	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Children.</i>
July 16	3	2	
17	2		
18	3	1	
19	1	3	
20	1		
21	1	1	
23		2	
24	1	1	
25	2	1	
26	1		
28	3		
29		2	
Aug. 2	2		
3	1		
6	1		
8	2		1
9		1	
11		1	
16	1 man leaped overboard.		
18	1		
20		1	
22		1	
23		1	

1659.	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Children.</i>
Aug. 24	1		
29		1	
31	1	1	
Sept. 3		1	
6	2		
7	1		
8	1	1	
13	1	1	
14	2	2	1
16	1		
19	1		
23		2	
24	1	3	
26		1	
Oct. 1	2		
3	1	1	
4		1	
10	1	2	
12	1		
13	1		
19		1	
23	1		
29	1		
	59	47	4

On the *first* of November, <sup>1659.</sup>  
two hours before day, have we <sup>Nov. 1.</sup>  
lost the Ship *St. John*, upon  
the Reef of *Rocus* and fled  
with the Boat to the Island of  
*Curaçao*, and left in the Ship  
*eighty five* Slaves, including  
Men, Women, Boys and Girls,  
and arrived on the *fourth* of  
this instant at *Curaçao*.

## INFORMATION

*Taken by Order of the Honble  
 Director Matthias Beck re-  
 specting the Capture of the  
 Company's Negroes aban-  
 doned on board the Ship St.  
 John on the Island of Rocus,  
 and of the Company's Sloop  
 which was sent to save them  
 by the Honble Director M.  
 Beck aforesaid.*

**A** PPEARED *Jan van  
 Gaelen* who was sent by  
 the Hon. Director in the Com-  
 pany's Sloop, with the Skipper  
*Hans Marcussen Stuyve*, to aid

in saving the aforementioned Slaves, and having failed with the Skipper of the lost Ship and some of his Crew, from the Port here on the *Seventh* of November towards evening, came on the following Saturday in sight of *Bonaire*. When they were running towards the shore, they met an English Privateer or Rover whereof *Jan Pietersen*, a native of Denmark, was Captain, who came off the land and had the weather-gage of them, and commanded them to strike, threatening to fire if they did not obey. And this Deponent

coming on board the aforefaid Privateer, was asked, Whence came he and Whither was he bound? He answered, from *Curaçao* and was bound for *Bonaire*. Whereupon, the Captain of the Privateer asked, What business had he there? Thereupon, Deponent answered, To look up the Company's People. He, then, said, I am going with my Ship and remain you here on board and let the Vessel go on. Which they did and came to *Bonaire*. Being in the Roadstead with the aforefaid Vessel, on board of which were 5 or 6

of the Privateer's crew, one of the men of the wrecked Ship called out from the shore to those of the Vessel, as the Deponent hath afterwards understood, Did you bring along Skipper *Blaes*—to wit, the Skipper of the wrecked Ship—and have you been to *Rocus* to save the Negroes, who remained on board the Ship that lay stranded there? or, They ought first to go thither to save them. Whereupon the Privateers, who were in the bark, said, addressing the Skipper of the wrecked Ship, Now, it is enough that we

know that you are the Skipper of the wrecked Ship; and about two hours afterwards, the Privateer came with his Ship, named the *Castle frigate*, carrying *four* guns and about *thirty* men, into the Roadstead where the Vessel lay at anchor. Then his Fellows who were on board the Company's bark or Vessel, called out; Captain, We have a good Prize—mentioning the Ship wrecked at *Rocus*—and having berated the Deponent for not having told him of what had occurred, was answered, He was not bound to do so; and at the

same time requested and protested that he should let him go in order that he may prosecute the Voyage he had been sent on. Whereunto they were unwilling, but on the contrary, him detained by force, and on the following Sunday, dispatched the Vessel to *Little Curaçao* against his will where the aforefaid Privateer had his Lieutenant with a party of his men and a Pirogue to watch, as they said, the Company's vessels.

On the morning of the following Monday, the aforefaid Vessel returned with the

Lieutenant and Crew, leaving their Pirogue, which they had taken from the Spaniards, on the coast of *Curaçao*, still at Anchor at *Little Curaçao*, and towards evening set sail, taking with them by force the Company's Vessel on board of which he put his crew, leaving in it only Skipper *Hans* aforesaid with two men; and then took along by force on board his Ship the Deponent with the rest of the Crew of the Vessel and some belonging to the stranded Ship and proceeded on their Voyage to the Coast of *Caraccas* where

coming, the Rover drove a Frigate ashore which was understood to mount *six* guns, and with the Company's vessel stranded a Spanish Pirogue, and afterwards proceeded to the little Island of *David*, where they came to an Anchor. Deponent having requested with the other men to be set on board their own Bark, they would consent that the Deponent only should go on board the bark or Vessel. The Rover remained there at Anchor and dispatched the Deponent with *fourteen* of said Rover's crew in the Com-

pany's vessel to *Rocus*, with orders to seize the Slaves as a good Prize, even though the Bark named the *Young Brindle Cow*, whereof *Jan Ryckartsen* was Skipper, which had been sent thither by the Director to save the aforefaid Slaves, might have them on board.

The abovementioned Bark had lain four days by the Wreck, and had made fast a line to it in order to get the Negroes on board by that means and save them; but they could effect nothing through dread of the Negroes, and because the hands on board the Bark

were too few. They, therefore, resolved to await the arrival of the Vessel whereof the aforesaid *Hans Stuyve* was Skipper, in order thus to be stronger in hands, and by that means better able to bring the Negroes on board. Then, on arriving there, the Rover's fourteen men did, in the presence of this Deponent, run aboard them with the vessel, and attack and overpower them in a hostile manner, and took the boats of the Bark and the Sloop, all the Property of the Company, and with them hauled the Negroes off the

Wreck to the number of *eighty four* and having loaded the Bark the *Brindled Cow* with them, proceeded to *David's island* where lay the Rover, who took all the Negroes on board.

Meanwhile, remained the Sloop or Vessel with the Deponent at *Rocus*, pretending still an inclination to save something, and came the day following, to *David's island* having saved some cooking Kettles and Cordage which also they took away to the Rover. When this was accomplished, the Deponent enquired if they

were satisfied and would permit him to depart with the aforefaid Veffel, or Company's Sloop. They answered, When they had hauled wood and water. Perfifting in his request, he at last obtained for answer, That the Sloop was of use to them and they would not restore it, and in case the Bark could be of service to them, they would retain her likewise, and further, every thing belonging to the Company on the way to or from *Curaçao*. However, since she is of no use, you can go in

her with all your folks and do'nt give much jaw, or you shall all march out naked, and do you go quietly on board and do not hoist a single sail until we are gone.

On the evening of the 23d. when he had failed, steering his course towards the Mainland, we took our departure and this day arrived here. And this he declares to have thus truly occurred, which if necessary he will confirm by oath; in presence of *Theunis Lucassen* and *Peter de Leeuw*, as Witnesses hereunto invited,

in *Fort Amsterdam* at *Curaçao*, the 25<sup>th</sup> *November* A<sup>o</sup> 1659.

(Signed)

JAN VAN GAELLEN.

Witness

Theunis Lucassen,  
Peter de Leeuw.

In my presence,

NICOLAS HACK,

*Secretary.*

Appeared . *Jan Rykartzen*,  
Skipper of the Company's  
Sloop, *The Young Brindled  
Cow*, and says, that he by  
order of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director,  
had gone to *Aruba*. When

there, received Instructions to proceed to *Rocus*, to save the Company's Slaves who were driven on shore there in the Ship *St. John*, coming from the Coast of *Guinea*. These orders I immediately executed. On arriving there, I used every diligence to reach the Wreck and so far succeeded as to get a line on board, and then two Negroes came swimming to the Boat by whom the line had been passed on board. It afterwards broke loose and in consequence of bad weather, I could not go on board. I, therefore, resolved to wait for

the Company's vessel whereof *Hans Marcussen Stuyve* was Skipper, who, I had been notified, would come to help to save the Slaves; the rather, because my Crew being few in number stood, therefore, in fear of the Negroes.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, arrived the Vessel which attacked me in a hostile manner. Whereupon the Deponent demanded, What are you about? He said, Shew your Sea brief which Deponent did. That, they said, was well, and added, he might remain in their service

as long as he pleased, which he refused, being bound to serve not them, but the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director in the Company's service upon which he was dispatched. Nevertheless, he and his Crew were compelled to submit, and they forcibly took away his Boat, and with it the Company's Slaves and the Boat of the aforeaid Vessel, on board his own Ship, and commanded him to accompany them to *David's island*, where lay the Rover, called the *Castle frigate*, the Captain whereof was *Jan Pietersen*

of *Colding*,\* in *Denmark*, to whom the men belonged who mastered and captured the Company's Vessel aforesaid, and transferred the Slaves to the Ship. In the meanwhile, the aforesaid Vessel remained at *Rocus* with the Deponent's boat, in order, as they gave out, to save by their means, more Property, and they, indeed, brought off two more Slaves, some Elephants' teeth and other trifles, so that altogether they took 84 Slaves and

\* A City in the S. E. Corner of the Province of North Jutland, near the Little Belt.

2 fucking Children. They also took and carried off the afore-said Company's Vessel whereof *Hans Marcussen Stuyve* was Skipper, and told me, the Deponent, that even had I had said Slaves on board the Bark on their arrival at *Rocus*, they should have taken them away by force, and declared them good prize, because I had no Commission, but only a Sea brief. And the Deponent says, that they offered him money for the service they had received from his Bark and Crew ; this he refused to take, as such service was rendered

under compulsion, for he owed them no obedience and could not receive any thing for compulsory service. The Deponent also says, that he hath given the Captain a note that he had received nothing from them, and likewise that the Captain of the aforesaid Rover had sent the Deponent on board, though the Crew of the aforesaid *Hans Marcussen Stuyve's* Bark, belonging to the Company, had remained with him, and ordered me not to sail before he had departed, which was on the evening of the 23d of No-

vember, he steering towards  
the Coast, and we to this place  
where we arrived this date.  
And this he declares to be  
true and, if needs be, will  
confirm the same by oath.  
*Curaçao in Fort Amsterdam*  
the 25th *November* A° 1659.

(Signed)

JAN RICKERTSEN.

Witness.

Ghyfbert de Rosa

Peter de Leeuw

In presence of me

NICOLAS HACK,

*Secretary.*

Appeared *Hans Marcussen Stuyve*, Skipper of the Company's Vessel, and declared: On the 7th of November I failed hence by order of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director for *Rocus*, there to save the Company's Slaves and other property from the Ship *St. John* coming there from *Guinea*. On the following day, arrived off *Bonaire* with the aforesaid Bark, and met an English Privateer, or Rover, who having the wind of us obliged us to strike. We then launched our Boat in which *Jan van Gaelen*

went on board of him with two other hands, whom they detained, and sent my Boat back with men to take possession of my Bark which they did and carried us against our will to *Bonaire*, where being come, they put more hands on board and sent this Depo-  
nent from there to *Little Curaçao* to fetch the Privateer's Lieutenant and some men thence, out of a Pirogue which they had taken from the Spaniards on the Coast of *Caraccas* and was stationed there to watch the Company's Vessels going in and out.

Being come there, they came over in our Vessel and abandoned the Pirogue leaving her riding at anchor. Thus they returned to *Bonaire*, where the Rover rode at anchor, and being come there, they set sail altogether, notwithstanding every Protest against the injustice they did us, towards the Coast of *Caraccas* where they drove a Spanish Ship ashore, whilst we with our Sloop chased a Pirogue ashore. Steering thence back we came to *Little David's island* where the Rover cast anchor, and having put more

men on board of us, compelled us to go to *Rocus* to save the Slaves from the wrecked Ship, and if they were already saved by the Company's Bark, whereof *Jan Ryckartsen* was Skipper, to capture and remove them by force. On arriving there, we found the Bark, which we immediately boarded and took by force, removing all the Slaves which had already been saved. But although they had been there *four* days before us, they were unable to effect any thing as the line they had sent on board the Wreck, had again

broke loose and they could not afterwards approach the Wreck in consequence of the violent wind. Only *two* Negro men came by swimming on board of him; furthermore, finding themselves too weak, they waited for our coming in order, being thus stronger, to return and save the Slaves &c, weather permitting. Boarding then the Bark, she was overpowered, as stated, by force. Then taking their Shallop with ours, the Rover's crew, despite our Protests that we could not assist them, much less allow them to use our Vef-

fel, faved and brought on board the aforefaid Bark of Skipper *Jan Ryckertsen*, *Eighty two* Slaves and *two* Sucklings and fteered away with them to *David's ifland*, where faid Rover lay at anchor with his Veffel named the *Castle frigate*, the Captain whereof was *Jan Pieterfen* of *Denmark*, and compelled us to remain with our Bark at *Rocus*, with the little Sloop of *Jan Ryckertsen* aforefaid, to fave, as they faid, fome other Articles, which they did, namely, *eight* or *nine* little elephants' Teeth, *two* cooking Kettles, fome tin Ware and

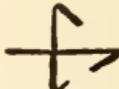
Cordage, and proceeded therewith to *David's island*, where the aforefaid Rover removed every thing from the faid Company's Veffels, and compelled us to remain until he had hauled Wood and Water. Nay, he would pay the Depo-  
 nent for his trouble and the ufe of the Veffels and Sloop, which he would not accept, giving for anfwer, That they were fent out not on this, but the Company's fervice by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director *Matthias Beck*, and that force and violence had been employed againft them. Whereupon the

Captain of the Rover was greatly irritated, and carried off the Deponent's Vessel, notwithstanding he had more than three times exhibited to him his Commission which the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director had given him, acknowledging even that the Commission was valid and that he was a Free man, and had nothing to say against him. All which notwithstanding, he afterwards carried off my Vessel with him, saying, He had need of it, and made me vacate it with my Men, permitting us only to take our Clothing, and then put us on

board *Jan Ryckertsen's* Bark. The Deponent further saith, that he was compelled per force to sign a Note, not knowing its contents, for it was written in English, and this Deponent does not understand the English language. And having been ordered not to sail before the Rover left, which was on the evening of the 23d *November* instant, steering his course towards the Main, we, with the aforesaid Bark of *Jan Ryckertsen* leaving behind one of our Sailors named *Jacob Pietersen* of *Belcom*, who voluntarily remained with them, steered to-

wards this Harbor, where we arrived in safety this day. And this he declares to be true and will confirm the same if needs be, by oath; in presence of *Ghyssbert de Rosa* and *Peter de Leeuw* as witnesses hereunto invited. *Curaçao* in *Fort Amsterdam* the 25th *November* A° 1659.

