

which "stands the fort, in which are four flankers, the northwest flanker is built with stone, the rest with wood. In this fort, there are 15 or 16 great guns mounted. In the town there are three streets of a considerable breadth and straightness; two of them are parallel with the river, the third crosses directly from the Fort down to the lowermost of the two former streets, and where these two streets do thus meet, stands their Church. The houses are built generally low; but very few of them have an upright chamber. The lower rooms are built very high. The houses are generally covered with tile, and many of the houses themselves built with brick." He mentions "Rensselaer's Island upon the river, about half a mile below the town, containing about 160 acres of good, level, fertile, arable land; a very curious farm it is."—Though there seemed no reason to doubt, whether the fair island that had attracted my observation near Albany, were the island described by Mr. Wadsworth; yet to ascertain it, with its present name and proprietor, I addressed a letter of inquiry to the Honourable Stephen Van Rensselaer, now in Congress, who obligingly answered it from Washington, 26 Dec. 1827. "The island designated by you is called Rensselaer's in the grant, but usually by the name of the tenant for the time being, having never been alienated. I am the Proprietor. It is accurately described by President Wadsworth."—While at Albany in the autumn of 1826, I made particular inquiry for the site of Fort Orange. Dr. James, of that city, informed me, that the first Fort Orange stood on the margin of the Hudson, a little below State street, and that it was afterward removed to the upper part of the hill—one of the lines crossing State street, where it is now intersected by Chapel street. He saw the remains of the piles, when dug up before the paving of State street, and showed me the spot. The piles were driven to a great depth into the ground.

NOTE XXXVI. p. 468.

THE authors of "Universal History" [xl. 276—278.] maintain, that the English were possessors of Louisiana before its discovery by the French; and found the English claim to it on the grant by Charles I. to Sir Robert Heath in 1630. [See that year.] "Sir Robert Heath conveyed over his right to the earl of Arundel, who was at the expense of planting several parts of the country, when the civil wars broke out, which put a stop to that noble design. By different conveyances, the whole country devolved upon one Dr. Cox, who, at a large expense, discovered part of it, and who actually presented to king William a memorial, in which he incontestibly proved his claim to it, and his son Daniel Cox, Esq. who resided fourteen years in the country, continued his father's claim, and published a very full account of it." It is there observed, in a Note: "It was published in 1762, and is indeed a very curious performance." Not finding it in our libraries, I procured a copy of it from London. The title is: "A Description of the English Province of CAROLANA. By the Spaniards called Florida, and by the French, La Louisiane. To which is added, A large and accurate MAP of CAROLANA, and of the River MESCHACEBE. By DANIEL COXE, Esq." London, 1741. Referring to the two ships, which his father sent out, Cox says, "One of these ships returning, was unhappily cast away upon the English coast in a great storm, but very providentially the Journal was saved, though all the men were lost." Of this expedition he gives the following account.

"The present proprietor of Carolana, my honoured Father, not only employed many people on discoveries by land to the west, north, and south of this vast extent of ground, but likewise in the year 1698, he equipped and fitted out two ships from England, provided with above 20 great guns, 16 patereroes, abundance of small arms, ammunition, stores, and provisions, not only for the use of those on board, and for discovery by sea, but also for building a fortification, and settling a colony by land, there being in both vessels, besides sailors and common men, above 30 English and French volunteers, some noblemen, and all gentlemen. One of these vessels discovered the mouths of the great and famous river Meschacebe, or as termed by the French, Mississippi, entered and ascended it above one hundred miles, and had perfected a settlement therein, if the