

seems to have hovered in the otherwise clear sky of those halcyon days one cloud, ever recurring in the form of a dread of hostile Indians.*

The language of Holland was of course the prevailing tongue, and the customs of Holland were in the ascendant. The houses, comfortable and spacious, though of but one story, or one and a half, including the attic, were built chiefly of wood, sometimes of little Dutch bricks, with large stone chimneys reaching from the ground floor. They had high-rigged but lowly-sloping thatched roofs, and their projecting eaves formed a sheltered piazza or porch along the entire front, fitted with benches for summer ease. Each house was surrounded by a garden, wherein the chief vegetable cultivated was the cabbage and the chief flower the inevitable Dutch tulip; and the front door was provided with a huge brass knocker, burnished daily.

The interior of these simple and primitive dwellings was as unpretentious and substantial as the exterior. Everything was intended for use rather than for ornament. The fire-place, glazed with blue Holland tiles illustrating scenes from the Scriptures, was of vast proportions. Carpets were unknown; but the wooden floors were kept immaculately

* "To prevent incursions of Indians, the Governor, in 1660, ordered the inhabitants of Brooklyn to put their town in a state of defence, and also commanded the farmers to remove within the fortifications under the penalty of forfeiting their estates. The Dutch colonists seem to have lived in almost continued apprehension of the Indians. On the 25th of June, 1663, Governor Stuyvesant informed the church of Brooklyn that the Esopus Indians, who were then in league with the Iroquois, had on the 7th of that month attacked and burnt the town of Esopus (Kingston)."—Furman, 23.

The particulars of the early New Netherland life given in the half dozen pages next following have been absorbed from a large number of authorities. Most of them, where not specifically credited, have been taken from Furman's "Antiquities," Silas Wood's "First Settlement," Lossing's "Empire State," Bayles's "History of Richmond County," Stiles's "History of Brooklyn," Ostrander's "Brooklyn," Irving's "Knickerbocker's History of New York," and his sketches, "Rip Van Winkle" and "Legend of Sleepy Hollow."