(Signed)

This is the mark  of Skipper

HANS MARCUSSEN STUYVE  
Witness *Ghyssbert de Rosa*  
*Peter de Leeuw*

In presence of me

NICOLAES HAEK, *Secretary.*

Appeared *Adriaen Blaes van der Veer*, and faith, that he was commanded by *Johan Valckenburch* General of *El Mina* and the *Gold Coast*, on the 4th of *March* last to sail as Skipper of the Ship *St. John*, from the Roadstead of the *Castle del Mina* aforesaid, with Commiffary *Johan Froom* and the accompanying Sailors, in the Company's service, to the *Calabari* or *Rio Real*, there to trade for Slaves and to proceed with them, by order of the aforesaid General, to this place. In obedience to these

orders, *Two hundred and nineteen* Slaves big and little, were actually traded and purchased, wherewith we failed in order to proiecute our Voyage and carry out our Instructions. Not obtaining at the *Calabari* such sufficiency of provisions as this Voyage demanded, for the sustenance of the aforefaid Slaves, we resolved to go to the Highland of *Ambosius* where we were unable to procure any Provisions, as was our desire. We, therefore went to the River *Camerones*, where we obtained a few Articles, but not as much as we wanted.

Nevertheless, we pursued our Voyage towards *Capo de Lopo Gonfalves*, at which place we took in Wood and Water, and thence stood across although experiencing great misery and want of food, to *Anabo*, where we got some Provisions and went on our Voyage and made land in the month of *October* last at the Island of *Tobago*, the greater portion of the Slaves having died from Want and Sicknes, in consequence of such a very long Voyage, so that we saved only *Ninety* Slaves, out of the whole Cargo. Having taken in wood and

water and a few Refreshments from the surrounding Islands, we set sail and after we fixed our course on the *first* instant, west by south, we ran ashore, two hours before day, on one of the Riffs of *Rocus*, on the North East side of the Island. Perceiving our danger, we saved ourselves with all the Crew in the Boat, leaving the Negroes in the Ship, taking our course to this place, in order to inform the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director *M. Beck* of our Misfortune. After we had left some of the men at *Bonayre*, because the Boat was too

heavily laden with the Crew, we arrived here on the *fourth* instant. Having reported ourselves to the aforefaid Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director, he difpatched me with the above Boat to *Aruba*, whither the Company's Veffels had failed, the day before, on the Company's bufinefs, with orders to proceed in faid Veffels with five of my men, and *Jan van Gaelen*, the Company's fervant. Arriving there on the following day, we went over in the Company's Veffel, whereof *Hans Marcuffen Stuyve* was Skipper, with *Jan van Gaelen*, and two of my

Crew, and the other three of my men in the Bark, called *The Young Brindled Cow*, of which *Jan Ryckertsen* was Skipper, all in the service of the Company.

We pursued our Voyage without any mishap, pursuant to the orders we had received from the aforefaid Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director here, and so on to *Rocus*, to save the Slaves and Ship's property, and having failed on the evening of the *seventh* after remaining half an hour here, we arrived in the afternoon of the following day off *Bonayre* where we met an

English Privateer, who having the wind of us, overtook us and compelling us to strike and to send off a Boat, the aforesaid *Jan van Gaelen* went on board him, who told him, we came from *Curaçao* and were going to *Bonayre*. Thereupon, the said Privateer dispatched in our Boat, in which *Jan van Gaelen* whom he detained, had gone to his Ship, on board our Vessel a party of his men to search for Pieces of Eight which, they said, we had. Then not finding any, as we had none, they forced us to run with them

up the Roadstead of *Bonayre*, where we arrived about *two* hours before the Privateer. Some of my Men who were on shore, not knowing any thing of these proceedings, called out, If I were on board? The Privateer's men taking up the word before me, asked, Who? Thereupon they answered, The Skipper of the Ship wrecked at *Rocus*, adding, Had we been to the Slaves, or were we going to save them? The Privateers answered, That they were going to save them; manifesting great joy thereat, saying, when the Privateer

cast anchor, Captain, we have a good Prize. Thereupon they forced the Deponent to go on board the Rover which was a small Frigate, carrying *four* guns, and about *thirty* men, whereof *Jan Pietersen*, a native of *Denmark*, was Captain. This Vessel was called *The Castle frigate*. Coming on board, the Captain enquired, How many Negroes he had left on his Ship? Deponent answered, *Eighty*. When he heard that, he sent the Vessel in which the Deponent came, to *Little Curaçao*, to bring his Lieutenant and some of his

men, who were lying there in a Periauger, which they had taken from the Spaniards, to watch the Company's Veffels. Meanwhile this Deponent remained on board the Rover, and they returning to us in the Roadstead of *Bonayre*, the Rover permitted this Deponent to go back to the Bark, on board of which still were, Skipper *Hans Marcussen* aforefaid, with one of his hands, who had been compelled to go to *Little Curaçao* to fetch his Lieutenant and men. To this Veffel I came, as ftated, from the aforefaid Rover with two of

my Crew, being then in all *five* servants of the Company on said Company's Vessel. The Captain of the Rover having then placed his Lieutenant and Pilot, with some of his hands, on board the Bark, we set sail under compulsion, leaving *Jan van Gaelen* and some of our men behind, whom the Rover retained by force on board his Ship, not heeding any protests or requests as free men, which they themselves admitted us to be, having cognizance of the Commission granted by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director to the afore-

faid *Hans Marcussen Stuyve*, as Skipper of the aforefaid Veffel, and that therefore, they ufed force and violence towards us who were not in any manner in their fervice, but indeed in that of the Company, to whom alone we owed Obedience, and that for the purpose of executing the orders of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director, to which end and to no other, were we fent out. All this notwithstanding, were we compelled to accompany the aforefaid Rover who fet fail at the fame time, taking his courfe towards the Main land of *Ca-*

*raccas* where he drove on shore a Spanish Ship mounting *six* guns, and with our Bark, in our presence and before Deponent's face, drove a Spanish Periauger ashore. Thence they and the Rover forced us to cross over and cast anchor under *Little David's island*, and having put more people in our Bark, until she numbered in all fourteen men, whilst he remained there at Anchor, we set sail for *Rocus*.

On arriving at that place, we found the other of the Company's Vessels, named *The Young Brindled Cow*, whereof

*Jan Ryckertsen* aforefaid was Skipper, with three of my men on board, who accompanied him to *Aruba*, out of my Boat. They went thither, as already ftated, by command of the aforefaid Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director, alfo with orders to no other intent than to fave the aforefaid Slaves &c, and had lain there four Days and had fo far fucceeded as to pafs a line on board my Ship, two of the Negroes coming on board fwimming. The aforefaid line breaking loofe, and finding themfelves too weak in confequence of the ftiong

wind, the Men resolved to wait our arrival, having been informed of our approach, so as, when thus reinforced and the Weather would moderate, to save with our Sloop and Boat the aforefaid surviving Slaves &c. from my Ship which also belonged to the Company. Then they, the Rover's men, who were on board our Bark, supposing that the aforefaid Skipper *Jan Ryckertsen* with his Crew and my three men had saved all, coming to them went on board with our Bark, according to the orders they had to that effect, from their

Captain, who had been informed of the departure of the aforesaid Company's Bark and the purport for which we were sent out, by a Frienslander named *Jacob Petersen* from *Belcom*, a Sailor in the Company's service, under Skipper *Hans Marcussen Stuyve*, who had voluntarily deserted to them on the same day that we came on board the *Rover*. Which orders were to board them, to see if they had saved the Slaves &c. and to seize and remove them. They accordingly did attack them in a hostile manner in the pre-

fence of the Deponent and four other of the Company's Servants who could not refrain from remonstrating against the injustice which they demonstrated they were doing. Finding that no more than the two aforesaid Slaves had been saved, they took away, per force our Boat together with *Jan Ryckertsen's* Boat, all the property of the Company appertaining to the aforesaid Vessels, and with them, the weather moderating somewhat, removed the Slaves from my Ship, making use for that purpose of one of my Matrosses named

*Martin Michielsen van Hulst*, who was on board *Jan Ryckertsen's* Bark afore said. By his assistance, for the Negroes knew him and called him by name, the afore said *Jan Ryckertsen* got the line on board, and in like manner accompanied one of the Rovers at the time all the Slaves &c. were on board, and then came again swimming on board the Lieutenant of the Rover with *two* of his men, who then numbered *four*, having again brought a rope on board from the Company's Vessel by which they let all

the Negroes who were capable of swimming, swim off to the Rift, whilst they brought those who could not swim in a Boat belonging to the aforesaid Vessels, to the same Rift, and having meanwhile made the other Boat dry inside the Rift, they brought in her on board the aforesaid *Jan Ryckertsen's* Bark, *eighty two* Slaves and *two* Sucklings. And this Deponent having, before they removed any of the Slaves, requested of the Lieutenant and his men belonging to the Rover, permission to go with his aforesaid Matros, he was

unwilling to grant it until some of the Slaves had been removed out of the Ship, so that when this Deponent went on board his Ship there remained on board no more than about *thirty* Slaves. After all the Negroes had been removed from his Ship, this Deponent was conveyed to *Jan Ryckertsen's* Bark, with the Instructions which General *Johan Valckenburgh* had given him, together with all the Papers and Accounts of the said Commissary, relating to his freight and other business matters, done pursuant to the Compa-

ny's orders. Then the Deponent was conveyed by them with the aforefaid Bark and Negroes, to *David's island*, where the Rover lay at anchor waiting for us, leaving behind them the Veffel whereof *Jan Marcuffen Stuyve* is Skipper, to fave *two* Negroes whom the Deponent had left on board when he quit the Ship. That Veffel joined them the next day at *David's island*, bringing along the *two* aforefaid Slaves, fome Kettles, Rope and about 70 pounds of Elephants' teeth, alfo fome Flags, Compaffes and other articles. The Rover

having removed the Slaves and every thing else out of the Company's Vessels, took from the Deponent the Instructions given him by the General, with all the Commissary's Papers, notwithstanding the protests and requests to the contrary, giving the Deponent for answer, that all belonged to him. He, moreover, commanded them to remain by him until he had hauled Wood and Water, and afterwards took *Hans Marcussen Stuyve's* Vessel, saying he required her. He then made the Deponent remain on board *Jan Ryckert-*

*sen's* Bark, compelling him to make room for said *Hans Marcussen Stuyve* with all his Crew and some of the Deponent's men. Then he ordered them not to fail for this Place until he had taken his departure, which was on the 23d instant, steering his course towards the Main. And this Deponent with his Crew and that of the Company's Bark, took their course with the aforesaid *Jan Ryckertsen's* Bark, to this Place where they arrived in safety on the 25<sup>th</sup> instant.

This he declares to be the truth, and to have thus oc-

curred, and will if needs be,  
confirm the same on oath, in  
presence of Mr *Gysbert de*  
*Rosa* and *Peter de Leeuw*,  
witnesses hereunto invited.  
*Curaçao in Fort Amsterdam*  
the 27th *November* A° 1659.

(Signed)

ADRIAEN BLAES.

Witnesses.

Ghyfbert de Rosa

Peter de Leeuw

In my presence

NICOLAES HAEK,

*Secretary.*

PROCLAMATION.

MATTHIAS BECK, *in the service of their High Mightinesses the Lords States General of the free United Netherlands and of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> General Incorporated West India Company, Governor over the Curaçao Islands*, GREETING:

**B**E it known, that one *Jan Pietersen of Coling in Denmark*, styling himself Commander of a Ship called *The Castle Frigate*, having with him some Englishmen, French-

men and Dutchmen, who are cruising with him on this Coast in the Ship aforesaid, hath dared to attack the Company's Vessels near *Bonayre* and *Rocus*, and forcibly to take possession thereof, and with them and the Company's Men to take by force, among others, *eighty four* healthy Negroes out of the Company's Ship, called *The St. John*, coming from the Coast of *Guinea*, which was wrecked on the Riffs of *Rocus*, where one of the aforesaid Company's Ships was already engaged in saving said Negroes for the Company,

whose Property they were, with all that was in the Ship, to bring them here to *Curaçao*, for which purpose they were expressly sent hence thither; Regardless whereof, the afore-said *Jan Pietersen* hath not only prevented the Company's Vessels executing their Instructions and Orders, but hath made himself Master of said Vessels, and with them and Boats, stole not only the said Negroes and every thing else, but in addition thereto carried off one of the Company's best sailing Vessels called *The Young Ostrich*, to the great damage

of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company, and appropriated the same to himself as good booty, so as all is to be seen by the Informations, Relations, Reports and Delarations of the Skipper and Crews of the Vessels aforesaid.

And *Whereas* the aforesaid *Jan Pietersen* and his Men have heretofore committed similar acts under irregular Commission and persist in the same course, especially as public Pirates, by the seizure of the Company's Vessel and Negroes, and have threatened to continue so to do; And *Whereas* among others, one of

the Company's Matroffes named *Jan Pieterfen* of *Belcom*, a Frieflander, being in our actual fervice, having failed as Matrofs on board the Company's ftyger fchuit, *The Young Brindled Cow*, hath voluntarily gone over to this Pirate, difregarding the Allegiance, Plight and Oath, whereby he was bound to the Company, but on the contrary, as appears by Information, hath acted and is ftill acting, as a Spy for thefe Pirates; All which and what precedes are matters of very ill confequence, of ferious

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damage and moment to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> General Incorporated West India Company, who will not fail to express their highest Indignation on this subject, and endeavor by all ways and means, not only to make good and to procure an indemnity for their damages and losses already suffered by the stealing of their Vessel and Negroes, so illegally purloined from them, but above all, to procure that such Rovers shall be punished as Pirates and Robbers, according to their deserts, as an Example to others.

To this end, therefore, with the advice of Our Council, upon the certain Proofs and Reports to Us rendered, We, being unwilling to lose any time in overhauling the said Sea Robbers, have Resolved and concluded, in the Name and on the Behalf of the Lords Principals, their High Mightinesses the Lords States General, and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> General Incorporated West India Company, for their protection and the Public Good, hereby to warn all the Company's Captains, and Ships as well as Private Skippers and Ships

and Veffels at present lying or about to come, within this Harbor, who owe allegiance to their High Mightineffes the Lords States General and are in the fervice of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> General Incorporated Weft India Company not only to be on their guard againft the aforefaid Pirates and Sea Robbers, but fhould they meet them at Sea, them to attack, openly and with force and arms, and bring them in here to *Curaçao*, or if they fall in with them at any of the *Lee-ward Islands*, to complain of them to the Governors and

Magistrates at such place where they happen to find them, according to the Proofs thereof in existence, and to procure that such Justice may be inflicted upon them as the Informations shall justify. Requesting all Generals, Governors and Commanders both on Sea and on Land, to whom these Our Letters for the execution of the premises shall be shown, to administer good Law and Justice to them. Such will We reciprocate on like Occasion. Thus done and enacted on the Island *Curaçao* in *Fort Amsterdam* the 5th *December*, A° 1659.

*Vice Director* BECK to the WEST  
INDIA COMPANY, *Chamber at*  
*Amsterdam.*

*Curaçao, 5 January, 1660.*

Honorable, Respected, Wife,  
Prudent and most Discreet  
Sirs,

*Gentlemen,*

**B**Y the Ships *King Solomon*  
and *St. John* 3d Sep-  
tember, was my last to your  
Honors, to which I refer.

\* \* \* \* \*

I despatch these few lines  
at present by the bearers  
hereof, the Commiffary and

Skipper of the Ship *St. John*, who coming from the Coast of *Guinea* with Negroes were wrecked on *Rocus* on the Voyage hither, leaving behind them some *Eighty* living Slaves, besides many and a greater number of dead ones who were starved on the way for want of food. Your Honors will please see in the accompanying Papers what diligence I have used to save those living; also, how the Sea Rovers, of whom I heretofore advised you, have carried off not only the Negroes, but also the best of the Company's Barks, as appears

by the said Papers, to which and to the verbal Report of the aforesaid Commissary and Skipper I, for brevity sake, refer.

With submission to your Honors, it would in my opinion not be unadvisable if a suitable well fitted Vessel or Yacht could be obtained, carrying half a dozen guns. She could be employed in bringing Horses from *Aruba* to *Bonayre* and this place, many of which are now bitten to death by the Rattlesnakes there, and on such occurring occasions be manned with hands sufficient

to overhaul such Sea Rovers, and used for various other purposes.

As it is in the highest degree necessary to look after the Sea Rovers, in order at least to impress them with the fear of approaching so near us, I have chartered a small private Boat, mounting *six* guns, strongly manned and double armed to look up the afore-said Sea Robbers at the place where, we presume, they are sojourning, in the hope of obtaining not only some advantage over them, but if we should catch the Ringleaders,

of having such punishment inflicted on them as would serve as an example to others. Herein we shall not fail in our duty.

*Director* BECK *to Director*  
STUYVESANT.

*Curaçao, 4. February, 1660.*

*Sir,*

**M**Y last dated 23 August and 10th September were sent your Honor by the Ship *Sphera Mundi* as per copies annexed, to which I refer. Since then, I have had none of yours to acknowledge. Therefore this shall be the shorter, the rather as I transmit enclosed to you open the accompanying despatch to our Lords Masters, in order that

you may, yourself, be able to see from it what transpired here, and having taken cognizance thereof to seal and send it by the first sailing Ship to Amsterdā to the Lords Masters.

As your Honor will be able to glean from the Informations and Papers inclosed therein, what sort of Sea Rovers here have taken the Company's Negroes and Bark, among which visitors was also to be found one *Pickled Herring*, who formerly went privateering with Captain *Beaulieuw*, and now and then makes his

appearance in your Honor's jurisdiction in *New Netherland*, and possibly some of the Ringleaders of them may land there, we wish, in such case, that they were made known to you, to the end that you may cause such Justice to be administered to them as they deserve.

If your Honor have an opportunity of writing to *Jamaica*, where I partly understand these Rovers have arrived, and where they have no Counter party and can make such Representation as they please to the General

there, your Vigilance might effect a great deal of good by transmitting a Letter on the subject to him, which shall also be done here when an opportunity offers.

\* \* \* \* \*

I greatly desired that the Ships expected with Negroes had arrived, in order to enable me to send your Honor some lusty fellows, but none have come up to this date, although looked for every day. We must postpone doing so until the next opportunity, God willing.

JOURNAL

OF THE SLAVER

**The Arms of Amsterdam**

AND

HER CAPTURE.





# JOURNAL

OF THE SLAVER

The Arms of Amsterdam,

AND

HER CAPTURE.

---

**D**AULUS Heyn Ridder  
from *Staden*, aged  
about 51 years, Pilot  
of the Ship the *Arms of Am-*  
*sterdam*, and *Leendert Jacques*  
*van Cuelen*, born at *Amster-*  
*dam*, aged about 26 years,  
Assistant Commissary, who  
arrived here yesterday from  
*Virginia*, in Mr. *Foscom's* Bark,

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appeared at the Meeting of the Director General and Council of *New Netherland*, and made known and declared as followeth :

That they, the Deponents, set sail from the *Castle del Mina* on the 21st *February* last in the service and for the account of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Incorporated West India Company, Chamber at Amsterdam, in the Ship the *Arms of Amsterdam*, at which time *Jan Gerritsen Nuchteren*, who died on the passage on the \_\_\_\_\_, was Skipper, with orders and command from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Ge-

neral *Jan Valckenburgh* to repair to *Loango* in *Angola*, to take in a cargo of Slaves there, and convey them to the Island of *Curaçao*.

April 15. Having arrived at *Loango* and taken on board 101 head of Slaves there for account of the abovementioned Company,

On the 28th of said month, again set fail for *Curaçao*.

June 20. Sighted *Curaçao*, but could not reach said Island in consequence of the strong Current and stiff East wind. Having vainly endeavored, during three days and three

nights, to laveer, and Water beginning to get very low, we were necessitated to change our course, and thus

July 2, came to the Salt ground of *Cayman*, which is one of the Cayman Islands, where, whilst engaged in taking Water and some Turtle on board, on

July 6, about noon, *five* Ships came to anchor there; *four* with English flags and one under Portuguese colors, which last, called the *Maria of London*, whereof one *Robert Downeman* was Captain, after she had taken some hands on board from the other Ships,

immediately weighed anchor again, and came down on the Deponent's Ship, calling out, "Strike for the King of Portugal;" and at once, without giving time to strike, fired a shotted Cannon and a discharge of Musketry killing two Negroes dead, and wounding one Dutchman. After having thus fired, came straight on board, seized the Ship and Negroes, forced the Crew to go to the Ship aforesaid and plundered every thing. The Captains of the four English Ships abovementioned, one of whom was called Captain *Gey*

and another, Captain *Brommert*, got some of the Negroes because they had furnished him men, but the Deponents do not know how many. After they had lain there some days, said Captain having first dismantled his own Frigate set her on fire, and

July 18, sailed thence with the aforesaid Ship, *The Arms of Amsterdam*, having enlisted some of the Sailors, giving out that he intended to sail to *Montserrat* in the Caribbean Islands, but as the Ship was a poor Sailer, and Water was short, he set sail for *Virginia* and arrived

September 10, in the Bay there.

September 19, arrived at *Elizabeth's river*, whence the Deponent went to *Nancimon*.

October 6, departed thence for this place in Mr. *Foscom's* Bark, and arrived here yesterday.

All which they declared to be true and truthful. In testimony whereof these presents are signed by them in *Fort Amsterdam* in *New Netherland*, the 13<sup>th</sup> October A<sup>o</sup> 1663.

FINIS.



A P P E N D I X .

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ADDITIONAL PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

The Slave Trade

UNDER THE DUTCH.

---

*Directors at Amsterdam to*  
*Director* STUYVESANT.

\* \* \* \* \*

[1646.] **H**AVING observed that more Negroes could be profitably traded off there than were carried thither in the Ship *Tamandare*, we shall pay attention that for the future more Negroes shall be conveyed thither.

*Bill of Sale of a Negro.*

**B**EFORE me *Cornelis Van Tienhoven*, Secretary of *New Netherland*, appeared *Fredrick Lubbersen*, who declared to have sold unto *Richard Lord*, a Negro named *Anthony*, which Negro, he the Grantor hereby conveys and transports in right ownership to the abovenamed *Richard Lord*, who shall be at liberty to use the said Negro during his life, at all such work, as he, *Richard Lord*, shall think proper. He *Fredrick Lubbersen* declares from this day forward to desist from all property in the said Negro. In testimony whereof these presents are signed by *Fredrick Lubbersen* and witness hereunto invited, 28th 9ber 1646.

FREDRICK LUBBERTSEN.

To my knowledge,

CORNELIS VAN TIENHOVEN, *Secretary.*

ADRIAEN VAN TIENHOVEN, *Witness.*

*Directors at Amsterdam to  
Director STUYVESANT.*

EFFORTS are just now making at the *Hague* before their High Mightinesses to effect a general Reformation in all the Colonial possessions of this Company, and *New Netherland* also was remembered on that occasion. It has been already provisionally resolved that all Colonists of that Country shall be empowered to export their products of Flour, Fish, Beef, Pork, Peas, Beans, &c., in their own, or in chartered Ships to *Brazil*, and *Angola*; that said Ships may again take freight from *Brazil* to this Country, but that those who have completed their trade in *Angola* shall be at liberty to convey Negroes back home to be employed in the cultivation of

their lands. By this resolution Your Honor will observe that we ourselves are at liberty to send a Ship with all sorts of Provisions to *Angola* and to convey Negroes back in return. Therefore please to embrace this opportunity as quickly as possible with the Provisions which you say you will have remaining.

*Amsterdam, 7th April, 1648.*

*Directors at Amsterdam to  
the Commonalty at the  
Manhattans.*

\* \* \* \* \*

AND in order that you may be the more fully assured of our good intention, we do hereby consent that the Commonalty yonder shall have liberty to repair to the

Coast of *Angola* and *Africa*, and transport thence as many Negroes as they will make use of for the cultivation of their Lands, on the Conditions and regulations which are sent herewith to the Director.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Amsterdam, 4th April, 1652.*

*Directors at Amsterdam to*  
*Director* STUYVESANT.

\* \* \* \* \*

**W**E have by contract given and granted to some private Merchants permission empowering them to repair to the Coast of *Africa* to trade for Slaves there, and to carry and convey them to the *West Indies* and the Islands situate thereabout, and as we expect that the aforesaid

Ships or some of them will go to *New Netherland* to sell their Slaves also to the Inhabitants there, in such case we desire and request that Your Honor will not demand any Duties from them, but lend them all reasonable Assistance, in order to the removal of every obstacle which might prove a hinderance to Agriculture. This for your information and notification.\*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Amsterdam, this 6th June, 1653.*

\* NOTE BY DR. VANDERKEMP.—Here are reported unquestionable Facts that the *Dutch* were the chief Supporters of the Slave Trade, stamping their Seal on the Declaration of one of the Magistrates of *Amsterdam* to Prince *Frederick*, “that he would send a Cargo to *Hell* at the Risk of fingeing his Sails if he were sure of a prosperous Voyage.”

*Resolution of the Assembly of  
the XIX.*

*Monday, 15 September, 1653.*

THE Committee appointed for this purpose reports with regard to the Ninth Article relative to Privateering, as the result of their deliberations, that the Regulation of the year 1646 on this subject ought to remain in force, but in order to encourage Individuals, in this critical conjuncture, to equip Vessels to annoy the Enemy, it might be permitted, besides lowering the duties granted in 1652, that the following alterations be provisionally adopted :

\* \* \* \* \*

5.

The Negroes coming in prizes from beyond the Seas, and nothing

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else, may be exported, with the consent of the Government in *Brazil*, to all such places as the interested may deem proper.

6.

The duties which the Company receives from all prize goods brought in and mentioned in the aforesaid rule, Negroes included, shall be reduced to *ten* per cent, and no more.

*Directors at Amsterdam to*  
*Director* STUYVESANT.

\* \* \* \* \*

26. **A**FTER closing and dispatching the duplicate hereof which goes by the Ship *The Black Eagle*, we have on the Petition of some private Merchants, viz., *Jan*

*Sweerts* and *Dirck Pieterfen Wittepaert*, and in order to promote Population and Agriculture there, consented and allowed that they may go with their Ship the *Wittepaert* to the Coast of *Africa*, and having trafficked for Slaves there, convey the same to *New Netherland* to be sold to the Inhabitants there, provided that of the Goods and returns proceeding from said Slaves, and which shall be brought back in the abovementioned Ship, there shall be paid to the Company the lawful Duties fixed thereon, or otherwise the ordinary Tonnage duty according to the regulation enacted at the Coast of *Africa*, at the Company's option, as appears by the annexed extract of Resolutions adopted on the 19th of this month.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Amsterdam, 23d November, 1654.*

*Resolution of the Amsterdam  
Chamber of the West India  
Company.*

No. 26.

*Thursday, the 19th Novem- }  
ber, 1654.*

**M**R. *Jan de Sweerts* and *Dirck Pieterfen Wittepaert* appeared before the Assembly, and requested permission to proceed hence with their Ship the *Wittepaert*, to the Coast of *Africa* for Slaves, and to dispose of these in *New Netherland*, on payment of the ordinary Tonnage, or the Duty fixed therefor. Question being put, considerable discussion ensued, and as it was understood that such would tend to the increase of Population and advancement of said Place, the

same was consented to, on condition that the Company shall have the option, on the arrival of said Ship, which must come in here, to collect the proper Duties of the Goods which she is to bring with her, or the ordinary Tonnage duty, according to the Regulation enacted on the Coast of *Africa*, with which the abovementioned Mess<sup>rs</sup> *Jan de Sweerts* and *Dirck Pietersen Wittepaert* are satisfied.

*Ordinance imposing a Duty on  
Exported Slaves.*

*Friday, 6. August, 1655.*

**W**HEREAS the Director General and Council of *New Netherland* find that the Negroes

lately arrived here from the Bight of *Guinea* in the Ship *Witte Paert*, have been transported and carried hence without the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company or the Inhabitants of this Province having derived any Revenue or benefit therefrom, the Director General and Council have resolved and concluded that there shall be paid at the General Treasury 10 per cent of the value or purchase money of the Negroes who shall be carried away or exported from here elsewhere beyond the Jurisdiction of *New Netherland*. Dated as above.

P. STUYVESANT,  
NICASIUS DE SILLE,  
LA MONTAGNE.

*Resolution of the Director General and Council of New Netherland.*

*Tuesday, 24th August, 1655.*

**T**HE Petition of *Edmund Scharburgh* being read, requesting permission to depart from this place to Virginia with his Vessel and some Negroes he has purchased, this Apostile was given :

The Request is granted, on condition that the Petitioner give bail in the sum of five thousand Pounds sterling, not to enter the South Bay or River, and that his Crew promise under Oath not go there, nor communicate any intelligence by Sea or Land to any person whomsoever.\*

\* Referring to the Expedition against the Swedes, on the Delaware River, then about to fail.

*Resolution of the Chamber at  
Amsterdam.*

*Monday, 3d. April, 1656.*

IT being represented that a Ship, with the consent of the Directors of *Medenblick*, depending on the Chamber of *West Friesland* and *The North Quarter*, has sailed to the Coast of *Africa* for Slaves, with intention to sell them at the Island of *Curaçao*,\* or to trade them on the Main, it is resolved to oppose the aforesaid sale or barter, and to write to Vice Director *Beck* there, to detain the aforesaid Ship and Slaves and to proceed therewith so and in

\* *Curaçao* was exclusively under the Direction of the Chamber at *Amsterdam*, and it may be inferred from the above that the exclusive Control of the Dutch Slave Trade was also vested in that Chamber.

such manner as he shall find consistent with law.

*Vice Director* BECK to the  
*Directors at Amsterdam.*

*Curaçao, 11. June, 1657.*

Honorable, Respected, Wise, Prudent and most Discreet Gentlemen.

*Gentlemen,*

MY last to your Honors was by way of the *Caribbean Islands*, which I hope has been received long ere this. Since then safely arrived here the Freight-boat with those who were commissioned and sent for purposes explained in our previous dispatch, from this place, to the *Caraquas*, the principal Capital of the Main, lying nearest this

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Island, bringing with them the written Answer of the Governor of said locality, who, as represented, was favorably inclined to what was proposed to him in our letter, yet dared not manifest such in public, because, as he alleges, of the Limits agreed upon and concluded in the Articles or Treaty of Peace between his Royal Majesty of *Spain* and their High Mightinesses the Lords States General. The original Letter received from there, mentioned above, goes herewith, together with the Relation and Verbal Report of the disposition in which our two Commissioners, who were sent thither, found them. Nevertheless, in order to avoid suspicion and arrest, and on account of some Ships lying there, they did not find it expedient to deliver the principal and separate Memorial entrusted to

them to the Governor and Chief Authorities of that place, the rather as no occasion or opportunity presented itself; for they had not been further than the beach in the Harbor and under the Fortrefs, whence they had been again difpatched without having been invited to *Caraquas*, the Capital. They were, however, by order and command of the Governor of *Caraquas* courteoufly entertained by the chief officers of the Fortrefs and place, of the Village and Harbor where they lay and were offered every thing they stood in need of for the profecution of their Voyage to *Eufatius*. They report that they have had many inquiries and follicitations for goods, fuch as Silks, Linens and Hats, but they excufed themfelves; trade to their Coafts, Harbors and Territories not being permitted, they dared not

bring any thing with them. But on the other hand, if they had an opportunity, and would please to come to *Curaçao*, to purchase Negroes and Merchandize, they would be welcome there and accommodated to their satisfaction either for Specie, Hides, Tobacco or other commodities saleable in Europe. They had communicated to divers individuals the separate Memorial with which they had been entrusted, and had, according to opportunity, divulged it to them as amply and fully as was in their power, and stimulated some thereby to such a degree as to create hope that some time or other it will produce fruit. Your Honors can inform yourselves more fully on the subject by reference to the Reports and Documents sent herewith.

A certain Biscayan, an inhabitant

of *Caraquas* had, among others, an interview with our Commissioners and gave them to understand that he had a new Vessel on the stocks there with which he was intending at an early day to make a Voyage along the Main from *Caraquas* hitherward, to certain little Islands lying in the neighborhood of, and opposite *Bonayre*, near the Main, to catch Turtle, and expected to be engaged there three weeks. It was his intention, according to circumstances, to take with him, as a venture, some Tobacco, Hides and other wares, in order, should people come there to trade with him and bring along such goods as would be of use to him, that he would have payment ready for them, and also have a better opportunity to converse about other trade.

With a view, therefore, to en-

courage those people more and more in our favor, I resolved, upon the abovementioned Report, by advice of and after communication with the adjoined Council here, to send one of the Company's Sloops, with a small cargo of such things as we could obtain here, as a venture thither. I found said Biscayan faithful to his proposal and promise, only he was prevented bringing any Hides or Tobacco with him, by being obliged, by the Governor of *Caraquas*, to convey some persons for the King to *Porto Cabelbo*, and in order not to create any evil suspicion in their minds, he dared not on this occasion bring any thing with him in his Bark except a little rough Copper or *Slacken* which he exchanged for the small cargo he bespoke from our people, and further made a Proposal and even

wrote a Letter to me with his own hand, the original whereof is annexed, to purchase the Company's Negroes, that is, all that are here at present, on the following conditions, to wit; That the Company shall have a Ship with their own Crew here ready for the Negroes to embark in, and when resolved to accept his offer, to let him know by those recently with him, at the place designated by him, when he will without loss of time, repair in person to this harbor, and enter into an Agreement and terms for what articles and at what price the Negroes shall be delivered at the place where he hopes to bring them in safety and without danger; and that he will not receive any Negroes before payment for them shall be made on board the Ship, and he or his partner shall remain on board

the Ship, with the Negroes, until the Conditions and Agreement which will be made here, shall be fully carried out.

He reports that the place to which he says he will convey them is on the North side of *Cuba*, where the (Spanish) Nation has no Fortrefs nor means to prevent the project or to disturb them; also that he will leave his own Cousin, who is likewise related to the friends to whom he will convey the Negroes, here at *Curaçao* as a Hostage and security, until it be manifest that he shall have performed in good faith all he has promised; as more fully appears by the annexed Relation and report of Cornet *Balthazar Van Efs* and *Johan Rombouts* on the subject. He has requested an answer to this, for his information. I therefore wish your Honors' early

Instructions hereupon, as to what I shall do, or omit in this matter, and that in the meanwhile I may receive a supply of provisions sufficient for the Negroes to enable me to wait for him.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have received the Agreement and Condition which Your Honors have concluded with Mr. *Henricus Matthias*, merchant of *Amsterdam*, respecting the Negroes. On looking and reading it over, I find it very favorable for that gentleman, wherefore my impression is that your Honors' intention in concluding it is to begin and introduce the trade here. I shall not be wanting, God willing, in obeying and executing your Honors' orders and Instructions in this regard faithfully and to my best ability. Meanwhile, should it happen that

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Mr. *Henricus Matthias's* expected Ship did not arrive here, as it has not yet done, I shall expect your further order and answer whether we shall dare to proceed or not with the Negroes on the aforesaid Biscayan's presented proposals extended as above. In the strong hope and expectation that we shall be able to open a trade with our nearest neighbors, I shall purchase on your Honors' account a small cargo from Skipper *Simon Cornelissen Gilde*, so that they may at least find something on coming here; and our Vessels on passing near *Bonayre* may advise the Biscayan and the other Inhabitant already mentioned, what goods can be purchased here on arriving, taking a sample along to show them, should occasion present, and, at the same time, inform the Biscayan that

I have not received any orders to allow Negroes to leave the Island until payment for them has been made, and that I shall let him have, within four months after date, a fuller and more explicit answer which I hope I shall receive from your Honors in the meantime.

I am confident that on these Conditions he would readily give *Two hundred* pieces of Eight for a merchantable Negro or Negrefs, one with another, whilst he gave us to understand, that the price of Hides would be *Eighteen* shillings.

*Vice Director* BECK to the *Directors at Amsterdam.*

*Curaçao, 28. July, 1657.*

*Gentlemen.*

\* \* \* \* \*

AS I advised your Honors in my last, I dispatched the Freight-boat to the appointed and prefixed place—a certain small Island near the Main—to the Biscayan and sent him word on the subject of his trading for Negroes, as I had informed your Honors more at large in my last. Whereupon he resolved to visit this place in person, in our aforesaid Freight-boat (*Stygerschuit*). He was accompanied by a certain *Padre*, named *Friar Francis* to purchase a few parcels of merchandize with one or two little Negro Girls.

I also sold to the abovenamed Biscayan, a small Negro Boy with a few goods, for which he had brought with him some Hides and Tobacco in our aforesaid Boat ; these are sent herewith as a specimen by the Ship *Ostrich*, the price of the Hides being *Fifteen* shillings each and of the Tobacco *Six* pieces of Eight the Arobe of *Twenty five* Pounds. I have sold to the aforesaid *Padre* Friar *Francis*, goods to the amount of *Four hundred* pieces of Eight and *two* little Negro Girls, all at a fair and reasonable price, in order to encourage and stimulate them to come to these Ports to trade, which I think is greatly for the Company's interest. Wherefore, I let the *Padre* have the *two* little Negro Girls @ *One hundred and fifty* pieces of Eight each, which together amounts to *Three hundred* pieces of Eight,

and to the aforefaid Biscayan a little Boy @ *One hundred and twenty* pieces of Eight. The Merchandizes which I fold them were purchafed from the bearer hereof, *Simon Corneliffen Gilde*, Skipper of the Ship *Oſtrich*, expreffly for this purpoſe on your Honors' account before their arrival, in order that our neareſt Neighbors on coming here may at leaſt on ſuch occaſion find ſomething for the aſking, until your Honors might ſend ſuch cargoes as the caſe requires, as I have partly explained in my laſt.

Although the abovementioned *Padre*, Friar *Francis*, did not bring with him any payment for what he purchafed, yet could I not let him go away empty handed, as it was the firſt time, in conſequence of the converſation and verbal Agreement entered into with our Commiſſary

and Skipper of the Freight-boat before his arrival here—that is, to let them return to the appointed place with what they had purchased, on condition that they should not land, much less receive possession of what has not been paid for here, until they have made payment therefor to the Commissary and Skipper of the aforesaid freight Boat, in good and sufficient Hides.

\* \* \* \* \*

With regard to the trade in Negroes, the aforesaid Biscayan, now here, hath given me such explanations and further information on that point, that we can come to no other conclusion than that a good and favorable result is to be expected from it. He hath communicated to me the most direct and shortest route, how and in what manner not only a shipload of

Negroes, but successively a cargo of good saleable Merchandize besides could be traded off. Were a Ship with necessaries in the harbor here, he is willing on receiving notice thereof at the appointed place, to come here and enter into such agreement with the Company from which as he firmly believes, he and the Company would derive great advantage.

The place the Negroes should be conveyed to is called *Porto Velo*, the staple place of trade. Permission can be obtained to dispose of the cargo freely there on paying *One hundred and thirteen* pieces of Eight for each Negro, which is the Royalty. But such permission is not given except to persons of their own Nation; but it can be obtained under the pretext that they had chartered a Dutch Ship and

Crew to fetch and bring over the Negroes, and that the Negroes and Merchandize in the Ship are the property of their Nation.

Such is the manner in which the aforefaid Biscayan would contract for and purchase Negroes from the Company on the following Conditions: That he, or his companion, with five or six more of their Nation, shall embark at their own expence with the Company's Skipper, Commissary, Crew and Matrosses in the Ship lying ready to sail and prosecute with them their Voyage to *Porto Velo*, and after receiving a permit there from the Governor, sell the Negroes which they know they can sell immediately after their arrival at such a high price that the outlay of the aforefaid Royalty in order to obtain the Permit, may be easily repaid. Therefore, they

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will undertake this themselves, and pay to the Company, after safe arrival there, for each Negro and Negress between *Eighteen* and *thirty* years of age, *Two hundred* Reals or Pieces of Eight, in Silver bars or pieces of Eight; further they will be able to obtain there a proper permit to trade then to other places, to load the Ship with such cargo and freight as the countries supply and are most profitable to the country. In like manner, the price for the Goods being agreed upon and arranged here, the payment there for them shall be made in the same manner as for the Negroes, but the risk of the Sea and the expenses of the Negroes, until they arrive at the above place, must be borne by the Company, but when arrived there, they will be responsible for them. For the full per-

formance of the Conditions which shall be made here on the part of the Company, the aforesaid Biscayan offers to stake his life, and even to remain here in person in the Fort, or to leave another responsible person here in custody of the Company at the risk of his life, if any fraud is, or has been intended or designed. And it is further conditioned that the Negroes in their minority, as well as old and deformed ones, must be disposed of at a special and lower price. On these terms he is resolved, at all times from now henceforth, whenever a Ship with Negroes will be ready here, at the time and place to be named where advice is to be sent him, to come hither and with God's merciful help faithfully to perform whatever is abovementioned.

The other Plan or proposal mentioned in my last, to run the Negroes

in at the north fide of *Cuba*, is not, he fays, fo feafible as this.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Charter of the Ship Eyckenboom  
for a Voyage to Africa and  
New Netherland.*

**I**N the Name of the Lord, Amen.  
In the year of the birth of  
Our Lord and Saviour *Jefus Chrift*,  
1659, the 25th of *January*, be-  
fore me *Henrick Schaeff*, admitted  
by the Court of *Holland* a Notary  
Public refiding in *Amsterdam*, and  
the undersigned witneffes, in their  
own perfons came and appeared  
Messieurs *Edward Man* and *Abra-  
ham Wilmerdoncx*, Directors of the  
Incorporated Weft India Company  
at the Chamber here in *Amsterdam*

hereunto authorized by the Board of their Associates, as charterers on the one part, and Skipper *Jan Jansen Eyckenboom* of *Hoorn*, Master under God, of his Ship named the *Eyckenboom*, long 1<sup>c</sup>xx, wide xxv and one half, hold xi and one half, over it five and one half and six feet, with a half deck and forecattle on either side, and the aforesaid parties declared and do hereby declare to have made and concluded together a certain Contract for a charter of said Ship, in the form and manner hereinafter described, To wit :

That the aforesaid Skipper shall be bound immediately to deliver his aforesaid Ship here in the City fitted out, tight, well caulked, and provided with good and sufficient anchors, cordage, tackle, fails, running and standing rigging and all

other necessaries and appurtenances thereunto belonging, and the same to mount with *Ten* good pieces of Cannon, with the requisite powder and shot and other ammunition in proportion, but the necessary consumption of powder and shot aforesaid shall be made good by the Company, which shall also put on board said Ship in addition to the *Ten* pieces aforesaid as many other guns as they please and can conveniently place, and shall provide and pay the expence of the powder and shot therefor, on condition that in the necessary consumption thereof, the aforesaid Skipper shall bear the contingent of his Ship aforesaid; that further, said Company shall man said Ship with such and so many hands and provide them with such stores as said Company will please and think proper. Which

being done on the one side and the other, the aforesaid Ship shall on the part of said Company, be laden with a full and suitable cargo, or to such extent as said Company shall think proper; being laden with all such goods, wares and merchandizes as they will determine, the aforesaid Ship shall, with the first fair wind and weather that God will grant, be dispatched and sail from this country direct to the Coast of *Africa* and run along said Coast from above downward, or from *Cape Verd* down, and touch, trade, lie and remain at all trading posts and ports, according to the pleasure of said Company and their Commisary, unto the Castle *St. George d'el Mina*, where they shall receive or find orders from the Company's Director General and Council or shall be furnished with them on

failing hence ; And sail towards the Bight of *Guinea* and touch and trade at all other places lying therein according to the order which shall be given him by the Director General or here ; from thence proceed further to the Islands of *Curaçao*, *Bonaire*, and *Aruba* in the *West Indies*, and also to *New Netherland*, and all round every where else the Company, or its Ministers, shall determine and order, and likewise at all said quarters and places trade and traffic Goods, Wares and Merchandizes and also take in people, load and unload at the pleasure of the aforesaid Company or its Ministers ; And to that end sail to and from, run hither and thither, anchor, lie, load and unload at said Coasts, Quarters and Places as often and as frequently and so long as the service of the Company such shall

demand; Furthermore, return and come thence to this city *Amsterdam* or the destined port of discharge, and on her safe return and arrival, there discharge and deliver to the aforesaid Company her laden return cargo and goods. Which done, there shall be paid to him the Skipper for the contracted freight, every month, the sum of *Eight hundred* guilders of xx stivers each, on condition that the Company is bound for the term of *Six* successive months or longer, to be calculated according to the length of time, all current months according to the Almanac, to run and commence when the Ship shall, in the prosecution of the Voyage, reach the Sea outside the last buoy of the *Texel*, and to expire when she shall arrive and cast anchor before this city of *Amsterdam* or her destined

port of discharge, payable xiiii days @ three weeks after the aforefaid discharge here, besides average and pilotage according to the custom of the Sea, and over and above also Hat money for the abovenamed Skipper at the Company's discretion. And said Skipper, with and besides the Company's Crew, shall also make the Voyage with the aforefaid Ship in order to look to said Ship, her appurtenances, &c., making use of the Company's stores, but the monthly pay or wages not being at its charge; And he shall be, over and above, subject to the orders and instructions, articles and other rules of the Company during the Voyage, no more nor less than if he had been sworn to observe the same, they being taken as inserted herein, and especially also in regard to particular or private forbidden

trading, in shipping or conveyance of particular or private goods, merchandizes or wares, on pain according to the aforesaid Articles, Orders and Instructions of the said Company. The abovementioned Directors, parties hereunto, pledging for the payment of the aforesaid contracted monthly or freight moneys, average and pilotage, their private persons and property, and the aforesaid Skipper, specially, also his person, Ship, appurtenances and contracted freight moneys, and generally all his other property, real and personal, present and to come without any exception, submitting the same to the Court of *Holland* and all laws and judges, all aboveboard. Done at *Amsterdam* in the presence of *Cryn van Seventer* and *Marten Hegervelt*, free citizens (*poorters*) here, witnesses hereunto invited.

*Bill of Lading of Negroes.*

I *Jan Pieterfen* of *Dockum*, Skipper under God of my Ship named the *Spera Mundi*, now lying ready before *Curaçao*, with the first fair wind which God shall vouchsafe, to sail to *New Netherland*, where my correct unloading shall take place, acknowledge that I have received under the deck of my aforesaid Ship, from you *Frans Bruyn*, to wit, *Five* Negroes, whereof one is a Negress, all dry and well conditioned, and marked with the annexed mark. All which I promise to deliver (if God grant me a safe Voyage) with my aforesaid Ship at *N. Netherland* aforesaid, to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director General *Petrus Stuyvesant*, or his Factor or Depu-

ties, on payment for the freight of the above described goods, at the discretion of the said Director General, and for the performance hereof, I bind myself, and all my goods and my aforefaid Ship and appurtenances. In witness of the truth, I have signed three Copies hereof with my name, all of the same tenor, the one being satisfied, the others to be void. Written at *Curaçao* the 24th day of *August*, Anno 1659.

JAN PIETERS GROS  
of *Dockum*.

*Vice Director* BECK to *Director*  
STUYVESANT.

*Curaçao, August, 1659.*

Honorable, Valiant, Wise, Prudent  
and most Discreet Sir.

*Sir,*

I NOW transmit to your Honor  
I duplicates of what I have al-  
ready sent by the Galiot *New Amstel*,  
Skipper *Augustinus Heermans*, and  
it will be very agreeable to me if I  
may be informed by the earliest  
opportunity of their speedy and safe  
arrival. I would not forego the  
present favorable occasion and op-  
portunity of the Ship *Spera Mundi*,  
*Jan Pietersen* Skipper, to acquaint  
you of the circumstances of this  
Island up to the present time (God

be praised!) in regard to the Commerce with our nearest Neighbors. Hitherto there have not been imported as many goods as the demand requires, and especially the trade in Negroes at this place which the Company hath reserved to itself, or else all are sold.

There are lying here, at present, two Ships ready to sail hence for Fatherland, which occupy my whole time, so that I have not much leisure to write to your Honor at length. The one is the Company's Ship called the *King Solomon*, which arrived here on the 2d of July from *Guinea*, with *Three hundred and thirty one* Slaves. Of these I have sold 300 @ *One hundred and fifty* pieces of Eight each, to a certain Spanish trader whom I am daily expecting to come here and receive them, which I wish may occur

before the departure of the afore-  
said two Ships in order to be able  
to transmit the proceeds to the  
Lords Masters.

*Franck Bruyn* purchased out of  
the aforefaid lot of Negroes for  
your Honor, *Two* Boys and a Girl  
who go over in this Ship. I have  
done every thing possible to protect  
them against the cold. *Franck  
Bruyn* hath also purchased *Two* for  
Commissary *Van Brugh*, who like-  
wise go by this conveyance on  
said Commissary's account. Your  
Honor will please to have such pay-  
ment collected therefor from said  
*Van Brugh* for the Company, as  
you will consider just. Commissary  
*Laurens van Ruyven* hath also pur-  
chased *Two* young Negroes here for  
account of his brother the Secretary  
of your Province, at the same price  
as the lot sold for here, viz., *One*

*hundred and fifty* Patacoons.\* I am still in daily expectation of a Ship with Negroes. I wish they were come, even were they a thousand head. I expect the abovementioned merchant here, as already stated, to take away those of the *King Solomon*. He is well able and will eagerly buy the whole lot at once.

I have received orders from the Lords Masters to send your Honor against the Spring, some *fifteen or sixteen* Negroes whom I could have easily dispatched now, but we have no coarse cloth to clothe them, and are fearful that they will not be able to endure the Winter there. As Negroes will be plenty here in future, I thought it best, according to orders, to postpone sending them

\* A Spanish Coin of the Value of \$1.04.

until the Spring, when I shall be sending a young Negro Girl for Mr. *Augustinus Heermans* according to his request. Meanwhile, I hope to receive for my instruction, your Honor's advice and order as to whether you will require any more Negroes than the above, and of what age and in what numbers you wish them sent.

\* \* \* \* \*

1659. December 26, Director *Stuyvesant* writing to the Directors at *Holland* says :

“The Negroes purchased at *Curaçao* for *fl*140 @ 150 and paid for, cannot be sold here (at *New Amsterdam*) again at that price, either in Beaver or Tobacco, so that all the expences of going and returning are entirely lost.”

*Vice Director* BECK to the  
*Directors of the West India*  
*Company.*

*Curaçao, 4th Feb., 1660.*

Noble, Honorable, Respected, Wise,  
Prudent and most Discreet  
Gentlemen.

*Gentlemen,*

MY last to your Honors, dated  
5. January, as per copy en-  
closed, was by the Ship *Gideon*,  
Skipper *Simon Cornelissen* by way of  
the *Caribbean Islands*.

\* \* \* \* \*

You will learn from my last let-  
ters, and from the annexed papers  
sent again herewith, the fate of the  
Ship *St. John*, which was due here  
from *Guinea* with Negroes, and

which according to your Honors' orders was to replace the Ship *Die-men* here. What causes us most grief here is, that your Honors have thereby lost such a fine lot of Negroes and such a fast sailing Bark which has been our right arm here.\*

Although I have strained every nerve to overtake the Robbers of the Negroes and Bark, as stated in my last, yet have I not been as successful as I wished. I shall communicate the particulars to your Honors, God willing, by the Ship *St. George*, which is about to sail direct from hence this month. If no remedy can be found to prevent such Robberies, and villainous crimes as the carrying away of the Company's Slaves and Bark, and no prosecution and redress follow, they will not

\* See Journal and Papers in first Part of this Volume.

only persist therein, but even strike terror into the Spanish merchants who come here to trade.

Inclosed herein goes a Minute of what I have provisionally judged necessary, with the advice of the Council, to be done against them. Copy thereof has been furnished to *Simon Cornelisse Gilde*, to be used by him, according to circumstances. And although my zeal be hearty and sincere to pursue such Robbers, and as much as possible, to repair and make good your Honors' losses, yet have I been scrupulous, as I did not wish to do too much or too little. Therefore do I respectfully solicit your Honors to supply me herein with such orders, ample advice and power, that I may set to work and execute them unscrupulously against similar and such like Robbers, when occasion offers,

fo that others may take example therefrom. Had we had here a faft failing Yacht of fourteen guns, manned in proportion, we might, without doubt, have overtaken and again recovered by force or with good right, the aforefaid Negroes and Bark, and it grieves us that we for want thereof could not carry out our good intentions.

We regret exceedingly that fuch Rovers fhould have been the caufe of the ill fuccefs of the zeal we feel to attraft the Spanifh traders hither for your Honors' benefit, by previous notices and otherwife, for the augmentation of Commerce and the fale of the Negroes which are to come here more and more in your Honors' Ships and for your account. What is lawfully done by Englifh Ships with regular orders and Com-miffion againft their Enemies, even

the Spanish Nation, and not against us, we must tolerate; but when most of the damage is inflicted without lawful order and Commission, not only on the Spanish Nation, but even on ourselves, it ought not to be tolerated, and should, by all ways and means, be driven from the Sea.

I have witnessed with pleasure your Honors' diligence in providing us here from time to time with Negroes. That will be the only bait to allure hither the Spanish Nation, as well from the Main as from other parts, to carry on trade of any importance. But the more subtly and quietly the trade to and on this Island can be carried on, the better will it be for this place and yours.

\* \* \* \* \*

Inasmuch as Mr. *Gysbert de Rosa*, who is with me, is authorized by the private persons interested in the Ship *Hope* to apply to the Governor of the *Havana*, by whom we understand the Rover has been arrested, and to that end have sent to me such papers, letters and proofs as may serve for the recovery of said Ship and cargo, nevertheless up to this time have we had no opportunity to effect the work according to our good inclination, except that Mr. *Gysbert de Roosa* has recently sent his Yacht, *The Young St. Paul*, with a cargo to *St. Jago de Cuba*, by which we wrote conjointly a letter to the Governor at *Havanna* to be sent to him overland from *Cuba*, to give said Governor some premonition, until a more favorable opportunity shall present itself to

carry out your Honors' intentions and those of the private friends who are interested.

I first received the contract entered into by your Honors with Mess<sup>rs</sup> *Hector Pieterfen* and *Guillaume Momma*, by the Ships *Gideon* and *Love*, after the Negroes that had come by the Ship *King Solomon* had all been sold, and although the Ship *Eyckenboom* has not yet arrived, two Spanish Vessels with a Yacht from *Cadiz* have cast anchor in this port on the 2d January. They are come pursuant to express orders to the Captain of the aforesaid Vessel *Pedro Sorilbo* by name, for the purpose of taking away those Negroes, according to contract; and Skipper *Ewout Jansen* has exhibited those orders to me, and this gave me to understand, that in case they should leave here without Negroes, the whole

object of their Voyage would be thereby frustrated, and they should in consequence suffer excessive damages. I found myself, therefore, obliged to solicit as well the freemen as the Company's servants, to loan from their Plantations to the Company as many Negroes as they could possibly spare, under the promise that good stout Negroes should be returned in their stead, out of the first lot which would come for the Company. In this way, what with the *Cape Verde* Negroes, and those of the Company and of private individuals, I have collected together with great trouble *Sixty two* head. As there were among them some old and some young, *two* were deducted for them, as appears by the original Receipt transmitted herewith. They have accordingly paid me here for *Forty six* head, as

per contract, @ *One hundred and twenty* pieces of Eight, amounting to *Five thousand, five hundred and twenty* pieces of Eight, leaving *Fourteen* head of Negroes, for which the aforesaid Mess<sup>rs</sup> *Hector Pieterfen* and *Guillaume Momma* are to pay your Honors in *Holland*, as is more fully set forth in the receipt to which for brevity sake I refer.

\* \* \* \* \*

The aforesaid Captain, highly gratified and contented, sailed from here with his two Ships on the 15th January for *Porto Bello*, as he informed me.

\* \* \* \* \*

I received by the Ship *Gideon*, from *Cape Verde* only *Twenty eight* Slaves, old and young, as appears by the receipt delivered to the Skipper. In consequence of their condition and age, they are not

worth so much as the Negroes lately brought by the *King Solomon*. But I have since been informed that if a handsome lot of Negroes could, when opportunity offers, be imported from that place, those would proportionably advance in price.

What your Honors recommend to me in regard to Privateers, that they shall not be allowed to come here or hereabouts, I have fully communicated to our opposite Neighbors,\* and to the Spanish Nation in other places. Few Privateers will come into our harbor, because they know that they are suspected here, unless they come into port in numbers under one pretence or another, to see if they cannot obtain some advantage over us for purposes of plunder, as the Rovers

\* That is in *Venezuela* and the Spanish Main. Ed.

have indeed threatened us. Though well on our guard here against them, yet must our defence depend on human hands in such circumstances. The reinforcement your Honors have now sent in the Ship *Love* is not sufficient to oppose a great force, because, on the other hand, as many of the old Soldiers, whose time is expired, are going away as nearly balance the reinforcement just arrived.

With so few men we cannot resist any evil disposed Spaniards, if they should have any bad design in their heads, and be as strong as the two Ships which lately arrived here in our Harbor with full *Two hundred and fifty* hands. The same holds good in regard to the French and English Privateers, who heretofore have visited our Harbor, and we place as little confidence in the

one as in the other. The Spaniards seeing that we are so weak, can get up one pretext or another, especially those who come from *Spain*, who look on this trade with a jealous eye. For, some Merchants who arrived in this port with the afore-said two Ships, have, as I am informed, alleged here to one and another, that the Trade which we carry on here with the Spanish Nation on the Coast or elsewhere, would not be permitted in *Spain*, and such a prohibition would be issued that no Spaniard belonging to any place would dare to come hither for the purpose of trade. On the other hand, I have understood from the Captain himself, that they are confident the Trade here will flourish more and more, and he hoped that his Ship, the *St. Catharine*, would return here

in four months with *Three* to *Four thousand* pieces of Eight to purchase Negroes and Merchandize. This was confirmed to me by the Dutch Skipper *Ewout Jansen*, in case they arrive safe at *Porto Bello*. The Spanish Frigates which have been previously here, and trade to *New Spain*, have also told me the same thing, and said that they came yearly from *New Spain* up to *Caraccas*, with considerable cash to trade there for Cocoa and Merchandize, and that they then would seek a pretext to touch, on their way from *Caraccas*, here to purchase Negroes and stock goods.

*Receipt of PEDRO DIEZ TROX-  
XILLA for Slaves.*

I UNDERWRITTEN, hereby acknowledge to have received from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> *Matbias Beck*, Governor over the *Curaçao* Islands, *Sixty two* Slaves, old and young, in fulfillment and performance of the Contract concluded on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, A<sup>o</sup> 1659, by Mess<sup>rs</sup> *Heñtor Pieters* and *Guilliamme Momma*, with the Lords Directors at the Chamber at *Amsterdam*; and as the Negroes by the Ship *King Solomon*, were disposed of, long before the arrival of the undersigned, and the Ship *Eyckenboom*, mentioned in the aforesaid Contract, has not arrived at this date, the said Governor has furnished me, the undersigned, with the abovementioned *Sixty two*

Slaves, and on account of the old and young which are among the aforeſaid Negroes, has allowed a deduction of *two* Negroes, ſo that there remain *Sixty* head in the clear, for which I, the underſigned, have here according to Contract, paid to the Governor aforeſaid for *Forty ſix* head, @ *One hundred and twenty* pieces of Eight, amounting to *Five thouſand, five hundred and twenty* pieces of Eight. Whereas, *Fourteen* Negroes remain ſtill to be paid for, according to Contract in *Holland* by Meſſ<sup>rs</sup> *Hector Pieters* and *Guillame Momma* in *Amſterdam*, to Meſſ<sup>rs</sup> the Directors aforeſaid, on preſentation of this my receipt, to which end three of the ſame tenor are executed and ſigned in the preſence of two underſigned truſt-worthy witneſſes, whereof the one being ſatiſfied the others are to be

void. *Curaçao* in Fort *Amsterdam*,  
the 11<sup>th</sup> *January*, A<sup>o</sup> 1660. It  
being understood that the above  
*Fourteen* Negroes, to be paid for in  
*Amsterdam*, shall not be charged  
higher than according to Contract  
@ *Two hundred and eighty* Guilders  
each, amounting together to *Three*  
*thousand, nine hundred and twenty*  
Carolus Guilders. Dated as above.

PEDRO DIEZ TROXXILLA,  
EWOUT JANSEN.

Witnesses,

NICOLAES HAECK,  
L. V. RUYVEN.

*Director* STUYVESANT to *Vice*  
*Director* BECK.

*Amsterdam in New Netherland,* }  
17 February, 1660. }

\* \* \* \* \*

FOUR Negro Boys and *one* Negro Girl have, as you advised, been sent to, and received by me  $\text{¶}$  the Ship *Sphera Mundi*; 3 on mine and 2 on Commissary *Van Brugge's* account, their price being left to our discretion. Upon this subject I must say, that the assignment sent to me by *Frans Bruyn* is unsigned. However, in order to avoid any difficulty, I left this time the choice to the Commissary who took the Negro Girl and one of the stoutest Boys. But greater difficulties have arisen in this wise:

One of the *Five* died on the passage hither; some were sick or have become so after arriving. To prevent any misunderstanding in future, the sold Negroes ought to be consigned to the purchaser by their names or marks.

As regards the price which was left to our discretion, in order to prevent any suspicion of self interestedness, I wish your Honor to inform me after the others have been sold, what price they brought.

I have observed by your despatch to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Directors, dated 3 *September*, forwarded by the Ship *Sphera Mundi* the 26 December last, that the Negroes were sold to Mr *Corn's van Ool* @ 140 pieces of Eight, viz., from 40 to 16 years; from 16 to 12 years, three for two; under 12 years, two for one.

We hope and trust that by com-

plying with such price and terms, we shall avoid all suspicion of self interest. I am willing to take my share of the expence and risk of their passage hither, because I desired the Negroes for my own service and the promotion of Agriculture, not in the expectation of any gain, and therefore sent for young ones, in which regard the worthy Inhabitants, Christians, and those of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company, ought, I think, to be preferred before Spaniards and unbelieving Jews.

You will see by the enclosed extracts from my letter covering yours to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Directors, what I have proposed to them. It is therefore desirable and somewhat necessary that a fixed price should be set on Horses conveyed hither, or ordered from *Curaçao*, by private persons, as well as on Negroes as

far as practicable, according to their ability and age, because the one as well as the other are most urgently required here for purposes of Agriculture and its advancement, and finally would tend to the greater advantage, trade and prosperity of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company and its subjects.

\* \* \* \* \*

In regard to the Negroes which the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Directors ordered to be sent hither, they ought to be stout and strong fellows, fit for immediate employment on this Fortrefs and other works; also, if required, in war against the Wild Barbarians, either to pursue them when retreating, or else to carry some of the Soldiers' baggage; it being very apparent that we shall be constrained to wage a righteous and offensive War against them, for the

peaceable possession once of the Land, and the avenging of numerous suffered affronts and murders. An important service would be conferred on the Company, on us and the Country if there were among the sold Negroes, some of experience who had resided a certain time at *Curaçao*.

*Directors at Amsterdam to*  
*Director* STUYVESANT.

*Amsterdam, the 9th March, 1660.*

\* \* \* \* \*

NOW as regards the trade in Slaves, or Negroes, which the Inhabitants there at *Curaçao* might pursue, that is permitted to them as to other Merchants, with the understanding, however, that it is

not to be at a lower price, for the reason that the Company here would thereby be seriously prejudiced. But as Agriculture there would be beneficially promoted by Negroes, and the advancement thereof is of great importance, and the prosperity of that State is, for the most part, dependent thereon, we have, therefore, concluded and even resolved to try an experiment with a parcel of Negroes which we shall have conveyed to your Honor by the first opportunity which a Ship or Ships may offer from *Curaçao*. These Negroes shall then be publicly sold to the highest bidder there, on the express Condition, nevertheless, that they shall not be removed thence, but be employed in cultivating the Land. To this end, an exact register shall be made and

kept, as your Honor will see by the accompanying form of the aforefaid Conditions.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Proposed Contract to import  
Slaves into New Netherland.*

**T**HIS day, the undersigned Director and Council of *New Netherland*, thereunto authorized by Resolution of the Chamber at *Amsterdam*, on the one part, and the Owners of the Ship  
whereof                    is Skipper, burthen  
about                    Tons, on the other  
part, have agreed and contracted that a Permit and Commission in due form shall be granted to the aforefaid Skipper, to buy Slaves, and further to prosecute such advantage as said Owners shall deem

expedient on the Coast of *Africa*; in like manner to return here to the *Manhattans* with the said Slaves and their further cargo, provided nevertheless that they shall not be at liberty, in regard to the Coast of *Africa*, to resort on the granted Permit to the *Gold Coast*, and therefore not to go Westerly further than *Ardre* or at most to *Popo*, on pain of the loss of the Ship and Goods laden therein, to which end the Directors and Council shall be at liberty to place a Supercargo on board said Ship, (whom the Skipper shall be bound to entertain in the Cabin,) and if necessary to cause the People therein to be sworn; for which aforesaid Permit and Commission the aforesaid Owners promise, on the return of the said Ship and before her discharge, promptly to pay to the Director

and Council aforefaid, or their deputies, a duty of *Fifteen* Guilders for each Negro, without making any exception or objection thereto. Under bond of their persons and Goods, none excepted, with renunciation of benefit *ordinis divisionis et excuffionis*, having entire knowledge thereof. Done *New Amsterdam* this

*Remonstrance on the preceding  
proposed Contract.*

Honorable, Wise, Prudent Lords,  
*Petrus Stuyvesant*, Governor General, and the Councillors of *New Netherland, Curaçao* and Dependencies thereof.

*Honorable,*

**T**HE Underfigned Burghers and Inhabitants of this City *New Amsterdam*, your Honors' liege Sub-

jects, most respectfully represent that they are inclined to a foreign Trade, and especially to the Coast of *Africa*, according to the Concession of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Directors granted in the year 1652, as a special privilege to the Inhabitants of this Place, in order to fetch thence Slaves and other Wares might be disposed of here and elsewhere, whereby this City and the entire Country would increase and prosper in Merchandize, Commerce, Population and more especially in the Tobacco Trade, to the advantage not only of these Inhabitants, but also of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> West India Company which would behold, in time, a vast, populous, and rich commercial Province spring up in these parts therefrom.

But it has appeared to them that those who would execute with

Skipper or Merchant going to that Country a Draft of Partnership, which is beset and pinched by such precise Conditions, would risk their lives and Goods, and at best gain nothing, or run the risk of having Ship and Goods confiscated. For, besides the entire of the *Gold Coast* being excepted in that Concession, it appears that *Cape Verde*, *Siera Leona*, the *Greyn* (Pepper) and *Qua Qua* Coast are also excluded; for it is not permitted to resort further West, at farthest, than *Popo Sonde*. Moreover, the *Gold Coast* which from *Cape Apolonia* to *Cape des Rodes* or *Mount Berique* is reckoned 60 leagues, can be extended much further, as will be seen, to any place where Gold may be found. And as regards Slaves; for each head 15 Guilders must be paid, and then the payment for them in Tobacco or Beaver, is again taxed when

shipped to Fatherland, which imposes too heavy a burthen on this hazardous Trade.

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company, in the meanwhile, must perceive that our Neighbors the French, English, Swedes, Danes and Courlanders, are by means of the Netherlanders who repair to them, trading along the entire Coast, even under their strongholds, without any profit being derived therefrom by the Company; Yea, they suffer rather very serious loss thereby, as is manifest from the example of *Arent de Groot* who in the Year 1638, built a Fort at *Cormantyn* for the English, and of *Hendrick Caerloff*, the former Fiscal, who built another at *Cape Corse* in the Year 1650, for the Swedes.

Your Honors' subjects passing by these strongholds, take another course and as faithful subjects, ad-

dress themselves to you, humbly praying permission to trade free and unobstructed in Ship or Ships, along the whole of the West Coast of *Africa*, that is, from *Cape Verd* to *Cape Lopes de Gonsalve*, in all Bays, Rivers and Coasts, without any exception, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company's strongholds alone excepted, according to the Rules and Orders, on payment, either here or in *Holland*, of such moderate duty as shall be agreed on. This doing, &c.

(Signed)

CORNELIUS STEENWYCK,  
MARTEN KREGIER,  
THEMOTHEUS GABRIE,  
OLOFF STEVENSEN,  
GOVERT LOOCQUERMANS,  
JACOB STRYCKER.  
P. L. VANDE GRIFT,  
PIETER RUDOLPHUS,  
HENDRICK JANSEN VANDER VIER,  
PETER COUWENHOVEN,  
JACOB STEENDAM,  
JOHANNES VERVEELEN.

The preceding Petition being read and considered, the following Apostil was annexed thereto :

The Director General and Council consider themselves unqualified, without the previous knowledge and approbation of their Superiors, the Lords Directors of the Incorporated West India Company, Chamber at *Amsterdam*, to grant any further enlargement than the Act herein mentioned implies. The Petitioners, therefore, must make application on the subject to that Board. Done *Fort Amsterdam* in *New Netherland*, 3d May, 1660.

*Bill of Lading of Negroes.*

I UNDERWRITTEN *Jan Jan-*  
*sen Eyckenboom*, Skipper under  
God of my Ship called the *Eyck-*

*enboom*, lying at present in the Harbor of the Island of *Curaçao*, ready to sail for *New Netherland*, hereby acknowledge to have received in my Ship aforesaid from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Vice Director *Matthias Beck* for account of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company, *Twenty* head of Sound Slaves or Male Negroes, whom I undertake and promise to deliver after the prosperous and safe arrival of my Ship in *New Netherland*, unto the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director General and Council there, first acknowledging to have executed triplicate Receipts therefor, one of which being satisfied, the others shall be void. *Curaçao* in *Fort Amsterdam*, the 8 *May*, A<sup>o</sup> 1660.

JAN JANSE EYCKENBOOM.

*Director* STUYVESANT *to the*  
*Directors at Amsterdam.*

*Amsterdam in New Netherland, }  
25 June, 1660. }*

\* \* \* \* \*

WE are this instant informed by a Fisherman, that the Galiot *New Amstel* is in sight with another flute with Horfes and Negroes from *Curaçao*. We shall communicate to your Honors by the first opportunity, perhaps the Ship *Faith*, what intelligence we receive from there, and in the mean time will execute your orders as to the sale of the Negroes.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Flute already mentioned, which arrived here from *Curaçao* with the Galiot is named the *Eyck-*

*enboom*, and was dispatched 16 or 17 months ago in the service and pay of the Company to *Guinea*, and thence with Negroes to *Curaçao*.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Nineteen* Negroes arrived here in the same Vessel; the twentieth died on the Voyage. The remainder are in tolerable health.

*Director* STUYVESANT to *Vice Director* BECK.

*Amsterdam in New Netherland,* }  
5 July, 1660. }

\* \* \* \* \*

IN respect to the *Three* Negro Boys received by the Ship *Sphera Mundi*, they will be accepted on the same terms as those so told *Van Olen*. You will please to enter them on our account there, and

offset them against what has been heretofore delivered out of our *coreal* to the store there.

*Nineteen* of the 20 head of Negroes which your Honor sent on the Company's account, have arrived in tolerable condition and health.

\* \* \* \* \*

It has pleased the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company, on our proposal transmitted by the Ship *Sphera Mundi*, in regard to the trade in Negroes and the equalization of duties between the two Conquests, to write, on the first, in order to make no alteration to the Company's prejudice in the Negro trade at *Curaçao*, that they had resolved for the promotion of Agriculture, to send thence hither a good number of Negroes, to be sold to the Inhabitants, on condition that they shall not be transported elsewhere, believing that, by this

method, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company will suffer less loss and the People reap greater benefit. The effect hereof we shall leave to time.

*Bill of Lading of Negroes.*

I UNDERWRITTEN *Dirck*  
I, *Jansen* from *Oldenburch*, Skipper under God of my Ship named the *New Netherland Indian*, at present lying in the Harbor of the Island of *Curaçao*, ready to sail to *New Netherland*, hereby acknowledge to have received from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Vice Director *Matthias Beck*, for account of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company, *Ten* head of Sound Slaves or Male Negroes, whom I undertake and promise to deliver, after my safe arrival with my Ship in *New Netherland*, to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director

General and Council there, first signing three Receipts of the same tenor, of which when one is satisfied the others are void. *Curaçao*, in Fort Amsterdam, the 31st *August*, A° 1660.

DIERCK JANS.

1661. July 21. A similar Bill of Lading for 40 Slaves, consisting of 15 Men, 14 Women, 6 Boys and 5 Girls, to be delivered in *New Netherland*.

*Permit to export a crazy Negro to Virginia.*

THE Petition of *Samuel Edsal*, setting forth that one of the Negroes purchased by him on the 8th of October last at public Auction from the Director General

and Council is unfit to perform any sort of work, as he is sometimes not in his right mind, and requesting permission to send him to *Virginia*, being read and considered, it is Apoftilled—

The Petition is granted on condition that the Petitioner, when opportunity offers, shall import or cause to be imported into the Country another in stead thereof. Done 20th *January*, 1661.

*Directors at Amsterdam to  
Director STUYVESANT.*

*Amsterdam, 11th April, 1661.*

Honorable, Prudent, Valiant, Beloved, Faithful.

THE bearer hereof has safely handed us your Letter of the 9th ultimo, which came by way

of New and Old *England*. The Necessaries required therein, not already sent, shall be forwarded to you in the Vessels now lying ready to sail direct thither.

This goes by way of *Curaçao*. And as we have observed by the enclosures thereof, that the greater portion of the Slaves conveyed thither by the *Eyckenboom* and *New Netherland Indian*, have been sold at a fair price, we have written to Vice Director *Beck* at *Curaçao* herewith, and ordered him to provide you with a fresh supply by every opportunity. We have done this the rather, because we have resolved not only that Slaves shall be kept in *New Netherland*, as we have heretofore ordered, but be moreover exported to the English and other Neighbors. This, however, on condition that on such

occasion there shall be paid, on each exported Negro, a duty of *Two* Beavers, which is a small and light impost.

The reasons which have led us to the adoption of such Resolution, are, among others none of the smallest, the promotion both of Agriculture and Trade in those Parts, as herefrom a greater frequentation of the water communication betwen *New Netherland* and *Curaçao*, must necessarily follow, and tend accordingly to their prosperity. Thus the one will be supplied and provided with necessaries by the other, which is a matter of great consideration in regard to foreign Possessions.

As your Honor observes, our zeal and care for the welfare of *New Netherland*, so must you endeavor to retain us therein and consequently

not fail to send us, from time to time, such returns as may accrue there from the sale of the Slaves, in which case we shall not neglect to have your Honor supplied with others by every opportunity.

Herewith,

Honorable, Prudent, Valiant, Beloved, Faithful, commending you to God's protection we remain,  
The Directors of the West India Company, at the Chamber of  
*Amsterdam,*

C. WITSEN,  
EDWARD MAN.

( 187 )

*Director* STUYVESANT to *Vice*  
*Director* BECK.

Honorable, Wise, Prudent, right  
Discreet Sir.

YOUR welcome Letter of the  
31st of August of last Year,  
was handed to us in due course by  
the Bearer, in which is first men-  
tioned the unfortunate loss for the  
Company on the Horses sent hither  
in the Ship *Eyckenboom* and Galiot  
*New Amstel*. You Honor will learn  
from the annexed return of the  
public sale, what they brought here  
in consequence of their emaciated  
appearance after having been re-  
freshed during two or three months.

We have had better luck with  
the few Slaves sent hither at the  
same time. They were sold to the  
highest bidder, chiefly at Beaver's

value, which differs little from Silver pay. I have retained some of the best for the Company. One with another they brought about *fl.* 440\* a head, less the freight.

On this point, we must not neglect to recommend, in case Negroes are hereafter sent in one and the same Vessel, some on the Company's, and others on private account, as happened in the Ship *Indian*, that on such occasions, the Negroes sent for account of the Company, or Individuals, may be distinguished the one from the other by some particular marks or tokens, either by a stripe on the clothing or otherwise, in order to prevent disputes and differences here, which we might easily have had here with the Owners of the Ship *Indian* if any had fallen sick or died on the

\* Equal to \$176.

passage, since they claimed to be entitled to the first choice, leaving the rest for the Company. This choice I also have allowed them, as there were no certain marks to guide us. \* \* \* \*

*Amsterdam in New Netherland, }  
16th April, A<sup>o</sup> 1661. }*

(By the *New Netherland Indian*.)

*Resolution of the Director and  
Council of New Netherland.*

*Friday, 2d September, 1661.*

IN COUNCIL. Present—

The Honorable Director General  
*Petrus Stuyvesant,*  
Hon. *Nicasius de Sille,*  
*Johan de Decker.*

**W**HEREAS, the Yacht *New Netherland Indian* arrived here yesterday from *Curaçao*, by which

I have received on the Company's Account 36 out of 40 head of Negroes and Negresses, both young and old, that had been shipped in that Vessel, it is resolved in order to prevent expence and loss by death or otherwise, to sell them publicly on Tuesday next to the highest bidder, and to announce the same immediately every where by Notices.

It being taken into consideration in regard to the above subject, what pay the above Negroes should be sold for, it is by a majority of Votes resolved, to sell them for Beaver or Provisions, such as Beef, Pork, Wheat or Pease, at Beaver price; for if they are to be sold for Beaver or Cash down, or Tobacco at Beaver price, neither Burgher nor Farmer can purchase any, since there is no Tobacco, much less Beaver in cir-

culatation among the People. By this means, a few persons only, to whom the Company is indebted, would have an opportunity to monopolize them in diminution of the debt, and that at a small price, because, as already stated, such only will be for their interest, whereby then, the Company will be frustrated out of the Beaver or Tobacco down, and we, also, shall be obliged to purchase a quantity of Provisions for the Garrison against the coming Winter, and in payment thereof take up Goods from the Merchants at the highest price, and next year again lose thereby the greatest portion of the Beaver. Therefore, for these and many other reasons it has been thought best to sell the aforesaid Negroes for Beaver or Provisions at Beaver price.

*Director* STUYVESANT *to the*  
*Directors at Amsterdam.*

*Fort Amsterdam in New Nether-* }  
*land, 31st October, 1661.* }

Honorable, &c.

AS nothing of consequence has transpired since the departure of the *Faith* and *Gilded Eagle*, by which the condition of affairs had been explained at large, and nothing of any importance has since occurred, this Letter is principally intended to accompany Invoices, Muster Rolls of the Garrison, and a few necessary Documents.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nos. 6 and 7 are two Lists, one of a lot of old, and the other of a lot of young, male and female Negroes, sent hither by Vice Director

*Beck* in the Ship *New Netherland Indian*. Annexed thereto is a return of the conditions and prices at which they were sold here.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Resolution of the Director and Council of New Netherland.*

*Monday, 7th November, 1661.*

IN COUNCIL. Present—

Director General *Petrus Stuyvesant*,

Hon<sup>ble</sup> *Nicasius de Sille*,  
*Johan de Decker*.

**R**ESOLVED, to sell four more of the 7 Negroes, held over last year, to the highest bidder at public auction on the following Conditions:

The Buyers shall be empowered to use the purchased Negroes as

Aa



the West India Company at the Chamber here, being specially authorized thereto by their Associates, on the one part, and *Hendrick Roeters*, old schepen, *Johan Tayspil* and *Anthony Casteleyn*, Commissaries and Directors of this City's Colonie in *New Netherland*, by their Associates thereunto specially delegated, on the other part, agree and contract, that the abovenamed Directors intending to purchase a parcel of Slaves at *Angola*, and to convey them to *New Netherland*, shall admit the aforesaid Commissioners and Directors to participate with them in the costs and risk of the Trade of the aforesaid Slaves, for one fourth, in all respects the same as the Company, and that accordingly the abovenamed Directors and Commissioners shall also pay their portion in the moneys which are advanced

to the Skipper of the *Gideon*, and the aforefaid Directors (of the West India Company) fhall with all poffible fpeed difpatch the Ship *Gideon*, chartered for that purpofe by their Honors, according to the Charter Party, and let it purfue its Voyage accordingly; that the abovenamed Directors fhall have the exclusive management of the aforefaid Trade and raife on bottomry the moneys required therefor, in the manner ufual with the Company, and after the Voyage is completed, account for and fettle with the abovenamed Directors and Commiffaries for every thing; and that the aforefaid Commiffioners fhall give orders that their Officers, being notified of the arrival of the aforefaid Slaves at the *Manhattans*, fhall repair thither to receive the aforefaid fourth of the faid Negroes by blind lot, and give

receipt therefor; that, further, the aforesaid Commissioners, as soon as the receipt shall be produced here, shall pay to the Company *Ten* Carolus Guilders, over and above their share as above in the Trade, after delivery for each merchantable Slave from 15 to 36 years, being reckoned head for head as merchantable, and above 36 and from 15 to 8 years downwards, three for two, and from 8 years down, 2 for one, sucklings following the mother. All under express condition, that the abovenamed Directors and Commissioners must retain the aforesaid Slaves in their Colonie without allowing them to be sold to any other Nation outside the Colonie, or suffering them to be either directly or indirectly removed or sold elsewhere. All upon the penalty of 300 Florins for each Slave who

shall be removed, or such higher penalty as is provided or may hereafter be provided in the Ordinances already enacted, or that shall hereafter be enacted therefor in *New Netherland*.

*Directors at Amsterdam to*  
*Director* STUYVESANT.

*Amsterdam, 20th January, 1664.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**I**N our last which we enclose, you were informed that we contracted with *Symon Gilde*, Skipper of the Ship *Gideon*, to export a goodly number of Slaves from *Loango* on the Coast of *Africa*, and to convey them by way of *Curaçao* to *New Netherland*; also that this City is a partner therein for one fourth part, as may be more fully

seen by the Copies hereunto annexed.

As the Slaves are intended solely to promote Agriculture, which is the only means of making the State prosperous, so is it our express order, that the aforesaid Slaves shall be sold there only to our Inhabitants on the express condition, that they shall not be exported out of our district, but specially retained therein, to be employed in the cultivation of the soil, so that the great expense which we have incurred may not be fruitless, but that we may, in due course of time, reap the fruits which we promise ourselves therefrom. The aforesaid Ship with about 300 Slaves may, according to our calculation, arrive yonder in the month of June or July next.

As your Honor will be greatly relieved by this supply, you will

therefore use every effort that one third part at least of the proceeds shall be forwarded hither in Beaver, in order that we may be enabled to pay the freight, or the greatest part thereof at farthest, on the arrival of the aforesaid Ship here, which we are bound to do by contract. Otherwise, we shall lose all ambition to continue such transmission of Slaves. This we commend to your Honor's special consideration.

*Director* STUYVESANT to *Vice*  
*Director* BECK.

*Amsterdam in New Netherland, }  
7 May, 1664. }*

\* \* \* \* \*

**M**ESS<sup>RS</sup> the Directors, and the Commissioners of the Colonie on the *South River*, have entered

into a contract with *Simon Cornelissen Gilde*, Skipper of the *Gideon*, to transport hither a lot of Negroes for Agricultural purposes. These Negroes will, we hope, have arrived before this Letter reaches your Honor, or, at least, be embarked after its receipt. We shall therefore recommend that, being properly provided, they may be dispatched hither as speedily as possible. If it happen that *Simon Gilde* should arrive with the Negroes at the Island of *Curaçao* a month later than the Charter Party provides, say, the middle of August, the first instalment might reach here before or by the middle of September from *Curaçao*, and the remainder by the middle of October. In that event a fair price might be realized for them.

*Conditions and Terms on which  
the Director General and  
Council of New Netherland  
propose to sell to the highest  
bidder a lot of Negroes and  
Negresses. 29 May, 1664.*

**T**HE Buyers shall immediately take possession of their purchased Negroes, and may use them as Bond Slaves, and also sell them to others.

But whereas, the meaning of the Directors is, to promote and advance the Population and Agriculture of this Province more and more, the purchased Negroes or Negresses shall not be sold, carried away or transported beyond this Province. Who so acts contrary hereunto, shall

forfeit for each Negro or Negrefs, *One hundred* Guilders, Beaver value.

Payment fhall be made, one fourth part down, the remainder in *September* or *October* next, in good Beaver at *Eight* Guilders the Skin, or in Merchandize, Beaver price, or in Provisions fuch as the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company may require, to be delivered here at the *Manhattans* at the following prices :

Wheat at 55 Stivers,	} the Skepel.
Peafe at 50 Stivers,	
Rye at 45 Stivers,	

Salted Beef at 4 Stivers,	} the Pound.
Pork at 5 Stivers,	

The Purchafer fhall be bound to give fufficient fecurity.

On the foregoing Conditions, the following were the Purchasers :

	<i>Florins.</i>
<i>Jacobus Backer</i> , - 1 Negro, for	555
1 Negrefs,	305
1 Negro,	315
—	1175
Dome <i>Johannes Theodorus Polhemius</i> , on Colonists' Account, one Negro for - - - - -	440
<i>Nicolas Verleth</i> , on Colonists' Account, 1 Negrefs, for <i>fl.</i> 290	
1 Negro,	395
1 Negrefs and Child,	360
1 Negrefs,	260
—	1305
<i>Johannes Verveelen</i> , - 1 Negro,	445
<i>Paulus Leendertsen Vande Grist</i> , 1 Negro,	425
Capt. <i>Thomas Willet</i> , - 1 Negro,	502
<i>Timotheus Gabry</i> , - 1 Negro,	485
M <sup>r</sup> <i>John Laurence</i> , - 1 Negro,	345
<i>Ferominus Ebbingh</i> , - 1 Negro,	485
<i>Isaacq Foreest</i> , - 1 Negro,	545
<i>Jacob Leyseler</i> , - 1 Negro,	615
<i>Nicolas De Meyer</i> , - 1 Negro,	460
<i>Daniel Terneur</i> , - 1 Negro,	465
<i>Isaac Bedlo</i> , - 1 Negro,	430

<i>Jacques Coufseaa</i> , -	1 Negro,	335	
	1 ditto,	305	
	1 ditto,	300	
		—	940
<i>William Maerſchalck</i> ,	1 Negro,	500	
	1 ditto,	425	
		—	925
<i>Govert Loocquermans</i> , -	1 Negro,	305	
<i>Egbert Myndertſen</i> , -	1 Negro,	562	
<i>Adriaen Vincent</i> ,	- 1 Negro,	255	
<i>Carel van Brugge</i> , -	1 Negro,	300	
	1 Negro,	600	
		—	900
			<hr/>
	Total Florins,	12009	

*Director* STUYVESANT *to the*  
*Directors at Amsterdam.*

\* \* \* \* \*

THIS day fortnight arrived here your Honors' Vessel, the *Sparrow*, with *Forty* head of Slaves, sent to us by Vice Director *Beck* to procure Provisions and all sorts of

Timber work, fix Ox Carts and a  
 new Rosmill. \* \* \*

The Negroes and Negresses have all arrived safely and in health, but were, on an average, pretty old, and as the Skipper alleges, rejected by the Spaniards. The product of the greater part appears by the accompanying account of the public Vendue. They would have brought more, had they not been so old. *Five* of the Negro Women, who were, in our opinion, unfaleable, have been kept back and remain unfold. In like manner, *Six* Negroes also, to help to cut the required Timber and to perform some other necessary work for the Honorable Company.

10 June, 1664.

*Directors at Amsterdam to*  
*Director STUYVESANT.*

*Amsterdam, 24 June, 1664.*

Honorable, Prudent, Valiant, Be-  
loved, Faithful.

**W**E have heretofore advised you of our intention to let the Ship *Gideon* go from *Curaçao* to the *Manhattans* with her Slaves. Having since then, and now for the first time, remarked the hostile and treacherous designs manifested by the English towards the Company's rightful Conquests on the Coast of *Africa*, where they have already mastered *Cape Verd* and taken 3 @ 4 of the Company's Ships or Yachts, we have come to a different determination. As your Honor also will

not be left unmolested by them, for we understand that they have likewise sent 3 Ships with Men thither to the assistance of their Nation, and as the aforesaid Ship with Slaves might hereby be brought into difficulty, we have thought proper to send her first to the *South River*, to learn there from the City's Director how matters stand at the *Manhattans*. On learning the arrival of this Ship there, your Honor must immediately commission some one to go thither, to be present at the allotment of the Negroes, and to repair to the *Manhattans* with the share, or  $\frac{1}{4}$ th the part that is to fall to the Company; with this understanding, however, that if the abovenamed Ship had not brought thither above 200 head, there shall be left to the City at least 60 head, as we find ourselves under obliga-

tion to accommodate them with that number.

Herewith,  
Honorable, Prudent, Valiant, Be-  
loved, Faithful,  
Commending you to God's merciful  
Protection, we Remain,  
Your Good Friends,  
The Directors of the Incorporated  
West India Company, Chamber  
at *Amsterdam*,

J. BONTEMANTEL,  
DAVID VAN BAERLE.

*Vice Director* BECK to the  
*Directors and Council of*  
*New Netherland.*

*Curaçao in Fort Amsterdam,* }  
the 21. July, Año 1664. }

Honorable, Valiant, Wise, Prudent  
and right Discreet Gentlemen.

*Gentlemen,*

MY last to your Honors was  
dated 28 April, by the Com-  
pany's Ship *Musch*, which I not  
only hope has arrived in your parts  
long before your receipt of this,  
but ardently desire to see her return  
here every day.

Since then a handsome Genoese  
(*genuees*) Ship, named the *Sta Cruz*,  
arrived here from *Cartagena*, with  
*One hundred and sixty thousand* pieces  
of Eight in Specie, to be all invested

in Slaves through the Factors residing here on behalf of the Genoese Company, who, however up to this time have delayed doing any thing, by advice and order of their Principals, in the expectation that they will have concluded a new Contract with the Company, and that more Slaves may arrive here, so as to invest the entire Capital which they have brought for that purpose in their aforesaid Ship, in Slaves and to carry them away at once.

On the 8th instant, arrived here by way of *Guinea, Angola, and Cayenne*, the Ship *Gideon*, the bearer hereof, *Simon Cornelissen Gilde*, Skipper, with over *Three hundred* Slaves. I was in hopes by means of these and the supply of Slaves already here, to have enough to be able on the Advice and Order of the Company, to accommodate the aforesaid

Factors for their abovementioned Specie, as then was their intent ; for they said, in case no seasonable advice or order was received from their Principals and the Company, that they would then contract with me for as many Slaves as were here at present, and might happen to arrive, to be paid for on delivery, in order to dispatch their aforesaid Ship, which was lying here at great expence. So they were expecting that they could have availed themselves on this occasion, for their Vessel, of the Slaves brought hither by the aforesaid Ship *Gideon*, when the abovementioned Skipper *Simon Cornelissen Gilde* brought me such ample Order and Instructions to the contrary, that I could not dare to change them, as your Honors will please to observe by the annexed Copies. Pursuant to said Orders

I am sending to your Honors herewith, by the aforefaid Ship and Skipper the number of Slaves to be feen in the accompanying Invoice and Bill of Lading to which, for brevity's fake, I refer.

And fince now, in the firft place, no more Slaves are to be expected here, the aforefaid Factors will have to content themfelves with the Slaves which have been previously brought hither on the Company's account; and as many of the Slaves brought here by the faid Ship *Gideon* are infected with Scurvy, I have therefore retained the greater number of thefe here and embarked others in their place from among thofe brought in previous Ships. When thofe are cured of the Scurvy, they can be delivered, in the place of the others, to the aforefaid Factors.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Bill of Lading for Three Hundred Negroes sent to the Manhattans.*

I UNDERWRITTEN *Simon I, Cornelisse Gilde*, Skipper under God of my Ship, named the *Gideon*, now lying in the Harbor of *Curaçao*, ready to sail with the first fair wind (which God shall vouchsafe) for the *Manbatans* in *New Netherland* acknowledge to have received between the Decks of my aforesaid Ship, the number of *Three hundred* Slaves, consisting of *One hundred* and *sixty* Men and *One hundred* and *forty* Women, all merchantable; which Slaves I promise to deliver (if God grant me a prosperous Voyage), with my aforesaid Ship at the said *Manbatans* to the

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director General *Petrus Stuyvesant* or his Order, on payment of my freight for the aforesaid Slaves, as agreed upon and conditioned by the Charter Party, and for the performance of what precedes, I pledge myself and all my Property and my aforesaid Ship with all its Appurtenances. In witness of the truth I have signed three Invoices, all of the same tenor, the one being fulfilled, the others are void. Written at *Curaçao*, the 21<sup>st</sup> July, Año 1664. (Signed)

SYMON CORNELISSEN GILDE.

*Director* STUYVESANT *to Vice*  
*Director* BECK.

Honorable, Prudent, Wife, and very  
Discreet Sir.

OUR last Letter to you was by  
the Ship *The White Horseman*,  
Skipper *Hendrick Jansen Stuyvesant*,  
dated the 7th May last. \* \* \*

Since then, viz., on the 24th May,  
arrived here in safety, God be praised,  
the Company's Ship *Sparrow*, Skip-  
per *Jan Petersen Groot* of *Dockum*,  
by whom I received your Honor's  
Letter of the 28th of April, to  
which the following will serve as  
an answer.

The Slaves and Merchandize ar-  
rived safely according to Invoice  
and Bill of Lading. \* \* \*

I have sold the Negroes that have  
been sent, at Public auction to the

highest bidder, for Provisions, with the exception of *Six* of the Men, who are employed in the Company's service on the Works of the Fort, and *Five* Negro Women who, on account of their advanced Age, could not find a Purchaser, except at a very low figure. The remainder have been sold at prices mentioned in the annexed Copy of the Conditions of the Sale; being, in our opinion, a tolerably fair price for such a lot. Had they been better, there is not a doubt but they would have produced a much larger amount, as may be inferred from the price of a few who were sold for 600 Guilders\* and upwards.

These Negroes have afforded us great relief in the purchase of Provisions for the Garrison. Otherwise,

\*\$240.

we should have been constrained by the low state of the Treasury, caused by the continued troubles, first with the Barbarians, and now at present with the neighboring English, to purchase Supplies by Bills of Exchange.

\* \* \* \* \*

In our former dispatch, duplicate whereof we here inclose, we stated among other things, if it should come to pass that *Simon Gilde* arrived at the Island of *Curaçao*, with Negroes three weeks or a month later than intimated in the Charter Party, say the middle of August, therefore the sending of the Negroes hither should not be postponed, &c. Having reconsidered this, we have, for divers reasons, whereof one is, that the Right Honorable the Regents of the city of *Amsterdam* are interested

therein one fourth part, thought it best and most justifiable, not to make the slightest alteration in the Charter Party which the Directors have concluded with *Simon Gilde*. Wherefore we request and recommend your Honor to regulate yourself by the said Charter Party in the forwarding of the abovementioned Negroes. But as we find ourselves burthened here by an unusually strong Garrison, for the support of which, exclusive of the monthly pay, we require considerable Provisions, for the purchase whereof we are not well provided; we, on that account, have need, yea great need of a few Slaves, in order to truck them for Provisions. Yet, for reasons already given, we deem it unjustifiable to send for the said Negroes, contrary to the Charter Party concluded with *Simon Gilde*.

Yet requiring a large quantity of Provisions both for this place and *Curaçao*, as we have already stated and more fully explained, should an opportunity offer to purchase any, funds would be absolutely necessary. Wherefore we recommend this seriously to your consideration; and if *Simon Gilde* arrive in season, to send us as many Negroes as circumstances will permit. If Negroes be scarce, which however we should prefer to have for the good and advancement of the country, according to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company's Order, some other effects, either Money or Osnaburghs and other coarse Linen, or any thing else that is not needed for the public service, might be spared and bartered for Provisions. If Negroes, your Honor will please to bear in mind to have them sent off in time that they

may probably arrive here before, or about All Saints, and that they be suitably provided against the cold.

30 July, 1694.

*The Council of New Netherland  
to the Directors at Amsterdam.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MEANWHILE, God be thanked, the Ship *St. Jacob* arrived here in safety on the 13th instant, from the *South River*, and, two days after, the Ship *Gideon*, which sailed from *Curaçao* on the 21st of July with 300 Slaves, 160 Men and 140 Women, whereof 9 died on the passage. This is a very poor lot; indeed so poor do we believe, that we fear the most of

them will remain on our hands, or must be let go at a very low figure, whereof more in our next.

Pursuant to the Contract which your Honors made with the Directors of the City's Colonie, we have delivered by lot the fourth part of the abovementioned Negro Men and Women, into the hands of Mr *Peter Alrichs*, Commissary of Indian Cargoes, and Councillor of the Colonie of *New Amstel*, who has been here for some time for the purpose of purchasing Oxen, Cows and Horses, to the number of 200 or thereabouts. \* \* \*

The Colonie has received by lot for its fourth part, 38 Men and 34 Women. But as there were among these, as well as among those that fell to the Company, many above the age of 36 years, three of them must be counted for two. \* \* \*

This serves merely to advise your Honors of the arrival of the above-mentioned Negroes who, though a very poor lot, as already stated, yet in our most deplorable state, will wonderfully relieve us, so that we and your Honors' Servants and Inhabitants, find ourselves greatly obliged, and gratefully acknowledge your care in the sending of the said Negroes. \* \* \* \*

*Fort Amsterdam in New Nether- }  
land, 17 August, 1664. }*

(By Way of the *South River*, per the *Eagle*.)

*Receipt for the above Negroes.*

**W**E the undersigned Director General and Council of *New Netherland*, hereby certify and declare that the bearer hereof, *Symon Cornelissen Gilde*, Skipper, under God,

of the Ship *Gideon*, on the day after his arrival, being the 14th of August, hath delivered here on shore for account of Mess<sup>rs</sup> the Directors of the Incorporated West India Company, Chamber at *Amsterdam*, *Two hundred and ninety* head of Negroes, to wit, *One hundred and fifty three* Men, and *One hundred and thirty seven* Women, among whom in all were found by impartial Men as selected according to the Charter Party, *Eighty nine* which were judged to be above *Thirty six* years old; of which delivery, the above-mentioned Skipper, *Symon Cornelissen Gilde*, demanding proper Receipt to serve him agreeably to his Charter Party, with the abovementioned Directors, we have executed for him two of the same tenor, one whereof being satisfied, the other is to be null. Done *Amsterdam* in

*New Netherland, the 30 August,  
1664.*

*Permit to transport Negroes.*

THE Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director General informed the Council that Capt. *Thomas Willet* would accept 3 or 4 Negroes in payment of the Beavers due him by the Company, if he might transport them from this place to such other that he may think proper. Which being taken into consideration, it was, on question being put, Resolved to let him have 3 or 4 Negroes; because from the low state of the Treasury, it is not well known how else to satisfy him for the Provisions delivered last year, amounting to about *Eight thousand* Guilders; and Secretary *Van Ruyven* is deputed to inform said *Willet* thereof, and to

Ee

agree with him about the price for the best advantage of the Company, and if possible to obtain from him as much as the General hath lately had from him for two of his own Negroes. Done 30th *September*, 1664.

*Vice Director* BECK to PETER  
STUYVESANT.

*Curaçao, in Fort Amsterdam the* }  
*15 Novemb, Año 1664.* }

*Sir,*

\* \* \* \* \*

I HAVE remarked, among other things, in your Honor's acceptable Letter, the serious mistake that has been committed here in the sale of your Slaves; especially of the little Children, since with great

forethought on the part of Madam *Stuyvesant*, your Honor's spouse, they were presented at the baptismal Font. If we had had the least knowledge of the Fact, the mistake would not have occurred. To my grief, a great error has been committed which I fear is irreparable; for so long an interval has elapsed, it will be very difficult to ascertain where they have been finally landed. But I shall have inquiries made by the first Ship that leaves here for *Carthagena* and *Porto Bello*, and if it be possible, endeavor to get them back, even if I should have to give two full grown Slaves and more for them.

*Vice Director* BECK to PETER  
STUYVESANT.

*Curaçao*, 16 *April*, Año 1665.

*Sir*,

\* \* \* \* \*

A SHIP, named *Miss Catarina*, whereof *Jacob Dircksen Willree* is Skipper, arrived here on the 14<sup>th</sup> January last, from *Ardra*, on the Coast of *Guinea*, with *One hundred* and *fifty* Slaves. She was sent in the Service of the Company from *Amsterdam* to the *Castle del Mina* to Mr. *Valckenburgh* with some Supplies for that place, and succeeded very well, notwithstanding many English Ships were off that Coast.

\* \* \* \* \*

Since my last, I have sold here

to the Genoese (*genueesen*) all the Slaves which had come here on the Company's account in the last Ships and were remaining at this place @ *One hundred and twenty* pieces of Eight. And because of these English troubles, and principally because no Slaves were expected here from the Coast of *Guinea*, the aforesaid Genoese have taken their departure hence with their Ship and the abovementioned purchased Slaves, on the 23d January last for *Carthagena*. We shall learn betimes whether this trade shall be renewed in *Holland* with the Company, or whether it will be pursued and continued at this place by other Spaniards.

I have, since that, been informed that the Principals of the abovementioned Genoese in *Spain* have contracted with the Royal Company

of *England* for the delivery of Slaves, such delivery to be made at the Island of *Jamaica*, and that a large Ship belonging to the said Genoese has already arrived at *Jamaica*, to carry away the Slaves, according to the Contract concluded with the Royal Company. But inasmuch as no Slaves had reached there for the Royal Company, they were allowed to purchase as many Slaves from the English Planters and Inhabitants as they were to receive. In regard to this Contract, all Commissions of Privateers and Ships against the Spaniards in these *West Indies* are revoked, and they are forbidden to inflict any damage on the Spanish Nation by land or water; and when a rich Spanish Prize was brought by the English Privateers into *Jamaica*, they were obliged to restore her, free of costs and charges.

I doubt if this English Royal Company will be able to fulfill their Contract with the Genoese, if it be of any magnitude, in consequence of the disturbances and troubles caused by themselves on the Coast of *Guinea* and the great obstruction they will encounter as long as these troubles continue, in their Slave Trade and in all their other Commerce, from the Privateers of *Holland* and *Zealand*, of which they have had, hitherto, no suspicion.

\* \* \* \* \*

We see now here for the second time a Comet with a long fiery tail; it has been visible here for more than two months past. It is also visible in *Europe*. What it portends is best known only to the Chief Giver of all Good, who will mercifully turn away from us all

well deserved plagues and punishments, and make every thing tend to the honor of his Most Holy Name for the Good of His People unto Salvation.

\* \* \* \* \*



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ERRATA.

- P. 73, Line 2, for *Jan* read *Jacob*.  
205, “ 1, for *Coufseaa*, read *Coufseau*.  
221, “ 5, for 1694, read 1664.

2014/17











